

"Secrecy at Kartchner Caverns": Informational

Directions: Please read the following nonfiction text and answer the questions below.

Secrecy at Kartchner Caverns

On a cool November day in 1974, two young men made the discovery of a lifetime. Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen had been searching for caverns in the limestone mountains of southern Arizona. Limestone dissolves when water seeps through it, often forming underground cavities and deposits of a mineral called calcite. As a geology student and someone who liked to explore caves, Tufts hoped to find caverns in the area. But what they discovered was remarkable! What Tufts and Tenen had found was a "living" cave—a cave with calcite formations that are still growing—and it was untouched by humans.

Tufts and Tenen knew immediately that the caverns had to be protected. If word got out, curious visitors would come and disturb the cave. They would leave behind footprints and litter. The resulting microbes would begin destroying the delicate formations and ecosystem of the cave.

The two men shared their secret with just enough friends to limit the explorers' impact on the caverns' environment. For a year, they explored in their socks, touching as little as possible. The moist, humid cave was 2 ½ miles (4.0 km) long with two huge rooms and 26 smaller ones. Nearly all the rooms contained formations such as icicle-shaped stalactites, as well as more unusual deposits called soda straws, draperies, and cave bacon.

Eventually, Tufts and Tenen told others what they had found. First they notified the owners of the land, and then they told Arizona officials. A secret for just over two decades, the caverns became a state park. Rangers now protect the caves with elaborate procedures. Visitors enter through airtight chambers designed to keep dry air out of the caverns. Because of this and other precautions, geologists hope Kartchner Caverns will remain a living cave for many years.

1. Why did Tufts and Tenen keep their discovery a secret for so long? _____

2. What do you think caused formations like soda straws and draperies?
 - A. Animals digging up rocks
 - B. Water seeping through limestone
 - C. Ancient people who lived in caves
 - D. Litter left by visitors
3. Why do you think these caverns became a state park? _____

4. What clues from the text help you understand what precautions are?
 - A. visitors enter through airtight chambers to keep dry air out of caverns
 - B. geologists hope Kartchner Caverns will remain a living cave
 - C. secret for two decades
5. What clues from the text help you to understand what the word impact means? _____

"Who's In the Room": Fiction

Directions: Please read the following fictional text and answer the questions on the next page.

WHO'S IN THE ROOM?

Ashley was very excited. Seven Wonders, one of her favorite bands, had just released a new CD. She had saved up her money, and she was ready to buy the CD when it was released this weekend. She talked about the music with her online music chat group. A lot of the other kids in the group were going to buy the CD, too. In fact, that was the main thing everyone in the chat room was talking about one afternoon.

All of a sudden, Ashley got a chat message from Stephanie, one of the kids in the chat room. The message said that Stephanie wanted to meet Ashley at the mall. Then they could buy the new CD together. Ashley told her mom about the message, and her mom asked, "Do you know Stephanie from school?"

"No," Ashley admitted. "We've only chatted online. I don't think she goes to my school."

"Listen," Ashley's mom said, "I want you to have friends, but sometimes, people online aren't who they say they are. And when you're online, you can't always tell. So I don't think it's a good idea for you to meet this person."

"But, Mom," Ashley pleaded, "what if it is just a kid named Stephanie who wants to buy a CD with me?"

Ashley's mom considered that for a moment. Then she said, "Let's do this. Dad and I will go with you to the mall to buy the CD with Stephanie. If Stephanie really is just a kid who wants to meet you in person, that's great. If not, you'll be safe."

Ashley didn't like that idea. It made her feel like a baby. But she knew her mom was right about safety, and besides, she wouldn't be allowed to get the CD if she didn't agree, so she finally nodded. Then she answered Stephanie's message. She told Stephanie that she and her parents would be at the mall the next afternoon.

The next day, Ashley went to the mall with her mom and dad so that she could get her CD. When Stephanie never showed up and then disappeared from the chat room, Ashley knew her parents had been right to be concerned. She was glad they were there to take care of her.



“Who’s In the Room” continued:

6. Why does Ashley’s mother come up with the plan to go to the mall with her to meet Stephanie?

7. Which is a lesson from the text?

- A. Parents don’t care about their children’s safety
- B. It is very important to use caution on the Internet
- C. Chat rooms are fun and informative
- D. Kids should never go to the mall without their parents.

8. What do you think will happen the next time someone wants to meet Ashley in person?

- A. Ashley will not tell her parents
- B. Ashley will meet that person
- C. Ashley will tell her parents about it
- D. Ashley will be concerned about it

9. What can you infer or think about Stephanie and why she did not show up at the mall?

10. Make a connection to this passage. Your connection can be text to self (related to something in your life), text to text (related to another book you have read) or text to world (related to something going on in your town, state or country). Make sure you state your connection and then explain it clearly to the reader.

"Commercial Break": Informational

Directions: Please read the following nonfiction text and answer the questions on the next page.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Advertisements are everywhere. Every time you watch a TV show, use the Internet, or read a magazine, you see them. Some ads are funny, some are beautiful, and some are action-packed. But all of them have one important purpose: to get you to buy a product or service. Ads can be useful. For instance, that is how stores let you know when they are having sales. Ads also let you know about new products or services. Without ads, you might not know about those things. Ads are important for companies, too—that's how they reach customers.

When you see an ad, it is important to remember why it is there. The company that made the ad wants you to buy that product or service. The ad is made so that when you see it, you will want to buy. For example, ads for restaurants are designed to make you feel hungry for the

food in the ad. Ads for clothes are designed so that you will want to buy those clothes. Ads for cell phones and music players are designed so that you will believe you are missing out if you don't have those things. It is important to think carefully and make up your own mind before you buy. Don't buy something just because an ad says that you should.

How do companies create ads that get people to buy things? They start with a product or service they want to sell. Then, they figure out what special thing that product or service has that will make people want to buy it. It might be a low price, a particular taste, or something else. Then, companies design ads that tell people about that special thing. The ads use color, sound, and other things to get people's attention. When the ads are finished, some companies show them to a group of people and get their opinions. If people like what they see, those companies use the ads they created. If people don't like what they see, the ads are changed.



“Commercial Break” continued:

11. Give three reasons as to how ads are useful.

12. What is likely the author’s opinion?

- A. Companies use ads poorly
- B. Ads are important, and you should believe what they say
- C. There should be no ads
- D. Ads are important tools, but it is important to make up your own mind.

What sentence from text supports your answer? _____

13. Which of these summarizes the second paragraph?

- A. Ads can make you hungry
- B. Companies design ads that make you want to buy things
- C. Ads are designed to make you want to buy a new pair of jeans
- D. Ads keep you from missing out

14. Text structure is how the author organizes the text: compare/contrast, sequence, problem/solution, cause/effect or description.

Which text structure does the author use in the last paragraph and how do you know? _____

“ On The Outs”: Fiction

Directions: Please read the following fictional text and answer the questions on the next page.

On the Outs

Shakira could feel the difference from the first minute she stepped into the classroom on Monday morning. Eva and Willa didn't smile at her, and the other kids didn't even look at her. "Why did I ever want to be Eva's friend?" she asked herself. Shakira hadn't even had that much fun being part of their group, although at the time she had thought popularity was more important than having fun. She had abandoned her old friends and her favorite activities, and now she had no one. After a while, though, Shakira had become invisible to Eva's group. Shakira should have known that they would discard her the way they had so many other people.

Shakira took her seat, her cheeks burning. "I didn't do anything wrong!" she told herself, but it didn't make her feel any better. Then she noticed Mattie, who sat to her right, motioning to her with a kind smile. Mattie and Shakira had been friends back in fourth grade, but Mattie had never gotten into Eva and Willa's group, and she didn't care. She just played her guitar, ran track, and did what she wanted to do without worrying about what anyone else thought.

"Do you want to sit with me at lunchtime?" Mattie whispered. Shakira nodded gratefully, knowing that she had never been invisible to Mattie.

15. How is this setting important to the events in the passage?

- A. The school is a welcoming and friendly place
- B. The school is the location where different groups of students interact.
- C. The school is a location where students face physical and mental challenge.

16. What words from the text explain how Shakira is feeling in the second paragraph?

Why is this important to the story?

17. Characterization is when an author shares what the main character thinks in their head(thoughts), how they feel or react to others or how they act and why.

Give an example of one of these that the author uses and explain which one it is.

18. Mattie does not care about being friends with Eva and Willa because she _____

- A. already has a lot of friends
- B. is more popular than they are
- C. is independent

Grammar

Capitalization: *Circle the words that should be capitalized.*

1. on january 2, grandma avery will celebrate her hundredth birthday.
2. i studied an interesting article *kayaking in alaska* in *world magazine*.
3. the scariest story in *horrifying tales* was *sounds* by t s jones
4. my dream is to visit paris.

Sentence Fragment: *Rewrite each sentence so it is no longer a sentence fragment.*

1. Climbed the mountain and camped.
2. Always in motion and chattering too, the young toddler.
3. Charlie, busy with school.
4. Cleaning his glasses with his sleeve.

Possessive Nouns:

Write the possessive for in parenthesis on the line.

1. All of the _____ (players) hats are bright red.
2. The _____ (dog) owner is very responsible.
3. The _____ (men) bathroom is over there.
4. The _____ (bird) nest is in your yard.

Run-On Sentence:

Correct each sentence so it is no longer a run-on sentence.

1. Tierra performs in the school play she loves to sing.
2. Bobby forgot his lunch at home he borrowed lunch money at school.
3. After the game ended, Gabriella went home she ate popcorn.
4. Nolan reviewed for finals he knew he was ready.