

## Read the text.

## A Slip

I used to go on these fishing trips with my family; they were always quite **boring**. The most **difficult** thing was putting one of the worms from the jar on the hook. As children, our **goal** was always to catch and cook a fish on our own, but I never did. Maybe it's because I never put the worms on properly and they disappeared in the water.

My mom always said: "Fresh air is healthy," so along I went. It was also entertaining to listen to my brothers and sisters talk about their catches—they exaggerated so much that by the time we got home, whales had gotten away.

One day, I got tired of all the sitting; I was ready for a different adventure. That morning I announced that I was going climbing instead.

I decided I was ready for a **challenge**. I took water and snacks, and after what felt like hours, the mountain seemed no closer than when I left the cabin. The ups and downs were much more **difficult** than anticipated.

I decided to speed things up; after all the skies were blue and birds were chirping. I listened intently, and instead of jumping over a big rock, I **slipped** and scraped my whole left side as I slid down it. Bam! My body was shaking; I was frightened. What if I had broken a bone? I slowly wiggled my fingers and toes, I felt hurt and bruised, but I could move everything. When I realized I wasn't in immediate danger, I got up and slowly walked back.

"Oh dear, what happened to you?" I was met with concerned eyes and curious faces when I got back.

"Let's just say it was not a success. I've **discovered** that fishing isn't so bad."



## Vocabulary

Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.

1 **difficult**

- a) disgusting      b) hard      c) comfortable

2 **challenge**

- a) objective      b) success      c) goal

3 **boring**

- a) tiring      b) interesting      c) uninteresting

4 **discover**

- a) say      b) think      c) learn

5 **slip**

- a) fall      b) jump      c) walk

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 Choose the sentence that tells you how the writer felt about fishing trips at the beginning.**  
a) *I never put my worms on properly.* c) *Our goal was to catch and cook a fish.*  
b) *Fresh air is healthy.* d) *It was quite boring.*
- 7 Choose the phrase that tells you how the writer felt about fishing trips at the end.**  
a) *hurt and bruised* c) *not a success*  
b) *isn't so bad* d) *worried eyes and curious faces*
- 8 Choose the detail that directly supports this sentence: "I slipped and scraped my whole left side."**  
a) *The skies were blue.* c) *I decided to speed things up.*  
b) *I made my way back to the cabin.* d) *I felt hurt and bruised.*
- 9 Looking at the above details, which sentence best states the main idea of the text?**  
a) The writer is a great fisher. c) The writer is not very fond of fishing.  
b) The writer quits fishing for climbing. d) The writer returns to fishing after a failed climb.
- 10 Which words express the order of ideas in the text?**  
a) before last summer; as children; actually c) after what felt like; then; that morning; when  
b) in an instant; slowly; immediate d) in the distance; away
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ the time they got home, the children's fish had become whales in their stories.**  
a) After that b) While c) By d) Before
- 12 Which of these events happen first?**  
a) The author is tired of fishing. c) The author falls.  
b) The author decides to walk more quickly. d) The author decides to go climbing.
- 13 Which of these happen last?**  
a) The author reconsiders fishing. c) The author hates fishing.  
b) The author wants to go climbing. d) The author loves fishing.
- 14 What conclusion can you draw from the text?**  
a) Climbing is not for young people. c) Fishing is boring.  
b) Appreciate what you have. d) Climbing alone is dangerous.
- 15 In conclusion, what will the writer probably do in the future?**  
a) complain more so they don't go fishing c) enjoy their time fishing with their family  
b) do more things alone d) put worms on hooks

## Writing Skill

Write a short web article about your favorite activity. Share a personal anecdote and others' opinions. Use descriptive language.

**Read the text.**

Last weekend, my class went on a field trip. It was a great success, and we became famous on the Internet after posting photos of our "Trash challenge."

There is a big national park next to my town. People go fishing and rock climbing there on weekends. Some people just go and have picnics. Trash is a problem. On Mondays it's usually covered in a whole lot of horrible plastic bags, cups, and empty cans.

This term in school we're learning about the environment. You know, things about **recycling** and **reducing** waste, and taking care of the planet. We talked about what we could do as a class to help. First, we all came up with ideas.

There were many good ones, like having a campaign to clean the oceans and save the whales or helping a **charity** to take care of animals and plants that are in danger of extinction. In the end, we decided that it was best to **concentrate** on something that was close to home and easy to do something about. We all got permission from our parents, and our teacher booked a bus.

On the actual day, we each took four empty trash bags and gloves to help us with our new goal.

Most of it was easy. There were some really disgusting things that needed to be picked up, and one person cut themselves with a broken **jar**. The rest went quite quickly. In just a few hours, all the trash had disappeared, and our bags were all full.

We took pictures before and after. A few days later in class, we recorded a video that showed everyone what we had done and invited students from all over the world to accept the challenge. I'm looking forward to watching their videos!

**Cleaning Up****Vocabulary****Circle the word that matches each definition.**

- 1 **something difficult that tests your abilities**
  - a) challenge                      b) concentrate                      c) success
- 2 **to cause something to become less**
  - a) empty                      b) goal                      c) reduce
- 3 **an organization that helps people or animals who need it**
  - a) danger                      b) charity                      c) goal
- 4 **give attention to**
  - a) challenge                      b) success                      c) concentrate
- 5 **a glass container**
  - a) empty                      b) climbing                      c) jar

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 Choose the phrase that tells where the trash challenge took place.**  
a) *on Mondays* c) *this term in school*  
b) *all over the world* d) *a big national park*
- 7 Choose the phrase that explains how the kids invited other people to the challenge.**  
a) *we took pictures* c) *we recorded a video*  
b) *our teacher booked a bus* d) *in class*
- 8 Choose the detail that best supports the phrase: "we each took four empty trash bags and gloves to pursue our new goal".**  
a) *got permission from our parents* c) *concentrate on something*  
b) *all the trash had disappeared* d) *our teacher booked a bus*
- 9 Looking at the above details, which sentence best states the main idea of the text?**  
a) They picked up trash and challenged others to. c) They made a video about littering.  
b) They visited a park and learned about it. d) They learned about recycling.
- 10 Which words express the order of ideas in the text?**  
a) last weekend; first; in a few hours c) on Mondays; before and after; the rest  
b) in the end; quite quickly; a few days later d) first; there; in the end
- 11 They posted the video online, \_\_\_\_\_ they went to the park and cleaned it.**  
a) after that b) a few days after c) finally d) before
- 12 Which of these events happens first?**  
a) They choose to do something practical. c) They go to the park.  
b) They get permission. d) They brainstormed ideas.
- 13 Which of these happens last?**  
a) They get permission. c) They book a bus.  
b) They go to the park. d) They get bags and gloves.
- 14 The writer thinks picking up trash is...**  
a) a great, easy way to help the environment. c) not something most people can do.  
b) a waste of time. d) something you should go do overseas.
- 15 In conclusion, what does the writer recommend?**  
a) Everyone should carry gloves and bags c) Teachers should let students decide what to do  
b) Cleaning is challenging d) Students should accept the challenge and share videos about it.

## Writing Skill

Write a short web article about your favorite activity. Share a personal anecdote and others' opinions. Use descriptive language.

**Read the text.****How to Pack a Backpack for Hiking**

Have you got all the things you need for your hiking trip to the mountains, and wondering how to make them fit in your backpack? Here is how we do it.

First, start by packing the things you won't need during the day at the bottom. This includes your sleeping bag and pad and the clothes you will sleep in. **Generally**, these things also tend to be soft and will be more comfortable pressing against your lower back.

Next, in the middle, you need to pack your food. Remember that it's safer to put your food inside a bear can. Because these animals have a **powerful** sense of smell, they might get **curious** about your food, and you don't want to be **surprised** by one of these in the woods! You can also put your stove, tent and spare water in the middle of your bag. It is better for these heavier items not to be at the bottom of your pack.

Then, at the top of your pack you should put your jackets or warmer clothing, and some basic first aid supplies in case you get sick or injured. It is very common for hikers to slip and fall, so pack some bandages and pain medication. These should be at the top so they're easier to **reach**.

Finally, many packs have side pockets for smaller items. This is where you can keep your sunscreen, bug spray, water bottles, compass and camera.

A final word of advice: prepare as much as you can. Take your tent and rain jacket even if there is not a single cloud in the sky. We believe in the **old** saying, rather safe than sorry.

**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

**1 generally**

- a) usually      b) finally      c) specifically

**2 powerful**

- a) weak      b) strange      c) strong

**3 surprised**

- a) afraid      b) frightened      c) heard

**4 reach**

- a) pack      b) put      c) grab

**5 old**

- a) ancient      b) famous      c) known

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 Look at the title and picture. What is the topic of the text?**  
a) walking in the mountains                      c) packing a backpack  
b) buying a backpack                                d) training for a hike
- 7 Which of the following words help organize the sequence?**  
a) at the bottom, in the middle                      c) generally, finally, in the middle  
b) generally, at the top                                d) first, next, then, finally
- 8 How many steps are there?**  
a) two    b) three    c) four    d) five
- 9 Which of the steps is not in the correct order?**  
a) First pack the bottom.                              c) Lastly, pack the sides.  
b) Second, pack the middle.                              d) Lastly, pack the top.
- 10 Which of these things are not mentioned in the process?**  
a) a backpack    b) a lighter    c) a tent    d) a sleeping bag
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ bears' incredible sense of smell, all food should be kept in bear cans.**  
a) Due to    b) Because    c) So    d) Therefore
- 12 Pack all the soft things at the bottom of your bag; \_\_\_\_\_, your back will be more comfortable.**  
a) because of    b) as a result    c) due to    d) since
- 13 First aid supplies should go at the top because they are...**  
a) lighter.    c) more important.  
b) heavier.    d) easier to reach.
- 14 What should you pack in the middle?**  
a) heavier things    c) softer things  
b) lighter things    d) more important things
- 15 What other articles do you expect to find on the website based on this article?**  
a) How to Train for a 7-day Hike                              c) How to Draw a Bear  
b) How to Fix a Bike    d) How to Make the Perfect Pasta Sauce

## Writing Skill

Write a journal entry about a scary experience. Say when, how and why it happened. Describe the experience in detail. Reflect on how the experience changed you.



**Read the text.****Preparing for the Race**

Are you new to inner tube races? Here are some tips for you to follow before and on the big day.

First, you need to find a good **old** inner tube. Make sure you get one with a good **fit**; they tend to be **huge**, and when you're in the water you can easily **slip** and slide out of it. Therefore, it's important to find a size that supports your neck and knees. Make sure your bottom is not much lower than the tube itself. Tubes aren't too pricey, and investing in a good one is worth it, since there might be rocks and other things in the river that could break a flimsier one. Once you have your tube, you will also need something to paddle with. This could be a conventional paddle, or even be a long stick that you can use to change direction or to avoid tree branches, rocks and so on.



Then, make sure you completely understand the rules of the event. Read them carefully, so you know what to do to stay **safe** on the river and **reach** the finishing line. This will also reduce your chances of being disqualified.

Next, make sure you pack everything you need. Generally, you'll need some drinking water, snacks, sunscreen and a towel for after the event. If you are going to take your personal items with you on the river, make sure to keep them inside a waterproof plastic bag. Alternatively, you could ask a family member or friend to stand on the edge of the river at the halfway line and hand you food and water.

Finally, think about your own safety. Wear a life jacket and water shoes so you won't be surprised by **powerful** river currents. Also remember that the river's water can **rise** suddenly due to one heavy rains.

**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

- 1 **huge**  
a) big                      b) small                      c) soft
- 2 **fit**  
a) size                      b) exercise                      c) feel
- 3 **reach**  
a) grab                      b) take                      c) get to
- 4 **powerful**  
a) fast                      b) strong                      c) deep
- 5 **rise**  
a) elevate                      b) move up                      c) pick up

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 Look at the title and photo. The topic of the text is how to...**  
a) get ready for a tube race. c) swim in a race.  
b) participate in a race. d) organize a tube race.
- 7 Which of the following words help organize the sequence?**  
a) finally, generally, follow c) therefore, carefully, finally  
b) suddenly, alternatively, finally d) first, then, next, finally
- 8 How many steps are there?**  
a) two b) four c) three d) five
- 9 Which of the steps is not in the correct order?**  
a) First get a tube and paddle. c) Second, understand the rules.  
b) Second, pack what you need. d) Lastly, be safe.
- 10 Which of these materials are not mentioned for the process?**  
a) a paddle or stick c) an inner tube  
b) a life jacket d) a swimsuit
- 11 Rivers can have powerful currents. \_\_\_\_\_, it is important to wear a life jacket.**  
a) because b) therefore c) due to d) because of
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ there are many rocks and other things in the river, a cheap tube could break easily.**  
a) Therefore b) So c) As a result d) Since
- 13 How can you make sure you stay safe and finish the race successfully?**  
a) wear a life jacket c) pack everything you need  
b) read the rules d) get an expensive tube
- 14 What can cause a river to rise?**  
a) clouds b) heavy rains c) a race d) currents
- 15 Which tip do you think the writer will include about after the race?**  
a) Check your tube for holes. c) Post all your photos to social media.  
b) Get a better paddle. d) Make a banana strawberry smoothie.

## Writing Skill

Write a journal entry about a scary experience. Say when, how and why it happened. Describe the experience in detail. Reflect on how the experience changed you.



**Read the text.****A Spooky Tradition**

You may know October 31st as Halloween on your calendar. **Nowadays**, it is celebrated in several countries. Children wear **costumes** and go out to ask for candy.

However, this tradition actually first took place in Ireland 2,000 years ago. Its name meant end of summer. It was an important festival that was held on the last day of the old year. It was a night of making large fires outside, wearing costumes, and telling each other's futures. The Irish hoped that the light of their fires would keep them safe during the winter. Old religions became **forbidden** in the 8th century, and November 1st became All Saints Day.

Irish families made their **journey** to America. They were looking for a new life. They took their traditions with them, but these are no longer the same. People used to dress themselves as the dead. They **hoped** this would protect them from bad spirits. That is where the idea of dressing up comes from. People also believed then that the dead should be offered food if they came knocking on your door.

Over the years, the way that this day is celebrated changed. Food was replaced with sweet things. Today, 25% of all the sweets sold in a year in the U.S. is bought for October 31st. Costumes have also become a big business. Now you can order a whole costume on the Internet. You can look like your favorite superhero, animal, or famous actor. In Ireland, people used to cut faces out of turnips. **Nowadays**, a different vegetable, the pumpkin, causes a **shock**. In many countries, adults dress up too and go to parties.

**Vocabulary****Circle the word that matches each synonym or definition.****1 today, these days**

- a) nowadays      b) journey      c) calendar

**2 wish**

- a) celebrate      b) hope      c) journey

**3 prohibited**

- a) shock      b) forbidden      c) celebrated

**4 long trip**

- a) calendar      b) took place      c) journey

**5 surprise or fright**

- a) shock      b) celebrate      c) costume

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

6 The main idea of paragraph 2 is...

- a) how Halloween is celebrated today.
- b) new lives of immigrants.
- c) how Halloween has changed.
- d) Halloween's origins.

7 The main idea of paragraph 4 is...

- a) how Halloween is celebrated today.
- b) new lives of immigrants.
- c) how Halloween has changed.
- d) Halloween's origins.

8 Which word is a synonym of "festival" as used in the text?

- a) dinner
- b) celebration
- c) holiday
- d) competition

9 Which contextual clues help the reader to understand the meaning of "costume"?

- a) become a big business
- b) pumpkins cause a shock
- c) order on the internet
- d) superhero, animal or famous actor

10 A "turnip" is a kind of...

- a) vegetable.
- b) decoration.
- c) fruit.
- d) scary costume.

11 Which contextual clue helps the reader to understand the meaning of "bad spirits"?

- a) *dress themselves as*
- b) *offered food*
- c) *protect them from*
- d) *knocking on your door*

12 \_\_\_\_\_ the old and new tradition of Halloween involves dressing up.

- a) Both
- b) Like
- c) Unlike
- d) Same

13 Which of these is no longer associated with modern Halloween?

- a) predicting someone's future
- b) eating
- c) costumes
- d) scary faces

14 One thing that hasn't changed is that people still...

- a) carve turnips.
- b) provide something to eat.
- c) make big fires.
- d) celebrate the end of summer.

15 In summary, the text talks about how Halloween...

- a) is a new tradition.
- b) is a silly tradition.
- c) has evolved from an ancient tradition.
- d) is a big business.

## Writing Skill

Choose an important event that happened where you live. Write a short news article. Include details and say what other people have said about the event.

**Read the text.****Nellie Bly**

Elizabeth Seaman was born in 1864. She started working as a journalist when she was twenty-one. She wrote under the name Nellie Bly.

She was brave. In 1886, she traveled through Mexico and wrote about people who were poor. What she **shared**, **shocked** the world. She was asked to leave the country. The following year, she pretended to be mentally ill. She went inside a hospital and reported on how doctors didn't **look after** their patients. There was an investigation afterwards.

She is most known for a race around the world. In 1889, she made a **journey** around the world in 72 days. The newspaper she worked for, The New York World, paid for it. This idea was copied from the book *Around the World in Eighty Days*. She took very little with her: some underwear, toiletries and money. Her journey started on a ship, but she traveled on trains as well—she rode donkeys and horses when she had to! She went to France, where she met the author of the book. She wrote about her trip daily. In Asia, she even bought a monkey! When she got back home to New York, she was greeted by bands and fireworks. The **whole** city celebrated. Afterwards, she became famous and her travel stories were collected and published into a book. There was even a board game about her.

At the time, her trip was a world record. Another magazine writer tried to go around the world at the same time as Nellie. She **hoped** to beat her but lost by four days.

Nowadays, there are many women journalists, but back then, she was one of a few. She was also very generous. She gave lots of money to children without homes.

**Vocabulary****Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text****1 shared**

- a) gave                      b) said                      c) did

**2 look after**

- a) take care of              b) give medicine              c) see

**3 shocked**

- a) hurt                      b) entertained              c) surprised

**4 journey**

- a) long trip                      b) day trip                      c) short trip

**5 hoped**

- a) refused                      b) wanted                      c) promised

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 The main idea of paragraph 2 is that Nellie...**  
a) was scared of the truth. c) didn't care about other people.  
b) loved to travel. d) wanted to uncover the truth.
- 7 The main idea of paragraph 3 is that she went on a 72-day journey...**  
a) that was inspired by a movie. c) based on a book.  
b) and bought a monkey. d) and beat another journalist.
- 8 What is a synonym of "brave"?**  
a) courageous c) nervous  
b) arrogant d) kind
- 9 Which contextual clue helps the reader to understand the meaning of "generous"?**  
a) one of a few c) women journalists  
b) back then d) gave a lot of money
- 10 What is the definition of "mentally ill"?**  
a) not have a healthy mind c) feel bad  
b) believe you are someone else d) pretend to be someone else
- 11 Which contextual clue helps the reader to understand the meaning of "celebrated"?**  
a) *bought a monkey* c) *got back home*  
b) *lost by four days* d) *bands and fireworks*
- 12 Both Nellie Bly and the character in the book...**  
a) were writers. c) traveled around the world.  
b) beat a world record. d) traveled together.
- 13 What was different about Nellie Bly's and the other journalist's trip?**  
a) the goal c) the time it took  
b) the start date d) where they went
- 14 According to the text, what has changed about female journalists?**  
a) the topics they write about c) their generosity  
b) the quality of their work d) the number
- 15 In summary, the text talks about how Nellie Bly was...**  
a) lucky to be born in 1864. c) not famous for her writing.  
b) an extraordinary woman and writer. d) really famous because of another writer's book.

## Writing Skill

Choose an important event that happened where you live. Write a short news article. Include details and say what other people have said about the event.

**Read the text.****The Shire**

The Shire is a British breed of horse. It is a giant and can weigh over 1,000 kg. They can be black, grey, or brown, with white socks, but without white **spots**. They have longer hair below their knees that give their legs a feathered look. On average, they live for 28 years.

Previously, they helped people to pull **heavy** carts. Many breweries had Shires that delivered their beer to all the public houses in the village. Farmers have also used them to help ploughs their fields. Today, they provide relaxing rides or do work like moving fallen trees in forests.

The largest horse in history was a Shire called Mammoth. He was over two meters tall and weighed 1,500 kg.

Today, Duke is the tallest horse in the U.K. He weighs as much as a car, but he is very **gentle**. His best friend is a tiny pony that he spends most of his time with on the farm.



Don't be fooled by their size, they're considered to be **friendly** and calm; a great choice for inexperienced riders.

"I believe they're very suitable for kids. They're very gentle and there's nothing cuter than a tiny person on a giant horse," says Charlotte Maple, the manager of Star Shire Farm.

One of the grooms who takes care of the horses on Star Shire Farm said: "I **spent** most of my childhood on the back of a giant grey Shire. I'd say I have **enough** experience to say that she was one of the smartest horses I've ever known. The only problem was that she didn't like to get shoes. Whenever someone wanted to touch her feet, she'd put up a fight. And believe me, you want to avoid fighting with an animal that size."

**Vocabulary****Circle the correct antonym.****1 enough**

a) many

b) few

c) insufficient

**2 heavy**

a) light

b) small

c) large

**3 gentle**

a) kind

b) rough

c) calm

**4 friendly**

a) mean

b) fast

c) kind

**5 spend**

a) save

b) pay

c) buy

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 **Shire horses used to do heavy pulling for...**  
a) children. c) farmers and breweries.  
b) fun. d) factories.
- 7 **Mammoth had an impressive weight of...**  
a) a ton. c) a kilogram.  
b) one and a half ton. d) one and a half kilogram.
- 8 **Despite their size, they are great horses for...**  
a) beginners. c) advanced riders.  
b) old people. d) jumping.
- 9 **Within the breed, there \_\_\_\_\_ acceptable color(s) and marking(s).**  
a) is a single c) are a few  
b) aren't any d) are two
- 10 **Mammoth was the biggest horse in history.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 11 **Shires are suitable for kids.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 12 **Their average lifespan is around 28 years.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 13 **Shires are gentle.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 14 **What is the author's purpose?**  
a) inform c) entertain  
b) persuade d) express feelings
- 15 **Which of the following information helped you to identify the author's purpose?**  
a) the breed's history c) the horse's appearance  
b) examples of giant horses d) all of the above

## Writing Skill

Write an encyclopedia entry about an animal. Make sure to include only facts and describe as many characteristics of the animal as possible.



**Read the text.****Oh, So Cute!**

Oh, they are so cute when they are puppies. Those oversized ears and paws can make your heart melt. Are you thinking of getting a gentle **giant** as your next pet? Please consider the following first to determine if a giant breed is **suitable** for you.

Let's start with the obvious. Most gentle giants, whether you're thinking Great Dane or Irish Wolfhound, are going to weigh as much as, or more than, an adult human. I mean, they're not just heavy, they're called giants for a reason. This means that you will need to think about how you will be able to transport them when they are sick or injured. Then, there is training. While most giants are known for their friendly behavior, they will require work. Sometimes



they will test your leadership and, believe me, you need to know what you're doing. When they're puppies it can be easy to let things go and **avoid** confrontation. The smart thing to do is to train them while they are small. It will be much harder to **fight** with Bruno over your shoe or get him off the couch when he's the size of a baby cow.

Then, you need to ask yourself if you will be able to **provide** your new friend with **enough** good quality food? Most giant breeds grow to 50 percent of their adult size in just 8 months. That means they need a lot of food and extra nutrients to grow strong bones!

Next, will you be able to spend enough time with Spots for her to be a happy dog and not eat your furniture? Remember, it just isn't fair to adopt a puppy if you cannot give them good food, exercise, discipline, and affection.

If you believe you can do all of the above, by all means, go! Fetch!

**Vocabulary****Circle the correct antonym.****1 giant**

- a) large                      b) massive                      c) miniature

**2 suitable**

- a) interesting                      b) right                      c) inappropriate

**3 avoid**

- a) face                      b) wait for                      c) delay

**4 fight**

- a) agree                      b) argue                      c) disagree

**5 enough**

- a) sufficient                      b) lacking                      c) plenty

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 It can be tempting to get a giant breed puppy, because...**  
a) they are so big. c) they are so cute when they're small.  
b) they are so suitable. d) they are so smart.
- 7 It is important to think about practical things, like how you will transport your dog...**  
a) using public transport. c) to the park.  
b) in a carrier. d) when they need to go to the vet.
- 8 Training is crucial...**  
a) while puppies are still young. c) once your dog is fully grown.  
b) if your puppy is naughty. d) if there is unwanted behavior.
- 9 Many giant breeds grow to half their adult size in the first...**  
a) six months of their lives. c) eight months of their lives.  
b) year. d) two years.
- 10 The smart thing to do is train them while they are small.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 11 Many giant breeds weigh as much as, or more than, an adult human.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 12 It isn't fair to adopt a puppy if you can't give them a great life.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 13 Great Danes and Irish Wolfhounds are examples of giant breeds.**  
a) opinion b) fact
- 14 What is the author's purpose?**  
a) inform c) express feelings  
b) persuade d) entertain
- 15 The author thinks that giant breeds...**  
a) make wonderful pets. c) are a nightmare to raise.  
b) are the cutest! d) are not suitable for everyone.

## Writing Skill

Write an encyclopedia entry about an animal. Make sure to include only facts and describe as many characteristics of the animal as possible.

**Read the text.****The Price We Pay**

I am not **against** technology. Don't get me wrong, I know that it can offer us many benefits. Some people even say that it **increases** the **quality** of our lives. I admit that it has **several** good uses, like allowing us to be more present in the lives of loved ones who live far away. It also lets us be in touch with each other at any time of day. It can even improve our health when we have more information. Now we can see how much we sleep, make lists of what we eat, and look at how much exercise we do. Therefore, we can take better care of ourselves. However, you can have too much of a good thing.



While it is a common belief that technology makes us more sociable, I disagree. Just think about the amount of times you've been annoyed by someone not listening to you while you're talking, because they're on their phone. **Experts** say that technology actually makes us feel more alone for that reason. It can also make you feel unhappy if you are always looking at everyone's **gorgeous** new photos online. Remember that people show us what they want us to see, so they are not always a picture of reality.

Perhaps the real issue is how to be responsible technology users. Ask yourself what you really need to use your phone for. Maybe a more important question is if using it will make you happier.

**Vocabulary****Circle the antonym.**

- |                    |             |               |                  |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 <b>against</b>   | a) agree    | b) disagree   | c) for           |
| 2 <b>increases</b> | a) more     | b) most       | c) decreases     |
| 3 <b>several</b>   | a) quite    | b) many       | c) few           |
| 4 <b>experts</b>   | a) amateurs | b) scientists | c) professionals |
| 5 <b>gorgeous</b>  | a) pretty   | b) ugly       | c) impressive    |

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 **A judgement that the author makes is that technology has good uses such as helping us to...**  
a) be more sociable and have more friends. c) have higher quality lives.  
b) have more responsibilities. d) be in touch with people who live far away.
- 7 **Which of the following statements doesn't support the author's judgement concerning the relation between technology and health?**  
a) We can know how much we sleep. c) We can be present in the lives of loved ones.  
b) We can make lists of what we eat. d) We can look at how much exercise we do.
- 8 **The author thinks that it is important to realize that...**  
a) technology is great. c) technology is unhealthy.  
b) technology makes us more alone. d) it's up to us how we use technology.
- 9 **Which of the following support the writer's judgement concerning online posting?**  
a) People show themselves truly online. c) People only show the good times.  
b) People shouldn't share their lives online. d) People look unhappy.
- 10 **From the author's point of view, technology...**  
a) offers many benefits. c) helps us to take care of ourselves.  
b) allows us to be in touch with others. d) all of the above.
- 11 **In many people's point of view, technology...**  
a) makes us more sociable. c) is annoying.  
b) should be used selectively. d) should be used by everybody.
- 12 **The third paragraph includes a sentence starting with 'therefore', what is the function of this sentence?**  
a) problem and solution c) compare and contrast  
b) sequence d) cause and effect
- 13 **The second paragraph starts with 'while', what is the function of this sentence?**  
a) problem and solution b) sequence c) compare and contrast d) cause and effect
- 14 **Experts say technology can make us feel alone because...**  
a) everyone works all day long. c) we feel more unhappy.  
b) no one listens to each other. d) we see people's wonderful lives.
- 15 **According to experts, what can be a cause of unhappiness?**  
a) other people's perfect online lives c) being annoyed  
b) someone not listening d) reality

## Writing Skill

Write a short story. Describe the setting and the character's personality and appearance in detail. Remember to explain the conflict and include a climax and resolution.

**Read the text.**

**Later = Better**

Many people believe that school is there in order to make more responsible young adults. They say school should prepare them to play their part in society. It is said that getting up early and getting to school on time is the first step. Teenagers have a bad reputation for being lazy and for not being sociable. Millions of parents get **annoyed** daily, because their teenage sons and daughters just can't get out of bed. Now, experts explain that it might be due to the changes that happen when teenagers leave childhood.

Teenagers need on average over 9 hours of sleep per night, while most of them get less than seven hours. We cannot expect them to be **cheerful** in the morning, since they don't get the quality of sleep they need. There are **several issues** that can be caused by not sleeping the right amount. Effects include physical and emotional problems, and not performing well in school and sports.

While I do not **disagree** that teenagers should learn to be more responsible, I believe that we should give them a later start. This will help them to be better students and people. It's not fair to expect them to do well in anything if they are always tired. By changing the schedule, we will **increase** their chances of success.



**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

- |                   |             |              |           |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>1 annoyed</b>  | a) angry    | b) irritated | c) sad    |
| <b>2 cheerful</b> | a) happy    | b) motivated | c) awake  |
| <b>3 several</b>  | a) a few    | b) no        | c) some   |
| <b>4 issues</b>   | a) problems | b) illnesses | c) dreams |
| <b>5 disagree</b> | a) say      | b) argue     | c) state  |

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 The author's main judgement is that teenagers should...**
- a) learn to wake up on time.
  - b) sleep less.
  - c) be late for school.
  - d) be allowed to go to school later.
- 7 Which of the following statements doesn't support the author's judgements concerning teenagers?**
- a) They have a bad reputation.
  - b) They should be prepared for their part in society.
  - c) They should learn to be more responsible.
  - d) We should give them a later start.
- 8 The author thinks that it's...**
- a) important to push for success.
  - b) unfair to change their schedule.
  - c) unfair to expect so much from tired teenagers.
  - d) normal for teenagers to be lazy and unsociable.
- 9 Which of the following is not an author's judgement?**
- a) They don't get the quality of sleep they need.
  - b) They are passing through many changes.
  - c) It's not fair... if they're always tired.
  - d) We can't expect them to be cheerful.
- 10 From the author's point of view, teenagers' lack of sleep...**
- a) is a part of growing up.
  - b) can be ignored.
  - c) is a serious problem.
  - d) is unknown.
- 11 From other people's point of view, getting up early...**
- a) prepares you for life.
  - b) is not normal.
  - c) is unfair.
  - d) is easy for teenagers.
- 12 What is the structure of the second paragraph?**
- a) problem and solution
  - b) sequence
  - c) compare and contrast
  - d) cause and effect
- 13 Which words in the second paragraph indicate the relationship between ideas?**
- a) since, caused by, effects
  - b) over, and, by
  - c) while, not, include
  - d) several, amount, less than
- 14 The last paragraph starts with 'While', this is used to...**
- a) show a problem and solution.
  - b) show a sequence.
  - c) compare and contrast.
  - d) show cause and effect.
- 15 According to the author, what will the effect be of starting school later?**
- a) Students will be more tired.
  - b) Students will be more successful.
  - c) Students will have emotional problems.
  - d) Students will do less well in school and sports.

## Writing Skill

Write a short story. Describe the setting and the character's personality and appearance in detail. Remember to explain the conflict and include a climax and resolution.



**Read the text.****Why Puzzles Are Good for You**

Nowadays, most people think that video games have replaced traditional puzzles. Sure, more children are playing games on their computers than solving puzzles, but they are still around! Did you know that scientists say that working on one has many **benefits**?

The most obvious benefit is that it helps you to relax. When people are busy thinking about how to **solve** a problem, their brains are in a state like a dream. This means that building puzzles can help most people get rid of **anxious** feelings. It can also give you more energy.

Puzzles also help us to make more connections in our **brains**. They help us to remember things better. This is because they make us think about colors and shapes. We need to remember this information to see how the pieces fit together.

When we are working on a puzzle, we need to try out different strategies to see how things are related. So, your problem-solving **skills** will also get better the more you practice.

It also teaches you to be more patient. On average, it takes around four hours to put 500 pieces together. In the 2018 Jigsaw Puzzle **Contest**, the winning team completed theirs in less than 40 minutes.

So, it doesn't matter what age you are, take up this fun challenge. Take your eyes off the screen—it's a waste of time—and pick up those pieces!

**Vocabulary****Circle the word that matches each definition.****1 feeling scared, nervous and worried**

- a) contest                      b) energy                      c) anxious

**2 competition**

- a) contest                      b) energy                      c) average

**3 ability to do something**

- a) skill                          b) contest                      c) benefit

**4 advantage or good consequence of something**

- a) contest                      b) benefit                      c) skill

**5 to answer or work out**

- a) solve                          b) contest                      c) screen

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 **What is the author's point of view?**  
a) No one builds puzzles anymore.  
b) Building puzzles is for old people.  
c) Building puzzles is for children.  
d) Building puzzles can benefit everyone.
- 7 **Is the author's viewpoint biased?**  
a) no  
b) yes
- 8 **The benefits described in the text present...**  
a) feelings and beliefs.  
b) facts.
- 9 **Which statement expresses a prejudice?**  
a) *They are still around.*  
b) *We need to remember this information.*  
c) *It makes more connections in our brains.*  
d) *It's a waste of time.*
- 10 **Which statement is a generalization?**  
a) Most people think videogames replaced puzzles.  
b) It typically takes four hours to complete.  
c) Puzzles can also help us to relax.  
d) The team completed theirs in 40 min.
- 11 **Which statement is not a generalization?**  
a) All people should build puzzles.  
b) We need to remember this information.  
c) It can help most people to get rid of anxious feelings.  
d) Many children now play video games.
- 12 **The main topic of the text is that building puzzles...**  
a) is old-fashioned but healthy.  
b) can help you improve your math skills.  
c) can make you smarter.  
d) has several benefits.
- 13 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Puzzles and the Brain* in an outline?**  
a) help you to relax  
b) teaches you to be more patient  
c) help us to make more connections  
d) take up this fun challenge
- 14 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Problem-solving Skills* in an outline?**  
a) try out different strategies  
b) think about colors and shapes  
c) need to remember this information  
d) it takes about four hours
- 15 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Puzzles and Patience* in an outline?**  
a) try out different strategies  
b) think about colors and shapes  
c) need to remember this information  
d) it takes about four hours

## Writing Skill

Write a fable with a moral. Describe your animal character's personalities. Remember to describe the setting, conflict, and resolution.

**Read the text.****Stop Worrying!**

Do you often feel anxious? Are you sometimes worried that the **planets** in our star system might fall into a black hole? Or that the Earth might stop turning? Do you worry so much about the future that you think your head might **explode**?

Maybe I can help you to think about worrying differently. I was one of those people, and I typically spent most of my day thinking about all the things that could go wrong.

Then I realized that worrying is completely useless; it doesn't change anything, and it definitely doesn't bring you any **benefits**. When you worry, it affects your mood, relationships, and **performance**—it changes your **brain**!

So, how can you stop worrying? It doesn't help to just tell yourself not to worry, so here is what you should do instead.

Talk to your friends or family about the things that stress you out. Make sure that you choose someone supportive who is a good listener, someone who won't judge or criticize you. Sometimes, just talking about our fears helps make them seem less significant.

Channel it into exercise, since it is a natural way to make you feel more relaxed and less concerned. It will also help you to keep your attention on the present, hence less thoughts about uncertainty.

This may sound funny at first but give yourself a specific time to worry. Choose thirty minutes in the day in which you have to think about the **topics** that worry you and write them down. If you can't solve it, don't worry about it! The rest of the day, you have to postpone your worries until the next worry period.

So, train yourself. Not worrying is a skill you can learn just like any other. It's worth a try.

**Vocabulary****Circle the word that matches each definition.**

- 1 **a very large round object that moves around the Sun, like the Earth**
  - a) hole
  - b) planet
  - c) star system
- 2 **to burst into pieces**
  - a) explode
  - b) channel
  - c) solve
- 3 **how you execute or do something**
  - a) channel
  - b) solve
  - c) performance
- 4 **the organ inside our head**
  - a) brain
  - b) hole
  - c) skill
- 5 **the subject or what you are talking about**
  - a) brain
  - b) topic
  - c) skill

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 **What is the author's viewpoint?**  
a) Worrying is bad for your health. c) You can train yourself to worry less.  
b) Just tell yourself to stop worrying. d) You can stop worrying in one easy step.
- 7 **Which words describe the author's point of view?**  
a) personal, but objective c) impersonal and objective  
b) subjective and biased d) subjective and negative
- 8 **What is the author describing in "I was one of those people"?**  
a) their feelings c) general facts  
b) their beliefs d) their experiences
- 9 **Which advice expresses a subjective belief?**  
a) Channel it into exercise. c) Talk to friends and family.  
b) It's worth a try. d) Give yourself a specific time.
- 10 **Which statement is a generalization?**  
a) *I typically spent most of my day...* c) *Here is what you should do...*  
b) *When you worry, it affects your mood.* d) *It will also help you to keep your attention...*
- 11 **Which statement is not a generalization?**  
a) *I often feel anxious.* c) *I'm usually worried.*  
b) *All stress is bad for you.* d) *I think my head might explode.*
- 12 **The main topic of the text is:**  
a) You can train yourself not to worry. c) You can manage stress through exercise.  
b) People worry about the same things. d) Too many people worry about life.
- 13 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Negative Effects of Worrying* in an outline?**  
a) less thoughts about uncertainty c) keep your attention to the present  
b) seem less significant d) it affects your mood, relationship
- 14 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Discussing Your Worries* in an outline?**  
a) it changes your brain c) helps make them seem less significant  
b) less thoughts about uncertainty d) postpone your worries
- 15 **Which details can be placed under the subtopic: *Stress and Exercise* in an outline?**  
a) it affects your mood c) it doesn't bring you any benefits  
b) you have to postpone your worries d) keep your attention on the present

## Writing Skill

Write a fable with a moral. Describe your animal character's personalities. Remember to describe the setting, conflict, and resolution.

**Read the text.****Sweet Snow White**

It was a **freezing** winter night when our innocent Snow White opened the front door.

"Hello, my dear," an old, old woman said. "Would you like an apple? They're sweet, soft and juicy! They're the best in the kingdom. Sweeter than honey, I swear. Maybe even sweeter than a precious little girl like you."

"How **generous**," Snow White replied, instantly convinced—she was **delighted** at the unexpected snack.

What she didn't know was that the woman wasn't speaking the truth; they **definitely** contained more than juicy sweetness. The old woman had an insincere smile and a scary twinkle in her eye, but Snow White saw none of it.

"Do you want to come in, hang out? It's almost midnight!" Snow White was not known for her smarts.

"Oh no, I wouldn't want to be rude, my dear. Besides, it's so cloudy and beautiful outside. I'll continue my walk in the dark."

"Come in! Come in! I..." before she could finish, she fell into a deep, deep sleep.

The dwarves came home and found her on the floor. They tried a million different **techniques** to wake her up: cold water, shaking, ice cubes, shouting, and so on.

"Definitely still asleep," they all concluded after each try.

Spring, summer, autumn, and winter came.

Then one day, an annoying and selfish young prince was in the **neighborhood**. The dwarves were crying their eyes out as they put her in a coffin. They thought she would never wake up.

"What a spectacular beauty. I'll marry her," the prince said to himself when he saw her for the first time.

The dwarves flashed him an angry look: "You'll have to convince us first."

The prince wasn't worried; he simply bent down and kissed her.

She woke up and the rest is history.

**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

**1 freezing**

- a) ice cold                      b) mild                      c) cool

**2 generous**

- a) good                      b) fair                      c) kind

**3 delighted**

- a) hungry                      b) pleased                      c) surprised

**4 definitely**

- a) probably                      b) clearly                      c) likely

**5 neighborhood**

- a) forest                      b) town                      c) area

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 "They're sweet, soft and juicy" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 7 "Sweeter than honey" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 8 "A precious little girl like you" is an example of
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 9 Which words best describe Snow White?
- a) handsome, confident, selfish
  - b) not smart, sweet, innocent
  - c) insincere, scary, treacherous
  - d) angry, charming, handsome
- 10 Which words best describe the old lady?
- a) handsome, confident, selfish
  - b) not smart, sweet, innocent
  - c) insincere, scary, treacherous
  - d) angry, charming, handsome
- 11 Which words best describe the prince?
- a) handsome, confident, selfish
  - b) not smart, sweet, innocent
  - c) insincere, scary, treacherous
  - d) angry, charming, handsome
- 12 The words that best describe the setting are...
- a) beautiful, wet, windy.
  - b) summer, beautiful, sunny.
  - c) in a neighborhood.
  - d) freezing, winter, cloudy, dark.
- 13 What is the conflict in the story?
- a) Snow White trusts the woman.
  - b) The dwarves put her in a wooden box.
  - c) Snow White bites the apple and falls asleep.
  - d) A prince kisses and wakes Snow White.
- 14 What is the climax of the story?
- a) Snow White trusts the woman.
  - b) The dwarves put her in a wooden box.
  - c) Snow White bites the apple and falls asleep.
  - d) A prince kisses and wakes Snow White.
- 15 What is the resolution of the story?
- a) Snow White trusts the woman.
  - b) The dwarves put her in a wooden box.
  - c) Snow White bites the apple and falls asleep.
  - d) A prince kisses and wakes Snow White.

## Writing Skill

Write a convincing speech about character traits we must avoid. Give reasons for your choice, describe the traits in detail, and use persuasive language.



**Read the text.****The Emperor's New Clothes**

Once upon a time, there was an emperor who was a very vain and **selfish** man. He had castles full of clothing, yet, he always thought that he had nothing to wear.

"It's almost the big event and I have absolutely nothing to wear. It has to be **spectacular**! Find me a tailor!"

The king's manager searched for the best tailors in the kingdom.

"This silk is softer than the softest lamb. Hire us!" two unknown tailors said very sure of themselves. The tailors worked for days and days until midnight, and carefully measured the emperor.

On the day of the event, there was a lot of excitement in the air. The tailors went to the emperor's room and started making movements as if they were dressing him and buttoning his clothes.

"Oh, I think this is our most creative work yet. Oh, this golden jacket is definitely our best work. Look at this amazing technique," the tailors went on complimenting each other arrogantly on their good work.

The emperor was a little **worried**, because he couldn't see the clothes, but then the one tailor said: "Surely you like what you see? Only the smartest men can see our wonderful clothing. Surely a clever man like yourself can see it in detail."

The emperor didn't want to seem dumb, so he was easily **convinced** and said: "Oh, you are so **talented**."

The emperor walked out into the streets in his magical outfit that he pretended to see. He was the emperor, so no one wanted to be **rude**. Everyone knew that only smart people could see the clothes, so pretended to see the magical outfit, too. "Oh, how spectacular!" they all whispered to each other. Then, one small boy asked his mom: "Mom, isn't he cold in his underwear?" It was a wet and freezing night after all.

**Vocabulary****Circle the correct antonym.****1 selfish**

- a) sure                      b) kind                      c) arrogant

**2 spectacular**

- a) ordinary                      b) brilliant                      c) wonderful

**3 worried**

- a) nervous                      b) unsure                      c) calm

**4 convinced**

- a) sure                      b) kind                      c) unsure

**5 rude**

- a) polite                      b) hard                      c) rough

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 "Softer than the softest lamb" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 7 "Hire us" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 8 "Surely a clever man like yourself" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 9 "He had castles full of clothing" is an example of...
- a) a hyperbole.
  - b) imperative commands.
  - c) flattering the reader.
  - d) triplets.
- 10 Which words best describe the emperor?
- a) polite, kind, honest
  - b) nervous, worried, hardworking
  - c) arrogant, dishonest, convincing
  - d) selfish, vain, superficial
- 11 Which words best describe the tailors?
- a) polite, kind, honest
  - b) nervous, worried, hardworking
  - c) arrogant, dishonest, convincing
  - d) selfish, vain, worried
- 12 The words that best describe the setting are...
- a) a foreign country, today.
  - b) here, now.
  - c) a kingdom, a long time ago.
  - d) a new country in the future.
- 13 What is the rising action in the story?
- a) The emperor never has anything to wear.
  - b) The emperor goes to the big event.
  - c) Tailors are making a new outfit for the emperor.
  - d) A boy speaks the truth.
- 14 What is the climax of the story?
- a) The emperor never has anything to wear.
  - b) The emperor goes to the big event.
  - c) Tailors are making a new outfit for the emperor.
  - d) A boy speaks the truth.
- 15 What is the resolution of the story?
- a) The emperor never has anything to wear.
  - b) The emperor goes to the big event.
  - c) Tailors are making a new outfit for the emperor.
  - d) A boy speaks the truth.

## Writing Skill

Write a convincing speech about character traits we must avoid. Give reasons for your choice, describe the traits in detail, and use persuasive language.

**Read the text.****Perfect Letters**

Have you heard of the World **Handwriting** Contest? It is not the only competition of its kind. Other companies who sell writing courses organize their own **tournaments**.

In most of these competitions, there are different categories. You compete against other children in the same grade. Most of them are from **elementary** schools and high schools.

Thousands of children from all over the world take part every year, but there is only one champion. They usually get a money prize. Noah, who is in seventh grade, won last year. He says that he finds writing by hand very enjoyable. He started keeping a diary **during** his summer vacation. He would sit down with it and a pen every evening when it was **quiet** at home.

Not everyone has a pleasant way with a pen or pencil. Christina, a writing **coach**, says that even with all the technology we have, writing is still important, very important.

Now, most computers can recognize writing. This lets us interact with a pen.

Some studies have found that writing by hand and on a computer use different areas of the brain. Children with better handwriting are usually better at reading and writing, too.

So, it seems that it is not just about forming perfect letters. Everyone can benefit from picking up a pen!

**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

**1 tournament**

- a) contest                      b) course                      c) tour

**2 elementary**

- a) kinder                      b) child                      c) primary

**3 during**

- a) in                      b) before                      c) while

**4 quiet**

- a) concentrated                      b) silent                      c) tired

**5 coach**

- a) teacher                      b) writer                      c) student



**Read the text.****Cold Water**

Last December, I did a ten-day course to train as a lifeguard. My swimming **instructor** suggested it, because I've been the **youth** swimming **champion** since I finished elementary school. I'm a good swimmer, so I thought it would be a piece of cake, but I was **seriously** wrong.

First of all, they made us get up really early. It was freezing. Believe me, there is nothing **pleasant** about swimming in freezing water. Oh, did I mention that my course was at the beginning of winter?

Our coach made us swim long distances to make us fit. We trained in the lake at the edge of the forest, where we stayed in cabins. The coach made us swim across it every morning. The good thing about this was that when we got to the other side, we had permission to rest by a waterfall. I usually just sat down **underneath** it and let the water massage my sore muscles. That was the most enjoyable part of the day. Then came the most excruciating part. We had to swim back carrying an object—it could be a small object, but we had to hold it with both hands.

After three days, I almost quit; I wanted to call my mom and tell her I wasn't cut out to be a lifeguard. I was tired, shivering, and starving most of the time; swimming does that to you. I constantly dreamed about my usual extra-large order of French fries that I usually got after training. The only thing that kept me going was a hidden stash of potato chips and chocolate I had in my locker, but I was craving hot salty fries.

What can I say? It was the most difficult thing I've ever done, but now I'm a wiz in the water.

**Vocabulary**

**Circle the synonym that may replace each of the following words in the text.**

**1 youth**

- a) small                      b) best                      c) teen

**2 instructor**

- a) trainer                      b) friend                      c) student

**3 champion**

- a) loser                      b) winner                      c) competitor

**4 seriously**

- a) critically                      b) a little                      c) quite

**5 underneath**

- a) in                      b) next to                      c) below

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 By only looking at the picture, what would you say is the theme of this text?**
- a) surviving winter
  - b) training to be a lifeguard
  - c) being on a diet
  - d) a swimming tournament
- 7 Which words describe the time of the story?**
- a) July, summer
  - b) March, spring
  - c) December, winter
  - d) August, fall
- 8 Which words describe the weather?**
- a) excruciating, starving
  - b) enjoyable, warm
  - c) hot, humid
  - d) freezing, shivering
- 9 What custom does the character usually have after a training session?**
- a) eating crisps
  - b) eating chocolate
  - c) getting a massage
  - d) having hot, salty French Fries
- 10 Which words describe the place?**
- a) a school and a swimming pool
  - b) a shore
  - c) a forest and a swimming pool
  - d) a forest and a lake
- 11 Which of the following are themes in the text?**
- a) punctuality and responsibility
  - b) hopes and dreams
  - c) challenges and hard work
  - d) friendship and trust
- 12 Which words mean the same as "a piece of cake"?**
- a) easy, a breeze
  - b) interesting, challenging
  - c) a challenge, hard
  - d) delicious, delightful
- 13 Which word can replace "starving" in the text?**
- a) thin, dying
  - b) barely surviving
  - c) hungry, more than peckish
  - d) seriously full
- 14 What is the British equivalent of "French fries"?**
- a) crisps
  - b) chips
  - c) potato chips
  - d) French toast
- 15 Which word can replace "enjoyable"?**
- a) pleasant
  - b) craving
  - c) serious
  - d) excruciating

## Writing Skill

Write a short movie review. Make sure that you include information about the director, cast, relevant details, and your opinion.



**Read the text.**

Tommy Caldwell is described by the *National Geographic Magazine* as: "... the best all-around rock climber on the planet."

He is famous for being the first to climb different routes of El Capitan. It is a very high rock wall **located** in Yosemite National Park.

Tommy was born in Colorado and had a completely **ordinary** childhood. He even said he was a "clumsy kid." His whole family was **athletic**. Both his parents are mountain guides. They would go to Yosemite at least once a year. There, he was **introduced** to climbing by his dad.

Climbing might seem like a **strange** sport to most (or as crazy as a bedbug to others), but Tommy says it makes him feel completely **satisfied**.

In his book, *The Push*, he says that he feels sorry for those who don't get to experience the cold air and excitement of mountain climbing. He wonders if they are ever really awake.

But fear and adventure isn't always his friend. In 2000, Tommy and four other climbers got more of an adventure than they hoped for. They were kidnapped in Kyrgyzstan. They were held for six days. It was a completely terrifying experience. Tommy was able to get away. He got help from government soldiers to find his friends.

A year later, Tommy had an accident with a table saw. He cut off his left index finger as he was cutting wood. This has not made him quit; he continues to climb. His approach to both climbing and life is finding goals and working towards them—hang in there until you can make it.

**Pushing****Vocabulary****Circle the correct word that matches each definition.****1 normal or usual**

- a) ordinary                      b) completely                      c) located

**2 related to sports**

- a) nervous                      b) athletic                      c) ordinary

**3 to bring someone to experience something**

- a) notice                      b) introduce                      c) satisfied

**4 not familiar**

- a) nervous                      b) satisfied                      c) strange

**5 happy and content**

- a) introduced                      b) satisfied                      c) completely

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

6 "Terrifying" is an antonym of...

- a) dangerous.
- b) prepared.
- c) risky.
- d) calming.

7 "Clumsy" is an antonym of...

- a) fit.
- b) athletic.
- c) weak.
- d) gifted.

8 "Satisfied" is an antonym of...

- a) hard.
- b) challenging.
- c) unhappy.
- d) unusual.

9 The meaning of "climbing" in the text is...

- a) to rise slowly.
- b) to crawl.
- c) to go up a surface using hands and feet.
- d) to become more important.

10 The meaning of "quit" in the text is...

- a) stop doing.
- b) remove someone's responsibilities.
- c) to leave a person or a place.
- d) give up a job.

11 Tommy became a climber \_\_\_\_\_ his dad's influence.

- a) dew to
- b) dew too
- c) due two
- d) due to

12 Tommy and his friends were kidnapped \_\_\_\_\_ rebels.

- a) buy
- b) bay
- c) bye
- d) by

13 "As crazy as a bedbug" is an example of a(n)...

- a) idiom.
- b) metaphor.
- c) personification.
- d) simile.

14 "Fear isn't always his friend" is an example of a(n)...

- a) idiom.
- b) metaphor.
- c) personification.
- d) simile.

15 "Hang in there" is an example of a(n)...

- a) idiom.
- b) metaphor.
- c) personification.
- d) simile.

## Writing Skill

Write a short scientific article. Make sure to include important facts explaining what they mean and an interesting conclusion.

**Read the text.****Swan Lake**

Swan Lake is a ballet that was first **produced** in 1877 in Russia. Now it's as popular as toast and it is performed around the world. It is a romantic mixture of love, magic, and tragedy.

It's Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday, and he gets a crossbow from his mother. He realizes that he is approaching his future responsibilities and will be married soon. He is completely **nervous**, so he runs into the woods.

He finds a lake with swans, one is wearing a crown. At night she turns into a beautiful woman, Odette. She tells the prince a **strange** story. She and a dozen other girls were turned into swans by an evil sorcerer. The lake they swim on is made of their parents' tears. The only way to break the

spell is that if a man, pure in heart, tells her he loves her completely. The prince falls head over heels in love that day. The evil sorcerer interrupts them and gets all the swans to dance on the lake; the prince cannot reach Odette.

The next day, the prince is introduced to many girls who could be his future princess. The evil sorcerer brings his daughter, who with magic looks like Odette. He dances with her and tells her he **intends** to marry her. Odette watches them from a window, and she can't bear it. **Confused** and hurt, she runs away. The prince is **smart** and realizes what has happened; he chases after her.

He finds her on the lake and explains what has happened. He asks her to forgive him. The sorcerer appears and there is a fight.

In the end, the prince and Odette hold each other's hands and jump into the lake. The wings of heaven lift them high into the sky.

**Vocabulary****Circle the word from that matches each definition.****1 done, completed**

- a) intend                      b) approach                      c) produce

**2 unusual, not ordinary**

- a) confused                      b) strange                      c) smart

**3 feeling uneasy, stressed**

- a) confused                      b) nervous                      c) strange

**4 unable to think clearly**

- a) confused                      b) smart                      c) nervous

**5 plan to**

- a) introduce                      b) approach                      c) intend

## Reading Skills

Circle the correct answer.

- 6 "Evil" is an antonym of...  
a) beautiful and pretty. c) nervous and stressed.  
b) good and pure. d) sad and tragic.
- 7 "Tragedy" is an antonym of...  
a) sadness. c) confusion.  
b) comedy. d) interest.
- 8 "Strange" is an antonym of...  
a) unusual. c) funny.  
b) foreign. d) normal.
- 9 The meaning of "perform" in the text is...  
a) execute. c) act or play on a stage.  
b) prepare. d) do what you promised.
- 10 The meaning of "bear" in the text is...  
a) a large brown animal. c) be uncovered.  
b) tolerate or support. d) be located.
- 11 The prince's love \_\_\_\_\_ Odette was pure.  
a) for c) four  
b) 4 d) fore
- 12 In the end, good \_\_\_\_\_ and evil lost.  
a) one b) won
- 13 "As popular as toast" is an example of a(n)...  
a) idiom. c) personification.  
b) metaphor. d) simile.
- 14 "The wings of heaven lifted them" is an example of a(n)...  
a) idiom. c) personification.  
b) metaphor. d) simile.
- 15 "Fall head over heels" is an example of a(n)...  
a) idiom. c) personification.  
b) metaphor. d) simile.

## Writing Skill

Write a short scientific article. Make sure to include important facts explaining what they mean and an interesting conclusion.