



ASK5 Prep

Reading Comprehension

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KEVIN

- 1 Kevin slumped in his seat, idly reading the names and messages carved into his desktop. Tony had been there in '72. Kathy loved Mike in '81. Next to Kevin, Jennifer Clark was frantically trying to finish her math homework. In the front of the room, Ms. Waterson droned on about prepositional phrases. Outside, the birds were beginning to chirp in the morning's unexpected warmth.

Suddenly, the loudspeaker crackled and Mr. Morelli started the day's announcements. "Good morning. I wish to remind all students and teachers that final examinations will begin next Monday morning. There will be two exams scheduled each day. Dismissal will be at noon and lunch will not be served. Report cards will be passed out the following week."

The groans and hisses of Kevin's seventh-grade English class nearly drowned out Mr. Morelli's voice.

- 4 "They must be kidding! How do they expect us to study for two exams a day for a whole week? This is really going to do me in."

"Tell me about it. If I don't pass science this term, I'm going to end up in summer school. How's that for a nice summer?"

"You boys fool around all year, then you panic at the last minute. It serves you right to fail," one studious girl said.

"May I remind the chatterers that announcements are not yet over?" Ms. Waterson commented, glancing around the room.

Mr. Morelli continued, "Now, on a happier note, I am pleased to announce that the annual school picnic will be held at Jefferson State Park this year. The student body will begin the hike to the park at 8:00 a.m. in order to arrive on time for the beginning of the picnic at 8:30. Teachers, please post a list in each homeroom so students can sign up for the various games."

"Hey, Jen, I'll get to use my new catcher's mitt," Kevin said.

"That's great, Kevin. Remind me to bring my racket. I've just had it restrung."

- 1. What does Kevin's conversation in this selection tell about him?**
 - A He thinks he will do well on his final exams.
 - B He is best friends with Jennifer Clark.
 - C He is not interested in listening to his teacher.
 - D He enjoys math class more than English class.

- 2. Why do the students groan and hiss?**
 - A They don't want to hike to Jefferson State Park.
 - B They will have two exams per day next week.
 - C The teacher scolds them for talking in class.
 - D Report cards will be handed out in a few weeks.

- 3. What does the sentence, "This is really going to do me in," mean in paragraph 4?**
 - A I'm in trouble now.
 - B I don't understand.
 - C I'm not going to study.
 - D I don't have a problem.

- 4. What does a reader learn about Jennifer from this selection?**
 - A She gets good grades in math class.
 - B She never studies for tests.
 - C She enjoys playing tennis.
 - D She plans to skip the school picnic.

5. What does the word frantically mean in the first paragraph?

- A painfully
- B secretly
- C carefully
- D hurriedly

6. What does Kevin want to do at the park?

- A hike
- B play baseball
- C play tennis
- D study for exams

7. What subject will Jen MOST LIKELY have next?

- A science
- B mathematics
- C English
- D history

8. Do you think that Kevin and Jennifer are good students? Why or why not?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WHALE WATCHING PHOTO TIPS

Batteries and film always tend to run out just before the perfect shot. Be sure to have plenty of film. Also, if you can't remember when you last changed your batteries, you may want to bring along some extras just in case. Film may be available on board; however, batteries are usually hard to come by. Using 400-speed film is recommended, but 200 works well, too. A 70-300 zoom lens works best. It is difficult to take pictures without a zoom. Usually, when a zoom is not used, the photograph comes back with mostly ocean and very little whale. Sometimes, however, the whale does come over to peek at you. Don't use all your film on faraway shots of whales. Patience is a virtue. Watch the sun direction.

Photos do not come out well when the whales are in the sun. A polarized lens will sometimes help with sun glare. When a whale comes over to your boat, the polarized lens allows you to see the whale's body below the surface of the water. You can get some amazing shots.

Video Tips

Make sure your batteries are fully charged. The average time spent watching the whales is 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes. Start your recording at a wide angle, not zoomed in. When fully zoomed in on an animal, the result can be a recording that looks jerky due to the movement of the boat.

The Perfect Shot

After a whale dives, do not concentrate on the exact area it went down. They rarely come back up in the same spot. Instead, try to determine the direction it was moving in and have your camera pointed in the same direction. In other words, think like a whale. When humpback whales go on a deep dive, they first arch their backs. Be focused, centered, and ready to snap your shot.

A photograph of the fluke as it is first coming up with water streaming off the trailing edge can be a very beautiful picture. Researchers usually wait a few seconds later, when the tail is completely out of the water and the underside is visible. You will notice a black and white pattern, called a "fluke print." This is unique to every whale and the way we can identify individuals. It is kind of fun to take these pictures.

Later you may be able to identify your shots by contacting the boat company you went with. If they can't identify the whale for you, they may be able to put you in contact with someone who can. Everyone hopes to get the ultimate picture—the breach. This behavior is as unpredictable as the animals themselves. Sometimes they breach for hours (this is your best chance) and

sometimes they breach just once (to tease you). The perfect shot is pure luck. You must look in the right place at the right time and snap the shot at the precise moment.

1. How is each whale that you see different?

- A All have their own coloring.
- B All have their own fluke print.
- C All make their own special sound.
- D All jump in different ways.

2. Which item will both eliminate sun glare and photograph a whale under water?

- A sunglasses
- B sunblock
- C zoom lens
- D polarized lens

3. What should you do to get the perfect shot of a whale?

- A Watch where the whale dives.
- B Snap the picture when the whale arches its back.
- C Contact the boat company when you get home.
- D Try to figure out in which direction it's heading.

4. Do you think most passengers take pictures instead of just watching the whales? Why or why not?

[illegible]

“THERE IS NO FRIGATE LIKE A BOOK”

by Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!

- 1. Which of the following statements BEST describes the author’s attitude toward books?**
 - A They are difficult.
 - B They are long.
 - C They are peaceful.
 - D They are adventurous.

- 2. Who does the author think can read a book without paying?**
 - A a man on a boat
 - B a chariot driver
 - C a boat builder
 - D a poor person

- 3. According to the poem, how are books helpful to all people?**
 - A They help long trips to pass by quickly.
 - B They let you travel without going anywhere.
 - C They can help you learn to build frigates.
 - D They can teach you about old-time chariots.