

## A Real Life Batman

Daniel Kish is blind, yet he can hike, play basketball, and even ride a bicycle! Just like a bat, Kish uses echolocation to move without bumping into things. As he moves, Kish makes a clicking noise with his tongue. The noise bounces off the objects around him and he uses his ears to "see" them in his mind.

Echolocation is not just like having sight. He can't see colors or see objects that are smaller than a softball. "It's like seeing with dim flashes of light," Kish says.

Kish believes that any blind person can learn to echolocate. He started a an organization called *World Access for the Blind* to teach children to echolocate. "It isn't that difficult to teach. It really isn't," Kish says. "I believe that the brain is already partly wired to do this." Kish thinks every blind person should have the chance to learn echolocation. He says that not allowing it would be, "very shortsighted."

◆ IT: inference, vocabulary, understanding quotes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME 1

### Show What You Know

1. How is Daniel Kish like a real life batman? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Could Daniel use echolocation to make sure that his clothes match? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does Daniel describe what seeing by echolocation is like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. At the end of paragraph 3, the word, "shortsighted" means:  
a) not being able to see things that are far away  
b) helping blind people to see.  
c) not planning well for the future  
d) being too short to see something in a crowd

## At the Amusement Park

Justin and his little brother, Lucas, were waiting in line to ride the roller coaster at the amusement park. Justin was in charge since he was older. So far things had gone well. They had ridden the bumper cars, the Ferris wheel, and the tea cups. The line was long and Justin was bored. He started texting with his best friend Carlos.

When he was done, Justin realized that Lucas wasn't there! Justin looked all around. Lucas was no where to be seen. Justin started searching for his brother. He looked at the other lines. He looked at the snack bar. Where had Lucas gone? There were so many people. It was hard to see. Justin was starting to get really scared. Then he spotted Lucas by the roller coaster line. He ran to Lucas and hugged him hard. "Where were you?" he asked.

"I told you, I was going to the bathroom," Lucas replied. "You must not have heard me because you were busy texting, and now we've lost our place in line." The boys made their way to the end of the line. This time Justin kept his cell phone in his pocket!

◆ L: inference, sequence, summary, theme

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME 2

### Show What You Know

1. What are two things you can infer about Justin?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

2. Number the events in the order that they happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin leaves the roller coaster line.

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin and Lucas go to the end of the line.

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin and Lucas ride the bumper cars.

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin texts his friend Carlos

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin hugs Lucas.

3. Write a one-sentence summary of this story:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of these is the theme of the story?

a) You should not text at an amusement park.

b) Justin is not very responsible.

c) Getting lost is no fun.

d) It is important to take responsibilities seriously.

## Be a Tree Detective

Look at the rings in the part of a tree trunk below. What can they tell you about the tree it came from?

Every spring and summer, a tree grows a new layer of wood. The wood that grows at the end of the summer is darker. Counting the dark rings will tell you the age of the tree.

You can tell other things too. If a ring is wide, it was a good year for the tree. The tree had enough water and sunlight. If a ring is thin, then the tree had a bad year, so it did not grow very much.



◆ IT: main idea, inference, interpreting an illustration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

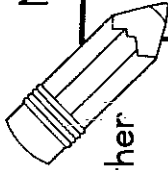
Date \_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME 3

## Show What You Know

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
  - a) A tree grows a new layer of wood every year.
  - b) You can tell things about a tree by looking at a cross-section of the trunk.
  - c) You can tell the age of the tree by counting the rings.
  - d) If the rings are wide, the tree has had a good year.
2. Can you count the rings to tell how old a living tree is?  
\_\_\_\_\_ why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What will cause a tree to have thin rings?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. About how old was the tree in the picture?
  - a) Less than 20 years old
  - b) Between 30 and 50 years old
  - c) More than 50 years old
  - d) You can't tell from the picture

## California Bound!



Clara pulled her bonnet up further over her head to shade her eyes from the sun. The trail was hot and dusty. She wondered what life would be like in California.

Her family had left Missouri two months ago with 26 other wagons. Heavy rain had slowed them down. The rain had made the trail muddy. The wagon wheels kept getting stuck. Then they'd had to cross a river that had grown bigger because of all the rain. It was cold and scary, but they all made it across safely.

Clara knew Pa was worried. She'd heard him talking to Ma when they thought she was asleep. If their wagon train didn't reach the mountains by late fall, it would be too dangerous to cross.

The wagons all stopped. It was time for the mid-day meal. Clara was glad for the rest. She would help Ma get the food ready. Maybe when they got going again, Pa would let her ride with him on the wagon for awhile.

◆ L: genre, cause and effect, making connections

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME 4

### Show What You Know

1. What genre is this passage?

- a) biography
- b) historical fiction
- c) fantasy
- d) contemporary fiction

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are two effects the rain had on the wagon train?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is Pa worried? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Make a connection between this passage and another text. \_\_\_\_\_ How are they similar? \_\_\_\_\_

## So Many Satellites!

Right now, there are more than 2,400 artificial satellites orbiting the earth! A satellite is any object that circles a planet. The moon is a natural satellite. Machines that people make and send into space are artificial satellites.

There are many different kinds of satellites. There are weather satellites, TV satellites, and satellites that help people talk to each other. There are also satellites that help us learn more about space. You can use GPS satellites to keep you from getting lost. GPS stands for Global Positioning Systems.

Some satellites orbit close to the Earth. A close-orbiting satellite can circle the earth in about 90 minutes. Other satellites orbit far above the Earth. Some high-orbiting satellites move at the same rate as the Earth. It takes these satellites exactly 24 hours to circle our planet. This is called a geostationary orbit. Weather and communications satellites use this kind of orbit.

◆ IT: vocabulary, main idea, author's purpose

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Show What You Know

1. What is an artificial satellite?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a geostationary orbit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the author's purpose?

- a) to persuade    b) to inform    c) to entertain

Give evidence from the text to support your answer:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME  
5

# Victory

Meg Anderson

She gritted her teeth  
and took a breath as she  
crouched at the line.

She paused,  
the sound of her own heart  
beating beating beating

A quick glance to the right  
and to the left was all it took.  
No one would pass her this time.

This time would be different.  
This time she would  
feel the rush  
hear the cheers  
be at the finish first.

She would finally feel the heavy weight  
lifted from her heart  
and draped around her neck instead.  
Joy would fill places  
where before only worry lived.  
This time,  
victory was  
hers.

P: inference, author's style, point of view

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Show What You Know

1. What is this poem about? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think the poet repeats the word  
"beating" three times in the second stanza?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain the first three lines of the last stanza in your  
own words.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. From which point of view is this poem written?  
a) first person b) second person c) third person

How do you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TEXT  
TIME 6