

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Grade 6

The Magic Chicken

One fine day, a woodcarver was walking to town from his humble cottage when he came upon an old woman sitting beside the road. She sat next to a small handcart, and behind her, scratching around in the grass, was a chicken.

"Excuse me, Ma'am, but that certainly is an unusual chicken," he said.

"Why, yes. Yes, it is," she said without looking at him.

"I mean, it's so colorful—it looks like no chicken I've seen before."

"Do you want it?"

"Oh, I didn't mean that I—"

"Go ahead, take it. I cannot take care of it."

"Well, okay." The woodcarver grabbed the chicken and then turned to the woman and asked, "It does lay eggs, right?"

"Oh yes, it certainly does."

The woodcarver took the chicken home and gave it a place to roost. "Now lay eggs for me, chicken!" he ordered. The chicken sat there. "Hrnm, maybe you need to get comfortable in your new home. I'll give you some time to get adjusted." So the woodcarver went back to his shop and began working.

A few minutes later, the woodcarver muttered to himself, "Oh, I wish I had a helper. This place is a mess!" Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, out stepped a young man in work clothes.

"What can I do to help you, Mr. Woodcarver?" he said.

"What's this . . . a magic chicken? Uh, clean up this mess for me, and arrange my tools while I get wood." When he came back, his workshop was even more in disarray than before. Then the young man began talking and did not stop talking all day and all night. The woodcarver did not like this, so he wished for the young man to be gone. Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, the police arrived and took away the young man.

The woodcarver felt relieved. He went back to work, but he noticed some rats were climbing into his cupboard. "Oh, I wish I had something to get rid of those pests," he groaned. Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, a large cat sprang out.

"Ahhhhh!" The woodcarver screamed as the cat lunged for him. The cat chased the woodcarver all through the house before the woodcarver locked himself in the bathroom and wished for the cat to go away. Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, the woodcarver heard a terrible roar. Through the keyhole, he saw a huge bear, and it chased the cat. The cat fled to the woods, and the bear went after it.

The woodcarver realized he needed better wishes. He then wished for some new cutting tools. Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, a box of

new cutting tools fell to the floor. Excited, the woodcarver bent down to get them, but he hit his head on the table and then badly cut himself with the tools.

"Oooh, curse this chicken!" he shrieked. Grabbing the chicken, he stomped from his house and went to town. There he tried to give the chicken to someone, but no one would take it. He tried all day before he went home, frustrated and weary.

"I know! I'll pay someone to take it!" So he wished for a chest of gold. Just then, the chicken laid an egg, and when it cracked open, a chest of gold slid to the floor. "Tomorrow, I will pay someone to take this chicken," the woodcarver exclaimed. "And maybe I can buy some fancy things."

The woodcarver went to bed feeling relieved, because he knew he would get rid of that chicken. When he awoke the next morning, however, his tools were gone, his furniture was gone, and his chest of gold was gone. "I've been robbed!" he cried. He put his face in his hands, sighed, and fell to the floor.

Later that day, a young farmer was walking along the road to town when he saw a man sitting beside the road. He had a small handcart, and next to him was the most curious chicken.

1. Which inference can you make about why the old woman says she can't take care of the magic chicken?
 - A. The chicken is too hard to care for.
 - B. The chicken doesn't grant any wishes.
 - C. The chicken is too much trouble.
 - D. She can't afford to keep the chicken.

2. Which event happens after the woodcarver cuts himself with the tools?
 - A. The chicken lays an egg.
 - B. The woodcarver tries to give away the chicken.
 - C. The woodcarver is robbed.
 - D. The woodcarver wishes for new tools.

3. Read the following sentences from the passage.

"What's this . . . a magic chicken? Uh, clean up this mess for me, and arrange my tools while I get wood." When he came back, his workshop was even more in disarray than before.

What does the underlined phrase mean?

- A. hidden
- B. broken
- C. cluttered
- D. productive

4. What conclusion can be made about the woodcarver? Which sentence from the passage BEST supports that conclusion?

5. What does the woodcarver wish for with his last wish?
- A. new woodworking tools
 - B. someone to help him
 - C. a chest full of gold
 - D. the police to come
6. Who is the man beside the road at the end of the passage?
- A. a robber
 - B. the woodcarver
 - C. the old woman's husband
 - D. someone who takes the chicken
7. What is the theme of this passage?
- A. One should think before making decisions.
 - B. Having options is not always the best situation.
 - C. Most people are helpful when someone is in need.
 - D. Problems may not always be as bad as they seem.

8. Why do you think the author decided to write an ending that is similar to the beginning of the story?

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

excerpted and adapted from The Count of Monte Cristo

Chapter 1. Marseilles—The Arrival

by Alexandre Dumas

On the twenty-fourth of February, 1815, the lookout at Notre-Dame de la Garde signaled the three-master,¹ *Pharaon*, from Smyrna, Trieste, and Naples.

As usual, a pilot² put off immediately, and rounding the Chateau d'If, got on board the vessel between Cape Morgion and Rion Island.

Immediately, and according to custom, the ramparts of Fort Saint-Jean were covered with spectators; it is always an event at Marseilles for a ship to come into port, especially when this ship, like *Pharaon*, belongs to an owner who lives in the city.

The ship drew on and had safely passed the strait and approached the harbor so slowly and sedately that the idlers asked one another what misfortune could have happened on board. However, those experienced in navigation saw plainly that if any accident had occurred, it was not to the vessel herself.

The vague disquietude which prevailed among the spectators had so much affected one of the crowd that he did not await the arrival of the vessel in harbor, but jumping into a small skiff,³ desired to be pulled alongside *Pharaon*, which he reached as she rounded into La Reserve basin.

When the young man on board saw this person approach, he left his station by the pilot, and, hat in hand, leaned over the ship's bulwarks.⁴

He was a fine, tall, slim young fellow of eighteen or twenty, with black eyes and hair as dark as a raven's wing; his whole appearance bespoke that calmness and resolution peculiar to men accustomed from their cradle to contend with danger.

"Ah, is it you, Dantes?" cried the man in the skiff. "What's the matter? Why have you such an air of sadness aboard?"

"A great misfortune, Mr. Morrel," replied the young man. "We lost our brave Captain Leclere."

"And the cargo?" inquired the owner, eagerly.

"Is all safe, Mr. Morrel. But poor Captain Leclere—"



¹ three-master a ship with three masts

² pilot an expert ship-handler, skilled at maneuvering ships through dangerous waters and often responsible for bringing a ship into harbor

³ skiff small boat

⁴ bulwarks the side wall of a ship deck

"What happened to him?" asked the owner, with an air of considerable resignation.

"He died."

"Fell into the sea?"

"No, sir, he died of brain-fever in dreadful agony."

"And how did this misfortune occur?"

"Alas, sir, in the most unexpected manner. After a long talk with the harbor-master, Captain Leclere left Naples greatly disturbed in mind. In twenty-four hours he was attacked by a fever and died three days afterward."

"Why, you see, Edmond," replied the owner, who appeared more comforted at every moment, "we are all mortal, and the old must make way for the young. If not, why, there would be no promotion; and since you assure me that the cargo—"

"Is all safe and sound, Mr. Morrel, take my word for it. Now, if you will come on board, Mr. Morrel," said Dantes, observing the owner's impatience, "here is your supercargo,⁵ Mr. Danglars. I must look after the anchoring and dress the ship in mourning."

"Well, Mr. Morrel," said Danglars, "you have heard of the misfortune that has befallen us?"

"Yes—yes, poor Captain Leclere! He was a brave and an honest man."

"And a first-rate seaman, one who had seen long and honorable service," replied Danglars.

"But," replied the owner, glancing after Dantes, who was watching the anchoring of his vessel, "it seems to me that a sailor needs not be so old as you say, Danglars, to understand his business, for our friend Edmond seems to understand it thoroughly and not to require instruction from anyone."

"Yes," said Danglars, darting at Edmond a look gleaming with hate. "Scarcely was the captain's breath out of his body when he assumed the command without consulting anyone, and he caused us to lose a day and a half at the Island of Elba."

"As to taking command of the vessel," replied Morrel, "that was his duty as captain's mate. As to losing a day and a half off the Island of Elba, he was wrong, unless the vessel needed repairs."

"The vessel was in as good condition as I am."

"Dantes," said the ship owner, turning toward the young man, "come this way!" Danglars retreated a step or two. "I wished to inquire why you stopped at the Island of Elba."

"I do not know, sir; it was to fulfill the last instructions of Captain Leclere, who, when dying, gave me a packet for Marshal Bertrand."

"Well, it appears that he has given you satisfactory reasons," said the supercargo.

"Well, my dear Dantes, are you now free?" inquired the owner.

"Yes, sir."

"Then you can come and dine with me?"

"I really must ask you to excuse me, Mr. Morrel. My first visit is due to my father, though I am not the less grateful for the honor you have done me."

"Right, Dantes, quite right. I always knew you were a good son."

⁵ supercargo ship's officer responsible for the cargo

9. Which word BEST describes Dantes?

- A. resentful
- B. curious
- C. responsible
- D. unkind

10. Read this sentence from the passage.

“I must look after the anchoring and dress the ship in mourning.”

What is the meaning of the underlined word?

- A. a type of clothing
- B. to decorate in a certain way
- C. to put on clothing
- D. to present food in a fancy way

11. Which BEST describes the tone of the passage?

- A. formal
- B. funny
- C. angry
- D. informal

12. Why does Danglars tell the owner that the ship lost a day and a half at the Island of Elba? Which detail from the passage supports your answer?

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13. Read the sentences below.

“Why, you see, Edmond,” replied the owner, who appeared more comforted at every moment, “we are all mortal, and the old must make way for the young. If not, why, there would be no promotion; and since you assure me that the cargo—”

What does the author mean by the underlined phrase?

- A. Life is short, and eventually we all die.
 - B. Life is for young people.
 - C. Young people cannot secure better jobs.
 - D. Everyone is entitled to a better job.
14. This passage is the beginning of the first chapter of a novel. Why does the author use dialogue in this passage?
- A. to provide information about the character’s thoughts
 - B. to introduce the reader to several characters
 - C. to create colorful characters
 - D. to point out characters’ strengths and weaknesses
15. Which is the theme of the passage?
- A. Never simply follow the orders other people give you.
 - B. People are always curious about things that are unusual.
 - C. Act honestly and responsibly, and you will be appreciated.
 - D. The best way to get ahead is by competing with others.

16. Dantes was the Captain's mate. What is the BEST conclusion that can be drawn about Dantes's relationship with Captain LeClere? Which sentence from the passage supports your answer?

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How to Make a Short Film

You may be thinking of making a short film. If you are, it could be for any number of reasons. The most likely reason is that you want to be a filmmaker. If you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg, a short film is a great way to get started. You may also need a creative outlet, and making a film may be just the creative challenge for you. Filmmaking is a way to tell a story. You will need a script, so you will have to do some writing. But a film relies on images as much as it does on words. Part of the reason for making a film is to tell a story in a visual way. It can be more effective than just using words. Making a good short film requires many things, so it is smart to plan first. Read the following steps to help you get started.

Step 1. Get equipment.

First, you will need some hardware to make your film. You have three options. (1) You can find someone you know who has equipment. (2) You can rent equipment from a college or public TV station. This will cost money, but it might be the best route for a beginner. (3) You can buy the equipment you need. Film equipment is quite expensive, so this route won't be for everyone.

Necessary Items

- Digital camera with tripod
- Computer with film-editing software
- Quality microphone
- Quality lights
- Mobile phone

Step 2. Buy a book.

This is a helpful step for making a film, but it is not required. People write books about almost anything, and filmmaking is one of those topics. A book will give you detailed descriptions of what to do. You might also find some good advice about what not to do.

Step 3. Create a script.

Where would your film be without a story? This might be the most important step, because if you do not know what story you want to tell, then nothing else you do will really matter. As with any writing, start with an outline. Then choose the characters, settings, and events you want to show or what message you want to send. Then write the script. Keep the script to about eight pages for a five- to ten-minute film. Also keep in mind whom you have available as actors. You don't want to write a scene at the school dance when you have only four friends to be in your film.

Step 4. Make a storyboard.

To create a storyboard, make some drawings of each scene. The purpose of storyboarding is to help you visualize the action and decide which camera shots will be best. Sometimes you will want a close-up; sometimes you may want to shoot from a distance or create interesting angles with your shots.

Step 5. Find actors.

Most people would love to be in a film, so finding actors should be effortless.

You probably won't get professional actors for your film, but people you know may surprise you with their acting ability. Just make sure they understand what you are trying to create. Actors need to know what you want before they can deliver the best performance. Depending on your script, you may need background actors, too. Talk to your classmates; you never know who might be interested.

Step 6. Design the set.

This depends on your script. You may not need costumes or props if you shoot a current scene at a coffee shop or a shopping mall. But if you have written a story that takes place in 1855, you will need to create a set that looks like it's from the time period.

Step 7. Find a crew.

Finding a crew usually means finding someone who is familiar with lighting, makeup, and how the camera works. Note that experience is not absolutely necessary, because you or your friends can figure out how to do it well enough. However, if you can get experienced friends to help, do it.

Step 8. Shoot the scenes.

Finally, here comes the best part—filming! Get your script, your storyboard, and your actors and shoot some scenes. Don't worry about getting it all perfect the first time. You may need to shoot scenes several times. Who knows? Maybe you will suddenly get fresh ideas and even amend your story in the middle of a scene.

Step 9. Edit your film.

Once you have shot all your scenes, edit the film. Download your video to a computer and use the editing program to cut or enhance scenes. This step is also when you can add music to your film. Editing can be tricky and time-consuming, so be patient.

Step 10. Don't stress!

Have a good time, and enjoy making the film. If you're not having fun, then ask yourself why you are doing this. And remember, no matter how the film turns out, you'll get better.

1. Which step comes after deciding who will play each character in the film?
 - A. Write the story.
 - B. Cut or change scenes.
 - C. Begin filming scenes.
 - D. Draw the film scenes.

2. Read the sentence below.

Sometimes you will want a close-up; sometimes you may want to shoot from a distance or create interesting angles with your shots.

What do the underlined words mean?

- A. a small shot of something very large
 - B. to finish something
 - C. to remove
 - D. a shot taken very close to an object
-
3. A storyboard is similar to
 - A. a story book.
 - B. a comic book.
 - C. a movie.
 - D. a written script.

4. What does the author claim is the most important part of a film? Which detail from the passage BEST supports your answer?

5. Which step would make the most sense to add to the passage?
- A. Get a narrator.
 - B. Find an audience.
 - C. Call a theater.
 - D. Rehearse the scenes.
6. Which statement BEST explains the central idea of the passage?
- A. Filmmaking involves planning, creativity, and hard work.
 - B. To be a filmmaker, you need to have the right equipment.
 - C. Filmmaking is easy to do in ten simple steps.
 - D. Hiring a good team will help make the film production easier.
7. Which is MOST LIKELY the author's intent by mentioning that you should buy a book about filmmaking?
- A. A book provides more information about the equipment.
 - B. A book will have much more information than the passage.
 - C. A book has helpful pictures.
 - D. A book is a good investment for your career.

8. According to the passage, why is the storyboard important? Explain which step must be completed before creating the storyboard and why.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

excerpted and adapted from

An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill

by Colonel W. F. Cody

I was born on a farm near Leclair, Scott County, Iowa, on February 26, 1846. My father, Isaac Cody, had emigrated to what was then a frontier state. He and his people, as well as my mother, had all dwelt in Ohio.

But the love of adventure was in Father's blood. The railroad extended as far as Port Byron, Illinois. When the discovery of gold in California in 1849 set the whole country wild, this railroad began to bring the Argonauts,¹ bound for the long overland wagon journey across the Plains. Naturally, Father caught the excitement. In 1850, he made a start, but it was abandoned—why? I never knew. But after that, he was not content with Iowa. In 1853, our farm and most of our goods and chattels were converted into money. And in 1854, we all set out for Kansas, which was soon to be opened for settlers as a territory. My uncle Elijah kept a general store at Weston, Missouri, just across the Kansas line.

Weston was our first objective. Father had determined to take up a claim² in Kansas and to begin a new life in this stirring country. Had he foreseen the dreadful consequences to himself and to his family of this decision, we might have remained in Iowa, in which case perhaps I might have grown up an Iowa farmer.

Thirty days of a journey that was a constant delight to me brought us to Weston, where we left the freight wagons and Mother and my sisters in the care of my uncle.

To my great joy, Father took me with him on his first trip into Kansas—where he was to pick out his claim and, incidentally, to trade with the Indians from our wagon.

With our trading wagon, we climbed a hill. From its summit we had a view of Salt Creek Valley, the most beautiful valley I have ever seen. In this valley lay our future home.

The hill was very steep, and I remember we had to lock, or chain, the wagon wheels as we descended. We made camp in the valley. The next day, Father began trading with the Indians, who were so pleased with the bargains he had to offer that they sent their friends back to us when they departed. One of the first trades he made was for a little pony for me, which I was told I should have to break myself. I named him Prince. I had a couple of hard falls, but I made up my mind I was going to ride that pony or bust—I did not bust.

The next evening, looking over toward the west, I saw a truly frontier sight—a line of trappers winding down the hillside with their pack animals. My mother had

¹ Argonaut term used to refer to people who traveled by sea (and land) to find their fortune during the California gold rush

² take up a claim to own a plot of land set aside by the government for settlers

often told me of the trappers searching the distant mountains for fur-bearing animals and living a life of fascinating adventure. Here they were in reality.

While some of the men prepared the skins, others built a fire and began to get a meal. I watched them cook the dried venison and was filled with wonder at their method of making bread, which was to wrap the dough about a stick and hold it over the coals till it was ready to eat. You can imagine my rapture when one of them—a pleasant-faced youth—looked up and, catching sight of me, invited me to share the meal.

Boys are always hungry, but I was especially hungry for such a meal as that. After it was over, I hurried to camp and told my father all that had passed. At his request, I brought the young trapper who had been so kind to me over to our camp, and there he had a long talk with father, telling him of his adventures by land and sea in all parts of the world.

He said that he looked forward with great interest to his arrival in Weston, as he expected to meet an uncle, Elijah Cody. He had seen none of his people for many years.

“If Elijah Cody is your uncle, I am, too,” said my father. “You must be the long-lost Horace Billings.” Father had guessed right. Horace had wandered long ago from the Ohio home, and none of his family knew of his whereabouts. He had been to South America and to California, joining a band of trappers on the Columbia River and coming with them back across the Plains.

When I showed him my pony, he offered to help break him for me. With very little trouble, he rode the peppery little creature this way and that, and at last, when he circled back to camp, I found the animal had been mastered.

9. William F. Cody BEST elaborates on events through the use of
- A. interviews.
 - B. cited sources.
 - C. quotations.
 - D. anecdotes.

10. Read this sentence from the passage.

Had he foreseen the dreadful consequences to himself and to his family of this decision, we might have remained in Iowa, in which case perhaps I might have grown up an Iowa farmer.

Based on this sentence, which inference can you make?

- A. William will not make it to Weston.
 - B. William's parents might get hurt on the frontier.
 - C. Isaac will make a lot of money trading with Indians.
 - D. William and his family will move back to Ohio.
11. Read this sentence from the passage.

Father had determined to take up a claim in Kansas and to begin a new life in this stirring country.

Which is the connotation of the underlined word in this sentence?

- A. danger
- B. boredom
- C. excitement
- D. confusion

12. What is the author's intent by mentioning that his mother had told him about the life of the fur-trappers? Which sentence from the text BEST shows the author's intent?

13. Read this sentence from the passage.

One of the first trades he made was for a little pony for me, which I was told I should have to break myself.

What does the author MOST LIKELY mean by the underlined word?

- A. He will break a bone if he falls off the pony.
 - B. The pony will be shared between William and his sisters.
 - C. He has to teach the pony how to be ridden.
 - D. The pony is so strong, it might break its harness.
14. What is the central idea of this passage?
- A. Life on the frontier is exciting.
 - B. Living in Kansas is better than living in Ohio.
 - C. William's cousin Horace tamed Prince.
 - D. The trappers' life was most enjoyable.
15. How was Horace Billings related to the Codys?
- A. He was Elijah Cody's son.
 - B. He was Isaac and Elijah Cody's nephew.
 - C. He was William Cody's uncle.
 - D. He was Elijah Cody's uncle.

16. Which two inferences can be made about Isaac Cody’s reason for going to California in 1850? Which sentence from the passage BEST supports those inferences?

This passage contains mistakes. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Skyscrapers

(1) New York City is famous for a battle that started in the late 1920s, when two skyscrapers—the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building—were competing for their place in the record books. (2) The Chrysler Building became the tallest building in the world in May 1930, before the Empire State Building passed it a year later.

(3) All over the world, skyscrapers not only show the flavor of a city, but they are also a symbol of pride for its residents. (4) Ever since cities started building skyscrapers in the 1920s, architects and construction companies have raced to design and build the most striking, tallest skyscraper.

(5) These two buildings were made during a difficult economic time in U.S. history. (6) The Great Depression left many people out of work, so people who were lucky enough to have a job building these magnificent skyscrapers were among the lucky few with jobs. (7) Because of this, many of the workers worked extra hard, knowing that people would be waiting to replace them if they were ever fired. (8) As a result, the Empire State Building was finished well ahead of schedule. (9) It became the pride of the city during a difficult time.

(10) Designing this tower was challenging because Taiwan is often hit by earthquakes and typhoons. (11) Taipei 101 is a skyscraper rising 1,671 feet (or 101 floors) into the sky in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. (12) To solve this problem architects built a steel sphere weighing eight hundred tons and installed it near the top of the tower. (13) The sphere is supposed to keep the building stable during intense movement, such as what might take place during an earthquake.

(14) Taipei 101 did not hold the record for the highest skyscraper for long. (15) On October 1, 2009, a building in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates became the tallest building in the world. (16) The Burj Dubai, as it was known during construction, took five years to build and had its official grand opening on January 4, 2010. (17) The building has 160 floors that can be occupied as offices and another forty-six maintenance levels located in the tall spire at the top of the building. (18) The project cost \$1.5 billion. (19) The distance from the ground to the top of the spire is 2,717 feet, or 828 meters.

(20) It holds more than just a few world records. (21) Not only is world's tallest building, but currently the building is the most floors. (22) It also has the world's highest elevator installation and the world's fastest elevator. (23) The building also has the world's highest outdoor observation deck, at 1,483 feet, or 452 meters.

(24) The Burj Dubai also has had its share of economic woes, however finished at the height of an economic recession, most of the 160 floors of prime office rental space remains empty.

1. Where would paragraph 1 be better placed in the passage?
 - A. after the last paragraph
 - B. after paragraph 3
 - C. before paragraph 3
 - D. before paragraph 5

2. Which paragraph is a good introduction for the passage?
 - A. paragraph 1
 - B. paragraph 2
 - C. paragraph 3
 - D. paragraph 4

3. Which question did the student MOST LIKELY ask before starting the research for this passage?
 - A. How many windows does a skyscraper have?
 - B. Are there skyscrapers in Saudi Arabia?
 - C. How many floors does the Willis Tower have?
 - D. What are some of the most popular skyscrapers in the world?

4. Which should be the topic sentence of paragraph 4?
 - A. sentence 10
 - B. sentence 11
 - C. sentence 12
 - D. sentence 13

5. Paragraph 6 starts with the word *it*. When revising the paragraph, which words should the writer use to replace the word *it*?
- A. the Empire State Building
 - B. the Chrysler Building
 - C. Taipei 101
 - D. Burj Dubai

6. Where can someone look to find current events happening at the Empire State Building?
- A. encyclopedia
 - B. atlas
 - C. almanac
 - D. newspaper

7. Read this sentence from paragraph 6.

Not only is world's tallest building, but currently the building is the most floors.

Which is the BEST way to rewrite the sentence?

- A. Not only is currently the building with the most floors, it is world's tallest building.
 - B. Not only is world's tallest building, but the building has the most current floors.
 - C. Not only is it the world's tallest building, but it is currently the building with the most floors.
 - D. The world's tallest building, but currently has the most floors.
8. How can paragraph 7 be revised to be clearer for the reader?
- A. Break the paragraph into two or more sentences.
 - B. Add more information to the paragraph.
 - C. Change the topic of the paragraph.
 - D. Make the paragraph part of paragraph 6.

Informative Prompt

Research a person in history whom you respect. Write an essay that explains who the person is and why you respect him or her. Be sure to include specific details. Use the checklist below to help you do your best writing.

Does your essay

- have a clear and focused subject?
- have a logical structure?
- present information clearly?
- use linking words and phrases to join ideas?
- use a style and vocabulary that are correct for the audience and purpose?
- have a solid conclusion?
- have good spelling, capitalization, and punctuation?
- follow the rules for good grammar and usage?

Write your response on the next pages. Use the space below to organize your information in a graphic organizer.

Lined writing area with horizontal lines for text entry.

Assessment

This passage contains mistakes. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Classic Greek Myth

(1) Athena, the greek goddess of war, had an unusual birth. (2) One day, her father, Zeus, suffered an extremely painful headache. (3) His complaining about the pain could be heard all over Mount Olympus. (4) To cure the pain, Hephaestus, the god of fire, split open Zeus's skull with an ax. (5) As the skull split apart, Athena, fully dressed in armor and carrying a spear, burst out of her father's head.

(6) All the gods and goddesses who saw the birth were filled with horror and amazement at the same time. (7) Athena soon became Zeus's favorite child. (8) All the other gods on Mount Olympus—were jealous of her. (9) Many of them often warned Zeus that Athena always did what she wanted and refused to listen to reason. (10) Zeus did not care what anyone else on Mount Olympus thought of Athena. (11) To him, she represented everything good in the world. (12) To everyone on Mount Olympus, Athena was best known for her skill in war, and she loved fighting above all else.

(13) However, she had other skills. (14) No one could rival her in homemaking. (15) She created the first potter's wheel, she made it with it made beautiful vases. (16) But she greatest skill was weaving. (17) She was without a doubt one of the best weavers that ever lived. (18) After she wove a peice of beautiful cloth, she covered it with even more beautiful embriodery. (19) Athena was extremely proud of her skills with loom and needle and displayed her work for all to see. (20) It was this skill that caused a foolish girl in Lydia to meet her fate—(unfortunately). (21) Athena had such confidence in her that she refused to believe that any god (or human) could rival her.

(22) The girl, who was named Arachne, was equally well known for her skills in weaving and embroidery. (23) Although people had warned her about boasting about its skills, Arachne boldly challenged Athena to a contest. (24) Athena was so angered by the challenge that she accepted, and the foolish Arachne began weaving with great skill. (25) She created a tapestry that showed the love of the gods. (26) When she finished, she showed her work to Athena, who examined it carefully. (27) Athena could find no mistake or bad stitch in the work. (28) She was so angry that a human could weave as skillfully as she that she decided that Arachne must be punished.

(29) Now Arachne was sorry her had ever challenged Athena. (30) Athena changed Arachne into a spider, who was condemned always to spin with threads pulled from her own body. (31) Even today, if you look carefully, you can see Arachne's children spinning their webs in the garden.

1. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 1?
 - A. Athena, the Greek goddess of War, had an unusual birth.
 - B. Athena, the Greek Goddess of War, had an unusual birth.
 - C. Athena, the Greek goddess of war, had an unusual birth.
 - D. Athena, the greek goddess of War, had an unusual birth.

2. Which word from the passage is spelled incorrectly?
 - A. warned
 - B. peice
 - C. skillfully
 - D. examined

3. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 20?
 - A. It was this skill that caused a foolish girl in Lydia to meet her fate unfortunately.
 - B. It was this skill that caused a foolish girl in Lydia to meet her fate, unfortunately.
 - C. It was this skill that caused a foolish girl in Lydia to meet her fate—unfortunately—.
 - D. It was this skill that caused a foolish girl in Lydia to meet her fate (unfortunately).

4. As used in sentence 27, stitch means
 - A. laughter.
 - B. a mend, or fix, of a rip.
 - C. a loop of thread.
 - D. a sharp pain in the side of the body.

5. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 21 with an intensive pronoun?
- A. Athena had such confidence in her that they refused to believe that any god (or human) could rival her.
 - B. Athena had such confidence in her that she refused to believe that any god (or human) could rival herself.
 - C. Athena herself had such confidence that she refused to believe that any god (or human) could rival her.
 - D. Athena had such confidence in herself that she refused to believe that any god (or human) could rival herself.
6. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 23?
- A. Although people had warned herself about boasting about its skills, Arachne boldly challenged Athena to a contest.
 - B. Although people had warned her about boasting about her skills, Arachne boldly challenged Athena to a contest.
 - C. Although people had warned him about boasting about its skills, Arachne boldly challenged Athena to a contest.
 - D. Although people had warned him about boasting about his skills, Arachne boldly challenged Athena to a contest.

7. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 16?
- A. But his greatest skill was weaving.
 - B. But she greatest skill were weaving.
 - C. But her greatest skill was weaving.
 - D. But she greatest skill herself was weaving.
8. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 29?
- A. Now Arachne was sorry him had ever challenged Athena.
 - B. Now Arachne was sorry they had ever challenged Athena.
 - C. Now Arachne was sorry them had ever challenged Athena.
 - D. Now Arachne was sorry she had ever challenged Athena.
9. Which word that means *spider* has a root related to a name in the passage?
- A. archery
 - B. arithmetic
 - C. arachnid
 - D. arcade
10. Which is the correct way to rewrite sentence 8?
- A. All the other—gods on Mount Olympus—were jealous of her.
 - B. All the other gods on—Mount Olympus--were jealous of her.
 - C. All the other gods on Mount Olympus were—jealous of her.
 - D. All the other gods on Mount Olympus were jealous of her.

11. Read this sentence from the passage.

Athena changed Arachne into a spider, who was condemned always to spin with threads pulled from her own body.

Rewrite the sentence so that the words have the same denotation but no longer have a negative connotation.

12. Read this sentence from the passage.

She created the first potter's wheel, she made it with it made beautiful vases.

Rewrite the sentence so that it has no errors.
