

Jose de Diego Middle School



Reading/Language Arts



Grade 7

Winter Break Packet

The student activities in this packet are designed to reinforce reading skills, strategies, and standards.



Before Reading Strategies

- **Scan the article or story then star and read ALL text features** (This will help with setting a purpose for reading.)
- **Make a prediction using text features scanned throughout text.**

During Reading Strategies

- **Underline key ideas and details in the text that are important to understanding the article or story.**
- **Make notes to clarify areas of text that may be confusing.**

Ask yourself:

- What does the author want me to learn about the topic or character, events, and setting?
- How does he/she use each section to help me learn?
- What key words or phrases help me understand the author's purpose, point of view, or theme?
- Why did the author structure or organize the text this way? How does that help me better understand the topic or main message?

After Reading Strategies

- **Read each question carefully.**

Ask yourself:

- ❖ What am I being asked to do?
- ❖ What am I asked to look for?
- ❖ What section or sections of text do I need to revisit?
- ❖ Does the question require going back to the text?
- **Circle, underline, or paraphrase key words in question stems.**

Passage: Excerpt from *War Dogs*

by Rebecca Frankel

- 1 It's not known, not really, when the first dog took the battlefield to wage war alongside his human companions. Historians believe that millennia ago, the ancient Egyptians used canines to carry messages. The Corinthians surrounded their seashore citadel with guard dogs in 400 bc, and the Romans employed them to raise alarms for their garrisons. The feared invasion forces of Attila the Hun brought ferocious hounds with them to protect their camps during battle.
- 2 The United States, historically, has been woefully behind in adopting dogs into its military ranks, not doing so officially until 1942 with the Army's Dogs for Defense program. So crucial were these animals during World War II that the US canine ranks swelled to over 10,000 dogs strong. In Vietnam, scout dogs were so successful at thwarting the ambush tactics of the Vietcong that bounties exceeding \$20,000 were placed on their heads while only half as much was promised for their human handlers. In recent years, working outside the wire in Iraq and Afghanistan, military dogs have become the single greatest advantage allied forces have against the signature weapon of the post-9/11 era the improvised explosive device, or IED. Try though the military has to out do them with technology and electronic machinery, nothing has been more effective at uncovering these unpredictably lethal roadside bombs than a handler and his detection dog.
- 3 If you know what to listen for, the sound is unmistakable. The attuned human ear can hear when a dog has found the sought-after odor usually long before he gives his final alert. And depending on the training and the kind of detection work, the dog will either sit at the source of odor or lie down to the ground. For obvious reasons, search-and-rescue dogs will bark. A practiced handler will recognize his dog's personal tells. The dog may twitch his ears or his movements may slow down and become more deliberate, or he may even have an "I'm definitely on odor" expression —but it's really the sound that is the big giveaway. It's the deep, staccato inhale and then the rush of a perfunctory and heavy exhale. It is the sound of satisfaction. It is the sound of discovery. The canine nose is a masterful creation; all earthly schnozes are not created equal, anatomically speaking. While the average dog has roughly 220 million scent receptors in his nasal cavity, the average human has around 5 million. The canine sense of smell is a thousand times more sensitive than a human's. One of the best visual analogies of the dog's acute sense of smell is given by author Mark Derr in *Dog's Best Friend*: "Unfolded and flattened, the smell receptors from the average dog's nose could cover it like a second coat with hair dragging on the ground."

Passage: Excerpt from *War Dogs* Continued

4

Even the way a canine nose functions is more developed than ours. A dog's nose has four passages, two inner ones and two on the outside, almost like gills. The inner canals pull in the scent and then exhale to the outer, so that the exhaling air doesn't disturb the ground or source of the next odor, allowing always for the intake of fresh scent. Humans, in contrast, have just the two nasal passages, and what goes up comes back out again the same way. (We can of course draw breath through our mouths when we ingest or exhale oxygen, but it is not the best way to smell, although it is one of the best ways to use our sense of taste for certain foods —by orthonasal, or mouth breathing. On the other hand, while dogs are great perpetrators of mouth breathing, they're not using it for scent. Though they have good reason to do so. Dogs actually pant through their mouths to cool off, whereas we humans sweat.) That always-damp and cool-to-the-touch quality of the canine nose also has its purpose; moisture that is "secreted by mucous glands in the nasal cavity captures and dissolves molecules in the air and brings them into contact with specialized olfactory epithelium inside the nose."



5

It's not that we humans don't use our sense of smell, but as a sense it's powerful for very different reasons. Scent recalls memories and awakens our emotional subconscious. We associate different odors, good and bad, with people and places—and there's no accounting for taste in what we relish either. My father, for example, loves the smell of a good barn populated with fragrant livestock. As a family driving the New England interstates, we inevitably passed open pasture, and as we did, my father would lower his window to get his fill of the open air heavy with manure, while my sister and I groaned and pinched our noses. He was taking in the scent of his childhood on the farm and all the memories that came with it—we children of the suburbs were just smelling, well, poop. Most people don't make a conscious effort to imprint particular or special smells, to file them away for later use—they register more like background noise, though invariably certain things punch through the ether, people and places we are reminded of by the power of scent. But perhaps we should take our lead from dogs and program our brains to catalog smells in more proactive and useful ways.

1

Which of these is an **opinion** expressed in the passage?

- (A) "The canine sense of smell is a thousand times more sensitive than a human's." (paragraph 3)
- (B) "Even the way a canine nose functions is more developed than ours." (paragraph 4)
- (C) "A dog's nose has four passages, two inner ones and two on the outside." (paragraph 4)
- (D) "A practiced handler will recognize his dog's personal tells." (paragraph 3)

2

What is **most likely** the meaning of orthonasal as it is used in the passage?

- (A) smelling aroma
- (B) tasting food
- (C) mouth breathing
- (D) finding scent

3

Which words from paragraph 3 help the reader understand the meaning of the word schnozes?

- (A) canine nose
- (B) scent receptors
- (C) not created equal
- (D) all earthly

4

What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- (A) To explain how humans have an inferior sense of smell.
- (B) To entertain the reader with exciting war tales.
- (C) To inform the reader about different types of War Dogs.
- (D) To convince the reader of the importance of using dogs.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Based on the author's comments, the reader can conclude that the author -

- (A) thinks highly of dogs.
- (B) was in the army.
- (C) is a scientist.
- (D) enjoys learning about war.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- (A) "The attuned human ear can hear when a dog has found the sought-after odor usually long before he gives his final alert." (paragraph 3)
- (B) "A dog's nose has four passages, two inner ones and two on the outside, almost like gills." (paragraph 4)
- (C) "It's not that we humans don't use our sense of smell, but as a sense it's powerful for very different reasons." (paragraph 5)
- (D) "But perhaps we should take our lead from dogs and program our brains to catalog smells in more proactive and useful ways." (paragraph 5)

Which of the following ideas would the author of *War Dogs* disagree with? Select **two** options.

- A The U.S. should have used War Dogs sooner.
- B People's smell is not as advanced as dogs.
- C Dogs play a very important role in war.
- D The sense of smell is more useful when tasting.
- E Smells can trigger memories for humans.
- F We humans don't really use our sense of smell.

7

Which detail from the passage supports the idea that human noses have a different purpose than that of dogs?

- (A) "It's not that we humans don't use our sense of smell." (paragraph 5)
- (B) "Dogs actually pant through their mouths to cool off, whereas we humans sweat." (paragraph 4)
- (C) "My father, for example, loves the smell of a good barn populated with fragrant livestock." (paragraph 5)
- (D) "Scent recalls memories and awakens our emotional subconscious." (paragraph 5)

8

Rewrite the sentences in order to create a summary of paragraph 1-2.

1.

2.

3.

Since then, they have become an extremely valuable tool.

All throughout history dogs have been fighting along side humans.

However, the United States didn't begin using War Dogs until the 1940's.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Which idea is supported throughout the **second half** of the passage?

- (A) Canines are vital in war times.
- (B) Canines, historically, are very important creatures.
- (C) Canines have a superior sense of smell.
- (D) Canines have a good reputation for finding bombs.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- (A) "Even the way a canine nose functions is more developed than ours." (paragraph 4)
- (B) "So crucial were these animals during World War II that the US canine ranks swelled to over 10,000 dogs strong." (paragraph 2)
- (C) "It's not that we humans don't use our sense of smell, but as a sense it's powerful for very different reasons." (paragraph 5)
- (D) "Nothing has been more effective at uncovering these unpredictably lethal roadside bombs than a handler and his detection dog." (paragraph 2)

What is the author's main argument? Express your opinion on this topic and give at least **three** reasons why you feel this way. Write your answer in the space provided.

Passage: Excerpt from *Divergent*

by Veronica Roth

1 There is one mirror in my house. It is behind a sliding panel in the hallway upstairs. Our faction¹ allows me to stand in front of it on the second day of every third month, the day my mother cuts my hair.

2 I sit on the stool and my mother stands behind me with the scissors, trimming. The strands fall on the floor in a dull, blond ring. When she finishes, she pulls my hair away from my face and twists it into a knot.

3 I note how calm she looks and how focused she is. She is well-practiced in the art of losing herself. I can't say the same of myself.

4 I sneak a look at my reflection when she isn't paying attention—not for the sake of vanity, but out of curiosity. A lot can happen to a person's appearance in three months. In my reflection, I see a narrow face, wide, round eyes, and a long, thin nose—I still look like a little girl, though sometime in the last few months I turned sixteen.

5 The other factions celebrate birthdays, but we don't. It would be self-indulgent.

6 "There," she says when she pins the knot in place. Her eyes catch mine in the mirror. It is too late to look away, but instead of scolding me, she smiles at our reflection.

7 I frown a little. Why doesn't she reprimand me for staring at myself?

8 "So today is the day," she says. "Yes," I reply. "Are you nervous?" I stare into my own eyes for a moment. Today is the day of the aptitude test that will show me which of the five factions I belong in. And tomorrow, at the Choosing Ceremony, I will decide on a faction; I will decide the rest of my life; I will decide to stay with my family or abandon them.

9 "No," I say. "The tests don't have to change our choices." "Right." She smiles. "Let's go eat breakfast." "Thank you. For cutting my hair." She kisses my cheek and slides the panel over the mirror.

10 I think my mother could be beautiful, in a different world. Her body is thin beneath the gray robe. She has high cheekbones and long eyelashes, and when she lets her hair down at night, it hangs in waves over her shoulders. But she must hide that beauty in Abnegation.

11 We walk together to the kitchen. On these mornings when my brother makes breakfast, and my father's hand skims my hair as he reads the newspaper, and my mother hums as she clears the table—it is on these mornings that I feel guiltiest for wanting to leave them.

¹factions: societal divisions that classify citizens based on their aptitudes and values. The factions are Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), Erudite (the intelligent), Abnegation (the selfless), and Candor (the honest).

1

Read the following sentence from the passage.

"I sneak a look at my reflection when she isn't paying attention—not for the sake of vanity, but out of curiosity." (paragraph 4)

What does the word vanity **most likely** mean?

- (A) surprised by what you see
- (B) looking at yourself in a reflection
- (C) the mirror on a dresser
- (D) admiration of your own appearance

2

Which theme does the beginning of the passage address?

- (A) The narrator is getting her hair cut by her mother.
- (B) How you look is not as important as other qualities.
- (C) Your appearance shows how old you are.
- (D) It is important to be self-indulgent.

3

What is the narrator nervous about at the **end** of the passage?

- (A) She feels guilty about looking into the mirror.
- (B) She does not know what to expect.
- (C) She will have to decide the rest of her life.
- (D) She will be required to leave her family.

4

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What conclusion can be made about the faction or group the narrator lives in?

- (A) They try to be selfless.
- (B) They value beauty.
- (C) They try to be honest.
- (D) They value family.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- (A) "She is well-practiced in the art of losing herself." (paragraph 3)
- (B) "She has high cheekbones and long eyelashes, and when she lets her hair down at night, it hangs in waves over her shoulders." (paragraph 10)
- (C) "The other factions celebrate birthdays, but we don't. It would be self-indulgent." (paragraph 3)
- (D) "I will decide the rest of my life; I will decide to stay with my family or abandon them." (paragraph 8)

5

Read the following sentence from the passage.

"On these mornings when my brother makes breakfast, and my father's hand skims my hair as he reads the newspaper, and my mother hums as she clears the table—it is on these mornings that I feel guiltiest for wanting to leave them." (paragraph 11)

What is the narrator trying to say?

- (A) She describes how she feels about the Choosing Ceremony.
- (B) She makes light of the upcoming situation.
- (C) She explains why she needs to leave.
- (D) She shares her fear of not belonging with her family.

6

Rewrite the sentences in order to create a summary of the passage.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Her mother catches her looking, but only smiles. Instead, her mother asks her if she is worried about the ceremony tomorrow where she will decide her future.

She sneaks a look at her reflection, not for her beauty, but to see if she looks older after her birthday.

This was a time when she felt guilty for wanting to leave them.

The narrator is sitting for her mother to cut her hair, as usual.

She says no and goes into breakfast with her family.

7

The point of view from which the passage is told gives the reader which of the following insights?

- (A) The mother's thoughts about vanity.
- (B) The narrator's feelings about leaving her family.
- (C) How the Choosing Ceremony will be organized.
- (D) Feelings of the character's optimistic attitude.

Which **two** sentences from the passage support the idea that the faction the narrator lives in is very conservative?

- A "I sit on the stool and my mother stands behind me with the scissors, trimming." (paragraph 2)
- B "On these mornings when my brother makes breakfast, and my father's hand skims my hair as he reads the newspaper, and my mother hums as she clears the table—it is on these mornings that I feel guiltiest for wanting to leave them." (paragraph 11)
- C "Our faction allows me to stand in front of it on the second day of every third month, the day my mother cuts my hair." (paragraph 1)
- D "Today is the day of the aptitude test that will show me which of the five factions I belong in." (paragraph 8)
- E "The other factions celebrate birthdays, but we don't." (paragraph 5)
- F "I think my mother could be beautiful, in a different world." (paragraph 10)

What is the significance of the mirror in the passage? Support your answer with details from the passage.

Write your answer in the space provided.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What will **most likely** happen when the narrator makes her choice at the Choosing Ceremony?

- (A) She will stay in her family's faction.
- (B) She will leave her family's faction.
- (C) She will be unable to make a choice.
- (D) She will let someone else make her choice.

Part B

Fill in the circle **before** the sentence from the passage that supports the answer in Part A?

- 10 (A) I think my mother could be beautiful, in a different world. (B) Her body is thin beneath the gray robe. (C) She has high cheekbones and long eyelashes, and when she lets her hair down at night, it hangs in waves over her shoulders. (D) But she must hide that beauty in Abnegation.
- 11 (E) We walk together to the kitchen. (F) On these mornings when my brother makes breakfast, and my father's hand skims my hair as he reads the newspaper, and my mother hums as she clears the table—it is on these mornings that I feel guiltiest for wanting to leave them.

Editing Task 2

Choose the correct word or phrase to fill in each blank in the passage. For each blank, fill in the circle **before** the word or phrase that is correct.

Childhood Obesity, Prevalence and Prevention
by Mahshid Dehghan, Noori Akhtar-Danesh and Anwar T Merchant

8. Childhood obesity has reached epidemic levels in developed [(A) countrys (B) countres (C) countries (D) country]. Twenty-five percent of children in the US are overweight and 11% are obese. Overweight and obesity in childhood are known to have a significant impact on both physical and psychological health.
9. The mechanism of obesity development is not fully understood and it is [(A) believe (B) believed (C) believable (D) believing] to be a disorder with multiple causes. Environmental factors, lifestyle preferences, and cultural environment play pivotal roles in the rising prevalence of obesity worldwide. In general, overweight and obesity are assumed to be the results of an increase in caloric and fat intake.
10. On the other hand, there are supporting evidence that excessive sugar intake by soft drinks, increased portion size, and steady decline in physical activity have been playing major roles in the rising rates of obesity all around the world. [(A) Consequently, (B) Consequently (C) Alternatively, (D) Alternatively] both over-consumption of calories and reduced physical activity are involved in childhood obesity.
11. Almost all researchers agree that prevention [(A) will be (B) should be (C) would be (D) could be] the key strategy for controlling the current epidemic of obesity. Prevention may include primary prevention of overweight or obesity, secondary prevention or prevention of weight regains following weight loss and avoidance of more weight increase in obese persons unable to lose weight.

Excerpt from *Childhood Obesity, Prevalence and Prevention* by Mahshid Dehghan, Noori Akhtar-Danesh and Anwar T Merchant.
<https://nutritionj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1475-2891-4-24>
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Editing Task 2 Continued

Choose the correct word or phrase to fill in each blank in the passage. For each blank, fill in the circle **before** the word or phrase that is correct.

12. Until now, most approaches have focused on changing the behavior of individuals in diet and exercise [(A) . (B)? (C)! (D),]
13. It [(A) seems however that (B) seems however, that (C) seems, however, that (D) seems, however that] these strategies have had little impact on the growing increase in the obesity epidemic. While about 50% of the adults are overweight and obese in many countries, it is difficult to reduce excessive weight once it becomes established.
14. Children should, therefore, be considered the priority population for intervention strategies. Prevention may be achieved through a variety of interventions targeting built environment, physical activity, and diet. Some of these potential strategies for intervention in children can be implemented by targeting preschool institutions, schools [(A) or (B) yet (C) but (D) so] after-school care services as a natural setting for influencing the diet and physical activity.
15. All in all, there is an urgent need to [(A) initiate (B) initiate (C) intiate (D) inciate] prevention and treatment of obesity in children.