

NTI Reading Packet Cover Sheet

Please use the following schedule for NTI Days:

Day 1- Read "Space Junk" and complete the questions over it.

Day 2- Read "The Venus Fly Trap" and complete the questions over it

Day 3- Read "Where Does Your Food Come From?" and complete the questions over it.

Day 4- Read "Attacking Asthma" and complete the questions over it.

Day 5- Read "The Stolen Kitten" and do the questions over it.

Please contact me at school if you have any questions about your work:

Ms. Dreama Griffith

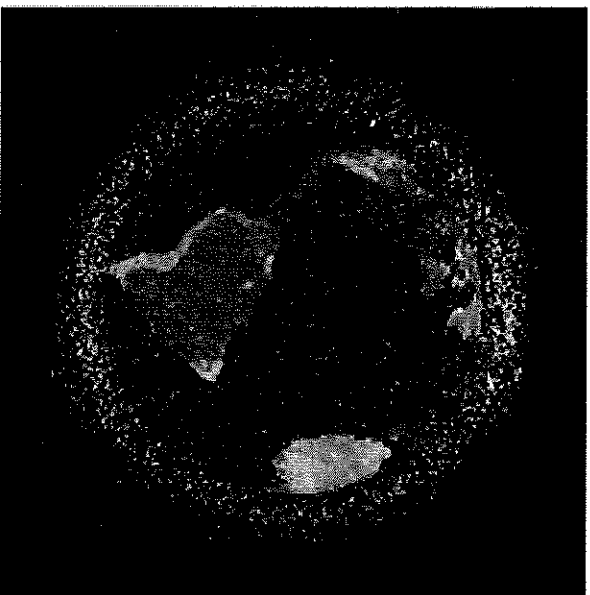
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You have three days from the day we return to turn in NTI work.

Space Junk

by Josh Adler



Many people know that trash is a big problem on planet Earth. What many people don't know is that trash has become a problem in outer space too. Years of space exploration have left tons of "space junk" in orbit around the planet.

According to *BBC News*, there are more than 22,000 pieces of junk in space around the earth. And these are just the items that we can see from the surface of the earth by telescopes or radars. There are also millions of smaller pieces of junk that we can't see.

Objects, like bits of old space rockets or satellites, move around the planet at very high speeds, so fast that even a very small piece can break important satellites or become dangerous to people, particularly astronauts. If the tiniest piece of junk crashed into a spacecraft, it could damage the vehicle. That's because the faster an object moves, the greater the impact if the object collides with something else.

To make things worse, when two objects in space collide, the two objects break into many smaller pieces. This happened in 2009 when a working United States satellite collided with a Russian satellite that was no longer functioning. The collision caused the satellites to break into more than 2,000

pieces, increasing the items of space junk.

To help minimize additional space junk, countries around the world have agreed to limit the time their space tools stay in orbit to 25 years. Each tool must be built to fall safely into the earth's atmosphere, or the mass of gasses that surround the earth, after that. In the upper parts of the atmosphere, it will burn up.

Many scientists are also proposing different ways to clean up space junk. In England a metal harpoon is being tested that can be fired into space trash, grip the trash, and then pull the space junk into the earth's atmosphere where it would burn up.

The Germans have been planning a space mission with robots that would collect pieces of space trash and bring them back to Earth so that they can be safely destroyed.

In 2007 the Chinese tried to blow up one of its older satellites with a missile. Unfortunately, the explosion only created thousands of smaller pieces, adding junk in space!

"In our opinion the problem is very challenging, and it's quite urgent as well," said Marco Castronuovo, an Italian Space Agency researcher who is working to solve the problem. One reason that it's urgent is that countries are sending more and more objects into space. Many of these objects are tools that help people use their cell phones or computers.

"The time to act is now, as we go farther in time we will need to remove more and more fragments," he says.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What has left tons of "space junk" in orbit around the earth?

- A. robots sent on space missions
- B. years of space exploration
- C. lack of recycling
- D. missiles in outer space

2. Countries around the world have agreed to limit the time their space tools stay in orbit to 25 years. As explained in the passage, what problem does this solution address?

- A. the increasing amount of space junk in orbit around the earth
- B. space agencies exploring space
- C. Chinese efforts to blow up a satellite
- D. objects moving around the planet at very high speeds

3. Trash has become a problem in outer space too.

What evidence from the text best supports this statement?

- A. The Chinese tried to blow up one of its satellites with a missile in 2007.
- B. In England, a metal harpoon is being tested that can be fired into space, gripping space trash and pulling it back into the earth's atmosphere to burn up.
- C. The Germans have been planning a space mission with robots to collect some space trash and bring it back to Earth.
- D. According to *BBC News*, there are more than 22,000 pieces of junk in space around the earth.

4. Why have countries agreed to build space tools that must fall safely into the earth's atmosphere?

- A. so that the tools can remove pollution from the atmosphere after returning from space
- B. so that the tools burn up in the atmosphere and don't become space junk
- C. so that the tools pollute the atmosphere instead of outer space
- D. so that the tools can analyze the different gases that make up the atmosphere after returning from space

5. What was the passage mostly about?

- A. different missions scientists are trying in space
- B. the effects that tiny pieces of space junk could have on the earth
- C. the problem of space junk and scientists' attempts to solve this problem
- D. the problem of trash on planet Earth

6. Read the following sentences: "In our opinion the problem is very challenging and it's quite urgent as well," said Marco Castonuovo, an Italian Space Agency researcher who is working to solve the problem. One reason that it's **urgent** is that countries are sending more and more objects into space. Many of these objects are tools that help people use their cell phones or computers."What does the word **urgent** most nearly mean?

- A. easy to solve
- B. unnecessary
- C. needs immediate attention
- D. minor

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Years of space exploration have left tons of "space junk," _____ many scientists are trying to find a way to clean up outer space.

- A. so
- B. instead
- C. because
- D. similarly

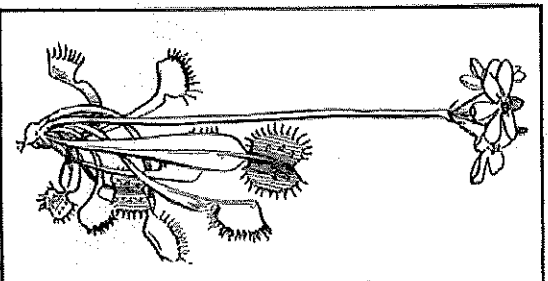
8. What did the 2009 collision of a United States satellite and a Russian satellite cause?

9. What have the Germans done to help clean up space junk?

10. Different countries have explored or are exploring different methods to clean up space junk. Explain why some methods may be more effective than others. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Venus Flytrap

by ReadWorks



The Venus flytrap is an insect-eating plant that lives mostly on the East Coast. Found primarily in swampy parts of the United States, like North and South Carolina, the Venus flytrap has colorful pink and green hues. Like most other plants, Venus flytraps get some nutrients from the soil, but since swampy areas tend to have soil that is nutrient-poor, it is hard for the plant to get nutrients from there. As a result, the flytrap has evolved to not only rely on the soil to survive. The Venus flytrap is a carnivorous plant because it catches insects and eats them to get the nutrients that it can't get from the soil.

The Venus flytrap has leaves that open to catch prey and then snap shut once it's ready to eat. On the inside of each leaf there are short, stiff hairs called trigger hairs. When an insect touches one of the three trigger hairs on either side of the leaf twice in a row, it signals to the flytrap that dinner is here. The leaves then snap shut, trapping the insect inside. Of course, some insects are able to escape, but many don't. And if they try and struggle to get out, the trap closes even tighter! The trap doesn't close all the way, though. It stays open for a few seconds, so smaller insects that might be trapped inside with the main meal can crawl out. Venus flytraps don't like to eat small insects because they don't provide a lot of nutritional value. If it's not an insect that is trapped, rather a nut or a stone, the trap will open after about 12 hours and spit it out. The inside of a flytrap has fingerlike tentacles

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that help keep the insect from escaping. If you fold your hands together and lace your fingers on the inside, you'll get an idea of what the trap looks like.

In order to digest or eat the insect, the flytrap must squeeze its prey very tightly, as digestive juices dissolve the inside of the insect. At the end of this process, which takes anywhere from 5 to 12 days, the trap opens up again, and either rain or wind will carry the insect's remaining exoskeleton away. If the flytrap has caught an insect that is too big, and, say, the legs of the bug are sticking out of the trap, the digestion process might not happen the way it should. The trap will grow mold and once that happens, it will continue to get sicker and sicker, with the trap eventually turning black and falling off.

The exact amount of time it takes for the trap to open back up again depends on a variety of factors. These factors include the size of the insect, temperature, how old the trap is, and how many times the plant has gone through this process. In fact, the trap can only catch about three of its prey before it turns black, dies, and falls off. The trap can only open and close about seven times, that is why it is important to not go around touching the trap in order to get them to close. So if you ever see one, don't tease it!

Name: _____ Date: _____

- What is the Venus flytrap?
 - a plant-eating insect
 - an insect-eating plant
 - swampy, nutrient-poor soil
 - a plant that grows on Venus
- What does the author describe in the passage?
 - the species of insects the Venus flytrap eats
 - plants that are similar to the Venus flytrap
 - the swampy regions of North and South Carolina
 - how the Venus flytrap catches and eats its prey
- The trap of the Venus flytrap may not last long. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?
 - The trap opens up again 5-12 days after catching and eating an insect.
 - The trap stays open for a few seconds so that smaller insects can crawl out.
 - The trap must squeeze the prey very tightly in order to digest or eat the insect.
 - The trap can only catch about three of its prey before it dies and falls off.
- What was the Venus flytrap forced to adapt to?
 - an environment without any other plants
 - an environment with nutrient-rich soil
 - an environment without nutrient-rich soil
 - an environment without any large animals
- What is the passage mainly about?
 - different types of carnivorous plants that live in swamps
 - the Venus flytrap and how it catches its prey
 - the swampy areas where the Venus flytrap lives
 - why the trap of the Venus flytrap turns black and fall off

- Read the following sentence: "The inside of a flytrap has fingerlike **tentacles** that help keep the insect from escaping."

The author compares **tentacles** to what?

 - insects
 - flytraps
 - insects
 - fingers

- Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Venus flytrap cannot get enough nutrients from the soil in which it grows.

_____, the Venus flytrap evolved to get nutrients from an additional source.

- Finally
- Moreover
- Although
- Consequently

- Where does the Venus flytrap get its nutrients?

- Describe the process by which the Venus flytrap catches and digests its prey.

10. How has the trap of the Venus flytrap helped this plant to survive?

Where Does Your Food Come From?

by Kathiann M. Kowalski

Local VS. Long-Distance-Does It Matter?

Before you know it, spring will be on the way and more fresh fruits and veggies will be in stores. But what about the fresh fruits and vegetables we see in the stores right now? Where do those foods come from? Locally grown foods are a great choice when they're available, but are they really always better?

Why Buy Local?

Taste is the reason Ohio teen Allie M. says she prefers locally grown peaches to ones that might travel more than a thousand miles to the supermarket. "They have to pick them so unripe to ship them, so they don't spoil," says Allie. "They're not as good as they would be if you went to the farmers market during peak season and bought fresh peaches."

When fruits and vegetables taste better, you'll probably eat them more often. That's good, because the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends filling half your plate with fruits and vegetables.

While there's no clear definition of what's local, most shoppers agree that produce grown nearby is fresher than foods that travel long distances.

Local foods can be more nutritious too. "The longer it takes for a food to go from the field to your plate, the more it may deteriorate in terms of nutrient content," explains Mary Lee Chin, a registered dietitian at Nutrition Edge Communications in Denver. "But a lot of it depends on many different factors." Soil conditions, fertilization practices, irrigation methods, and the specific plant varieties can all affect nutrient content.

"Handling is really critical," adds Chin. That includes everything that happens from harvest until foods reach your home. When fruits and vegetables are at peak ripeness and handled properly, the results can be both delicious and nutritious. But bruised, wilted, or overripe produce loses both appeal and nutrient value.

Buying local foods also lets shoppers support the local economy. That builds feelings of community. "You know who grows your food," says Allie.

Local farmers markets may spotlight produce that an area is famous for, such as Michigan cherries or Georgia peaches. You might also discover varieties not usually carried by supermarkets, such as some heirloom tomatoes or fresh herbs.

Some vendors sell only "organic" foods. Organic produce usually isn't more nutritious than other fruits and vegetables. To receive official certification, farms follow specific guidelines, such as not using certain pesticides or fertilizers. (Some farms don't go through the certification process but still may produce food according to organic practices.)

Energy usage is another environmental issue. Local foods travel a shorter distance to market, so less

fuel is required to deliver the food. However, notes Chin, the type of transportation matters. For a 100-mile trip, for instance, a typical pickup truck uses more than 10 times the fuel per pound carried than a full semitrailer. Farming practices, water usage, and other factors affect foods' environmental impact too.

Variety Is the Spice of Life

Not all our favorite foods can come from local farms. Allie loves bananas, but they don't grow in Ohio. And forget about finding fresh Ohio-grown melons, strawberries, or peaches during winter.

"In my opinion, it's not possible to have the lifestyle we enjoy and rely only on locally grown foods," says Trevor Suston, an agricultural scientist at the University of California, Davis. "In order to enjoy a year-round supply of healthful, nutritious, good-tasting, enjoyable diverse foods, they are being grown, harvested, and then shipped tens of thousands of miles." Refrigerated storage and transport make it possible.

Don't rule out frozen, canned, or dried fruits and vegetables. Many companies run processing plants close to farms for cost and efficiency reasons. Other benefits are more obvious to the consumer. Not only are the nutrients of fresh fruits preserved, says Chin, but sensory qualities of appearance, smell, and taste remain too. A jar of applesauce serves many people and delivers almost the same health benefits per serving as fresh apples—that's something to consider when money is tight.

The Bottom Line

While local foods aren't always better than long-distance ones, one thing is clear: "Research has shown that people who eat the highest amount of fruits and vegetables simply have healthier diets," says Chin. You can get those health benefits "no matter how they're produced."

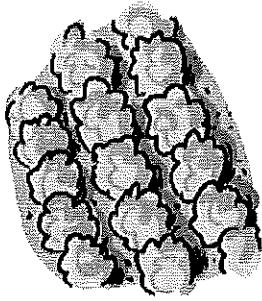
Food safety is also an issue regardless of where foods come from. Recent government recalls involved a wide range of foods, including fresh strawberries, organic spinach, packaged salads, papayas, bean burgers, cheese, and herring.

"Contaminated food can look and smell and taste completely normal," warns Dr. Karen Neil at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of illness may not appear for days.

To protect yourself, always follow safe food handling and storage practices. After all, no matter where your food starts out, it ends up with you.

Follow That Food!

More than two weeks can pass before food from the field finally finds its way to your home. Consider how lettuce might get from a California farm to a Boston supermarket.



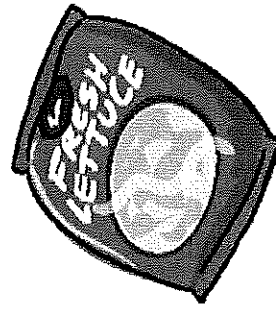
Dave Clegg

From the field to a nearby cooling facility (1-2 days)



Dave Clegg

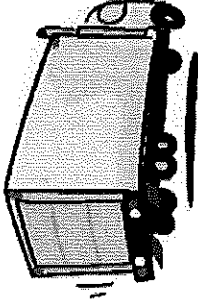
Onto a truck to a packaging and distribution center (1-2 days)



Dave Clegg

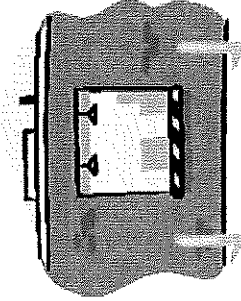
To another truck for delivery to a local supermarket (1 day)

Packaging or processing (1-2 days)



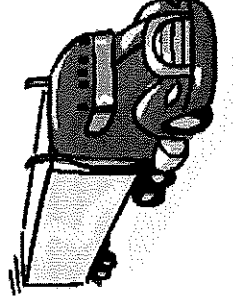
Dave Clegg

Onto a truck to go across the country (5-7 days)

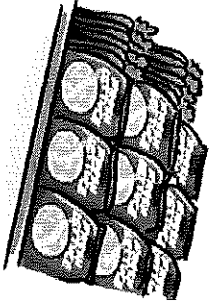


Dave Clegg

To a regional distribution center (1-2 days)



Dave Clegg



Dave Clegg

On the supermarket shelves until purchase (1-4 days)

Cook It Safe!

Frozen food may spend days traveling so you can quickly "nuke" it when you're ready. But be sure you're doing it safely. Diane Van of the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers these tips for safe microwaving:

Know whether to use the microwave or the conventional oven. Not all frozen foods can be cooked safely in the microwave.

Know your microwave wattage before microwaving food. Lower-wattage ovens need more cooking time.

Read and follow cooking instructions. That includes waiting the full standing time listed on a package after the item comes out of the oven to ensure it's done cooking.

Always use a food thermometer to ensure a safe internal temperature. Grill marks or browning may make food appear cooked before it really is.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, approximately how many buildings and vehicles would lettuce have to go through on the trip between a California farm and a Boston supermarket?

- A. four buildings and five trucks
- B. three buildings and three trucks
- C. three buildings and five trucks
- D. seven buildings and three trucks

2. Which of the following is an *argument* presented against buying local fruits and vegetables?

- A. Local farmers may spotlight a produce that an area is famous for.
- B. Local foods travel a shorter distance to market.
- C. Local produce is fresher than foods that travel long distances.
- D. Local farms cannot produce all of our favorite foods all year.

3. Which of the following actions would help a person avoid getting sick from contaminated produce?

- A. smelling produce before eating to make sure it is safe
- B. washing produce before eating
- C. cooking produce until it feels hot to the touch
- D. eating only food from a local farmer that the person knows

4. "The longer it takes for a food to go from the field to your plate, the more it may deteriorate in terms of nutrient content," explains Mary Lee Chin."

As used in the sentence, **deteriorate** most nearly means

- A. to improve
- B. to get worse
- C. to adjust
- D. to recover

5. This passage deals primarily with

- A. the length of time it takes to get lettuce from the farm
- B. the ways to keep your food safe
- C. the best procedure for using the microwave
- D. the local vs. long-distance food debate

6. What are three benefits that the passage gives for buying local fruits and vegetables?

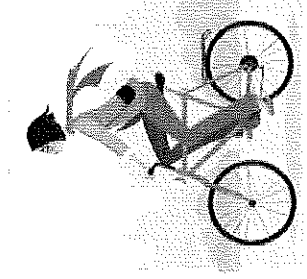
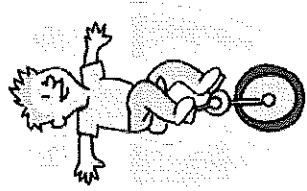
7. Why might "buying local" be easier in some places than others?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Handling produce is critical _____ bruised, wilted, or overripe produce loses both appeal and nutrient value.

- A. therefore
- B. because
- C. so
- D. obviously

9. Which object has better transportation efficiency?



Attacking Asthma

by Sandra J. Jordan

For kids with asthma, the air they breathe makes a difference.

Warm, stuffy, or dusty rooms are charity for Alex D. of Fairview Heights, Ill. That's because hot air, smoke, and dust can cause him to feel as if something is sucking the wind out of him. "I start to run out of breath, and it's just hard to breathe," the sixth grader says. "Sometimes I kind of start wheezing."

Alex, 11, is one of an estimated 7.0 million children in the United States with *asthma*. Sometimes a person with asthma has a hard time breathing. Asthma is the most common *chronic*, or long-term, childhood illness in the nation.

When Asthma Strikes

When a person inhales, air fills the lungs. Blood carries oxygen from the air to the body's tissues. Then, as the person exhales, the lungs release the air that has already given oxygen to the body.

But when someone has an asthma attack, the bands of muscle surrounding the airways tighten, making it harder to breathe in and out. Mucus clogs and narrows the airways further. That causes shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, and a feeling of pressure in the chest. An asthma attack can be serious—or even fatal.

Medicines to control asthma help most people with the condition lead normal lives. Alex, for example, takes medicine every day to control his symptoms. When he has trouble breathing while on the go, he has an inhaler to quickly get medicine into his airways. A special breathing treatment machine helps if Alex has trouble while at home.

When he was in elementary school, Alex had to go to the nurse's office whenever he needed his inhaler. Now that he is in middle school, he can keep his inhaler closer at hand. Usually it's in his locker, but during PE class he keeps it in his pocket, just in case.

Another way young people can control their asthma is by knowing what causes symptoms in the first place. Those things are known as asthma *triggers*. Everyone with asthma has his or her own set of triggers. The list can include smoke, cleaning products, and household items that collect dust, such as quilts, carpets, and mattresses. For kids living in the country, mold and pollen are often a problem. Kids who live in cities don't get a break, though. Cockroaches and rodents that often live in city buildings can give off allergens that cause asthma attacks even if you don't run into the creatures themselves.

Asthma inhalers send medicine to the airways.

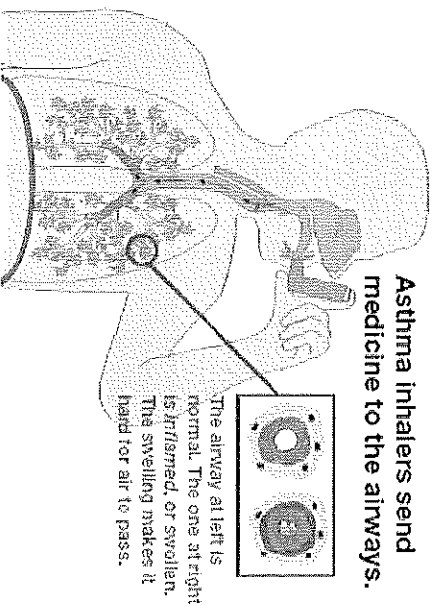


Photo Researchers, Inc.

Cigarette smoke is a common problem for kids with asthma no matter where they live, says Robert Simpson, a lung doctor and internal medicine specialist in St. Louis. It's a problem not only for kids who live with adults who smoke, but also for kids with asthma who give in to peer pressure to smoke.

Where You Breathe Matters

Alex is not a smoker, but he lives near St. Louis, named the worst place in the U.S. for asthma sufferers by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America in 2009. The group rated St. Louis low for having poor air quality and because it doesn't have as many laws as other places keeping indoor areas smoke free.

"We are not a very friendly place for people who are affected by asthma and lung disease. We have no public smokefree places," says Dr. Mario Castro. He's a professor of medicine and pulmonary and critical care medicine at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine.

Alex and his family have run into problems at restaurants. "Whenever we go to St. Louis to eat, my parents always ask that we sit in the nonsmoking section because when we sit in the smoking section, then I will start to cough," Alex explains.

His mom and dad work to minimize dust at home. The family also has to avoid visiting homes that are too hot or dirty. They learned that the hard way after visiting a dusty house. Alex's mom, Daphne, had to give him his medicine right away. "You could see the dust particles floating," she says. "That's how bad it was."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, how many children in the United States have asthma?

- A. 11.0 million
- B. 7.0 million
- C. 70,000
- D. 200 million

2. What effect does an asthma attack have on a person's airways?

- A. It creates more oxygen in the body.
- B. It makes exhaling easier.
- C. It opens up the lungs.
- D. It tightens the airways.

3. Why does Alex most likely keep his inhaler in his pocket during PE class?

- A. There is a lot of dust in the gym.
- B. He is more active in PE and he may need it.
- C. All the other students keep an inhaler.
- D. He is allergic to cats and other animals.

4. Read the following sentence and answer the question below:

"Asthma is the most common chronic, or long-term, childhood illness in the nation."

As used in the passage, **chronic** means

- A. serious
- B. short-term
- C. long-term
- D. common

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. how oxygen travels through the human body
- B. the sports Alex plays at school
- C. the effect of asthma on people's lives
- D. the types of inhalers people with asthma can use

6. What are two common triggers for people with asthma?

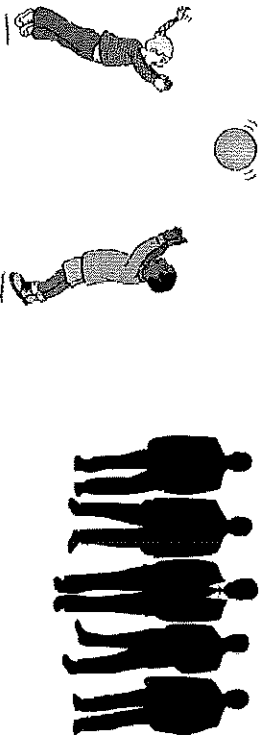
7. Why should students and staff not eat in classrooms if there is a student who has asthma?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Alex has asthma, _____ he doesn't let that stop him from playing sports.

- A. after
- B. before
- C. but
- D. because

9. Which group of people have greater responsibility?



10. Is it the parent's responsibility to do a student's homework for them? Why or why not?

The Stolen Kitten

by Kyria Abrahams



I found the kitten sitting on my front porch in the toy bin. He was black and white and crying like a human baby. Where did he come from? I noticed he had no collar. Who would be so irresponsible?

I went inside and opened a can of tuna fish. After I placed the tuna in the doorway, the kitten hungrily lapped it up and then walked right inside the house.

"Hey, kitten! I didn't say you could come in!" I yelled.

The kitten seemed unconcerned with this information. He plopped down onto a bunch of pillows on the couch and began to groom his paws.

My older brother Michael walked into the room, saw the kitten, and started laughing. "What the heck? You brought home a cat?" he asked.

"I didn't exactly bring him home," I explained. "He just kinda walked in through the front door and made himself at home."

"Aw, Mom is gonna be so angry!" Michael said. "You'd better call her."

"Okay," I said. "I promise I'll call right now."

At that moment, I had every intention of doing the right thing and calling my mother. What happened next was slightly different, though.

I picked up the kitten and put him into a box. I gave him a blanket and a toy. And then I brought him to my bedroom and shut the door.

Our family never owned pets, but I had always wanted one. I knew a little bit about talking care of them. I knew he wasn't a newborn kitten because he was big and fluffy, and his eyes were open. Newborn kittens are not supposed to be separated from their moms. When a human finds them, they have to be extra careful.

I knew he was going to need a litter box. Of course, since I don't own a cat, I didn't have one. So I took a cardboard box and ripped up an old newspaper into shreds. I learned this trick from an internet video.

Immediately, the kitten jumped into the box to do his business. I knew this meant he was already litter box trained.

I really should call my mom about this, I thought, as the kitten meowed and jumped up onto my lap. Well, he sure did seem to like me! Maybe I didn't have to give him back after all!

If someone can't take care of their kitten, they deserve to lose him! I thought.

The kitten kept meowing quite a lot. It wouldn't stop. And then, it started trying to bite my hand.

"Hey kitten! I'm not food!" I said.

"Meow!" yelled the kitten, trying again to bite my finger.

I knew I had to go to the store and get some cat food. I opened my piggy bank to see what was inside.

Five dollars and 98 cents. Well, that would certainly be enough to buy a can of cat food.

"You stay put, kitten!" I told him. "I'm going to get you food!"

I bet his last owners never gave him food. They probably didn't love him at all!

I made sure he had plenty of water and shut the bedroom door. I put on my coat and grabbed my keys. I headed out to Whiskers Organic Pet Supply up the street from my house in Astoria, Queens.

On my way out the door, I spotted a sign on the telephone pole:

LOST KITTEN

Black and White, very friendly. If you find him, please call us. We are worried sick.

"Hrm." I thought. "Well, if you were so worried about your kitten, maybe you should have taken better care of him!"

I laughed to myself and headed into the pet store. *People are so irresponsible! It's a good thing I found that kitten and took him in. Now, I'm buying him food! Thank goodness he found me!*

When I walked into the pet store, I could barely get through the door. The place was packed! A group of kids were hanging up flyers about this same cat.

In the back of the store, I saw a little boy in a wheelchair. He was about five years old, and he was

crying.

"I can't believe I lost my kitten!" he said to his parents. "I couldn't get to the open door in time!"

I looked at the flyers on the wall. It was definitely the cat I had back at home, sitting in my bedroom, behind a closed door.

Then the truth of the situation hit me: I had stolen a little boy's cat!

In my mind, I had made up a whole story about the people who lost the kitten, and how they deserved to lose him. Now I realized there was a lot I didn't understand. I tried to justify why I should keep the kitten by convincing myself the owners deserved to lose him. Now I saw that it was all a big mistake.

I approached the little boy in the wheelchair. He blew his nose and looked up at me.

"I have your kitten," I told him. "I'm sorry. I just found him and fed him. He's at my house."

The little boy began to cry with laughter. He stretched his arms out and gave me a great big hug. "Thank you so much! I was just about to put a new flea collar on him when he ran out the door. I couldn't chase him! Because of my... you know... my legs."

"I'll be right back," I told him. I ran home to get the kitten and reunite owner and pet.

A situation isn't always as simple as it seems on the outside. I thought for sure the kitten's owners deserved to lose him, but I didn't have all the information. In the end, I was the one who didn't deserve to keep the kitten.

Name: _____ Date: _____

- What does the narrator find on her front porch?
 - a dog
 - a kitten
 - a can of tuna
 - a lost boy
- How do the narrator's feelings about the kitten's owner change in the story?
 - At first she thinks the owner is irresponsible, but then she realizes she is wrong.
 - At first she thinks the owner is responsible, but then she realizes she is wrong.
 - At first she thinks the owner misses his or her kitten, but then she realizes she is wrong.
 - Her feelings do not change. She thinks the owner is irresponsible throughout the story.
- The narrator assumes that the kitten's owner did not take care of the kitten. What evidence from the story best supports this conclusion?
 - "Well, he sure did seem to like me! Maybe I didn't have to give him back after all!"
 - "It's a good thing I found that kitten and took him in. Now, I'm buying him food!"
 - "I laughed to myself and headed into the pet store. People are so irresponsible!"
 - "I bet his last owners never gave him food. They probably didn't love him at all!"
- Why does the narrator convince herself that the kitten's owner was irresponsible?
 - because she thinks the kitten looks skinny
 - because she is worried about the kitten
 - because she wants to keep the kitten
 - because her mom won't let her keep the kitten
- What is this story mostly about?
 - The narrator makes an assumption, then realizes that she was wrong.
 - The narrator finds a lost kitten that was neglected by its previous owner.
 - The narrator finds a lost kitten and learns how to care for it.
 - The narrator finds a lost kitten, hides it from her mother, and gets in trouble.

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The Stolen Kitten - Comprehension Questions

6. Read the following sentences: "In my mind, I had made up a whole story about the people who lost the kitten, and how they deserved to lose him. Now I realized there was a lot I didn't understand. I tried to justify why I should keep the kitten by convincing myself the owners deserved to lose him."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "justify" most nearly mean?

- A. tell the truth about a situation before a judge
- B. realize that you have been wrong about something
- C. pretend that a situation does not exist
- D. come up with a good reason for something

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The narrator tells herself that the kitten's owner must not have loved him; _____, she later learns that her assumption was wrong.

- A. meanwhile
- B. however
- C. for instance
- D. therefore

8. What does the narrator see at the pet store?

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The Stolen Kitten - Comprehension Questions

9. At first, the narrator thinks that the kitten's previous owner was irresponsible, but then she realizes that she was wrong. What causes her to change her opinion?

10. What is the main theme or message of the story, and why? Support your answer using information from the story.
