

McCord Freshmen English

NTI Instructions

For each day, complete one reading passage or the paired passages and the questions that accompany it.

After an NTI day, you will have THREE (3) days to turn your work in for a grade. No exceptions will be made.

How to reach Mrs. McCord on NTI days if you have questions:

- Phone: call the school: 859-289-3780 extension: 2326. If I don't answer, leave a message and I will call you back.
- Email: elizabeth.mccord@nicholas.kyschools.us
- Remind: If you haven't joined the Freshmen English Remind group, text the message @mccord2018 to the number 81010. You can text me through this app.

McCord Freshmen English NTI Day 1

Some experts question rewarding reading with pizza.

Should kids be reading for pizza? A nationwide reading program is drawing criticism for putting pizza front and center. Since 1985, the restaurant chain Pizza Hut has been running the *Book It* program, which rewards students for reading with personal pan pizzas. Now some people are taking a slice at *Book It*. They say the program promotes poor eating habits and gives Pizza Hut free advertising in public schools.

"It's clear that Pizza Hut's *Book It* has no place in public schools....It promotes junk food," says Susan Linn, a cofounder of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. The group has called for schools to stop participating in the *Book It* program.

Nearly 22 million children in 50,000 U.S. schools take part in *Book It*. Since the program began, more than 200 million pizzas have been given away. Each year, from October 1 through March 31, students read books to meet monthly reading goals set by teachers. When students meet their goal for the month, they get a certificate for a personal pan pizza.

"We're really proud of the program," says Leslie Tubbs, the director of *Book It*. "We get hundreds of e-mails from [past participants] who praise it and say it helped them get started with reading." In 1988, President Ronald Reagan honored the program for promoting literacy, or reading skills.

But critics say schools can teach students to enjoy reading without the help of a fast-food company. "Schools need to realize that they are undermining their students' well-being," says nutrition expert Jane Levine. She explains that the *Book It* program is a problem not just because it rewards kids with fast food but also because it makes a large company a regular part of the school day.

Answer Questions on Back

Cause & Effect Questions

1. The expression, "some people are taking a slice at Book It," means

- A. people are supporting the Book It program.
- B. parents are boycotting Pizza Hut.
- C. people are criticizing the Book It program.
- D. parents and children are enjoying pizza together.

2. People against Book It say that the program

- A. encourages poor eating habits.
- B. allows advertising of fast-food companies in schools.
- C. makes fast food part of school.
- D. all of the above.

3. Supporters of Book It say

- A. the program encourages reading.
- B. Book It encourages good eating habits.
- C. the Book It program supports education.
- D. all of the above.

4. Which of the following is not a fact about the Book It program?

- A. If students meet their reading goal, they receive a free pizza.
- B. President Regan honored the program for promoting literacy.
- C. Kids are reading only because of the pizza.
- D. Some nutrition experts feel the program is not healthy.

5. If your school participated in the Pizza Hut *Book It* program, how do you think it would affect your reading? Explain.

McCord Freshmen English NTI Day 2

What's in a Name?

His name was Jack. Jack Russell. It was not easy going through life with the name of a terrier. A dog, for Pete's sake! From about second grade on, kids had made fun of his name, some of them making barking sounds when he came into a room. He was actually Jack Russell IV – the fourth first son of a first son, named for the original Jack Russell, his great grandfather.

Maybe because his name had become such a joke, he paid particular attention to names. He loved learning bizarre names of places - Dead Horse, Arkansas; Monkey's Eyebrow, Arizona. There were the breakfast-sounding names - places like Two Egg, Florida, and Oatmeal, Texas. Some names seemed to tell stories about the people who'd first settled there - like Last Chance, Colorado, and Boring, Indiana.

When the kids first started making fun of him, his parents tried to console him. His mother recalled going to school with a girl named Candy Cane. As if to invite ridicule, she wore red and white striped clothes. His dad, who hadn't minded being Jack Russell III, had a different tactic. He tried to make him proud of the name with stories about the original Jack Russell - sailor, war hero, and inventor.

When he moved up from grade school to junior high, he made a decision. He'd use his middle name, Harry. At first, it went well. Even his old friends took to calling him Harry, and, as far as the kids he'd never met before were concerned, that had always been his name. Even his parents and sister started calling him Harry, until he met Ciara, the prettiest and smartest girl in sixth grade.

"Hi, I'm Harry," he said, trying to sound nonchalant. "Wow! That's my dog's name!" she said, as she closed her locker door and walked away with her friends.

Answer Questions on Back

Theme Questions

1. *The overall theme of the story is that*

- A. *you should not make fun of other people's names.*
- B. *place names are stranger than people's names.*
- C. *names can be embarrassing.*
- D. *it does not matter what you call yourself.*

2. *Another theme of the story seems to be that*

- A. *introducing oneself can make one feel self-conscious.*
- B. *dogs never have names that sound like people's names.*
- C. *the best-planned actions can have unintended outcomes.*
- D. *having a family name with a number after it is an honor.*

3. *The following are Jack Harry Russell's character traits, except*

- A. *he is good at problem solving.*
- B. *he has a bad temper.*
- C. *he is sensitive about being made fun of.*
- D. *he is interested in the names of places.*

4. *The plot of the story takes a turn when Jack*

- A. *moves from elementary to junior high school.*
- B. *collects funny names of towns.*
- C. *consults his father for advice.*
- D. *learns about his ancestors.*

5. *What details support the theme of the story?*

McCord Freshmen English NTI Day 3

Killing Fields

Ivory Trade Puts African Elephants in Harm's Way

Poachers slaughter between 6,000 and 12,000 elephants each year.

Desire Dontego was a brutal killer. For years, the 39-year-old prowled the jungles of Africa in search of elephants to hunt.

It was Dontego's job to kill two of the animals on each trip to the forest. After slaying the beasts, Dontego and other poachers took the animals' meat and precious ivory, leaving only the skin.

"I was known as the killing machine," he told a reporter.

That all changed 10 years ago when Dontego heard an American conservationist talk about why poaching was not only illegal but also wrong. Although Dontego killed the elephants to feed his family, he felt guilty about being a poacher. Now Dontego works for an environmental group that wants to protect the elephants and end the ivory trade.

Hub of Ivory Trade

According to Care for the Wild International, elephants need all the protection they can get. The wildlife conservation group recently released a report stating that poachers slaughter between 6,000 and 12,000 elephants each year. Officials estimate that there are 400,000 to 500,000 elephants in Africa.

The group says that Sudan has become the hub of Africa's ivory trade. Researchers found that ivory gifts, such as jewelry, are openly sold on the streets of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

Esmond Martin, who conducted the study, said that most of the poachers are members of Sudan's military.

Huge Market

Merchants may only sell ivory carved before 1990, the year an international treaty made the sale and importation of ivory illegal.

Trading in ivory is permitted in Sudan as long as the shopkeeper has a government license. The merchants may sell only old ivory, carved before 1990. That's when an international treaty made the sale and importation of ivory illegal.

However, most of the ivory sold in the bazaars is new ivory, carved after 1990. Martin said he counted more than 11,000 ivory items in 50 shops in Khartoum, where ivory is inexpensive. A ring can cost \$2 and a pair of chopsticks, \$13.

Chinese citizens are the driving force behind the ivory trade, the report said. About 5,000 Chinese people live and work in Sudan. They purchase about three-quarters of all ivory items in Sudan. Although the Chinese government has tried to intercept illegal ivory imports, China is the largest importer of illegal ivory.

However, Sudan is not the only African nation involved in the ivory trade. Merchants and poachers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Kenya also do a robust business.

Massive Crackdown

Poaching had become so widespread in the Congo River Basin, an area consisting of six African countries, that governments and wildlife organizations had to institute a massive crackdown.

Police in Cameroon recently began raiding hotels, houses, and airports, hoping to stop the illegal ivory trade in that country. Some nations in the basin have also established protected areas for elephants and other endangered animals.

In addition, wildlife groups have hired former poachers, such as Dontego, to patrol the vast area. The crackdown seems to be working.

"There has clearly been a change," said a coworker of Dontego. "Poaching in the region has gone down."

Answer Questions

Explicit Information Questions

1. *The wildlife conservation group Care for the Wild International reports that poachers slaughter between _____ elephants each year.*

- A. 6,000 and 12,000
- B. 12,000 and 15,000
- C. 15,000 and 20,000
- D. 4,000 and 6,000

2. *The largest importer of illegal ivory is*

- A. China.
- B. Chad.
- C. Republic of Congo.
- D. Khartoum.

3. *In the sentence, "...the Chinese government has tried to intercept illegal ivory imports,..." the word intercept means:*

- A. put a tax on something.
- B. interrupt the transporting of something.
- C. make something illegal.
- D. limit the purchase of something.

4. *In addition to the Sudan, which African country is also involved in the ivory trade?*

- A. Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- B. Chad.
- C. Kenya.
- D. all of the above.

5. *Why do you think the author began the passage by describing the poacher Dontego?*

McCord Freshmen English NTI Day 4

Living on the Moon

NASA shoots for the moon, then Mars.

Only 12 people have set foot on the moon—so far. The last time was in late 1972, when two astronauts walked on its surface. Their final visit—the longest of any—lasted just three days. Now astronauts are preparing for another **mission** to our space neighbor. This time, though, they plan to stay there.

NASA recently announced plans to build a **permanent** base on the moon. Astronauts could be living and working there by 2020, according to the U.S. space agency. The goal is to prepare astronauts for a trip to Mars in the future.

Under the plan, four-person crews will begin with week-long missions to the moon. By 2024, when more equipment has been set up, astronauts will be able to **reside**, or live, on the moon for as long as six months. Astronauts will travel in roving vehicles to explore the area near the **lunar** (moon) base.

Polar Plus

Unlike Earth, the moon has no air, wind, or weather. Its dusty terrain, or surface, is covered with deep craters. So how can humans survive on the moon?

NASA hopes to establish a lunar outpost near one of the moon's poles. "These locations experience sunlight for longer periods of time than other locations on the moon, which will make it possible to use solar power," NASA official Michael Braukus told *WR News*. Solar power is energy from the sun that can be used to generate electricity.

It is also likely that the polar regions are rich in natural resources, such as oxygen and hydrogen. While on the moon, astronauts plan to use natural resources for water and fuel.

Stepping Up Space Travel

The moon is the only place beyond Earth that humans have visited. About 238,900 miles away, the moon is Earth's closest space neighbor.

On July 20, 1969, Americans Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon. Those space pioneers traveled to the lunar surface on the *Apollo 11* mission.

NASA's new direction is to surpass, or greatly exceed, the Apollo missions of the 1960s and early 1970s. "This is not your father's Apollo," says space policy expert John Logsdon at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

As part of its new phase of space exploration, NASA retired, or stopped using, its aging space shuttle fleet in 2011. For their trek to the moon, astronauts will travel aboard the new *Orion* crew exploration vehicle, which is being developed. The vehicle, a modernized version of the *Apollo* craft, will attach to a lunar lander.

Next Stop: Mars

The moon mission is part of President George W. Bush's long-term space plan. The proposed base is the first step in the bold plan to prepare astronauts for their ultimate destination—Mars.

Because Mars is so far from Earth, traveling there will require humans to stay for long periods of time. Astronauts will not be able to bring enough supplies for the entire mission. They will have to use the elements on Mars to survive.

"By demonstrating we can survive on another world for a long time, we build confidence that we can venture much farther from Earth and stay for longer periods of time," says Braukus of NASA.

High-Priced Visit

While some supporters are jumping over the moon about launching a new era of space exploration, not everyone is pleased with the plan. Critics warn that it will be difficult to fund the moon program. So far, NASA has not put a price tag on the mission but welcomes participation by other countries to help carry out its plan.

U.S. Space Travel

In October 1957, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik 1*, the first artificial satellite in space. The U.S. space program was established as a response. The "space race" between the two countries had begun. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to send a person to the moon by the end of the 1960s.

Answer Questions

Predicting Questions

1. *What do you think astronauts will have to do in order to live on the moon?*

- A. make periodic trips to Earth to get supplies.*
- B. depend on monthly deliveries of supplies.*
- C. use the moon's natural resources for water and fuel.*
- D. bring all their supplies with them.*

2. *What do you think will be needed for astronauts to live on Mars?*

- A. Natural resources will be needed on Mars for fuel and energy.*
- B. The trip to Mars will have to be short.*
- C. Astronauts will have to leave the Earth in the summer.*
- D. Only a few astronauts will be able to visit at a time.*

3. *Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin went to the moon, because*

- A. they wanted to try to use the moon for electricity.*
- B. Apollo 11 needed four astronauts.*
- C. the Soviet Sputnik program on the moon needed help.*
- D. it was one of President Kennedy's goals.*

4. In the sentence, "...some supporters are jumping over the moon about launching a new era of space exploration," jumping over the moon means:

- A. watching the moon through a telescope.
- B. being enthusiastically pleased.
- C. planning a new mission to the moon.
- D. practicing a new jump rope game.

5. Do you think the United States will be willing to spend the money necessary to send people to live on a lunar base? Explain.

McCord Freshmen English NTI Day 5

China Under Attack

By Jonathan Miedel, Yough Middle School, Ruffsedale, Pa.

Japan attacked China in 1937, launching the second Chinese-Japanese War. At first, Japanese forces overpowered the Chinese. But when Japan bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in 1941, China gained a powerful ally—the United States. The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, forcing the country to surrender and ending World War II and the Chinese-Japanese War. Jonathan Miedel talked to his grandmother, Mary Yu Chang, about growing up in China during the war.

When the war began, my grandmother was only 6 years old. Her family lived in Shanghai, but her father had to leave because his job had been moved to the temporary capital, Chongqing.

When he realized that the situation in Shanghai was getting worse, he sent for his family to join him.

The most direct route from Shanghai to Chongqing was by boat on the Yangtze River. However, the Japanese had occupied many coastal cities by that time. My grandmother's family had to take a huge detour. They traveled by sea to Hong Kong, then to North Vietnam. Then the rest of the trip was in crowded diesel trucks traveling through the mountains. "On some of the sharpest turns, some of the trucks slid off the edge of the cliffs," my grandmother recalled.

Every time someone heard an airplane, the passengers would jump out of the trucks and crawl on their hands and knees through cornfields. My grandmother said that the leaves would cut her face. Everybody was covered in blood and mud.

When my grandmother and her family finally arrived, Chongqing was extremely crowded with refugees. Fortunately, her dad's company had houses for its employees. My grandmother's new house only had two rooms, so it was extraordinarily cramped.

When my grandmother was 8, her mother contracted tuberculosis and died. Her dad hired a caretaker to take care of my grandmother and her brother. On nice days, the caretaker would send my grandmother out to the rice paddies to collect slugs. Then the caretaker would fry the slugs with peppers. Peach trees provided

another source of food. My grandmother would climb the sticky trees to get the fruit. She stated this was the one time during the war when she actually enjoyed herself.

During her time in Chongqing, there were many air raids. The city had a detailed plan in the event of an air raid. If the siren went off and only one ball was placed on top of the pole on the mountain, it meant school was over. If a siren went off and two balls were on top of the mountain, everyone ran to the man-made tunnels in the mountain for shelter.

During one of these attacks, bombs destroyed the tunnel next to the one my grandmother was in. She said that everybody inside was killed.

The war ended in 1945, when my grandmother was 12. On the return trip to Shanghai, her family took the direct route, along the Yangtze River.

Conclusion: This story taught me how terrible war can be. I learned that Chongqing was bombed more than 5,000 times during a five-year period. I never realized how much war could change everyday life. I believe my grandmother learned many valuable lessons in a difficult way. I hope these events have taught the world the terrible outcomes of war.

Answer Questions

Author's Purpose Questions

1. The author learned a lot from his grandmother. The author is using this passage to communicate that.

- A. what to do in an air raid.*
- B. eating slugs with peppers is a good way to survive.*
- C. the effects of war are horrible.*
- D. tuberculosis is a terrible disease.*

2. *This passage is an example of*

- A. *a documentary.*
- B. *a nonfictional narrative.*
- C. *historical fiction.*
- D. *an autobiography.*

3. *The first paragraph of this passage (in italics) was included to*

- A. *give historical context to Jonathan's grandmother's story.*
- B. *explain the use of the atom bomb.*
- C. *explain why China was not in the war.*
- D. *teach and explain the effects of war.*

4. *At the end of the passage, the author mentions that the family takes the direct way home, instead of the detour. Why was that?*

- A. *Construction on the road to Shanghai was completed.*
- B. *It was now safe, because the war was over.*
- C. *The family did not have time to take the detour.*
- D. *All of the above.*

5. The author included many details in this passage. Give an example of a detail that the author included in the passage and explain what you think the author's purpose was in including it.