Ireland Reports First Venomous Snake Bite in Its

Malloy Harmon
8th Grade English
Insturctional Non-Traditional
Connolly Hospital, where the man is being treated, had to request antivenin from the National Reptile Zoo. It is the only authorized holder of antivenin in Ireland, according to the media company RTE. But the zoo didn't have any, so it had to be shipped in from Liverpool in the United Kingdom.

The incident has brought to mind the legend of St. Patrick. St. Patrick is believed to have lived in the 5th century, though his exact birth and death dates are unclear. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, and also for driving all snakes from the island. The story about his banishment of snakes didn't emerge until the 13th century, according to historian Roy Flechner in "Saint Patrick Retold: The Legend and History of Ireland's Patron Saint."

Jocelyn of Furness, one of St. Patrick's first biographers, described the story like this:

"Therefore he, the most excellent pastor, bade on his shoulder the staff of Jesus, and aided by the angelic aid... gathered together from all parts of the island all the poisonous creatures into one place; then compelled he them all into a very high promontory... and by the power of his word he drove the whole pestilent swarm from the precipice of the mountain headlong into the ocean."

Story Met With Disbelief

Even in the 13th century, this story was met with some disbelief. Gerald of Wales, author of a popular travelogue of Ireland, wrote:

"Some indulge in the pleasant conjecture that Saint Patrick and other saints of the land purged the island of all harmful animals. But it is more probably that from the earliest time and long before the foundation of the faith, the island was naturally without these as well as other things."

Scientists say Gerald is right. The island was too cold for snakes during the last Ice Age, which lasted until about 10,000 years ago. And it has been separated from Europe for some time—unlike Britain, which had a land bridge up until about 6,500 years ago. In short, snakes couldn't get to Ireland once things warmed up.

The bitten man's condition is unknown, but with the luck (and medical care) of the Irish, hopefully he will feel better soon. Perhaps he will be ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

Quiz

1. Read the paragraph from the section "Story Met With Disbelief."

Scientists say Gerald is right. The island was too cold for snakes during the last Ice Age, which lasted until about 10,000 years ago. And it has been separated from Europe for some time—unlike Britain, which had a land bridge up until about 6,500 years ago. In short, snakes couldn't get to Ireland once things warmed up.

Which conclusion is best supported by the paragraph above?

(A) It is likely that natural causes forced many snakes from Ireland and St. Patrick removed the rest.
(B) Snakes existed in Ireland 10,000 years ago, before the last Ice Age.
(C) Most Irish people reject scientists' doubts about the legend of St. Patrick.
(D) There are clear scientific explanations for Ireland's lack of snakes.

2. Which piece of evidence helps explain the cause of the first venomous snake bite in Irish history?

(A) A 23-year-old Dublin, Ireland, man was hospitalized recently after being bitten by a snake.
(B) Despite the obvious blessing, people can still import them as pets, and even venomous snakes are allowed in.
(C) The bitten man's condition is unknown, but with the luck (and medical care) of the Irish, hopefully he will feel better soon.
(D) He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, and also for driving all snakes from the island.

3. How did Jocelyn of Furness affect the legend of St. Patrick?

(A) She lived during the time of St. Patrick and claimed to witness his miracles firsthand.
(B) She wrote one of the earliest descriptions of his miracles and drive of the snakes from Ireland.
(C) She wrote a popular travelogue of Ireland that disrupted the truth of the legend.
(D) She lived in the 19th century and helped to increase the popularity of the legend otherwise of Ireland.

4. Why was Connolly Hospital unable to treat the man's snake bite immediately?

(A) They did not believe he could have been bitten by a venomous snake, so they performed tests first.
(B) He was not sure of the type of snake that had bitten him, so they could not immediately give him medicine.
(C) The antivenin required for treating the bite had to be made because they had none in stock.
(D) Venomous snakes are so rare in Ireland that they had to get antivenin from far away.
Standards 14

Do you want to remember your life, or do you want all of those precious memories that you are creating right now to fade away forever? If you want to preserve those incidents that mean so much to you, you should buy a digital camera. With a digital camera, you can capture all of the moments of your life and preserve them on a disk or your computer.

1. Which of the following is the best main idea of this passage?
   a. Buying a digital camera is a great way to preserve memories.
   b. Taking pictures is a wonderful hobby.
   c. Life goes by very quickly.
   d. Memories are important.

2. Answer the following questions using the circle graph.
   - What is the purpose of this graph?
   - What is the most popular school lunch?
   - What is the least popular school lunch?

3. When complete sentences are combined into one sentence, they become a compound sentence. Name the ways to correctly combine two sentences.

Standards 18

The Young Dandelion

By Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

I am a bold fellow
As ever was seen,
With my shield of yellow,
In the grass green.

You may uproot me
From field and from lane.
Trample me, call me—
I spring up again.

I never flinch, sir,
Wherever I dwell,
Give me an inch, sir
I’ll soon take an ell.

Drive me from garden,
In anger and pride
I’ll thrive and harden
By the roadside.

1. What does the dandelion symbolize in this poem?
   a. death
   b. endurance
   c. youth
   d. nature

Who is the speaker in this poem?

2. The dandelion refers to itself as a “bold fellow” in this poem. Which words or phrases hold connotations of boldness?

3. What is the shield to which line three refers?
Tracking injuries on roller coasters and other theme park rides

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela
Word Count: 944
Level: 1100L

In 2009, a cable broke on the Xcelerator roller coaster at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Vista, Calif. The cable ripped through the ride's car and slashed the leg of a 12-year-old boy.

The roller coaster ranks among the park's fastest, with a top speed of 82 miles per hour.

Injuries on Southern California amusement park rides are rare. But when they do occur, the most common ones actually are fainting, nausea, and dizziness.

People are more likely to get sick or hurt on older rides than on newer ones. And about 1 in 8 accident reports, as they are called, are about riders who were hurt while getting on or off.

Those are some of the findings of a Los Angeles Times analysis of six years' worth of injury data from 57 theme parks across Southern California. In all, the newspaper looked at 2,089 injury reports filed in 2007 through 2012 with the state Department of Industrial Relations. The department oversees the safety of theme park rides.

Annual Average Of 350 Injuries

The largest category of reports, about 18 percent, was related to motion sickness, including fainting, nausea, and dizziness. Back and neck pain ranked second, at 16 percent, followed by head injuries at 12 percent.

Together, the parks reported an average of about 350 injuries a year during the six-year period. The total attendance at Southern California's largest parks was estimated to exceed 40 million visitors a year.

Other findings include:

More women reported injuries than men. Most injuries came from roller coasters and water rides.

Nearly 20 percent of injured theme park visitors reported having previous health problems, like heart problems and asthma.

Three men died after riding attractions at Southern California theme parks. Serious, already existing medical conditions likely caused each death. The cause of the third death was unknown, but the man had a heart condition and had suffered a brain hemorrhage.

Operators of permanent theme park rides must file an accident report when a visitor is injured or feels sick and then receives outside medical help.

Among those riders listed in the records is Adrienne Sacks of Rockville, Md. She became ill after riding Disneyland's Space Mountain in the summer of 2012.

The 39-year-old teacher said she was sweating and vomiting at the park's first aid station, and was treated by paramedics who were called to the park.

"I got really violently ill, like I've never been before," Sacks said.

Space Mountain And GhostRider

In 2000, the California Legislature began requiring amusement parks to report injuries. This came in response to several accidents, including the 1998 death of a Disneyland visitor who was struck on the head by a metal cleat that pulled free from a ship. His wife and a Disneyland employee were seriously injured in the accident.

Parks are not required to report data on the number of riders per attraction, which makes it impossible to calculate the injury rate.

Of the incidents reported, the leader was Space Mountain, with 129 reports. The GhostRider roller coaster at Knott's Berry Farm was second with 92 reports.

Of the 10 rides with the most reported incidents, nine were at Disneyland or Disney California Adventure Park. They are the region's most popular theme parks, with combined attendance of 23.7 million visitors in 2012.

Disneyland officials say their attractions are safe. They say they are the most injury prone because they are the most popular.
Social Media Slip Ups
The following social media update contains errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or punctuation. Circle or underline the errors and rewrite the update with the corrections.

Im really enjoying los angelas! I went on an all day trip yesterday. Hollywood - Beverly Hills - downtown LA - the sunset strip - stars mansions. It was quiet the tour!!! Although I have seen the city on TV it was more impressive then I imagine!

Social Media Slip Ups
The following social media update contains errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or punctuation. Circle or underline the errors and rewrite the update with the corrections.

In anticipation of the up coming busy wedding season were hiring! If your interested in joining are team visit the link below for more information. Feel free too share this with you’re friend’s whom you feel would be a good fit. www.weddingdreams4unme.com

Social Media Slip Ups
The following social media update contains errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or punctuation. Circle or underline the errors and rewrite the update with the corrections.

I went and seen this live band the other nite called the racksters. They been stuck in my head ever since...great show. For those who’ve got ticket’s to Thursdays show at the capital theater you guys are in for a treat
Standards 23

Nothing Better
Spread the blanket on the grass
and step your feet on it,
crunching the hidden grass underneath.
Open up the basket and reach inside.
Fried chicken, good and cold
wrapped in plastic, pimento cheese sandwiches
on soft white bread and chips now decorate the blanket.
The nearby flowers turn their heads
and enjoy the children’s laughter,
The red ants and flies drop by
to get a glimpse of the juicy watermelon.
Spread out all around and take your time eating
Soak in the warm sun and know
There is nothing better than a picnic!

Imagery consists of words and phrases that appeal to the readers’ senses. Imagery helps readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste.

1. Find and underline two examples of imagery in the poem.

2. Why do writers use imagery?

3. Contrast the personification in lines eight and nine with the personification in lines ten and eleven.

Standards 24

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if humans could fly? It would be extraordinary to soar through the sky like a bird. Our bodies, however, were not created for flying, but birds are well equipped for the awesome ability. First of all, birds have very light bodies. Their thin, hollow bones are fused, which adds strength to their dainty frames. Even a bird’s beak is light because it does not have teeth or jawbones. Of course, these features also contribute to a bird’s ability to fly.

Did you know that birds have different kinds of feathers? They have feathers to keep them warm, feathers to make them beautiful, and feathers to help them fly. They even have certain feathers that have their own set of muscles. These muscles are the ones that help them fly, and they are connected to a bird’s bones. The feathers at the tip of a bird’s wings work like a propeller of an airplane, pushing against the air and maintaining flight. While it would be thrilling if humans could fly, we will just have to enjoy watching the grace and style of birds.

1. Use the passage to find two supporting details for the following main idea.

Birds are well-equipped for flying.

2. Complete the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds of Feathers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Look at the underlined word in the above passage. Does this word have a positive or negative connotation? Rewrite the sentence using a synonym for dainty. Choose a synonym that has a negative connotation.

1. Who is the speaker in this poem?

What does the rain symbolize?
- water and plants
- nature and spring
- life and prosperity
- darkness and evil

2. What is the author’s attitude toward the rain?
- The author is grateful for the rain.
- The author resents the rain.
- The author is saddened by the rain.
- The author enjoys playing in the rain.

3. Paraphrase the second stanza of this poem.
Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Practice Activities

1. Underline the independent clauses and circle the subordinate clauses.

2. Write the words "for" and "while" on the board. Have students substitute these words in their sentences.

3. Explain that "for" is a time conjunction used to talk about a period of time. "While" is used to talk about a period of time when something else is happening.

4. Have students write a sentence using each word.

Helpful Tips

- Remember that when you substitute words, make sure the meaning of the sentence is still clear.
- If you want to replace the word "while," you can use "as long as" or "as soon as." If you want to replace the word "for," you can use "since" or "during.

Nouns to Help You Complete #20:

1. Notes
2. Study Notes

Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Part II: Read the underlined clauses and identify the independent clauses and the subordinate clauses.
I PROMISE is a powerful tool that can help young people to read. I PROMISE is a powerful tool that can help young people to read.

The program, sponsored by the Chicago Public Schools, aims to improve literacy among students by providing books, reading materials, and support to students and their families. The program is based on the successful pilot program I PROMISE program, which was initiated by former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The program provides students with a library of books and reading materials, as well as opportunities to participate in reading clubs and other literacy-related activities. The goal is to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and overall academic success.

I PROMISE is the first children's book, "1 All-Star," by LeBron James. The book is set to be published in August.
Quiz

1. Which sentence from the article shows LeBron James' MAIN opinion about reading?
   (A) "Boards have the ability to lead, inspire and bring people together," the Los Angeles Lakers star said in a news release.
   (B) "Most importantly, we wanted to make sure the stories are ones that every single kid can see themselves in.
   (C) Illustrated by bestselling artist Nina bra, "I PROMISE" encourages diverse children to be the best version of themselves through action.
   (D) Another page reads, "I promise to dream big and love bigger. To be a team player and a winner."

2. Which paragraph from the article BEST supports the conclusion that LeBron James is using his resources to give back to his community?
   (A) LeBron James has many titles: dad, husband, basketball player, actor, philanthropist, media executive, restaurateur, investor.
   (B) "I PROMISE" is based on the LeBron James Family Foundation's PROMISE program, which provides resources, incentives and academic and emotional support to students, and their families, to stay in school.
   (C) James has been a devout reader since he was a kid, and at All-Star Weekend in Chicago, Illinois, on February 15, he talked about how much he enjoyed reading.
   (D) "I used to be like one of the only kids in school who used to read newspapers," James said. "I would read Sports Illustrated all the way through. I would read all the articles. I wouldn't just look at the photos. And I would rent out books, too, at the library in downtown Akron. I would read basketball encyclopedia books, just trying to learn the history."

3. Read the following selection introducing LeBron James.

   LeBron James has many titles: dad, husband, basketball player, actor, philanthropist, media executive, restaurateur, investor.

   What does the author MOST likely want the reader to think about James based on this selection?
   (A) He should leave basketball to focus on his other interests.
   (B) He should focus more on his time and energy on basketball.
   (C) He is best known for his talents on the basketball court.
   (D) He is a talented person with many different interests and passions.

4. Read the following paragraph.

   "I used to be like one of the only kids in school who used to read newspapers," James said. "I would read Sports Illustrated all the way through. I would read all the articles. I wouldn't just look at the photos. And I would rent out books, too, at the library in downtown Akron. I would read basketball encyclopedia books, just trying to learn the history."

   Why did the author include this information?
   (A) to tell readers where James grew up
   (B) to illustrate that James' love of reading helped him to be successful
   (C) to show how James learned to read
   (D) to give readers an idea of James' favorite things to read
1. What is alliteration?
Write a sentence containing this literary device.

Dreams
My dreams are
as big as an oak
as wide as the sea
as entertaining as a joke
as strong as Hercules

My dreams are
just around the bend
just what I want to do
riding on the wind
and about to come true.

2. This poem contains ___________ in line five.
   a. irony
   b. an allusion
   c. a flashback
   d. symbolism

3. What can the reader infer after comparing the first stanza of the above poem to the second stanza?
   a. The first stanza is written to describe her dreams, and the second stanza exemplifies her faith in her dreams.
   b. The first stanza is not true of her dreams, but the second stanza is serious about her dreams.
   c. The first stanza has a more lighthearted tone than the second stanza.
   d. The first stanza tells about what she dreams, but the second stanza tells how her dreams will come true.

Standards 9
Skateboarding is one of the most popular sports among young teenagers in our country. The feeling of moving fast has driven people for thousands of years, and with skateboarding, speed is definitely a factor. Another reason skateboarding is so popular is because of the control. A skateboarder has more control of his/her movements than in almost any other sport. And let’s not forget the thrill of doing tricks. If you ask any skateboarder, he/she will tell you that it requires a lot of practice. Performing tricks is one of the greatest attributes of this sport.

1. What is the central idea of this passage?
   a. Skateboarding is a dangerous sport, and not many people are willing to take the risks it involves.
   b. Skateboarding is a very popular sport.
   c. With skateboarding, speed is definitely a factor.
   d. Doing tricks on a skateboard requires a lot of practice, but all skateboarders say it’s worth the thrill.

2. Complete the following outline.
   I. Reasons Skateboarding is so Popular
      A.
      B.
      C.

   He was sentenced to ten years in the correctional facility.

3. The underlined part of this sentence is a ___________.
   a. idiom  b. euphemism  c. connotation  d. denotation

Standards 12
1. Underline any clues that give away the setting in the following passage.
   Meg sat on the edge of the bed and pulled on her high-buttoned shoes. The horse and buggy were outside where her mother and brother impatiently waited on her. As she ran out the door, she remembered that she had left her lucky stone on her dresser.

   Read the thesaurus entry below, and then answer the question.

   Official syn. 1. bureaucracy 2. representative
   3. authorized  4. formal

   The president sends all of his letters on his official stationery.

2. Which synonym matches the meaning of official as it is used in the above sentence?
   a. synonym 1  c. synonym 3
   b. synonym 2  d. synonym 4

3. Figure out the meaning of the underlined word using context clues.
   Ballet requires a limber body and nimble feet.
   a. dirty, grimy  b. hard, callous  
   c. quick, light  d. loyal, true