

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, think about other leaders you know about and compare them to Henry VIII.

A Musical King

Henry VIII is best known for being one of England's most powerful kings, for founding the Church of England, and for having had many wives. However, there is another side to this Renaissance king. Like many educated men of his day, Henry VIII had a full education in the fine arts.

Henry VIII learned to write poetry and to dance. He learned to play many instruments, and he played them well. Henry VIII also learned to compose music. He wrote two different musical compositions for Catholic Church ceremonies called "Masses." Though his Masses have not survived the centuries, some of his popular songs have.

For a long time, many people believed that Henry VIII wrote the famous English song "Greensleeves," but there is little evidence to support this claim. On the other hand, Henry VIII apparently did write another song that became popular early in his reign called "Pastime with Good Company." In this song, the lyrics, or words, celebrate the joys of hunting, dancing, and spending time with "good company." In fact, these pastimes, or hobbies, are said to prevent idleness, which some people believe leads to bad actions. This song that became popular throughout Europe during Henry VIII's time is still performed today.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Describe a leader you know or are familiar with who reminds you of Henry VIII.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Because "Pastime with Good Company" is still performed today, you can conclude that _____.
 - some people still enjoy the song
 - most songs in England were written by kings
 - it is a better song than "Greensleeves"
 - songs from the past are better than songs today
- According to the passage, which best describes Henry VIII?
 - a talented king with a stern personality
 - a powerful ruler with limited skills
 - an important king with some creative talents
 - a good artist but a bad ruler
- One theme of "Pastime with Good Company" is that _____.
 - dancing is a waste of time
 - hunting is the best way to spend time
 - keeping busy can keep people out of trouble
 - writing music is very important
- How is Henry VIII best known?
 - as a dancer
 - as a hunter
 - as a songwriter
 - as a king

READ THE PASSAGE As you read, think about scary stories you know.

The Frightening Neighborhood House

When Mrs. Delgado asked her daughter Sonia to bring blueberry muffins to a sick neighbor, Sonia said sure. But when Sonia found out who the neighbor was, she was *not* so sure. The neighbor's name was Mrs. Craverham, and kids in the neighborhood said she was the meanest person who ever lived.

Sonia walked up the path to Mrs. Craverham's. She did not like the idea of anyone being sick and alone, but what if the kids were right? A girl in Sonia's science class swore that Mrs. Craverham had poked her with a stick last Halloween. Sometimes there were screams and moans heard coming from inside. And a boy in Sonia's math class said Mrs. Craverham had hung him upside down and painted him yellow when he accidentally kicked a soccer ball onto her lawn. Torn between wanting to help someone in need and not wanting to come home a different color, Sonia decided to be brave.

Finally Sonia knocked on the door. After a few moments, Mrs. Craverham answered the door and asked in a harsh tone, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

Sonia said timidly, "My mother heard you were ill. She baked you muffins."

Mrs. Craverham relaxed. "My, that's sweet. I'm sorry if I seemed rude, but young people sometimes dare each other to come to my door because they think I'm going to do something to them. As soon as I answer the door, they run off laughing or play a prank on me."

Suddenly, Sonia heard a loud howl. Mrs. Craverham laughed as Sonia jumped. "Oh, that's just Norbert, my parrot. He's watched too many scary movies—like you, I think!"

STRATEGY PRACTICE How is this passage different from other scary stories you have read?

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. Which words best describe Sonia?

- Ⓐ bold and silly
- Ⓑ selfish and cunning
- Ⓒ kind but scared
- Ⓓ funny but mean

2. What is the setting of most of the passage?

- Ⓐ science class
- Ⓑ Sonia's house
- Ⓒ math class
- Ⓓ Mrs. Craverham's house

3. According to the passage, what do you think Mrs. Craverham will do next?

- Ⓐ become friends with Sonia
- Ⓑ paint Sonia yellow
- Ⓒ ask Sonia to go away
- Ⓓ scare Sonia's friends

4. What is the theme of this passage?

- Ⓐ Frightening things live in frightening places.
- Ⓑ People are not always as they seem.
- Ⓒ What you do to others comes back to you.
- Ⓓ It is important to keep up appearances.

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about how people from today and long ago investigate fires or crimes.

Mrs. O'Leary and Her Cow

The Great Chicago Fire took place in 1871. In a little over a day, approximately 300 people died, and around 90,000 buildings were destroyed before the fire was put out. Although this all took place over a century ago, the story of how the fire started lives on. According to articles written at that time, people claimed that Mrs. Catherine O'Leary saw one of her cows knock over a lamp in her barn on the night the fire began. The blaze started there and went on to consume much of Chicago, though not, interestingly, the cottage where Mrs. O'Leary lived.

Is there any truth to the story? Experts today say that the fire did indeed start close to where Mrs. O'Leary (and her cows) lived. But Mrs. O'Leary always stated that she went to bed early that night and never saw her cow kick over a lantern. Also, the O'Learys rented out the front of their home to people who were entertaining friends that night. Perhaps the renters or guests accidentally started the fire and let the cow take the blame.

Some 40 years later, a reporter for a Chicago newspaper bragged that he and two friends had made up the story about the cow for their own amusement. Other people have also claimed to be the original source of the story. The truth behind the beginning of the Great Chicago Fire may never be known, but Mrs. O'Leary's cow is hard to forget.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

How might officials investigate the Great Chicago Fire if it happened today?

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Based on the passage, which inference can be made about fires?
 - Barn fires are worse than house fires.
 - Fires happen often in Chicago.
 - Fighting fires was harder in 1871 than now.
 - Cattle are responsible for most fires.
- Because more than one person took credit for starting the cow story, you can conclude that _____
 - the story was very famous and popular
 - people were ashamed of the story
 - Mrs. O'Leary was the real source of the story
 - everyone could tell that the story was false
- Which theme does the passage communicate?
 - Historical detectives can always uncover the truth.
 - Journalists do not write true stories.
 - Newspaper stories about fires are important.
 - It can be difficult to separate fact from fiction.
- If Mrs. O'Leary was indeed in bed at the time of the fire, which words best describe her character?
 - dishonest and sneaky
 - honest but unlucky
 - cheerful but unreliable
 - well-rested and happy

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, think about how you feel in new places or around new people.

The Fugees

For the past two decades, thousands of refugees from war-torn countries such as Iraq, Liberia, the Congo, and Afghanistan have made their new home in Clarkston, Georgia. Life for these refugees has not been easy. Many of the young people do not speak English, which makes communication difficult. Some also struggle with education. Their native communities were in hostile disorder, which caused education to be a low priority. These refugees often face academic hurdles, along with teasing from other students about the way they look and speak.

A few years ago, Luma Mufleh, a young Jordanian woman who lived in nearby Atlanta, drove through Clarkston. She saw young people playing soccer barefoot. She decided to form a soccer program to help players like these, who call themselves the "Fugees" (short for "refugees").

Players in the soccer program must agree to Coach Mufleh's strict rules on and off the field, and they must spend some of their time getting tutored by volunteers. To help those learning English, all team members must speak English during practice. The players, many of whom have witnessed the violence of war, also have to figure out how to get along and play well with teammates from other countries.

Coach Mufleh demands a lot from the players, but she has given them a lot in return. Since she started the Fugees program several years ago, she has led teams to win championships; more importantly, her players have gone on to succeed in school and in the workplace. They have found a new family in their teammates and coaches.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Describe a personal experience with a new situation, similar to something the Fugees experience.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What is the theme of the passage?
 - Refugees have many problems.
 - Sports programs can help people succeed.
 - Clarkston, Georgia, is a tough city.
 - Cultural differences are impossible to overcome.
- Luma Mufleh can best be described as _____.
 - driven but unfocused
 - passive and gentle
 - tough and aggressive
 - strict but supportive
- What does Coach Mufleh's tutoring program tell you about her?
 - She wants to win at all costs.
 - She likes to be in control.
 - She cares about education.
 - She is most concerned about soccer.
- What lesson can you learn from the passage?
 - Winning championships is more important than school.
 - Working by yourself will help you succeed.
 - One person can make a difference in the world.
 - Hard work and discipline take too much time.

Name: _____

7th

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about a time when you had to do something important.

The Recital

Marco had played piano since he was seven years old. Now, at 13, he was performing in his first recital. Oh, he had had the chance to be in many recitals before, but he was always too nervous. The few times Marco had tried to play in front of people other than his family and his teacher, his hands shook so much he could barely hit the notes.

This time, though, Marco had prepared the pieces so well that he was almost certain he could get through them easily. His teacher, Ms. Marshall, had told him that if he visualized himself playing beautifully in front of a crowd, he would be able to conquer his nerves. Because of his long hours of practice and daily visualizing, Marco was almost looking forward to the big day.

On the morning of the recital, Marco woke with a start. All those people would be watching him, and it was so easy to make mistakes! As he tried to think more positively, he looked out the window and saw snow falling heavily. The trees, cars, and houses were already covered in several inches of snow. Then he heard the phone ring. When he answered, he heard Ms. Marshall say, "Bad news, Marco. I had to postpone the recital because of this awful blizzard!"

STRATEGY PRACTICE

When have you felt like Marco? How did you handle your fear?

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. Which words best describe Marco?
 - (A) conceited and showy
 - (B) hardworking and nervous
 - (C) lazy and daydreaming
 - (D) carefree and confident
2. What is the theme of the passage?
 - (A) Practice always pays off in the end.
 - (B) Thinking is not as useful as doing.
 - (C) Some things are beyond our control.
 - (D) You should put off things that you do not like.
3. Which inference can you make about Ms. Marshall?
 - (A) She cares about Marco and the recital.
 - (B) She makes her students nervous.
 - (C) She wants people to think she is a good teacher.
 - (D) She is relieved that the recital is postponed.
4. How did Marco probably feel at the end of the passage?
 - (A) He felt foolish for wasting time practicing.
 - (B) He was a little disappointed that the recital was postponed.
 - (C) He was worried about the blizzard.
 - (D) He was relieved that he would never have to perform in a recital.