

Jordan has been the school bully since kindergarten. It seemed that each year Jordan would treat everyone around him worse. I hoped this year would be different. It was the the first day of 6th grade! Unfortunately, that hope was gone before I even made it to my locker.

"What are you doing? Let me see that!" scowled Jordan.

"Hey! That's brand new!" I was really getting tired of having to hide from Jordan, and my drawing book was brand new. If he did anything to it I would be devastated. "I'm serious, give that back!" I said trying to grab my drawing book from out of his hands.

"Excuse me, what is happening over there?" called Mrs. Kitting.

"Oh nothing Mrs. Kitting, I was just helping John with his notebook." said Jordan in that annoying voice.

I took the notebook from his hands and as I walked away Jordan **leered** in my direction. I could practically feel him burning a hole through me with that stare.

(A) Definition

(B) Synonym

(C) Inference

(D) Word Parts

1

Emily couldn't help but grin as she looked up at the clock. She had been waiting for this moment for over 2 months now. Today was the day that the new gymnastics team tryouts would open for her age group.

When the bell rang over the intercom, Emily **snatched** her backpack from the floor and scurried out to the bus ramp. She could feel her nerves beginning to kick in but the excitement of being on her first gymnastics team was far stronger than anything else she was feeling. The bus ride seemed to take forever to arrive at her bus stop. As soon as Emily saw her stop she started to stand without even thinking.

"Sit down!" ordered the bus driver.

"Oh! So sorry," replied Emily apologetically. She couldn't help how excited she was to get home. The bus jarred to a stop and Emily quickly walked off the bus with a quick thank you and sorry to the annoyed bus driver.

(A) Inference

(B) Example

(C) Visualize

(D) Synonyms

2

This was a first. Brian had never experienced staying after school in detention. In fact, he was a 'Straight A' student and what most would consider to be a teacher's pet. Nevertheless, here he was and he admittedly deserved it.

As he took a seat in the front row of Mr. Davidson's classroom, Brian took out his book and tried hard to forget his current situation.

Suddenly, from the side of his eye, Charles Smith walked into the room. His **incorrigible** behavior made him a difficult student and classmate. He was impossible to ignore in English class because of his constant disruptions.

Charles sat down directly across from Brian. He was already proving Brian's opinion of him as he smacked his gum so loudly the teachers down the hall had to have heard him.

(A) Definition

(B) Synonym

(C) Pictures

(D) Visualize

3

*Boom! Crash!* The storm was getting closer and the intensity of the thunder vibrated the table. Mia hadn't experienced this type of a storm ever.

"Gradmaaaa," Mia cried.

"I'm here," Grandma **cooed** as she sat down at the table and gently rubbed Mia's back.

Even though Mia had just turned nine earlier that month, she still felt like a little kid inside. Why was she so scared of something that couldn't touch her?

"Grandma, how can I be brave like you?"

"Well, it takes time, honey. I've lived through all kind of storms and sometimes the things we don't have experience with can cause the most fear," replied Grandma.

"So you're saying that this will never go away?" Mia asked.

"Oh no, not at all. Feelings change just like the seasons in a year." Grandma said in a whisper.

(A) Visualize

(B) Inference

(C) Word Parts

(D) Synonym

4

Halloween was Sarah's favorite time of the year. The spooky houses, the ghost stories, and all the candy she could eat. After weeks of begging, Sarah finally convinced her friends Julie and Tyler to go to a new fright house this evening. Tyler didn't seem interested but he wasn't about to be left out so that Sarah and Julie could tease him for the next year.

When they arrived to the field where the fright house was located, Sarah got their tickets and they started to walk to the first location.

AHHHHHHHHHHH!! A clown popped up from nowhere making Tyler, Sarah, and Julie fall to the floor in fear. The clown laughed **hysterically**, with an uncontrollable piercing cackle!

"Okay, okay, we get it!" yelled Tyler as they got up and brushed the dirt from their pants. "That clown was a bit much. I mean, it wasn't *that* funny," he said irritably.

"Relax, Tyler. This is all supposed to be fun, remember." laughed Sarah.

(A) Synonyms

(B) Definition

(C) Antonyms

(D) Example

5

Patrick loved waking up early in the mornings. This was always the time of day where he could relax when his three younger brothers, who were triplets, wouldn't be bothering him. He picked up his drawing tablet and art bag off the table and moved to the sofa.

"Would like some orange juice?" his mother asked from the kitchen.

"Yes, please," replied Patrick. He opened his pencil pouch and took out his new charcoal pencil and started with a basic outline sketch of a person.

"What are you drawing today?" his mother asked as she placed the tall glass of orange juice next to him.

"Uh oh..." Patrick was suddenly interrupted as he could hear a **commotion** erupt upstairs. The peace of the morning was gone before Patrick was even able to put down the first details of his drawing. He closed his notepad, gathered his things and sadly went back upstairs.

(A) Word Parts

(B) Example

(C) Synonym

(D) Antonym

6

“How much longer before we get there?” asked Marina to her Aunt Silvia. Marina had never been to a big city before and her Aunt Silvia was taking her to a play in the BIG city. She put on her best dress and fanciest shoes to attend, and while she was really excited to see the play she was even more excited to experience a big city for the first time.

Marina grew up in a small town. There was one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school for the entire area. The most exciting thing there were the weekend bon fires that her neighbors would put on.

As they walked through the subway she could hear the hustle and bustle of the city getting louder. She climbed the stairs to the outside and Marina took a deep breath. As she looked around, she felt disappointed. All she could see were the **drab**, dull, colors of the gray buildings hovering high above her. She could barely see the sky! This was definitely not what Marina was expecting the city to be like. Everywhere she looked people yelled and honked their horns. In that moment, Marina was so appreciative of her small town life.

(A) Definition

(B) Inference

(C) Word Parts

(D) Antonyms

7

Jackie and her class were taking a trip to a nearby historic home. Apparently this home was older than the dirt on the ground, or at least that's the way her teacher made it sound. What was so great about visiting an old, dusty home anyway?

As the bus stopped in front of the house, Jackie felt like she was arriving at a castle, not a house at all.

“Today, we are going to experience what it was like to live in the 1800s. I want you all to pay close attention as Mr. Jacobs shares some of the history of this home, and please remember to not touch the objects in the home as they are well over 200 years old,” said Mrs. Peterson.

When Jackie stepped into what they called the foyer of the home, the **decor**, including the fancy light fixtures, large paintings, and unique furniture, made Jackie feel like she was stepping into another time era. The house was truly stunning. Mr. Jacobs began by telling everyone about the people who use to live there, including the most recent owners who have since moved out and made it an attraction.

(A) Inference

(B) Visualize

(C) Examples

(D) Definition

8

Tyrell's parent had given him a new puppy name which he promptly named, Dottie. So far, he loved Dottie but there were definitely some challenges to having a puppy for the first time. For one, Dottie was not potty trained and Tyrell had the terrible job of cleaning up after her. It was his idea to get a puppy, so maybe this was his parents not so funny way of "teaching him a lesson".

Second, Dottie was **disobedient** and loved to run around the backyard wildly in every direction. Tyrell was trying his very best with training her but he wasn't getting anywhere! He sat on the step in frustration and opened his lunch bag. At that moment, Dottie darted over to him and sat, head tilted in anticipation. Tyrell knew that he was onto something. Everyone loves a treat!

(A) Definition

(B) Word Parts

(C) Antonyms

(D) Inference

9

"Where should we go?" Juan asked.

"Let's go and check out the new skate park. I heard it's really cool!" replied Michael.

Michael, Kirt, and Juan rode their bikes a few blocks down to the new skate park. They had been watching the progress for some time now and were really excited to have something else to do after school.

As they rode up, they saw a group of middle school kids that always walked past their street, but they'd never really interacted with them. They parked their bikes and started to scope the place out.

"Yay! You got it!" they heard in the distance.

"Woah, check them out!" said Kirt enthusiastically.

They watched as one of the boys flew into the air and over the ramp. In a quick, **agile** sequence, he jumped, landed on both feet and climbed the 6 foot wall in two leaps. They had ever seen someone parkour, and the boys each looked at each other and ran in to try it themselves. No boards. No problem.

(A) Definition

(B) Synonym

(C) Word Parts

(D) Visualize

10

Rain tapped the windows every so lightly. Jared and Jacob sat on the floor with their soccer ball sitting between them. Another missed practice because of the weather.

"What are we going to do?" We've got to get some practice in before the big game this weekend!" said Jacob.

"There won't be a game if it doesn't stop raining." mumbled Jared.

"Come on, get up and let's do some simple passing." Jacob started to push the living room furniture towards the walls.

"I don't know, last time we did this, we got in trouble with mom," replied Jared.

"It'll be soft. I promise."

Jared stood up and started to pass the soccer ball. Jacob began acting like an announcer of the game and Jared laughed.

"And he scores!" Jacob reared back and sent the ball flying into the side table, the crash rocked their mothers favorite crystal bowl to the floor. They had made yet another

**blunder.**

Both boys looked at each other, their faces ghostly white. "Uh, oh. Looks like you're right. There won't be a game after-all."

(A) Definition

(B) Inference

(C) Synonyms

(D) Example

11

Jessie woke up that morning and headed down to grab a bowl of cereal as always. On her way down the stairs she heard music and could smell something coming from the kitchen.

"Mom?" hesitated Jessie.

"Hey honey!" replied mom excitedly as she plopped a few strips of bacon onto a plate.

"What are you doing? Don't you have to be at work?"

"Not today, I decided to take a day off and spend it with you. Do you have anything you want to go and do?" said mom.

Jessie couldn't remember the last day her mom had taken a day off. While rare, it was nice to have these **sporadic** days off together.

"That's great, Mom!" smiled Jessie and grabbed a piece of bacon as she walked by the counter.

(A) Definition

(B) Example

(C) Antonym

(D) Inference

12