Reading 1

Research on adolescents in junior and senior high school indicates five different levels of popularity. At the first level are admired adolescents, young people who tend to be physically attractive, well-groomed, fashionable, social, self-confident, and able to command attention. The individuals in this group receive mainly favorable ratings from other adolescents. At the second level are the controversial adolescents. They’re the young people who receive very favorable or very unfavorable ratings from their peers and are strongly liked or disliked, sometimes for the same reason. Average adolescents are at the third level and are generally accepted by their peers but don’t arouse extreme positive or negative feelings. At the next level are rejected adolescents. Members of this group engage in antisocial and aggressive behaviors that cause them to be actively avoided by other teens. Neglected adolescents aren’t usually aggressive; however, they often have poor social skills. Thus they engage in fewer positive interactions with their peers. Many have hobbies and interests very different from their peers, so no one pays them much attention, and they are generally ignored.

1. What’s the topic of reading 1?

2. Which sentence is the topic sentence or stated main idea of the reading? ________

3. Please paraphrase, or re-word, the stated main idea.

4. Circle the letter of the primary pattern of organization. Note: The pattern of a paragraph cannot consist of one sentence.
   a. process    b. definition   c. classification    d. cause and effect

5. Read the description below. Based on your understanding of the reading, what group would Marisa belong to? ________________

   Marisa is smart, funny, and opinionated. She has lots of friends and belongs to many different groups because of her various interests. Those students who are confident and opinionated themselves like being in her company and seek her out. Students who are shy, however, and less comfortable speaking their mind, avoid her. More than one has complained that no one can get a word in the conversation when Marisa is present.

Reading 2

Tyrannosaurus Rex, Predator or Scavenger

The dinosaur Tyrannosaurus rex has always had a reputation for being one of the fiercest predators that ever walked the earth. In school, every child learns that this vicious, six-ton killing machine ruled the dinosaur world. Typically in many museums, reconstructed T. rex skeletons reveal huge mouths filled with rows of teeth that seem perfect for ripping the flesh from prey.

However, some paleontologists now convincingly argue that Tyrannosaurus rex was a scavenger who lived off the kills of other. Those huge teeth may have actually been perfect for crushing bone and tough cartilage rather than slicing meat. The T. rex’s teeth were cylinder-shaped and not as sharp and jagged as those of other known predators such as Velociraptor, a dinosaur that grew up to 10 feet in length and hunted in packs. The thinking now is that after dinosaurs like the Velociraptor had their fill, the T. rex may have moved in to scavenge what was left of the carcass. Further evidence fitting this new scenario is the fact that scientists have never come across any bones that have been scratched or otherwise damaged by T. rex’s teeth.

Many of the T. rex’s other body parts, also, seem inadequate for predatory behaviors but perfect for scavenging. Predators that walk on two legs usually have short thighs and long shins, a combination that allows them to run fast enough to catch fleeing prey. However, T. rex’s huge legs had longer thigh bones than shin bones, which means that is could have walked long distances in search of food. In fact, it could
not have outrun most of the other dinosaurs. In addition, its arms were tiny and weak, so it would not have been able to grab and take hold of prey, and its eyes were too small for it to see prey at any great distance.

4 What the T. rex did have was an excellent sense of smell. Paleontologists who have studied T. rex skulls have determined that the beast had a huge olfactory lobe, the part of the brain used for smell. But here again, that evidence suggests that T. rex may have been not a killer but a scavenger. T. rex could not see well, but it could pick up a scent—such as that coming from a dead animal—at long distances. In fact, T. rex’s olfactory lobe was very similar to that of the greatest scavenger of them all—the vulture, who can smell decaying flesh from 25 miles away.

6. What is the topic of the entire reading?

7. The main idea is
   a. stated.
   b. implied

8. How would you express the main idea in your own words?

9. The second paragraph opens with what kind of transition?
   a. time order
   b. reversal
   c. addition

10. Identify four supporting details cited by paleontologists who challenge the traditional opinion on T. rex.
   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.

11. The author’s purpose is to
   a. inform readers about a new theory concerning T. rex.
   b. persuade readers that a new theory about T. rex is more accurate than the old.

12. The author’s tone is
   a. neutral.
   b. supportive.
   c. skeptical.
   d. argumentative.

Reading 3:
Pretend you are having a quiz on the passage below. Please read, underline, annotate, and mark it for study purposes.

Then answer the questions. Finally, please create an outline or graphic organizer (outline or map) of the passage.

To Sleep or Not to Sleep
1 Whenever you miss a few hours of sleep—or even more than a few—you probably muddle your way through the day without anything catastrophic occurring. Thus, you might well assume that getting six to eight hours of sleep is not essential. Yet given what numerous studies and statistics suggest about the effects of regular and ongoing sleep deprivation, this is an assumption that requires
Several studies suggest, for instance, that sleep deprivation impairs both concentration and memory (Bowman, 200; Harrison and Horne, 2000; Stickgold, 2003, 2006). The more sleep you lose, the more difficult it is to master new information and store it away in long-term memory. As brain scans have repeatedly shown, the sleeping brain can be quite active, and sleep seems to be a time when the brain identifies, sorts, and stores new information. When sleep is cut short, the brain doesn’t get as much time to do its work. As a result, an individual’s mastery of new skills or concepts can take much longer than it would if the body and brain were getting eight hours of rest.

But losing sleep has wider implications as well. Sleep deprivation is among the most common causes of motor vehicle accidents. Not surprisingly, auto accidents have been shown to spike around two a.m. in the morning when drivers are at their sleepiest. Mistakenly thinking they can drive through the night and stay awake on coffee, drivers nod off at the wheel and end up causing a collision.

Then there are the medical consequences of sleep deprivation to consider. A 2005 study of 10,000 adults found that those between the ages of 32 and 49 who regularly slept less than seven hours a night are significantly more likely to be seriously obese. Lack of sleep makes people feel tired. Then, in response to feelings of fatigue, they reach for a snack. If sleep deprivation continues, they start piling on the pounds and serious obesity can be the result.

Even more disturbing consequences of sleep deprivation came out of a Harvard Medical School study involving 82,000 nurses. According to study leader Sanjay R. Patel, the Harvard study revealed an increased risk of death for those nurses who consistently slept less than six hours a night. The theory is that loss of sleep encourages the body to produce chemicals that cause a low-grade inflammation. The inflammation, in turn, produces cardiovascular problems.

The results of the Harvard study are supported by similar studies showing that a prolonged sleep deficit puts the body into a constant state of high-alert, almost as if it were being continuously exposed to an external threat. This high-alert state stimulates the production of stress hormones like cortisol. It also drives up blood pressure. Elevated stress hormones and high blood pressure are major risk factors in heart attacks. As Virend Somers of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, expresses it, “We’ve really only scratched the surface when it comes to understanding what’s going on regarding sleep and heart disease.”

DID YOU REMEMBER TO UNDERLINE, ANNOTE, and MARK the passage?

13. What is the topic of the entire reading?

_______________________________________________________________________

14. The main idea is
   a. stated.
   b. implied.

15. How would you express the main idea in your own words?

_______________________________________________________________________

16. What is the topic of paragraph 4?

_______________________________________________________________________
17. The topic sentence in paragraph 5 is
   a. the first sentence.
   b. the second sentence.
   c. the third sentence.
   d. the last sentence.

18. The purpose of this reading is
   a. to inform.
   b. to persuade.

19. The author’s tone is
   a. objective.
   b. outraged.
   c. relaxed.
   d. warning.

In the space below, create an outline or graphic organizer (outline or map) of the passage.
Let Barbaro be a Lesson

When Barbaro, the two-year-old winner of the Kentucky Derby, broke his leg right before the start of the Preakness Stakes horse race on May 19, 2006, there was a flood of sympathy and concern. Some well-wishers even volunteered their services as stable hands and caretakers. Hopes for the horse’s survival rallied in the fall of 2006 as Barbaro’s condition seemed to improve after his cast was removed in November. But in January of 2007, despite the best veterinary care available, Barbaro’s condition declined still further. He was euthanized on January 29, leaving fans from all over the country stricken by his loss.

From the scrappy, come-from-behind Depression-era hero Seabiscuit to the almost supernaturally fast Barbaro, racehorses have long won the hearts of Americans of all ages and classes. And why shouldn’t they? Racehorses are heroic creatures. Running to exhaustion, often in pain, they race for the finish line, thrilling their fans and making their owners rich. No wonder people are horrified and shocked when they learn that some unscrupulous owners drug the horses to spur them on when they are injured or, even more despicably, kill them for the insurance money if the horses start losing.

However, what people really need to think about is whether or not horseracing itself, even under the best conditions, isn’t a cruel and inhumane sport. As many critics of horseracing pointed out after Barbaro’s untimely death, horseracing, for all its thrilling beauty and excitement, poses a serious, even deadly, threat to a young horse’s health. Thus, it might be time to take seriously an idea that animal rights activists have long proposed—the banning of horseracing.

Perhaps the most outspoken advocate of this position is Elliot Katz, the veterinarian-president of an organization called “In Defense of Animals.” Katz bluntly calls horseracing a “killer sport” and argues that horseracing is by nature cruel and barbaric. He points out that racehorses, bred for extreme speed, are highly vulnerable to fractures. Their thin bones help them break out of the gate fast. Unfortunately, those slender, fast-moving legs can also encourage the kind of painful bone fractures that left two-year-old Barbaro writhing in agony moments before the race began. If Katz had his way, horseracing would go the way of dog racing, which declined in popularity once people realized how the dogs involved, usually greyhounds, suffered from the sport.

The Humane Society, for its part, is much more muted in its criticism. If anything, it tried hard to seem supportive of horseracing. According to a staff veterinarian, the Humane Society of the United States does not oppose horseracing as long as it’s done “correctly.” However, in its list of policy statements, the Society explicitly opposes the racing of “young animals whose bones and bodies have not matured sufficiently.” Thus, it’s hard to see how horse races can be “correctly” done, since it is precisely those young animals the Humane Society wants to protect who participate in horse races. The Triple Crown winner Affirmed ran his first race at the age of two, so did Hall-of-Famer Dr. Faber, considered one of the great racing thoroughbreds. Horse races aren’t run by mature animals. Two years old is the average age.

Fans of and participants in horse races insist that criticism of the sport is unfair because the horses themselves love to run. Still, they would be hard-pressed to disprove the words of Jim Orsini, a horse surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center, where Barbaro was sent to recover: “... at high speed, a horse’s leg bones can actually deform, and keep deforming until they or their ligaments or tendons eventually fail. The stress to bones can be overwhelming.”

Orsini’s words seemed all too prophetic, when less than a year after Barbaro’s death, the three-year-old filly Eight Belles finished the Kentucky Derby and collapsed at the finish line with two fractured legs. Because the horse couldn’t even stand on one leg to be splinted, she was immediately euthanized. After her death, Eight Belles trainer Larry Jones fought back tears while maintaining that the filly came from a long line of equine heroes: “We put everything into them that we have. They’ve given us everything they have. They put their life on the damn line, and she was glad to do it.” Maybe so, but if Jones is right, then anyone watching a video of the Derby has to wonder why jockey Gabriel Saez, later cited for excessive use of his whip, had to whip Eight Belles so mercilessly as she struggled to catch the Derby’s winner Big Brown. Perhaps, after all, she wasn’t so “glad to do it,” and fans of horseracing might keep that in mind the next time they think about buying a ticket or placing a bet.
20. What is the topic of reading 3?
___________________________________________________________________

21. The main idea is
  a. stated.
  b. implied.

22. How would you express the main idea in your own words?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

23. Circle the letter of the **primary** pattern of organization in paragraph 1.
   a. definition   b. classification   c. time order   d. comparison and contrast

24. Circle the letter of the **primary** pattern of organization for the entire reading.
   a. classification   b. comparison and contrast   c. time order   d. cause and effect

25. What claim does veterinarian Elliot Katz make in paragraph 4?
___________________________________________________________________

26. What support does he offer for that claim?
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

27. What is the topic of paragraph 5?
___________________________________________________________________

  What’s the main idea?
___________________________________________________________________

28. What is the implied main idea of paragraph 6?
___________________________________________________________________

29. What’s the implied main idea of paragraph 7?
___________________________________________________________________

30. What would you say is the author’s purpose?
___________________________________________________________________

  How would you describe the author’s tone?
31. Read the following items and use the appropriate transition from the box. (5 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>however</th>
<th>consequently</th>
<th>for instance</th>
<th>because</th>
<th>in addition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. People came to America for many reasons. The Puritans, __________________, came in 1620 seeking religious freedom.

2. ________________ there is no room in your mouth for your wisdom teeth, they will have to be removed.

3. Gail wanted a large wedding reception. __________________, her parents had to rent a hall.

4. We tend to think famous authors like Shakespeare were starving and ignored in their own times. __________________, Shakespeare was a success and lived very well.

5. I've found that a short nap late in the afternoon relaxes me, removing the stress out of my body before I eat dinner. __________________, the nap gives me energy that I need to spend evenings on my homework.

Directions: Label each item F (fact), O (opinion), or M (a mix of both).

1. One of the greatest ancient healers was a Greek priest and doctor named Asclepias. He lived between 1000 and 1200 B.C. _____

2. The root of all human suffering is isolation. Throughout our lives all human beings struggle to overcome a sense of separation. _____

3. Laura Hillenbrand is the author of *Seabiscuit*, a best-selling biography about the great-hearted horse whom nobody believed could ever be a winner until he proved everyone wrong. _____

4. Aspirin was invented by a chemist named Felix Hoffman while he was working for the German chemical firm Bayer in 1893. _____

5. By using plastic rather than metal in transistors, the French have created computers the size of credit cards and video screens that roll up like window shades. _____

6. Mountain climbing is a wonderful way to forget your problems. _____

The following paragraphs present you with faulty arguments to support opinions. Indicate which error of reasoning is exhibited.

a. circular reasoning
b. careless comparison
c. false (or omitted) alternative
d. personal attack
1. A recent editorial by several faculty members criticized this university’s athletic department. The editorial maintained that the department has no interest in the academic achievement of athletes but instead encourages faculty to “go easy” on star athletes, passing the athletes when they should, in fact, fail. This kind of comment is typical of intellectuals, who spend all their time with their heads in the clouds, thinking abstract thoughts that have no practical use for us ordinary human beings. These are people who have never played a sport in their life, and they don’t know anything about what it means to be an athlete. They’d rather spend their time writing articles about references to the color green in the works of William Shakespeare or about the fertility rites of the Oklahoma snail darter.

2. People who are critical of boom cars are claiming that, over time, the noise will cause drivers to lose some of their hearing. This is like saying that people who jog with audio-cassette players and earphones are going to go deaf. It doesn’t make any sense.

3. There is talk again about introducing legislation that would increase the minimum wage. How can anyone in this country complain about the minimum wage while there are countries in which people work from dawn to dusk for the equivalent of only a few dollars? People in this country who work for a minimum wage have no reason to demand more money. They should consider themselves lucky.

4. The newspapers have been filled with letters complaining that our government should not be giving money to Russia when our cities are beset by such terrible problems. Don’t these people understand that we must help the Russians all we can? Helping the Russians in their hour of need must be a primary objective of U.S. foreign policy. If we don’t help the Russians when they need us, we can expect the current and more liberal government to fail and fail badly.

* boom cars: cars rigged with high-powered stereo systems.