

GRADE 3
Reading

Administered May 2016

RELEASED

READING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Lizard Problems

by Jacqueline Adams

- 1 My problems started when I learned that Mrs. Reno would be my fourth-grade teacher. She had a lizard in her classroom, and lizards were on my list of terrifying things. And it wasn't a little lizard. It was a *Uromastyx*, as long as my arm and with a spiky tail.
- 2 Worse, Trent Dillard was in my class again. Last year, I had to sit in front of him because *Amy Carlson* comes before *Trent Dillard* in alphabetical order. He knows I'm afraid of spiders, and all year he pretended to put them in my hair. If he found out lizards were on my list, I'd be finished.
- 3 On the first day of school, I tried not to look at the terrarium¹ in the corner, but Mrs. Reno pulled out the lizard and set him against her shoulder like a baby. "This is Ripley," she said.
- 4 Trent whispered, "Bet you're scared of him."
- 5 "I am not!" I said.
- 6 Mrs. Reno looked toward Trent and me. "What's wrong?" she asked.
- 7 "Amy's scared of Ripley," Trent announced.
- 8 "No, I'm not." My chest tightened. "I love lizards. They're my favorite animals."
- 9 Mrs. Reno smiled. "I was going to ask for a volunteer to feed Ripley at recess, but since you're a lizard lover, how would you like the job?"
- 10 She probably thought I was speechless with joy.
- 11 Before recess, Mrs. Reno gave me instructions. "You can hold Ripley, but don't keep him away from his heat lamp too long."
- 12 *Don't worry*, I thought.



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¹A terrarium is a glass container for animals such as lizards and snakes.

- 13 She showed me Ripley's bag of greens. *I can handle that*, I told myself. *I'll just lift the terrarium lid, drop in the greens, and run.*
- 14 As Mrs. Reno led the class out the door, she said to me, "Tomorrow I'll bring in live crickets as a treat for him."
- 15 I was frozen in a block of ice. I wanted to cry, but my tears were frozen, too. Ripley sat still, watching. I knew he was waiting to jump at me the second I lifted the lid. I just stood there for a long time, staring back at Ripley.
- 16 Voices in the hall told me recess was over. I closed my eyes, lifted the lid, threw in the greens, and slammed the lid shut.
- 17 Mrs. Reno said, "You must be enjoying your job, Amy. You didn't come out for recess at all."
- 18 Trent's eyes got wide. I'd fooled him. But now I'd have to spend every recess with a lizard.
- 19 The only way I got the nerve to dump the crickets in the terrarium the next day was by picturing Trent putting them in my hair if he found out I was scared. My heart raced when I lifted the lid, but I shut it so fast Ripley never had a chance to jump at me. Maybe I could survive this, as long as I didn't have to touch that slimy lizard.



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- 20 After a few weeks, Trent said, "Why does Amy always get to feed Ripley? I want a turn."
- 21 A way out!
- 22 Mrs. Reno said, "OK. I guess Amy can have an assistant."
- 23 I was doomed.

24 After the class left, Trent raised the lid and grabbed Ripley.

25 "Careful!" I cried, surprised that I was worried about the slimy monster.

26 Trent held Ripley while I slowly arranged greens in the terrarium. Trent looked out the window. "Hey, the guys are playing football. Take Ripley."



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27 A shiver ran over my skin. "You can just put him down."

28 I meant for Trent to put him down inside the terrarium, but Trent set him on the floor and ran outside.

29 *What now?* Ripley walked toward the door.

30 I took a deep breath and grabbed Ripley. He wasn't slimy. His skin was dry and cool. And he didn't jump at me. He crawled into the crook of my arm.

31 "You're not so bad," I whispered to Ripley.

32 The next day, I held him again. Soon, I was even letting him sit against my shoulder.

33 Tonight I pulled out my list of terrifying things and officially crossed off *lizards*. I thought about it, then crossed off *crickets*. *Spiders* were next on my list. Hmm . . . I decided I'd crossed off enough things for one year.

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1 Which statement describes a main theme of the story?

- A** It is good to share the things you have with others.
 - B** It is important to smile even when you are not happy.
 - C** It is often possible to overcome your fears.
 - D** It is helpful for people to work together.
-

2 Paragraphs 1 and 2 are important to the story because they —

- F** provide details about Amy's job
 - G** introduce Amy's problems
 - H** explain why Amy is afraid of lizards
 - J** show how Amy solves her problem
-

3 Amy does not want to sit near Trent mainly because he —

- A** bothers and teases her
- B** tries to talk to her during class
- C** wants to look at her list of scary things
- D** wants to help her take care of the class pet

- 4 In paragraph 10, the word speechless means that Amy —
- F is not able to speak
 - G does not like to speak
 - H has too many things to say
 - J repeats things when speaking
-

- 5 Amy picks up Ripley after Trent leaves the classroom because she —
- A decides that Ripley does not look scary
 - B is curious to know what Ripley’s skin feels like
 - C wants to follow Mrs. Reno’s instructions
 - D is worried that Ripley will escape
-

- 6 Read these sentences from paragraph 15 in the story.

I was frozen in a block of ice. I wanted to cry, but my tears were frozen, too.

Why did the author include sensory language in these sentences?

- F To show that Amy is too excited to say anything
- G To suggest that Amy feels too sad to continue her job
- H To show that Amy is too frightened to do anything
- J To suggest that Amy feels too cold to think clearly

- 7** What is the best summary of paragraphs 20 through 28 of the story?
- A** Trent wants a chance to feed Ripley, so Mrs. Reno says that he and Amy can do it together. Trent picks Ripley up while Amy gets Ripley's food ready, but then Trent quickly puts Ripley down and runs out to recess.
 - B** Trent wants to know why Amy has had so many chances to take care of Ripley. Amy thinks that maybe she will not have to take care of Ripley anymore, but Mrs. Reno decides that Amy and Trent can both feed Ripley.
 - C** Trent is carrying Ripley but then wants to go outside for recess, so Amy asks Trent to set Ripley down. She thinks that Trent will put Ripley back into the terrarium, but Trent puts Ripley on the floor of the classroom instead.
 - D** Trent takes Ripley out of the terrarium. Amy is afraid that Trent is going to harm Ripley, but Trent takes good care of him while Amy gets Ripley's food ready.
-

- 8** Based on the information in the story, the reader can conclude that Amy looks unhappy in the last picture because she —
- F** thinks the greens feel strange
 - G** wants to go outside with Trent
 - H** wants to open the bag of crickets
 - J** thinks Trent will hand her the lizard

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Norman Bridwell and the Big Red Dog

- 1 Growing up, Norman Bridwell was not considered a very good artist. But he loved to use his imagination to draw. Although many people didn't think his art was good, Bridwell did not let it bother him. Bridwell once commented, "In school, there was always someone better than me; the art teacher always liked their work better than mine."
- 2 Bridwell loved art so much, though, that he decided to make it his career. He attended art school and later moved to New York to take even more art classes. He found a job drawing cartoons for filmstrips, but soon he needed to earn more money because he was married and had a child. Bridwell needed a better job so that he could support his new family. He displayed his art in a special book called a portfolio and tried to find work drawing pictures for children's books.
- 3 Bridwell showed his portfolio to about 15 companies that publish children's books. None of the companies hired Bridwell to draw pictures for their books, but an editor at one of the companies offered him some advice. She told him to try writing his own stories. She looked through his portfolio again and stopped at a picture of a baby and a red dog that was the size of a horse. She told Bridwell to think of a story that would match that picture.
- 4 Bridwell didn't waste any time. He went home and wrote a story about a huge red dog and the little girl he belonged to. This time when he drew more pictures, he made the dog as big as a house! He named the girl Emily Elizabeth, after his daughter. He called the dog Tiny because he thought it would be a funny name for such a big dog. But his wife thought that Clifford was a better name, so Bridwell changed it. Then he took his story and artwork to another publishing company and hoped for the best. Three weeks later Bridwell got a phone call. The publisher wanted to print *Clifford the Big Red Dog!*
- 5 At the time, Bridwell probably had no idea that his Clifford would become the most loved big red dog of all time! Since the book was first released in 1963, Bridwell has created more than 80 books about Emily Elizabeth and the big red dog. More than a hundred million copies of Clifford books have been printed all over the world and in 13 languages. In some countries Clifford's name isn't even Clifford. For example, in France he is called Ketchup.

- 6 The big red dog has appeared in more than just books. In the late 1990s a giant-size Clifford balloon was in a famous parade in New York City. In 2000, *Clifford the Big Red Dog* became a popular cartoon television show. In 2004, Bridwell's famous dog came to the big screen in *Clifford's Really Big Movie*. Clifford's image can also be seen on everything from puzzles to backpacks and clothes.
- 7 Bridwell has written and illustrated many other books for children that do not include Clifford. Bridwell says he's also written other books that have not been accepted by publishers. Bridwell doesn't let the rejection stop him. He tells children who like to write or draw not to give up. "If you like doing it and keep working at it, then someday you will succeed," Bridwell says. He speaks from experience. Without Bridwell's determination and passion, the world would never have been introduced to Clifford the big red dog.



Norman Bridwell with a Pair of Clifford Stuffed Animals

© Stephen Rose/Getty Images

- 9 Which sentence from the selection best helps the reader visualize what Clifford looks like?
- A *She told Bridwell to think of a story that would match that picture.*
 - B *This time when he drew more pictures, he made the dog as big as a house!*
 - C *In some countries Clifford's name isn't even Clifford.*
 - D *Clifford's image can also be seen on everything from puzzles to backpacks and clothes.*
-

10 In paragraph 2, what does the word support mean?

- F Listen to
 - G Think about
 - H Take care of
 - J Feel proud of
-

11 The author wrote this selection most likely to —

- A teach the reader how to draw cartoons
- B explain to the reader how to become famous
- C amuse the reader with Bridwell's funny ideas
- D tell the reader about a popular children's book author

12 Bridwell first got the idea for his books about Clifford —

- F** after he had a meeting with an editor
 - G** when he was attending school as a child
 - H** while he was taking art classes in New York
 - J** after he had written other books for children
-

13 The character Emily Elizabeth in the Clifford books was named after Bridwell's —

- A** wife
- B** editor
- C** teacher
- D** daughter

14 Which words in paragraph 7 help the reader understand the meaning of rejection?

- F** *have not been accepted*
 - G** *that do not include*
 - H** *speaks from experience*
 - J** *like doing it*
-

15 The author included paragraphs 5 and 6 mainly to show —

- A** what plans Bridwell has for Clifford in the future
- B** that Bridwell found success in television and film
- C** how Clifford has remained popular over the years
- D** why Clifford is loved by many children everywhere

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
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Never Say Never

1 "Never say never." This is a quotation that Conner Long lives by. Conner is a young boy who has two great loves: sports and his younger brother Cayden. Conner always wished Cayden could play sports with him. But Cayden has cerebral palsy, a movement disorder. As a result, he is unable to walk and talk without help. Cayden uses a wheelchair to move around, and he communicates using sign language. Conner thought they might not ever be able to play sports together. But that all changed in the spring of 2011 when Conner, age seven at the time, saw an advertisement for the Nashville Kids Triathlon.

Getting Ready

- 2 A triathlon is a sporting event in which athletes swim, bike, and run. When Conner saw the advertisement, he knew right then that he wanted to participate, and he wanted Cayden to participate with him.
- 3 The boys' mother talked to race officials about Conner's idea. The request was unusual because children who have special needs usually compete in triathlons with the help of a parent. However, the race officials allowed the boys to compete together.
- 4 The next step was to find a coach who could help the boys prepare for the triathlon. The boys' mother contacted Mandy Gildersleeve. Coach Gildersleeve had trained children with special needs before. She helped Conner and Cayden get the special equipment they would need. Then she focused on working with Conner to help him become stronger.

The Big Day

- 5 The boys' first triathlon began with a swim. Conner entered the swimming pool. Then he pulled Cayden on a raft behind him for the 100-yard swim. Conner held the rope in one hand and paddled with the other. Cayden smiled and laughed the whole way.
- 6 Next came the biking part of the race. Conner rode his bike for 3 miles. At first Gildersleeve raced alongside Conner, pulling Cayden in a special trailer behind her bike. Conner did not like this situation.
- 7 Conner wanted to pull Cayden himself, and Cayden wanted to be with Conner. After the last large hill, Gildersleeve attached the trailer to Conner's bike so he could pull Cayden himself. After that "he just took off," Gildersleeve said.
- 8 The final part of the race was the run. Conner ran while he pushed Cayden's trailer the entire half mile.
- 9 The boys completed the race in 43 minutes 10 seconds. Conner was thrilled when they finished. Later he told reporters, "Everybody wants to win, but it's not all about winning. Really it's all about fun."



Conner and Cayden in the 2011 Nashville Kids Triathlon

© Capstone Photography, Inc.



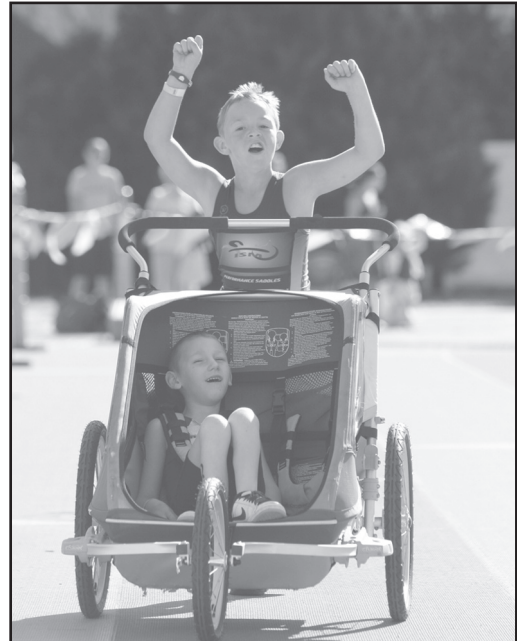
Cayden rides in a bicycle trailer as Conner pedals.

© Capstone Photography, Inc.

More Races

- 10 The Nashville Kids Triathlon was just the beginning. Conner and Cayden have completed 14 more races since then, and the brothers hope to continue to race together.

- 11 Both boys take great pleasure in being involved in the events, but the family needs to plan in order for the boys to continue racing together. As Cayden grows older and bigger, his equipment will need to grow, too. The Longs participate in fund-raising events to raise money for Cayden's equipment.
- 12 Conner and Cayden want to someday participate in the Ironman World Championship competition in Kona, Hawaii. It is one of the most difficult races in the world. They will be grown men when they are old enough to compete. Until then all the races the boys participate in over the years will help prepare them for it.
- 13 In 2012 a sports magazine named Conner and Cayden "Sportskids of the Year." The boys' experience certainly shows what can happen when you never say never!



Conner and Cayden cross the finish line.

© Capstone Photography, Inc.

16 Why did Conner think he would not be able to play sports with Cayden?

- F** Cayden has a disorder that affects his ability to move.
 - G** Cayden was interested in other activities.
 - H** Conner and Cayden’s mother feared Cayden would get hurt.
 - J** Conner and Cayden’s family lacked the proper equipment.
-

17 The section titled “More Races” is mainly about the —

- A** brothers becoming famous
- B** brothers’ goals for the future
- C** cost of buying more equipment
- D** amount of time spent with family

18 Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

When Conner saw the advertisement, he knew right then that he wanted to participate, and he wanted Cayden to participate with him.

The sentence shows that Conner is —

- F** honest
 - G** patient
 - H** curious
 - J** determined
-

19 Read the dictionary entry.

raise \ˈrāz\ *verb*
1. to bring to a standing position
2. to wake up or make more active
3. to collect for a purpose
4. to care for and help grow

Which meaning of raise is used in paragraph 11?

- A** Meaning 1
- B** Meaning 2
- C** Meaning 3
- D** Meaning 4

- 20** The author wrote this article most likely to —
- F** encourage the reader to participate in triathlons
 - G** tell the reader about the events included in a triathlon
 - H** share information about two brothers who participate in triathlons together
 - J** explain how two brothers found a coach to help them prepare for a triathlon
-

- 21** The title of the article, “Never Say Never,” helps the reader understand that Conner believes —
- A** if you are interested in something, learn as much as you can about it
 - B** if you want to win something, you must ask others for help
 - C** if you are not interested in something, you can still do it
 - D** if you want to do something, you should try to do it
-

- 22** Which idea from the article is supported by the photographs?
- F** Triathlons are held in hot places.
 - G** A triathlon has three different parts.
 - H** A triathlon for children is a short race.
 - J** Adults can help children during a triathlon.

- 23** The reader can conclude that Conner had to train with a coach for the Nashville Kids Triathlon because he —
- A** wanted to be one of the first people to finish the race
 - B** was told to do so by the officials in charge of the race
 - C** knew a sports magazine would write a story about him
 - D** had to be able to pull or push his brother long distances
-

- 24** Which part of the article helps the reader understand how Conner helps Cayden during a race?
- F** The first paragraph
 - G** Getting Ready
 - H** The Big Day
 - J** More Races

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Pants

by Mordicai Gerstein

We go everywhere
together.

You carry my treasures
for me.

5 When I find grass
on your knees and
sand in your pockets,
I know where I've been.
We go everywhere together

10 except
the washing machine.
"Don't let them
put me in there!"
you beg.

15 "Or at least
come with me!"
But all I can do
is watch you go round
and round

20 in the little window,
tumbling in the suds,
like me
when I'm caught
in an ocean wave.

25 I hear your buttons
clicking in
the spinning dryer.
You emerge, limp
and lifeless,

30 till I slip my legs
inside you.
You're alive again!

Eager
for our next

35 adventure!

DEAR HOT DOG by Mordicai Gerstein, Copyright © 2011 by Mordicai Gerstein. Used by permission of Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York. All rights reserved.

25 Read these lines from the poem.

tumbling in the suds,
like me
when I'm caught
in an ocean wave.

These lines mainly help the reader imagine what being inside a washing machine —

- A** feels like
 - B** sounds like
 - C** looks like
 - D** smells like
-

26 A synonym for the word eager in line 33 is —

- F** excited
 - G** satisfied
 - H** amused
 - J** surprised
-

27 What is the main message of the poem?

- A** Finding adventure requires careful planning.
- B** Events are more meaningful when experienced alone.
- C** Replacing objects that are damaged is part of growing up.
- D** People can find comfort in things that are always with them.

28 When the speaker of the poem says “you,” he is talking to —

- F** his pants
 - G** his dryer
 - H** the grass
 - J** the ocean
-

29 The poem begins and ends with the idea of —

- A** loneliness
- B** amusement
- C** togetherness
- D** embarrassment

30 The poet uses dialogue in lines 12 through 16 to help the reader understand —

- F** how much the pants dislike the washing machine
 - G** how much the pants need to be washed and dried
 - H** why the pants make sounds in the washing machine
 - J** why the pants like to spend time with the speaker
-

31 How can the reader tell that this is a free verse poem?

- A** There are words that describe sights and sounds.
- B** The lines of the poem do not rhyme with one another.
- C** The speaker uses the word “I” to describe himself.
- D** The pants are able to talk to the speaker.

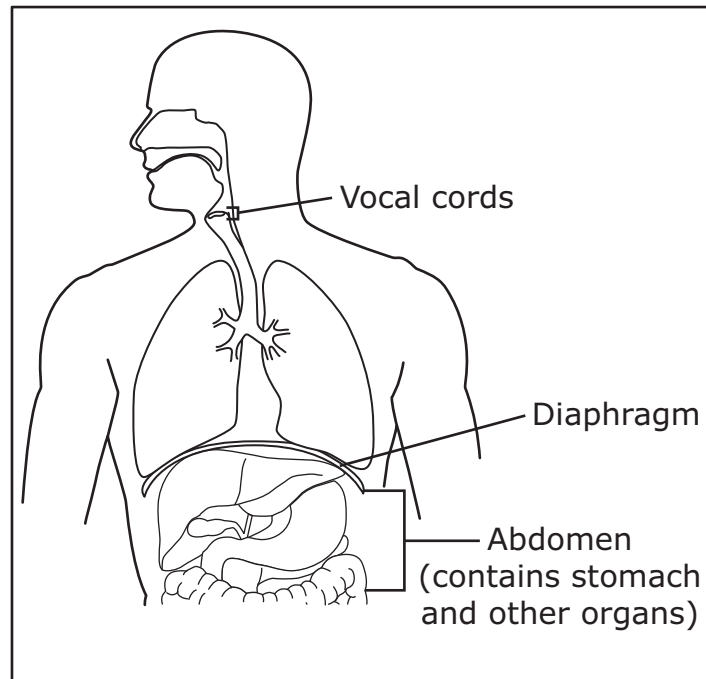
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Sweet Way to Stop Hiccups

- 1 Have you ever hiccuped in a quiet room full of people? Or have you ever hiccuped so hard that you had to stop what you were doing? If you have ever made the familiar “hic” sound of hiccups, you are not alone. Hiccups are a problem that almost everyone has experienced.

What Is a Hiccup?

- 2 Hiccups start in your diaphragm. The diaphragm is a muscle between your chest and your abdomen. When the diaphragm suddenly tightens, air strikes the vocal cords. This creates a single hiccup with its “hic” sound. For most people a case of hiccups will stop after a few minutes.



- 3 People get hiccups for a variety of reasons. Hiccups might result from eating or drinking too much or too quickly. A sudden change in the stomach’s temperature, such as from drinking hot liquid immediately after cold liquid, may also cause hiccups. They may even occur from being excited or being under a lot of stress.

Making Hiccups Go Away

- 4 Ideas on how to stop hiccups have been created, shared, and tried for years. However, what works for one person to cure hiccups may not work for everyone. Perhaps the most common method people use is

to hold their breath for a few seconds. If this doesn't work, you can try swallowing hard while briefly holding your breath. There are also some strange-sounding ways to cure hiccups, like drinking a glass of water upside down. Someone might even try to scare away your hiccups. Some people believe that getting startled causes you to focus on something other than your hiccups, which may relax the muscles in your throat and cure your hiccups.

- 5 Ideas for curing hiccups often include ingredients found in the kitchen. Some homemade recipes combine water with sweet and sour ingredients. They may include saltwater or pickle juice. Many people believe that eating a spoonful of sugar can make hiccups go away. So the next time you have the hiccups, try looking in your kitchen for something that will help get rid of them.

Award-Winning Recipe

- 6 In 2010 a young girl named Mallory Kievman couldn't make her irritating hiccups go away. None of the ideas that she researched worked for her every time. So she decided to find her own cure for hiccups. She knew that sweet and sour ingredients were commonly used to cure hiccups, and she knew that swallowing hard could also be effective. She decided to use the two ideas to make a special lollipop. She thought that the sweet and sour ingredients combined with sucking on a lollipop would cure her hiccups. She experimented with different recipes in her family's kitchen. After many failed attempts Mallory invented a lollipop that worked by combining water, sugar, and apple-cider vinegar. She named her invention Hiccups.
- 7 Mallory wanted to find out whether her lollipops would help others cure their hiccups. She gave her lollipops to friends and family members. Mallory found that most of them were cured of their hiccups after sucking on the lollipop.
- 8 Mallory entered her lollipop in a competition for new inventions made by children. She won three awards for her creative idea, and a patent¹ was filed for her product as part of her winnings. Perhaps one day you will see Mallory's invention in a store near you.



Hiccups were created by Mallory Kievman.

Courtesy of J. Sawyer/Avon Patch. <http://avon.patch.com/>

¹A patent is a right given to an inventor to make, use, or sell his or her invention.

A Recipe for Curing Hiccups

Are you bothered by hiccups? Not all recipes to cure hiccups work for all people. So you might want to create a recipe using ingredients from your kitchen.

Pick something sweet, like brown sugar or honey

+

Pick something sour, like lemon or grapefruit juice

+

Add enough water to make the mixture look like syrup

=

A new cure for you?

- 32** The author wrote this selection most likely to —
- F** convince the reader that hiccups are easily cured
 - G** persuade the reader to become an inventor
 - H** present different ideas about how to stop hiccups
 - J** compare homemade recipes to an award-winning recipe
-

- 33** Which section would be most helpful to a person who wants to find information about the causes of hiccups?
- A** What Is a Hiccup?
 - B** Making Hiccups Go Away
 - C** Award-Winning Recipe
 - D** A Recipe for Curing Hiccups
-

- 34** One reason Mallory Kievman thought her lollipop would help stop hiccups was that —
- F** her friends and family members enjoyed the taste of her lollipops
 - G** she knew the ingredients in her lollipops had worked for other people
 - H** her friends and family members had researched the idea for her
 - J** she was asked to share her recipe with others at a contest

- 35** The author begins the selection with the ideas in paragraph 1 most likely to —
- A** interest the reader in a subject that many people have experienced
 - B** suggest what it feels like to have the hiccups
 - C** explain to the reader why people have trouble recognizing hiccups
 - D** identify the most common time to get hiccups
-

- 36** What is the meaning of the word irritating in paragraph 6?
- F** Scary
 - G** Strange
 - H** Annoying
 - J** Hurting

37 What is the best summary of the selection?

- A** When people get hiccups, the cure that works for one person may not work for another person. There are many ways to try to make hiccups go away. Some cures can be made from ingredients found in the kitchen. A young girl has invented a lollipop that helps some people cure their hiccups.
- B** People get hiccups for many different reasons. Some people get them because they drink a hot liquid immediately after a cold liquid. Some people become too excited and get the hiccups. There are many ways to cure the hiccups. One way is to hold your breath.
- C** A hiccup starts in a person's diaphragm. Many ideas on how to stop hiccups have been tried. A lot of those ideas include common items found in a kitchen. These homemade recipes include sugar. Anyone who has the hiccups can make a homemade recipe to help stop them.
- D** People have thought of different ways to cure hiccups. Some people believe that a scare can make the hiccups go away. They think that getting startled causes people to think about something other than their hiccups. Then the muscles in the throat relax, and the hiccups go away.

38 The main reason Mallory Kievman wanted to find a cure for hiccups was to —

- F** invent a product she could sell
- G** find a solution to her own problem
- H** prove that homemade recipes work
- J** have a reason to work in the kitchen

39 A “hic” sound during a hiccup is made when —

- A** food is swallowed
 - B** a deep breath is taken
 - C** air strikes the vocal cords
 - D** the temperature in the stomach changes
-

40 Paragraphs 4 and 5 are mainly about —

- F** different ways people try to cure hiccups
- G** how people with hiccups use ingredients from the kitchen
- H** why getting scared might work to cure hiccups
- J** different types of sweet and sour foods used in recipes



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GRADE 3
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May 2016**

