

Name: _____

Class/Period: _____

Assignment: DUE OCTOBER 1. /Reading - Identifying Main Teacher: Samuels

Idea or Theme(Review)

- 1 Nobody likes to lose, but sometimes losing can give you a good opportunity. Losing may make you want to try harder. The harder you try, the better you may become. It is crucial to learn from your mistakes and move forward.
What is the main point this article is making?
- (A) Sometimes losing results in something good.
 - (B) Nobody likes losing.
 - (C) If you do not try your hardest, you will become a loser.
 - (D) Losing is a good thing.
- 2 Animal extinction is a problem that concerns many groups. The destruction of natural habitats, the production of pollutants and the over-harvesting of these creatures are prime reasons for the decline of these organisms. Unfortunately, many of these reasons can be traced directly back to the largest problem these creatures face: man.
What is the main point of this passage?
- (A) The actions of man are the chief causes of animal extinction.
 - (B) Pollution caused by animals is a problem in the world today.
 - (C) There are not enough groups that are concerned with animal extinction.
 - (D) Many animals are successfully adapting to the changes in their environment.
- 3 One large problem facing the world today is the loss of certain types of animals. When a particular animal no longer exists, we say they it is extinct. For example, the cape lion became extinct in 1865. Sadly, this animal will never be seen again.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) Once an animal is extinct, it is gone forever.
 - (B) Many people are angry because the cape lion is extinct.
 - (C) Diseases are killing off much of our animal population.
 - (D) World governments are working together to prevent animal extinction.
- 4 Many years ago, there was a bird called the Dodo. None of these birds are alive today. There are certain animals living today that may also someday disappear from the earth.
What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Some types of animals may not be alive in the future.
 - (B) The Dodo was a very powerful bird.
 - (C) Dodos only can be found today in desert areas.
 - (D) Many people are worried about how animals live.
- 5 The best team does not always win the game. Sometimes the better team takes it for granted that they will win because they have a superior record. The team that plays the hardest and executes the best usually will win. As the saying goes, "That's why they play the games."
What is the main point of this passage?
- (A) The best team always loses.
 - (B) The best team always wins.
 - (C) The team that plays the best usually wins.
 - (D) The worst team never wins.

- 6 The teacher was about to start the test when one of his students raised his hand and asked if he could borrow a pencil. "Not from me," replied the teacher. "But I left mine at home," whined the student. "You should always remember to come prepared," said the teacher. "Now is there anyone here who can loan your classmate a pencil?"

What is the main point in this passage?

- (A) Teachers are not very nice.
- (B) Students are responsible for their own pencils.
- (C) Pencils are more important than students are.
- (D) Teachers should have extra pencils for their students.

- 7 Lacy wanted a new pair of basketball shoes. Her mother had just bought her a pair, but they were not the right color. "If you want those new shoes, you buy them!" she said. "Money doesn't grow on trees."

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Everybody should have two pairs of basketball shoes.
- (B) Mothers do not like to buy basketball shoes.
- (C) Kids should earn some money to buy their own basketball shoes.
- (D) Kids should get all the shoes they want from their parents.

- 8 Flowers have many purposes. They add beauty to a dinner table, romance to an evening or just pure enjoyment as you look at them. However, some people are allergic to flowers, and don't get much pleasure from them.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Flowers are enjoyed by everyone.
- (B) Flowers have many uses.
- (C) Not all flowers are pretty.
- (D) Flowers should be removed from hospital rooms.

- 9 Some parents send their children to private schools. They must pay tuition for these schools. The cost of attending these private schools can be thousands of dollars. At the same time, parents are also paying school taxes for schools their children do not attend. I think this is wrong. Laws should be changed to assist parents who choose to send their children to private schools.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Public schools are more expensive than private schools.
- (B) Private schools are more expensive than public schools.
- (C) Parents should not have to pay school taxes.
- (D) Parents sending their children to private schools should not have to pay school taxes.

- 10 I thought the commercial for a frequent flyer credit card was very funny. The man always says "no" to the request for tickets to any destination. I didn't think it was so funny when I requested a free trip from my credit card company and was told "no." I think we need new laws to protect the people who have frequent flyer miles.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Frequent flyer credit cards are great.
- (B) Frequent flyer credit cards never give anyone a free trip.
- (C) Frequent flyer credit cards should be regulated to protect the consumer.
- (D) Frequent flyer credit cards should be done away with.

- 11 Today's new cars have so many wonderful features. They are far safer, more comfortable and have so many conveniences. However, I still see so many new cars broken down on the highway. It seems new cars cannot change their own oil, rotate tires or check fluid levels by themselves.
What is the main point of this passage?
- (A) New cars aren't as good as the old ones.
 - (B) New cars are more difficult to maintain.
 - (C) New cars must be maintained just like the old cars.
 - (D) New cars cost less than the old ones.
- 12 I could barely control my disappointment. I had worked my hardest and done my best, and yet, I had not made the team. Last year in junior high I made the cut, but now I had to compete against others who had played for years. But as I viewed the team that had been selected, I knew my disappointment would eventually fade.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) Sometimes your best is just not good enough.
 - (B) It is important to be able to control your disappointment.
 - (C) Sometimes life is just not fair.
 - (D) Certain people who are favorites always have the advantage.
- 13 Fortunately, we are all different. We all have different talents and different strengths and weaknesses. As individuals, we have limitations. As a group, we can accomplish almost anything.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) Not all of us are talented.
 - (B) We are at our best when we do things together.
 - (C) We must learn to accept that we are all different.
 - (D) Unfortunately, we are all limited as to what we can accomplish.
- 14 We use a lot of expressions in our daily conversations. Sometimes, we do not really know what these expressions mean, but most of them had a specific meaning at one time. For example, once upon a time, beds used a web of ropes to hold up the mattress. To make the bed firmer, you pulled the ropes tight. Now you know how the expression "sleep tight" originated.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) Beds once used ropes to hold up the mattress.
 - (B) Many expressions mean nothing today.
 - (C) Often expressions describe how things were or were done in the past.
 - (D) We should avoid using meaningless slang.
- 15 Rome was not built in a day. In today's world, we all seem to be looking for instant gratification. If we want something to last, we have to be willing to put in the time to insure success.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) We have to be patient if we want to achieve long-lasting goals.
 - (B) We have become a society that is willing to settle for less.
 - (C) The ancient Romans knew how to get things done.
 - (D) Technology has made it easier for us to get the results we desire.

- 16 An intelligent person is not necessarily someone who knows all the answers. Rather, it is someone who knows where to find the answers he or she needs. Mechanics have manuals to help them diagnose car problems, just as doctors have medical books to help them diagnose the problems of patients.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) Doctors and mechanics solve problems in the same manner.
 - (B) Most people are not really as intelligent as we might think.
 - (C) Intelligent people find ways to get the information that they need.
 - (D) Without manuals we would be lost.
- 17 During the Civil War, slaves were prohibited from learning how to read. This was one way they could be kept under control. The chains of ignorance are very strong.
What is the main theme that is found in this passage?
- (A) The Civil War was fought to end slavery.
 - (B) People were punished if they tried to teach slaves how to read.
 - (C) A lack of education can prevent people from being truly free.
 - (D) Slaves were kept in chains from which they could not escape.
- 18 When we think of bees, the first thing that probably comes to mind is the pain of their sting. We forget that they are valuable to plant growth because of their role in pollination. They are also responsible for producing the one food that does not spoil - honey.
What is the main theme found in this passage?
- (A) Bees can be harmful creatures.
 - (B) Bees are needed for pollination.
 - (C) Although we sometimes forget, bees provide us with many benefits.
 - (D) Bees produce the only food that will never spoil.
- 19 *Grimm's Fairy Tales* have been read by children for generations. Interestingly, the original folktales on which they were based have been changed over the years, to make them less disturbing. They were often quite violent.
Which of the following is the author's main point?
- (A) Violent folktales should be changed to make them less disturbing to children.
 - (B) For generations, children have enjoyed *Grimm's Fairy Tales*.
 - (C) The folktales that were the basis of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* have been softened to make them less violent.
 - (D) The original folktales that were the basis of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* are too disturbing for children.
- 20 Many young people are in a hurry to become "mature." However, maturity is only possible after a person has gone through certain experiences, not all of them pleasant.
What is the main theme of this passage?
- (A) Maturity is always pleasant.
 - (B) Young people should not hurry to become something that they're not.
 - (C) Young people should wait until they've matured before going through certain experiences.
 - (D) Maturity cannot be rushed.

- 21 Music that people can dance to has always been popular, though improvised partner dancing did not become popular in Europe until the 20th century. This fact says something about the cultural changes of that century.
What is the main idea expressed by the author in the passage above?
- (A) The cultural changes of the 20th century were greater in Europe than elsewhere.
 - (B) In the 20th century, improvised partner dancing became popular in Europe for the first time.
 - (C) Improvised partner dancing in Europe was related to the general culture of the 20th century.
 - (D) People have always liked to dance to music, especially people in 20th century Europe.
- 22 Sir Edmund Hillary's incredible feat -- climbing Mt. Everest -- is even more impressive when one considers that Hillary made the climb before the invention of modern climbing equipment and specially designed thermal clothing.
Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Hillary's climb is extraordinary, given when he made the climb.
 - (B) Hillary would have had an easier time climbing Mt. Everest today.
 - (C) Modern climbing equipment and thermal clothing are of great use to climbers.
 - (D) Sir Edmund Hillary is famous for climbing Mt. Everest many years ago.
- 23 It is often said that history repeats itself, and we must learn from it. The problem is that not everyone agrees on exactly what it is that history has taught us.
What is the main theme of this passage?
- (A) People should try to come to an agreement on what history has taught us.
 - (B) If we ignore history, we will probably make terrible mistakes.
 - (C) In order to learn from history, we need to understand that it repeats.
 - (D) History might have lessons for us, but who can say what these lessons really are?
- 24 Leon loves sushi, but May hates the idea of eating raw fish. Other than that, they like exactly the same foods, though they disagree on almost everything else.
What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) May cannot understand why Leon loves sushi.
 - (B) Leon and May have almost identical tastes in food, but different tastes in other matters.
 - (C) Leon and May disagree about most things, except sushi.
 - (D) Even though Leon and May have similar tastes in most matters, they agree about sushi.
- 25 Bird-watching is a pastime that is popular throughout the world. One of the reasons for this popularity is that this activity is simple enough for people of various fitness levels.
What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Everywhere you find birds, you will also find bird-watchers.
 - (B) The popularity of bird-watching is partially due to the exercise that people get when they take part in this activity.
 - (C) Bird-watching owes some of its popularity to its relatively simple physical demands.
 - (D) Bird-watching is a simple activity that does not require any special knowledge.
- 26 Libraries used to be a place to go to get a book or do research. Today, however, I see more people coming out of the local library carrying CDs, DVDs and video tapes. This pattern will lead to a decline in people's reading abilities.
What is the main point of this passage?
- (A) Libraries should only have CDS, DVDs and video tapes.
 - (B) Libraries should only have books and magazines.
 - (C) If people keep watching movies, it will have an adverse effect on their reading ability.
 - (D) Reading is not affected by watching many videos.

- 27 The types of transportation vehicles for kids are so different today. Motorized scooters have replaced the old-fashioned foot-powered ones. However, these can be very dangerous if misused, or if the proper safety gear is not worn.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) The old-fashioned types of transportation vehicles for kids are better than the newer ones.
- (B) Modern transportation vehicles for children can be dangerous.
- (C) Modern transportation vehicles for children are safer than the older ones.
- (D) Children should walk wherever they go.

- 28 Cell phones are becoming a problem in schools. Many parents want their children to have one so they can reach them at any time. However, ringing phones are disrupting classrooms while teachers are trying to complete their lessons. Students' texting during class is a distraction to their learning.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Cell phones are a good safety device.
- (B) Cell phones are a problem in schools.
- (C) Cell phones should be allowed in schools.
- (D) Cell phones should not be allowed in schools.

- 29 Americans need to conserve and find new sources of energy. The reliance upon foreign nations for our energy-producing materials is severely damaging our economy. We should try to limit our energy sources to our own country.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Oil is expensive.
- (B) Solar power is the next source of energy.
- (C) The United States should use only its own sources of energy.
- (D) Foreign nations rely on Americans for oil.

- 30 Many states rely on a sales tax to help meet their budget needs. These states are losing millions of dollars to internet companies that do not charge sales tax. Everyone should have to pay sales tax whenever they buy anything, whether on the internet or in a store.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) People should pay sales tax whenever they buy anything.
- (B) Sales taxes are too high.
- (C) Only internet buyers should have to pay sales tax.
- (D) No one should have to pay sales tax.

- 31 Remote control devices are taking over the world. There are remotes for TVs, CD players, VCRs, cable boxes, air conditioners, radios and garage door openers. Keeping them straight is a major problem in many households.

What is the main point of this passage?

- (A) Garage door openers are important.
- (B) People have problems because of the large number of remote control devices they have in their cars.
- (C) Storing remote control devices is a real problem.
- (D) There are too many remote control devices in the household.

- 32** Many people do not like to mow their lawns. Some have said that they would like to pave their lawns and paint them green. To others, the sound of a lawn mower is like music to their ears. The smell and appearance of a freshly mowed lawn is delightful. What is the main point of this passage?
- (A) Lawns are hard to mow.
 - (B) People are lazy.
 - (C) Some people would rather not mow their lawns.
 - (D) Paving lawns is a new trend.
- 33** Many states do not have zoning laws. It is common to see a mansion bordered by trailer parks or poorly maintained homes or even a rundown gas station. This can decrease the value of these large homes. This would never happen in a state with zoning laws. What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Zoning laws protect the value of a home.
 - (B) Zoning laws are illegal in the United States.
 - (C) Zoning laws protect trailer parks.
 - (D) Zoning laws should be done away with.
- 34** The obesity rate for today's youth is higher than ever. Young people do not exercise enough and their eating habits are very poor. Hours spent playing video games and watching TV are a main cause of this problem. What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Video games are a lot of fun.
 - (B) TV is good for today's youth.
 - (C) Today's youths need more exercise and better eating habits.
 - (D) Better eating habits can make you a better video game player.
- 35** Digital cameras are the latest technological advancement in photography. Unlike the older conventional cameras, they don't use film. You can keep only the pictures you like and erase those you don't like. What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Conventional cameras are better than digital cameras.
 - (B) Conventional cameras take better pictures than digital cameras.
 - (C) Digital cameras are very easy to use.
 - (D) Digital cameras are the way of the future.
- 36** Studies have shown that elderly adults benefit from the presence of a pet in their lives. Dogs make great companions and give lots of love to their masters. Many senior citizens get great pleasure from their cats. What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Dogs are not good companions for senior citizens.
 - (B) Having pets is good for senior citizens.
 - (C) Cats make better pets than dogs for seniors.
 - (D) Dogs and cats should not be in the same house.

- 37 Your eyes can be as important as your tongue when it comes to taste. Once you see what you are about to eat, your brain automatically recalls the taste that is associated with what you are looking at.
What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) You don't need your tongue to taste food.
 - (B) Only your tongue is used in the sense of taste.
 - (C) The sense of taste can be aided by the eyes.
 - (D) Only the eyes are needed to taste food.
- 38 Valentine's Day is associated with roses. The price of roses increases greatly at this time of the year. The florists know they have the advantage when it comes to pricing these flowers.
What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Roses are not pretty flowers.
 - (B) Florists do not like to sell roses.
 - (C) Florists over-charge the customer at this time of year.
 - (D) Roses should be cheaper on Valentine's Day.
- 39 My wife came home with the cutest little stuffed animal the other day. When I asked her how much it cost, she told me it was free with the purchase of an Easter card. I can remember a time when it was the other way around.
What point is the author making in this passage?
- (A) Easter cards are very pretty.
 - (B) Easter cards are expensive.
 - (C) Stuffed animals make nice gifts.
 - (D) Stuffed animals are expensive.
- 40 When you live in a crowded area, you sometimes don't realize how much open land is still available. In Africa, which we think of as the jungle, only 28% of the country is wilderness. On the other hand, 38% of North America (which includes the United States and Canada) is wilderness. There is a lot of open land out there.
What point is being made in this passage?
- (A) Africa is larger than the United States.
 - (B) People are tired of living in tight places.
 - (C) Cities are destroying the forests and other open areas.
 - (D) There is still a lot of wilderness in North America.
- 41 Young people seem to love to smoke. They look at the commercials and want to be "in" with the crowd. Ironically, the man who appeared in one of the most famous cigarette commercials, the "Marlboro Man," died of lung cancer. So did one of the first owners of the Marlboro Company. Do young people know this?
What point is this passage making?
- (A) A great deal of money is spent on cigarettes.
 - (B) It is unhealthy to do cigarette commercials.
 - (C) Young people must become aware of the harmful effects of smoking.
 - (D) Young people are learning more and more each year.

- 42 Do you ever make fun of the expressions your parents still use? You know, they probably made fun of the expressions their parents used. And get ready. Some day, your kids will laugh at what you think is "cool" today.

What point is being made in this passage?

- (A) We like to make fun of each other.
- (B) Things change as time goes by.
- (C) You should never put your parents down.
- (D) Don't have kids.

- 43 At many a fast food place, you can have your meal super-sized, which means making it bigger. Some restaurants offer all-you-can-eat meals. Is it any wonder that so many people in this country are overweight?

What is the main idea of this passage?

- (A) Americans need more exercise.
- (B) There are many good bargains in restaurants.
- (C) Americans eat too much.
- (D) What this country needs is a good diet pill.

- 44 Sometimes we can save money by giving up very little. For example, American Airlines saved about \$40,000 in 1987 by taking out one olive from every salad served in its first-class section. Imagine how much money would be saved if every person who smoked cut back one cigarette each day.

What point does this passage make?

- (A) Smoking is bad for you.
- (B) Olives are very expensive.
- (C) Small sacrifices can add up to big savings.
- (D) Americans spend too much money.

- 45 Many people waste a lot of time worrying about air travel. They worry that they will die in an air crash. Do you know that more people die because of donkeys than air crashes every year? Maybe we worry too much.

What point is this passage trying to make?

- (A) Donkeys are deadly animals.
- (B) We worry too much about air travel.
- (C) More rules are needed to protect us against donkeys.
- (D) Cars are the safest way to travel.

- 46 Do you realize that about one-tenth of the earth's surface is permanently covered with ice? Imagine if all of this ice melted at the same time. This is one of the fears that people have regarding global warming. They worry about what flooding could do to the world.

What concern is this passage trying to make us aware of?

- (A) the fear of another ice age
- (B) the problems global warming might produce
- (C) the efforts being taken to deal with areas covered with ice
- (D) the worries that modern science causes

- 47 Did you know that a cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime? Also, our steaks and most of the meat we eat come from cows. What would we do without these creatures?

What main point does this passage make?

- (A) People depend greatly upon cows.
- (B) Cows provide us with all of the meat we consume.
- (C) Much of our clothing comes from cows.
- (D) We are trying to figure out what we would do without cows.

- 48 We can learn a lot by studying certain creatures. For example, sharks are the only animals that never get sick. As far as we know, they are immune to every known disease including cancer. By studying sharks, humans may be able to help themselves.

What main point is being raised in this passage?

- (A) Sharks are superior animals.
- (B) In theory, sharks can live forever.
- (C) The study of sharks can help people learn more about health in general.
- (D) Human beings do not live as long as sharks.

- 49 The elephant is the animal that represents the Republican Party. It was first used by cartoonist Thomas Nast in 1874. Since that time, it has been widely recognized as the symbol of this party.

What is the main point or idea being made in this passage?

- (A) When you see an elephant in a political cartoon, you know they are talking about the Republican Party.
- (B) Cartoons are used only to make fun of politicians.
- (C) Democrats are represented by the donkey.
- (D) Only recently has the elephant come to represent republicans.

- 50 Pit bulls are one type of dog that many people fear. However, German shepherds bite humans more than any other breed of dog. The key is to be careful of all dogs that you don't know.

What is the main point or idea being made in this passage?

- (A) German Shepherds are the meanest dogs in the world.
- (B) There is no reason to be afraid of pit bulls.
- (C) Don't take chances around any strange dog.
- (D) All dogs are vicious.