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**FOURTH GRADE-READING (READ4\_5VOCABIMPROVE)**

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## Sharks

There is no other fish or animal that uses its senses quite like the shark does. The shark has a very keen sense of smell. It is able to smell odors from very far distances. This helps lead the shark to its prey. A large part of the shark's brain is used for the sense of smell.

The shark has another important sense called "distant touch." This sense helps it to locate food. The shark is able to feel movement with its "lateral line." The lateral line is a thin long line of nerves down each side of the shark's body. This lateral line of nerves allows the shark to feel the vibrations of the moving prey. These vibrations lead the shark to its next meal.

A shark also has good eyesight. Its eyes are able to see in dim light. It needs this good eyesight to hunt for food. Scientists have learned that a shark is able to see up close. This helps in catching smaller prey.

A shark also has excellent hearing. The shark is able to hear low-pitched sounds that travel through the water.

All these senses help the shark to survive in the oceans of the world.

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1. A shark's lateral line is
    - A. its thrashing tail.
    - B. its slotted gills.
    - C. helpful for feeling vibrations.
    - D. helpful for quick movement.
- 
2. Which sentence about sharks is an opinion?
    - A. Sharks smell odors from far away.
    - B. Sharks can see close up.
    - C. Sharks are quite unique creatures.
    - D. Sharks are able to hear low-pitched sounds.
- 
3. In paragraph 1, sentence 2, the word *keen* means
    - A. dull.
    - B. sharp.
    - C. loud.
    - D. small.
- 
4. Which of the following words from the passage is a compound word?
    - A. eyesight
    - B. lateral
    - C. vibrations

D. unique

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"Book" Bookends

by Linda Douglas

1. Fill two small boxes with unpopped popcorn, pebbles, dried beans, or sand in plastic bags.
  2. Tape the lids shut.
  3. Decorate the boxes with paper and markers to make them look like books lined up on a shelf. Write your favorite book titles along the book "bindings."
  4. Use the box bookends to hold your books upright on a shelf.
- 

7. Which of these comes LAST in making the bookends?
- A. tape the lids shut
  - B. write book titles
  - C. fill boxes with beans
  - D. decorate the boxes
- 
8. Which of these would NOT be a good material to fill the boxes?
- A. pieces of paper
  - B. small marbles
  - C. uncooked rice
  - D. dried peas
- 
9. You should fill up the boxes to add
- A. color
  - B. softness
  - C. weight

D. decoration

## Gentle Monster of the Deep

The green sea turtle could be called the gentle monster of the deep. It has lived on earth for a long, long time. The meat of this turtle makes excellent soup. So many green turtles have been caught for food that they are now an endangered species.

Endangered species are animals in danger of becoming extinct. This means that someday soon they may no longer exist on earth. Some people are working hard to save the sea turtle by studying its life cycle.

The female turtle returns to the same beach every 2-3 years. She digs a nest with her flippers and lays a clutch of 100 eggs or more. Then she buries the eggs and returns to the sea.

In about two months the baby turtles hatch. The turtle uses a special tooth on its nose to break out of its shell. After hatching, the turtles work together to climb out of the nest and begin a short but dangerous journey to the ocean.

The turtles must hurry to the ocean because sea gulls try to catch them. In the ocean more dangers await them. The turtles must escape many large fish.

The turtles then disappear for a year or more. Experts aren't sure what happens at this time. In about two years, when the turtles are large enough to protect themselves, they can be seen again in the sea.

Volunteer groups now watch and protect turtle nests. They want to make sure that as many turtles as possible return to their life in the sea.

10. The MOST important idea in this passage is that
- A. sea turtles work together to get out of their nest
  - B. females return to the same beach to lay eggs
  - C. sea gulls and fish use the baby turtles for food
  - D. the sea turtle is an endangered species

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11. The word *extinct* could mean all of these EXCEPT

- A. gone
- B. living
- C. ended
- D. died out

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12. This passage is an example of

- A. a poem
- B. a report
- C. a folk tale
- D. a friendly letter

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## Theodor Geisel

Theodor Geisel loved to draw funny people and animals. He loved to read. When he grew up, he wanted to make reading easy and fun for boys and girls. His first book was an alphabet book, but no one would publish it. For nearly four years, he stopped writing.

Finally in 1936, Theodor took a trip on a ship. As he sat on the deck, he wrote a story about what a boy imagines he sees on his hometown street. Theodor named the story *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. The book was his first big success.

In the 87 years of Theodor's life, he had many other successes. He wrote and had published a total of 47 books. Some of his books teach a lesson. His stories always include strange, make-believe animals and people with funny names. Because he wanted books to be fun for children, he often wrote in silly rhyme. In 1986, he did something different and wrote a book for older folks. This book was called *You're Only Old Once!*

Theodor Geisel used a pen name when he wrote children's books. Some of his most famous ones are: *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *Green Eggs and Ham*. Theodor Geisel is better known to children as Dr. Seuss. Theodor was not really a doctor, but he did find a cure for children who were bored with books. His funny books have been delighting children for over fifty years.

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13. Dr. Seuss wrote his FIRST successful book

- A. when he was 87 years old

- B. as he sat on the deck of a ship
  - C. when he lived on Mulberry Street
  - D. after becoming a doctor
- 

14. How many books did Dr. Seuss write and have published?
- A. 5
  - B. 47
  - C. 50
  - D. 87
- 

15. This passage is an example of
- A. a fairy tale
  - B. a fable
  - C. a biography
  - D. a poem
- 

16. In the fourth paragraph, *pen name* means a name
- A. for a character in a story
  - B. given to make-believe animals
  - C. that rhymes with silly words
  - D. that authors use instead of their own
- 

### **Frogs of Loon and Luma**

"Where are you from and where are you going?" croaked the Loon frog.

"Well, I'm from Luma and I'm making a special journey to Loon to see how wonderful it must be," replied the other.

"What a coincidence! I'm from Loon myself. I too am on a journey, but I want to see the land of Luma. Unfortunately, the trip has been a long one, don't you agree? Wouldn't it be nice if we both could just get a glimpse of our destinations? Then our long walk might be easier to bear."

"If only we were taller," replied the Luma frog, "we might be able to see each place from this high vantage point."

So the two frogs agreed to stand on their hind legs and balance each other with their front legs. The Loon frog faced Luma and the Luma frog faced Loon. When they looked over each others shoulders, they didn't realize that in this position their bulgy eyes would see behind them instead of in front.

"How strange!" said the Luma frog. "Loon isn't very special. It's exactly like where I just came from."

"Yes, it's amazing," said the Loon frog. "I thought it would be different and it's not. It's really not worth the bother to go on."

"Since everything everywhere must be just the same," replied the other. "I guess home is the best place for me."

So they both returned home and lived happily ever after for each believed that Loon and Luma were just as similar as the two lily pads in their own two ponds.

- 
17. The frogs wanted to see each other's home because
- A. they wanted to visit each other
  - B. they thought life there would be more exciting
  - C. they wanted to prove that they lived in a better place
  - D. they thought it would be just the same as where they lived
- 
18. The author most likely wrote this passage
- A. to entertain people
  - B. to give information about frogs
  - C. to persuade people to visit different lands
  - D. to describe Loon and Luma
- 
19. "They didn't realize that in this position their bulgy eyes would see behind them instead of in front." In this sentence *realize* means almost the same as

- A. declare
- B. discuss
- C. comprehend
- D. claim

Dear Principal Smith,

I am so proud of what we just learned in school that I thought you should know about it. After doing a unit on New England, in which we learned about how the Pilgrims ate in their times, our teacher decided to teach a unit on nutrition in celebration of National Nutrition Month. At first many of the students in class groaned. But when we started learning about the food pyramid, a new way of organizing foods to help people eat healthier, we began having a lot of fun. I did not know that there were so many tasty fruits like kiwis, peaches, and mangos. They are so sweet. Plus they give you a lot of energy. Boy, the kids in my class love to play. So having a lot of energy from eating the right foods is a good thing.

To finish our nutrition unit, our teacher planned something that everyone was excited about! We had a nutrition luncheon. The class was divided into the five healthy food pyramid groups. Each group decided on foods to bring in for the other kids in class to sample. On the day of the luncheon, the teacher spread out a big blanket on the floor of the class. It was like we were having a picnic. We all tasted healthy foods from the five groups. There were celery and cream cheese boats, broccoli pieces with yogurt dip, crackers with cheese, sweet pineapple halves, casseroles and more! We had a feast! Everything had such delicious flavor. Some students even asked for recipes.

Who would have thought that foods that were healthy for you could taste so good? Now instead of bringing in jellybeans and other candy for a treat, students bring in raisins and apples lightly covered with peanut butter. At lunch, one student brought homemade fruit cocktail with grapes, pineapples, and pears. We all had such a fun time learning in this unit. Maybe next April, the whole school could celebrate in the same way.

Sincerely,

Sam Vail

- 
20. Why did the children have a nutrition luncheon?
- A. to learn how to cook
  - B. to eat like the Pilgrims
  - C. to taste foods from the five food groups
  - D. to give a party for Sam
- 
21. What kind of passage is this?

- A. report
  - B. story
  - C. poem
  - D. letter
- 

22. Sam probably wrote this passage to
- A. encourage the principal to have the entire school celebrate nutrition month next year
  - B. invite the principal to a picnic where only healthy food is served
  - C. ask the principal for his favorite fruit recipes
  - D. tell the principal about what his class learned about the Pilgrims' food
- 

**The Extraordinary Cat:**

**A Chinese Tale**

by Pleasant De Spain

"I hadn't thought of that," replied the mandarin, "and you are to be congratulated, brother, for being so observant. From now on, my dearest cat, the most wonderful cat on earth, will be called Wall."

The very next day the royal gardener heard the mandarin call his cat, "Wall," and said, "But sire, you are forgetting that a mouse is able to chew a hole in a wall. The mouse is the strongest."

"How clever of you," said the mandarin. "From this day forth my lovely cat will be called Mouse. Come here Mouse!"

But just then the mandarin's son skipped into the garden to play, and when he heard his father call the cat "Mouse," he started to laugh and laugh!

"What causes you to laugh, my son?" asked the mandarin.

"Father" replied the boy, "everyone knows that there is something stronger than the mouse and that's the cat who catches him!"

The mandarin smiled and then began to laugh with his son. "Of course! How foolish I've been. From now on my extraordinary animal will be called by the name it most deserves, and that is Cat!"

- 
23. Which of these shows that the mandarin thinks that his cat is extraordinary?
- A. The mandarin makes the cat an advisor.
  - B. The mandarin thinks of the cat like a son.
  - C. The mandarin gives the cat special names.
  - D. The mandarin builds the cat its own garden.
- 
24. The advisor to the court thinks that the cat's name should be changed to something more
- A. gentle
  - B. powerful
  - C. beautiful
  - D. playful
- 
25. Who tells the mandarin he could change the cat's name to "Mouse"?
- A. the son
  - B. the brother
  - C. the gardener
  - D. the wife

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(Answer Key)

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2. Sharks are quite unique creatures.
3. sharp.
4. eyesight
5. helpful for feeling vibrations
6. sharp
7. write book titles
8. pieces of paper
9. weight
10. the sea turtle is an endangered species
11. living
12. a report
13. as he sat on the deck of a ship
14. 47
15. a biography
16. that authors use instead of their own
17. they thought life there would be more exciting
18. to entertain people
19. comprehend
20. to taste foods from the five food groups
21. letter
22. encourage the principal to have the entire school celebrate nutrition month next year
  
23. The mandarin gives the cat special names.
24. powerful
25. the gardener