

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Right in Your Own Backyard

I have become very interested in taking care of the environment. This happened because of my neighbor, Mr. Edwards. But he is not your typical neighbor. You will not see Mr. Edwards working in his backyard. He works in everyone's backyard, which is Planet Earth!

He has spent many years working for environmental causes. But he never brags about the valuable work he does. Mr. Edwards believes it is people's duty to protect their home, Planet Earth. "Earth is one big backyard. We have to start in our own backyards and work outward," Mr. Edwards always says. Mr. Edwards has turned his words into action. First, he was named tree commissioner for our town. As commissioner, he oversees the planting of trees and teaches people about their environmental benefits. "If I can encourage one person to plant a tree, then I have done my job. Just think of how wonderful it would be if each person planted a tree," Mr. Edwards says. He has encouraged several citizens to plant more trees. In fact, our town has won the *Tree City USA Award* for the past nine years because of Mr. Edwards's work.

Just last year, Mr. Edwards adopted a highway. Throughout the year, he and his friends clean up the litter along his highway. One afternoon, when I was out in my own yard, Mr. Edwards stopped by. He asked me if I wanted to join his highway clean-up group. It is hard work, but also a lot of fun. We wear bright orange safety vests so people can see us on the roadside. We use sticks to pick up the litter, and the town comes and picks up our bags at the end of the day. One of my friends asked me why I clean up the highway when people keep littering anyway. My answer surprised us both.

"Earth is one big backyard. We have to start in our own backyards and work outwards," I proudly replied. We both laughed. I sounded just like Mr. Edwards. "May I join the highway clean-up group?" my friend then asked. "Sure!" I exclaimed with a smile.

1. This passage is an example of

- A. a letter.
- B. a story.
- C. a drama.
- D. a folk tale.

2. What would be another good title for this passage?

- A. How to Adopt a Highway
- B. The Planet Earth
- C. It's Everyone's Backyard
- D. My Neighbor, the Tree Commissioner

3. When the author says, "I sounded just like Mr. Edwards," what does she mean?

- A. Mr. Edwards tells people what to say.
  - B. She learned from Mr. Edwards.
  - C. Mr. Edwards is a very smart man.
  - D. Her voice sounded like Mr. Edwards's.
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4. Why do the highway workers wear orange vests?

- A. so they can be seen easily by drivers
  - B. because that is the city color
  - C. so all of the workers have matching outfits
  - D. so people know that they are working
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Dear Uncle Mario,

¡Hola! Hello! How are you? How is it in Mexico City? Thank you so much for the letter you sent me. I enjoy being your pen pal, since we only get to visit each other once a year.

I have some exciting news! Remember those pictures you sent me of your home and the city? I did my geography report on Mexico last month and used those pictures in my report. Everybody in the class thought they were so neat! My teacher just gave us our grades today, and I got an A! He even wanted to put my report up on the wall so everyone could enjoy the pictures more.

I told everyone that you take pictures as your job. Then they asked me more questions about you because they were so interested in hearing about photography. I just told them they'll have to wait for my next school report!

So thank you, Uncle Mario. You always are helping me out, even though we're far from each other. I hope I get to see you this summer when you go traveling in Texas and Louisiana with Aunt Conchita. I miss you!

¡Adios!

Your niece in Atlanta,  
Juana

P.S. I hope you like these pictures I sent you!

5.

Juana mainly wrote this passage to

- A. thank Uncle Mario for his help.
  - B. invite Uncle Mario to Atlanta.
  - C. tell Uncle Mario a funny story about school.
  - D. explain her report to Uncle Mario.
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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.

6. A shark's lateral line is
- A. its thrashing tail.
  - B. its slotted gills.
  - C. helpful for feeling vibrations.
  - D. helpful for quick movement.

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7. In paragraph 1, sentence 2, the word *keen* means
- A. dull.
  - B. sharp.
  - C. loud.
  - D. small.
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## Martin Luther King Jr. Has A Dream

A long time ago there were two friends. One was white. One was black. They did not seem to notice—until they became old enough to go to school. It was then that these two friends who lived near each other had to go to separate schools—all because of their skin color. One of these boys, who did not seem to understand why he and his friend could not be together anymore, would grow up to be one of our nation's leaders in fighting just this sort of problem.

That boy, Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Alberta and Reverend Martin Luther King Sr., a Baptist pastor. Inspired by his father's example, Martin studied to become a minister himself. He studied at Morehouse College and was the head of his class at Crozer University. While at Crozer, Martin began to feel strongly about finding ways to peacefully solve problems in society such as the one he experienced as a young boy. Martin went on to earn a doctorate in theology, the study of religion, at Boston University where he met his future wife, Coretta Scott. After Martin finished his studies and had married Coretta, he accepted a position as pastor. But it was almost two years later when Martin realized what he was truly meant to do with his life.

After hearing about Rosa Parks, a black woman who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus, Martin began to organize people to peacefully change things. In fact, Martin gave a famous speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, which touched many people's hearts. In turn, citizens around the country were inspired to help Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his quest to achieve equality for all people regardless of the color of their skin.

In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. Four years later, Dr. King died. Each year, on his birthday, people across the country remember him and continue to honor his work.

8. Which of these words from the passage has a suffix that means *without*?

- A. regardless
- B. peacefully
- C. understand
- D. theology

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9. When did Martin Luther King Jr. FIRST learn about the problem that he worked his whole life to solve?

- A. when he went to college
- B. after speaking at the Lincoln Memorial
- C. when he was a child
- D. after he became a pastor

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10. According to the passage, Martin Luther King Jr. studied religion in order to become like

- A. Rosa Parks
- B. his mother
- C. Coretta Scott
- D. his father

**Answer Key**

1. B) a story.
2. C) It's Everyone's Backyard
3. B) She learned from Mr. Edwards.
4. A) so they can be seen easily by drivers
5. A) thank Uncle Mario for his help.
6. C) helpful for feeling vibrations.
7. B) sharp.
8. A) regardless
9. C) when he was a child
10. D) his father