

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 13.

The Big Game

- 1 "All right people! We're in the bottom of the ninth inning of this exciting softball game, and we've got our next batter of the evening, number fifteen...Jake Goodwell!"
- 2 "YAAAAYYY!" the crowd screams at the top of their lungs. Elmer Finklebean is watching from the outfield.
- 3 Jake steps up to home plate, and Blake Potter winds up the dirt-covered softball and pitches it straight up the middle. The crack of the bat and the whoosh of the ball send Jake off running to first base.
- 4 "It looks like it's going to be another home run for Jake Goodwell today, folks."
- 5 "Run!" screams Dave, Jake's teammate, as the ball soars for left-center field.
- 6 Elmer looks up in horror as he realizes the ball is coming his way.
- 7 "Oh, no! He'll never catch that ball!" shout his teammates.
- 8 Just once he would like to be the star of the team and not the joke of the team. Elmer was lucky to play one inning in the outfield each game. He was no good at sports, and he accepted that he would never play as well as Jake or Blake. He always tried hard, and each night during the spring, he dreamed of catching a fly ball that would give the other team their third out. He also dreamed of crossing over home plate and scoring the winning run. Maybe today would be the day.
- 9 The crowd is on their feet. It is a tied game and Jake needs to score in order for his team to win. It is going to be a close one. Elmer is darting toward the fly ball. Jake is coming up on second base fast, with home plate on his mind. Look! Can it be? Elmer is under the high fly ball!
- 10 "Let me catch it, let me catch it! Oh, please let me catch it!" whispers Elmer over and over.
- 11 Elmer runs under the ball and gets his glove in position. His heart is pounding so hard he thinks it might burst. Smack! The ball hits the pocket of the glove. Elmer closes his glove around the ball and makes a perfect catch! The crowd stares in disbelief.

12 Elmer's teammates run onto the field and lift him up onto their shoulders, shouting, "Elmer, Elmer!" The crowd goes wild.

1 **What most likely happened before the story "The Big Game" began?**

- A Elmer hit a home run in the second inning.
- B Jake hit a home run in the eighth inning.
- C Jake's team did not score.
- D Elmer caught a fly ball.

2 **Read this sentence from the story.**

"It looks like it's going to be another home run for Jake Goodwell today, folks."

The author includes this sentence to —

- F explain that Jake always hits home runs
- G describe Elmer's poor playing skills
- H announce who is going to hit next
- J show that the ball might be hit to Elmer

3 **Read this sentence from paragraph 3.**

The crack of the bat and the whoosh of the ball send Jake off running to first base.

This sentence appeals to the reader's sense of —

- A smell
- B touch
- C hearing
- D sight

4 **Which sentence shows that Elmer is nervous?**

- F Elmer was lucky to play one inning in the outfield each game.
- G He also dreamed of crossing over home plate and scoring the winning run.
- H His heart is pounding so fast he thinks it might burst.
- J Elmer runs under the ball and gets his glove in position.

5 **What lesson does Elmer learn at the end of the story?**

- A Never play softball if you can't catch a ball.
- B Dreams can come true if you don't give up.
- C Don't play sports that other people are better at.
- D You should quit before looking foolish.

6 **To find facts about the batting averages of past softball players, a student should look in —**

- F a glossary
- G a dictionary
- H an atlas
- J an almanac

7 **As it is used in paragraph 9, what does darting mean?**

- A looking up
- B moving slowly
- C moving swiftly
- D throwing a pointed object

8 **How does Elmer most likely feel at the end of the story?**

- F capable
- G disappointed
- H nervous
- J intelligent

9 **Read this sentence from the story.**

Elmer is under the high fly ball.

Which meaning of the word fly is used in the sentence?

- A a particular two-winged insect
- B a fishhook resembling an insect
- C the material covering zippers or buttons
- D an object moving high through the air

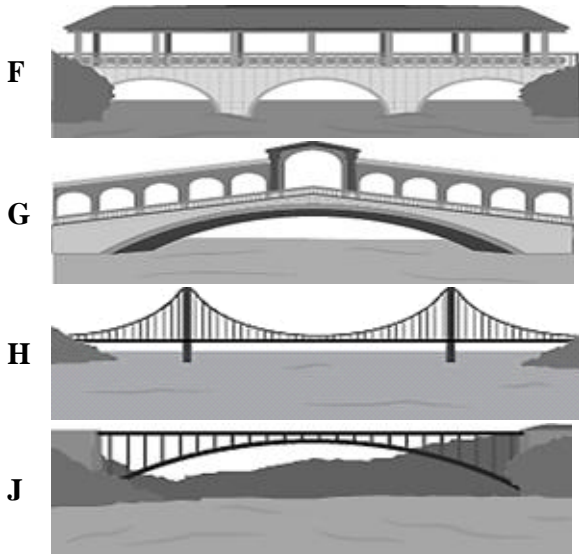
- 10 **The reader knows the story is realistic fiction because —**
- F the characters are imaginary, and the events could not happen in real life
 - G the setting is long ago, and the characters are true to that time period
 - H the characters are typical people, and the events could actually take place today
 - J the setting is in the future, and the characters are unrealistic
- 11 **Which guide words would appear on a dictionary page containing the word "champion"?**
- A charcoal, charity
 - B chain, chalk
 - C chamber, chance
 - D channel, chapter
- 12 **The author most likely wrote this story to —**
- F describe how to win a softball game
 - G explain why people enjoy watching softball games
 - H tell how a boy makes his dream come true
 - J show how teasing can hurt others' feelings
- 13 **What happens right after Elmer catches the ball?**
- A The crowd stares at him.
 - B He dreams of catching a fly ball.
 - C He throws the ball to home plate.
 - D His teammates lift him up.

Read the following passage and answer questions 14 through 31.

San Francisco's Bridge

- 1 One of the most famous sights in the United States is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. The bridge goes over San Francisco Bay and connects San Francisco and Marin County. Since being built, it has only been closed a few times. This was because of high wind.
- 2 The San Francisco Bridge hangs between two towers. It was the largest suspension bridge in the United States when it was built, but now it is the second largest. It took four years to build the bridge at the cost of 35 million dollars. The longest span on the bridge is 4,200 feet long, and its total length is 8,981 feet long. Golden Gate Bridge is 746 feet high so that ships can pass underneath it. The bridge is 90 feet wide and has four lanes for automobile traffic and two lanes for bicycles and pedestrians.
- 3 If you look at this bridge, you begin to wonder why it is called Golden Gate Bridge. It is painted orange, and the paint color's name is "International Orange." The color was selected by the bridge's designer. He said that he chose the color because it blended so well with the surroundings. Most importantly though, it can be seen in the fog. This is very important in San Francisco, because it is almost always foggy.
- 4 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt opened the bridge on May 27, 1935. Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world.

14 Based on paragraph 2, which illustration is the best example of a suspension bridge?



- 15 Which paragraph in the passage would most likely have the heading "Sizing it Up"?
- A 2
 - B 1
 - C 3
 - D 4

- 16 **Which guide words would appear on a dictionary page containing the word "bridge"?**
- F bring, brisk
 - G bride, briefcase
 - H brighten, brilliant
 - J briar, brick

- 17 **As it is used in paragraph 2, the word suspension means —**
- A to stop payments of money owed
 - B the lengthening of a musical note
 - C something that is hanging
 - D a word used when mixing chemicals

- 18 **Read this sentence from the article.**

One of the most famous sights in the United States is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Which word sounds exactly like sights but is spelled in a different way and has a different meaning?

- F heights
 - G sighs
 - H sites
 - J slight
- 19 **The Golden Gate Bridge would most likely close if —**
- A the road was too hot
 - B it was foggy
 - C thunder could be heard
 - D a windstorm began
- 20 **The author most likely wrote this article to —**
- F share facts about San Francisco
 - G explain why people like the bridge
 - H introduce Franklin Delano Roosevelt
 - J describe the design of the bridge

21 **Another word for selected as it is used in paragraph 3 is —**

- A concerned
- B chosen
- C colored
- D painted

22 **This article would most likely be found in —**

- F a book about famous tourist attractions
- G a biography about Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- H a magazine about Virginia's rivers
- J a safety manual for truck drivers

23 **Since San Francisco is often foggy, the bridge —**

- A has a low speed limit
- B has a bicycle lane
- C is expensive to cross
- D is painted bright orange

24 **Which statement is an opinion?**

- F Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world.
- G It took four years to build the bridge at the cost of 35 million dollars.
- H The color was selected by the bridge's designer.
- J The bridge hangs between two towers.

25 **Which question is answered in paragraph 4?**

- A What color paint was used on the bridge?
- B Where is the Golden Gate Bridge located?
- C Who designed the Golden Gate Bridge?
- D When did the Golden Gate Bridge open?

26 **All of the following are facts EXCEPT —**

- F The bridge hangs between two towers.
- G Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world.
- H It took four years to build the bridge at the cost of 35 million dollars.
- J The color was selected by the bridge's designer.

- 27 **Which word from the article has a suffix that means "made up of" or "similar to"?**
- A Orange
 - B Gate
 - C President
 - D Golden
- 28 **In paragraph 2, what does the word pedestrians most likely mean?**
- F boat captains
 - G people who walk
 - H young children
 - J bridge workmen
- 29 **The Golden Gate Bridge is suspended from —**
- A two towers
 - B four towers
 - C five towers
 - D one tower
- 30 **Based on the information in paragraph 2, a reader may conclude that—**
- F all suspension bridges have exactly two towers
 - G the bridge took longer to build than planned
 - H a bridge larger than the Golden Gate Bridge has been built
 - J the Golden Gate Bridge is the tallest bridge in the world
- 31 **Which idea can be supported with information from paragraph 2?**
- A President Roosevelt was excited about the bridge.
 - B The Golden Gate Bridge is small.
 - C It is almost always foggy in San Francisco.
 - D People who walk across the bridge must not be afraid of heights.