

Read the passage “The Cranberry Connection” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

The Cranberry Connection

“What is this book?” Anna mumbled to herself as she helped her mom look through cardboard boxes that had been stored in their basement for years. Most of the boxes belonged to her grandparents who died when Anna was a baby, so she did not remember anything about them.

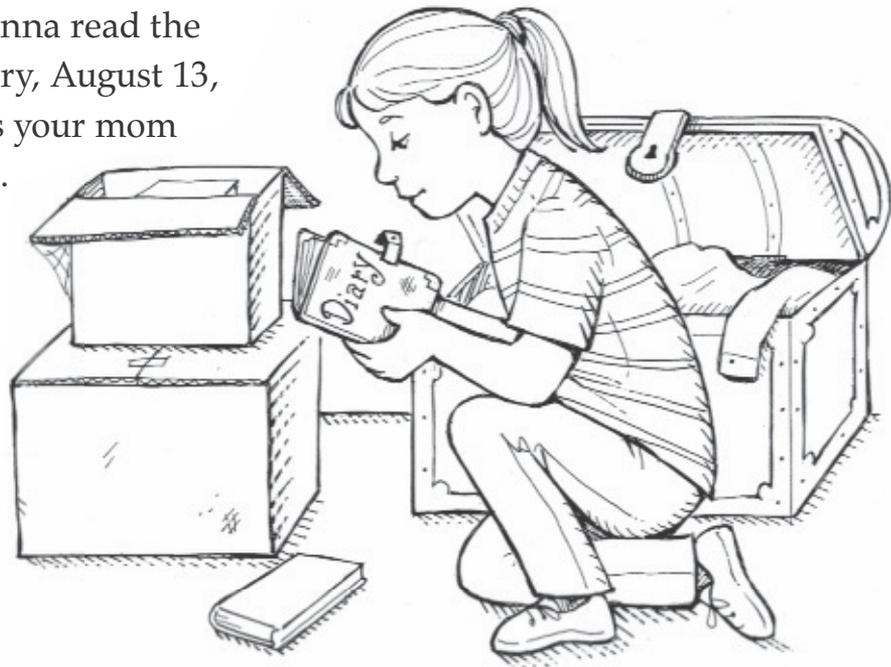
Anna pulled the book out of the box, releasing a cloud of dust that made her sneeze three times in a row. The cover, which was once blue, was now a dusty gray, and as Anna opened the book, she had to catch some loose pages before they fell onto the floor.

“I think I found Grandma’s diary,” she told her mother.

Her mother quickly came closer and said, “What a find! I can’t wait to read it. I miss her.” Then seeing Anna’s frown, Mom added, “But you found Grandma’s diary, so you can read it first.”

Nodding happily, Anna read the date on the first entry, August 13, 1953. “How old was your mom in 1953?” she asked.

Her mom wrinkled her brows and thought for a minute. “She was born in 1944, so she must have been about nine, the same age as you are right now.”



Wow, Anna thought, for she had seen photos of her mom’s parents, but they looked so old that it was hard to imagine that her grandma was ever nine.

Anna read the first entry:

The county fair is only two weeks away and today I’m going to practice making Mother’s cranberry bread. Last time, the dough was a big problem, for it was so thick that I couldn’t even knead it! I get mad at myself when my baking turns out wrong, but Mother keeps telling me to have more patience. I’ll use less flour today and hope for the best.

Then Anna realized that her mother made cranberry bread, too, and the recipe for that bread must have been passed down through the generations. Anna suddenly wanted to learn how to make it, and quickly asked, “Mom, could you help me make cranberry bread today?”

She could tell by the long pause that her mom was a little surprised by her request. “I guess we could make some after we’re done here,” she replied, “but you’ll have to do the kneading because my shoulder is sore from all this work in the basement.”

“I want to do all of it,” Anna told her. “Your only contribution will be to make sure I’m doing it exactly the way you do it.”

Her mom smiled and pointed out, “Anna, you don’t have a lot of . . .”

“Patience!” Anna interrupted. “I’m just like Grandma! But I want to learn how to make that bread just like you do it—and like your mother did it, and her mother did it, and . . .”

Laughing, her mom held up her hand. “I get it, but I’m wondering why you’re suddenly so interested in that bread. Maybe I’d better read the diary before we start!”

Anna smiled and handed the dusty diary to her mom. “I don’t want to break the cranberry connection,” she said. “I have to be ready to teach my own kids how to make that bread!”

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “The Cranberry Connection.”

1 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which sentence **best** summarizes the message of the passage?

- (A) The only way to know the future is to study the past.
- (B) Some traditions are good enough to continue.
- (C) Old boxes can be full of surprises.
- (D) People need to be more patient.

Part B: Which sentences from the passage **best** support your answer in part A? Pick **two** choices.

- (A) “‘I think I found Grandma’s diary,’ she told her mother.”
- (B) “Then seeing Anna’s frown, Mom added, ‘But you found Grandma’s diary, so you can read it first.’”
- (C) “Then Anna realized that her mother made cranberry bread, too, and the recipe for that bread must have been passed down through the generations.”
- (D) “She could tell by the long pause that her mom was a little surprised by her request.”
- (E) “‘But I want to learn how to make that bread just like you do it—and like your mother did it, and her mother did it, and . . .’”
- (F) “‘I get it, but I’m wondering why you’re suddenly so interested in that bread.’”

2 Read the sentences from the passage.

Her mother quickly came closer and said, "What a find! I can't wait to read it. I miss her."

Why **most likely** is Anna's mom excited to read the diary?

- (A) She misses her mom.
- (B) She needs to learn old family recipes.
- (C) She wants to learn all the family's secrets.
- (D) She wants to see if her mom was like Anna.

3 Draw a line to match the underlined word in each sentence on the left with the definition for a homophone for the underlined word.

Last time, the dough was a big problem, for it was so thick that I couldn't even knead it!

people who see a doctor

I get mad at myself when my baking turns out wrong, but Mother keeps telling me to have more patience.

to fly without flapping wings

I guess we could make some after we're done here," she replied, "but you'll have to do the kneading because my shoulder is sore from all this work in the basement.

to require something

- 4 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the passage.

I'll use less flour today and hope for the best.

Which definition fits the word flour in the sentence?

- (A) a plant
- (B) to open
- (C) a baking ingredient
- (D) to show one's talents

Part B: Which word is a homophone for the word flour?

- (A) flier
- (B) floor
- (C) flower
- (D) four

- 5 Read the sentences from the passage.

"I don't want to break the cranberry connection," she said. "I have to be ready to teach my own kids how to make that bread!"

How do the sentences support the theme of the passage?

- (A) by showing how much Anna enjoys baking
- (B) by showing how much Anna likes cranberry bread
- (C) by showing how Anna needs to learn patience just like her grandmother
- (D) by showing how Anna understands that baking cranberry bread is a tradition

Read the passage “Mysterious Neighbors” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Mysterious Neighbors

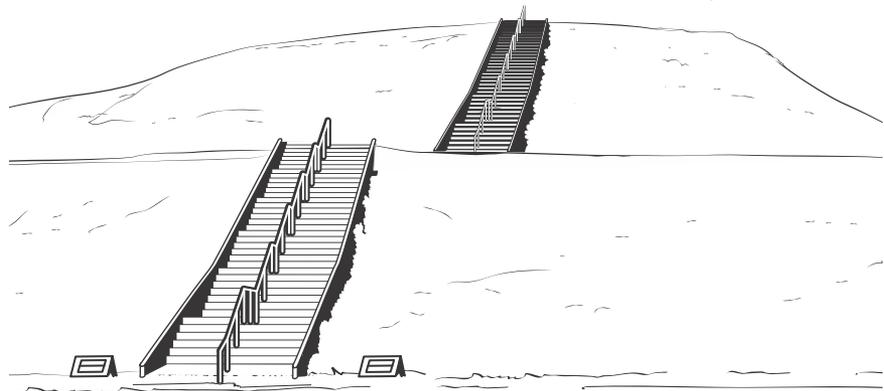
“How can something that old be right here in Illinois?” Rob asked himself. He had been using the Internet to research lost civilizations for a history project. Rob had found some interesting places around the world, and then he found a place called Cahokia.

After a quick search, Rob was amazed to find that Cahokia was a lost civilization about two hours from his home! Between 20,000 to 40,000 people once lived there and built 120 mounds, yet researchers disagree about exactly how many people lived there and the purpose of the mounds. Why don’t they know? The Cahokia people disappeared and left behind no written records.

Rob read that long ago Cahokia covered 4,000 acres and was the largest city north of Mexico. Living there were farmers, hunters, craftsmen, traders, and priests. He already knew that researchers vary in their conclusions about Cahokia, but most of them think that the city was settled before the year 1000. What really surprised Rob was that everyone abandoned the city about 300 years later, about 100 years before Columbus or any other Europeans arrived in North America.

“Why would people build a big city and then abandon it?” Rob wondered. He was excited to tell his parents about what he had learned. They had heard about

Cahokia but hadn’t been there, and before Rob could even ask, his mom suggested that they go there the following weekend.



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On Saturday morning, they stopped at the Visitor Center. A model of the ancient city showed the mounds and hundreds of homes, some with their own gardens. Next, Rob wanted to explore the huge Monks Mound, which was ten stories high. He had read that this mound was bigger at its base than the largest pyramid in Egypt. Rob wondered how many trips it took to haul enough dirt to make a mound that big.

The family climbed 156 steps to the top of the mound, which seemed to soar into the sky. From there, they looked out over an enormous flat, grassy area and the other mounds. The view was astounding. It was more amazing than Rob had expected.

“I can see parts of a wooden wall around the city,” Rob said. “Maybe the people who lived here were attacked and killed by their enemies.”

“Maybe,” his mom agreed as she checked the booklet from the Visitor Center. “The ruler of Cahokia probably lived right here on this mound.”

“But no one knows for sure that this ruler existed,” Rob said, “and no one knows what role he had. Why didn’t the Cahokia people leave behind any records?”

“They didn’t forget to write down their history, Rob,” his dad explained. “Long ago, many groups didn’t have a written language, so they couldn’t record their history. Instead, parents told stories to their children, and the children told the same stories to their own kids. That’s how they tried to preserve their history, yet those stories are lost now.”

“That’s too bad,” Rob said, “because I’d really like to know more about the people who lived here. After all, they were our neighbors!”

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “Mysterious Neighbors.”

- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which sentence **best** describes the message in this passage?

- (A) History is very exciting.
- (B) Some things cannot be explained.
- (C) You can find amazing facts on the Web.
- (D) Some stories from history may be lost to us.

Part B: Which detail from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A) Rob and his family go to visit Cahokia.
- (B) Rob wishes he knew more about Cahokia.
- (C) Rob researches lost civilizations on the Internet.
- (D) Rob gets to see what an ancient city might have looked like.

- 7 Read the sentence from the passage.

Rob read that long ago Cahokia covered 4,000 acres and was the largest city north of Mexico.

Which word from the sentence is a homophone for a word that means “a type of color”?

- (A) read
- (B) long
- (C) acres
- (D) city

8 Which sentences explain why Rob **most likely** wants to visit Cahokia? Pick **two** choices.

- A He wants to tell his friends about it.
- B He is interested in the city's history.
- C He wants to see where the ruler lived.
- D He wants to see what the city looked like.
- E He is interested in spending time with family.
- F He is interested in having a class trip to see it.

9 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the passage.

Rob wondered how many trips it took to haul enough dirt to make a mound that big.

Which definition fits the word haul in the sentence?

- A a passage from one place to another
- B a large room for events
- C to carry something
- D to find something

Part B: Which word is a homophone for the word haul?

- A hail
- B hall
- C heal
- D howl

10 Read the sentence.

Information that is not recorded may be lost forever.

Circle the paragraph that **best** supports the theme of the passage stated in the sentence above.

The family climbed 156 steps to the top of the mound, which seemed to soar into the sky. From there, they looked out over an enormous flat, grassy area and the other mounds. The view was astounding. It was more amazing than Rob had expected.

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