



Bridgeport Public  
Schools  
Summer Reading  
Packet

2016

Directions: Read each passage using your close reading strategies. You may need to read it more than once. Then answer the matching question completely. Check for good grammar and spelling.

Grade 2  
going  
into 3

ON YOUR MARK, GET  
SET...READ!!!



## **A Hero In Disguise**

A young woman wearing a big hat walked down the road carrying chickens. When she recognized a man coming toward her, she pulled a string tied to one chicken's leg. The chickens started squawking. Because of the noise, the man avoided her.

The woman was named Harriet Tubman. She was wearing a disguise. In fact, Harriet was an African American woman who was an escaped slave. The man who avoided her was a slaveholder who had once owned her. If he had recognized her, he would have tried to capture her again.

Two hundred years ago, many African Americans were held as slaves. Most slaves were in the southern United States. Tubman helped the slaves escape to the North and on to Canada. Many other people also helped. They hid escaping slaves in houses and churches along the way. The group of people who worked to help slaves escape by using different places and secret routes was known as the Underground Railroad.

Facing danger, Harriet Tubman showed courage every day. Slaveholders knew who she was, and the police wanted to arrest her, but she kept on helping slaves to escape. Today, Harriet Tubman is remembered as a brave leader who made the world a better place.

**1. Read these sentences from the text.**

"Tubman helped the slaves escape to the North and on to Canada. Many other people also helped. They hid escaping slaves in houses and churches along the way. The group of people who worked to help slaves escape by using different places and secret routes was known as the Underground Railroad."

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Without Harriet Tubman, no slaves would have escaped.**
- B. The Underground Railroad helped slaves get to the North safely.**
- C. Harriet Tubman was braver than other escaped slaves.**

2. Read these sentences from the text.

"Facing danger, Harriet Tubman showed **courage** every day.

Slaveholders knew who she was, and the police wanted to arrest her, but she kept on helping slaves to escape. Today, Harriet Tubman is remembered as a brave leader who made the world a better place."

What does the word "courage" mean in these sentences?

A. bravery

B. fear

C. intelligence

3. How did Harriet Tubman help slaves? Use details from the passage to support your answer?

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## U.S. Looking at Hoverboards to Make Sure They are Safe

By Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,



You might have seen them. These people ride on streets and sidewalks. They look like they are floating. They are hoverboard riders. Hoverboards are a new way of getting around. They are like skateboards that run on batteries. Riders stop and start them with their feet. Unlike skateboarders, who ride sideways, hoverboard riders face ahead.

This year, hoverboards were more popular than ever. Many people in the United States have bought them. Many got them as presents for Christmas. Some people think that hoverboards are unsafe.

### **Danger from Fires, Injury**

Some hoverboards have suddenly caught on fire. People are not sure why. The fires might have to do with the hoverboards' batteries.

Also, many riders have been hurt by falling off. Hoverboards are designed to be easy to stand on. They do not always work right. Sometimes, hoverboards move when they are not supposed to. This can make riders fall.

Part of the problem is that hoverboards are so new. There are not rules yet about how to make them safe.

### **Stores Stop Sales for Safety**

Because of this, some stores have stopped selling hoverboards. There are also places that hoverboards are not allowed. For example, most airplanes do not allow them.

The Panthers are a football team in North Carolina. The team has told players to stop using hoverboards. The coach, Ron Rivera, explained why. "Did you see those things on YouTube blowing up?" he said. "You've got to be careful."

### **Questions**

#### **1. What is the MAIN idea of the article?**

- A. hoverboards are popular in the United States
- B. where people should ride hoverboards
- C. how to ride hoverboards
- D. hoverboards might be unsafe

#### **2. Read the first paragraph of the article.**

You may have seen them. These people ride on streets and sidewalks. They look like they are floating.

#### **Why did the author begin the article with this paragraph?**

- A. to show what it is like to ride a hoverboard
- B. to tell a story about hoverboard riding
- C. to show that anyone can ride a hoverboard
- D. to show that hoverboards can be used outside

#### **3. What is the article organized around?**

- A. a place
- B. a person
- C. a problem
- D. a present

# **African American Newsmakers**

Meet some African Americans who inspire others.

## **Wynton Marsalis**

Jazz legend Wynton Marsalis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1961. He started playing the trumpet when he was a child. Over the years, he has won many awards for his music. In 2005, Marsalis organized a concert to help the people of his hometown who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. The concert raised more than \$2 million!

## **Bryan Collier**

Artist Bryan Collier uses pictures to bring history to life. His artwork can be seen in *Rosa*, a children's book published in 2007 that tells the story of Rosa Parks. Collier also illustrated *Martin's Big Words*, about Martin Luther King Jr., and *Visiting Langston*, about poet Langston Hughes.

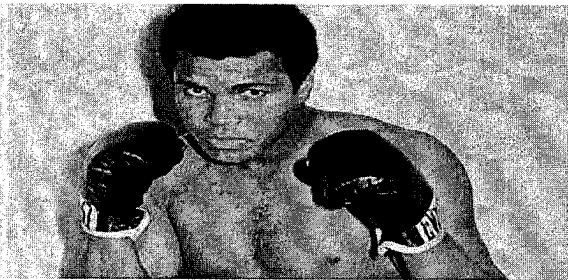


## **Condoleezza Rice**

Condoleezza Rice was the U.S. secretary of state. She is the first African American woman to hold that job. Rice gave President George W. Bush advice on working with other countries. She also worked with world leaders on important issues. "[The job is on] a 24-hour schedule, because while we're asleep, the rest of the world is awake," Rice told *Weekly Reader*.

## **Oprah Winfrey**

Oprah Winfrey is the first woman to own and produce her own television talk show. She uses her star power to help others. She recently received an award in honor of the work she does with her talk show and charity. Her charity helps children and families around the world. In 2011, Oprah started her own television network, OWN.



## **Muhammad Ali**

Boxing champion Muhammad Ali received 2005's Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is the highest award the government can give a person not in the military. President Bush praised Ali for his sports successes and goodwill toward others. Ali travels more than 100 days a year to help charities around the world.

**1. Wynton Marsalis organized a concert to help hurricane victims. This shows that he is**

- A. a good musician.
- B. a giving person.
- C. rich.
- D. smart.

**2. Condoleezza Rice advised the president. This shows that she is**

- A. knowledgeable.
- B. friendly.
- C. beautiful.
- D. athletic

**3. The author writes, "[Oprah] uses her star power to help others". What does that mean?**

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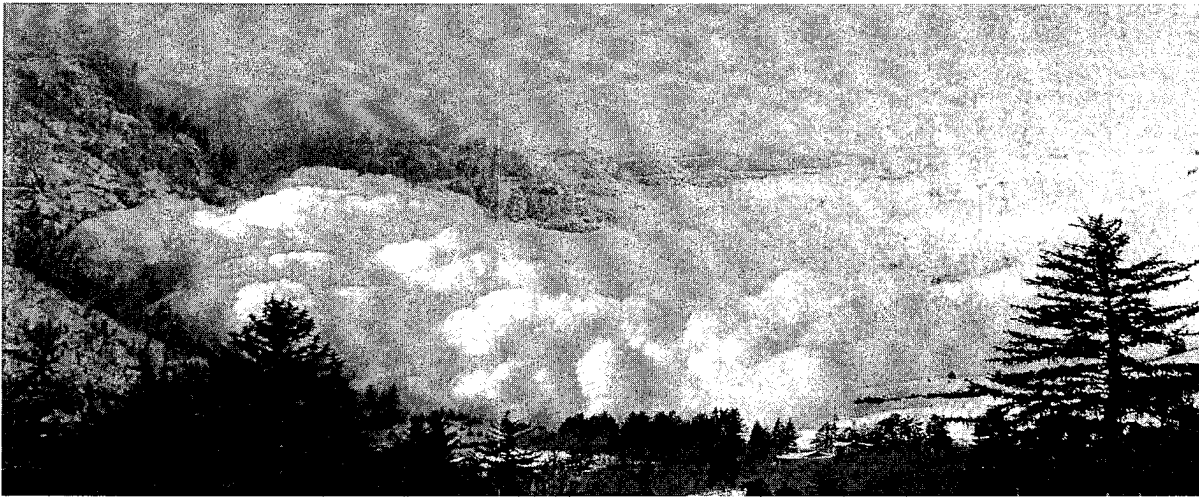
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# Avalanche!

By: Rachelle Kreisman



Have you ever heard of an avalanche? Avalanches are sudden natural events where large amounts of snow and ice slide down a mountain. As they slide, the snow and ice get faster. In fact, snow from an avalanche can move as fast as two hundred miles per hour. That is three times faster than a car on a highway!

Most avalanches happen after big storms. New snow puts added pressure on snow already on the mountain. That added pressure can make the old snow break loose and start sliding.

Avalanches can be dangerous. Heavy snow moving down a mountain may pull other things along, such as trees and rocks. A powerful avalanche can damage everything in its path.

Many people like to ski and snowboard. They want to have fun on mountains. They also want to stay safe. Experts can usually tell when an avalanche might happen. The experts can warn people of the risk. The risk may be low or high. People have to pay attention to warnings to be safe.

## Questions

**1. Read this sentence from the article. "Avalanches can be dangerous."**

**What evidence in the article supports this statement?**

A "Experts can usually tell when an avalanche might happen."

B "A powerful avalanche can damage everything in its path."

C "New snow puts added pressure on snow already on the mountain."

**2. Read this sentence from the article. "People have to pay attention to warnings to be safe."**

**How might paying attention to warnings keep people safe from avalanches?**

- A.** If people pay attention to warnings, they will understand how avalanches can move three times faster than cars on the highway.
- B.** If people pay attention to warnings, they will have even more fun when they ski and snowboard.
- C.** If people pay attention to warnings, they will know when avalanches are likely to happen and can stay off the mountains at that time.

**3. Would an avalanche be more dangerous near the top of a mountain or the bottom?  
Support your answer with evidence from the text.**

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Read the article about a symbol of freedom. Then answer the questions that follow.

**from “Our Most Famous Immigrant” by Nancy Whitelaw,**

1. America’s most famous immigrant arrived here in 1885. She was packed in 214 boxes. She was about 10 years old then. America had been waiting nine years for her. She was the Statue of Liberty. Her story begins long ago in France.



2. It is April 1876. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, has a problem. He has been commissioned to complete a statue as a gift from France to America for America’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

3. “July forth, July forth he,” he mutters over and over. “It can be done.”

4. Plaster dust swirls through the air around the partly finished statue. Gobs of wet plaster fall in heaps on the floor below it. Workman climb up and down the scaffolds, hauling pails of materials and tools.
5. The noise is deafening. Men are shouting directions. Saws are rasping at ragged edges. Mallets are clanging copper sheets into molds. Hammers are nailing wood strips together.
6. An idea come to Bartholdi. “I’ll finish the arm and torch. I’ll send them in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July so the Americans can at least imagine the whole statue.” This is no small present. The hand alone is 16 feet high.
7. When the arm and torch are finally completed, Bartholdi has them shipped to the Philadelphia World’s Fair. The Americans are amazed and delighted. The sculptor feels some relief that his art is appreciated. He still has a great deal of work to do to finish building the world’s largest statue.
8. Finally, in 1884, she stands tall and proud. She looks over the rooftops of Paris, France. She stays there until January 1885, while the Americans build a pedestal for her. Then, Bartholdi orders his crew to dismantle the statue and pack her into boxes.
9. Two hundred fourteen boxes arrive at Bedloe’s Island in New York Harbor June 17, 1885. A reporter opens some of the boxes. “I found one case that he had just the eyebrow and forehead,” he writes. “Another contained the left ear and some pieces of hair. One box that was eight feet long held one of her curls.” Workmen in America assemble the statue- all 216 feet of her- on an 89 foot tall pedestal.
10. On October 18, 1886, crowds of cheering spectators gather at the shore to watch the unveiling. The 300 boats in the harbor clear a path for the statue for President Glover Cleveland and his party. Bartholdi, positioned high in the torch of the statue, pulls the cord to unveil the face of the statue called *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Thousands cheer, wave banners, blow whistles, sound sirens, beat drums, and ring bells.

1. With which statement would the author of this article most likely agree?

- A. The Statue of Liberty has a fun and interesting history.
- B. The Statue of Liberty took 100 years to finish.
- C. The Statue of Liberty should have been much taller.
- D. The Statue of Liberty cost too much money to make.

2. Read these sentences from paragraph 10 of the article.

Bartholdi, positioned high in the torch of the statue, pulls the cord to unveil the face of the statue called *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Thousands cheer, wave banners, blow whistles, sound sirens, beat drums, and ring bells.

Which word **best** describes the author's point of view on the 1886 unveiling of the Statue of Liberty?

- A. Disappointed
- B. Confused
- C. Upset
- D. Excited

3. An **immigrant** is a person who comes to a country to live there. In paragraph 1, the author calls the Statue of Liberty "America's most famous immigrant." Explain whether or not you agree. Compare your opinion with Nancy Whitelaw's point of view. Use at least two details from the article to support your response.

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