

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 1 through 6.

Fabulous Fathers

by Monica A. Harris

- 1 Fathers come in all shapes and sizes. In the animal kingdom, fathers have some fascinating (and strange!) ways of helping their young. Some animal dads protect their babies. Some provide food. Some teach survival skills.

survival skills = skills needed to stay alive

- 2 Whatever their talents, the following fathers are fabulous!

Suck Them Up and Spit Them Out

- 3 Most fish do not live in family groups, but in the Red Devil Cichlid families of Central America, fathers help take care of their young. If a little one swims too far away, it's his dad's job to put him back into place. He gently grasps the wandering fish in his mouth and—aaapooey! He spits the young wanderer back with his brothers and sisters.

Excuse Me, I've Got a Frog in my Throat

- 4 If you were a Darwin's frog father with 20 or 30 babies to protect, where would you keep them? In your throat, of course! This South American dad picks up the young ones with his tongue and slides them through slits in his vocal sacs. As the babies grow, they push on Dad's throat and prevent him from croaking. Finally, when the babies are big enough, they crawl out of Dad's throat and hop away. (In case you were wondering, there are times when Dad accidentally swallows one. Oops!)

Piggyback Nursery

- 5 Where does the mother giant water bug lay her eggs? On the father's back! She attaches the eggs with a sticky material called an egg pad. When

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she's done, the father swims away and does all the caregiving. He visits the water's surface so the eggs can get air and uses his hind feet to clean the eggs. Once the babies are on their own, the father rubs off the sticky egg pad.

Cold Feet, Big Heart

- 6 In the chilly Antarctic, a mother Emperor penguin lays an egg. She must find a warm place for it before it freezes. Dad to the rescue! The pair works carefully to roll the egg to the top of his feet. He covers it with a flap of thick belly skin. The mother penguin then leaves for 2 months. She travels to open hunting waters that are over 50 miles away. In the meantime, the father keeps the egg on his feet. He doesn't eat. He doesn't drink. He just huddles together with the other fathers to keep their eggs warm. When the egg hatches, the chick stays cozy in the same place—on Dad's feet, under a layer of skin. Soon after, the mother returns and takes over while Dad goes hunting.

Sly Teacher

- 7 For the red fox, raising babies is a team effort. The mother stays in the den to keep the young, called kits, warm. The father brings the mother food every 4 to 6 hours until the kits are old enough to roam outside. To teach them how to find their own food, the father red fox buries extra meat near the den and hides it with twigs.

MORE FABULOUS FATHERS

Animal	Father's Unusual Actions
Seahorse	Carries the eggs in his pouch and gives birth
Great Horned Owl	Feeds himself, 2 to 3 babies, and the mother owl, who is much bigger than he is
Rhea (a large bird)	Builds the nest, hatches the eggs, and also cares for the young
Jacana (a small bird)	Protects the nest, even sometimes from the mother jacana

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1

Read these sentences from paragraph 1.

Fathers come in all shapes and sizes. In the animal kingdom, fathers have some fascinating (and strange!) ways of helping their young.

How does the author support the information in these sentences?

- A** by explaining that large and small father animals exist in the wild
- B** by explaining that father animals can appear unusual
- C** by showing that father animals know their babies change shape as they grow
- D** by showing that father animals use different ways to care for their babies

2

Which statement supports a main idea found in both paragraph 4 and paragraph 6?

- A** Father animals need help from the mother when they want to eat.
- B** Father animals have many ways to provide food for their babies.
- C** Father animals use their bodies to protect their babies from harm.
- D** Father animals know that keeping the eggs warm is important.

3

What does the word “flap” mean as it is used in paragraph 6?

- A** box closing
- B** piece of fabric
- C** loose covering
- D** part of a book

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4

According to the information in paragraph 7, which statement **best** explains something special the father red fox does for his kits?

- A** He watches the kits as they learn to dig for food.
- B** He stays in the den to make sure the kits are warm.
- C** He hunts for food and then covers it so the kits have to find it.
- D** He comes back to the den every few hours to check on the kits.

5

How does the table support the information in the article?

- A** It compares father and mother animals.
- B** It shows the number of babies a father animal cares for.
- C** It gives more information about the sizes of father birds.
- D** It gives more examples of how animal fathers take care of babies.

6

Which statement **best** summarizes the main idea of the article?

- A** Frog fathers sometimes care for a large number of babies.
- B** Animal fathers have unusual ways of helping their young.
- C** Animal fathers sometimes care for their young in groups.
- D** Fox fathers need many skills to keep their kits healthy.

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Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 19 through 24.

Sharing My Story

by Robert San Souci

- 1 I always knew that I wanted to be a writer. Before I learned to write, I listened carefully to stories read to me, then I retold them to my friends. But I left out things I didn't like, and added my own ideas. (I also added plenty of monsters to make things more interesting.) By the time I was done changing things, my stories didn't always make sense. But they were exciting—and my friends enjoyed them. I still do this today: I retell folktales or myths or legends in new, exciting (I hope!), but sensible ways.
- 2 When I learned how to write, I decided that I wanted to be a writer more than anything else. The first “books” I wrote were little Christmas or birthday stories for my family and friends. They were written on sheets of lined paper that I stapled together. This was before we had computers, so I had to write my stories over and over to make extra copies.
- 3 I liked my stories to have pictures, but I wasn't good at drawing. Happily, my brother Daniel loved to draw. So he did pictures for my “books.” Now he is a full-time book illustrator. We have published nine books together over the years.
- 4 When I was in second grade, I wrote a story about a magician called “The Great Yami Yogurt,” who used the magic word “Yazam!” All his magic went wrong. He'd try to make flowers, but they'd turn into monsters. With my mother's help, I sent the story to an editor at Random House, because I thought my story was funny and good enough to make into a book.

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- 5 The editor at Random House didn't buy my story. But she wrote in a letter, "Keep trying, and one day you will be published." That was the best advice I could have gotten. Now I tell young writers, "Keep trying. If you work hard and make your writing the best you can, you'll be published too."
- 6 I had my first story printed in a newspaper when I was in third grade. It was in the "Kids' Corner" of the Oakland Tribune in California, where I live. My story was about knights and dragons. Suddenly, I was a published writer! But I was in college before I had my first real book published. I wrote three stories for which my brother painted or drew pictures. No editor liked these. But on our fourth try, an editor finally said, "Yes." Our first book, *The Legend of Scarface: A Blackfeet Indian Tale*, was published a year later—my childhood dream come true!
- 7 However long it takes, there are great rewards. I still get a thrill when I hold the first copy of a new book of mine, or read one of my stories in a magazine or newspaper. My writing has led to many wonderful moments. When I first saw the movie *Mulan*, the best moment came at the end, when the words appeared on the screen, "Based on a story by Robert D. San Souci."
- 8 I never met the editor who told me to keep writing, but she was a friend to me. She knew I was serious, and she took the time to encourage me. And, because you are reading this article, I know you are serious about your writing. So now it's my turn to encourage you. It may be a short journey or a long one to becoming a published writer. But, believe me, it's worth the effort!

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19

In paragraph 4 of the article, what is the **most likely** reason the author sends his work to an editor at Random House?

- A** The author likes the illustrations in the story.
- B** His second grade teacher suggests that he send the story to the editor.
- C** The author thinks his story is one that people would like to read.
- D** His mother helps him send the story to the editor.

20

Read these sentences from paragraph 5.

Now I tell young writers, “Keep trying. If you work hard and make your writing the best you can, you’ll be published too.”

The author **best** supports these sentences by including

- A** information about how he wrote stories for family members
- B** the point about how the book he wrote in second grade was turned down
- C** a story about why his brother draws for his books
- D** the fact that he and his brother sent out four books before one was accepted

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21

Read this sentence from paragraph 6.

Suddenly, I was a published writer!

What does “published writer” mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A** someone who has original ideas when writing
- B** someone who has written work printed to share with the public
- C** someone who likes to retell written works by changing the events
- D** someone who writes stories to give away as gifts

22

How is the information in paragraph 6 organized?

- A** Details are presented in the order they happened.
- B** An effect and its cause are mentioned.
- C** Different events are compared and contrasted.
- D** A problem and its solution are presented.

23

The purpose of the information in paragraph 7 is to show that

- A** the author continues to enjoy seeing his work in print and on the screen
- B** the author’s favorite part of a movie is what happens at the end
- C** the author wants his writing to be in magazines and newspapers
- D** the author’s work is very good when his name appears on the screen

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24

Which sentence from the article **best** supports the main idea of “Sharing My Story”?

- A** “The editor at Random House didn’t buy my story.” (paragraph 5)
- B** “I had my first story printed in a newspaper when I was in third grade.” (paragraph 6)
- C** “However long it takes, there are great rewards.” (paragraph 7)
- D** “I never met the editor who told me to keep writing, but she was a friend to me.” (paragraph 8)

STOP

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 25 through 27.

Human Homes that Master the Weather

by Margaret Macalister Slepckow

- 1 From hot, dry deserts to windy, freezing steppes, the earth has extreme climates. People who live in these harsh climates must adapt to them. Some need shelters that keep them warm in cold temperatures. Others need homes that protect them from the heat. Many homes use the natural environment to help them feel comfortable.

Deep in the earth

- 2 The village of Matmata, Tunisia, lies on the edge of the Sahara Desert. On a summer day, the sun bakes the land to 110 degrees F or more. But nighttime temperatures may be as low as 40 degrees F. Moisture in the air holds heat. Temperatures in Matmata drop because the dry desert air cannot hold heat.
- 3 To escape the burning sun and the nighttime chill, people in Matmata live in underground caves. Villagers dig large holes 20 feet into the ground. Ramps or staircases lead down to these holes. The holes serve as courtyards for attached underground rooms. Tunnels connect the rooms. People even carve their furniture from the rock walls.
- 4 The underground caves stay a constant temperature. The sandstone walls absorb the sun's heat. These thick walls stay warm throughout the night. By morning they have cooled off. They remain cool during the day while they slowly absorb heat from the sun. At dusk, the cycle begins again.

GO ON

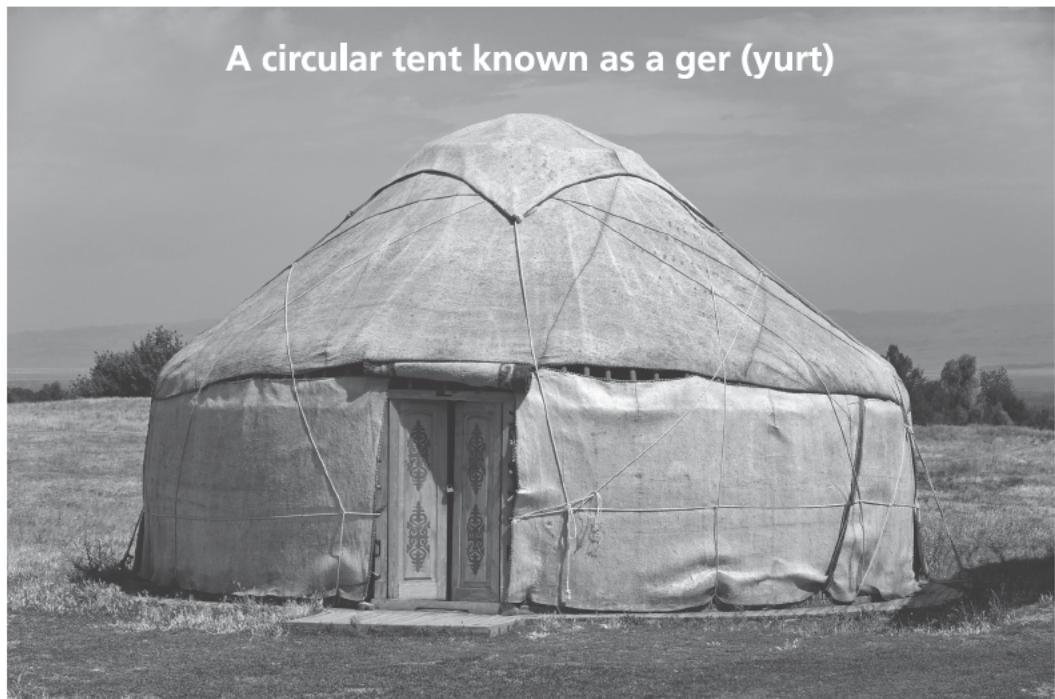
A water village

- 5 In the Southeast Asian country of Brunei, people must adapt to a tropical climate. Located along the equator, Brunei is hot and humid. Temperatures range from 75 degrees F to 90 degrees F. It rains often, and the air is sticky.
- 6 The South China Sea borders Brunei on the north. Strong ocean winds fan Brunei's coast. These winds travel up the Brunei River. The cool air they deliver brings some relief from the tropical climate. The village of Kampong Ayer makes good use of these breezes. The homes in this "water village" stand on stilts several feet above the water. The sea breezes act as fans, circulating air through open windows.
- 7 Many families in Kampong Ayer also use ceiling fans to keep cool. Yet the river still plays a vital role in helping villagers adapt to the heat. People swim in the cool shade beneath the houses. Children in Kampong Ayer learn to swim before they learn to walk.

Circular homes

- 8 More than 5,000 miles north of Brunei are the steppe lands of central Asia. The steppes are large, dry grasslands. These grasslands are home to nomads and their herds of sheep and goats. In the summer, nomads graze their herds in cool mountain pastures. In the winter, they move them to warmer valleys. Because they migrate often, nomads need homes that are easy to move. These homes must also protect them from winter temperatures of minus 50 degrees F.

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A circular tent known as a ger (yurt)

- 9 Nomads in the steppes live in circular tents called gers (yurts). Gers are wooden frames covered with felt. Their shape helps to deflect the steppe's icy winds. The felt covering repels snow and rain. It also holds in the heat given off by stoves inside the ger. A hole in the roof lets light in and lets smoke escape.

deflect = to move out of the way

repel = to push back

- 10 These amazing dwellings are examples of how people master the weather. Whether it's hot or cold outside, these homes are comfortable shelters from harsh climates. Which ones would you like to visit?

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25

According to paragraphs 2 through 4 of the article “Human Homes that Master the Weather,” how does the sun affect the way people live in Matmata, Tunisia? Use **two** details from the article to support your response.

GO ON

26

Read this sentence from paragraph 6 of “Human Homes that Master the Weather.”

The homes in this “water village” stand on stilts several feet above the water.

How does this detail support the main idea of paragraphs 5 through 7? Use **two** details from the article to support your response.

GO ON

27

What does the word “migrate” mean as it is used in paragraph 8 of the article? Use **two** details from the article to support your response.

GO ON

Directions

Read this story. Then answer question 28.

The Fox and the Crow

by Aesop

1 One bright morning as the Fox was following his sharp nose through the wood in search of a bite to eat, he saw a Crow on the limb of a tree overhead. This was by no means the first Crow the Fox had ever seen. What caught his attention this time and made him stop for a second look, was that the lucky Crow held a bit of cheese in her beak.

2 “No need to search any farther,” thought sly Master Fox. “Here is a dainty bite for my breakfast.”

dainty = small but good

3 Up he trotted to the foot of the tree in which the Crow was sitting, and looking up admiringly, he cried, “Good-morning, beautiful creature!”

4 The Crow, her head cocked on one side, watched the Fox suspiciously. But she kept her beak tightly closed on the cheese and did not return his greeting.

cocked = turned sideways

5 “What a charming creature she is!” said the Fox. “How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds.”

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- 6 Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion, and also her breakfast. She wanted very much to be called Queen of Birds. So she opened her beak wide to utter her loudest caw, and down fell the cheese straight into the Fox's open mouth.
- 7 “Thank you,” said Master Fox sweetly, as he walked off. “Though it is cracked, you have a voice sure enough. But where are your wits?”

GO ON

28

How does the information in paragraph 1 of “The Fox and the Crow” help the reader’s understanding of the rest of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

GO ON

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 29 through 31.

The Otters and the Fox

by Joseph Gaer

- 1 Two otters were fishing one day and had the good fortune to catch a huge pike, three feet long and almost as heavy as they were. The pike put up a great fight and both otters were completely exhausted by the time they landed their fish.
- 2 When the pike was safely grounded, the two friends began to quarrel about how to divide their catch. They could not agree on who should get the head and who should get the tail, and to whom belonged the greater share.
- 3 Along came a fox and stopped to listen to their dispute. The two otters turned to him.
- 4 “We caught this pike together,” they explained. “But we cannot agree on how to divide him between us. Will you help us make a fair division?”
- 5 The fox said gravely: “I have judged many cases like this, and I am known far and wide for my skill and fairness in such matters.”
- 6 The fox cut the pike in three parts, and asked: “Who saw the pike first?”
- 7 “I did,” said one otter.
- 8 “Then to you belongs the head,” said the fox, and gave him the head.
- 9 He asked again: “Who helped secure the fish on the ground?”
- 10 “I did,” said the second otter.
- 11 “Then to you justly belongs the tail,” said the fox, and gave him the fishtail.

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- 12 “But what of the body of the fish?” asked the otters.
- 13 “That is my share for acting as judge,” said the fox as he ran off with most of the great pike in his mouth.

GO ON

29

What does the fox think about himself in “The Otters and the Fox”? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

GO ON

30

What is a theme of “The Otters and the Fox”? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

GO ON

31

In both “The Fox and the Crow” and “The Otters and the Fox,” one character plays a trick on other characters. Why does one character in each story play a trick on other characters? How are the tricks the characters play alike? How are the tricks the characters play different? Use details from **both** stories to support your response.

In your response, be sure to

- explain why one character in each story plays a trick on other characters
- describe how the tricks the characters play are alike
- describe how the tricks the characters play are different
- use details from **both** stories to support your response

GO ON