***Unit 1***

***Test***

The first time I was in a school play, I felt extremely uneasy. I was scared that I would make a mistake and people would laugh at me. In the weeks before opening night, I spent a lot of time around the house nervously going over my lines. I had a great time rehearsing with the other cast members, but when I got home, the fear set in. I had a hard time concentrating on my homework, and I was so nervous that I could barely eat dinner sometimes.

I didn’t think anyone noticed what was happening, but apparently my brother Jeremy did. Even though we don’t always have much in common, I have to admit that he can be pretty smart sometimes.

One night after dinner, Jeremy saw me in the den staring blankly at my math book. “What are you doing, Emily?” he asked. “It looks like you are sleeping sitting up.”

“I’m studying,” I answered, “so please leave me alone!”

I must have needed to confide in someone, though, because he ended up getting me to tell him what was going on. I told Jeremy the whole story—the play, my nerves, everything.  
  
He said, “I just read an inspiring book about Bessie Coleman, and I think you should read it. She was the first female African-American pilot in the country. She had many incredible problems to overcome. Her family was poor, and she could not go to school full-time. When she was in her early twenties, the only thing Bessie wanted to do was to fly a plane. However, it was extremely difficult for African Americans to become pilots. She worked hard, though, and later became a pilot. I think you should read the book.”

I was curious, so I took the book and read it right then. Jeremy was right. Bessie Coleman was an incredibly interesting person. Even though she wasn’t able to go to school all the time, when she was young, she took books out of the library and studied them on her own. When she was older, she read all she could about flying. She desperately wanted to be a pilot.

Flight schools in America would not take Bessie because she was an African American and a woman, but this did not stop her. She was so determined to go to flight school that she used all her savings from working two jobs, studied French on her own, and left for flight school in 1920. She attended flight school in France, learned to fly, and successfully reached her goal of receiving her pilot’s license. She returned to America and began performing in air shows.

After I read this story, I was so inspired! I knew that if Bessie could overcome that many obstacles to become a pilot, and perform in air shows in front of all those people, I didn’t need to be afraid of acting in a school play!

The opening night of the play turned out to be fun and not scary at all. I felt a few butterflies in my stomach, but I thought of Bessie flying bravely in the sky, and my courage grew.

Many people paid me compliments on my performance, including my brother Jeremy. After he congratulated me, I said these two little words to my big brother: “Thank you.” And I secretly thanked Bessie Coleman too.

Practice fluent reading. Use the record tool to record yourself reading this passage aloud. You will only have one attempt to record yourself.

***The Great Road Race***

**Reporter:**  
A crowd of spectators is gathering here.  
They're ready to watch, and they're eager to cheer,  
For today is the day of a special road race.  
Here come the two runners who'll try for first place.

These two competitors make a strange pair—  
A slow, plodding Tortoise and a fast, frisky Hare.  
In his colorful outfit, Hare is looking the part.  
Wearing only his shell, Tortoise plods toward the start.

**Tortoise:**  
I'll just keep going; it's all I can do.  
I know I am slow, but I'm steady, too.

**Hare:**  
Oh, ho—look at me!  
I'm as fast as can be!  
Today I'm sure to shine,  
Victory will be mine.

**Mouse:**  
I'm rooting for Hare,  
who is flashy and bright.  
I'm betting he'll win,  
and I'm sure I'll be right.

I like Tortoise, too—  
he's a nice enough guy,  
but he can't win the race,  
even though he will try.

**Reporter:**  
With a "ready, set, go!" the race has begun.  
Hare hops off in a flash—just look at him run!  
As everyone knows, Hare is charming and fast,  
But his mind often wanders, so his speed may not last.

Tortoise starts slowly; step-by-step he takes off.  
He's falling behind, so some people may scoff.  
But he sticks to a task, on that you can depend,  
His patience may help him to win in the end.

**Hare:**  
Oh, ho—look at me!  
I'm as fast as can be!  
Today I'm sure to shine,  
Victory will be mine.

For me this race will be over in a snap;  
I'd still win even if I took a nap.  
I can't even see him, he's so far behind.  
I'll stop for a snack—the spectators won't mind.

Mmm, look at those carrots, and look at those peas!  
I'll eat from this garden as long as I please,  
and after I've eaten, I'll lie down to rest.  
When I'm feeling tired, I can't run my best.

**Reporter:**  
Hare has fallen asleep, which may not be smart.  
When you don't pay attention, your plan falls apart.  
And here comes the Tortoise! He's not flashy or fast,  
but he seems unwilling to end this race last.

**Tortoise:**  
Oh, me, oh, my, I've traveled a mile,  
and I see that Hare has paused for a while.  
I'll just keep going; it's all I can do.  
I know I'm slow, but I'm steady, too.

**Hare:**  
I've enjoyed a nice rest,  
but I'd better get going.  
Tortoise might have gone by  
without my knowing.

Oh, ho—look at me!  
I'm as fast as can be!  
Today I'm sure to shine,  
Victory will be mine.

**Reporter:**  
Now the great road race is nearing its end.  
Here comes the Hare, speeding 'round the bend,  
but Tortoise has just stepped over the line—  
he got there first! It's his turn to shine!

**Mouse:**  
Wow! Look at Tortoise!  
His chances seemed zero,  
but he's won the race,  
so now he's my hero!

**Reporter:**  
Well, that's it, folks; the race is done.  
Hare was favored, but Tortoise won.  
Fast and flashy is not always the way;  
Sometimes slow and steady wins the day.

Pick **two** words from the passage that have **almost** the same meaning as *plodding*. Drag and drop the **two** words into the box.

steady added to

* **fast**
  + **slow**
* **charming**
  + **steady**
* **frisky**

* **unwilling**

* **bright**
* **plodding**
* Read these lines from the passage.
* For me this race will be over in a snap;  
  I’d still win even if I took a nap.  
  I can't even see him, he's so far behind.  
  I’ll stop for a snack—the spectators won’t mind.
* Choose an answer from each drop down menu to correctly complete the sentences.
* The poet’s use of the phrase “over in a snap” helps the reader understand that Hare feels that           .  
  The poet supports this by including the line             in the passage.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Read this stanza from the passage.

**Mouse:**  
I'm rooting for Hare,  
who is flashy and bright.  
I'm betting he'll win,  
and I'm sure I'll be right.

What does the word *rooting* mean as it is used in the passage?

****A.checking

****B. cheering

****C.waiting

****D.watching

**Part B**

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

****A.“. . . betting he’ll win . . .”

****B.“. . . sure I’ll be right . . .”

****C.“. . . nice enough guy . . .”

****D.“. . . he will try . . .”

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

In line 41, what does the author’s use of the phrase *over in a snap* help the reader understand about Hare?

****A. Hare feels that the race will be fun.

****B.Hare feels that the race will be loud.

****C. Hare feels that the race will be quick.

****D.Hare feels that the race will be tiring.

**Part B**

Which detail from the play provides a clue to the meaning of the phrase *over in a snap*?

****A.“I’m as fast as can be!” (line 38)

****B.“Victory will be mine.” (line 40)

****C. “I’d still win even if I took a nap.” (line 42)

****D.“I’ll stop for a snack—the spectators won’t mind.” (line 44)

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which character in the play speaks using the third-person point of view?

****A.Hare

****B.Mouse

****C. Reporter

****D.Tortoise

**Part B**

Which line from the play supports the answer to Part A?

****A.“They’re ready to watch, and they’re eager to cheer, . . .” (line 3)

****B.“I’ll just keep going; it’s all I can do.” (line 11)

****C.“Oh, ho—look at me!” (line 14)

****D.“I’m betting he’ll win, . . .” (line 21)

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

### Part A

Which sentence **best** tells the theme of the passage?

****A.Winners do not stop trying.

****B. It is important to learn from mistakes.

****C. Do not put all your eggs in one basket.

****D. It is foolish to bite off more than you can chew.

### Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

****A.“I’ll just keep going; it’s all I can do.”

****B. “I’d still win even if I took a nap.”

****C. “I’ll eat from this garden as long as I please . . .”

****D. “Oh, me, oh, my, I’ve traveled a mile . . .”

***No Escape from Sherlock Holmes***

As 1893 drew to a close, the author admitted he had finally had enough. He was weary of writing about the same characters over and over again. He was tired of meeting deadlines. Since he had invented his characters, he knew he could also bring them to a dramatic end whenever he wanted. With the touch of his pen, Arthur Conan Doyle decided to write his last story about the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes.

#### **The End of Sherlock**

In the story “The Final Problem,” Sherlock Holmes figured out the last clue, solved the last mystery, and fought his old enemy, Professor Moriarty, for the last time. This time, however, the clever man did not win. Instead he fell over the side of a Swiss waterfall with his enemy. At last, Holmes was gone. Doyle could get back to the style of writing he liked more, historical fiction.

While Doyle may have been delighted to move on, his fans were anything but happy. In fact, they were furious! For years, mysteries about Sherlock Holmes and his faithful sidekick, Dr. John Watson, had been printed in England’s The Strand Magazine. Each issue contained another story. Readers loved discovering the new adventures of Holmes and Watson each month. Thousands of people subscribed to the magazine to read the newest Sherlock adventure as soon as possible. In 1890, the second Sherlock novel penned by Doyle, The Sign of the Four, thrilled readers. Story after story followed with a new adventure every few months. By 1893, everyone was talking about Holmes and Watson. Libraries lost track of the number of readers coming to get copies of the detective tales. Printing presses struggled to keep up with the demand.

#### **Against the Tide of Public Opinion**

Abruptly, the public’s favorite crime-fighting duo was gone. Angry readers stood outside the offices of The Strand in protest. Some wore black arm bands as a symbol of their sadness. Others wrote letters to Doyle pleading with him to bring Sherlock back. Hundreds of people cancelled their subscriptions to The Strand. The public outcry came to be known as “the dreadful event.”

The protest by Doyle’s fans was not enough to get him to change his mind. He was firm about leaving Holmes and Watson behind. He was determined to focus his writing on historical events. He wanted to be thought of as a serious writer, not a popular one. Doyle was stubborn, and he did not give in when his friends, and even his mother, begged him to return to the tales of Sherlock Holmes.

#### **Triumphant Return**

Finally, however, in 1902, an American publisher made Doyle an offer he could not refuse. He offered the author $5,000 to bring back the beloved detective for one single story. That was an incredible amount of money at the time (it would be worth approximately $135,000 today). Doyle could not resist such a remarkable offer. He wrote the novel The Hound of the Baskervilles. He kept writing, too. By the time he finally finished writing about Sherlock Holmes, he had written 56 stories and four novels about Holmes and Watson.

Doyle passed away in 1930. Even at the end, he still was not pleased with his fame as the inventor of one of literature’s most well-known detectives. Many people have wondered what the author would have thought if he had known how he would be viewed over time. Over a century later, his characters and their incredible mystery-solving skills are still popular. In fact, they have been featured in countless short stories, novels, movies, and even television shows. Perhaps he would have been pleased that instead of simply writing about history, his imagination and talent ended up becoming a part of literary history.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

### Part A

 Which is **most likely** the reason that Arthur Conan Doyle stopped writing about Sherlock Holmes?

****A. Doyle was hoping to write less frequently.

****B. Doyle wanted to write about other detectives.

****C. Doyle wanted to write a different type of fiction.

****D. Doyle was unhappy about the fame he had achieved.

### Part B

 Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

****A. “He was weary of writing about the same characters over and over again.”

****B. “He was tired of meeting deadlines.”

****C. “Doyle could get back to the style of writing he liked more, historical fiction.”

****D. “Even at the end, he still was not pleased with his fame as the inventor of one of literature’s most well-known detectives.”

Why did the author **most likely** use the words "Triumphant Return" in boldfaced type in the passage? Choose the **two** correct answers.

****A. The author wants to use these words as a heading for the next section.

****B. The author wants to explain why Doyle stopped writing about Sherlock Holmes.

****C. The author wants to tell the reader about why a different style of writing is better.

****D. The author wants to show the reader Doyle's indecision about writing about Sherlock Holmes.

****E. The author wants to give the reader a clue about what is coming next for Doyle and Sherlock Holmes.

****F. The author wants to introduce the American publisher who offered Doyle a large amount of money to bring Sherlock Holmes back to the readers.

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

### Part A

Read the sentence from the passage.

Thousands of people subscribed to the magazine to read the newest Sherlock adventure as soon as possible.

Which **best** matches the meaning of subscribed to?

****A. paid extra money for

****B. bought their friends copies of

****C. rushed to the library to look for

****D. signed up to get future issues of

### Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in Part A?

****A.Readers loved discovering the new adventures of Holmes and Watson each month.

****B. Libraries lost track of the number of readers coming to get copies of the detective tales.

****C. Printing presses struggled to keep up with the demand.

****D. Doyle could not resist such a remarkable offer.

Which words mean the same as furious as it is used in paragraph 3 of the article? There are **two** correct choices listed below.

****A. angry

****B. frightened

****C. mad

****D. noisy

****E. tired

Read this sentence from the passage.

Abruptly, the public's favorite crime-fighting duo was gone.

What does the Latin root rupt probably mean in the word abruptly?

****A.break

****B. close

****C. join

****D. Mend



Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman was the first female African-American pilot, and experts believe that she was the third African American to receive a pilot’s license. There were few ways to earn a living as a pilot in those days. Bessie, however, was successful in building a career as a famous barnstormer. She traveled from town to town performing dangerous stunts in the air.

#### **High Hopes**

Bessie was born in Atlanta, Texas, in the early 1890s. She had twelve brothers and sisters. Bessie’s family was poor, so as Bessie grew older, she helped tend the house and take care of the younger children. Bessie was excited about school and loved to learn, and she was especially good at math. Even though she loved school, she often had to leave school to work to help the family.

Bessie went to an industrial college for a short period of time after finishing eighth grade. At that time, flying was a new and exciting adventure. Bessie read about the Wright Brothers and their historic flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903. She also read about Harriet Quimby, a female aviator. Bessie was surprised to learn that a woman could be a pilot, and she started to think about flying herself.

In 1915, Bessie moved to Chicago to live with family. She found work, saved her money, and set out to learn to fly. She soon discovered that this could never happen in the United States. No flying school would take an African American, and especially a woman, as a student. If she was going to learn to fly, she would have to move to France where schools were more accepting of women and African Americans.

#### **Flying High**

In 1920, Bessie arrived in France and began flying lessons. She learned how to take off and land, how to bank turns, and how to loop-the-loop. After nearly a year of lessons, Bessie became the first female African American to ever earn a pilot’s license.

When Bessie arrived home in the United States, she found herself surrounded by reporters. An African-American pilot was big news! She told them her dream was to open a flying school that was open to everyone.

Bessie knew her dream would cost a lot. To earn money she began performing in air shows, which were very dangerous. Audiences at these shows wanted to see thrilling, perilous stunts. However, Bessie was fearless.

#### **Queen Bess**

Bessie performed all kinds of stunts. Often her final stunt was the most exciting. She would fly high up into the sky. Then she turned straight down, pulling out of the dive at the very last moment. Sometimes she flew right over the audience’s heads! Bessie’s popularity grew, and she became a local hero. She was even nicknamed “Queen Bess.” Bessie soon began performing all around the country.

On April 30, 1926, Bessie was in Florida preparing for an upcoming air show. She had planned to parachute jump out of the plane for her last exciting stunt. She and her mechanic William Wills took the plane up to practice the stunt with William in the pilot’s seat. During the practice, the plane became unstable and flipped over. Bessie was thrown from the plane before it crashed. Both Bessie and William were killed.

Today, Bessie’s spirit of courage and determination still inspires people to meet life’s obstacles the way she met her own.

Why did the author **most likely** use subtitles in the passage "Bessie Coleman"? Pick **two** choices.

****A. to indicate the main ideas of each section

****B. to point out the most important details first

****C. to show the order in which events occurred

****D. to highlight the themes of the entire passage

****E. to focus on why learning to fly was so important

Read this sentence from the passage Bessie Coleman.

Bessie's popularity grew, and she became a local hero. She was even nicknamed "Queen Bess."

What is the meaning of the root in the word popularity?

****A.loved by many

****B. in charge of a lot

****C. given many names

****D. known in a small area

***Bessie Coleman and Me***

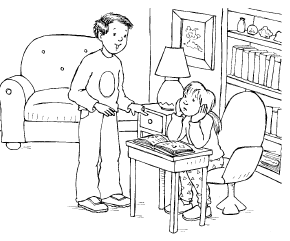
The first time I was in a school play, I felt extremely uneasy. I was scared that I would make a mistake and people would laugh at me. In the weeks before opening night, I spent a lot of time around the house nervously going over my lines. I had a great time rehearsing with the other cast members, but when I got home, the fear set in. I had a hard time concentrating on my homework, and I was so nervous that I could barely eat dinner sometimes.

I didn’t think anyone noticed what was happening, but apparently my brother Jeremy did. Even though we don’t always have much in common, I have to admit that he can be pretty smart sometimes.

One night after dinner, Jeremy saw me in the den staring blankly at my math book. “What are you doing, Emily?” he asked. “It looks like you are sleeping sitting up.”

“I’m studying,” I answered, “so please leave me alone!”

I must have needed to confide in someone, though, because he ended up getting me to tell him what was going on. I told Jeremy the whole story—the play, my nerves, everything.



He said, “I just read an inspiring book about Bessie Coleman, and I think you should read it. She was the first female African-American pilot in the country. She had many incredible problems to overcome. Her family was poor, and she could not go to school full-time. When she was in her early twenties, the only thing Bessie wanted to do was to fly a plane. However, it was extremely difficult for African Americans to become pilots. She worked hard, though, and later became a pilot. I think you should read the book.”

I was curious, so I took the book and read it right then. Jeremy was right. Bessie Coleman was an incredibly interesting person. Even though she wasn’t able to go to school all the time, when she was young, she took books out of the library and studied them on her own. When she was older, she read all she could about flying. She desperately wanted to be a pilot.

Flight schools in America would not take Bessie because she was an African American and a woman, but this did not stop her. She was so determined to go to flight school that she used all her savings from working two jobs, studied French on her own, and left for flight school in 1920. She attended flight school in France, learned to fly, and successfully reached her goal of receiving her pilot’s license. She returned to America and began performing in air shows.

After I read this story, I was so inspired! I knew that if Bessie could overcome that many obstacles to become a pilot, and perform in air shows in front of all those people, I didn’t need to be afraid of acting in a school play!

The opening night of the play turned out to be fun and not scary at all. I felt a few butterflies in my stomach, but I thought of Bessie flying bravely in the sky, and my courage grew.

Many people paid me compliments on my performance, including my brother Jeremy. After he congratulated me, I said these two little words to my big brother: “Thank you.” And I secretly thanked Bessie Coleman too.

Read this sentence from the passage "Bessie Coleman and Me."

Many people paid me compliments on my performance, including my brother Jeremy.

Which word from the sentence has a positive connotation?

****A. paid

****B. compliments

****C. performance

****D. brother

Choose the correct words from the drop-down menus.  
  
The story “Bessie Coleman and Me” is told from the point of view of the character named         . It is written in         person.

Compare how the authors of the story “Bessie Coleman and Me” and the article “Bessie Coleman” tell the Bessie Coleman story. In what ways are the story and the article different? In what ways are they alike? Use details from the story and the article to support your answer.

Answer:

The article and story are alike in many ways. For example, the narrator of the story "Bessie Coleman and Me" had a problem. She was nervous about delivering lines in a play. Her problem was solved when she read Bessie Coleman's story. She was inspired by Bessie Coleman, and was no longer afraid of acting in a school play. In "Bessie Coleman," Bessie Coleman herself had problems. Since her family was poor, she couldn't go to school often. Later, when she tried to attend flight school in America, they wouldn't let her in. Her problem was solved when she went to France to learn how to fly. She became the first female African-American to ever earn a pilot's license. Both stories also include facts about Bessie Coleman's life. However, the problems and solutions in the article and story are different. The article "Bessie Coleman" is an expository text while the story is a kind of realistic fiction. The story "Bessie Coleman and Me" is about how Bessie Coleman inspired the narrator to do well in a play, while the article tells facts about Bessie Coleman's life. The article has headings and subheadings. It also has a picture of Bessie Coleman with a caption under it. The two text features in the story is an illustration and the heading, or title. This is how the article and story are alike or different.

Read the passage below. Then choose the word that correctly completes each sentence.

My sister Nita and I don’t always agree, but we          alike in one way. We both really like dogs. Terriers and spaniels are my favorite dogs. Chihuahuas are         .

We          one big problem, though. Whenever we ask for a dog, our parents simply say, “No pets.” They say that          jobs keep them too busy already. They don’t want any more responsibilities.

We’ve tried to convince          that we are old enough to take care of a dog ourselves. We would feed it and walk it and pick up after it. One day we asked again.