

**Grade 8**  
**Reading Science Fiction**  
**Passage: "The Luna Chronicles: The Last Shuttle"**

In the year 2135, humanity had set its sights beyond Earth. The Moon, or Luna as it was now popularly called, had become a thriving metropolis of its own. Skyscrapers jutted out of lunar craters, and vast greenhouses fed the booming population with hydroponically grown food.

Elara, a 15-year-old girl, lived in the Artemis sector, named after the ancient Greek goddess of the hunt and the Moon. Every day, as she walked to school, she passed by the Luna Transport Museum, where the last Earth-to-Luna shuttle stood. This shuttle, known as "Prometheus," was the very vessel that brought the first settlers to the Moon some 50 years ago.

One day, Elara overheard her classmates talking about a daring mission. Rumors had it that a group of teenagers was planning to restore Prometheus and take a voyage back to Earth, a planet they had only read about in history books. Intrigued and excited, Elara decided to investigate.

She sneaked into the museum that evening and was amazed to find Prometheus in a surprisingly good condition. She met Orion, a boy her age, busy working on the shuttle's engine. Orion explained that the group believed Earth held the answers to Luna's impending energy crisis. The planet they left behind had once been home to an advanced civilization that harnessed energy in ways the lunar colonists had forgotten.

Elara decided to join the mission. Over the next few months, the team, under the guidance of Orion's grandfather, an original settler, worked tirelessly to refurbish the shuttle.

The day of the voyage came, and the team boarded Prometheus. They faced many challenges during the trip, including a meteor shower and dwindling fuel reserves. But their determination and unity kept them going.

Finally, Earth's blue sphere filled the shuttle's windows. As they landed, the team was met with a sight they hadn't anticipated: a green and vibrant Earth, with majestic forests and vast oceans. It was nothing like the barren wasteland described in their textbooks.

Orion's grandfather was right. Earth held the answers they sought. And as the young adventurers began their journey of discovery on the ancestral planet, they realized they were not just Luna's future but Earth's hope as well.

### **Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. In what year is the story set?

- A) 2035
- B) 2135
- C) 2235
- D) 2335

2. What was Luna formerly known as?

- A) Mars
- B) Venus
- C) Earth
- D) Moon

3. Where did Elara live?

- A) Prometheus sector
- B) Luna Transport Museum
- C) Artemis sector

D) Earth

4. Who was working on the shuttle's engine when Elara sneaked into the museum?

A) Her grandfather

B) Orion

C) Artemis

D) Prometheus

5. Why did the teenagers want to voyage back to Earth?

A) For a vacation

B) To escape Luna

C) To find answers to Luna's energy crisis

D) To meet their ancestors

6. Who guided the team in refurbishing the shuttle?

A) Elara's father

B) A professor from school

C) Orion's grandfather

D) A museum curator

7. What challenge did they NOT face during the trip to Earth?

A) Alien attack

B) Meteor shower

C) Dwindling fuel reserves

D) Mechanical failure

8. How was Earth different from what they had learned?
- A) It was a barren wasteland.
  - B) It was a city of gold.
  - C) It was filled with advanced civilizations.
  - D) It was green and vibrant.
9. What did Orion's grandfather believe about Earth?
- A) It was destroyed by war.
  - B) It held answers they were looking for.
  - C) It was uninhabitable.
  - D) It was taken over by aliens.
10. Who realized that they were Earth's hope at the end of the story?
- A) Orion's grandfather
  - B) The museum curator
  - C) The lunar colonists
  - D) The young adventurers

### Answers and Explanations

1. B. 2135

*The story starts with the line "In the year 2135".*

2. D. Moon

*The passage mentions Luna was formerly called the Moon.*

3. C. Artemis sector

*Elara is described as living in the Artemis sector.*

4.B Orion

*Elara found Orion working on the shuttle's engine.*

5. C To find answers to Luna's energy crisis

*Orion explains their mission to find answers for the energy crisis.*

6. C Orion's grandfather

*The team worked under the guidance of Orion's grandfather.*

7. A Alien attack

*The story mentions a meteor shower and dwindling fuel, but not an alien attack.*

8. D It was green and vibrant.

*Upon landing, they found Earth to be green and vibrant.*

9. B It held answers they were looking for.

*Orion's grandfather believed Earth had answers to Luna's crisis.*

10. D The young adventurers

*The last line suggests the young team realized their significance to Earth.*