

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the section titled "Ticket to Ride"?
  - Ⓐ Private spacecrafts will make space travel available to more people around the world.
  - Ⓑ People will have to spend over \$100,000 for space tourism.
  - Ⓒ Space travel is only for astronauts.
  - Ⓓ NASA developed shuttles for space tourism.
2. What is the main similarity between *SpaceShipOne* and *SpaceShipTwo*?
  - Ⓐ Both take off on a runway.
  - Ⓑ Both carry up to six passengers.
  - Ⓒ Both travel to space for three days before returning to Earth.
  - Ⓓ Both are designed to fly to the edge of space and back.
3. Read this sentence: *Slowing down SpaceShipTwo this way keeps it from getting too hot during **re-entry**. Re-entry means \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - Ⓐ the detachable compartment on a spacecraft that holds people and their instruments
  - Ⓑ a vehicle used for traveling in space
  - Ⓒ the act of returning to Earth's atmosphere from space
  - Ⓓ a set purpose for doing something
4. Why was the Ansari-X Prize created?
  - Ⓐ to speed up development of private spaceships
  - Ⓑ to assist NASA in carrying cargo back and forth to the ISS
  - Ⓒ to prove that only government space programs are successful
  - Ⓓ to create private space stations

*Quick Check continued on following page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the author's main purpose for writing *Private Spaceships*?
  - Ⓐ to explain to readers how NASA ended its space shuttle program
  - Ⓑ to entertain readers with a story about a space traveler
  - Ⓒ to persuade readers to buy a ticket on a private spaceship
  - Ⓓ to inform readers about commercial spacecraft
6. What conclusion can you draw from the section titled "Special Delivery Service"?
  - Ⓐ Only NASA can carry cargo from Earth to the ISS.
  - Ⓑ ISS crew members must travel to Earth to pick up or return supplies.
  - Ⓒ Private companies are failing at moving supplies from Earth to the ISS.
  - Ⓓ Moving supplies and equipment from Earth to the ISS is expensive and challenging.
7. What happened before Dragon was developed?
  - Ⓐ Bigelow created private space stations.
  - Ⓑ "Balloon habitats" were tested in space.
  - Ⓒ NASA offered prizes for private companies to come up with inexpensive ways to move cargo from Earth to the ISS.
  - Ⓓ Boeing and Blue Origin submitted designs to NASA.
8. Which of the following sentences informs?
  - Ⓐ In 2004, an American company called Scaled Composites won with its vehicle *SpaceShipOne*.
  - Ⓑ Weightlessness is the best feeling a human could experience.
  - Ⓒ Are you ready for the commercial space age?
  - Ⓓ It was sad to see the shuttle program end.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the following tells the meaning of **orbit**?

- Ⓐ relating to buying and selling
- Ⓑ a vehicle used to travel in space
- Ⓒ a set purpose for doing something
- Ⓓ the path taken by one object in space, circling another larger object

10. What does the author mostly want you to know about private spaceships?

- Ⓐ They compete with NASA in a new space age.
- Ⓑ They make space travel available to more people.
- Ⓒ They create business for commercial companies.
- Ⓓ They are responsible for NASA ending its shuttle program.

11. **Extended Response:** List some of the things that need to be considered when designing a spaceship.

12. **Extended Response:** Why does the author compare NASA to commercial companies?

## Quick Check Answer Sheet

## Private Spaceships

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

1. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓓ Compare and Contrast
3. Ⓒ Vocabulary
4. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
5. Ⓓ Author's Purpose
6. Ⓓ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
7. Ⓒ Sequence Events
8. Ⓐ Author's Purpose
9. Ⓓ Vocabulary
10. Ⓑ Author's Point of View
11. Answers will vary but should include examples from the text, such as the following: *keeping expensive fuel use as low as possible, finding a way to keep it from getting too hot during re-entry, having adequate room inside to carry cargo or people, being reusable, having the ability to dock with a space station if necessary, having the the ability to take off and land on Earth safely, having many windows for passengers to view Earth and space when applicable.*
12. Answers will vary but should include information from the book to support the author's purpose, such as the following: *The author compared NASA to commercial companies to show their influence and future in space travel. The author describes NASA's space shuttle program ending as private spaceships rise. Space shuttles are too expensive for NASA, which would rather focus on space science and exploration. However, commercial companies can design spacecraft for tourism and profit.*