**TEXT 1**

**“Virtual Reality (VR) Technology”**

****[1] Virtual Reality (VR) is a computer technology used to produce an environment that looks like reality. With VR, students, for example, can imagine themselves flying through space, diving deep under the sea, or traveling the world without stepping foot outside their classroom. In VR, a user wears a headset connected to a computer or mobile device to explore a three dimension (3D) setting. The user can move around in the space. Sights and sounds seem real. Some say the VR experience feels like jumping into a video game.

[2] Google is one of the companies creating VR experiences for students. It launched Google Expeditions in 2015. Now it offers more than 600 virtual field trips. Ben Schrom who works at Google Expeditions told *Time For Kids*magazine (TFK) “Teachers’ faces light up because we’ve given them a superpower; **they**can transport their classes somewhere else.”

[3] Katelyn Flanagan, 12 years old, used VR to jump to the surface of the moon. She also visited Jupiter and Mars. “It was so cool and so lifelike,” she says. Monica, a teacher at Morris Plains School, says her students loved the experience. “I think they enjoyed it so much because it’s different from watching a video. It broadens what I teach them,” she says. Chris Chin, who works for a VR company, says VR can also be used to teach real-world tasks. “People can learn how to fight fires or to become a doctor. A VR experience is a safer way to learn to treat patients,” Chin told TFK magazine.

[4] Research suggests that virtual reality could reach 15 million students by 2025. In a research conducted by TFK magazine, nearly 70% of school administrators have a positive view of VR in the classroom. Of those who do not have VR in their school or region, almost half say they are very interested in using it in different subjects in the future. However, not everyone is excited about VR. Some people are concerned about its effects on kids’ eyesight. Dr. Martin Banks, a professor of vision science at the University of California, says “we’re looking for evidence, but so far, we haven’t found any.” However, Dr. Banks has found proof of discomfort. “It can lead to headaches and nausea in a small number of people,” he adds.

[5] VR can also be costly. The best headsets cost more than $500. Google Cardboard viewers are more affordable. They cost less than $15 each but must be used with a smartphone. Classrooms would need a smartphone for every student, or kids would need to share **one**. Students like Katelyn hope that schools can overcome these obstacles and bring VR to the classroom. “I would like to go places I’ve never been to,” she says. “You don’t have to tell students about things anymore; you can show them.”

**Comprehension Questions:**

**A. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.**

**1. “without stepping foot outside their classroom” (paragraph 1) means :**

* a. without leaving their classroom.
* b. without getting into the classroom.
* c. without making noise in their classroom.

**2. “teachers’ faces light up” (paragraph 2) means:**

* a. teachers get confused
* b. teachers get worried.
* c. teachers feel excited.

**B. ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY.**

1. Google made it possible for students to have access to Virtual Reality.  
………………………………………………………………………..

2. Ben Schrom is a teacher.  
………………………………………………………………………..

3. School administrators disagree with the use of VR at school  
………………………………………………………………………..

**C. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES.**

1. Doctors haven’t yet found any evidence of …………………………………………………………………  
2. …………………………………………………………… are some of the health problems of using VR.

**TEXT 2**

**“Animal Testing”**

****[1] Tens of millions of animals are killed every year in scientific research and testing. Their number has grown over recent years, most probably because more biomedical research is being carried out around the world. The most commonly used animals are mice, fish, and rats, but many other species including monkeys, cats, dogs, horses and pigs are also used.

[2] Animals are experimented on for many reasons. These include understanding human biology, developing and testing cure for humans and obtaining fundamental knowledge in teaching. Furthermore, many companies depend on animals for testing the safety of their substances and products. Another major reason is developing veterinary treatments for other animals.

[3] Scientists insist that new remedies for serious illnesses cannot be developed unless their safety and efficacy are tested on animals. Similarly, **they**argue that understanding basic biology and creating new medicines cannot be achieved without animal research. “Consequences will be terrible if research using animals is blocked,” said Nancy Lee, senior policy adviser in London.

[4] However, we may no longer need to rely on animals to test the safety of different medications, chemicals, or cosmetics in the future. A few months ago, scientists developed the first computer system known as RASCAR which can accurately detect toxic substances. RASCAR is just one of many potential alternatives to animal testing. “I’m extremely optimistic about this and other similar tools to restrict animal testing,” says Andrew Rowan, chief scientific officer for The Humane Society of the United States. “Using animals in tests is significantly very expensive. It takes three years to do comprehensive testing while RASCAR takes only few minutes,” **he**adds.

[5] Tom Regan, a philosophy professor in the USA, states: “Animals and people are alike in many ways; they both feel, think, behave, and experience pain.” Thus, animals should be treated with the same respect as humans. When animals are reduced to being mere tools in a scientific experiment, their rights are taken away without any thought of their well-being. Tests often cause pain and suffering or even death.

**Comprehension Questions:**

**A. ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY.**

1. The number of animals killed in scientific research is increasing.

2. Experimenting on animals benefits other animals.

3. Andrew Rowan is for the use of tools like RASCAR instead of animal testing.

**B**. **ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS**:

1. List two reasons why scientists test on animals.

2. What is one advantage of using RASCAR?

3. In what way are animals similar to people according to Tom Regan?

**C. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES.**

1. Nancy Lee thinks that research will be affected …………………………….

2. The function of RASCAR is to ………………………..

**D. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS THAT MEAN ALMOST THE SAME AS**

1. limit ( paragraph 4) : ………………….

2. instruments (paragraph 5) : ………………………..

**E. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO?**

1. **they**(paragraph 3) : ……………

2. **he**(paragraph 4) : ………..

**TEXT 3**

**“Laughter is the best medicine”**



**[ 1 ]**   Children on average laugh about 300 times a day. Can you guess how many times per day the average adult laughs? Not even close. Just seventeen times per day. How sad that we lose all our sense of humour as we grow up! The simple act of throwing your head back and roaring at any kind of humour has multiple benefits both mentally and physically.

**[ 2 ]**  Laughing actually increases the immune system, making us stronger and better able to fight off disease. And all that humour requires us to do is breathing in more oxygen; which is good for the entire body. The physical benefits of humour do not end **there**. Laughing has been proven to lower blood pressure, burn calories and give your internal organs a good massage. It also exercises almost the entire body, which explains why we get sore sides after a good laugh session. Moreover, it lowers stress hormone levels, keeping us calmer

**[ 3 ]**   Humour can change your mood instantly. It is very hard to be angry when something strikes you as funny. Laughing stimulates the brain, both left and right sides, to help the laugher retain more information. Depression and anxiety are almost non-existent in people who have a great sense of humour and who are able to laugh at **themselves**. These people automatically see the world in a different light, simply because of their sense of humour. Some doctors even recommend laughing as a therapeutic exercise.

**[4 ]** This concept has even gone so far to form humour clubs where the main activity is laughing. The idea behind this is that if you spend an hour giggling, you will be healthier. The people who join these clubs spend the hour or so chortling away and go home feeling rejuvenated and healthy. According to the laughing clubs, you do not have to feel the laughter in order for it to be beneficial. Just opening your mouth and laughing on purpose, forced or not, can increase heart rate, oxygen levels and boost the immune system. And humour is proven to be contagious, so a good group laugh is quite probable every time the members of these clubs get together.

**[5 ]** With humour being so good for you, how can you add more of it to your everyday life? You can start by smiling at yourself in the mirror each morning and having a five-minute laugh to get the day started. Reading jokes, watching comedic films or shows and hanging out with children are some guaranteed ways to get you chuckling yourself and on the road to better health.

**Comprehension Questions:**

**A- Are these statements true or false? Justify**

1. [ ….. ] The immune system is increased by laughter.  
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………
2. [ ….. ] Laughter is a therapy.  
   ………………………………………………………..

**B- Answer the following questions**

1. What types of advantages does humour have?

2. What happens when laughter stimulates the brain?

3. Why are humour clubs formed?

4. How is laughter contagious?

**D- Find in the text words that mean the same as:**

1. There (paragraph 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Themselves (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**E-What do the underlined words refer to in the text**

–  Some :  ………….              – their : ……………….                – They : …………….

F- **Find in the text words or expressions have the same meaning as the followings**

1. In the development of
2. Get rid of
3. Needs
4. Immediately
5. In fact
6. Feeling

G-**Complete these sentences according to the text::** …….

1. Sore sides can be explained………………………………………………………………..

2. People lose their sense of humour……………………………………………………….