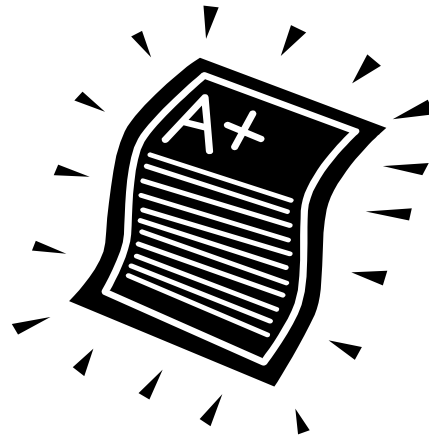


Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,  
Teachers, & Students*

Post Test

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 14.

## What I Worry Most About. . .

What I worry most about is what other people think of me. I mean, do they just pretend to like me to my face and then actually talk terribly about me when I'm not around? Of course, we're all familiar with that experience, aren't we? Like, what if you have a friend, and she tells you something in front of other people that sounds ridiculously ignorant, and she walks off, and they laugh at her. Don't you laugh, too, so they won't talk about you later?

I've absolutely done that before, but only so that the other people won't talk about me when I leave. Then, later on, I completely obsess over how maybe the exact same thing occurs behind my back when I walk away from a group. Like, maybe my friends do it to me, or maybe they just talk about me so they won't be bored or something.

A guy I know says he worries about what people will say when he wears a new shirt or when he has to read a report in class. He worries that people are laughing at him if he misses a tackle in a game and looks like a total klutz. He says the absolutely worst thing of all is to ask a girl out and have her say no, especially if she's actually rude to him. Then, he *really* worries that everyone in school will find out, and laugh about it.

Do you ever worry when you are dancing that people watching you will think you are totally unable to move like a normal human being? What about if you roller-blade and fall in front of people? What about when you walk up to the teacher's desk to get your paper, and you kick somebody's backpack or trip; couldn't you just die?

One of the worst things is when you come to school and something is not right with your clothes. I mean, like you left something unbuttoned or unzipped, and someone has to *tell* you about it. They tell you in front of everyone! Sometimes they don't tell you in front of everyone, but they go around telling everyone about it later, and people laugh at you all day! How awful is that?

I don't **obsess** over what my parents think about me. I mean, I don't want them to be infuriated at me *all* of the time, but they are my *parents*, so they sort of *have* to like me, you know? I don't really care what they think about how I look or anything. It's like when your hair is totally greasy, and you tell your mom you are going to wash it, and she tells you it looks "pretty" when, of course, it does not, and you know she's only saying it because she's your mom. So you wash it anyway. How about when you get a haircut and your mom says she totally *loves* it? I mean, if she honestly *does* think it looks awesome, you know you must look hideous!

When your parents totally despise what you have on, then you are certain your friends will like it, so you don't have to worry they will laugh at you, right? The worst is when your mom buys you something you hate and makes you wear it while you are with her, and your friends see you. They won't laugh in front of your mom, but you can see from the looks on their faces that they are really going to laugh when you leave!

My mom says I'm silly to worry so much about what my teenage friends think about me. She says that other people my age are mostly too worried about what everyone is thinking about them to give much thought to me. She also says that when I get older, it won't matter so much to me what other people think about me. Maybe she's right. I certainly hope she is because that and getting my driver license are probably the *only* good things about getting older!

*What I Worry Most About . . .*

1. This passage is mostly about:
  - A. a girl who worries about her hair and her clothes
  - B. a girl who worries about what her parents think about her
  - C. a girl who worries about what her friends think about her
  - D. none of the above
  
2. Which detail tells you why the narrator sometimes talks badly about her friends?
  - A. She doesn't like any of them.
  - B. She doesn't have any friends.
  - C. She doesn't want anyone to talk about her later.
  - D. She's not a "fair weather" friend.
  
3. What happens to a guy the narrator knows after he misses a tackle?
  - A. Everyone laughs at him.
  - B. He worries that everyone is laughing at him.
  - C. His coach sends him to the bench.
  - D. He no longer enjoys playing football.
  
4. How is the way the narrator feels about her friends different from the way she feels about her parents?
  - A. There is no difference.
  - B. She doesn't obsess over what her friends think about her.
  - C. She doesn't obsess over what her parents think of her.
  - D. She cares about what both think of her.
  
5. One thing that causes the narrator to be embarrassed is:
  - A. giving the wrong answer in class
  - B. having to go shopping with her mother
  - C. watching her friend miss a tackle
  - D. none of the above
  
6. What can you infer about the narrator's feelings toward growing older?
  - A. She's definitely looking forward to it.
  - B. She's not looking forward to it.
  - C. She doesn't care one way or the other about it.
  - D. The narrator's mom is definitely looking forward to it.

*What I Worry Most About . . .*

7. What can you conclude from the passage about the personality of the narrator?
- A. She is an excellent student.
  - B. She is not a responsible person.
  - C. She thinks like most teenagers.
  - D. She is very popular.
8. The narrator says, “I don’t **obsess** over what my parents think about me.” What does **obsess** mean?
- A. to be consumed by something
  - B. to think a lot about something
  - C. to care greatly about something
  - D. all of the above
9. Of what importance is the first paragraph to the plot?
- A. It gives the reader some insight into the narrator’s character.
  - B. It shows the reader that worrying is silly.
  - C. It shows that the narrator has friends.
  - D. It shows that the narrator doesn’t care as much about what her parents think.
10. Which is the BEST summary of this passage?
- A. Teenage girls worry more than teenage boys.
  - B. Adults worry too much about how teenagers dress.
  - C. Most teenagers worry about other people’s opinions of them.
  - D. It is very difficult being a middle school student.
11. Where might one find material about current teenage culture?
- A. in a high school yearbook index
  - B. in a popular teen magazine
  - C. in a thesaurus
  - D. at the music warehouse
12. What would be another good title for this passage?
- A. Why Your Parents Know Best
  - B. Why You Can’t Trust Your Friends
  - C. Why It’s Best Not to Grow Old
  - D. none of the above



13. What does the boy that is mentioned in the passage think is the worst thing of all?
- A. missing a tackle
  - B. being turned down for a date
  - C. tripping over a backpack
  - D. none of the above
14. According to the narrator, what could happen after someone sees that a piece of your clothing is unsnapped?
- A. You could get a detention slip.
  - B. Your best friend could tell you privately about the problem.
  - C. Other students could laugh at you.
  - D. Other students spend half the day laughing at you.
- 

*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 15 through 28.*

### **Staying Safe in a Tornado**

A tornado, or twister, is a violent windstorm that looks like a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud in the sky. The word "tornado" comes from the Spanish word, "tornar," which means "to turn." Tornadoes can show up in storms all over the world. In the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf states, they can be caused by hurricanes. In the United States, they are most common in areas of the Midwest and South known as Tornado Alley, but some parts of the world have even more tornadoes than this area.

Tornadoes often appear in spring and summer; however, anytime is the right time to think about staying safe in one of these dangerous storms. Where tornadoes are common, the schools and media try to educate people about safety. Radio and television stations broadcast warnings when conditions are right for tornadoes, and lots of people around the country buy special weather radios that warn them when tornadoes are active in their areas. These radios issue warnings from the National Weather Service, and they have backup batteries in case of power failure.

If you hear a tornado warning, you should hurry to a **sheltered** area. If you are inside a building, go to a central room or hallway without windows. If that area is in a basement, you will be even safer. Getting under furniture or inside a doorjamb will help you to be safe in case the ceiling falls. The safest structures are usually concrete block homes. If the home has a storm cellar, go downstairs, and lock all doors to the outside. If you are in a mobile home or trailer, you should get out right away. These homes can't handle tornadoes and strong winds, so if you are in one, find a better shelter.

You may have heard that cars are a safe place in which to be during a tornado, but that is far from the truth. Anytime you see a tornado, you should get out of the car, and hurry to a sturdy building nearby. It is also safer to lie down in a ditch than to be in a car because no matter how heavy a car is, a tornado can pick it up, and throw it around. Some

*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

people try to take shelter under bridges and overpasses in a tornado, but those places are dangerous, too. If they fall apart, the concrete and steel they are made of will fall on you.

Staying outside during a tornado is never safe, either. Although you often see “storm-chasers” on television videoing funnel clouds rushing toward them, don’t even think about doing such a thing. Have you seen the movie *The Wizard of Oz*? In it, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, stayed safe, even though they were picked up by a tornado, but that tornado was the creation of a special effects team. In real life, people and dogs are not safe in tornadoes, especially if they are outdoors.

15. This passage is mostly about:
- A. how to become a storm-chaser
  - B. the many kinds of damages from tornadoes
  - C. how to stay safe when a twister hits
  - D. in real life, people are not safe outdoors
16. Which detail explains the origin for the word “tornado?”
- A. “Tornado” is from the Spanish verb “tornar.”
  - B. “Tornado” is from the Mexican verb “tornar.”
  - C. Tornadoes are named after Tornado Alley.
  - D. Tornadoes explicate in the sky.
17. According to the passage, what should you do when you hear a tornado warning?
- A. Grab your video camera, and run outside.
  - B. Go to a sheltered area.
  - C. Call your friends to warn them about the tornado.
  - D. Make sure you are close to a television so that you can hear weather updates.
18. How is a twister different from a tornado?
- A. Twisters rotate counter-clockwise; tornadoes rotate clockwise.
  - B. There is no difference between a twister and a tornado.
  - C. Twisters destroy mobile homes; tornadoes destroy tractor-trailers.
  - D. The word “twister” is used by Americans; the word “tornado” is used by Puerto Ricans.
19. Where are people the LEAST safe during a tornado?
- A. walking around outdoors
  - B. in a basement
  - C. in a shelter
  - D. all of the above

*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

20. What can you infer from the passage about the importance of tornado warnings?
- A. Warnings don't make much of a difference.
  - B. Warnings are more of a nuisance than anything else.
  - C. Warnings help people prepare for a tornado.
  - D. Lots of people watch the local news during inclement weather.
21. What can you conclude about staying in your car during a tornado?
- A. It's safer than being in a trailer.
  - B. It's a dangerous place to be.
  - C. It's a good place to video the tornado.
  - D. It is possible to outrun a tornado.
22. The passage reads, “. . . you should hurry to a **sheltered** area. . . ”  
What does **sheltered** mean the way it is used in the passage?
- A. guarded from the wind
  - B. shielded from the wind
  - C. safeguarded from the wind
  - D. all of the above
23. What was the author's purpose for mentioning *The Wizard of Oz*?
- A. to educate the reader
  - B. to encourage the reader to watch the movie
  - C. to show the difference between real-life tornadoes and made-up ones
  - D. to show that tornadoes can actually provide great entertainment
24. Which is the BEST summary of this passage?
- A. Tornadoes are dangerous.
  - B. Tornadoes can be tedious.
  - C. Tornadoes can be annoying.
  - D. It is important to listen to the radio for weather updates during severe weather.
25. Where would be the BEST place to find a synonym for the word “danger?”
- A. in an encyclopedia
  - B. in a thesaurus
  - C. in a reference book of scientific facts
  - D. in a book of anecdotes

*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

26. What is the difference between real-life tornadoes and tornadoes created by special effects in movies?
- A. Real-life tornadoes are far more interesting.
  - B. Real-life tornadoes are far more perilous.
  - C. Real-life tornadoes are far more fun to be around.
  - D. Special Effect tornadoes are difficult to create.
27. According to the passage, why is it unsafe to take shelter under a bridge during a tornado?
- A. because it could be crowded
  - B. because you might be blown out from under the bridge by the wind
  - C. because you could drown in the water
  - D. none of the above
28. What can you infer about storm-chasers from the passage?
- A. They drive fast trucks.
  - B. They carry a lot of insurance.
  - C. Their work can be extremely treacherous.
  - D. all of the above



*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 44.*

## **The World of the Vikings**

The Vikings were also called the Normans, which meant Northmen. They were Germanic farmers in Scandinavia. They were also very good sailors who sailed 60-foot, shallow boats. These boats were called dragon ships. They had no cabin space, and the men slept out on the deck. A huge, square sail with lots of colors woven into it was attached to the center mast. On the front of the boat, the Vikings put a carved dragon head to scare their enemies.

Most people considered the Vikings to be barbarians. They had the reputation of being vicious among those who fought them in wars. The Vikings were tall and strong, with wild, flowing beards. Their enemies considered them bloodthirsty. They were excellent sailors and skilled warriors. They sailed their ships up rivers to enemy ports, where they stole horses, and anything else they wanted. They even stole gold and jewels from church altars, and they killed monks and priests.

Even though they were vicious, the Vikings were not unclean. In fact, they were ages ahead of other civilizations when it came to personal grooming. For example, they used combs and razors in their cleaning rituals. The Vikings also used soap long before others in Europe did so, and they bathed far more often than the supposedly “more civilized” Saxons that lived in England, who rarely bathed at all.

The Viking warriors were **savage** fighters. The meanest Viking fighters were called “berserkers.” This word means “bear shirts,” for the animal hides they wore. The word “berserkers” and the wild way the Vikings fought created the word “berserk,” which means “crazy,” as we use it today.

Many **myths** have been passed down about the Vikings, one of which is that they wore horned-helmets. Although this is not true, it is common to see drawings of Vikings wearing horned helmets in cartoons like Hagar the Horrible or in movies. The Vikings are also often shown drinking the blood of their enemies from human skulls. This myth arose from an error in translation from the Icelandic language to English. In Scandinavian, the stories indicated that the Vikings drank from “shells” or “bowls,” which somehow became twisted to the word “skulls” in English.

The Vikings roamed freely across the countryside, establishing colonies all over Europe. They even sailed through the wild waters of the North Atlantic to settle on the islands of Iceland and Greenland. They raided France in 810, and they actually burned Paris twice. In 853, they set up a kingdom in England and founded a colony in Dublin, Ireland. At one point in the late 900’s, they sailed to the part of North America known today as the United States. In 911, a well-known Viking chieftain accepted a gift of land from France, converted to Christianity, and settled down. Today, this area of France is called Normandy, after the Norman Vikings.

29. Which of the following would be another good title for this passage?
- A. The Dirty, Bloodthirsty Vikings
  - B. A Brief History of the Vikings
  - C. Why the Vikings Wore Bear Shirts
  - D. Famous Viking Myths

30. According to the passage, which detail from the passage shows how the Vikings took care of themselves?
- A. They ate very well.
  - B. They roamed the countryside.
  - C. They used soap and bathed often.
  - D. They pillaged the land around them.
31. What happened right before the Vikings sailed to North America?
- A. A Viking chieftain settled in France.
  - B. They sailed with Hagar the Horrible up a river in Dublin and founded a colony.
  - C. They stole horses and pillaged the countryside in Ireland.
  - D. They established colonies in Europe.
32. What is the difference between Vikings and Saxons?
- A. Vikings were from Scandinavia; Saxons were from England.
  - B. Vikings were all Berserkers; Saxons were all Irish.
  - C. There is no real difference.
  - D. The Saxons were clean; Scandinavians were not.
33. What caused the Vikings to drink blood from human skulls?
- A. They thought it would make them strong and brave.
  - B. It was a Viking ritual from olden times.
  - C. They did not drink blood from human skulls.
  - D. The myth was created from a translation error.
34. What can you infer about the design of the Viking ships?
- A. They wanted to scare their enemies.
  - B. They wanted to be thought of as brave men.
  - C. They thought scary-looking ships would protect them from sinking.
  - D. Vikings were known as great craftsmen.
35. What conclusion can you draw from the Saxons' bathing habits?
- A. The Saxons were very well groomed.
  - B. The Saxons probably did not smell very good.
  - C. The Saxons spent a lot of money on soap.
  - D. The Saxons were before their time in their bathing rituals.

36. The passage reads, “The Viking warriors were **savage** fighters. . .”  
What does **savage** mean as it is used in this sentence?
- A. brutal
  - B. fierce
  - C. mean and cruel
  - D. all of the above
37. The author wrote the fifth paragraph to:
- A. explain how some myths about Vikings are not true
  - B. explain how some myths about Vikings are true
  - C. explain how the Vikings drank from human skulls
  - D. explain about idiomatic translations
38. The BEST summary of this passage is:
- A. The Vikings were well-known as farmers and boat builders.
  - B. The Vikings were skilled sailors, savage warriors, and brave explorers.
  - C. The Vikings were good at carving dragon heads.
  - D. Vikings were very clean.
39. Which of these would be a good place to find a drawing of a Viking boat?
- A. in a magazine about modern sailing
  - B. in a history book about Vikings
  - C. in a detailed glossary
  - D. in an index
40. What conclusion can you draw about the Vikings who went to France in 911?
- A. They were planning to rob everyone there.
  - B. They were ready to settle down.
  - C. They were ready to go to war.
  - D. They killed a lot of people.
41. The passage reads, “many **myths** have been told about the Vikings.” What is a **myth**?
- A. a proven fact
  - B. a made-up story
  - C. someone’s opinion
  - D. none of the above

*The World of the Vikings*

42. What is the purpose of the second paragraph?
- A. to show how jealous people were of the Vikings
  - B. to show how much the Vikings liked horses
  - C. to show how warlike the Vikings were
  - D. to show that Vikings were hardworking
43. The best summary of the last paragraph is:
- A. The Vikings created colonies and settlements in many places.
  - B. The Vikings were welcome in many places.
  - C. The Vikings were popular with people living in Paris.
  - D. In the late 900's, a Viking chieftain converted to Christianity.
44. The information in this passage could best be included in:
- A. a book on Scandinavian history
  - B. an instructional booklet on building seagoing ships
  - C. a Farmer's Almanac
  - D. none of the above



*What I Worry Most About . . .* – 7.9  
*Staying Safe in a Tornado* – 7.8  
*The World of the Vikings* – 7.8