

Name: _____

Main Idea

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Before you put on that skeleton costume and rove door-to-door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on this tradition. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1st was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts. They celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bon fires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grew to be the candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted. This is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. It is estimated that over twenty million pounds of candy corn are sold in the US each year. Brach's, the top manufacturer, sells enough candy corn to circle the earth 4.25 times if each piece were laid end to end. That's a lot of candy corn, but that's nothing compared to the production of Tootsie Rolls. Over 64 million Tootsie Rolls are produced every day! But even Tootsie Rolls have got nothing on the candy industry's staple product: chocolate. Confectioners manufacture over twenty billion pounds of chocolate in the United States each year. Now that's a mouthful!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Screech! When a driver pushes on the brake pedal, it initiates a process that causes the vehicle to stop in motion. We literally trust braking systems with our lives every time we get into a vehicle or cross at a busy intersection. How does this life-critical process work? It begins when the pedal is pushed. At this moment brake fluid is released into the braking mechanisms. As the fluid collects, this creates a leverage, which causes a friction to be applied. This friction will create a force that will cause the wheels to stop and allow you to reach your destination safely. Beep! Beep!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Male platypus carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs. This venom incapacitates victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. That means that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. Electroreception is a sixth sense different from seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. What an odd creature indeed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

7. Yellowstone National Park is mainly located in Wyoming, although three percent is located in the state of Montana. The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park. The park sits on the Yellowstone Plateau, which is an average elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is bounded on nearly all sides by mountain ranges. There are 290 waterfalls that are at least fifteen feet in the park, the highest being the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, which falls 308 feet.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

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Main Idea with Robots

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. What do you get when you cross a robot and an astronaut? A Robonaut! Robonauts are robot helpers designed to work side-by-side with astronauts. Work on the first Robonaut began in 1997, and by 2002 Robonaut B was revealed to the public. Robonaut B featured interchangeable lower bodies, like four-wheel mode or hydraulic legs. Yet scientists and engineers continued to improve Robonaut. In February of 2010, Robonaut 2 was released to the public. Robonaut 2 moved four times faster than the first Robonaut. An advanced version of Robonaut 2 was finally tested in outer space in 2011. Robonaut 2 functioned exactly as designed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. *Automation* is the use of machines to reduce the need for human labor. In other words automation is when jobs done by people become jobs done by robots. Automation can be a good thing. Clothing, cars, and other manufactured products are available at good prices and in large supply because of automation. But automation can also be a bad thing. Because of automation there are over 700,000 robots in America that do jobs once performed by humans. The way of automation may not be best for humanity, but it is the course we are taking.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. My grandma may not look very strong, but with the help of hydraulic power, she can stop a car with her foot. How does hydraulic power work? First, fluid is rapidly released into a chamber through a valve. As the fluid collects, the valve is slammed shut. This causes a pressure spike, but since the chamber is sealed, the pressure has nowhere to go. The hydraulic mechanism channels the pressure and provides great power. And that's how, with the help of hydraulics, my grandma can stop a speeding car with one foot.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. Many people use the words cyborg and android interchangeably, but these words have different meanings. Both refer to beings powered by robotics, but an android is powered entirely by machinery. Cyborgs are partly powered by a living organism. They also look different. Androids may be completely mechanical, but they are designed to look like humans. They may have synthetic skin, hair, and other human-like features. Cyborgs are usually designed in a way that accents their robotic modifications. A cyborg's mechanically enhanced eye may cast a red light or have a chrome plate surrounding it, for instance. So you see, though the terms cyborg and android seem similar, they refer to different things.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. It is a widely acknowledged fact that machines are stronger than people. Is it possible for them to become smarter than us too? Some scientists fear that it is, or so says the theory of technological singularity. In a nutshell, the theory of technological singularity says that there will be a moment when a computer can improve its own capabilities. This computer will go into an infinite loop, getting progressively smarter. Inevitably this will lead to machines becoming smarter than people, or so the theory goes. Such gains in available intelligence might lead to huge improvements in science and medicine. Diseases could be cured and such. But it could also lead to the total domination or replacement of mankind by robots, which would be bad. If the latter were the case, I, for one, would welcome our new computer overlords.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. Fellow Members of the Springfield Robotics Club: we have a problem. It has come to my attention that the workshop has been left an absolute mess on at least two separate occasions. Remember, that this is a shared space, so we must clean up behind ourselves after every meeting. It is in the spirit of keeping our club meeting space that we establish this rule: when you take a tool off the rack, put it back. If everyone puts their tools back immediately after using them, there will be minimal mess to clean up, and we won't get kicked out of the spot. So, if you like having a meeting place, and being part of our club, put your tools back.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

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Nonfiction Reading

TV

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

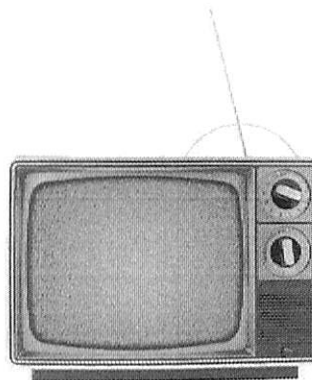
Televisions show sounds and pictures. They get data from cables, discs, or over-the-air signals. They turn this data into sounds and images. People watch news and shows on them. You probably call them TVs.

John Baird made the first TV in 1925. It had one color. It could only show 30 lines. This was just enough room for a face. It didn't work well, but it was a start.

The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a Felix the Cat doll for two hours a day. The doll spun around on a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right.

By the end of the 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but the people loved it.

They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country.



By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time, nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now.

Color TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, color TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in color. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows.

Now most TVs are high-def. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High-def TVs have 1080 lines. There are state of the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what they will come up with next. Smell-o-vision anyone?

1. When did color TVs come out?

- a. 1925
- b. 1953
- c. 1939
- d. 1965

2. Which was **not** true about the first TV?

- a. It could only show one color.
- b. It only had 30 lines.
- c. It did not have sound.
- d. It did not work well.

3. When did networks start showing programs in color?

- a. 1948
- b. 1953
- c. 1965
- d. 1939

4. Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?

- a. They were running tests.
- b. Felix the Cat was really popular.
- c. Felix the Cat had been a big radio star.
- d. Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.

5. Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?

- a. The World's Fair of 1939
- b. The Civil War
- c. The election of the U.S. President.
- d. World War II

6. What is the author's main purpose in writing this?

- a. He is trying to explain how a TV works.
- b. He is telling readers how TVs became popular.
- c. He is describing the history of the TV.
- d. He is trying to get people to watch more TV.

7. Why did many families switch to color TVs in 1965?

- a. Color TVs cost a lot of money.
- b. Many shows were only shown in color.
- c. Color TVs came out in 1965.
- d. World War II ended and troops returned home.

8. Why was 1939 an important year for TV?

- a. Many Americans were introduced to TV.
- b. The first color TV was released.
- c. The first TV station began broadcasting.
- d. John Baird created the first TV.

9. How many lines does a 4K TV have?

- a. 30
- b. 1,080
- c. 4,000
- d. 3,840

10. Which happened first?

- a. The 1939 World's Fair
- b. The release of high-def TVs
- c. The end of World War II
- d. The release of color TVs

Why would watching TV have been boring in 1928?

Why did the 5 inch black-and-white TVs at the World's Fair impress people?

Why would it have been a bad idea to buy a color TV when they first were released?

Name: _____

Setting Worksheet 2

Directions: Read each passage and look for clues that reveal the setting. Then explain your answer. Remember the setting is the time and place that a story happens.

Crack! The storm raged as the men scrambled around the deck, bracing equipment. The pirate captain wrestled with the wheel. The mighty ocean tossed them to and fro. He began yelling at the men over the noise of the storm, "Argh! We must bring down the sails men! You and you... bring them down!" He called out to a pirate wearing a striped sweater and another one with a bandanna. The pirate with the bandanna began shimmying up the mast to the crow's-nest. The pirate wearing the striped sweater put his sword in his belt and began climbing up behind him.

1. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

2. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Mr. Holland walked up to the teller and handed her a paper slip. She punched a few figures into the computer and ran the slip through a machine. It printed some numbers on the back of the slip. She handed the slip back to him along with five \$20 bills. Then she asked him, "Is there anything else that I can help you with today?" Mr. Holland grabbed the money off of the counter and tipped his hat to the woman, "Not today, thank you."

3. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

4. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Crack! Org banged the two rocks together. Ur watched him from across the pit. *Crack! Crack! Crack!* Org wiped his forehead with his arm and said, "It no work." Ur gathered more small sticks from off of the ground and dropped them in the pit. She climbed a nearby tree and grabbed a coconut. She peeled some of the husk from off of the coconut and dropped it in the pit. "You try now!" Ur grunted. *Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!* Org relentlessly pounded the two rocks together, but still there was no fire.

5. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

6. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Dr. Zavares tightened the final screw on his contraption. He tossed the wrench on the workbench with a thud. The beakers in the center of the room bubbled with activity. "Computer," he announced to the empty room, "Zavares needs a lemonade." A beeping and grinding noise could be heard in the distance and then a small robot floated into the laboratory with a glass of lemonade on a platter. Dr. Zavares grabbed the lemonade from off of the platter and drank it. He then returned the glass to the floating platter and the robot hovered away. "Well, here goes nothing," Dr. Zavares said to himself as he reached for the power switch on his latest contraption.

7. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

8. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Carrie walked through the doors of the building with her package in hand. There was no line so she walked right up to the counter. She handed the man her package. He placed it on a creaky scale, turned a knob, and adjusted some weights. "One pound and four ounces," He said, writing down the number on a ledger. He did some multiplication on a notepad and looked up at her from behind his glasses. Then he asked, "It's going to Boston?" She nodded. "That'll be 44 cents." He said. She opened up her change purse and removed the coins, placing them on the counter. "Thank you kindly, Sir," she remarked before departing.

9. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

10. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Name: _____

Fact or Opinion

Directions: Read each statement and then circle whether it is a fact or opinion. If it's a fact, explain how it can be proven. If it is an opinion, simply write that it cannot be proven.

1. Basketball is a much more exciting sport than golf.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

2. Cristiano Ronaldo was the highest earning athlete in 2017.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

3. In general, professional athletes are overpaid.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

4. There are more head and spinal injuries each year from cheerleading than all other sports combined.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

5. Athletes are role models and should conduct themselves accordingly in the public eye.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

6. According to the MLB rule book, there are nine innings in a game of baseball.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

7. The Dallas Cowboys have a terrible defensive line.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

8. Statistically speaking, the 1976 Buccaneers have the worst record in the NFL having gone 0-14.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

9. With dark blue mesh and bright orange text, the Chicago Bears have the ugliest uniform in the NFL.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

10. Aroldis Chapman threw the fastest pitch recorded in a major league game at 105 MPH.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

11. Spitting in your hand before you pick up a baseball bat gives you good luck.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

12. Mary Lou Retton was the first American to win the gold medal in the Women's All-Around event.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

13. The New York Yankees have won more World Series titles than any other team in baseball.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

14. NASCAR racing is not a real sport since you don't use your muscles to compete.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

15. Women's basketball games are not as aggressive or exciting as men's basketball games.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

16. Football is a more physical game than soccer because it requires more upper body strength.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

17. Playing football is one of the most dangerous things that a high school student can do.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

18. Barry Bonds holds the record for most homeruns in a season.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

19. The average salary for a quarterback in the NFL in 2009 was 15 million dollars.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

20. John Elway is still the greatest quarterback in NFL history.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

21. Cheerleading is not a sport.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

22. Soccer is more difficult to play than other sports because you cannot use your hands.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

23. The average salary for a player on the Yankees is over six million dollars.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

24. Large salaries and overpaid athletes are spoiling the purity of sporting competitions.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____

25. Since they make the most money, NBA players are the most spoiled of all athletes.

Fact or Opinion How can this be proven? _____