

6th Grade ELA NTID Packet

Week 6

- Days 1-5 – Central Ideas & Inferencing Practice

Day 1

The amount of trash that people throw away is a growing problem. In countries all over the world, government officials must determine how and where to dispose of garbage. Landfills are rapidly filling up and the cost of removing trash is rising quickly. Switzerland has developed a way to minimize the amount of trash that is thrown away while encouraging their citizens to recycle. In Switzerland, residents must pay a special fee for trash bags in order for their trash to be collected. Swiss households that produce a lot of trash will pay more in order to have their trash removed, while households that recycle more will not have to pay as much.

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| 1. What is the central idea of the passage? | 2. What inference can be made about today's passage? | 3. Write a quote from the passage that supports your answer to #2. |
| a. Some countries are not equipped to recycle. | a. Swiss officials wanted to reduce the amount of trash. | |
| b. Citizens of Switzerland must buy trash bags. | b. Swiss officials were looking for a way to make money. | |
| c. Citizens of Switzerland are encouraged to recycle. | c. Most people try to recycle as much as possible. | |

Day 2

Most people have accidentally thrown away something that was important. In 2016, a woman in New York threw away an envelope that contained \$5,000 that she was planning on using to pay her mortgage. Luckily, her son was a sanitation worker and was able to get three of his coworkers to help look for the envelope. They looked through the trash until they were finally able to locate the money. The envelope contained nearly all of the money. Unfortunately, a couple of bills had apparently worked their way out of the envelope during the ordeal. The money was returned to the relieved woman who offered a reward to the workers, but they declined it.

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| 1. What is the central idea of today's passage? | 2. What inference can be made from today's passage? | 3. Write a quote from the passage that supports your answer to #2. |
| a. Three sanitation workers looked through trash to help a woman. | a. The workers helped look for the money because they wanted to keep it. | |
| b. A woman mistakenly threw away money, but the money was found and returned. | b. The workers didn't want to look for the money. | |
| c. People regularly throw away things they need. | c. The workers looked for the money because they wanted to be helpful. | |

Day 3

During the hottest days of summer, many people wouldn't consider setting foot inside a building that did not have a working air conditioner, but the air conditioner is a relatively recent invention. Throughout history, people have used a variety of techniques to make themselves more comfortable during the heat of the summer. Ancient Romans pumped cool water through interior walls in their homes to make rooms more comfortable. The Chinese used small fans for thousands of years. In many cultures, houses were built with more windows that could be opened during the heat of the summer. Some people even slept outside on their porches on the hottest summer nights.

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| 1. What is the central idea of the passage? | 2. What inference can be made about today's passage? | 3. Write a quote from the passage that supports your answer to #2. |
| a. People kept cool in many ways throughout history. | a. Many people do not want air conditioners. | |
| b. The air conditioner is a recent invention. | b. The Romans solved their heat problems. | |
| c. Ancient Romans used cold water in pipes to cool down their homes. | c. Buildings can retain heat after the sun has set. | |

Day 4

Calling 911 to report a fire is a logical response when someone encounters a fire. Countries all over the world have well trained fire departments that quickly respond to both save lives and put out fires in order to limit property damage. The first fire departments were not always so helpful. There was a fire brigade in ancient Rome that quickly responded to reports of buildings that were on fire. Before any efforts were made to put out the fire, an official would discuss the price the owner was willing to pay for the service. If a price could not be agreed on, then the fire brigade would just let the building burn to the ground.

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| 1. What is the central idea of today's passage? | 2. What inference can be made from today's passage? | 3. Write a quote from the passage that supports your answer to #2. |
| a. An ancient Roman fire department charged people for their service. | a. Some property owners could not afford to pay to put the fire out. | |
| b. The world's first fire department was in ancient Rome. | b. The Ancient Roman fire department was designed to help people. | |
| c. Fire departments have existed for centuries. | c. Fire safety was not important in Ancient Rome. | |

Day 5

It was hard to miss the videos in the summer of 2014. All over social media networks, people posted videos of themselves being soaked by a bucket of ice water. It was referred to as the Ice Bucket Challenge. At the end of each video, participants challenged a number of their friends to either perform the challenge within 24 hours or make a donation to an organization dedicated to treatment and research for ALS. ALS is an acronym for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In the United States, ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a disease that attacks neurons and for which there is no cure.

The Ice Bucket Challenge quickly went viral. Some critics said that it did little to raise awareness of the disease. Later, studies showed that the majority of people who participated in the challenge did not actually donate, but many did. Over \$100 million was raised in the United States. The majority of that money went to fund research for treatments for the devastating disease. Money also went to help support patients currently suffering from the disease.

1. What is a central idea of today's passage?
 - a. The Ice Bucket Challenge required participants to dump a bucket of ice water on themselves.
 - b. The Ice Bucket Challenge was popular in 2014 and raised money for ALS research.
 - c. ALS is a devastating disease that currently has no cure.
2. What inference can be made about most people that participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge?
 - a. Their participation was not motivated by a desire to help ALS research.
 - b. The majority of people that participated did so because they were personally affected by ALS.
 - c. Most people didn't participate in the challenge and simply donated money.
3. What inference can be made about the role of social media in the success of the Ice Bucket Challenge?
 - a. Social media was the reason the challenge was so successful.
 - b. The challenge would have been successful without social media.
 - c. Most people were not influenced by social media to donate money.
4. Write a summary of today's passage.
