

5th Grade Integrated Language Arts

Blizzard Bag # 3



Game Over

Sentence Comprehension

Directions: Read the following sentence carefully and answer the questions below "True" (T) or "False" (F).

Just one week after the NBA lockout was settled in 1999, hoops fans were saddened by the news that the game's greatest and most popular player, Michael Jordan, 35, was retiring from professional basketball.

1. Michael Jordan retired from basketball because of the lockout. _____
2. The NBA stands for "National Basketball Association." _____
3. Michael Jordan wore number 35. _____
4. Michael Jordan is considered the most popular and best basketball player. _____
5. After 35 years of NBA basketball, Michael Jordan retired. _____

Word Study

Directions: Write the letter of the appropriate definition for each sentence below.

Retire

Retire is a verb that has multiple meanings.

- a. to withdraw, as for rest or seclusion
- b. to go to bed
- c. to give up working because of advancing age
- d. to remove from active military service
- e. (in baseball) to put out
- f. (for a publication) to remove from circulation

1. Because only four people subscribed to the magazine, the editors decided to retire *Funny Faces* the following year. _____
2. When my uncle was 65 years old, he retired and moved to Florida. _____
3. When my mom retired from the army, she became a volunteer firefighter. _____
4. The pitcher retired the opposing team by striking out all three batters! _____
5. I retired to bed after a tiring, yet fun, day sledding. _____
6. Grandpa retired to his hammock to read before dinner. _____

Paragraph Comprehension

Directions: Read the paragraph below and answer the following questions.

Jordan played 13 seasons in the NBA, all with the Chicago Bulls. He led them to six world championships. After being named Rookie of the Year in 1984, he led the league in scoring 10 times. He was voted Most Valuable Player in the finals six times and in the regular season five times.

1. After being Rookie of the Year in 1984, Michael Jordan
 - a. was the most valuable player.
 - b. led his team to a world championship.
 - c. began his NBA career.
 - d. both a and b
2. Michael Jordan was Rookie of the Year. *Rookie* means
 - a. a Star Wars character.
 - b. a red cookie.
 - c. a first-season team member.
 - d. a basketball player.
3. Jordan played 13 seasons with
 - a. the Chicago Bulls.
 - b. the LA Lakers.
 - c. the Chicago Cubs.
 - d. the Chicago Bears.
4. *Led the league in scoring* means
 - a. taking the most shots.
 - b. getting the most 3-point shots.
 - c. showing the team how to shoot correctly.
 - d. scoring the most points.
5. Jordan played basketball for
 - a. 13 seasons.
 - b. 10 seasons.
 - c. five seasons.
 - d. six seasons.

Whole Story Comprehension

Directions: Read the story below and answer the questions on the following page.

Game Over!

It was the end of the era of air. Just one week after the NBA lockout was settled in 1999, hoops fans were saddened by the news that the game's greatest and most popular player, Michael Jordan, 35, was retiring from professional basketball.

"Mentally, I'm exhausted," Jordan explained at a news conference in Chicago. "I've accomplished everything I could as an individual."

Asked if he had lost his desire to play, Jordan said that while "the desire is always going to be there . . . this is the perfect time for me to walk away from the game. I'm at peace with that."

Anyone who has ever seen Jordan play knows how he got his nickname, Air Jordan. Without wings and without wires, he seemed to fly toward the basket. Gravity? What's gravity?

Fans around the world were moved by his announcement. A newspaper headline in Beijing, China, said, "FLYING MAN JORDAN IS COMING BACK TO EARTH." In China, the Bulls are known, and greatly loved, as "the Oxen."

Jordan played 13 seasons in the NBA, all with the Chicago Bulls. He led them to six world championships. After being named Rookie of the Year in 1984, he led the league in scoring 10 times. He was voted Most Valuable Player in the finals six times and in the regular season five times.

Jordan hangs up his sneakers with the highest scoring average in NBA history. He is third on the all-time scoring list, after Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Wilt Chamberlain, who had longer careers.

Of course, Jordan retired from the NBA once before, in 1993. Eighteen months later, after attempting to play minor league baseball, Jordan was back on the court with the Bulls.

Asked if he might return again, Jordan answered that while he was 99.9% certain that he wouldn't, he would "never say never." But this time, Jordan seems intent on staying retired. He can't wait to pick up his kids from school and "watch them play one-on-one." Said His Airness: "I'm just going to enjoy life and do some of the things I've never done before." If anyone has earned that right, it's Michael Jordan. We'll miss him.

Whole Story Comprehension *(cont.)*

Directions: After you have read the story on the previous page, answer the questions below.

1. When Michael Jordan states, "Mentally, I'm exhausted," *mentally* means
 - a. his muscles.
 - b. his mind.
 - c. his feet.
 - d. his heart.
2. Michael Jordan's nickname is "Air Jordan" because
 - a. he jumps in the air after he scores a basket.
 - b. he takes deep breaths of air before shooting.
 - c. he seems to fly toward the basket.
 - d. all of the above
3. The author's attitude toward Michael Jordan is
 - a. jealousy.
 - b. hostility.
 - c. respect.
 - d. sadness.
4. Jordan retired from the Bulls in
 - a. 1993.
 - b. 1999.
 - c. 1984.
 - d. both a and b
5. Michael Jordan has also
 - a. played major league baseball.
 - b. played minor league baseball.
 - c. coached professional basketball.
 - d. run the Boston marathon.
6. Jordan is looking forward to retirement because
 - a. life as a professional basketball player is demanding.
 - b. he wants to be with his children.
 - c. he wants to do new things.
 - d. all of the above
7. If Jordan continued playing basketball, the author feels Jordan would have been
 - a. injured.
 - b. traded to another team.
 - c. elected president.
 - d. number one on the all-time scoring list.
8. Number One on the all-time scoring list is
 - a. Michael Jordan.
 - b. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.
 - c. Wilt Chamberlain.
 - d. Magic Johnson.

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Directions and Prompt

Standards: W. 5.1 a-d, L. 5.1b

Use your own notebook paper to write an opinion based on the two passages.

Prompt: Write an opinion piece from the point of view of a child who supports a curfew. Include information from both passages to support your opinion.

Read the passage.

Curfews for Children

Children often think that evening is the time when fun things happen. Many older children enjoy spending time with friends and attending events in the evening. On the other hand, parents usually want their children in at a “reasonable” hour. Clearly there are two sides to the issue of curfews.

A curfew is something parents use to try to keep their children safe by limiting their exposure to nighttime dangers. Parents reason that the later a child is out, the more chance that child has of getting into trouble. Parents may worry about car accidents and drivers who may be tired and careless at the end of a long day.

In addition, a curfew helps parents ensure that their children get enough sleep. This is important because children need to stay alert the next day while at school and during other activities, such as homework and afterschool sports. According to the National Sleep Foundation, children ages five to twelve need ten to eleven hours of sleep each night.

On the other hand, children may argue that their parents haven’t considered their needs when making decisions about curfews. They may feel their parents do not respect their ability to make good decisions on their own. Curfews that are made without the input of the children affected may even cause children to act out in response.

What is the solution? A compromise between parents and children may be the best way to solve the curfew problem. Parents may insist that their children have a curfew. But if those children are able to be a part of the decision, there may be less conflict and more acceptance of the curfew.

Parents simply want their children safe and well rested. Children may have good suggestions about how to achieve these goals. A decision that is made by both parents and children can teach children how to problem-solve and be considerate of others’ views and can give parents the control they need.

Use the Reading Guide to help you understand the passage.

Reading Guide

How can you tell what the writer's opinion is?

How does the writer structure the reasons? Is the structure logical? How can you tell?

Which details back up each reason?

Children Don't Need Curfews

Many children today have evening curfews. They have to be at home each evening by a certain time no matter what they are doing. But I believe evening curfews are unfair, unnecessary, and disrespectful to children.

Most children in grade five and up need to be out at least a few evenings a week. They often have extracurricular activities that both children and their parents feel are important. Maybe they have basketball practice that ends at 7:30 or a dance class that is dismissed at 8:00. These children have made commitments. Keeping these commitments may require them to be away from home in the evening. They cannot keep their commitments if they have a curfew.

Other children may have reasons to be out in the evening that are just as compelling. They may go to the library to do research for a school project. Some children may spend time studying at a friend's house. If these children had curfews, they couldn't do these activities that benefit their performance in school.

Another reason for not having a curfew is that relaxed rules help children develop good judgment on their own. They learn good judgment when they are allowed to make their own decisions and their own mistakes. Children also develop good judgment when parents help them learn how to handle different situations. A discussion about what children should do in an emergency or when approached by a stranger can prepare children and help them make good choices. Imposing a curfew will not.

Reading Guide

How do transitions link the different viewpoints?

What point of view opposes the author's position? How does the author respond?

How does the last paragraph pull together the ideas in the passage?

When children do not have a curfew, they need to develop responsibility. If they are allowed to stay out in the evening, they should also take responsibility for themselves. They should make sure they get enough sleep, get themselves up in the morning, get to school on time, and do their homework. If children are responsible, as I am, and study and do their homework as they are supposed to, staying out in the evening will not cause a problem for them.

Parents worry that their children will be unsafe without a curfew. The earlier children are in for the evening, they think, the less chance they have of getting into a dangerous situation. Parents worry about their children having accidents in the evening. Many car accidents occur at night because drivers do not see children walking or biking in the dark.

However, parents forget that their children want to be safe, too. Children can work with their parents to avoid dangerous situations. For example, children who ride their bikes home in the evening can ride with a light so drivers will see them. Children can call their parents for a ride home if it is too dark to walk. In addition, many children have their own cell phones so they can call to check in with their parents throughout the evening. They can also use their cell phones to call a parent or the police if they need help. By taking these measures, children do not need curfews because they have planned other ways to stay safe in the evening.

Part of growing up is learning how to make decisions and become independent. This means that parents and children need to develop trust. A curfew is not the way to build trust. A better way is for parents and children to talk openly. Parents can voice their concern. Children can respond and share their point of view. Then parents and children can reach a solution that they both feel comfortable with. Open discussion between parents and children improves communication, which, in turn, leads to trust. Curfews for children should not be part of it.