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Hergü1/2 and The Adventures of Tintin

By Vickie Chao

Have you ever read a comic series called *The Adventures of Tintin*? The entire set has 24 stories. Each features a daring trip of a young reporter named Tintin. When Tintin was on the road, his best friend, a foxhound named Snowy, was always by his side. Sometimes it was just the two of them trotting the globe. Sometimes they went with their friends, Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus, or the clumsy twin detectives, Thomson and Thompson.



Tintin, Snowy, and their sidekicks are fictional. But thanks to their creator, Hergü1/2, they look quite real.

Born in May 1907, Hergü1/2 was a famous comic writer and artist from Belgium. From very early on, he knew that he liked to draw pictures. When he was 17 years old, he created a pen name for himself. Since then, he always signed his work not with his real name (Gerges Remi), but with this new identity - Hergü1/2.

By far, Hergü1/2 was best known for his *The Adventures of Tintin*. But aside from that, he also produced *The Adventures of Jo, Zette, and Jocko* as well as *Quick & Flupke*.

In the stories of *The Adventures of Jo, Zette, and Jocko*, Hergü1/2 created a family of four. Jo and Zette were brother and sister. The two, joined by their pet monkey Jocko, constantly got themselves into some sort of trouble. For example, they got lost at sea once. And they nearly died at the North Pole. But luckily, no matter what happened, they could always find a way out with their parents' help. Hergü1/2 made *The Adventures of Jo, Zette, and Jocko* especially for a weekly French newspaper. But after completing only five episodes, he gave up. Because Jo and Zette were just children, they could not travel around the world by themselves on a

whim. To balance out the acts, Hergü1/2 had to make each adventure a family trip. The restrictions were simply too much for him to work with. He personally favored Tintin since the young reporter was able to embark on any journey at a minute's notice.

In *Quick & Flupke*, Hergü1/2 invented two naughty boys who liked to cause trouble in the streets of Brussels. Their unruly behavior meant headaches for both their parents and the police. This fun series ran for ten years from 1930 to 1940. Hergü1/2 eventually cancelled it because he wanted to focus more of his time on making *The Adventures of Tintin*.

In the early days, *The Adventures of Tintin* carried certain negative messages. Though those views reflected what European society believed at the time, they later proved to be wrong. For example, in the second Tintin adventure, *Tintin in the Congo*, Hergü1/2 had Tintin giving a geography lesson at a local school. At the time, the Congo was not an independent country. It was occupied by Belgium. In the original version, Tintin told the class excitedly, "My friends, today I am going to talk to you about your country: Belgium!" In the revised edition, Hergü1/2 realized that his viewpoints were biased. So he changed it and had Tintin giving an arithmetic lesson instead.

As Hergü1/2 grew increasingly sensitive, he tried to avoid the same mistakes that he had made in his earlier works. When he began preparing for Tintin's adventure to China, he befriended a Chinese art student named Chang Chong-Jen. Chang Chong-Jen introduced Hergü1/2 to Chinese history and culture. To express his thanks, Hergü1/2 invented a Chinese orphan boy in *The Blue Lotus* based on this real-life friend of his. He called that orphan boy Chang Chong-Chen. This minor character would become a very good friend of Tintin. He was also the only one who managed to make the young reporter cry twice! Hergü1/2 made Chang Chong-Chen appear in two of Tintin's adventures. The first was *The Blue Lotus* and the second was *Tintin in Tibet*. Interestingly, in that second adventure, Hergü1/2 set the stage by making Chang Chong-Chen a victim of a plane crash. Convinced that his friend was still alive, Tintin packed his bags and went to Tibet. He eventually found Chang Chong-Chen. In truth, Hergü1/2 created that story because he missed Chang Chong-Jen who had returned to China years ago. The distance, plus wars in that region, made contact impossible. For forty years, Hergü1/2 was unable to locate Chang Chong-Jen. It was during that period that he made *Tintin in Tibet*. Amazingly, in 1981, the two friends were finally able to meet again. Two years later, on March 3, 1983, Hergü1/2 died. He never finished Tintin's

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twenty-fourth adventure, *Tintin and Alph-Art*.

The Adventures of Tintin brought Hergé 1/2 fame and fortune. Right from the time that he began the series in 1929, he had allowed his creativity to run loose. Through his works, Tintin, Snowy, and the others traveled everywhere. They went to Russia. They walked across the Sahara Desert. They dropped by Peru. They climbed the Himalayas. And they even flew to the moon. (Hergé 1/2, on the contrary, had never visited any of those places.) In the stories, Tintin was always very resourceful. He knew how to drive a car. He knew how to operate a boat. He knew how to fly a plane. He knew how to run a submarine. And when needed, he could pilot a rocket, too! Today, *The Adventures of Tintin* is available in more than 70 languages. Thanks to Hergé 1/2 and a team of artists who worked closely with him, the entire series was adapted into color and animated cartoons.

Even though Hergé 1/2 passed away a long time ago, his bestsellers continue to attract fans from all corners of the world. Now there's even a Hollywood movie and video games about Tintin's adventures. Back in his home country, the Belgian Center for Comic Strip Art in Brussels has an excellent collection of all things related to Hergé 1/2 and *The Adventures of Tintin*. That is the one place that every die-hard Tintin fan must go!

Hergé 1/2 and The Adventures of Tintin

Questions

- _____ 1. Where was Hergé 1/2 from?
- A. France
 - B. Belgium
 - C. Holland
 - D. Germany

- _____ 2. Which of the following places had Tintin **never** visited?
- A. Korea
 - B. Peru
 - C. China
 - D. Russia
- _____ 3. Which of the following about Hergé 1/2 and his works is true?
- A. Hergé 1/2's *Quick & Flupke* ran for ten years.
 - B. Hergé 1/2 began drawing *The Adventure of Tintin* when he was 17 years old.
 - C. Hergé 1/2 used his real name to sign all his works.
 - D. Hergé 1/2 cancelled *The Adventures of Jo, Zette, and Jocko* because he wanted to spend more time on making *The Adventures of Tintin*.
- _____ 4. Which two characters are in every episode of *The Adventures of Tintin*?
- A. Thomson and Thompson
 - B. Tintin and Captain Haddock
 - C. Tintin and Snowy
 - D. Tintin and Professor Calculus
- _____ 5. How many completed stories did Hergé 1/2 create for *The Adventures of Tintin*?
- A. 23
 - B. 22
 - C. 24
 - D. 21
- _____ 6. What was Tintin's job in *The Adventures of Tintin*?
- A. soldier
 - B. sailor
 - C. policeman
 - D. reporter
- _____ 7. What kind of animal is Jocko?
- A. a mouse
 - B. a monkey
 - C. a cat
 - D. a dog



The Method's the Key!

By Trista L. Pollard

Some of the best inventions happen by accident, like the microwave oven. However, most inventions happen after many years of research. Scientists test and retest ideas hoping to solve questions or puzzles. Good scientists use a process called the **scientific method**.

The scientific method is a series of problem-solving steps that help scientists answer scientific questions. You also use the scientific method when you work on **experiments** in your classroom. These questions usually are asked after scientists have made **observations**. An observation happens when you use your senses to notice your environment. For example, as you leave for school, you notice that your skin feels sticky. The air feels damp. Your mildly curly hair became very curly outside. These are observations.

After observing your high hair, you ask yourself, "Why does my hair become very curly when I step outside?" This is your **scientific question**. You start to guess or think about possible reasons for your frizzy hair. The time has come for you to make a good guess or a **hypothesis** based on your observations. You guess that your hair becomes very curly because of the humidity in the air. To prove your hypothesis, you need to develop a **procedure** or plan to test your **prediction**.

Your plan is very simple. Since you heard on the news that the humidity would be high tomorrow, you decide to (1) do your hair again and (2) step outside the door and see what happens. These two steps will allow you to see if humidity causes mildly curly hair to become curlier. When you wake up in the morning, you go through your usual hair routine. When you step outside, you are not disappointed because your hair becomes even curlier today since the humidity is even higher. Now you are ready to **record** your **results**.

Scientists record their results either with pictures or with words. They use charts, graphs, diagrams, and summaries to communicate their results. In this case, you may wish to mentally note what happens to your hair on humid days. You might also choose to share

the results or **data** with your friends at the lunch table in school. You could also write a short paragraph about your experiment and give it to your teacher. Make sure you include a **conclusion**. This conclusion or statement tells the results of your experiment. Your conclusion is: "When people with curly hair walk outside on humid days, their hair may become curlier depending on the amount of humidity."

You are probably feeling good about your results and think that your scientific study is over. However, good scientists also ask more questions, record more observations, and offer more suggestions about the subject they are studying. You may ask, "Can I prevent my hair from becoming curlier or frizzy on humid days?" After researching your new question, you could offer suggestions to other people with your dilemma. Keep in mind, that whatever scientists investigate, they know that the scientific method is the key to unlocking scientific secrets.

The Method's the Key!

Questions

- _____ 1. A hypothesis is _____.
 - A. a prediction or guess that is not based on observations
 - B. a prediction or guess based on observations
 - C. a result of an experiment
 - D. none of the above

- _____ 2. The scientific method is one step scientists use to solve scientific problems.
 - A. true
 - B. false

3. What is an observation?

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- _____ 4. Which statement is NOT a prediction?
- A. I think the balloon will pop when the chemicals react.
 - B. I think the wood will float when I put it into the water.
 - C. I think the salt will dissolve when I add water to the cup.
 - D. I think I will stay home tonight.

5. What is a conclusion?

- _____ 6. Scientists record their results either with pictures or with words.
- A. false
 - B. true

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Robert Bateman, Canadian Wildlife Artist

By Colleen Messina

Robert Bateman is one of the best wildlife artists in the world. Mr. Bateman's paintings capture the spirit of the animal. An eagle's profile looks proud and intense with its beady eyes searching for prey. Every detail of the bird is perfect, down to the last feather. Bateman thinks that he has the best job in the world because he can explore and have adventures in nature. His paintings are in many art museums and private collections around the world.



Mr. Bateman follows in the footsteps of a group of artists called the Group of Seven. This group originally got together around 1912 and began painting the Canadian wilderness. They traveled all over their country to paint in a bold style. Their artwork influenced how Canadians saw their country and increased their national pride. Robert Bateman originally painted abstract nature paintings inspired by the Group of Seven. Later, he tried a more realistic style. Today, his wildlife paintings are almost lifelike.

Mr. Bateman was born in 1930 and grew up in Toronto. When he was 12, his mother sent him to the Royal Ontario Museum. He joined the Junior Field Naturalists and started drawing wildlife all the time. He became a teacher, although he pursued his art on the side, and taught high school for 29 years. By the 1970s, his artwork attracted so much attention that he became a full-time artist. He traveled all over the world and became active in naturalist clubs. He has worked tirelessly to promote conservation.

Mr. Bateman loves the excitement of wildlife painting. He prefers painting fierce animals like bears, birds of prey, and lions because they have alert faces and lots of muscles. Animals like beavers are "just big blobs" to him, but the predators are much more exciting. He has traveled all over the world in search of the wildest animals. He loves Africa, where he has painted giraffes, wildebeests, lions, and other animals.

He has great advice for aspiring young artists. Mr. Bateman suggests that you start out with something that does not move, like dead leaves, because animals move around too much. You can collect meadow grasses, put them in a bottle, and draw them. You should try to look at the object you are drawing rather than your paper. You can also look at photographs. Later, you can draw outside. National parks are a great place to see how nature changes from season to season.

Mr. Bateman also suggests using field guides on birds, wildflowers, or insects, so you can learn more about the creatures and plants in your area. He strongly encourages everyone who is interested in nature to take steps to protect it. He encourages kids to write letters and join groups. He believes that joining a group is a great way to work with others to protect Earth.

Robert Bateman has used his amazing wildlife art to promote better care of Earth and its creatures. He paints animals that face threats from humans. "I can't conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth," Bateman says. "Its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it. And then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting."

Robert Bateman, Canadian Wildlife Artist

Questions

- _____ 1. Which of these animals is Bateman not likely to have painted?
 - A. wolves
 - B. lionesses
 - C. mouse
 - D. giraffes
- _____ 2. Which group inspired Bateman to paint nature?
 - A. his family
 - B. the Group of Seven
 - C. the ASPCA
 - D. the Canadian government

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Rosalynn Carter

By Meg Leonard

Rosalynn Smith was born in 1927. She lived in Plains, Georgia. Rosalynn's father died when she was thirteen. She helped her mother take care of her four brothers and sisters. Rosalynn went to college after high school. She first dated Jimmy Carter after her first year of college. They had been friends since childhood. They were married in 1946. Jimmy was in the Navy. Jimmy and Rosalynn moved around a lot. Their four children were each born in a different state. They have three sons and a daughter. In 1953, Jimmy left the Navy. The family moved back to Georgia. Jimmy took over the family business after his father died. Rosalynn helped with the business full time. Jimmy entered politics nine years later. He ran for the Georgia Senate. In 1970, Jimmy was elected governor of Georgia. Jimmy ran for president seven years later. Rosalynn campaigned all over the country. Jimmy was elected president. When Rosalynn was first lady, she worked very hard. She went to important meetings. She represented the president at special occasions. She focused attention on the performing arts. Jimmy Carter was not elected to a second term. After leaving office, the Carters have continued to fight for human rights for all people. Today, Rosalynn is the vice chair of The Carter Center. The Carter Center promotes peace and human rights.



Rosalynn Carter

Questions

- _____ 1. Who is Rosalynn Carter?
 - A. an actress
 - B. a sailor
 - C. wife of Jimmy Carter
 - D. a politician

- _____ 2. How many children do the Carters have?
 - A. 8
 - B. 6
 - C. 2
 - D. 4

- _____ 3. What branch of the service did Jimmy serve in?
 - A. Army
 - B. Navy
 - C. Marines
 - D. Air Force

- _____ 4. What issue is very important to Rosalynn?
 - A. human rights for all
 - B. conservation
 - C. world peace
 - D. all of the above
 - E. both A and C

5. Name some things Rosalynn did as first lady.

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The Mystery of the Newspaper Bandit

By Colleen Messina

"Oh, no. OK, I will re-deliver the paper," Brian said with despair. The newspaper at 112 Rose Row had disappeared...again.

Ten-year-old Brian did not understand why one newspaper on his route kept disappearing. Each morning he woke up at the crack of dawn. He dragged himself out of his warm cocoon of blankets and got dressed. He then folded the newspapers that had been dropped off in his driveway and stuffed them into his satchel.

Off he went into the slowly-brightening morning. Brian thought of himself as the superhero of early morning information. He pedaled his bike through the sleeping neighborhoods and expertly shot his papers onto the dark porches and walkways. He had become such a good shot that his customers called him Bull's-eye Brian and gave him fantastic Christmas tips.

Brian's stellar service record had just one flaw. The house at the end of the street seemed to eat up newspapers. Every day for the past week, his customer there called him to tell him that the paper had not been delivered. Brian did not understand it because every day for the past week he had delivered the paper to that house. What was going on?

The tiny two story house was not unusual. It had a tidy lawn and incredible flower gardens. It was next to an open field, and sometimes Brian saw the dark silhouettes of deer munching on their breakfast in the early hours. A tiny stream meandered through the far side of the field, and fussy pheasants squawked from time to time. It was a peaceful spot in the midst of town, so why was the paper disappearing each day?



When Brian had been alerted each day of the missing paper, his groggy, uncaffeinated, and cranky father drove him to the newspaper office to get an extra paper. Then they drove by 112 Rose Row to re-deliver it. Brian's dad was a tad bit tired of his extra involvement in Brian's job.

"Brian, we need to solve this newspaper mystery. When you signed up to do this route, it was with the condition that you take responsibility for it, rain or shine. I know you have done a great job, and your customers are happy with you. But I am getting a little tired of helping you re-deliver a missing paper each morning," said Brian's dad with a yawn.

"I know, Dad," said Brian. "I can't figure this out. I do deliver the paper every day, but then they call me and say that they didn't get it. I don't get it!"

"Well, what can we do about this problem?" asked Brian's dad.

"I don't know, but I am going to figure something out," said Brian.

There had to be some logical explanation for what was happening. Brian was concerned that his excellent reputation would be blackened by these mishaps. Only good paper boys got good tips at Christmas. Brian was counting on some excellent tips this year, especially from his loyal customers on Rose Row.

The next morning, Brian got more bad news. The people at 112 Rose Row did not get their paper again. Then the head of the circulation department at the newspaper office also called Brian. She told Brian that unless this situation was resolved, Brian would lose that customer. This was not good news at all. Brian had to figure out the problem right away. Maybe someone who was deprived of the morning news for some reason was stealing the paper.

Brian talked to his parents about the problem. They tried to be helpful, but lack of sleep made them slightly irritated by the whole situation. Brian also talked to his friends. They giggled with glee and suggested that he set a booby trap for the thief that would catch the newspaper burglar. Brian did not think that the people at 112 Rose Row would like to be caught in a booby trap on their front porch, so he did not like that idea very much. Then Brian mentioned his problem to his neighbor, the ever-friendly, ever-vigilant policeman, Mr. Gotcha.

"Do you know what policemen do when we try to solve a crime?"

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Mr. Gotcha said.

"You keep watch or something, right?" said Brian.

"That's right. Sometimes we look at the pattern of a crime and try to figure out where the burglar might strike next. Then we try to catch him in the act!" he said.

"So maybe I should watch and see if I can catch the criminal," said Brian.

"Exactly!" said Mr. Gotcha with a huge grin.

Brian decided to try his plan the very next morning. He got up a little bit early and delivered the other papers on Rose Row first. Then he carefully put the newspaper on the porch on 112 Rose Row. He hid behind a bush and waited. This was exciting!

Nothing happened. It figured that the day he was on patrol, the newspaper burglar would not show up. Brian felt discouraged. Then Brian heard something. A small, furry shape crept out from the shadows. It had little pointed ears and a ringed tail. Quick as a flash, the newspaper bandit grabbed the paper with its tiny black hands and ran away. It was a surprising discovery. Brian was flabbergasted.

Brian reported his findings to his customer who laughed out loud. The customer came up with the perfect solution: a plastic bin with a lid for Brian to put the paper in. Then the thief could not get the paper.

The raccoon had to get the morning news another way.

The Mystery of the Newspaper Bandit

Questions

- _____ 1. What was the name of the street where the newspaper was disappearing each day?
 - A. Lily Lane
 - B. Daisy Drive
 - C. Rose Row
 - D. Petunia Place

- _____ 2. What was next to the house in the story?
 - A. a store
 - B. a field
 - C. a library
 - D. a farm

- _____ 3. Which of the following is a fact about Brian?
 - A. He gets more tips than any other paper boy.
 - B. He has a paper route.
 - C. He lives on Lily Lane.
 - D. He is the very best paper boy the newspaper had.

- _____ 4. What was the name of the policeman in the story?
 - A. Mr. Smith
 - B. Mr. Gun
 - C. Mr. Gotcha
 - D. Mr. Bond

- _____ 5. What time of the year did the paper delivery people get their tips?
 - A. Halloween
 - B. Memorial Day
 - C. Flag Day
 - D. Christmas

- _____ 6. Which of the following is a synonym for the word "flabbergasted" in paragraph 20?
 - A. amazed
 - B. frightened
 - C. angry
 - D. calm

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Scientists Get Their Ducks in a Row about Bird Flu

By Colleen Messina

A flock of birds soaring across a red-streaked evening sky is a beautiful sight. Giddy geese winging their way south in a V formation can be inspiring. Feeding fat ducks bread crumbs while they rest on lake banks is fun. However, not everyone welcomes the arrival of migrating birds. Migrating birds can carry a virus called bird flu. It is also called avian flu.



Bird flu virus, or H5N1 as scientists call it, is an infection that kills millions of birds. Why is this a problem for people? Currently, the virus has spread to some people from birds. If the virus changes, or mutates, it could spread from person to person. It could become an aggressive "supervirus" that would be hard to stop. It could cause a pandemic. A pandemic is a disease that spreads to many people over a large geographic area. It would be difficult to fight the new disease because people haven't developed immunity to it.

The continent of Asia might be the most likely place where a bird flu pandemic could start. As of February 2008, the H5N1 virus has been in Asia, Europe, and Africa, but it has not reached the United States or the Western Hemisphere. Wild ducks and water birds are the natural hosts for bird flu. These waterfowl often get close to domestic chickens in villages in Vietnam and other Asian countries. These birds peck at the same food as chickens in the wet rice paddies. Then, the chickens, which live close to people, could pass the disease to humans. This is how people contracted the first cases of bird flu, and scientists are trying hard to track and understand the disease.

Scientists have studied another flu that affected many people. In 1918, a disease called Spanish flu killed millions of people. It began in the United States and spread around the world. Scientists want to

understand how the Spanish flu spread so that they are ready for bird flu. They want to prevent another pandemic. They use computer models as one way to try to predict how avian flu might spread.

Doctors can't tell if a person has the disease by symptoms alone. They must use a laboratory test to diagnose bird flu. Bird flu symptoms vary from person to person, but many symptoms seem like regular flu. Some people get fever, coughs, and a sore throat. These problems can lead to pneumonia and respiratory problems. Some people get eye infections or nausea. By February 15, 2008, 361 people have gotten the disease, and 227 of these people died. Most cases of bird flu in people have been the result of close contact with infected poultry.

Scientists have recommended different ways for people to protect themselves from bird flu. It is important never to touch dead birds. Only people who need to have contact with dead or diseased birds, like researchers or hunters, should handle them. These people always wear gloves and know how to disinfect themselves afterward. If you see many dead birds, you can tell an adult. They can contact the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) office. The people there will know if the birds need to be tested for bird flu and will be able to answer questions about what to do.

Scientists and others who study the disease have developed antiviral drugs to treat it, but these drugs are expensive and take time to make. They are recommending simple ways that people can protect themselves if the flu strikes. The most important way to prevent disease from spreading is to isolate sick people. In other words, they tell people not to visit a friend who has the flu. They suggest talking to him or her over the phone instead! The best, cheapest way to stay healthy is to wash your hands a lot.

People might still get concerned about migrating birds, but scientists are doing everything they can to understand how to beat avian flu. One thing to remember is that bird flu is not easy for people to catch. You can feel reassured that scientists who are studying bird flu are trying hard to get all their ducks in a row!

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Scientists Get Their Ducks in a Row about Bird Flu

Questions

- _____ 1. What is another name for bird flu?
- A. H5N2
 - B. H4N1
 - C. H4N4
 - D. H5N1
- _____ 2. When does bird flu spread?
- A. when birds sleep
 - B. when birds take baths
 - C. when birds migrate
 - D. when birds lay eggs
- _____ 3. Which continent is the likely starting point for bird flu?
- A. Asia
 - B. Africa
 - C. Antarctica
 - D. North America
- _____ 4. Which of the following is a synonym for the word "mutates" in paragraph 2?
- A. stabilizes
 - B. hardens
 - C. diminishes
 - D. changes
- _____ 5. Which disease are scientists studying to try to understand bird flu?
- A. mumps
 - B. measles
 - C. chicken pox
 - D. Spanish flu
- _____ 6. If you have a sick friend, what is the safest way to make him or her feel better?
- A. call the person on the phone.
 - B. bring them your puppy.
 - C. give them your favorite blanket to use.
 - D. bring them a bowl of soup.
- _____ 7. Doctors need to use a laboratory test to diagnose bird flu.
- A. False
 - B. True
- _____ 8. What is the simplest way to protect yourself from the flu?
- A. take antiviral drugs.
 - B. wash your hands.
 - C. take vitamins.
 - D. none of the above

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Kisses for Kaeden

By Jody Williams

In 2002, Kaeden Kulish was born with a hole in his heart. He had three heart surgeries before he was one year old. He has a sister. Her name is Kennedy. She was six years old when Kaeden had his surgeries. She spent a lot of time in hospital waiting rooms. She saw a lot of sick children. She also saw a lot of sad parents. She wanted to help them.



On Kaeden's first birthday, Kennedy wanted him to have a very special party. Kennedy and her mom made homemade invitations. They did not have a computer, so they used crayons and markers. They asked the guests to bring donations instead of gifts. They collected more than two thousand dollars. Kennedy hand-delivered the money to the hospital where Kaeden was treated. The money went to help other kids like Kaeden.

Kennedy liked the way she felt knowing that she had helped other children. She knew that she could do more. She started her own group. It is called Kisses for Kaeden. Kennedy first started leading her group of friends. They raised money by having bake sales and lemonade stands around their hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They held auctions and garage sales. All the money they collected was given to organizations that help sick children or used to help the needy in their community. The members of Kisses for Kaeden also spend a lot of time volunteering their time to help others and improve their community.

Kennedy's efforts did not go unnoticed. She was given an award from the Angel Soft Angels in Action program. She was given one thousand dollars. Kennedy used the money to buy clothes, books, and toys for kids. She has also received three President's Volunteer Service Awards.

Kennedy says that she is just an ordinary kid. She does well in school. She is involved in sports. She plays the violin and sings in the

chorus. She believes that if you are serious about helping others, you CAN, even if you are a kid. In 2014, twelve-year-old Kaeden took over the leadership of Kisses for Kaeden as Kennedy prepared to graduate from high school. He continues to lead the organization in serving others and making a difference in their community.

Kisses for Kaeden

Questions

1. What event led to Kennedy starting Kisses for Kaeden?

_____ 2. Instead of gifts, Kennedy wanted the guests at her brother's first birthday party to bring _____.

- A. nothing
- B. toys
- C. money donations
- D. food

_____ 3. In what way(s) has the Kisses for Kaeden group raised money for children?

- A. lemonade stands
- B. garage sales and auctions
- C. bake sales
- D. all of the above

_____ 4. Kisses for Kaeden only helps sick children.

- A. false
- B. true

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Friday, May 26



Vegetarians

By Jennifer Kenny

Most people realize that the word "vegetarian" refers to someone who doesn't eat meat. Did you ever wonder what a vegetarian eats? Did you know that there are different kinds of vegetarians?

The strictest vegetarian is a vegan. A vegan doesn't eat meat or any food that contains animal products such as eggs, dairy products, honey, or gelatin. A semi-vegetarian has probably the fewest restrictions. He will eat fish or chicken. A pesci-vegetarian eats fish. A lacto-ovo vegetarian doesn't eat meat but does eat milk, butter, cheese, and eggs. An ovo vegetarian doesn't eat meat or dairy but does eat eggs.

Experts agree that a well-planned vegetarian diet can be healthy. A variety of healthy foods must be eaten. For younger vegetarians, eating dairy products and eggs, but not meat, is often the best choice in order for children to get the protein and nutrients their growing bodies need. Typically, less restrictive forms of vegetarianism are better for a growing child.

Why would someone choose to be a vegetarian? In very poor countries, the reality is that meat is often too expensive to eat. Then vegetarianism is an economic issue more than anything else. In countries such as the United States, people become vegetarians for other reasons. Some are raised by parents who are vegetarians, and they follow their parents' example. Some do it because they believe it is the healthiest lifestyle. Some people choose to be vegetarians for religious, cultural, or environmental reasons. Others choose to be vegetarians because they believe in animal rights.

Adult vegetarians need to eat a variety of foods. Children or teens that are vegetarians need guidance to make sure their meat-free meals are nutritious. Children and teens need nutrients and protein to



develop and grow. People who are not vegetarians get things like protein and iron from meat. Without meat in the diet, other substitutes need to be made.

As an infant, babies receive their protein and nutrients from breast milk or formula. Fruits and veggies come next. When meats are normally introduced, a parent who is raising a baby as a vegetarian should include strained beans or peas, pureed tofu, and cottage cheese. During the toddler stage, parents have to be careful about nutrients if the child is a picky eater. Teenagers may benefit from a vegetarian lifestyle if they choose foods that are truly healthy and well-balanced.

Why is there such a fuss with a vegetarian's choice of food? The concern is what might be lacking. For example, in order to carry oxygen throughout the human body, iron is needed. Normally, we get iron from animal products. Without animal sources, vegetarians need to eat iron-rich foods. These include baked potatoes with skins, raisins, whole grains, sea vegetables, kidney beans, chickpeas, and broccoli.

Vegetarians also need to find ways to get enough calcium, which strengthens teeth and bones, if they are not eating milk, cheese, or yogurt. Instead, they can eat leafy, green vegetables, orange juice, breads, and soy milk. Girls especially need enough calcium so they don't develop osteoporosis, or weak bones, later on. One important fact to keep in mind is that bone density is determined in the teenage years.

Vitamin D can be made in the body from sunlight, so everyone, including vegetarians, should get outside and play. Zinc, which helps cells to grow and cuts to heal, is usually obtained through meat, eggs, and seafood. For alternatives, vegetarians need to look to beans, peas, and nuts.

Protein is part of all cells and important for growth. Eggs and milk are the best sources for vegetarians who eat those foods. For those who don't, they need to include peanut butter, seeds, tofu, and soy milk.

Finally, vegetarians may need to take a vitamin B12 supplement. Vitamin B12 helps build DNA, helps nerve cells work, and helps build red blood cells. However, it's only found in products from animals. For vegetarians, often a supplement is needed. Otherwise, a good vegetarian diet usually has plenty of vitamins and minerals.

Did you ever wonder what vegetarians can find to eat when they're

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not at home? Many years ago it might have been harder to do. While vegetarians are still in the minority, more and more people are choosing to eat meat-free, so more choices are available. If the person chooses to eat fish, that's usually a choice when eating out. If not, veggie burgers, pasta with fruits and vegetables, bean tacos, and salad are always options.

Being a vegetarian by choice is a unique lifestyle. Doctors have approved a meat-free lifestyle as a healthy way of living if a diet is carefully planned out. They should have a balanced diet that is low in fat, high in fiber, includes foods from all food groups, and includes supplements to replace any missing nutrients. Many times vegetarians are at a lower risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity.

Vegetarians

Questions

- _____ 1. The strictest vegetarian is _____.
- A. a semi vegetarian
 - B. a pesci vegetarian
 - C. a vegan
 - D. a lacto-ovo vegetarian
- _____ 2. Why might someone be a vegetarian?
- A. meat costs too much
 - B. strong believer in animal rights
 - C. religious beliefs
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 3. A newborn receives his or her protein and nutrients from _____.
- A. tofu
 - B. meat
 - C. formula
 - D. leafy vegetables

- _____ 4. Without meat, the human body can lack _____.
- A. sugar
 - B. starches
 - C. blood
 - D. iron
- _____ 5. _____ strengthens teeth and bones.
- A. Iron
 - B. Protein
 - C. Calcium
 - D. Sugar
- _____ 6. Vegetarians may need to take a _____ supplement because it is only found from animal sources.
- A. zinc
 - B. vitamin D
 - C. vitamin B12
 - D. iron
- _____ 7. Vegetarians are at a higher risk for heart disease than non-vegetarians.
- A. true
 - B. false

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Cherry Blossom Desserts

By Beth Beutler

The sun streamed like a river of honey into Martha's kitchen. She always loved starting the day with a bright kitchen. She glanced out the window and noticed Ephraim's tractor pulling away into the field. Her husband worked so hard to farm their land. He was a proud man, carrying on a tradition of farming that started with his great-great grandfather.



Martha sighed. As hard as Ephraim worked, it was always a struggle to make ends meet. That is why Martha tried to help in any way that she could.

One contribution, in addition to keeping up with the home, children, and meals, was Martha's new little business. She called it Cherry Blossom Desserts.

For years, Martha had been known as the best baker of cherry pies in town. People also loved her cherry tarts and cherry cobblers. It had gotten to the point that whenever someone wanted a special dessert, that person would ask Martha for her recipe or even ask her to bake the item. So she talked to Mr. Martin, the proprietor of the general store. They made an agreement to carry her cherry desserts and also take special orders for them. Mr. Martin would make a small commission from every order. It was a good arrangement for both of them.

The only challenge that Martha faced was when large orders came in. There was a restaurant in the nearest town that tried some of Martha's desserts. They were so popular that the restaurant started placing orders for ten desserts a week!

As Martha began to create the dough for yet another pie, she

remembered her conversation with Ephraim last night.

"I don't know how I will keep up," Martha said, plopping down next to Ephraim on the couch. She had just taken out three more pies from the oven.

"I sure appreciate what you do," Ephraim had said, putting his arm around Martha. "Do you think your sister would be willing to help?"

Martha wrinkled her brow. "I hadn't thought about that. Perhaps she could come help me one day a week."

Martha's mind returned to her work. She would call on her sister later this week and ask her to partner with her in this business.

Martha smiled. Rather than being stressed, she now felt blessed. Having too many orders was a great problem to have!

Cherry Blossom Desserts

Questions

- _____ 1. What is the name of Martha's business?
 - A. Martha's Miracles
 - B. Cheery Cherries
 - C. Cherry Blossom Desserts
 - D. Desserts by Design

- _____ 2. Why did Martha make so many desserts?
 - A. To sell
 - B. To give away to needy people
 - C. To practice different recipes
 - D. To serve at meals

- _____ 3. The family had been in farming for a long time.
 - A. True
 - B. False

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The Chauffeur's Tale

By Brenda B. Covert

"Do you suppose that self-centeredness is hereditary? That rich twits inherit it from their money?"

Franklin Sneed's outrage over the predicament in which he had found himself was evident. Lieutenant Bradley pursed her lips before saying, "Let's not fall prey to stereotyping, Mr. Sneed. Selfish tendencies can inhabit people of all economic backgrounds."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. I guess I've carried a few of the well-to-do who've been decent human beings," Sneed allowed with a shrug, pushing his fingers through hair whitened with age. "But, who shows the most gratitude for a chauffeur's efforts? Without exception it's the poor folks - the ones who save their money for months to afford the ride. They appreciate a luxury limousine. They appreciate the sparkle and polish, the uniform, and the way the chauffeur runs back to open their door. It's just too bad that the poor don't have more money; they wouldn't be so stingy with it."

Because the lieutenant was feeling lenient, she allowed Franklin Sneed's tirade against self-centered clients to continue.

"I could tell you horror stories," Sneed went on, "concerning customers who think anything goes. There was a guy once who wanted to leave a wedding gift in the back seat. Do you know what he did?"

Lt. Bradley shook her head. "I'm afraid not."

"Crickets! He dumped a box load of crickets into the back of my limousine!"

A shiver ran down Lt. Bradley's back. She tried to cover it with a move to adjust her glasses.

"Of all the inconsiderate, monstrous things to do!" Sneed raged. "The reaction of the newlyweds was immediate: the bride was hysterical, the groom was furious, and I was helpless. I wanted to seize that idiot

by the throat and --"

"Now, now, Mr. Sneed. Let's not make threats in the presence of a police officer," the lieutenant warned.

"There was no way to rid the car of every cricket." Sneed explained. "They had dispersed to every nook and cranny in that limo." Here Sneed let out an exaggerated sigh. "Naturally I got a lousy tip from the groom. He felt that I could have prevented the cricket incident. I stopped at a service station to vacuum up the bugs before picking up my next client, a celebrity. Then she sent me to get some high-priced water to quench her thirst. She spewed water and several choice words when a cricket started chirping under her seat." He put his head in his hands. "It was a rotten night with subnormal tips and crickets in the machinery."

"Let's get back to this evening," Lt. Bradley said. "Tell me what happened."

The original arrangement, made when they placed their reservation, had been for a black limousine to pick up three couples for an evening on the town. Normally that meant dinner and a show - an easy job for a chauffeur.

"First, the six of them played with the TV, intercom, and moonroof, acting as if the limo were a giant toy. How I despise that!" Sneed leaned forward. "In the old days, people showed more respect for other people's property. Nowadays, they think paying in advance gives them the right to do whatever they want! I've caught people trying to write on my car with shaving cream! When I stop them, they get belligerent. 'We paid for it,' they say, as if they paid for the right to vandalize the vehicle rather than merely ride in it. Nincompoops." Sneed spit the word.

"You were telling me about your night," Lt. Bradley reminded him.

Instead of going to a restaurant, one of them pulled out a cell phone and ordered a large, supreme pizza. Sneed heard the call through the divider, which is not sound-proof. They picked up the pizza. Then one young woman lost a diamond barrette. She said that it might have fallen down in the seat, so Sneed went back to help find it.

After that, everything was a blur. They knocked Sneed to the floor. One of them took the driver's seat. Soon they were careening down the street! The new driver almost lost control of the limousine turning a corner. Sneed struggled to a sitting position and in the dark saw the

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silhouette of a pedestrian leaping to safety.

The other passengers laughed at Sneed's helpless fury. The new driver took the car down a narrow, rocky lane. Everyone in the back bounced around until the car hit something that broke the axle.

"They called someone to pick them up, but they left me behind with my broken-down car!" Sneed took a breath before finishing his story. "Since I had a phone in the front seat, I called for help."

A police officer walked up to the lieutenant. "The suspects gave a false name and address when they booked the limo. No lead there."

Lt. Bradley looked at Sneed. "Do you think that you can give us a good description of your passengers?"

Sneed grinned. "I can do better than that!" He reached into his pocket and pulled out three drivers' licenses. "While we were bouncing around in the back seat, I took the opportunity to relieve my captors' of a little ... personal information."

Lt. Bradley leaned back and laughed. Franklin Sneed joined in.

The Chauffeur's Tale

Questions

1. Who does most of the talking in this story?

2. What is the main character's job?

3. Why is Mr. Sneed angry?

4. To whom is Mr. Sneed talking?

5. How will the police find the suspects?

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Chilling Out with Ice Sculptures

By Colleen Messina

Ice cubes cool off our drinks on hot summer days. Ice-based sports like hockey and skating warm us up in the winter. Some artists have discovered a unique way to use ice. They think that doing sculptures with ice is very cool!

The history of ice sculpture goes back for hundreds of years. Some people believe that ice carving began in China. Eventually, artists in Europe and Asia decided to try this chilly art form. Classy chefs in the 17th and 18th centuries found that having ice sculptures around food kept the edibles fresh and also entertained the guests. This new and very refreshing twist to the culinary arts made food more enticing. Even a picky eater could be tempted into trying salad greens if they were presented by a frozen, merry mermaid or a friendly ice fairy.

Like most forms of art, the right materials create the best finished products. For ice sculpture, this means high-quality ice. Ice artists prefer ice that is clear and crystalline. They do not like bubbly ice! They know that bubbles might distract the viewers from the fine points of the sculpture. Some ice sculptors just use blocks of ice cut from lakes or rivers. However, this kind of natural ice is usually murky and bubbly. The best artistic ice comes from boiled water and is formed in a mold. This type of ice looks clear and bubble-free. Some dedicated ice artist probably made lots of ice cubes in different ways to discover that fact.

You might be surprised at the number of devoted ice artists around the globe. Many of the best artists attend an amazing Ice Art Championship that is held each year in Fairbanks, Alaska. The competition has been held annually since 1989. Almost 100 artists come from all over the world to create works of art out of enormous blocks cut from pristine Alaskan ice. The competition is held in February or March each year. You might also be surprised at the



number of enthusiastic spectators that go to Fairbanks for this contest: almost 45,000 viewers come to share in the frigid fun.

One part of the contest is called the Single-Block Classic. Each team has one or two members. The competitors get a block of ice that measures 5' x 8' x 3'. These frozen chunks of potential beauty weigh almost 7,800 pounds. Now that is one big ice cube! The artists have to be strong and focused. They have to move the ice by hand, too. The artists can use scaffolding and power tools to chisel, sculpt, and polish their icy masterpieces. They have exactly 60 hours to finish their projects. Some teams even work around the clock to make their sculptures as close to perfect as possible.

Another part of the competition allows the artists to use heavy equipment to move their ice, too. The Multi-Block event is for teams of up to four people. They work with 50,000 pounds of ice. This quantity of ice comes in 10 blocks. Each block measures 4' x 6' x 3'. Heavy equipment operators position the ice so that the artists can work. They can chip, chisel, and sculpt for 132 backbreaking hours.

The ice sculptures at the contest are truly breathtaking. They are judged by a jury of seven members. The jury members use an evaluation sheet to record the scores of the participants. The highest possible total score for each sculpture is 100 points. There are two main categories for judging. The Technical category covers precision and proportion. This category also includes points for the level of difficulty of the attempted sculpture. The Artistic category covers the creativity, composition, and emotional expression of the sculpture. Each contestant is strongly warned that the jury's decisions are final.

Another exciting part of the competition is the Kids Park. This park made just for kids has literally tons of icy attractions. In 2007, Manny the Mammoth graced the park. The gigantic sculpture of the elephant ancestor was created out of solid ice. He was 22 feet tall and nearly one hundred feet long. Manny weighed an enormous 416 tons! Manny wasn't alone, though. Lots of his friends from the movie, *Ice Age-the Meltdown*, kept him company.

The park also had active attractions like lots of ice slides to climb on and whiz down. It even had a labyrinth made completely of ice, as well as lots of crystalline mazes and tunnels to creep through. And in case any kids wanted to call their parents, the Alaska Communications System set up a working phone booth entirely made from ice. Everything was made from ice...except the working phone and the phone book!

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Ice sculpting takes dedication and determination. It might not be everyone's idea of fun, but for some hardy artists, it is the perfect way to chill out.

Chilling Out with Ice Sculptures

Questions

- _____ 1. Where did ice carving probably start?
- A. China
 - B. Alaska
 - C. Canada
 - D. Russia
- _____ 2. What was kept fresh by sculpted ice in the 17th and 18th centuries?
- A. plants
 - B. people
 - C. pets
 - D. food
- _____ 3. Where is the Ice Art Championship held each year?
- A. Fairbanks
 - B. Montreal
 - C. Calgary
 - D. Munich
- _____ 4. What year did the Ice Art Championship start?
- A. 1989
 - B. 1979
 - C. 1999
 - D. 1969
- _____ 5. How many team members can participate in the Single Block Classic?
- A. up to three
 - B. as many as possible
 - C. up to four
 - D. up to two
- _____ 6. A working phone booth made from ice existed in the Kids Park.
- A. True
 - B. False
- _____ 7. Bubbles in the ice are desirable for ice sculptures.
- A. True
 - B. False
- _____ 8. Which movie character became an impressive ice sculpture in the Kids Park?
- A. Nemo
 - B. Manny the Mammoth
 - C. Mickey Mouse
 - D. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

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What Stinks? Animals that Reek

By Joyce Furstenau

A bad smell can clear a room. Research is actually being done by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop a stink bomb that will clear a rioting crowd. They are called "smelly repellents." Some animals can clear a room with little effort at all.

The skunk has a defensive odor that is perhaps most familiar (and nauseating) to humans. The skunk is best known for this defensive tactic. The skunk uses its anal scent glands to create sulfur-containing chemicals producing this offensive smell. It has been described as a combination of rotten eggs, garlic, and burnt rubber. This odor is said to be strong enough to ward off bears. (That's pretty bad!)

Skunks can use this weapon about six times before their supply runs out. Skunks spray as a last resort. They will stomp their feet, raise their tails, and hiss before they spray. Once sprayed, this odor is not easily removed. The great horned owl is the skunk's most fearsome predator -- since the owl has no sense of smell.

When disturbed, many snakes can produce a smarmy smell to discourage predators. Often the female produces a more pungent odor than the male. Perhaps this is another way for the female to protect her young.

The garter snake makes a foul-smelling fluid when frightened. Although garter snake bites are not dangerous to humans, pick up a garter snake and-- P.U.! They have special glands that release a defensive odor. Once they are used to being handled, however, they generally stop this behavior.



Another reptile that produces a foul smell when captured is the stinkpot or musk turtle. It is found in the eastern U.S. and is appropriately named. It releases bad smelling substances from glands located near the bridge of the shell. They are not shy about biting, either.

The Tasmanian devil was at the top of the list of the ten stinkiest animals on the Discovery Channel's *Nigel's Wild, Wild World*. This marsupial, found only on the Australian island of Tasmania, opens its mouth in a wide yawn if stressed. While yawning like this, it can emit a nasty odor from its scent glands.

Seventh on the same list was the stink or shield bug. Stink bugs have glands in their thoraxes between the first and second pair of legs that produce a foul smelling liquid. Like other smelly animals, the stink bug releases this liquid when it is disturbed as a defense mechanism. Stinkbugs normally appear during the spring and summer months, so be careful where you step.

As you can see, animals do not release these reeking odors to annoy humans, but to let us and other animals know they want to be left alone. Think about it the next time you want to get close and personal with one of nature's wonderful surprises.

What Stinks? Animals that Reek

Questions

- _____ 1. This article discusses the reason why animals _____.
- A. bite
 - B. dig
 - C. stink
 - D. growl
- _____ 2. A skunk's odor is strong enough to ward off what animal?
- A. bears
 - B. tigers
 - C. elephants
 - D. owls

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Eoin Colfer

By Brandi Waters

Eoin (pronounced like Owen) Colfer is the author of the popular *Artemis Fowl* book series. His name may seem odd. It is not a name you see often in America. In Ireland, where Eoin is from, it is a common name. From an early age, he had an interest in writing. He also had a passion for history. He loved hearing about the adventures of the Vikings and the early history of Ireland. He was a bit awkward as a teenager. He was never very good at sports and never knew what to say to girls. Instead, he took an interest in Irish mythology. While most boys stay away from things like fairies, Eoin didn't. The fairies in Irish myths were tough. They carried axes! They were always ready for a fight.



Eoin Colfer grew up and went to college. He followed in his father's footsteps and became a teacher. After college, Eoin and his wife, Jackie, did something different. They spent four years traveling and working in foreign lands. They lived in Italy, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia. Eoin took teaching jobs along the way. He learned a lot about different cultures and lifestyles of people in other parts of the world.

After four years abroad, Eoin returned home to Ireland. He continued teaching. In his spare time, he started writing a book. His book, *Benny and Omar*, was based on the things he learned when he was traveling. His book was published in 1998. Just one year later, he published a sequel, *Benny and Babe*. Both books were bestsellers in Ireland. Eoin wrote several more children's books before creating the character that would make him famous.

When Eoin Colfer started working on his next book, he wanted to create a story around the things that he loved reading about as a child. The story used elements of Irish history and mythology. There were parts inspired by *Sherlock Holmes*. There were parts inspired by *The Simpsons*. The result was described as a modern, technological fairy

tale. Eoin Colfer said it was like "*Die Hard*, with fairies." The book, *Artemis Fowl*, caused a lot of excitement. Publishers got involved in a bidding war for the rights to the book. The book was a true adventure. The characters were complex. The story was funny, even when the actions of the characters were appalling. *Artemis Fowl* became a worldwide sensation. The book's success meant that Eoin could stop teaching and become a full-time writer.

Since 2001, Eoin Colfer has added six more books to his *Artemis Fowl* series. He has also published several other children's books. In 2008, he was asked to write a sixth installment to the famous *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. That was quite an honor for Eoin Colfer.

Eoin Colfer

Questions

1. Eoin Colfer was born in _____.
 - A. Ireland
 - B. Italy
 - C. Tunisia
 - D. the United States
2. As a young child, Eoin Colfer enjoyed learning about the adventures of _____.
 - A. the English monarchy
 - B. the Romans
 - C. the Turks
 - D. the Vikings
3. How were fairies in Irish myths different from the fairies that we often think of today?

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The Missing Earring

Written by Cindy Grigg

The phone rang. Jordan's mom went into the other room to answer it. When she came back into the room, she said, "Jordan, that was Mrs. Long on the phone. She said you're late for the extra piano lesson you scheduled for this morning. We need to get you there right away. Please get your things and get in the car as quickly as you can."

"Oh, I'm sorry, Mom. I forgot all about it. I'll be ready in just a second." Jordan ran to her room and grabbed her music that she needed to practice today. She hurried to the car.

Mom dropped Jordan off for her lesson. She ran some errands and picked Jordan up after her lesson. When they got home Jordan helped her mom carry some grocery bags into the kitchen.

"Thanks for the help, honey. I think I'm going to..." Mom was interrupted by the telephone ringing. Her hand went to her ear. Mom always pulled off her earring before answering the telephone. "Oh, no! My diamond earring is missing!"

What happened to Mrs. Green's diamond earring? Finish this story.

Answer the following questions before you finish the story.

1. When was the last time Mrs. Green knew for sure she had both earrings?

2. Did Jordan have any ideas about where the earring might be? Explain.

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3. Did Mrs. Green have a habit of losing things? Explain.

4. How can Jordan help find her mother's lost earring? List several things she could do to help.

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Search for Sadako

By Jody Williams

Origami is an art. It began in Japan. Japan is a country in Asia. Origami is the art of paper folding. Animals or birds are usually the final product. The paper crane has become a famous work of art. Japanese tradition says that anyone who makes one thousand paper cranes is granted a wish. Some people believe this. Others do not. One little girl believed and wanted a very special wish to come true.

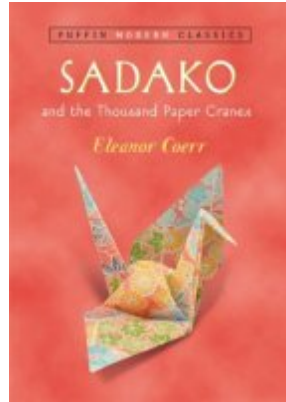
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes is a story by Eleanor Coerr. She learned about Sadako while traveling in Japan. She was touched by her story. She wanted children throughout the world to learn of her as well.

Eleanor Coerr was born on May 29, 1922. She was born in Canada. She had always been interested in Japan. It began when she received a book as a gift. The book was called *Little Pictures of Japan*. It showed pictures of children playing. They were chasing butterflies. They were catching crickets. Eleanor dreamed about playing with those children.

Growing up, Eleanor had a best friend whose family was from Japan. They taught Eleanor about origami. They taught her about brush painting. They taught her how to eat with chopsticks. Eleanor kept dreaming of one day visiting Japan.

Eleanor started working as a writer. She worked as a newspaper reporter and an editor. The newspaper sent Eleanor to Japan. She was to write a story about Japanese culture.

In 1949, Eleanor arrived in Japan. She did not know how to speak Japanese. She lived on a farm in Japan for a year. She learned to speak Japanese. She learned about the culture. Eventually, she was able to visit schools. She told the children about her country. While in Japan, Eleanor wrote her first book. It was called *Circus*



Day. She used her experience on the farm for her story. She also visited a circus.

Eleanor spent three years in Japan. She traveled around the country as much as she could. Eleanor visited Hiroshima. It was a difficult trip for her. Hiroshima is one site where an atomic bomb was dropped. It caused many deaths. It destroyed the city. Eleanor could not get the sight out of her mind.

Years later, Eleanor returned to Hiroshima. It had changed. She saw a beautiful statue. It was a statue of a young girl. She was holding a golden crane. Eleanor wanted to learn more about this girl. She began asking questions. She was told that Sadako had written an autobiography about her life. Eleanor searched for the book for years. One day she was having tea with a friend. Her friend had lived in Hiroshima for many years. Her friend suggested that Eleanor write a book about Sadako. Eleanor said she would love to if she could find the book. Her friend went to her attic and pulled the book from the bottom of a trunk. Eleanor began gathering information.

Eleanor found that Sadako had been a strong and talented girl. She had been a fast runner. She had lived about one mile from where the atomic bomb was dropped. Sadako had been two years old when that happened. About ten years later, she had been told she had leukemia, a form of cancer.

Sadako grew very sick. She had to go to the hospital. She knew the Japanese story of the paper cranes. She began folding paper and making cranes. She had trouble finding enough paper. She went to other patients' rooms asking for paper. She used whatever paper she could find, even wrappers from medicine. Her wish was to get better. She wanted to run again.

Eleanor Coerr's version of her story says that she folded 644 cranes before she died. Sadako's friends completed the rest. When Sadako died, the one thousand cranes were buried with her. An exhibit in Hiroshima says that Sadako reached her goal. It says that she even folded more than one thousand cranes.

Sadako's story has been retold many times. It has been told through poetry. It has been told through music. Eleanor Coerr was fascinated by her story. She told it in a way that children can understand. Sadly, Eleanor Coerr died on November 22, 2010. Her book *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* has been translated into many languages. It is used in many schools around the world to

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teach children about war and the need for peace.

Search for Sadako

Questions

1. What is origami?

_____ 2. Japanese tradition says that anyone who makes one thousand paper cranes is _____.

- A. tired
- B. granted a wish
- C. talented
- D. none of the above

_____ 3. Eleanor Coerr was born in 1922 in Canada.

- A. false
- B. true

4. Describe the circumstances that allowed Eleanor Coerr to travel to Japan for the first time.

_____ 5. How did Eleanor Coerr learn to speak Japanese?

- A. She lived with a family on a farm.
- B. She took a class.
- C. She watched Japanese television.
- D. She listened to books on tape.

6. Why was Eleanor's visit to Hiroshima the most difficult part of her trip?

7. What caused Eleanor to search for Sadako's book?

_____ 8. Where did Eleanor's search for Sadako's book end?

- A. at a museum
- B. at the library
- C. at an antique store
- D. in her friend's attic

9. Summarize *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*.
