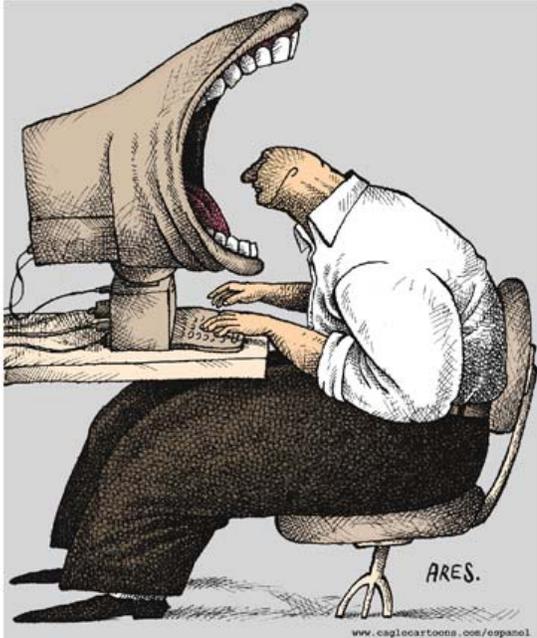


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Middle Level Communication Arts/Literature (Grades 5–8)

Subtest 1 Sample Items

1. The visual image below is most likely designed to influence public opinion about which of the following issues?



Source: Ares. Cartoon titled "Adiccion" by permission of Cagle Cartoons, Inc.

- A. elimination of world hunger
- B. addiction to the Internet
- C. promotion of free speech
- D. aversion to new technology

2. A teacher is working with a group of students who are at the transitional stage of reading. After having the students read a story in class, the teacher asks each student to construct a narrative pyramid consisting of seven lines. The teacher tells the students that the top line will contain the main character's name, the second line will contain two words that describe this character, the third line will contain three words that describe the setting, the fourth line will contain a sentence explaining the problem in the story, and so on. Which of the following comprehension skills is the teacher helping the students develop?

- A. predicting
- B. synthesizing
- C. questioning
- D. summarizing

3. Read the excerpt below from a magazine article; then answer the question that follows.

Every item we buy has a hidden price tag: a toll on the planet, on our health and on the people whose labor provides those goods. Each . . . thing has its own web of impacts left along the way from the extraction or concoctions of its ingredients, during its manufacture and transport, through its use in our homes and workplaces, to the day we dispose of it. These unseen impacts are incredibly important. For instance, an ingredient in sunscreen primes the growth of a deadly virus in coral reef. Four thousand to 6,000 metric tons of sunscreen wash off swimmers each year worldwide. The dangers are greatest, of course, where the most swimmers are drawn to the beauty of coral reefs.

Source: From ECOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE: HOW KNOWING THE HIDDEN IMPACTS OF

WHAT WE BUY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING by Daniel Goleman, copyright © 2009 by Daniel Goleman. Used by permission of Broadway Books, a division of Random House, Inc. For online information about other Random House, Inc. books and authors, see the Internet Web Site at <http://www.randomhouse.com>.

The main idea of this excerpt is that:

- A. humans do not always take care to consider all the circumstances and possible consequences of their actions.
- B. manufactured goods that contain potentially environmentally hazardous ingredients should be banned from sale.
- C. humans spend too much time and money accumulating material goods when they should be protecting the planet.
- D. swimming and sunbathing, though seemingly harmless activities, can adversely affect the environment.

4. Read the excerpt below from a short story; then answer the question that follows.

He swung a leg over the sill, then felt for and found the ledge a yard below the window with his foot. Gripping the bottom of the window frame very tightly and carefully, he slowly ducked his head under it, feeling on his face the sudden change from the warm air of the room to the chill outside. With infinite care he brought out his other leg, his mind concentrating on what he was doing. Then he slowly stood erect. Most of the putty, dried out and brittle, had dropped off the bottom edging of the window frame, he found, and the flat wooden edging provided a good gripping surface, a half inch or more deep, for the tips of his fingers.

Now, balanced easily and firmly, he stood on the ledge outside in the slight, chill breeze, eleven stories above the street, staring into his own lighted apartment, odd and different-seeming now.

Source: Reprinted by permission of Don Congdon Associates, Inc. © 1956 by Crowell Collier Publishing Company, renewed 1984 by Jack Finney.

In this excerpt, the plot is developed primarily through the use of:

- A. surprise.
- B. flashback.
- C. suspense.
- D. intrigue.

5. Students could enhance their understanding of algebraic equations by visualizing the expressions on either side of the equal sign as the:

- A. extended bars or arms on a platform balance.
- B. positive and negative poles of a magnet.
- C. coarse and fine adjustment knobs on a microscope.
- D. incremental lines or marks on a tape measure.

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	B	I. Media Literacy	0001
2	D	II. Reading	0004
3	A	II. Reading	0005
4	C	II. Reading	0006
5	A	II. Reading	0007

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