

## Study Island

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### Figurative Language

#### **Cows Don't Have Seat Belts**

by Cornelia Richardson

- (1) I was standing in front of a beast that appeared to be about two stories high. It blew its hot breath down my collar and nibbled at my shirt pocket. I began to shake.
- (2) "Cassie," Donna said to me, "this is Molly. She's a horse."
- (3) "I know she's a horse," I croaked. "I've seen lots of horses in books and on television."
- (4) "Let's go," Donna said. She stepped up onto the watering trough.
- (5) I only ruined one sneaker when I slipped into the watering trough, but I felt several muscle groups scream as I reached for Molly's back. I grabbed Donna and held on tight.
- (6) Molly plodded gingerly forward and headed toward the trees at the far end of the pasture. Her back was like a soft, warm rocking chair, and I loosened my grip on Donna's waist. Birds sang and flowers nodded in the meadow below. Filled with the beauty of the country, I was suddenly compelled to whoop with sheer joy.
- (7) That mare shot out from underneath us like a cannonball. A cloud of yellow dust swallowed us as we hit the ground. The sound of pounding hooves beating a hasty retreat back to the barn echoed in the distance.
- (8) "Cassie, the next time you decide to yell 'yee-haa,' warn me first," Donna groaned.
- (9) "That's the way they do it on television," I said.
- (10) Donna stared at me from the muscadine vines she'd used for a landing strip. "Unfortunately, Molly doesn't watch television. She pulls wagons. You yell 'gee,' she turns right. You yell 'haw,' she turns left. She probably thinks 'yee-haa' means full speed ahead." Donna pointed toward the cattle. "What do you see?"
- (11) "Cows," I said. I knew a cow when I saw one.
- (12) "That," Donna announced, "is transportation!" A small caramel-colored cow sauntered toward us. Donna held out her hand, and our "transportation" nuzzled it with a wet, velvety-looking nose.
- (13) "This is Juliet," said Donna. "She doesn't mind if I hop a ride now and then."
- (14) I stroked the bristly hairs on Juliet's back. Her skin trembled like gelatin in an earthquake.
- (15) *Whoofle*, snorted Juliet. Slimy globs of mucus spattered my jeans.
- (16) "How do I get on this one?" I asked.

(17) "Easy." Donna smiled and slid to the ground.

(18) I succeeded in jumping over Juliet. I slipped and slid under Juliet. I even took a running start and ran into the side of Juliet. I never came close to landing on top of Juliet.

(19) Donna howled with laughter. Tears poured from her eyes and made clean streaks down her dusty face. She stopped laughing long enough to boost me onto Juliet's back, then sprang up behind me. With a gentle nudge from her heels, our ride lurched forward.

(20) "If you've got anything else to ride that doesn't have padded seats and seat belts, count me out," I moaned.

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1. Read the following sentence from paragraph 14.

"Her skin trembled like gelatin in an earthquake."

What does this sentence mean?

- ☐ A. Juliet likes to eat desserts like gelatin.
  - ☐ B. Juliet is dirty and needs to take a bath.
  - ☐ C. Juliet can feel an earthquake coming.
  - ☐ D. Juliet is nervous when Cassie touches her.
- 

### Figurative Language

2. Which of the phrases from paragraph 6 is an example of a **simile**?

- ☐ A. whoop with sheer joy
  - ☐ B. like a soft, warm rocking chair
  - ☐ C. Birds sang and flowers nodded
  - ☐ D. loosened my grip
- 

### Figurative Language

3. Which of the phrases from paragraph 7 is an example of a **simile**?

- ☐ A. echoed in the distance
  - ☐ B. cloud of yellow dust
  - ☐ C. like a cannonball
  - ☐ D. sound of pounding hooves
-

## Figurative Language

### The Dig by c.safos

The men on the construction site lift  
beams and girders as easily as lifting pennies.

The tubes from their tractors exhale steam when they sigh.  
The foreman's voice croaks and roars like a bullfrog.

One by one, their machines tear through the trees.  
They bully over the land like a baker's pin rolling out dough.

In the absence of the trail, a skyscraper will be built.  
It will be large enough to touch the moon.

The building's teeth will withstand the sun and wind.  
Its guts will house people.

The men are giants. Their footprints in the wet concrete  
will be seen by everyone. They will be known by their shoe sizes.

The land is a ghost in a dirty sheet.  
It needs to be cleaned and cleared and clipped.

The land is like a fugitive on the run.  
It needs a new name and a new face and a new home.

4. Which of the following is an example of hyperbole from the poem?

- ☐ A. The foreman's voice croaks and roars like a bullfrog.
  - ☐ B. The land is like a fugitive on the run.
  - ☐ C. Their footprints in the wet concrete will be seen by everyone.
  - ☐ D. It will be large enough to touch the moon.
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## Figurative Language

5.

The coffee mug huffed a cloud of smoke. It seemed to heat the entire desk. Its smell filled every corner of the room. Everyone in the office gathered around the coffee maker for a fresh cup. The boss was not happy that work had stopped. Then, she poured

herself a cup of coffee, too. Pretty soon, everybody had forgotten about work. All that was missing were some doughnuts.

Which sentence from the passage makes something seem human?

- ☐ A. "Then, she poured herself a cup of coffee, too."
  - ☐ B. "The coffee mug huffed a cloud of smoke."
  - ☐ C. "All that was missing were some doughnuts."
  - ☐ D. "Its smell filled every corner of the room."
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### Context Clues

My family was nearing the end of our three-day camping trip. We were really hungry. The food had been very scant since the beginning—we had brought only enough food for two days. We tried to spread the food out for three days, but that didn't work. My brother was so desperate for food that he began to hunt for his own meat. He even went as far as digging up roots to eat.

6. In the passage, what is the meaning of desperate?

- ☐ A. waiting for supplies
  - ☐ B. being happily hungry
  - ☐ C. needing to go home
  - ☐ D. having extreme need
- 

### Context Clues

7. In the passage, the word scant means

- ☐ A. holding more than normal.
  - ☐ B. having a very small supply.
  - ☐ C. eating all the food at once.
  - ☐ D. containing the right amount.
- 

### Context Clues

Every time I walked by the gray house down the street, I would stop and stare. It was an attractive one-story house with a beautiful garden. I never knew how the inside of the house looked. The old man who lived there was not friendly with the kids in the neighborhood.

One day, I heard a deep rumble and the squeal of rusty brakes. I ran outside and saw an immense truck filling up the street in front of the gray house. New people were moving into the house. I saw kids about my age running around the front yard. I was excited.

I invited the kids to play at my house. Later, they returned the invitation, and I finally got to see the inside of that house. It was tidy and well-organized. Even my friends' toys were put away in colorful toy chests.

8. The word tidy in this story means

- ☐ A. mysterious.
  - ☐ B. friendly.
  - ☐ C. neat.
  - ☐ D. hidden.
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## Context Clues

### Payback for a Pest

- 1 Newy always liked to tease me. When I was 10, he would call me "runt." When we would go to the amusement park, he would laugh when I wasn't allowed to go on the rides because I wasn't tall enough.
- 2 "Don't worry short stuff. I'll have a blast for the both of us. I hear they take you high enough to see Canada. I'll make sure to take a picture for you," he said laughing.
- 3 Newy was my older brother, and he was a pest. We had to share a bedroom, and there were days when I'd wake up to find he had taped my legs together. I'd be late getting ready for school.
- 4 Other times, he'd hide the remote to the television above the medicine cabinet because I couldn't reach it.
- 5 "I can't get the remote, Newy. I'm too short," I told him.
- 6 "The truth isn't always pretty," he responded.
- 7 "One day, you're going to get yours, Newy," I said angrily walking out of the room.
- 8 "Give me a break. You can't even tie your own shoes," he said laughing at me.
- 9 One morning, I set my alarm and woke up earlier than Newy. While he slept in, I

went through his closet and pulled all of his clothes off of the hangers. I took all of his clothes from his dresser. I carried the pile of clothes to the basement, put them in trash bags, and set them outside by the garbage.

- 10 Newy woke up to the sound of the garbage truck beeping and roaring into the drive. As he got out of bed and started to get ready for school, he walked to the closet. He moved the empty hangers. He went to his dresser. Nothing was there either. As Newy panicked and called for our parents to see if they had taken the clothes, I rolled out of bed, smiled, and got ready for school.

*adapted from "Payback for a Pest" by c. safos*

9. In paragraph 8, what does Newy mean when he says, "Give me a break"?

- ☐ A. He means his brother should get a chair to reach the remote.
  - ☐ B. He means that he wants to stop picking on his brother.
  - ☐ C. He means that he wants his brother to tell their parents.
  - ☐ D. He means his brother should stop kidding around with him.
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### Context Clues

10. We were already tardy.

Gloria couldn't find her shoes. Max couldn't find our tickets. The traffic made us late too. We decided not to hurry. The game had started. We had missed the first inning. Our team had already scored. We decided to try and enjoy the game anyway, even if an hour had already passed.

Which word from the passage helps the reader know what tardy means?

- ☐ A. not
  - ☐ B. late
  - ☐ C. game
  - ☐ D. had
-