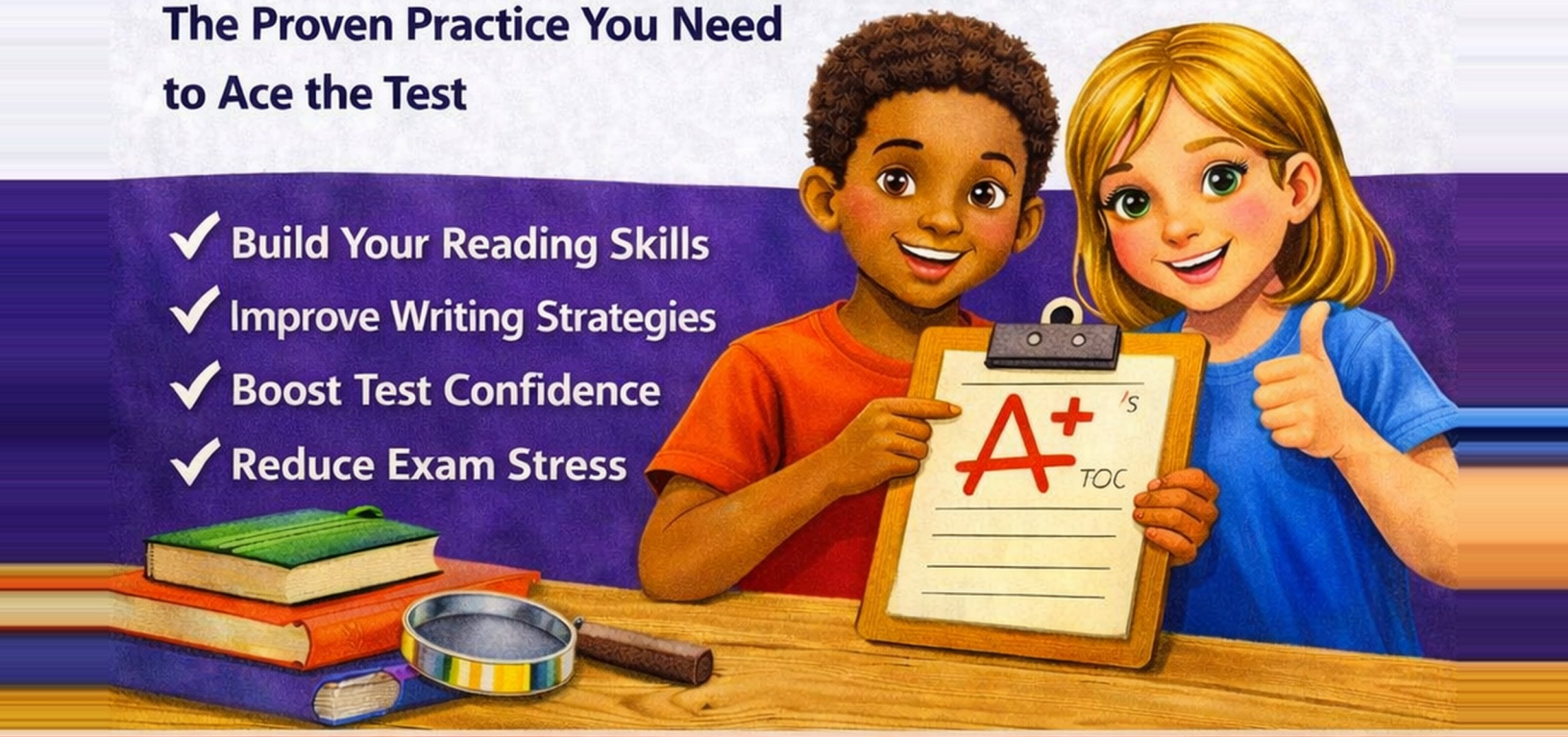
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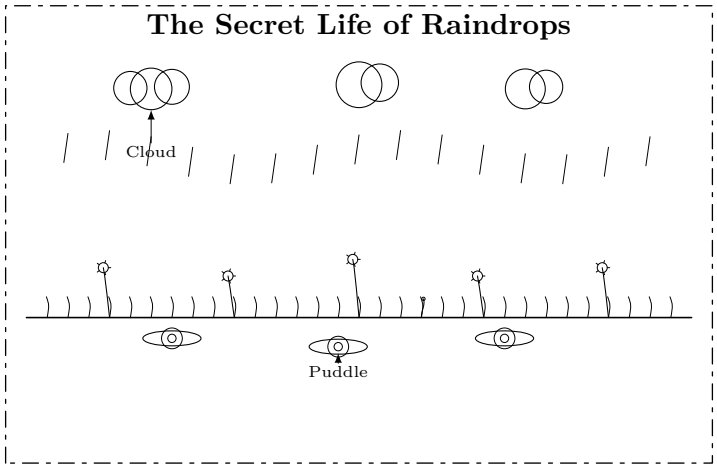
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Secret Life of Raindrops



Soft rain falls from bright clouds onto grass, flowers, and shiny puddles below.

1 Raindrops may seem small and simple, but they go on an amazing journey. Before a raindrop falls from the sky, it begins as water vapor, an invisible gas floating in the air.

2 High above the ground, air can become very cool. When this happens, water vapor changes into tiny drops of liquid water. These drops gather together to form clouds.

3 As more and more drops join a cloud, some of them become too heavy to stay in the air. Then gravity pulls them down. That is when rain begins to fall.

4 Rain does many important jobs on Earth. It waters plants, fills rivers and lakes, and gives animals something to drink. Rain also helps wash dust from leaves and streets.

5 After rain reaches the ground, its journey is not over. Some water sinks into the soil. Some flows into streams. Some even warms up and rises into the air again as water vapor.



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6 This repeating journey is part of the water cycle. It happens again and again all around the world. The next time rain taps on your window, you will know that each raindrop has a story.

Read this dictionary entry.

cycle *noun*

1. a series of events that repeats in the same order
2. a bright color in the sky after rain
3. a heavy object that cannot move
4. a kind of bird that flies at night

1) Which meaning of the word *cycle* is used in paragraph 6?

(A) Definition 4
(B) Definition 1
(C) Definition 3
(D) Definition 2

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Raindrops" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence is an **opinion**?

(A) Rain is the most wonderful weather of all.
(B) Rain can fill rivers and lakes.
(C) Gravity pulls heavy drops downward.
(D) Water vapor can change into tiny drops of liquid water.

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Raindrops" to answer this question.

3) How is the article mainly **organized**?

(A) By listing only opinions about weather
(B) In sequence, showing the steps in a raindrop's journey
(C) By comparing rain with snow
(D) By telling a made-up story about a storm

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Raindrops" to answer this question.

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Water never changes form in the air.
(B) Raindrops are part of the water cycle and play an important role in nature.
(C) Rain only matters to plants and nothing else.
(D) Clouds are made from dust and sunlight only.

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Raindrops" to answer this question.

5) Which detail **best** supports the idea that rain is useful?

(A) Rain begins when drops become too heavy to stay in the air.
(B) Some water rises into the air again as vapor.
(C) Rain waters plants and fills rivers and lakes.
(D) Water vapor is invisible in the air.

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Raindrops" to answer this question.



6 The next time you cross a bridge, look around and imagine life without it. You may discover just how important that structure really is.

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19) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) All bridges look exactly the same.
(B) Engineers only build roads, not bridges.
(C) Bridges are important structures that help people travel and stay connected.
(D) People no longer need bridges in modern cities.

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

20) How is the information in paragraph 3 mainly organized?

(A) By giving directions to a town
(B) By listing only opinions about roads
(C) By describing different types of bridges
(D) By telling a story about one family crossing a bridge

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

21) What does the word *connect* mean as it is used in paragraph 5?

(A) To paint a road bright colors
(B) To turn steel into wood
(C) To hide something under water
(D) To join places or people together

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

22) In which paragraph would a reader find information about who designs bridges?

(A) Paragraph 1
(B) Paragraph 2
(C) Paragraph 6
(D) Paragraph 4

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

23) Why does the author include information about early bridges in paragraph 2?

(A) To prove that old bridges were unsafe
(B) To explain how rivers were formed
(C) To show how bridges have changed over time
(D) To describe a contest for engineers

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

24) Which detail **best** supports the idea that bridges are useful to communities?

(A) Bridges can be made of steel or concrete.
(B) Some bridges arch upward in a curve.
(C) Engineers think about wind and weather.
(D) Bridges save time and help people reach school, work, and stores.

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

25) Which conclusion can be drawn from the article?

(A) Good bridge design helps people live and travel more easily.
(B) Bridges are only needed for boats.
(C) All towns are built on rivers.
(D) Engineers do not need to think about safety.

Use the passage "How Bridges Help Us" to answer this question.

26) Which sentence best describes **two ways** bridges help people according to the article?

(A) Bridges block boats from every river and stop all travel between towns
(B) Bridges exist only on maps and are never built in real life
(C) Bridges help people cross rivers, roads, valleys, or railways, and they save time by connecting communities so people can reach school, work, and stores more easily
(D) People must swim across highways because bridges are never safe for cars

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