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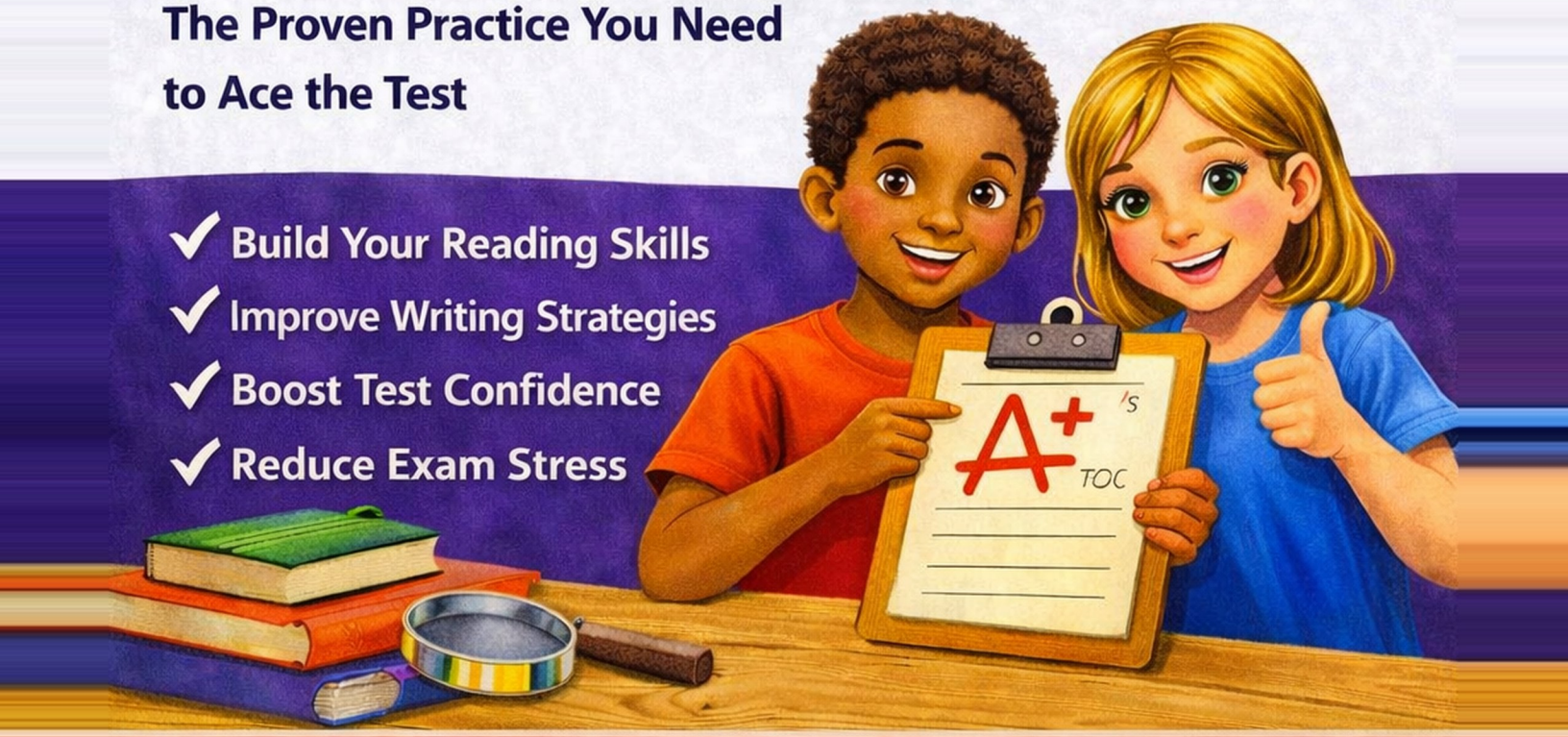
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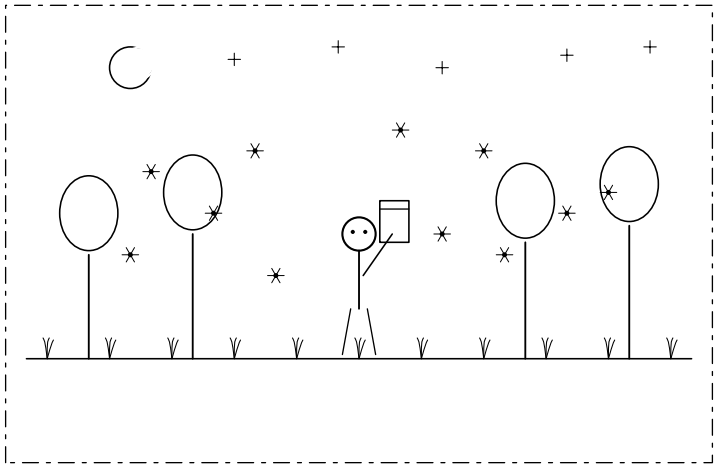
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Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 1–8.



Fireflies lighting up a summer meadow on a warm night

The Secret World of Fireflies

1 On warm summer nights in meadows and backyards across North America, tiny lights begin to blink in the darkness. These living lanterns are fireflies—also called lightning bugs—and they are among the most enchanting insects on Earth. But those magical flashes are not just for show. Fireflies use light to communicate with one another, and each species has its own special pattern of blinks.

2 Fireflies are actually beetles, not flies. The light they produce comes from their lower abdomens, where a chemical reaction takes place. Two chemicals—luciferin and an enzyme called luciferase— combine with oxygen to produce a cool, nearly heatless glow. Scientists call this process *bioluminescence*, which means the production of light by a living organism. Remarkably, firefly light is almost 100 percent efficient: almost no energy is wasted as heat. Compare that to a regular light bulb, which wastes most of its energy as heat!



Kind rows?
Proof in text.
Scan Me

3 Male fireflies typically fly through the air and flash their lights to attract a mate. Females wait in the grass below. When a female sees a flash pattern she recognizes from her own species, she flashes back. The male follows the female's signal, and the two eventually find each other. Different species have different flash patterns, which helps prevent confusion between fireflies that share the same meadow.

4 Firefly larvae—the young, worm-like stage before adulthood—are predators. They eat snails, slugs, and even earthworms. Larvae inject a digestive fluid into their prey to break it down before eating. Even larvae glow faintly, which is why some people call them "glowworms." The glow may warn predators that the larva tastes bad and should not be eaten.

5 Sadly, firefly populations are shrinking in many areas. Light pollution from streets and buildings confuses fireflies and makes it harder for them to find mates. Pesticides kill both fireflies and the insects and snails they depend on for food. Loss of meadows and forests removes the habitats where fireflies live.

6 There are simple things people can do to help. Turning off outdoor lights on summer nights lets fireflies signal each other naturally. Avoiding pesticides in gardens gives fireflies a safe place to grow. Leaving leaf litter and moist areas in your yard provides the perfect home for firefly larvae. Every yard that welcomes fireflies becomes a small sanctuary of light.

Read this dictionary entry.

efficient *adjective*

1. working without wasting time or effort
2. producing the most results with the least waste
3. highly organized and neat
4. able to perform many tasks at once

1) Which meaning of the word *efficient* is used in paragraph 2?

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

Use the passage "The Secret World of Fireflies" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence from the article is an **opinion**?

(A) Larvae inject a digestive fluid into their prey. (paragraph 4)
(B) Different species have different flash patterns. (paragraph 3)
(C) These living lanterns are fireflies—and they are among the most enchanting insects on Earth. (paragraph 1)
(D) Fireflies are actually beetles, not flies. (paragraph 2)

Use the passage "The Secret World of Fireflies" to answer this question.

3) In paragraph 2, the author compares a regular light bulb to a firefly's light. What is the **most likely reason** the author includes this comparison?

(A) To warn readers that light bulbs are dangerous to use at night
(B) To explain that light bulbs and fireflies are made of the same chemicals
(C) To convince readers to replace their light bulbs with fireflies
(D) To show readers how remarkable firefly light is by comparing it to something familiar



Autumn parts? Mind the tone.
Scan Me

One More Try

I practiced all my spelling words
from Sunday until now.
But standing at the microphone,
I can't remember how.

My knees are made of wobbly jell
my voice has gone to sleep.
The judge just said a brand-new word—
I cannot make a peep.

But here inside my chest, a voice
says *quiet*, then says *still*.
It says: *you know the answer, friend,*
you always have and will.

So I pick up the letters one
by one, like scattered seeds,
and plant them in the right order—
spelling all I need.

The bell rings out, I got it right!
The crowd begins to cheer.
The best thing wasn't winning—
it was choosing not to fear.

15) What does the phrase *"my voice has gone to sleep"* most likely mean in line 6 of the poem?

(A) The speaker is so nervous that she cannot make herself speak.
(B) The speaker is actually tired and wants to take a nap.
(C) The speaker refuses to say the word until she is certain.
(D) The speaker has been talking so much that her voice is hoarse.

Use the poem "One More Try" to answer this question.

16) The most likely reason the poet uses the image of "scattered seeds" in line 14 is to show that —

(A) the speaker's letters feel jumbled and out of order, but she patiently gathers and arranges them
(B) the speaker has forgotten all her spelling words and needs to start over
(C) plants and seeds are the speaker's favorite things to think about
(D) the auditorium floor is covered in papers from the competition

Use the poem "One More Try" to answer this question.

17) Which sentence **best** describes how the speaker's feelings **change** from the beginning of the poem to the end?

(A) The speaker begins bored with spelling and ends deciding to leave the contest early.
(B) The speaker begins terrified and frozen on stage but ends proud and relieved, seeing courage as the real victory.
(C) The speaker begins excited to lose and ends angry at the audience.
(D) The speaker begins calm and confident and ends too nervous to spell any words.

Use both "The Spelling Bee" and "One More Try" to answer this question.

18) Based on the endings of the story and the poem, what do both Priya and the speaker of the poem have in common?

(A) Both win first place in their spelling competitions.
(B) Both give up before finishing their spelling words.
(C) Both discover that their greatest achievement was facing their fear rather than winning the contest.
(D) Both are helped by a judge who gives them an easier word.

Use both "The Spelling Bee" and "One More Try" to answer this question.

19) By the end of the story and the poem, what is the most likely reason both Priya and the speaker are able to perform successfully?

(A) They both decide the competition is not important enough to worry about.
(B) Their teachers step in to help them when they feel frozen.
(C) They both memorize so many words that they no longer feel nervous.
(D) They both hear an encouraging inner voice and choose to trust themselves despite their fear.

Epic gags? Scan for seas. Scan Me