

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Understanding Autism Matters

Directions: Fill in the chart below to synthesize information from "My Life With Autism" and "My Brother Has Autism" to explore why it is important to understand autism. We filled in one answer for you.

Question	Answer	Source (check one or both)
1. How many children in the U.S. have autism spectrum disorder?		<input type="checkbox"/> "My Life With Autism" <input type="checkbox"/> "My Brother Has Autism"
2. What challenges are associated with autism?	People with autism can have trouble speaking, moving in certain ways, expressing their emotions, and understanding the emotions of others.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "My Life With Autism" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "My Brother Has Autism"
3. A misconception is a wrong or mistaken idea. What misconceptions exist about people with autism?		<input type="checkbox"/> "My Life With Autism" <input type="checkbox"/> "My Brother Has Autism"
4. How might understanding what autism is help you be a better friend to someone with autism?		<input type="checkbox"/> "My Life With Autism" <input type="checkbox"/> "My Brother Has Autism"

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Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

Paired Texts Vocabulary

"My Life With Autism"

1. **spectrum (SPEK-truhm)** *noun*; A spectrum is a wide range of something. There might be a spectrum of musical tastes in your class, with kids who like everything from classical to country and everything in between. The colors of the rainbow are another example of a spectrum.
2. **integrate (IN-tih-grayt)** *verb*; *Integrate* can mean "to make two or more things into a whole" or "to add something in so that it becomes part of the whole." A cake recipe might tell you to slowly integrate the flour into the butter and sugar. Your teacher might ask you to integrate photos into your presentation.
3. **physical therapist (FIZ-i-kuhl THER-uh-pist)** *noun*; A therapist is someone who performs therapy: treatment given for a physical or mental illness or injury.

A physical therapist treats people with physical conditions that cause pain or limit their ability to move or perform physical activities. Physical therapists do not perform surgery or prescribe medicine; rather, they use therapies such as exercises, massage, and heat. If you break your arm, your doctor might send you to a physical therapist after your cast is removed; the physical therapist will help you rebuild your strength and will make sure that your arm heals completely.
4. **speech therapist (speech THER-uh-pist)** *noun*; A speech therapist provides therapy to people with speech and language difficulties, so that those people are able to communicate more successfully. A speech therapist might help people learn how to make certain sounds, improve their written or spoken language, or express their thoughts and emotions more easily.
5. **sarcasm (SAHR-kaz-uhm)** *noun*; Sarcasm is the use of words that usually mean one thing to mean just the opposite. If you look out the window on Saturday morning and say, "Oh *great*, it's raining," but what you really mean is, "Ugh! This rain is going to ruin the whole day," you are using sarcasm. Sarcasm can be funny and lighthearted, but it is often used to show irritation or to hurt someone's feelings.
6. **ensure (en-SHUR)** *verb*; To ensure something is to make sure or certain of it—to guarantee it. Lifeguards ensure the safety of swimmers.

7. fulfilling (fuhl-FIL-ing) *adjective*; Something that is fulfilling provides happiness and satisfaction. Volunteer work is often fulfilling—it makes you feel good that you are helping others and making a difference in the world.

"My Brother Has Autism"

1. developmental (dih-vel-uhp-MEHNT-uhl) *adjective*; *Development* (dih-VEL-uhp-muhnt) is the act or process of growing, progressing, or improving. *Developmental* means "relating to the growth or development of someone or something." Between the ages of about 10 and 15, people experience intense developmental change: We rapidly get taller, our ability to understand and reason increases because of changes in our brains, and we develop a stronger emotional connection to ourselves and to others.

Directions: Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

ensure	speech therapist	sarcasm	spectrum	fulfilling
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1. The newest Star Wars film made me feel a wide range of emotions; it was touching, frightening, and funny.

2. Before Tonya began whispering in my ear, she glanced around to make sure no one else was listening.

3. Reading a good book on the couch is a satisfying way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

4. Kate visits a special teacher twice a week to practice her speaking and listening skills.

Directions: In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

5. "What a wonderful surprise!" said Ty, his voice filled with disgust.

"Ty, we can do without your **sarcasm/spectrum**," replied Ty's dad.

6. A **physical therapist/speech therapist** can design an exercise program to reduce lower back pain.

7. Songwriting is the perfect way to **integrate/ensure** my love of poetry and playing piano.

8. In the Hunger Games series, Katniss and Peeta make alliances with other tributes to **ensure/integrate** their survival.

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Close-Reading Questions

"My Life With Autism"

1. Connor writes that his parents "were determined to help" him. How does he support this statement? (supporting details)

2. What is the purpose of the section "A Big Secret"? (text structure)

3. Consider the name of the project that Connor founded: Courageous Steps. Based on what you know about Connor, what might this name mean? (inference)

4. Consider the last line of the personal essay in which Connor says he is exactly the way he is supposed to be. What do you think Connor means? (interpreting text)

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Close-Reading Questions

“My Brother Has Autism”

1. What is the main purpose of “‘My Brother Has Autism’”? (author’s purpose)
2. A misconception is a wrong or mistaken idea. What misconception does Grace Dupont suggest that some people have about people with autism? (inference)
3. What is the difference between “My Life With Autism” and “‘My Brother Has Autism’”? Consider the purpose and format of each text and the type of information each text contains. (compare and contrast)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"My Life With Autism" and "My Brother Has Autism"

1. Connor writes that kids can be mean when they don't understand someone. Do you agree? Explain your answer.

2. How can our understanding of autism be increased?

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Paired Texts Quiz

Directions: Read “My Life With Autism” and “My Brother Has Autism.” Then answer the questions below.

- Consider this line from page 19: “I was so exhausted from the night before that I crashed right there on the floor in her hospital room.” Which definition of *crash* matches its use above?
 - to make a sudden, loud noise
 - to go to sleep, especially suddenly
 - to enter a party without an invitation
 - to collide violently with an obstacle or a vehicle
- Which words best describe Connor’s tone as he talks about his parents in “Getting Help”?
 - appreciative and admiring
 - upset and angry
 - surprised and confused
 - humorous and lighthearted
- Which lines most clearly show the author using the tone you identified in question 2?
 - “One doctor told my mom that I might never talk” and “Autism affects your language, social, and physical skills.”
 - “My parents were determined to help me however they could” and “My parents knew how important it was for me to be integrated into a typical classroom setting.”
 - “At first, my classmates weren’t very friendly” and “After that, they began including me more.”
 - “I started playing the trumpet and running track” and “I began talking a little when I was 5.”
- On page 20, the line “I felt as though a weight had been lifted off my shoulders” contains
 - a simile that shows Connor’s physical strength.
 - hyperbole that emphasizes Connor’s tiredness.
 - a metaphor that indicates the weight of Connor’s backpack.
 - an expression that reveals the relief Connor felt after sharing his story.
- Which statement can be supported by information in “My Brother Has Autism”?
 - ASD does not vary from case to case.
 - Physical therapy can help people with ASD.
 - There are ways people can better understand and support people with ASD.
 - The cause of ASD is well-understood.
- On page 21, Grace Dupont says of her brother Carl, “We love him, and his friends love him, for who he is.” Which sentence from “My Life with Autism” contains a similar idea?
 - “Maybe they could tell I was different in some way, but they accepted me anyway.” (p. 19)
 - “Because of this, some people teased me for the way I spoke, moved, and acted.” (p. 20)
 - “Sometimes I didn’t even realize kids were teasing me.” (p. 20)
 - “They called me names or didn’t include me.” (p. 20)

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

- Connor says, “It took a team of professionals—a whole community—to help me get to where I am today” (p. 20). What does he mean? Use text evidence to support your answer.
- How can people sharing their personal experiences with autism, as Connor and Grace do, help people with autism? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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Paired Texts Quiz

Directions: Read “My Life With Autism” and “My Brother Has Autism.” Then answer the questions below.

1. Consider this line from page 19: “I was so exhausted from the night before that I crashed right there on the floor in her hospital room.” As used above, *crashed* is most close in meaning to
 - (A) ran into.
 - (B) fell asleep.
 - (C) exploded.
 - (D) clattered.
2. Which word best describes Connor’s tone (or attitude) as he talks about his parents in the section “Getting Help”?
 - (A) thankful
 - (B) angry
 - (C) surprised
 - (D) humorous
3. Which line most clearly shows the author using the tone you identified in question 2?
 - (A) “One doctor told my mom that I might never talk.”
 - (B) “My parents were determined to help me however they could.”
 - (C) “After that, they began including me more.”
 - (D) “I began talking a little when I was 5.”
4. On page 20, the line “I felt as though a weight had been lifted off my shoulders” contains an expression that
 - (A) illustrates Connor’s physical strength.
 - (B) emphasizes how tired Connor was.
 - (C) shows the weight of Connor’s backpack.
 - (D) reveals the relief Connor felt after sharing his story with his classmates.
5. Which statement CANNOT be supported by information in “My Brother Has Autism”?
 - (A) ASD varies from case to case.
 - (B) ASD is a developmental condition.
 - (C) The cause of ASD is well-understood.
 - (D) There are ways people can better understand and support people with ASD.
6. On page 21, Grace Dupont says of her brother Carl, “We love him, and his friends love him, for who he is.” Which sentence from “My Life with Autism” contains a similar idea?
 - (A) “Maybe they could tell I was different in some way, but they accepted me anyway.” (p. 19)
 - (B) “Because of this, some people teased me for the way I spoke, moved, and acted.” (p. 20)
 - (C) “Sometimes I didn’t even realize kids were teasing me.” (p. 20)
 - (D) “They called me names or didn’t include me.” (p. 20)

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. On page 20, Connor says, “It took a team of professionals—a whole community—to help me get to where I am today.” What does he mean? Use text evidence to support your answer.
8. How do Connor and Grace help others understand and support people with autism? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Understanding Autism Contest

Why is it important to understand autism? Support your answer with details from both the personal essay and the interview. Five winners will get *Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ use of information from both texts
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- ⇒ clarity and good organization
- ⇒ creativity

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your written entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Understanding Autism Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 15, 2018!