

Table of Contents

1. GRAMMAR LOVES THESE ALIENS	PAGE 1
2. NONFICTION: "OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE"	PAGES 2-7
2.a. Writing Task	2
2.b. Preparing to Write Your Letter	2
2.c. Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions	2
2.d. Nonfiction Elements (two levels)	2-4
2.e. Vocabulary	4
2.f. Quizzes (two levels)	4-5
2.g. Core Skills activities	5-7
2.h. Video Discussion Questions	7
3. PLAY: THE DEAD RISING	PAGES 8-11
3.a. Writing Task	8
3.b. Preparing to Write: Interviewing Mercy Brown	8
3.c. Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions	8-9
3.d. Quizzes (two levels)	9-10
3.e. Core Skills activities	11
4. PAIRED TEXTS: "THE AMAZING HISTORY OF SHOPPING IN AMERICA"	PAGES 12-16
4.a. Writing Task	12
4.b. Preparing to Write: Compare and Contrast	13-14
4.c. Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions	14
4.d. Quizzes	14-15
4.e. Vocabulary	15-16
4.f. Core Skills activities	16
5. DEBATE: "WOULD YOU VISIT THE <i>TITANIC</i>?"	PAGES 17-18
5.a. Writing Task	17
5.b. Quizzes (two levels)	17-18
5.c. Vocabulary	18
6. SHORT READ: "ARE YOUTH SPORTS OUT OF CONTROL?"	PAGES 19-20
6.a. Writing Task	19
6.b. Quizzes	19-20
6.c. Vocabulary	20
7. FLASH FICTION: "CLIMBING SKULL MOUNTAIN"	PAGES 21-22
7.a. Writing Task	21
7.b. Vocabulary	21
7.c. Character Development	22
8. POEM: "FIRE-FLOWERS"	PAGE 23-24
8.a. Poetry Analysis	23-24
8.b. Writing Planner	24

“Grammar Loves These Aliens”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

ARE WE ALONE?

Many scientists dedicate **there/their/they're** lives to studying the universe. They send probes into deep space and gaze through powerful telescopes. And **there/their/they're** learning more and more every day.

So what are the chances that aliens exist somewhere out **there/their/they're** in the far reaches of space? It depends on who you ask. But wrap your mind around this: To date, scientists have found 47 planets that could support life, and estimates show that billions more could be out **there/their/they're**.

WHAT WOULD ALIENS LOOK LIKE?

Over the decades, writers and filmmakers have dreamed up lots of memorable alien characters. (We're looking at you, Chewie.) And **there/their/they're** is something that many of these fictional aliens have in common: **there/their/they're** humanlike. Just look at the characters on this page—they all have faces, arms, and legs.

There/Their/They're is no reason to believe that beings beyond our solar system would look anything like us though. After all, the universe is a pretty big place. Who knows how life might have evolved out **there/their/they're**?

WOULD ALIENS BE NICE TO US?

The 1982 movie *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* is one of the most popular movies ever made. It tells the touching story of a gentle, childlike alien who gets homesick after his spaceship leaves Earth without him. (Director Steven Spielberg based E.T. on an imaginary friend that comforted him during his parents' divorce when he was a kid.)

Would actual aliens be as sweet as E.T.? A study by Pennsylvania State University and NASA recently found that aliens could eat us, attack us, or just take over everything. Or they might pass on **there/their/they're** germs to us and wipe us all out. We're holding out for E.T. though!

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEET

THERE, THEIR, AND THEY'RE

1. they're
2. there
3. their
4. there

Yesterday, my little sisters challenged me to a game of Scrabble. Usually, I avoid playing games with them because **they're** terrible cheaters. But **their** pleading wore me down, and it was raining, so I agreed. We set up the board on the dining-room table, removing Princess, the cat that likes to sleep **there**. Then we picked our tiles. **There** are only two blank tiles, and I got them both! Things were looking good. The girls obviously didn't like **their** tiles: They kept trying to sneak **their** hands into the tile bag for new ones. **There** is not much else to say about the game, except that it went on and on and on. When it finally ended and my sister Lisa won, I was more than ready to get out of **there**.

“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 10

Letters will vary.

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

PREPARING TO WRITE YOUR LETTER

Letters will vary, but should include a date, salutation, introduction, body paragraphs, closing, signature, and printed name.

“OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE”

CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Tarshis may have included details about the town to evoke empathy; they help the reader imagine what it was like to live in Paradise. The details about the town's history help the reader understand what was lost in the fire—a town that had been there for nearly 170 years.
2. On page 7, Tarshis explains that climate change is causing California's wildfires to become bigger, more destructive, and harder to fight. As the sidebar explains, this is happening because climate change has caused plants to dry out and become fire prone faster than they used to.
3. They faced traffic jams and roads blocked by burning tree limbs, fallen electrical wires, and abandoned cars.
4. Tarshis may have chosen to describe the experiences of several people during the fire to give readers a broader view of what it was like to be in Paradise during the fire than they would have if she had focused on just one

person. Perhaps Tarshis also wanted to show how various people's experiences were alike and different during the fire.

5. Over the course of the article, Tarshis depicts the people of Paradise as facing the fire with strength, courage, and determination. For example, she describes Kevin driving through a burning neighborhood to save 22 kids and Josh protecting hundreds of terrified people in a parking lot. In addition, Tarshis writes that since the fire, the people of Paradise have moved forward with their lives, even after losing almost everything, which also requires strength.

“OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE” CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

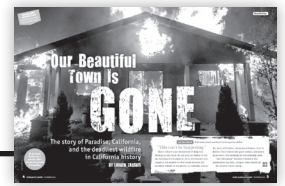
1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary. Ideas might include asking friends and family members for support, setting goals, focusing on positive rather than negative things, staying healthy, and doing things that make you feel strong.

READ, THINK, EXPLAIN: IDENTIFYING NONFICTION ELEMENTS

*Higher Level (HL)

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. The photograph shows someone's home completely engulfed in flames. It is clear there will be nothing left of this house and that the fire that is burning is extremely dangerous. This image creates a tragic and terrifying mood. The headline and subheading add to the tragic and terrifying mood by providing more details about how destructive and deadly the fire was.
2. The photograph on the top of pages 6-7 shows an enormous and ominous cloud of smoke. The photo tells



“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone” cont’d

you that the fire must have been very large and powerful to generate such a large plume of smoke.

3. The information in the sidebar helps readers understand why wildfires happen, why they’ve become more destructive over time, and how humans have impacted both the control and worsening of wildfires.
4. I predict this article will be about a deadly wildfire. (Answers will vary.)
5. **A.** The author gives a chronological account of the evacuation of Paradise.
B. I know the author uses a chronological structure because she uses words and phrases that indicate the passage of time, including “By 8:30 a.m.,” “By then,” “By now,” and “As the minutes ticked by.” (p. 6)
6. The mood of the section starts off as terrifying and shifts to somber and sad towards the end. The author creates this mood by including vivid details about the fire and how the people of Paradise were reacting to it. For example, she describes the fire as an “inferno” sweeping across the town (9). She writes that people cried in their cars and describes the smoke as “so thick it felt as though they were breathing fire itself” (9). The mood of the section becomes more somber and sad as Lauren goes on to describe the aftermath of the fire by writing that 85 people lost their lives and that when most people returned to their homes in Paradise, all they found was “ash and ruin” (10). (Answers will vary slightly.)
7. The author’s tone is hopeful and optimistic as she writes about the people of Paradise and their futures. After describing the devastation caused by the fire, she writes, “Still, life continues” (10). She then lists the positive recovery efforts that are happening in the fire’s aftermath: new homes, relocated schools, and the return of joyous events like birthday parties and field trips (10). Lastly, she highlights strength and resilience of the people of Paradise by including a quote from Lucas’s mom: “It’s the people that make a town,” says Lucas’s mom, Holly. “We are resilient, and I’m certain we will rebuild a beautiful Paradise together.” These details show that she feels hopeful and optimistic about the people of Paradise and what the future holds for them.
8. The Camp Fire was extremely dangerous and destructive. (Answers will vary slightly.)
9. Last November, the people of Paradise, California

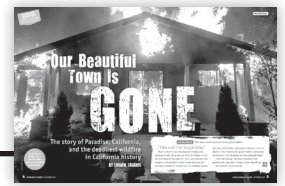
lived through the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history. The fire was caused by sparks from electrical lines that set fire to dry grass on a hillside. On the morning of the fire, few people were concerned by the smoke they saw in the distance because it seemed far away and wildfires are common in California. But the fire moved quickly toward the town, forcing residents to evacuate. As people tried to leave, they faced traffic jams and roads that had been blocked by burning tree limbs, fallen electrical wires, and abandoned cars. But the people of Paradise faced the fire with courage and determination. People like Kevin McKay and Josh Fisher risked their lives to keep others safe. Many did make it to safety, but the fire would continue to burn for 16 days. Eighty-five people died.

Today, only a small number of people have moved back to Paradise because the fire destroyed most homes and the smoke has poisoned the water. But the people of Paradise continue to live their lives and are looking forward to rebuilding their town together.

READ, THINK, EXPLAIN: IDENTIFYING NONFICTION ELEMENTS

*Lower Level (LL)

1. The photograph shows someone’s home completely engulfed in flames. It is clear there will be nothing left of this house and that the fire that is burning is extremely dangerous. This image creates a tragic and terrifying mood. The headline and subheading add to the tragic and terrifying mood by providing more details about how destructive and deadly the fire was.
2. The photograph on the top of pages 6-7 shows an enormous and ominous cloud of smoke. The photo tells you that the fire must have been very large and powerful to generate such a large plume of smoke.
3. The information in the sidebar helps readers understand why wildfires happen, why they’ve become more destructive over time, and how humans have impacted both the control and worsening of wildfires.
4. I predict this article will be about a deadly wildfire. (Answers will vary.)
5. A
6. The mood of the section starts off as terrifying and shifts to somber and sad towards the end. The author creates



“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone” cont’d

this mood by including vivid details about the fire and how the people of Paradise were reacting to it. For example, she describes the fire as an “inferno” sweeping across the town (9). She writes that people cried in their cars and describes the smoke as “so thick it felt as though they were breathing fire itself” (9). The mood of the section becomes more somber and sad as Lauren goes on to describe the aftermath of the fire by writing that 85 people lost their lives and that when most people returned to their homes in Paradise, all they found was “ash and ruin” (10). (Answers will vary slightly.)

7. A. hopeful

B. The author’s tone is hopeful as she writes about the people of Paradise and their futures because after describing the devastation caused by the fire, she writes, “Still, life continues” (10). She then lists the positive recovery efforts that are happening in the fire’s aftermath: new homes, relocated schools, and the return of joyous events like birthday parties and field trips (10). Lastly, she highlights strength and resilience of the people of Paradise by including a quote from Lucas’s mom: “It’s the people that make a town,” says Lucas’s mom, Holly. “We are resilient, and I’m certain we will rebuild a beautiful Paradise together.” These details show that she feels hopeful and optimistic about the people of Paradise and what the future holds for them.

8. A. Students should cross out Detail #3.

B. Detail #3 is about the cause of the Camp Fire. This detail does not show how wildfires are an important part of California’s environment.

9. Students should cross out A, D, and E.

“OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE” VOCABULARY

1. A
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. The little bricks glowed orange for hours before the fire finally died out.

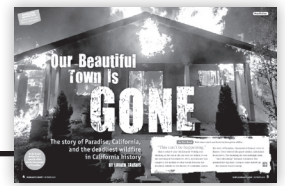
10. What began as a small kitchen fire was now an inferno, burning wildly out of control throughout the whole house.
11. He didn’t let losing get him down, he had a positive attitude and started planning for how to do better next time.

“OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE” QUIZ

*Higher Level (HL)

1. D (text structure; R.5)
2. A, C (key ideas & details; R.2)
3. C (key ideas & details; R.2)
4. A (figurative language; R.4)
5. D (interpreting text; R.2)
6. B, C (author’s purpose; R.2)
7. As evidenced in Lauren Tarshis’s article “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone,” human activity can have a devastating impact on nature. For example, Tarshis writes that in the case of the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, “Experts now think that sparks from electrical lines ignited dry grass on a remote hillside” (7). This sparking electrical line caused the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history; the Camp Fire devoured a football field’s worth of land every second (8), took 85 lives, and poisoned the water with its toxic smoke (10). This example supports the statement in the sidebar on page 8, “What Causes Wildfires in California?,” that most fires are caused by human activity. The sidebar states, “In fact, 85 percent of wildfires in California are human-caused, such as when a campfire is left unattended.”

Tarshis explains that wildfires are actually an important and natural part of keeping ecosystems healthy in California (7), but that many wildfires are now problematic because of how much bigger, more destructive, and harder to fight wildfires have become over the past decade due to human activity—in particular, due to climate change (7-8). The hotter weather makes the vegetation in California even more likely to catch fire (sidebar, 8). And not only is the vegetation more flammable, because of humans’ fire suppression practices, there is also a larger amount of vegetation to burn. This is explained in the sidebar, which states, “Over the past century, the general policy has been to put out wildfires as quickly as possible. As



“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone” cont’d

a result of this fire suppression, there are more plants to burn than there would have been, making fires more destructive” (sidebar, 8).

However, it is possible for human activity to impact nature in a more positive way. The U.S. Forest Service is now using controlled burns to minimize wildfires’ destruction (sidebar, 8). This is a technique the Maidu tribe used to keep forests healthy and prevent fires from becoming too large and damaging (sidebar, 8). (key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, W.2)

8. When Holly Fisher says that the people of Paradise are resilient, she means that the community has the ability to recover from misfortune—and will therefore be able to recover from Camp Fire, which almost completely destroyed the town of Paradise on November 8, 2018. In her article “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone,” author Lauren Tarshis develops the idea that the people of Paradise are resilient by describing how the community is rebuilding after the fire. On page 10, she explains that very few people have returned to live in Paradise because most homes were turned to ash and the water was poisoned by toxic smoke. However, Tarshis shows readers, the community has not let the fire defeat them; they have picked up and continued their lives elsewhere. She notes that schools have relocated and describes families moving to neighboring towns where they are experiencing the joys of field trips and birthday parties once again (10). These details make clear that the people of Paradise are, as Holly Fisher claims, resilient. (supporting a claim, explanatory writing; R.1, R.2, W.2)

“OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN IS GONE” QUIZ

*Lower Level (LL)

1. D (text structure; R.5)
2. A, C (key ideas & details; R.2)
3. C (key ideas & details; R.2)
4. A (figurative language; R.4)
5. D (interpreting text; R.2)
6. B, C (author’s purpose; R.2)
7. As evidenced in Lauren Tarshis’s article “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone,” human activity can have a devastating impact on nature. One way humans can have a devastating impact on nature is by starting wildfires. For example, Tarshis writes that in the case of the Camp

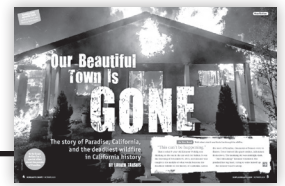
Fire in Paradise, California, “Experts now think that sparks from electrical lines ignited dry grass on a remote hillside” (7). This sparking electrical line caused the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history (7). The Camp Fire devoured a football field’s worth of land every second (8), took 85 lives, and poisoned the water with its toxic smoke (10). This example supports the statement in the sidebar on page 8, “What Causes Wildfires in California?,” that most fires are caused by human activity. The sidebar states, “In fact, 85 percent of wildfires in California are human-caused, such as when a campfire is left unattended.” That human activity causes most wildfires, including wildfires that can result in devastation like that of the Camp Fire, shows one way that human activity negatively affects nature. (key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, W.2)

8. In her article “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone,” author Lauren Tarshis develops the idea that the people of Paradise are resilient by describing how the community is rebuilding after the fire. On page 10, she explains that very few people have returned to live in Paradise, where most homes were turned to ash and the water was poisoned by toxic smoke. But, Tarshis shows readers, the community has not let the fire defeat them; they have picked up and continued their lives elsewhere. She notes that schools have relocated and describes families moving to neighboring towns where they are experiencing the joys of field trips and birthday parties once again (10). These details make clear that the people of Paradise are, as Holly Fisher claims, resilient. (supporting a claim, explanatory writing; R.1, R.2, W.2)

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: SUMMARIZING

*Higher Level (HL)

1. The article is mainly about classmates Eleanor Weddig and Lucas Fisher, bus driver Kevin McKay, and their families. (Students may also say the article is about the people of Paradise.)
2. The article describes the wildfire that engulfed the town of Paradise, California on November 8, 2018. The fire burned for 16 days, taking 85 lives and causing thousands to lose their homes. The Camp Fire was the deadliest wildfire in California history.
3. The fire forced residents to evacuate the town. The



“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone” cont’d

experience of evacuating was terrifying for many. The people of Paradise faced traffic jams and roads blocked by burning tree limbs, fallen electrical wires, and abandoned cars. Many people in Paradise lost their homes and possessions and 85 people died. However, the people of Paradise faced the fire with strength, courage, and determination. Josh Fisher, Lucas’s dad, stayed behind to fight the fire and keep residents safe. Kevin McKay evacuated 22 students through a burning neighborhood on his school bus.

4. Today, only a small number of people have returned to live in Paradise. Both Eleanor and Kevin’s families lost their homes and had to move. The Fishers’ home survived, but they still can’t live in Paradise because the water there was poisoned by toxic smoke. Eleanor and Lucas’s school has been relocated to a neighboring town. Kevin still drives a bus and is studying to become a history teacher. Josh still fights fires.
5. Answers will vary.

Sample Summary:

Last November, the people of Paradise, California lived through the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history. The fire was caused by sparks from electrical lines that set fire to dry grass on a hillside. On the morning of the fire, few people were concerned by the smoke they saw in the distance because it seemed far away and wildfires are common in California. But the fire moved quickly toward the town, forcing residents to evacuate. As people tried to leave, they faced traffic jams and roads that had been blocked by burning tree limbs, fallen electrical wires, and abandoned cars. But the people of Paradise faced the fire with courage and determination. People like Kevin McKay and Josh Fischer risked their lives to keep others safe. Many did make it to safety, but the fire would continue to burn for 16 days. Eighty-five people died.

Today, only a small number of people have moved back to Paradise because the fire destroyed most homes and the smoke has poisoned the water. But the people of Paradise continue to live their lives and are looking forward to rebuilding their town together.

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: SUMMARIZING

*Lower Level (LL)

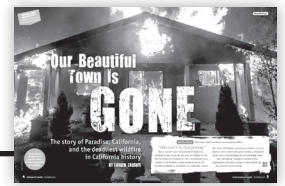
Last November, the people of Paradise, California lived through the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history. The fire was caused by sparks from electrical lines that set fire to dry grass on a hillside. On the morning of the fire, few people were concerned by the smoke they saw in the distance because it seemed far away and wildfires are common in California. But the fire moved quickly toward the town, forcing residents to evacuate. As people tried to leave, they faced traffic jams and roads that had been blocked by burning tree limbs, fallen electrical wires, and abandoned cars. But the people of Paradise faced the fire with courage and determination. People like Kevin McKay and Josh Fisher risked their lives to keep others safe. Many did make it to safety, but the fire would continue to burn for 16 days. Eighty-five people died.

Today, only a small number of people have moved back to Paradise because the fire destroyed most homes and the smoke has poisoned the water. But the people of Paradise continue to live their lives and are looking forward to rebuilding their town together.

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: CENTRAL IDEAS AND DETAILS

*Higher Level (HL)

1. C
2. B; I chose B because the statement is about the conditions that lead to wildfires. This detail does not show how wildfires play an important role in nature.
3. The people of Paradise, California, have persevered and continued to live their lives after the Camp Fire. (Answers will vary.)
4. Answers will vary but may include: “Within hours, dozens of people would be dead. Nearly 14,000 houses would be burned to the ground. Schools, playgrounds, offices, businesses, the hospital—all would be destroyed.” (p. 6); “Even more dangerous, the powerful wind was picking up hunks of burning trees.” (p. 8); “The heat was unbearable, the smoke so thick it felt as though they were breathing fire itself.” (p. 9); “Some roads were completely blocked by burning tree limbs, electrical wires, and cars abandoned by terrified drivers.” (p. 9); “The fire, which became known as the Camp Fire, burned for 16 more days. Eighty-five people lost their lives.” (p. 9); “Like thousands of others,



“Our Beautiful Town Is Gone” cont’d

Eleanor’s family lost their home; they now live in a trailer in Chico.” (p. 10)

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: CENTRAL IDEAS AND DETAILS

*Lower Level (LL)

1. A, C, E
2. Wildfires can play an important role in nature. (Answers will vary slightly.)

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: TEXT FEATURES

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. The photograph shows someone’s home completely engulfed in flames. It is clear there will be nothing left of this house and that the fire that is burning is extremely dangerous. This image creates a tragic and terrifying mood. The headline and subheading add to the tragic and terrifying mood by providing more details about how destructive and deadly the fire was.
2. The collection of photos titled “Faces of Paradise” puts faces to the names of the people in the article. This helps the reader visualize the people author Lauren Tarshis describes in the article, and perhaps have more empathy for them, as they read about the fire and what each of the people in the story went through.
3. The author may have included the sidebar to expand on and support the information about wildfires that she provides in the section “Bigger and Deadlier.” The information in the sidebar helps readers gain a better understanding of why fires happen, why they’ve become more destructive over time, and how humans have impacted both the control and worsening of wildfires.
4. The subheadings of the beginning sections, “Bustling Town,” and “Plume of Smoke” have a somewhat neutral tone. As the article progresses, however, the tones of the subheadings become increasingly dramatic and intense (“Bigger and Deadlier,” “Like Flaming Birds,” and “Breathing Fire”). The tone of the subheadings shift to hopeful at the end of the article with the subheading, “Life Continues.”

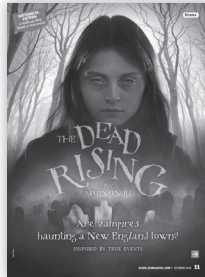
deadliest to hit California in a century. On-screen, we see images of a burned-out town, a house on fire, and crosses marking graves. These elements help you understand why the fire was so devastating.

2. The mood of this section is scary and suspenseful. The narration says that “panic grew” as the fire spread. Images of burning homes, a dark cloud of smoke, and social media posts about the fire are shown on-screen as survivors describe the frightening scenes they faced while trying to escape. Fast, tense music plays throughout.
3. On her first trip to Paradise, Tarshis saw homes and businesses in ruin and very few signs of life. On her second trip, she saw glimmers of hope. Many businesses had reopened and houses were being rebuilt. People had come from around the country to help. This tells you that the people of Paradise faced the wildfire with resilience and are slowly beginning to rebuild their town.
4. From the people of Paradise, we can learn how to be resilient and positive in the face of enormous challenges. For example, Holly explains how “you have to find something to help you move forward” instead of sinking into negativity. And Lucas offers the advice to “take a breath and stay calm” in a difficult situation. (Answers will vary.)

VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The narration in this section explains that the wildfire destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. It was one of the largest wildfires in history and the

The Dead Rising



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 17

Answers will vary. Entries may be in the form of a video, podcast, or transcript and should include students' questions as well as Mercy's responses.

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

PREPARING TO WRITE: INTERVIEWING MERCY BROWN

Interviews will vary.

THE DEAD RISING CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. The playwright likely has Lena drop her bracelet for a few reasons. The first is because the bracelet is important to the plot—at the end of the play, the bracelet is how the present-day characters figure out who Lena really is. The second reason is that it creates a moment for Lena to meet Jacob, Sophia, and Ethan so she can invite them to visit Mercy Brown's grave and tell her story.
2. Lena says, "I've lived here forever," which isn't literally true but conveys that she's been in the area for a very long time. Another hint is the way she sighs and trails off when she begins to explain who Mercy Brown was. This reveals her emotional involvement in the story (which comes from the fact that she is Mercy Brown).
3. Mercy, her mother, and her siblings would still have died because there was no treatment yet. But their graves would not have been disturbed. George would have been spared the pain of the experience and the negative publicity that resulted. And the Brown family would never have been associated with vampire panics. The Brown

family's story may also have been lost to history.

4. Edwin seems cautiously hopeful. He doesn't like the idea, but he seems to think anything is worth a try. George is more offended and disturbed by the idea.
5. Jacob's tone is sarcastic. Ethan is offering ideas about why Mercy's body stayed fresh after her death, and Jacob is teasing Ethan.
6. You can infer that Lena (really Mercy Brown) has returned to her grave or simply vanished because she is a ghost. You might infer that she faded away because her story has now been told.
7. The captions provide additional information about the time period and tuberculosis. They contribute to the play by offering readers a deeper understanding of what the people in Exeter were facing. The newspaper article shows readers how Exeter was viewed. It helps readers understand the regret George expresses at the end of the play.
8. These myths were likely created to explain diseases and other phenomena that could not be explained by science at the time.

THE DEAD RISING CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Answers may vary. Some students might say yes; their beliefs were not based on reason and science. Others might say no; the people of Exeter were facing a crisis and only doing the best thing they could think of based on the knowledge they had at the time.
2. When you see the 1892 events through the eyes of present-day teenagers who have information at their fingertips, it highlights how helpless the people of Exeter were to understand what was happening to them. The modern-day characters also provide additional information about the events of the past.



The Dead Rising cont'd

THE DEAD RISING QUIZ

*Higher Level (HL)

1. C (text structure; R.5)
2. A (mood; R.4)
3. A, C (text evidence; R.1)
4. C (vocabulary; R.4)
5. D (text structure; R.5)
6. B (tone; R.6)
7. Throughout his play *The Dead Rising*, playwright Justin O'Neill slowly reveals Lena's true identity as the ghost of Mercy Brown. In Scene 1, O'Neill leaves multiple clues that point to the idea that Lena is actually a ghost. For example, after Ethan asks Lena how long she has lived in Exeter, she replies, "I've lived here forever" (12). Ethan and readers may not know it yet, but as a ghost, Lena has been in Exeter for a very long time—and is doomed to wander it for the rest of eternity. In addition, the way O'Neill describes Lena is meant to give readers an eerie feeling, one that might make them think Lena is in fact a ghost. Thunder rumbles as Lena enters the scene, creating a spooky mood. Her appearance is described in a way that doesn't sound like a costume, but just as the ghostly way she actually looks, with her deep-blue eyes, very pale skin, black hair, and white dress (12). Another way O'Neill provides clues to Lena's true identity in Scene 1 is having Lena sigh and trail off when she begins to explain who Mercy Brown was. This response reveals that Lena has some emotional involvement in the story, which comes from the fact that she *is* Mercy Brown. It makes sense that she would be upset about her family and neighbors thinking she was a vampire and defiling her remains. In Scene 9, O'Neill further develops the idea that Lena is the ghost of Mercy Brown through Lena's response to a question from Jacob. After he asks if the vampire-killing ritual worked, she snaps, "Of course not!" (17). She begins to describe the townspeople's error until she is cut off by a bad coughing fit—a symptom of tuberculosis, which is what Mercy Brown died from. After the three friends discover the name engraved in Lena's bracelet—Mercy Lena Brown—at the end of the play, it is easy to see that details throughout the play have been hinting that Lena is the ghost of Mercy Brown. (interpreting text, text evidence, craft and structure, writing explanatory

text; R.4, R.1, W.2)

8. As shown in Justin O'Neill's play *The Dead Rising*, there are multiple reasons some people believed that Mercy Brown was a vampire.

For starters, medical science was far less advanced than it is today. This is made clear in the play by the fact that Dr. Metcalf—the town's medical doctor—was among the townspeople who carried out the vampire-killing ritual. In Scene 2, he says to Mercy's father, "There is no cure for consumption. Even the cause is debated." A modern doctor would understand the cause of and appropriate treatment for consumption—and would surely dismiss the ritual as ridiculous. Further evidence that people lacked scientific understanding is provided in the caption "The Science," which explains that people in Mercy's day didn't know that consumption (now known as tuberculosis, or TB) was caused by bacteria, as we know today. The sidebar states, "[TB] was not widely understood—and it was greatly feared" (13). No one in Exeter had a clue as to what was causing this highly contagious disease that at the time, was the leading cause of death in the United States (13). So what did some people who lived in great fear of a deadly unknown do? They found their explanation in centuries of oral tradition, folklore, and superstition, and concluded that vampires were feasting on the living.

Where did this idea come from? The caption "The Superstition" explains that "The superstition that vampires were to blame for outbreaks of consumption may have been brought to America from Eastern Europe by traveling fortune-tellers. Their stories became part of oral tradition" (14). The caption "An Ancient Fear" adds that "Stories of the dead rising up to haunt the living can be found throughout human history" (16).

Sadly, as Ethan points out in Scene 3, scientists discovered the bacterium that caused TB in 1882—10 years prior to Mercy Brown's death—but that "news was slow to reach rural areas" (13). Had the people of Exeter been in possession of this knowledge, they surely would not have thought Mercy Brown was a vampire. (key ideas & details, synthesis, text evidence, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, R.9, W.2)



The Dead Rising cont'd

THE DEAD RISING QUIZ

*Lower Level (LL)

1. C (text structure; R.5)
2. A (mood; R.4)
3. A, C (text evidence; R.1)
4. C (vocabulary; R.4)
5. D (text structure; R.5)
6. B (tone; R.6)
7. Throughout her play *The Dead Rising*, playwright Justin O'Neill slowly reveals Lena's true identity as the ghost of Mercy Brown. In Scene 1, O'Neill leaves multiple clues that point to the idea that Lena is actually a ghost. For example, after Ethan asks Lena how long she has lived in Exeter, she replies, "I've lived here forever" (12). Ethan and readers may not know it yet, but as a ghost, Lena has been in Exeter for a very long time—and is doomed to wander it for the rest of eternity. In addition, the way O'Neill describes Lena is meant to give readers an eerie feeling, one that might make them think Lena is in fact a ghost. Thunder rumbles as Lena enters the scene, creating a spooky mood. Her appearance is described in a way that doesn't sound like a costume, but just as the ghostly way she actually looks, with her deep-blue eyes, very pale skin, black hair, and white dress (12). Another way O'Neill provides clues to Lena's true identity in Scene 1 is having Lena sigh and trail off when she begins to explain who Mercy Brown was. This response reveals that Lena has some emotional involvement in the story, which comes from the fact that she *is* Mercy Brown. It makes sense that she would be upset about her family and neighbors thinking she was a vampire and defiling her remains. In Scene 9, O'Neill further develops the idea that Lena is the ghost of Mercy Brown through Lena's response to a question from Jacob. After he asks if the vampire-killing ritual worked, she snaps, "Of course not!" (17). She begins to describe the townspeople's error until she is cut off by a bad coughing fit—a symptom of Tuberculosis, which is what Mercy Brown died from. After the three friends discover the name engraved in Lena's bracelet—Mercy Lena Brown—at the end of the play, it is easy to see that details throughout the play have been hinting that Lena is the ghost of Mercy Brown. (interpreting text, text evidence, craft and structure, writing explanatory text; R.4, R.1, W.2)

8. As shown in Justin O'Neill's play *The Dead Rising*, there are multiple reasons some people believed that Mercy Brown was a vampire.

For starters, medical science was far less advanced than it is today. This is made clear in the play by the fact that Dr. Metcalf—the town's medical doctor—was among the townspeople who carried out the vampire-killing ritual. In Scene 2, he says to Mercy's father, "There is no cure for consumption. Even the cause is debated." A modern doctor would understand the cause of and appropriate treatment for consumption—and would surely dismiss the ritual as ridiculous. Further evidence that people lacked scientific understanding is provided in the caption "The Science," which explains that people in Mercy's day didn't know that consumption (now known as tuberculosis, or TB) was caused by bacteria, as we know today. The sidebar states, "[TB] was not widely understood—and it was greatly feared" (13). No one in Exeter had a clue as to what was causing this highly contagious disease that at the time, was the leading cause of death in the United States (13). So what did some people who lived in great fear of a deadly unknown do? They found their explanation in centuries of oral tradition, folklore, and superstition, and concluded that vampires were feasting on the living.

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Sadly, as Ethan points out in Scene 3, scientists discovered the bacterium that caused TB in 1882—10 years prior to Mercy Brown's death—but that "news was slow to reach rural areas" (13). Had the people of Exeter been in possession of this knowledge, they surely would not have thought Mercy Brown was a vampire. (key ideas & details, synthesis, text evidence, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, R.9, W.2)



The Dead Rising cont'd

CORE SKILLS: MOOD

Answers will vary.

- Answers will vary but should be similar to *hostile*, *disturbing*, *intense*, *frightening*, *panicked*, *chilling*, *ghastly*, *spine chilling*, etc.
- A.** This scene takes place at night in a cemetery. Both darkness and cemeteries cause readers to feel like something sinister might happen. Having the characters surrounded by empty coffins and tombstones that are lit only by flickering candles and eventually an orange blaze also contributes to the mood.

B. In Scene 6, a large group of townspeople are banding together in a panicked frenzy to perform a vampire-killing ritual. The people dig up two graves and burn Mercy Brown's organs so that her brother can drink the ashes and, they believe, be cured of TB. This horrifying ritual meant to save a sick boy contributes to the mood.

C. The characters speak with certainty and alarm about Mercy being a vampire. Wilson gasps, exclaiming, "She hasn't rotted a bit!" and Cora adds "Her position has changed! She's been moving!" The characters yell with intensity and urgency about the ritual, with the entire group of townspeople yelling, "Burn! Burn! Burn!" and "Burn the organs! Kill the spirit!" in unison. SD2 describes the townspeople as they watch the organs being consumed by the fire, "their faces wild in the orange glow of the blaze." The impassioned, almost violent lines contribute to the mood.

(Responses to the activity on pages 2 and 3 will vary.)

CORE SKILLS: INFERENCE

Answers will vary.

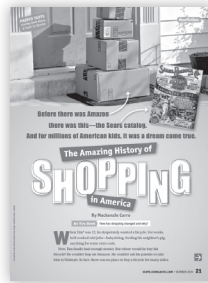
- Answer provided.
- You can guess that the people of Exeter are scared to be near George or his house because they fear they might catch consumption.
- George's neighbors know George will not like their idea and may be upset by it.
- Ethan doesn't believe what Lena is saying about Mercy; he thinks she is just telling a fun ghost story.
- Ethan (looking at his phone):** I already googled it. "Consumption is now known as tuberculosis. The disease is caused by a bacterium that usually infects the lungs. Highly contagious, it was once the leading

cause of death in the United States. Scientists discovered the bacterium in 1882, but news was slow to reach rural areas."; **Ethan:** Mercy had been dead only a few months—that's why there was still blood in her heart. And the cold weather probably slowed decomposition.

Jacob: Thanks Dr. Metcalf.

- Ethan:** Wait—what was the remedy?
 - Lena:** Yes, I've lived here forever.
 - Lena:** Mercy Brown. (*sigh*) She lived here about a hundred years ago. And she . . . (*trailing off*).
 - Sophia:** Um, guys? This bracelet she left is engraved: Mercy Lena Brown.
- SD1:** With a loud burst of thunder, rain begins to fall, as the three friends stand in stunned silence.

“The Amazing History of Shopping in America”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 25

Answers will vary. Sample response:

As Mackenzie Carro explains in her articles “The Amazing History of Shopping in America” and “The Rise of Amazon,” the story of Sears and the story of Amazon are similar in many ways.

Most importantly, technology had an enormous impact on both companies. Sears debuted as a mail-order business when an expanded railroad system made it possible to deliver mass-produced items to rural families, who previously had to rely on small and expensive general stores (22). When, in the 1920s, the introduction of the Ford Model T. changed the way Americans shopped again by making it possible for more Americans to shop in cities. Sears adapted by opening its first brick-and-mortar stores (23). However, in the 1990s, the advent of the internet and online shopping hurt the sales of department stores and catalogs, including Sears (23). Enter Amazon, whose story also revolves around technology. In the 1990s, Jeff Bezos realized the potential of the internet to sell items in a new and efficient way, and he created Amazon. Airplanes, which make it possible to ship items across long distances quickly, have helped companies like Amazon succeed (24-25). Amazon is now testing out drone technology for even faster delivery times (25). Clearly, technology played a pivotal role in the stories of both Sears and Amazon.

Another similarity between the two companies is that Sears offered, and Amazon now offers, a wide range of products. The Sears catalog and Sears department stores both sold all different kinds of products. Carro writes that people called the Sears catalog the “Dream Book” because it was “thousands of pages long, and it had hundreds of thousands of

items for sale” (22). In the same way, Amazon sells “just about everything imaginable” and is “a go-to store for needs big and small” (24). Offering everything a customer could possibly need or want made both of these companies wildly successful. In 1900, Sears was mailing its catalog to 20 million Americans. By 1907, the company was making \$50 million a year (23). Sears department stores became the world’s largest retailer in 1960 (23). Like a modern-day version of the Sears catalog, Amazon made about \$2.4 billion in sales within its first five years (25).

The two companies have faced somewhat different challenges and threats to their success. In the 1920s, the Sears catalog faced the challenge of more and more Americans buying cars and shopping in cities, making the Sears catalog less valuable (23). In the 1990s, the rise of the internet and online shopping hurt Sears’s business. The last catalog was sent in 1993, and most Sears department stores closed in 2018 (23). As for Amazon, it initially faced the challenge of people feeling skeptical about online shopping: Many were worried about giving away their personal information (24). Today, the amount of waste created by Amazon’s packaging and the fuel used by online shopping may create a challenge for the company (25). It is possible that people might return to shopping in local shops in order to avoid that waste—unless Amazon finds a way to adapt.

No doubt, both Sears and Amazon changed the way Americans shop and live, giving consumers access to items they didn’t have before and making shopping more convenient.

“THE AMAZING HISTORY OF SHOPPING IN AMERICA”

section continues >>



“The Amazing History of Shopping in America” cont’d

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

PREPARING TO WRITE: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Answers will vary slightly.

	Sears	Amazon
What impact has technology had on the company over the years?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expanded railroad system made it possible to sell mass-produced items to rural families, who previously had to rely on small and expensive general stores. This is part of the reason Sears and Roebuck decided to start a catalog, as well as part of the reason the catalog was so successful (22). In the 1920s, automobiles changed the way Americans shopped again. The Ford Model T made it possible for more Americans to shop in cities, which helped department stores flourish. The led Sears to open up its first brick-and-mortar stores (22). In the 1990s, the advent of the internet and online shopping hurt the sales of department stores and catalogs, including Sears (23). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 1990s, the internet made it possible to sell items in a new and efficient way, and gave rise to online shopping sites like Amazon (24-25). Jeff Bezos realized the potential of a new technology, the internet, and used it to start Amazon (24-25). Airplanes made it possible to ship items across long distances quickly, which have helped companies like Amazon succeed (24-25). Amazon is now testing out drone technology for even faster delivery times (25).
What kinds of products did/does the company sell?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sears catalog and Sears department stores both sold all different kinds of products (22-23). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon sells “just about everything imaginable” (24).
Was/is the company successful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1900, Sears was mailing its catalog to 20 million Americans. By 1907, the company was making \$50 million a year (23). Sears department stores became the world’s largest retailer in 1960 (23). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon has become a “go-to” store for Americans (24). By 2000, Amazon alone had made about \$2.4 billion in sales (25).
What challenges has the company faced over the years?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 1920s, the Sears catalog faced the challenge of more and more Americans buying cars and shopping in cities, making the Sears catalog less valuable (23). In the 1990s, the advent of the internet and online shopping hurt Sears’s business. The last catalog was sent in 1993, and most Sears department stores closed in 2018 (23). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At first people were skeptical of online shopping. They were worried about giving away their personal information (24). Online shopping sites like Amazon create a lot of waste (25).



“The Amazing History of Shopping in America” cont’d

<p>How did the company affect the lives of Americans?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sears made it possible for Americans living on farms to purchase the same kinds of modern goods that were available in cities. This helped make Americans’ lives in rural parts of the country easier. For example, with the Sears catalog, women on farms could purchase sewing machines and cut hours of work from their weeks (22-23). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon has and continues to make shopping easier and more convenient. For example, Carro writes, “things you order online can arrive on your doorstep within a day or two—and sometimes even the same day” (25).
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CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. The Sears catalog was innovative because it made it easier for many Americans to shop for items that were once available only in cities.
2. The nickname the “Dream Book” reflects how the Sears catalog was full of items that people wished for. This idea is also expressed on page 23, when author Mackenzie Carro describes how kids would “gaze longingly” at the toy section of the catalog and even cut out illustrations to use as decorations in their rooms.
3. Carro means that Sears knew its business would suffer if it didn’t change. The Model T. gave rural Americans an easier way to get to cities to shop—so Sears launched brick-and-mortar department stores in cities across America.

“THE RISE OF AMAZON” CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. You can infer that in the 1990s, the internet was something of a novelty. People didn’t understand it yet and were perhaps confused or perplexed by it.
2. Carro develops this idea by giving specific examples of how Amazon has changed people’s lives. She explains that before Amazon, you had to drive to a store to buy something; now you can get what you want with the tap of a finger. She explains how businesses have been affected by Amazon—that many brick-and-mortar stores have closed. She also points out that online shopping has created a lot of trash, which is harmful to the environment.

“THE AMAZING HISTORY OF SHOPPING IN AMERICA” AND “THE RISE OF AMAZON”

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Transportation has affected the way Americans shop

in several ways. Expanded railroads made it possible to deliver goods to rural areas, which helped the Sears catalog become successful. The Ford Model T made it possible for more Americans to shop in cities, which helped department stores flourish. Airplanes made it possible to ship items across long distances quickly, which helped companies like Amazon succeed.

2. Answers will vary. Some students will say yes—online shopping makes our lives more convenient. Others will say no—online shopping has put many companies out of business and has created a lot of waste that is harmful to the environment.
3. Like Sears and Roebuck, Bezos saw how a technological innovation created an opportunity for a new business. Sears and Roebuck realized that the recently improved postal system and expanded railroads made it possible to sell mass-produced items to rural families. Bezos realized that the internet made it possible to sell items in a new and efficient way.
4. Answers will vary. Students may bring up the hacking scandals and data breaches that are frequently in the headlines.

PAIRED-TEXT QUIZ

*Higher Level (HL)

1. B (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
2. C (text features, central idea; R.5, R.2)
3. B (cause and effect; R.6)
4. D (vocabulary; R.4)
5. C (synthesis; R.9)
6. B (synthesis; R.9)
7. As Mackenzie Carro explains in her articles “The Amazing History of Shopping in America” and “The Rise of



“The Amazing History of Shopping in America” cont’d

Amazon,” since the early 1900s, technology has continued to make shopping more and more convenient for Americans. As Carro explains in “The Amazing History of Shopping in America,” it was an expanded railroad system that made it possible for the Sears catalog to sell once inaccessible items to rural families with such success. Prior to the expansion of the railroad system, shopping was incredibly inconvenient for rural families, who usually had to ride by a horse-drawn wagon for a entire day only to arrive at a small and expensive general store (22). Improved railroads made delivery to isolated areas of the country possible and in turn, made shopping much more convenient for consumers.

In the 1920s, it was the introduction of the Ford Model T. automobile that made shopping more convenient (23). Now, rather than waiting a few weeks for items ordered from the Sears catalog to be delivered by mail, Americans could drive directly to a department store in a city and pick it up themselves.

And as Carro explains in “The Rise of Amazon,” technology continued to make shopping more convenient with the advent of computers and the internet. In the 1990s, customers could go online, click on what they needed, pay by credit card, and receive items in about a week without ever having to leave home (24). This led to the creation of e-commerce sites like Amazon that made the online shopping experience easier, more helpful, and even faster (25). In Carro’s words, “Today, things you order online can arrive on your doorstep within a day or two—and sometimes even the same day. With that kind of speed, why bother trekking to a store?” (25). Clearly, technology has made shopping more convenient, and will likely continue to do so; Carro points out that Amazon is now exploring drone technology for even faster delivery times (25). (synthesis, key ideas and details; R.9, R.2)

7. As Mackenzie Carro explains in her articles “The Amazing History of Shopping in America” and “The Rise of Amazon,” since the early 1900s, technology has continued to make shopping more and more convenient for Americans. As Carro explains in “The Amazing History of Shopping in America,” it was an expanded railroad system that made it possible for the Sears catalog to sell once inaccessible items to rural families with such success. Prior to the expansion of the railroad system, shopping was incredibly inconvenient for rural families, who usually had to ride by a horse-drawn wagon for a entire day only to arrive at a small and expensive general store (22). Improved railroads made delivery to isolated areas of the country possible and in turn, made shopping much more convenient for consumers.

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PAIRED-TEXT QUIZ

*Lower Level (LL)

1. B (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
2. C (text features, central idea; R.5, R.2)
3. B (cause and effect; R.6)
4. D (vocabulary; R.4)
5. C (synthesis; R.9)
6. B (synthesis; R.9)

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. wary
2. fended off
3. fad
4. retailer
5. A



“The Amazing History of Shopping in America” cont’d

6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: TEXT STRUCTURE

1. In the section “A Time of Change,” Carro is comparing life in a city in the early 1900s with life on a farm in the early 1900s. For example, she explains that in a city, you could pop into a store easily for something you needed, but on a farm, you might have to make an entire day’s journey by horse.
2. **A.** sequence of events
B. I know the author is using a sequence-of-events structure because she uses words and phrases that indicate the passage of time, such as “In the 1920s,” “So in 1925,” “Within a decade,” and “In the coming years.”
3. **A.** cause and effect
B. I know the author is using a cause-and-effect structure in this section because after she explains that online shopping has made life more convenient, she writes, “But at what cost?” She then goes on to explain two negative effects of online shopping: the closing of local brick-and-mortar shops and environmental harm.

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: FINDING AND USING TEXT EVIDENCE

*Higher Level (HL)

1. **A.** B
B. A
C. B
2. C; I chose C because it provides an example of a drawback to online shopping: the damage it does to the environment.
3. B, C, and E; Evidence A does not support the statement because it explains how people on farms made everything themselves. This does not support that idea that America was changing.
4. A; Choice B does not provide a sentence explaining why the information is relevant. Choice C does not provide a source for the information in quotes or a sentence explaining why the information is relevant.
5. C; Choice B does not provide a source for the information

provided or a sentence explaining why the information is relevant. Choice A uses a direct quote and does not provide a sentence explaining why the information is relevant.

6. Answers will vary. Here is a sample response:

Over the years, shopping in America has only become more and more convenient. In the article, “The Amazing History of Shopping in America,” author Mackenzie Carro explains that in the early 1900s the introduction of the Sears catalog allowed Americans living in rural areas to purchase items that were once unavailable to them (22). Then, in the 1920s, shopping got even easier for Americans with the invention of the Model T. (23). With a car, Americans in areas outside of cities could easily drive to stores in cities to shop (23). Today, shopping continues to become more convenient as online shopping continues to improve. As Carro writes in her article “The Rise of Amazon,” “things you order online can arrive on your doorstep within a day or two—and sometimes even the same day” (25). These details show that shopping has gotten more and more convenient over time.

CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: FINDING TEXT EVIDENCE

*Lower Level (LL)

1. B, C
2. C; I chose C because it provides an example of a drawback to online shopping: the damage it does to the environment.
3. The Sears catalog improved the lives of Americans living on farms by making their lives more convenient. (Answers will vary)

“Would You Visit the *Titanic*?”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

Answers will vary, but an excellent response to the prompt on page 20 should include some of the following points:

YES!

1. I'd be one of the lucky few to ever see the wreck up close.
2. I would be able to explore the deep ocean, which is filled with fascinating creatures.
3. Visiting a historic wreck like the *Titanic* is a way to honor the memory of those who died on the ship.
4. The OceanGate expedition will be collecting valuable scientific data about the shipwreck.
5. The *Titanic* is currently being eaten away by deep-sea bacteria. The OceanGate expedition could be the last chance to see the shipwreck.

NO!

1. Turning a site where more than 1,000 people died tragically into a tourist destination is disrespectful.
2. The \$105,000 price tag is too expensive.
3. Deep sea exploration is risky and dangerous.
4. Deep sea submersibles could cause inadvertent damage to the wreck of the *Titanic*.

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

“WOULD YOU VISIT THE *TITANIC*?” QUIZ

*Higher Level (HL)

1. C (point of view; R.6)
2. B (author's craft; R.6)
3. D (text structure; R.5)
4. D (key ideas and details; R.2)
5. A (vocabulary; R.4)
6. C (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
7. In her article “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?”, author Mackenzie Carro writes that “the story of the *Titanic* still captivates us” (19). She means that the ship attracts and holds people's attention in much the same way that it did when it set sail over a century ago. Part of the reason for people's endless fascination with the *Titanic* is the ironic and tragic nature of its demise. Carro writes, “At the time, it was the biggest, most luxurious, most technologically advanced ship ever built. Many believed it was unsinkable” (18). But sadly, the supposedly unsinkable ship slammed into an iceberg on its maiden voyage and sank in only three hours (18-19). Making the ship's demise all the more tragic is the fact that so many people might not have died if there had been more lifeboats. The sidebar on page 19 explains that “the *Titanic* had lifeboats for only about half of its passengers and crew.” Adding to the shipwreck's draw may be the fact that it still sits on the ocean floor—an already eerie, pitch black abyss that is now the legendary ship's graveyard. For these reasons, people are still captivated by the story of the *Titanic* today. (interpreting text, key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, W.2)



“Would You Visit the *Titanic*?” cont’d

“WOULD YOU VISIT THE *TITANIC*?” QUIZ

*Lower Level (LL)

1. C (point of view; R.6)
2. B (author’s craft; R.6)
3. D (text structure; R.5)
4. D (key ideas and details; R.2)
5. A (vocabulary; R.4)
6. C (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
7. In her article “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?”, author Mackenzie Carro writes that “the story of the *Titanic* still captivates us” (19). Part of the reason for people’s endless fascination with the *Titanic* is the ironic and tragic nature of its demise. Carro writes, “At the time, it was the biggest, most luxurious, most technologically advanced ship ever built. Many believed it was unsinkable” (18). But sadly, the supposedly unsinkable ship slammed into an iceberg on its maiden voyage and sank in only three hours (18-19). Making the ship’s demise all the more tragic is the fact that so many people might not have died if there had been more lifeboats. The sidebar on page 19 explains that “the *Titanic* had lifeboats for only about half of its passengers and crew.” Adding to the shipwreck’s draw may be the fact that it still sits on the ocean floor—an already eerie, pitch black abyss that is now the legendary ship’s graveyard. For these reasons, people are still captivated by the story of the *Titanic* today. (interpreting text, key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.1, R.2, W.2)

underwater and the book is about searching for deep-sea creatures. Therefore, “Adventure In the Deep Ocean” makes the most sense.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. A
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. D; Demise means “death” or “the end of something that is like a death.” This book is about how the dinosaurs died; the end of the dinosaur age.
8. C; A maiden voyage is the first journey a ship or aircraft makes. This book is about a spaceship’s maiden voyage to Mars in 2021.
9. B; A submersible is a boat designed to operate

“Are Youth Sports Out of Control?”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

Answers will vary. Here's a sample response to the question on page 27:

I think that youth sports are out of control. As Tod Olson writes in his article “Are Youth Sports Out of Control?”, “70 percent of kids will drop out of organized sports by age 13” (26). Olson goes on to explain that there are multiple reasons kids are quitting: the overly demanding time commitment, financial commitment, and toll on the body youth sports now entail (26-27). This detail shows that sports aren’t the fun recreational activity they were a generation ago. I think sports should be a place for kids to unwind, make friends, learn valuable life lessons, and stay healthy. But as Olson makes clear, for most kids, sports have become a burden. For these reasons, it seems to me that youth sports are indeed out of control.

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

“ARE YOUTH SPORTS OUT OF CONTROL?” QUIZ

*Higher Level (HL)

1. B (vocabulary; R.4)
2. D (central idea; R.2)
3. B, D (text structure; R.5)
4. B (interpreting language; R.4)
5. A, C (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
6. C (inference; R.1)
7. Samantha Burkett says, “I was always the soccer girl. When that was taken away from me, I didn’t know who I was.” She means that being a soccer player was her entire identity—it was what made Samantha Samantha, in her eyes and in the eyes of others. Because of this, when she had to stop playing due to repeated head injuries, she lost her sense of self.

This was the case because Samantha didn’t just play soccer for fun in her free time, she played it *all* the time—her whole world revolved around her love for soccer. She started playing when she was just 4 years old and quickly began playing with a high level of commitment (26). By the time she was in middle school, she practiced three times a week with her club team and traveled all over the country for tournaments on weekends—often turning down invitations to hang out with friends from school (26). Because life as she knew it had always meant being a soccer player, it was extremely difficult for her transition into a new version of herself—she probably felt like she had to start by figuring out what that new version of herself would be. (interpreting text, key ideas & details, writing explanatory text; R.4, R.2 W.2)



“Are Youth Sports Out of Control?” cont’d

“ARE YOUTH SPORTS OUT OF CONTROL?” QUIZ

*Lower Level (LL)

1. B (vocabulary; R.4)
2. D (central idea; R.2)
3. B, D (text structure; R.5)
4. B (interpreting language; R.4)
5. A, C (key ideas & supporting details; R.2)
6. C (inference; R.1)
7. Samantha Burkett says, “I was always the soccer girl. When that was taken away from me, I didn’t know who I was.” She means that being a soccer player was her entire identity—it was what made Samantha Samantha, in her eyes and in the eyes of others. Because of this, when she had to stop playing due to repeated head injuries, she lost her sense of self.

This was the case because Samantha didn’t just play soccer for fun in her free time, she played it *all* the time—her whole world revolved around her love for soccer. She started playing when she was just 4 years old and quickly began playing with a high level of commitment (26). By the time she was in middle school, she practiced three times a week with her club team and traveled all over the country for tournaments on weekends—often turning down invitations to hang out with friends from school (26). Because life as she knew it had always meant being a soccer player, it was extremely difficult for her transition into a new version of herself—she probably felt like she had to start by figuring out what that new version of herself would be. (interpreting text, key ideas & details, writing explanatory text; R.4, R.2 W.2)

“ARE YOUTH SPORTS OUT OF CONTROL?” VOCABULARY

1. D; *Recreational* means “something done for fun, leisure, or enjoyment.” Sightseeing and doing fun things outdoors on a road trip are recreational activities.
2. B; The description mentions the thing that Davenport has focused in on is ghosts; “specializing” means “focusing in on.”
3. A; A strategy is a carefully developed plan used to achieve a particular goal. Prince Gregory spends all winter coming up with a strategy to recover his sword.
4. A

5. A

6. B

7. One of Eric’s strategies for managing stress is to get plenty of sleep each night.

8. He must be very talented.

“Climbing Skull Mountain”



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 29

Responses will vary but should stay true to the aspects of Jordan's and Eddie's characters that students identified in the Character Development activity.

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

“CLIMBING SKULL MOUNTAIN” VOCABULARY

1. Ty was transfixed by the meteor shower, standing motionless and staring up at the sky long after it was over.
2. After the concert, the park was strewn with litter.
3. Joe was mesmerized by the painting, his eyes glued to it as he motioned for the others to come see it.
4. The old bridge is dilapidated; no one uses it anymore.
5. We traipsed through the streets of our nation's capital all day, just taking in the sights.
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. A



“Climbing Skull Mountain” cont’d

FICTION IN A FLASH: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Answers will vary. Sample response:

Page 1

Character	Clues	Trait
Jordan	“After Mom left for work, Jordan turned to me. ‘We’re going up Skull Mountain,’ he announced.”	bossy
	“Jordan climbed the fence easily.”; “Jordan was already six feet tall, and I had to jog to keep up with him.	strong
	“Jordan ignored me and picked it up anyway.”	stubborn
Eddie	“Back then, I didn’t talk much. My big brother Jordan did enough of that for both of us. When he talked, I listened. When he had an idea, I followed along. That’s just how it was.”and “‘Don’t!’ I burst out, startled by how loud my voice was.”	quiet, agreeable
	“Still, I didn’t want to go—mostly because Mom said it was off-limits. But when Jordan opened the door and said ‘let’s go,’ I didn’t say anything. I just followed him.”	compliant, timid, obedient
	“‘See?’ he said, when I pulled myself over the fence at last. ‘No ghosts.’”	small, weak

Page 2

Eddie and Jordan did not come back from Skull Mountain the same. Based on the information Eddie provides, he has always been the quiet, timid, follower-type brother, while Jordan has been the strong, confident, bossy leader. But after Jordan picks up the coyote skull on Skull Mountain, Eddie takes action and ends up having more authority or power than Jordan. Eddie yells at Jordan, yanks the skull from his hands, and charges down the mountain, hauling Jordan behind him. Perhaps this experience on Skull Mountain will change how the brothers think of one another and interact going forward.

"Fire-Flowers"



ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

ANALYZING POETRY

Answers will vary. The following are provided as sample answers only.

1. 2
2. 5
3. 5
4. Each line has 10 syllables.
5. a. A, B, A, A, B
b. yes
6. They are the same—both stanzas begin with "And only."
7. The poet personifies a wild flower. She writes that the flower "lifts its purple head" and "hides the scars with almost human hands."
8. The poet is describing a wildflower growing out of the scorched earth after a wildfire has burned through the area. When the poet writes that the wildflower "hides the scars," she means that the wildflower, as it grows, is covering up the burned earth and the dead plants left behind by the fire.
9. Perhaps when the poet says that the flower is like a spirit that is "sorrow-fed," she is saying that the flower "eats" the sadness of the destruction caused by the fire and turns it into something hopeful and beautiful. Perhaps the poet is talking about how the flower is there only because of, and in response to, the fire's destruction.
10. The poet is now talking about a person who has experienced some sort of tragedy or extreme hardship.
11. a. The main idea of these lines is that after experiencing grief and pain, people then experience another feeling—one of hope or rebirth.
b. Perhaps she is describing a belief that feels like it's

clearing away or cleaning out the sadness in someone's heart, replacing feelings of grief, depression, worry, loss, anger, and so on with feelings of hope, strength, recovery, and optimism.

12. The last line of the poem says that after experiencing grief and pain, a person finds the strength to start over—and life can once again be beautiful and rich.
13. Both stanzas contain ideas about recovery and rebirth after a loss or devastating event: The first stanza is about the regrowth of a forest after a wildfire, and the second stanza is about people starting life again after experiencing something that causes grief and pain. By putting the two stanzas together, the poet draws a comparison between the way people recover from tragedy and the way a forest recovers from a fire.
14. The idea that after a fire "life revives, and blossoms once again" is somewhat supported by the article. In the final section, "Life Continues," author Lauren Tarshis describes what has happened in the 11 months since the Camp Fire. She notes the progress that some of the people affected by the fire have made and how the town has started to recover. For example, she writes that schools have been relocated and that "There are field trips and birthday parties." She also notes that Kevin McKay continues to drive a bus while also pursuing something new: He is studying to become a history teacher. That schools have reopened in new locations and that people are carrying on with their lives supports the idea that life revives and blossoms again. However, in the same section of the article, Tarshis also notes that since the Camp Fire, only a small number of people have returned to Paradise and that signs of the fire "remain everywhere." So although life for the people of Paradise may be beginning to revive, it clearly still has a way to go.

“Fire-Flowers”

15. Students may say that yes, the poem’s message that after suffering grief and pain, people can once again “blossom” and that life will “revive” could be a comfort to those who have gone through an ordeal. For example, the poem might give comfort to the people of Paradise if they think of their town like a forest slowly coming back to life after a fire, “hiding the scars” of what they suffered as they continue on with life.

again” (line 10). She means that the person who has suffered is able to pick up and continue on, and that life can once again be beautiful and rich.

WRITING PLANNER: “FIRE-FLOWERS” PROMPT

Answers will vary.

1. The poem is also about people starting life again after experiencing something that causes grief and pain.
2. Lines 6-7: “And only to the heart that knows of grief,/Of desolating fire, of human pain.” The poet is describing someone who has suffered some sort of tragedy or extremely challenging situation.
Lines 8-9: “There comes some purifying sweet belief,/Some fellow-feeling beautiful, if brief.” The poet is saying that the person feels something other than grief and pain and that the suffering person experiences a feeling that helps clear away, or purify, their pain and instead feel hope.
Line 10: “And life revives, and blossoms once again.” The poet means that the person who has suffered is able to pick up and continue on, and that life can once again be beautiful and rich.
3. **A.** On one level, the poem “Fire-Flowers” by Emily Pauline Johnson is about forest fires—the destruction they cause and the recovery of the forest afterward.
B. The poem is also about people starting life again after experiencing something that causes grief and pain.
C. In lines 6-7, the poet describes someone who has suffered some sort of tragedy or extremely challenging situation as she writes, “And only to the heart that knows of grief,/Of desolating fire, of human pain.” In lines 8-9, the poet writes that there comes to such a person a “fellow-feeling” that is “beautiful, if brief.” In other words, the person feels something other than grief and pain. The person feels, the poet writes, “some purifying sweet belief.” She is saying that the suffering person experiences a feeling that helps clear away, or purify, their pain and instead feel hope. In line 10, the poet writes that “And life revives, and blossoms once