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## “Why Do We Say That?”



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### Spill the Beans

If **you're** planning a surprise party for **your** dad and you accidentally mention it to him, you might say, “Oh no! I spilled the beans!” What you mean is you revealed information that was supposed to be kept secret.

This idiom’s origins may go back to ancient Greece, where people voted by placing dried beans in a jar: white for yes, black or brown for no. If someone accidentally tipped over the jar and spilled the beans, everyone would know how many of each vote had been cast.

#### In the Limelight

If **you're** in the limelight, **you're** the focus of public attention—like an actor who is always being photographed. But what does being the center of attention have to do with limes?

The answer is . . . nothing. This idiom comes from a type of stage lighting used in the 1800s. A bright white light was produced by heating a substance called calcium oxide—also known as quicklime or just lime. The actors standing in the middle of the stage were said to be standing in the limelight.

#### Show Your True Colors

To show **your** true colors is to show **your** true character, feelings, or intentions, as in “**Your** cousin seemed

laid-back. Then she showed her true colors as a fierce competitor who will do anything to win.”

The idiom comes from the 18th-century nautical world. Back then, ships flew flags to identify their home country. A ship’s flags were known as its colors. Sometimes a ship would trick an enemy into letting it get close by flying the flag of a different country. Just before attacking, the ship would lower the false flag and hoist its *true* colors. Sneaky!

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEET

#### YOUR OR YOU'RE

1. “**You're** making me laugh so much I almost spilled my lemonade!” said Kia, giggling.
2. A parent or guardian needs to sign **your** permission slip by Friday.
3. **You're** going to have to move **your** stuff because it's blocking the exit.
4. **You're** taking **your** brother to the skate park after school, right?
5. Have you seen this TikTok dance? **You're** going to love it.
6. Answers will vary.

#### WHAT'S AN IDIOM?

1. let the cat out of the bag
2. hit the books
3. bigger fish to fry

4. on cloud nine
5. a piece of cake
6. all ears
7. beef up
8. call it a day
9. a fish out of water
10. beat around the bush

## "Born to Run"



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 9:

Responses will vary. Sample response:

In her narrative nonfiction article "Born to Run," author Alessandra Potenza tells the story of 17-year-old track-and-field star Ezra Frech and his inspiring journey to the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Though the road to Tokyo was not always an easy one for Ezra, Potenza's article makes evident that it was Ezra's fierce passion and perseverance that helped him to achieve his goal of competing at the games.

After seeing the Paralympic Games on television for the first time in 2016, Ezra was unstoppable. Seeing the athletes compete lit a fire inside him and made him want to become a Paralympian too. He began training immediately so that he could compete at the next games in Tokyo (8). Potenza writes, "Every day, he woke up at 5 a.m. to run. He practiced jumping in his backyard every afternoon after school. At breakfast, he scoured YouTube videos for new workout ideas" (8). Though Ezra did get injured because of all of this training, he still did not give up. Instead, he learned from the injury and became a better athlete. After months of resting and hours of physical therapy, Ezra found a coach to help safely guide him through his training (8). His performance improved, and he ultimately achieved his goal

of qualifying for the games (8). Clearly, Ezra's fierce determination was a big part of him getting to Tokyo.

Unfortunately, Ezra made a mistake in his best event, the high jump, and finished in fifth place (9). At first, Ezra was devastated by his failure to medal in the event. But Potenza explains that now Ezra uses his loss "as fuel, energizing him to look to the future" (9). In other words, instead of allowing his failure to discourage him, he uses it as motivation to keep working hard and to eventually try again to achieve his goal. Today, his determination and focus continue to carry him forward as he works toward his next dream, competing at the next Paralympic Games in Paris, France.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

#### WRITING PLANNER: EZRA'S DREAMS

\*Higher Level (HL) and Lower Level (LL)

Responses will vary. Sample responses:

1. Ezra's determination and dedication helped him achieve his goal of competing in Tokyo.

**Text evidence:** "Every day, he woke up at 5 a.m. to run. He practiced jumping in his backyard every afternoon after school.

At breakfast, he scoured YouTube videos for new workout ideas." (p. 8)



**Ezra learned an important lesson that helped him achieve his goal of competing in Tokyo: Rest is just as important as hard work.**

**Text evidence:** “Several months into his training, a bone in his right leg cracked from overuse—an injury that high-level athletes are prone to . . . The injury forced Ezra to cease training completely. He chose to use a wheelchair for three months to allow the bone to heal properly. His doctors forbade him to run for another three months after that . . . But slowly, after hours of physical therapy, Ezra began to recover. His parents enlisted a coach to safely guide Ezra through his training—and also teach him how to rest. ‘My performance skyrocketed,’ Ezra says.” (p. 8)

2. **Ezra’s failure to medal at the Tokyo games motivates him to continue pursuing his dreams.**

**Text evidence:** “Today, Ezra sees his loss in a different way. He uses it as fuel, energizing him to look to the future. He is currently training for next year’s Paralympic Games in Paris, France, where he is determined to stand on the podium. In fact, the screensaver on his phone is a photo of the three high-jump medalists at the Tokyo awards ceremony. Every time he sees it, he’s reminded of his goal to win at the next Paralympic Games.” (p. 9)

### “BORN TO RUN”

#### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. If you say someone is born to do something, you mean they possess natural talent or ability for that thing. Potenza may have chosen the title “Born to Run” based on what Ezra said about watching the 2016 Paralympic Games: “It was like the universe was telling me, ‘This is what you’re meant to do.’” Perhaps another reason Potenza chose “Born to Run” has to do with the way Ezra has defied expectations. He was born with limb differences and it was uncertain whether he’d ever be able to walk, but after surgery and prosthetics, Ezra went on not only to walk but also to become an extraordinary athlete.
2. Phillips’s prosthetics were innovative because rather than being designed to closely resemble their human body counterparts, like prosthetics of the past, they were designed with function as their foremost goal. Not focusing on appearance gave Phillips freedom to think outside the box: He used strong, lightweight materials and engineered completely new shapes.

This original thinking took artificial limbs from clumsy, heavy, and uncomfortable devices to devices that enable users to move with comfort, speed, stability, and power. Potenza writes that Phillips’s Flex-Foot Cheetah design “can function as well as ligaments and bones and tendons—maybe even better.”

3. For one thing, sports were something Ezra was very good at and loved doing, which must have given him a sense of accomplishment, pride, and satisfaction. Participating in sports also helped Ezra make friends and gave him a sense of belonging. In addition, sports gave him an escape from thinking about the ways in which he was different from his classmates.
4. Ezra learned that while working hard is an important part of succeeding as an athlete, it’s just as important to rest and take care of your body. After suffering an overuse injury, Ezra took time off to recover and then, with the help of a coach, learned how to safely train and get the rest his body needed. Once he began doing this, his performance improved greatly.
5. At first, Ezra was devastated by his mistake and his failure to medal in the high jump. Now Ezra uses his loss “as fuel, energizing him to look to the future.” In other words, instead of allowing his failure to discourage him, he is using his failure as motivation to keep working hard and try again to achieve his goal.

### “BORN TO RUN”

#### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary but students will likely cite Ezra’s determination, passion, perseverance, courage, dedication, and resilience.
2. Answers will vary, but students may offer that if someone else facing challenges learns about Ezra and the obstacles he has overcome, they might feel a sense of hope and inspiration to continue working through whatever they are facing.

### “BORN TO RUN”

#### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C

Answers to questions 5-8 will vary. Sample responses:



5. I hope that the culmination of many long nights of studying will be an A on my final exam.
6. We constructed a crude soccer goal by sticking two large branches in the ground.
7. I think the washing machine was a great innovation.
8. To propel the canoe, I used a piece of wood as an oar.

### **"BORN TO RUN" QUIZ**

#### **\*Higher Level (HL)**

1. C (text structure; R.5)
2. D (text structure; R.5)
3. C (key ideas and details; R.2)
4. D (key ideas and details; R.2)
5. A (figurative language; R.4)
6. C (summarizing; R.2)
7. Author Alessandra Potenza meant that considering humans are capable of such magnificent scientific understanding and technological advancement, Phillips couldn't understand how we hadn't yet improved the quality of prosthetic devices for people who need them. As Potenza explains in the article, Phillips changed this by designing new and innovative prosthetics. Instead of trying to make his new prosthetics look like a human leg or foot, he instead focused on their functionality. His designs transformed prosthetics from clumsy, heavy, and uncomfortable devices to devices that enable users to move with comfort, speed, stability, and power. Potenza writes that Phillips's Flex-Foot Cheetah design "can function as well as ligaments and bones and tendons—maybe even better" (7). It is this design that enabled Ezra Frech to become a top performing Paralympian. Most other Paralympians wear some variation of the design too (7). Clearly, his inventions left crude prosthetics in the past, and changed the course of many people's lives in the process. (key ideas and details, writing an explanatory text; R.1, W.2)
8. According to Alessandra Potenza, Ezra Frech is extraordinary for both his athletic ability, his determination, and his inspiring accomplishments off the track. Ezra was born with a congenital condition that affects limbs, and it was uncertain whether he'd ever be able to walk (5). However, after surgery and new prosthetics, Ezra discovered that he was a gifted athlete. In June 2019, after months of hard work and training, Ezra qualified for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, making him one of the youngest athletes ever

to do so (8). Additionally, Potenza explains that he and his family founded an organization that teaches kids with physical disabilities how to play sports. Not only has Ezra achieved his personal goal of becoming an elite athlete, but he is also doing remarkable work for others. In other words, he is clearly "extraordinary." (key ideas and details, writing an explanatory text; R.1, W.2)

### **"BORN TO RUN" QUIZ**

#### **\*Lower Level (LL)**

1. C (text structure; R.5)
2. D (text structure; R.5)
3. C (key ideas and details; R.2)
4. D (key ideas and details; R.2)
5. A (interpreting text; R.4)
6. C (summarizing; R.2)
7. Van Phillips's prosthetic inventions were transformative. As Alessandra Potenza explains in her article, prosthetics in the 1970s were still designed to "resemble the shape of their flesh-and-blood counterparts and didn't work well" (6). After Phillips lost his leg in a boating accident, he decided to change this (7). Instead of trying to make his new prosthetics look like a human leg or foot, he instead focused on their functionality. His designs transformed prosthetics from clumsy, heavy, and uncomfortable devices to devices that enable users to move with comfort, speed, stability, and power. Potenza writes that Phillips's Flex-Foot Cheetah design "can function as well as ligaments and bones and tendons—maybe even better" (7). It is this design that enabled Ezra Frech to become a top performing Paralympian. Most other Paralympians wear some variation of the design too (7). Clearly, his inventions changed many people's lives in profound ways. (key ideas and details, writing an explanatory text; R.1, W.2)
8. According to Alessandra Potenza, Ezra Frech is extraordinary for both his athletic ability, his determination, and his inspiring accomplishments off the track. Ezra was born with a congenital condition that affects limbs, and it was uncertain whether he'd ever be able to walk (5). However, after surgery and new prosthetics, Ezra discovered that he was a gifted athlete. In June 2019, after months of hard work and training, Ezra qualified for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, making him one of the youngest athletes ever



to do so (8). Additionally, Potenza explains that he and his family founded an organization that teaches kids with physical disabilities how to play sports. Not only has Ezra achieved his personal goal of becoming an elite athlete, but he is also doing remarkable work for others. In other words, he is clearly “extraordinary.” (key ideas and details, writing an explanatory text; R.1, W.2)

### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: SUMMARIZING

#### \*Higher Level (HL)

1. The article is mainly about Ezra Frech, one of Team USA's youngest track-and-field star.
2. Ezra was born with a congenital condition that affects his limbs. At age 2, his left foot and part of his left leg were amputated to enable him to wear a prosthetic leg.
3. When Ezra was 11, after seeing the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games on TV, he informed his parents he would compete in the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. He made it to the games as one of the youngest athletes ever to qualify. He finished in fifth place in his best event, the high jump.
4. Ezra is currently training for next year's Paralympic Games in Paris, France. He is also mentoring other young athletes at his family's nonprofit organization called Angel City Sports.
5. Answers will vary.

#### Summary:

Author Alessandra Potenza's narrative nonfiction article “Born to Run” is about Ezra Frech, one of team USA's youngest track-and-field stars. Ezra was born with a congenital condition that affects his limbs. When he was 2, Ezra's left foot and part of his left leg were amputated so that he could wear a prosthetic leg more easily. At age 4, Ezra started wearing a special type of prosthetic leg meant for running and jumping, known as a blade. This device enabled Ezra to run and play sports like track-and-field, which he ultimately fell in love with. When he was 11, after seeing the Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games on TV, Ezra informed his parents of his goal to compete in the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. At age 14, Ezra qualified for Team USA, making him one of the youngest athletes ever to qualify. In Tokyo, Ezra finished in fifth place in his best event, the high jump. Today, Ezra is training Text evidence:s Paralympic Games in Paris, France. He is also mentoring other young athletes at his family's nonprofit organization called Angel City Sports.

### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: SUMMARIZING

#### \*Lower Level (LL)

Author Alessandra Potenza's narrative nonfiction article “Born to Run” is about **Ezra Frech, one of team USA's youngest track-and-field stars**. Ezra was born with a congenital condition that affects his limbs. When he was 2, Ezra's left foot and part of his left leg were amputated so that he could **wear a prosthetic leg more easily**. At age 4, Ezra **started wearing a special type of prosthetic leg meant for running and jumping, known as a blade**. This device enabled Ezra to run and play sports like track-and-field, which he **ultimately fell in love with**. When he was 11, after seeing the Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games on TV, Ezra informed his parents of his goal to compete in the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. At age 14, Ezra qualified for Team USA, making him one of the youngest athletes ever to qualify. In Tokyo, Ezra finished in fifth place in his best event, the high jump. Today, Ezra is training Text evidence:s Paralympic Games in Paris, France. He is also mentoring other young athletes at his family's nonprofit organization called Angel City Sports.

### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: TEXT FEATURES

1. Answers will vary but may include: strong, powerful, agile, determined, focused, motivated, confident
2. Sample response: Prosthetics have been around for some time and they have greatly improved over the years. One of the oldest prosthetic body parts dates back to ancient Egypt and was made of wood. Prosthetics in the middle ages were often made of iron. Over time, the need for prosthetic limbs increased and prosthetics started to look more lifelike. Designs began to improve as well and prosthetic limbs began to fit better and help the wearer move more naturally. In more recent years, prosthetics have advanced even more. For example, prosthetics like the blade allow wearers to run and play sports.
3. Ezra seems gentle, kind, and inspirational. The photo shows Ezra with a young child who also wears a prosthetic and the caption explains that Ezra and his family started an organization for young athletes who have physical disabilities. (Answers will vary.)

### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: TEXT EVIDENCE

#### \*Higher Level (HL)

1. B, C



2. A
3. A. "Today most Paralympic athletes who use prosthetic legs wear a version of the Cheetah blade."  
B. This line supports the idea that Phillips's blade changed the world of para-sports because it shows how widespread its use is. The fact that most Paralympic athletes today wear the blade suggests that the blade works very well and that it has had a significant impact on the world of para-sports.
4. Answers will vary. Sample response: The blade changed Ezra's life by allowing him to start playing sports and discover his dream of competing at the Paralympics. Ezra says when he first wore his blade and was able to run, he "felt free" (6). As Alessandra Potenza explains, with the blade, Ezra began playing soccer, football, and basketball, as well as running track (7). He realized that he loved competing, especially in the high-jump, and eventually decided that he wanted to go to the Paralympics (7-8). If Ezra did not have the blade, he might never have discovered his passion for sports or his incredible athletic abilities.

#### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: TEXT EVIDENCE

##### \*Lower Level (LL)

1. B, C
2. A
3. A. "Today most Paralympic athletes who use prosthetic legs wear a version of the Cheetah blade."

#### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: EXPLORING TEXT STRUCTURE

##### Higher Level (HL) and Lower Level (LL)

##### Page 1:

**CAUSE:** When Ezra is 4, he is given a type of prosthetic leg called the blade. It is made for running and jumping.

**EFFECT:** Wearing the blade, Ezra is able to play sports, which leads him to discover that he is a gifted athlete and that he loves track-and-field.

**EFFECT:** Ezra decides he wants to go to the Paralympics, trains hard, and ultimately competes in the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

##### Page 2:

**May 2005** ... Ezra is born with a rare congenital condition that affects his limbs

**When Ezra was 2** ... his parents decided to have Ezra's left foot and part of his left leg amputated so that he could get a better-fitting prosthetic.

**When Ezra was 4** ... he started wearing the blade, which enabled him to run, jump, and play sports.

**When Ezra was 8** ... he attended his first track-and-field competition for people with disabilities and fell in love with the high-jump.

**2016** ... Ezra watches the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and decides he wants to compete in the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. He begins training immediately.

**June 2019** ... Ezra qualifies for Team USA, making him one of the youngest athletes ever to qualify.

**August 2021** ... Ezra competes in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo and finishes in fifth place.

**Today** ... Ezra is currently training for next year's Paralympic Games in Paris, France. He is also mentoring other young athletes at his family's nonprofit organization called Angel City Sports.

##### Page 3:

**PROBLEM 1:** In the 1970s, many prosthetics were designed to resemble their human body counterparts and did not function well.

**SOLUTION 1:** After losing his lower left leg in a boating accident, Van Phillips decided to invent a better-functioning prosthetic that would enable wearers to run, jump, and play sports.

Answers will vary: Sample response:

**PROBLEM 2:** While training for the 2021 Paralympic Games, Ezra's right leg bone cracked from overuse.

**SOLUTION 2:** Ezra took time off to recover and then, with the help of a coach, learned how to safely train and get the rest his body needed. Once he began doing this, his performance improved greatly and he was able to qualify for Team USA.

##### Page 4:

Answers will vary.

#### VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

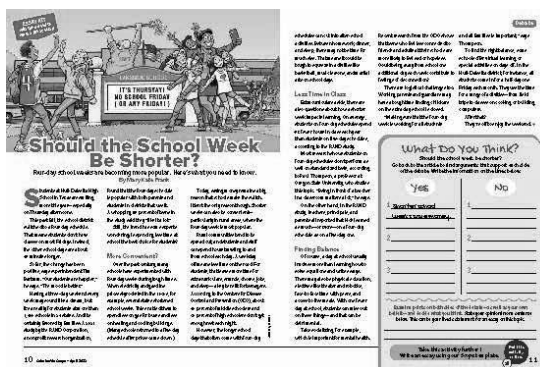
1. Ezra's running leg is curved on the bottom rather than flat. The curved shape enables Ezra to run by helping to propel his body off the ground, which is something that his flat walking leg cannot do. Wearing his running leg for the first time made Ezra feel free and even more passionate about running and athletics.
2. Growing up Ezra felt self-conscious about his physical difference. He felt like he did not belong because he was constantly stared at for having a difference. Now, after accepting that everyone is



different, as well as finding his own community in sports, Ezra feels more confident and comfortable.

3. Answers will vary.

## "Should the School Week Be Shorter?"



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

Answers will vary, but an excellent response to the prompt on page 11 should include some of the following points:

#### YES!

1. Shorter school weeks save money. (Answer provided)
2. Studies have found that the four-day schedule is popular with parents and students in districts that use it.
3. A shorter week means less time traveling to and from school, which leaves more time for extracurriculars, errands, chores, jobs, and sleep.
4. In the RAND study, teachers, principals, and parents all reported that kids learned as much—or more—on a four-day schedule as on a five-day one.

#### NO!

1. Shorter weeks often come with longer school days. Longer school days can cut into after-school activities.
2. Most research shows students on four-day schedules don't perform as well on standardized tests.

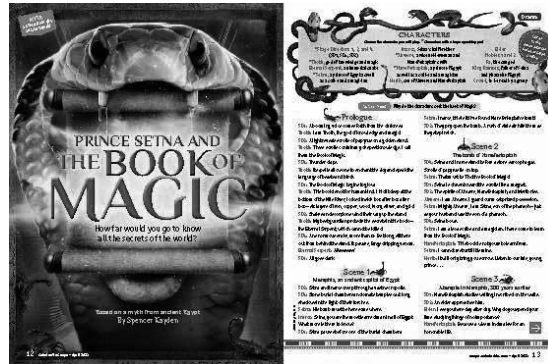
3. With one day less in school, students may miss out on physical education, electives, and access to free meals.
4. It can be tough for working parents to find childcare on the extra day school is closed.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEET

#### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. C
2. B, C
3. C
4. Answers will vary.

## Prince Setna and the Book of Magic



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 17

Responses will vary.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

#### WRITING PLANNER: THE BOOK OF MAGIC

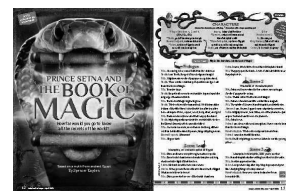
Responses will vary.

#### PRINCE SETNA AND THE BOOK OF MAGIC

##### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Setna is important in society because he is not only a prince but also a scribe. The play's text feature "Scribes: Ancient Egypt's Smarties" explains that scribes went to special schools and were a big deal as the readers and writers of their time period. In Scene 1, Inaros calls Setna "the most learned man in all of Egypt." Clearly, knowledge was highly valued in ancient Egyptian society, and Setna possessed a great deal of it.
2. Setna and Naneferkaptah are similar in that they are both the sons of a pharaoh, both magicians, and both scribes. In addition, they are both consumed by their desire to possess and learn from the Book of Magic.

3. They think the knowledge within it will give them great power—specifically, the powers of the gods.
4. The spirits tell Setna the story of how Naneferkaptah procured the Book of Magic from the bottom of the Nile, and how doing so brought death and sorrow upon their family: After seeing Ahwere and Naneferkaptah with the stolen book, casting spells that controlled the weather, Thoth and Ra drowned them and their son, Merib. Naneferkaptah's father buried the Book of Magic with Naneferkaptah to prevent any further harm the book might cause. This story doesn't convince Setna to leave the Book of Magic alone, though. He says, "Your tale is sad indeed. But it is not *my* tale." Setna seems to have excessive pride in his own abilities and thinks he can outsmart Thoth.
5. Setna's and Naneferkaptah's experiences with the Book of Magic start off similarly. Both men steal the book—Naneferkaptah from the bottom of the Nile and Setna from Naneferkaptah's tomb. Both men are giddy with power after they learn the book's secrets and begin casting its spells. Then their experiences become quite different. The gods intervene in Naneferkaptah's spell-casting before his power gets out of control, and they kill Naneferkaptah along with his wife and child. In Setna's case, his spell-casting leads to the brink of catastrophic damage, and he begs Thoth for help. Thoth, rather



than killing Setna, shows Setna mercy after he admits that the power in the book is too great for him.

### PRINCE SETNA AND THE BOOK OF MAGIC

#### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary.
2. Setna is warned about the dangers of the Book of Magic but thinks there is no way its powers will be too much for him to handle. He will stop at nothing when it comes to obtaining the book; he even uses magic to break the deal he and Naneferkaptah make involving the checkers games. When Setna's father sees the damage Setna is causing and tells Setna that the book's powers are not meant for humans, Setna continues to believe that his mind is so fine that he is indeed worthy of the book. When Setna can't stop the flooding he has caused, he finally realizes that there are limits to his power, and he is spared the downfall his hubris was leading him to. Answers to the second question will vary but may include the stories of Pandora's Box, Daedalus and Icarus, Frankenstein, and Odysseus (all available in the *Scope* Archives).

#### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. conjured
2. inscribed
3. necropolis
4. sarcophagus
5. papyrus
6. procured
7. amulet

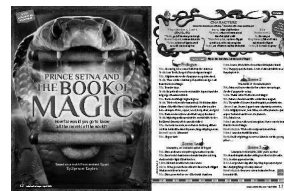
### PRINCE SETNA AND THE BOOK OF MAGIC QUIZ

#### \*Higher Level (HL)

1. A, C, D (text structure; R.5)
2. C (character; R.3)
3. A (vocabulary; R.4)
4. D (inference; R.1)
5. A, B, C (inference, text evidence; R.1)
6. A, C, D (theme; R.2)
7. Answers will vary. Here is a sample response:  
Please do not try to get hold of the Book of Magic! As the god Thoth says in the prologue to *Prince Setna and the Book of Magic*, "This book is not for humankind." The spells within its pages are too

powerful for any human to handle, and if you take the book, the gods will be angry with you. Of course, you may not even be able to get the book—and just trying to get it could be very dangerous. When Prince Naneferkaptah tried to take the Book of Magic, he had to use magic to part the mighty Nile, because the god Thoth had placed the book at the bottom of it. Then Naneferkaptah had to face a giant, immortal snake called the Eternal Serpent that was guarding the book. Naneferkaptah succeeded in killing the serpent and taking the book—so the gods drowned him along with his wife and his son! Years later, Prince Setna tried to take the book, and the gods became angry with him too. Setna used the book to conjure a rainstorm that he was unable to stop, even as his kingdom began to flood. Thoth finally ended the storm for Setna, however, Thoth told Setna to return the book and warned him that he would not be shown mercy again. These ancient Egyptian gods are not people you want to mess around with! Please think twice before trying to get the book. (inference, writing arguments to support claims, writing narratives to develop imagined experiences; R.1, W.1, W.3)

8. Prince Setna and Prince Naneferkaptah are both sons of pharaohs, but they have a lot more in common than that. They are both stubborn and arrogant young men who will do everything in their power to get hold of the Book of Magic. They are reckless and impulsive and do not seem to care about the consequences of their actions. Naneferkaptah ends up dying in his quest to get the book; the gods drown him along with his wife and son. When Setna steals the book—despite being warned by Naneferkaptah's ghost to leave the book alone—the gods show more mercy, but only after teaching him a lesson. Setna uses the book to start a storm that he is unable to control. The god Thoth waits until Setna's kingdom begins to flood before coming to Setna's assistance. As the story ends, Setna tells Thoth that he will put the book back where it belongs and seal it forever. Thus, both Naneferkaptah and Setna ultimately realize that they should be content with what they have and not try to take what does not belong to them. They also learn that it is best not to



interfere with the gods. (character development, writing explanatory texts; R.3, W.2)

### PRINCE SETNA AND THE BOOK OF MAGIC QUIZ

#### \*Lower Level (LL)

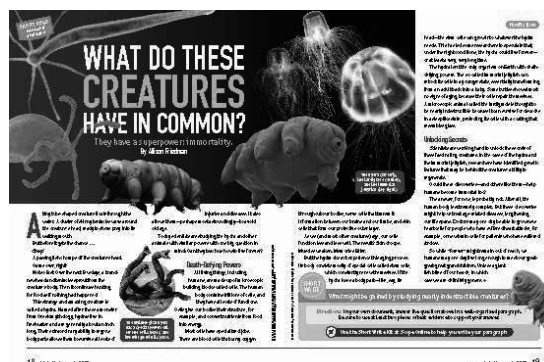
1. A, C, D (text structure; R.5)
2. C (character; R.3)
3. A (vocabulary; R.4)
4. D (inference; R.1)
5. A, B, C (inference, text evidence; R.1)
6. A, C, D (theme; R.2)
7. Answers will vary. Here is a sample response:  
Please do not try to get hold of the Book of Magic! As the god Thoth says in the prologue to *Prince Setna and the Book of Magic*, "This book is not for humankind." The spells within its pages are too powerful for any human to handle, and if you take the book, the gods will be angry with you. Of course, you may not even be able to get the book—and just trying to get it could be very dangerous. When Prince Naneferkaptah tried to take the Book of Magic, he had to use magic to part the mighty Nile river, because the god Thoth had placed the book at the bottom of it. Then Naneferkaptah had to face a giant, immortal snake called the Eternal Serpent that was guarding the book. Naneferkaptah succeeded in killing the serpent and taking the book—so the gods drowned him along with his wife and his son! Years later, Prince Setna tried to take the book, and the gods became angry with him, too. Setna used the book to conjure a rainstorm that he was unable to stop, even as his kingdom began to flood. Thoth finally ended the storm for Setna, however, Thoth told Setna to return the book and warned him that he would not be shown mercy again. These ancient Egyptian gods are not people you want to mess around with! Please think twice before trying to get the book. (inference, writing arguments to support claims, writing narratives to develop imagined experiences; R.1, W.1, W.3)
8. Prince Setna and Prince Naneferkaptah both want nothing more than to get hold of the Book of Magic and do everything in their power to get it. The two men are stubborn, selfish, and arrogant. They are also reckless and impulsive, not caring about the consequences of their actions. The gods treat them

differently, though. After Naneferkaptah steals the Book of Magic, the gods punish him by drowning him along with his wife and his son. When Setna steals the Book of Magic, the gods almost allow him to destroy his entire kingdom: He starts a storm that he cannot stop and his kingdom begins to flood. But at the last minute, the god Thoth comes to Setna's assistance and stops the storm. Thoth also shows Setna mercy and gives him a second chance—which is not at all what happened with Naneferkaptah. (character development, writing explanatory texts; R.3, W.2)

### TIME MACHINE: ANCIENT EGYPT VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Kids had a lot of fun. They played sports and games. But they were also expected to either start working for their parents or attending school at a young age. And their lives depended quite a bit on who their parents were. For example, unless they were born into a noble family or to craftspeople, children did not get the opportunity to learn to read.
2. The ancient artifacts are the actual items that ancient Egyptians used in their lives. Seeing these artifacts—items that ancient Egyptians actually used—helps bring this ancient world to life. The artifacts serve as a bridge from their world to ours.
3. Answers will vary. Students might answer that they are reminded of ancient Greece or ancient Rome, which were also polytheistic societies, or Mesopotamia, where, like the Nile in ancient Egypt, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers played a critical role in daily life.
4. Answers will vary.

## “What Do These Creatures Have in Common?”



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 19:

Answers will vary. Here is a sample response:

By studying nearly indestructible creatures, we might learn how to lengthen our own life spans. As author Allison Friedman explains in her article “What Do These Creatures Have in Common?” hydras can regrow body parts, which “allows them to survive all sorts of injuries and diseases.” It also allows them—perhaps most astoundingly—to avoid old age” (18). Humans, who get weaker and sicker as we age, would surely like to have this ability too. And perhaps someday, we will. Friedman states that discoveries we make about the hydra, the immortal jellyfish, and other such creatures “... might help us treat age-related diseases, lengthening our life spans. Doctors may one day be able to grow new heart cells for people who have suffered heart attacks, for example, or new brain cells for patients who have suffered strokes” (19). While humans may not be able to achieve the superpower of immortality possessed by creatures such as the hydra and tardigrade, we can apply our findings about their capacity for cell regeneration in ways that will improve and lengthen our lives.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

#### SHORT WRITE KIT

Answers will vary. Sample responses:

**Your Claim:** By studying nearly indestructible creatures, we might learn how to lengthen our own lifespans.

#### Text Evidence 1:

“Their extraordinary ability to regrow body parts allows them to survive all sorts of injuries and diseases. It also allows them—perhaps most astoundingly—to avoid old age.”(p. 18)

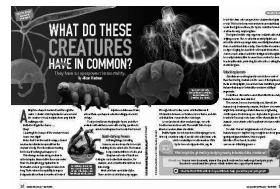
#### Commentary:

Humans, who get weaker and sicker as we age, would surely like to have this ability too.

**Text Evidence 2:** “But these discoveries might help us treat age-related diseases, lengthening our life spans. Doctors may one day be able to grow new heart cells for people who have suffered heart attacks, for example, or new brain cells for patients who have suffered strokes.” (p. 19)

**Commentary:** While humans may not be able to achieve the superpower of immortality possessed by creatures such as the hydra and tardigrade, we can apply our findings about their capacity for cell regeneration in ways that will improve and lengthen our lives.

#### Paragraph:



By studying nearly indestructible creatures, we might learn how to lengthen our own life spans. As author Allison Friedman explains in her article “What Do These Creatures Have in Common?” hydras have an “extraordinary ability to regrow body parts allows them to survive all sorts of injuries and diseases. It also allows them—perhaps most astoundingly—to avoid old age” (18). Humans, who get weaker and sicker as we age, would surely like to have this ability too. And perhaps someday, we will. Friedman states that discoveries we make about the hydra, the immortal jellyfish, and other such creatures “... might help us treat age-related diseases, lengthening our life spans. Doctors may one day be able to grow new heart cells for people who have suffered heart attacks, for example, or new brain cells for patients who have suffered strokes” (19). While humans may not be able to achieve the superpower of immortality possessed by creatures such as the hydra and tardigrade, we can apply our findings about their capacity for cell regeneration in ways that will improve and lengthen our lives.

### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Answers will vary slightly. Sample responses:

1. I’m a biologist who studies the genetics of space lifeforms.
2. The creatures have 15 fingers on each hand, which are specialized to extract shrimp-like creatures from shells that float in the air in great numbers.
3. They are microscopic, so I have collected samples of the air to study back on the ship.

### “WHAT DO THESE CREATURES HAVE IN COMMON?”

#### QUIZ \*Lower Level (LL)

1. C (vocabulary; R.4)
2. A, B, C (text structure; R.5)
3. C (vocabulary; R.4)
4. B key ideas and details; R.2)
5. B (vocabulary; R.4)
6. A (central ideas; R.1)
7. According to Allison Friedman’s article “What Do These Creatures Have in Common?” the sea monster from Greek mythology called a hydra has a superpower: If one of its heads is cut off, two new heads will grow in its place. In other words, this monster can never be killed. The hydra of our world, a tiny tube-shaped creature that lives in the water, has a similar superpower: If it loses a body part, the

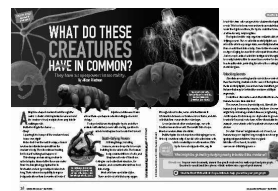
hydra’s stem cells can grow into whatever needs replacing. In this way, the hydra can both regenerate body parts and is, according to some researchers, nearly indestructible, just like its mythological namesake. (central idea, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)

8. Can the death-defying hydra and creatures like it teach humans how to live forever? According to Friedman, the answer is no—at least not for now. She does contend that hydras and other nearly indestructible creatures could help us extend our lifespans, explaining that what researchers find in the genetic features of hydras and other animals with similar powers might help us treat diseases. Friedman writes, “Doctors may one day be able to grow new heart cells for people who have suffered heart attacks, for example, or new brain cells for patients who have suffered strokes” (19). But for now, at least, there’s no sign that humans unlock the key to true immortality. (central idea, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)

### “WHAT DO THESE CREATURES HAVE IN COMMON?”

#### QUIZ \*Higher Level (HL)

1. C (vocabulary; R.4)
2. A, B, C (text structure; R.5)
3. C (key ideas and details; R.2)
4. B (vocabulary; R.4)
5. B (vocabulary; R.4)
6. A (central ideas; R.1)
7. According to Allison Friedman’s article “What Do These Creatures Have in Common?” the aging process of a human couldn’t be more different than that of a hydra. Friedman writes, “As we (and most other creatures) age, our cells function less and less well. The result? Skin droops. Muscles weaken. Memories falter.” There is no getting around it: As humans get older, we get increasingly weaker and less healthy. The hydra, on the other hand, does not experience this sort of aging. Friedman explains that the hydra has special cells that constantly renew themselves, so that if it loses a body part, these cells can grow into whatever the hydra needs replaced. Friedman writes that “this has led some researchers to speculate that, under the right conditions, the hydra could live forever—or at least, a very, very long



time.” (central idea, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)

8. Can the death-defying hydra and creatures like it teach humans how to live forever? According to Friedman, the answer is no—at least not for now. She does contend that hydras and other nearly indestructible creatures could help us extend our lifespans, explaining that what researchers find in the genetic features of hydras and other animals with similar powers might help us treat diseases. Friedman writes, “Doctors may one day be able to grow new heart cells for people who have suffered heart attacks, for example, or new brain cells for patients who have suffered strokes” (19). But for now, at least, there’s no sign that humans unlock the key to true immortality. (central idea, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)

#### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: CENTRAL IDEAS AND DETAILS

##### \*Higher Level (HL) and Lower Level (LL)

**Section Title:** “Death-Defying Powers”

**Central Idea:** The secret behind these creatures’ immortality is at the cellular level.

**Supporting Details:**

- The immortal jellyfish is able to reboot its cells to a younger state.
- Some turtles show no signs of aging because their cells repair themselves.
- Coating its cells with a substance resembling glass allows the tardigrade to survive for decades in a sleeplike state.
- If the hydra loses a body part, the hydra’s stem cells can grow into whatever the hydra needs.

**Section Title:** “Unlocking Secrets”

**Central Idea:** Studying the hydra and other nearly indestructible creatures may help humans live longer.

**Supporting Details:**

- Scientists have identified genetic features related to the ability these creatures have to regenerate.
- These discoveries could help us treat age-related diseases in humans.
- Doctors might be able to grow new heart cells for people who’ve had heart attacks.
- Doctors might be able to grow new brain cells for people who’ve had strokes.

**Central idea of the article:** Studying the genetic features of death-defying creatures may one day help humans improve and lengthen our lives.

## “Anne Frank”



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 26

Responses will vary. Sample response:

Based on Kristin Lewis’s article “Anne Frank” and Linda Pastan’s poem “It Is Raining on the House of Anne Frank,” it is Anne Frank’s courage and optimism that so deeply inspire us.

The words from Anne’s diary that Lewis shares in her article reflect the tremendous hope that Anne had. For example, Anne wrote, “If God lets me live . . . I shall not remain insignificant. I shall work in the world and for mankind” (25). That Anne could look to the future with such a strong sense of purpose during one of the most terrible chapters of human history is inspiring. And as Lewis explains, Anne succeeded in her goal: Through her diary, Anne has become a representative for all those killed during the Holocaust. Anne speaks for those who cannot, making sure they—and what happened to them—is not forgotten. Knowing Anne’s story inspires us to fight against darkness and hatred in our own world.

Pastan’s poem expresses the same idea. In the poem, the speaker is a tourist visiting two iconic buildings in the city of Amsterdam: the Anne Frank House and the Van Gogh Museum. The speaker alludes to the suffering, discomfort, and darkness that stained the era of history during which Anne was in hiding when she describes a map with arrows made of barbed wire that shows “ . . . all the dates, the expulsions / the

forbidding shapes / of continents.” In the poem’s closing, however, the speaker says, “And across Amsterdam it is raining / on the Van Gogh Museum / where we will hurry next / to see how someone else / could find the pure / center of light / within the dark circle / of his demons.” Here, the speaker is saying that both Anne Frank and Vincent van Gogh were able to hold on to something beautiful and good even in times of unimaginable suffering and darkness.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

#### WRITING PLANNER: ANNE FRANK

Responses will vary. Sample responses:

- “‘I can shake off everything if I write,’ Anne wrote in April 1944. ‘My sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.’” (p. 25)
  - “‘If God lets me live . . . I shall not remain insignificant,’ Anne wrote in April 1944, a few months before the officers stormed the annex. ‘I shall work in the world and for mankind.’ And that is exactly what she has done. Her diary has given voice to those silenced by the Holocaust. She has inspired millions of people with her courage and honesty, and with her refusal to give up hope during one of history’s darkest times.” (p. 25)
  - “During that time, she recorded in sharp and frequently funny detail everything that went on . . .”



In her beautiful, looping cursive, Anne wrote that she wanted her life to have meaning. She vowed to become a famous writer, with her first book to be based on her now overflowing diary. She went back to old entries, revising and rewriting.” (pp. 24-25)

- People are inspired by Anne Frank because of her courage and honesty, her optimism, and the voice she gave to those silenced by the Holocaust.
2. • “And across Amsterdam it is raining / on the Van Gogh Museum / where we will hurry next / to see how someone else / could find the pure / center of light / within the dark circle / of his demons.”
- Both Anne Frank and Vincent van Gogh were able to hold on to something beautiful and good even in times of unimaginable suffering and darkness.

### “ANNE FRANK”

#### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. The mood is tense, uncomfortable, and ominous. The detail that Anne was “hurrying” creates anxiety. That Anne was sweating from wearing layers and layers of clothing in the summer heat creates a sense of discomfort. The feeling of danger intensifies when Lewis writes, “If anyone discovered what they were doing, they could be arrested and killed.”
2. According to the article, Germany’s defeat in World War I and the resulting economic collapse in Germany contributed to Hitler’s rise to power, as well as the antisemitism that had long existed in Europe. Hitler took advantage of the anger and bitterness Germans were feeling after the war and offered a scapegoat: Jewish people.
3. Anne’s diary gave her a way to express and process her thoughts and emotions. You can infer that it also gave her a way to escape what was happening around her—a way to retreat into her head and think about things other than the war and her life in the annex.
4. According to Lewis, Anne was in many ways an ordinary kid, with many of the same dreams and worries as others her age. But it seems that Anne was particularly thoughtful, reflective, ambitious, and passionate: She wrote that she wanted to have a meaningful life and vowed, according to Lewis, to become a writer. The excerpts from Anne’s diary reveal her to be a gifted writer. The excerpt in which

Anne writes “I shall work in the world and for mankind” shows her to be generous and benevolent and also, as Lewis writes, full of courage, honesty, and hope.

### “ANNE FRANK”

#### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

1. To Anne, her diary was a source of support, almost like a friend. It was a place for her to vent her feelings and sort out her thoughts. To Otto Frank, Anne’s diary was no doubt a connection to his daughter and a way to get to know her better after her death. To the many who have read Anne’s diary, it has been a source of inspiration and a way to learn about the Holocaust.
2. People may read Anne’s diary because it is a historical record and they want to learn about the past, because Anne’s courage and optimism are inspiring, and because Anne was a gifted and engaging writer. Perhaps some feel it is right to honor Anne by reading her words. As humans, we want to understand ourselves and our world. Anne’s diary can help us do that.
3. That some of Otto’s employees risked their lives to help those in the annex shows that people can rise above fear and act with great compassion for others. The fact that so many people were in hiding reveals that there must have been many people who served as helpers in the same way Otto’s employees did. That so many people have read Anne’s diary suggests that many people care about what happened and want to learn about the Holocaust. Anne’s strong spirit and optimism can also inspire us.
4. Angelou means that we cannot change the past or erase painful suffering, but if we learn about the past and are honest with ourselves about what circumstances, beliefs, and behaviors allowed something terrible to happen, we can take steps to prevent the same terrible thing from happening again. This idea applies to the story of Anne Frank in that Anne’s diary gives us a way to learn about a horrible time in the past that was full of “wrenching pain,” as Angelou puts it—and therefore the diary also provides us an opportunity to think about what led to such horrors so we can take steps to prevent history from repeating itself.



# "IT IS RAINING ON THE HOUSE OF ANNE FRANK"

## POETRY ANALYSIS

1. The speaker is a tourist visiting two iconic buildings in the city of Amsterdam: the Anne Frank House and the Van Gogh Museum.
2. In lines 7-11, the speaker says that the tourists "would rather be somewhere else" but feel they "must rise/to some occasion." In other words, it is difficult for the tourists to be in the Anne Frank House because it is a reminder of a horrific time in human history, but they feel it's important for them to be there, to remember and honor Anne and all who lost their lives during the Holocaust.
3. "It is raining" (the title, lines 1 and 22); "perfectly silent" (line 6); "herded together under the shadow" (line 4); "skeleton" (line 14); "a barb of wire" (line 18); "forbidding shapes" (line 20); "the dark circle of his demons" (lines 28-29)
4. Students may offer that "a barb of wire" and "herding" connect to the image of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz on page 24, which shows children standing behind a barbed wire fence in a place where Nazis treated humans like animals. The poem's description of "forbidding shapes of continents" connects to the map on page 22 titled "Nazi-Occupied Europe, 1942": The spreading light brown shape, representing the countries controlled or occupied by Nazi Germany, has a threatening appearance. The phrase "perfectly silent" in the poem connects to what Lewis writes about how Anne and the others in the annex had to speak in whispers and tiptoe around, because the smallest noise could give them away (23).
5. Answers will vary. Sample response: Both Anne and Van Gogh were able to hold on to something beautiful and good even in the most terrible and difficult times.

## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

1. imprison
2. organize
3. assist
4. praise
5. citizen

## PAIRED TEXTS QUIZ

### \*Higher Level (HL)

1. B (text structure; R.5 )
2. A (vocabulary; R.4 )
3. A (figurative language; R.4)
4. A (figurative language; R.4)
5. B (central ideas; R.2)
6. C (key ideas, synthesis; R.1, R.9 )
7. The Franks decided to leave Germany because Germany had become a dangerous place for Jewish people under the rule of Adolf Hitler. According to the article, Germany's defeat in World War I, as well as the antisemitism that had long existed in Europe, contributed to Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Hitler capitalized on the anger and bitterness Germans were feeling after the war and offered them a scapegoat: Jewish people. As a result, age-old prejudices against Jewish people turned into violent hatred. Otto Frank decided to move the family to Amsterdam, which at that time was not under Hitler's rule, because he thought they would be safe there. (key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)
8. When Kristin Lewis writes "Though she [Anne Frank] did not survive, the diary she kept did. Her words would give voice to millions," Lewis means that through her diary, Anne has become a representative for all those killed during the Holocaust. Anne speaks for those who cannot, making sure they—and what happened to them—is not forgotten. By describing her own experience, Anne has given the world an idea of what it was like for Jewish people and others targeted by the Nazis. Her diary reminds readers that each person the Nazis murdered was an individual with a unique personality, with family and friends, and with hopes and dreams and fears. (interpreting text, inference, key ideas; R.4, R.1, R.2)

## PAIRED TEXTS QUIZ

### \*Lower Level (LL)

1. B (text structure; R.5 )
2. A (vocabulary; R.4 )
3. A (figurative language; R.4)
4. A (figurative language; R.4)
5. B (central ideas; R.2)
6. C (key ideas, synthesis; R.1, R.9 )



7. The Franks left Germany because Germany had become a dangerous place for Jewish people under the rule of Adolf Hitler. According to the article, Germany's defeat in World War I contributed to Hitler's rise to power, as well as the anti-Semitism that had long existed in Europe. Hitler capitalized on the anger and bitterness Germans were feeling after the war and offered them a scapegoat: Jewish people. As a result, age-old prejudices against Jewish people turned into violent hatred. Otto Frank decided to move the family to Amsterdam, where he thought they would be safe. (key ideas and details, writing explanatory text; R.2, W.2)
8. When Kristin Lewis writes that Anne Frank's diary "has given voice to those silenced by the Holocaust," Lewis means that through her diary, Anne has become a representative for all those killed during the Holocaust. Anne speaks for those who cannot, making sure they—and what happened to them—is not forgotten. By describing her own experience, Anne has given the world an idea of what it was like for Jewish people and others targeted by the Nazis. Her diary reminds readers that each person the Nazis murdered was an individual with a unique personality, with family and friends, and with hopes and dreams and fears. (interpreting text, inference, key ideas; R.4, R.1, R.2)

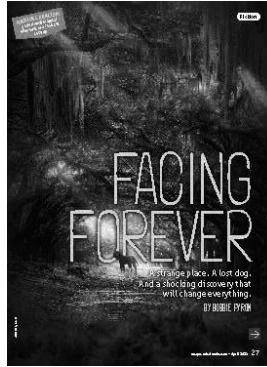
### VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. An example that supports the idea that Anne Frank is a famous figure but was also an ordinary girl is when Lewis explains how she tried to imagine what life in hiding must have been like for Anne. Pictures of Anne from before the war—playing outside, relaxing in the grass with friends, wearing a sun hat, and smiling at the camera—appear on screen. In another segment, a list of "Notes About Anne" appears on screen; we learn that she fell in love with a boy, wanted to go to Hollywood, and fought with her mom, just like many other girls her age. These moments in the video make it clear that while Anne had many extraordinary qualities—a talent for writing, incredible resilience—she was also just an ordinary kid.
2. Answers will vary: Students may say that Lewis includes Anne's unique voice with the hope that it

will help viewers feel closer to Anne. Students may also say that the quote reinforces the idea that Anne held on to hope despite the difficulties of life in hiding.

3. Answers will vary. Students might say that a vivid and poignant hook pulls readers into the story, arousing their curiosity and making them want to read further. It also gives readers a taste of the big ideas that will be explored in the article and prepares readers for how to approach the article. They may also say that Lewis felt particularly strongly about finding the right hook for this story because the story of Anne Frank is so powerful and important, and one that deserves a great deal of respect, reverence, and care when telling.

## “Facing Forever”



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### WRITING PROMPT, PAGE 31:

Essays will vary. Sample response:

In Bobbie Pyron’s work of short fiction “Facing Forever,” Nathan struggles to make a decision at the end of the story: whether or not to adopt a homeless dog his family encounters on vacation. He struggles with this decision because of the grief he is experiencing over the recent death of his Grandpa Lou. Eventually, Nathan decides to welcome Boo into his family because of important things he comes to understand about life and death.

Nathan struggles throughout the story because he is grieving. He isn’t enjoying his family’s vacation because he doesn’t see how it can “make things the way they used to be” (28). His throat tightens at the thought of Grandpa Lou not being there when the family returns home. He feels sick to his stomach and runs away when Maggie gives the dog they meet the name “Boo,” which was her nickname for Grandpa Lou. Nathan passes on going to an amusement park because it seems “like the wrong thing to do somehow” (28). He is “mad at the world” (29) and doesn’t want to talk about his feelings. These details make clear that Grandpa Lou’s death is causing Nathan deep sorrow and that he is having trouble coping.

When Nathan’s family decides to adopt Boo, they take him to a veterinarian. At the vet’s office, Nathan comes to realize that Boo has been visiting a magical stream that has kept him alive and healthy for 75 years (30). This realization causes Nathan to have a change of heart about adopting Boo. Nathan yells at Boo to leave because he does not want him to die—which is what would eventually happen if Nathan’s family were to take Boo away from the magical spring.

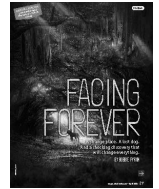
But then Nathan remembers what Grandpa Lou said to him before he died: “I’ve had a long life. A life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?” Remembering this helps Nathan realize that having a life filled with love and family will be better for Boo than living forever on his own at the abandoned campground. Nathan decides to welcome Boo into his family and take him home to Maryland. When Nathan makes this decision, you can infer that he has come to accept that death is a part of life. Though he misses Grandpa Lou, he realizes his grandpa lived a long and happy life filled with love, which surely gives him a sense of peace.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEETS

#### WRITING PLANNER: NATHAN’S DECISION

Responses will vary. Sample responses:

1. Nathan is experiencing grief over Grandpa Lou’s death. He isn’t enjoying the family vacation and



doesn't see how it can "make things the way they used to be" (28). His throat tightens at the thought of Grandpa Lou not being at their home when they return. He feels sick to his stomach and runs away when Maggie names the dog "Boo," her nickname for Grandpa Lou. He passes on going to an amusement park because it seems "like the wrong thing to do somehow" (28). He is "mad at the world" (29) and doesn't want to talk about it with anyone. These thoughts and behaviors make it clear that Grandpa Lou's death is causing Nathan deep sorrow and he is having trouble coping.

2. After going to the vet's office, Nathan no longer wants to adopt Boo. He knows that somehow the stream is keeping Boo alive, and that bringing Boo home would mean that Boo would die one day. Nathan yells at Boo to leave because he loves Boo and does not want him to die.
3. Nathan is currently grieving the loss of Grandpa Lou. He knows how difficult the death of a loved one can be and perhaps he doesn't want to have to feel that feeling ever again. For this reason, Nathan would rather Boo live than have him as a pet that would one day die. His feelings about Boo are based on what he is currently feeling about the death of his Grandpa.
4. Nathan decides to welcome Boo into his family and take him home to Maryland. He opens his heart to the dog even though he knows Boo will not live forever.
5. Grandpa Lou said to Nathan, "I've had a long life. A life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?" Remembering this helps Nathan realize that having a life filled with love and family will be better for Boo than living forever on his own at the abandoned campground.
6. Nathan comes to accept that death is a part of life. Though he misses Grandpa Lou, he realizes his grandpa lived a long and happy life filled with love. Though he wishes Boo could live forever, he believes that Boo will ultimately be happier when surrounded by a family who loves him.

### "FACING FOREVER"

#### CLOSE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Juan Ponce de León is the name of the conquistador who is said to have embarked on a quest to find the

legendary Fountain of Youth. The author names the travel park after him to bring to readers' minds the idea of the legendary spring that reverses aging and makes people immortal. [Allusion is a literary device: an implied or indirect reference to a person, place, thing, or another work of literature. Allusions are based on the assumption that there is a body of knowledge shared by the author and the reader and that the reader will understand the author's reference.]

2. Based on details Nathan reveals in the story's opening, readers can infer that Nathan's family has suffered some sort of loss, perhaps the death of a loved one. Nathan says, "Dad said we needed this vacation, especially Mom, after everything that had happened" and "thinking about home made me think about who wasn't there anymore." When Nathan becomes physically ill and runs away after Maggie calls the dog "Boo," her nickname for their Grandpa Lou, readers can infer that it was Grandpa Lou who recently died—and that Nathan is really struggling with the loss.
3. The author is creating an eerie mood in this paragraph. The campground's emptiness, the gusty wind, and the creaky noises create a feeling of uneasiness that's almost frightening.
4. Up to this point, Nathan has not been enjoying the family vacation. He's mad at the world about his grandpa's death, but he's not talking to anyone about it, and he's not allowing himself to live in the moment or find moments of joy. For example, when Nathan's family goes to the amusement park, he doesn't go because it "seemed like the wrong thing to do somehow." But in this moment at the stream with Boo, Nathan finds a feeling of peace, even joy. He listens to the leaves rustling, the birds chirping, and the stream gurgling; he appreciates the beauty of what he calls a "magical oasis in the swamp"; he thinks about how much Grandpa would have loved it. Having positive thoughts of Grandpa and finding joy in playing with Boo loosens the knot of grief that Nathan has been dealing with since Grandpa's death.
5. This detail tells you that Dr. Brewster looks strong and/or tough.
6. Nathan is realizing that Boo really is 75 years old because Boo has been swimming in and drinking



from the Fountain of Youth. Nathan understands this from the fact that after he and Boo got in the stream in the swamp, Boo's limp went away and he pranced around like a puppy, and the cuts on Nathan's feet were healed.

7. Nathan is referring to his family's home in Maryland.

### **"FACING FOREVER"**

#### **CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS**

1. Nathan decides to bring Boo home to Maryland because he believes that having a life filled with love and family will be better for Boo than living forever on his own at the abandoned campground. You understand this because it is remembering what Nathan's grandpa said just before he died —"I've had a long life. A life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?"—that leads Nathan to his decision about Boo. Answers to the second question will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary. Sample answer: Maggie and Nate react very differently to the death of Grandpa Lou and to the idea of leaving Boo. For example, Maggie names the dog they find after Grandpa Lou, while Nate runs off to be alone when he thinks of Grandpa Lou. Maggie is devastated at the thought of leaving Boo, while Nate—at first—would rather be without Boo than for Boo to die. The author is most likely trying to make the point that we all experience grief and other powerful emotions in our own unique ways.

### **"FACING FOREVER" QUIZ**

#### **\*Higher Level (HL)**

1. A (inference; R.1)
2. A, B, D (text evidence; R. 1)
3. D (vocabulary; R.4)
4. B (developing ideas; R.3)
5. A (key ideas and details, inference; R.2, R.1)
6. A, B (theme; R.2)
7. Everyone laughs except for Nathan because Nathan realizes that Boo really is 75 years old—because he has been swimming in and drinking from a magical stream at the campground, which is indeed the Fountain of Youth. Nathan understands this based on the strange things that happened at the stream with

Boo on the previous day: After Boo got in the stream, his limp went away and he pranced around like a puppy," and the cuts on Nathan's feet were miraculously healed, leaving his skin "new as a baby's" (30). (inference, text evidence; R.1, R.2)

8. At the beginning of the story, Nathan is "mad at the world" (29) about his Grandpa Lou's death. By the end of the story, Nathan has come to accept that death is a part of life. It is remembering what Grandpa Lou said just before he died —"I've had a long life. A life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?" (31)—that leads Nathan to this acceptance. And this acceptance in turn leads Nathan to decide to adopt Boo, even though it means taking him away from the magical stream that is giving him immortality. With this decision, Nathan is opening his heart to love and joy again, even though he knows it will one day come with loss. (character, writing explanatory text; R.3, W.2)

### **"FACING FOREVER" QUIZ**

#### **\*Lower Level (LL)**

1. A (inference; R.1)
2. A, B, D (text evidence; R. 1)
3. D (vocabulary; R.4)
4. B (developing ideas; R.3)
5. A (key ideas and details, inference; R.2, R.1)
6. A, B (theme; R.2)
7. Everyone laughs except for Nathan because Nathan realizes that Boo really is 75 years old—because he has been swimming in and drinking from a magical stream at the campground, which is indeed the Fountain of Youth. Nathan understands this based on the strange things that happened at the stream with Boo on the previous day: After Boo got in the stream, his limp went away and he pranced around "like a puppy," and the cuts on Nathan's feet were miraculously healed, leaving his skin "new as a baby's" (30). (inference, text evidence; R.1, R.2)
8. At the beginning of the story, Nathan is "mad at the world" (29) about his Grandpa Lou's death. By the end of the story, Nathan has come to accept that death is a part of life. It is remembering what Grandpa Lou said just before he died —"I've had a long life. A life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?" (31)—that leads Nathan to this



acceptance. And this acceptance in turn leads Nathan to decide to adopt Boo, even though it means taking him away from the magical stream that is giving him immortality. With this decision, Nathan is opening his heart to love and joy again, even though he knows it will one day come with loss. (character, writing explanatory text; R.3, W.2)

### CONTEXT CLUES CHALLENGE

1. deserted, joyless, dreary, empty
2. foliage, vegetation
3. Drawings should depict tree roots that are sticking out of the earth.
4. **A.** Boo eases himself into the water gingerly because he is very old and something is wrong with his back leg. He's been limping and trembling, so he carefully and cautiously eases himself into the water so as not to make his pain or injury worse.  
**B.** Boo hops out of the RV reluctantly because he doesn't want to leave; he wants to be a part of Nate's family.
5. Answers will vary but should be similar to: "to surround and enclose something completely with or as if with a covering."

### CORE SKILLS WORKOUT: INFERENCE

1. Readers can infer that Nathan's family has recently experienced the death of a loved one.
2. When Nathan becomes physically ill and runs away after Maggie calls the dog "Boo," her nickname for their Grandpa Lou, readers can infer that it was Grandpa Lou who recently died—and that Nathan is really struggling with the loss. Maggie apologizes because she realizes her choice of name made Nathan think about Grandpa Lou, and Nathan is still having trouble thinking about the loss without getting upset.
3. Answers may include: "I looked up and saw Boo prancing toward me with a stick in his mouth, like a puppy. Whatever had been wrong with his back leg seemed fine now. His limp was completely gone."; "And that's when I noticed it: The skin on my feet was completely healed—new as a baby's."; "According to these tags, this dog is 75 years old. The tags were registered to a dog named Roscoe in 1947."
4. Nathan is referring to his family's home in Maryland.

## “The Secret Files of Dr. Maliver”



### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITIES AND PROMPTS IN THE MAGAZINE

#### ROOT CHALLENGE

Answers will vary. Sample responses:

1. **malodorous:** smelling very unpleasant  
**malfunctioning:** to fail to function properly  
**malevolent:** wishing evil or harm to others; showing ill will  
**malign:** to speak about someone badly; to badmouth someone  
**malcontent:** *noun:* a person who is always dissatisfied and making trouble; *adjective:* not satisfied
2. Answers will vary. Words might include: *malicious, malnutrition, malnourished, malignant, malpractice, malformed, malaria, malapropism*
3. Sentences and drawings will vary.

### ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY SHEET

#### ROOT POWER

Answers will vary. Sample responses:

##### Page 1:

- malodorous:** smelling very unpleasant  
**malfunctioning:** functioning badly; failing to operate normally  
**malevolent:** having or showing ill will; evil  
**malign:** to speak about someone badly; to badmouth someone  
**malcontent:** *noun:* a person who is always dissatisfied and making trouble; *adjective:* not satisfied

##### Page 2:

1. Answers will vary. Sample answer: a skunk.
2. Answers will vary. Sample answers: Lord Voldemort, Darth Vader, Dr. Robotnik
3. Drawings should depict a broken washing machine.
4. unhappy, complaining, unsatisfied
5. A

##### Page 3:

1. Answers will vary. Words might include: *malicious, malnutrition, malnourished, malignant, malpractice, malformed, malaria, malapropism*
2. Sentences will vary.
3. Drawings will vary.