Textual Evidence

Did you know the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can sunburn your eyes in a similar way to how it burns your skin? Sadly, it's true. Along with immediate damage to the eye, the sun's rays can also cause long-term vision problems such as cataracts. According to a new study, many people wear sunglasses that proclaim they have "100% protection." However, scientists are now finding that the level of UV protection advertised may not be entirely accurate. Sunglass fashionistas have little assurance that they are getting the actual protection they think they are buying. How can you know if the sunglasses you are buying are as protective as their label says they are? Stick to brands from trustworthy suppliers and have an eye doctor test the sunglasses. This is the best assurance that you are getting what you think you are buying.

1. Which of the following is likely true based on this passage?

- A. It is better to buy a pair of more expensive sunglasses than to buy a less expensive pair of sunglasses.
- B. Just because a pair of sunglasses says it has 100% UV protection, it may not have been total protection against UV rays.
- C. The best protection you can give your eyes from harmful UV rays is wearing sunglasses outside.
- D. It is impossible for a person to know the true level of protection of their sunglasses against UV rays.

2. Which sentence from the passage shows that protecting one's eyes is important?

- A. Along with immediate damage to the eye, the sun's rays can also cause long-term vision problems such as cataracts.
- B. This is the best assurance that you are getting what you think you are buying.
- C. According to a new study, many people wear sunglasses that proclaim they have "100% protection."
- D. Stick to brands from trustworthy suppliers and have an eye doctor test the sunglasses.

According to research, exposure to a certain type of bacteria called mycobacterium vaccae which is found in soil can help increase serotonin levels in the body. Serotonin is a chemical found in the brain. It can boost a person's mood and decrease anxiety. This same chemical can help people better process information in their brains. Just by being outside, our bodies can breathe in this bacteria. Research has shown that this bacteria appeared to boost the mood in laboratory mice. Additionally, the mice that were given this bacteria in their diet were able to move through a maze twice as quickly as mice
that were not given this bacteria. These same mice also behaved less anxiously than the other mice.

3. Based on information from the passage, the reader can tell that

   A. the laboratory tests on mice do not impact the effect of the bacteria on humans.
   B. many nutritional companies will start placing *mycobacterium vaccae* in food.
   C. people who have less exposure to *mycobacterium vaccae* are often smarter.
   D. serotonin in a person's body can help improve that person's ability to learn.

4. Which sentence from the passage shows how *mycobacterium vaccae* can benefit humans?

   A. Serotonin is a chemical found in the brain.
   B. Just by being outside, our bodies can breathe in this bacteria.
   C. It can boost a person's mood and decrease anxiety.
   D. These same mice behaved less anxiously than the other mice.

5. The author of this article most likely agrees that

   A. mice should not be given *mycobacterium vaccae* in their diets.
   B. spending more time outside might help improve a person's mood.
   C. people should be given serotonin instead of *mycobacterium vaccae*.
   D. spending too much time outside playing sports could be harmful.

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Last summer, I went to Michigan to stay with my grandparents. I don't get to see them often, so they were really excited to see me when I got off the plane. They took me to their house on Lake Michigan. The lake looked more like an ocean to me because it was so large. My grandparents told me that it is the fifth largest lake in the world! I also learned that Michigan got its name from the Indian words *Michi-gama* which means "large lake."

Every morning, Grandpa would wake me up, and we would take a few pieces of old bread outside and walk down to the lake's shore. There were about 20 ducks waiting for
their daily breakfast. This was my favorite part of each day. After that we would ride
down to the local tackle shop and get fish bait to take back home to fish. When we
caught a fish, we would release it back into the lake. We would usually fish for about an
hour before Grandma would call us in for breakfast.
After breakfast, we would normally play card games or dominoes. In the afternoons, I'd
usually go swimming. Grandpa would typically just hang his feet off the dock to
supervise me while I swam. One of the neighbor's kids named Jeremy would often join
me. We would have swimming races from my grandparent's house to his house. I got so
tan that summer, and my hair lightened several shades. When I flew back home at the
end of the summer, my parents almost didn't recognize me because of my tanned skin
and lighter hair color.

6. Which sentence from the passage shows that the narrator has changed
while in Michigan?

- A. After breakfast, we would usually play card games or dominoes.
- B. We would have swimming races from my grandparent's house to his house.
- C. I got so tan that summer, and my hair lightened several shades.
- D. Last summer, I went to Michigan to stay with my grandparents.

7. According to what the narrator says about Grandpa in this passage, which
word best describes him?

- A. athletic
- B. outdoorsy
- C. stingy
- D. impatient

Ronnie was on vacation for 5 days in Vail, Colorado, with his family. His parents had let
him invite a friend to come along, so he had invited his best friend Brett. Having grown
up in Vermont, the boys were familiar with being around snow and skiing. But they were
not familiar with the ski slopes in Vail. Ronnie's parents were worried the black slopes
were too dangerous for two teenage boys. However, they wanted to ski the black
slopes, so they went off on their own. Ronnie and Brett buddied up to ski together down
the easier slopes. Brett wanted to start off skiing down the blue slopes, but Ronnie convinced him to take it easy since it was possible Vail’s blue slopes were more difficult than the blue slopes they had gone down back home in Vermont. So they hit the green slopes instead.

They rode the chair lift up the hill. Once at the top of the hill, they began their descent down the mountain—Brett in his blue ski jacket and Ronnie in his yellow ski jacket. It was smooth sailing down the mountain. The boys decided to try a blue slope next. Once at the top of the hill, they began their trek down the mountain. Brett, feeling adventurous and confident, sped past Ronnie. Brett didn’t seem to want to slow down. Ronnie kept skiing at his leisurely pace but noticed someone wearing blue suddenly falling into the powdery snow half-way down the mountain. Could that be Brett? Ronnie thought to himself.

Ronnie approached the blue-jacketed skier. Although the skier had snow covering his face, he could tell it was indeed Brett. “Brett, what happened?” Ronnie asked. “I don’t know, dude. I just took a sudden tumble. Give me a moment to catch my breath. That really shook me up.”

Brett began to get up but collapsed back into the snow and yelled, “Ouch, my arm!” Ronnie leaned down to help his friend up. “Let me help you. You can hold onto me with your good arm.” Together they slowly skied down to the bottom of the hill. Ronnie found a ski medic to come look at Brett’s arm. The ski medic said that Brett probably just sprained it but would need to get an X-ray to be sure.

The boys met up with Ronnie’s parents who drove Brett to the closest emergency room so he could get an X-ray. Fortunately, all he had was a sprained elbow, which he was told should heal up in a few weeks. The doctor outfitted Brett with an elbow brace and told him to take it easy for the next month and to avoid any sports.

8. Based on this passage, which of the following is true?

- A. Brett cannot ski for the remaining part of the trip.
- B. The ski medic takes an X-ray of Brett's arm and elbow.
- C. Ronnie's parents pay for Brett's emergency room visit.
- D. Brett will get an X-ray when he returns to Vermont.

9. Which of these details supports the idea that blue slopes are harder to ski down than green slopes?

- A. The boys have had a more difficult time on Vermont's blue slopes than on the green slopes in the past.
- B. The boys want to ski down the blue slopes first because they skied down the blue slopes back home.
- C. Ronnie suggests they go down the green slopes first since the blue ones in Vail might be
10. Which of the following from the passage shows that Ronnie's parents are experienced skiers?

- A. The boys met up with Ronnie's parents who drove Brett to the closest emergency room so he could get an X-ray.
- B. Ronnie's parents were worried the black slopes were too dangerous for two teenage boys. However, they wanted to ski the black slopes, so they went off on their own.
- C. Having grown up in Vermont, the boys were familiar with being around snow and skiing.
- D. His parents had let him invite a friend to come along, so he had invited his best friend Brett.

11. What supporting detail shows that Ronnie is a caring friend?

- A. He convinces Brett to ski down the black slope first.
- B. He lets Brett borrow his old ski jacket for the trip.
- C. He gets a medic to transport Brett on a snow mobile.
- D. He helps Brett get safely back down the mountain.

12. Which detail from the story might lead Ronnie to think that the person lying in the snow might be Brett?

- A. Brett is wearing a blue ski jacket.
- B. Brett's face is covered in snow.
- C. Brett is not an experienced skier.
- D. Brett is a very clumsy person.

The chemical bisphenol-A (BPA) has been linked to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and obesity. BPA has been found in a wide range of products, from the linings in metal cans to some plastic water bottles to printer ink. New studies show that canned foods may contain dangerous levels of BPA. In one study, scientists tested 50 canned foods which included brand name fish, fruits, vegetables, beans, soups, sodas, and milk obtained in both the U.S. and Canada. Their tests showed that BPA was found in 92%
of the foods they tested. They also noted that BPA levels can be different between cans of the same product and same brand.

13. Which of the following sentences from the article shows that avoiding certain types of canned food brands may not be a good plan for reducing one's exposure to BPA?

- A. The chemical bisphenol-A (BPA) has been linked to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and obesity.
- B. Their tests showed that BPA was found in 92% of the foods they tested.
- C. New studies show that canned foods may contain dangerous levels of BPA.
- D. They also noted that BPA levels can be different between cans of the same product and same brand.

14. Which of the following can the reader infer from this passage?

- A. Eating refried beans from a can is safer than touching printer ink.
- B. Drinking from certain plastic water bottles could be harmful for the body.
- C. Ten percent of the foods tested did not contain any levels of BPA.
- D. Canned vegetables and fruits contain less BPA than canned soups.

My mom knew the grocery store was a place where a 4-year-old child could easily get bored and frustrated while sitting in the shopping cart. When I was about 4 years old, she would play a game in the grocery store with me called "I Spy" to keep me from getting bored while shopping and to test my knowledge on colors, shapes, or certain food items.

The game would start with my mom saying, "I spy something green and round." I would instinctively react by looking for an item that met her description. When I spotted what I thought she was describing, I would point to the item. She would then tell me if I was correct or not.

When I would look around the store at other kids being wheeled around in shopping carts, they looked miserable and ready to go home. My mom knew how to make going to the grocery store fun, and I couldn't help but feel sorry for those other kids my age who didn't have a mom like mine.
15. In the story, the narrator explains the "I Spy" game. Based on what the narrator's mom said in the second paragraph, what did she "spy"?

- A. an onion
- B. a lemon
- C. a lime
- D. a grapefruit

16. Which sentence from the story shows that the narrator's experience was much different than many other's experience at the grocery store?

- A. When I would look around the store at other kids being wheeled around in shopping carts, they looked miserable and ready to go home.
- B. My mom knew the grocery store was a place where a 4-year-old child could easily get bored and frustrated while sitting in the shopping cart.
- C. When I spotted what I thought she was describing, I would point to the item.
- D. The game would start with my mom saying, "I spy something green and round."

17. From the story, the reader can tell that

- A. the narrator's mom feels sorry for the other children.
- B. the other children wanted to play "I Spy," too.
- C. the narrator does not enjoy playing "I Spy."
- D. the narrator's mom cares deeply for the narrator.

18. The narrator's mom is most similar to

- A. a cashier in a grocery store.
- B. a doctor in a hospital.
- C. a teacher in a classroom.
- D. a cook in a restaurant.

A Day for Strawberries

Rita's family had just moved to Scrantonville, Michigan. Before leaving for school, Rita's mom took a few moments to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for Rita. She placed the sandwich into a brown paper sack along with a bag of chips and some
strawberries. Rita loved strawberries, and it wasn't too often that she got to eat them at lunch. She usually got a banana instead.

Once at the school, Rita's mom walked her daughter to the office to check Rita into the school. Rita met the counselor, Ms. Beckham, who handed her the schedule and a map of the school. Rita hugged her mom and tried to manage a smile so that her mom would not worry about her. Ms. Beckham showed Rita where her locker was located and helped her open up the locker. She also showed Rita where her classes were located on the map. As Rita began walking toward her first period class, she heard a loud bell sound. Immediately, the students who had been heading to their classes stopped and began filing outside the building through the nearest doors. Rita followed a nearby group of girls outside.

19. How does the author show that it is Rita's first day at the school?

A. by having Rita hug her mom good-bye when it is time for Rita to go to her locker and first period class
B. by having Rita go to her first period class instead of outside with the others when the alarm sounds
C. by having Rita's mom pack the sack lunch and drive Rita to school.
D. by having the counselor give Rita a school map and show Rita where her locker is

20. The reader can conclude that the alarm that Rita hears is

A. a wake-up call.
B. the first period bell.
C. a fire drill.
D. the lunchtime bell.