Name_____

Date_____

• Reading Comprehension 4 <small>Level 6</small>

Directions: *Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.*

Mona doesn't like to ask people for help. But it is hard for her to perform daily activities on her own. She is almost 13, yet she is no larger than a 5-year-old. Mona has trouble keeping her balance and can't walk very far. When she uses a wheelchair, she can't push it herself.

Fortunately, Mona has a wonderful service dog named Sam. A service dog is a dog that has been trained to assist someone who has a physical problem. Sam lets Mona lean on him when she walks. He also pulls her wheelchair and turns lights on and off. When Mona drops something, Sam picks it up. He even pulls her socks off at night.

Sam also helps Mona with everyday tasks at school. He carries her books from class to class in a special backpack. He puts Mona's completed assignments in her teachers' homework trays. In the lunchroom he throws away her trash.

Besides making Mona less dependent on other people, Sam helps her lead a fuller life. Mona's classmates flock around Sam like geese. This has helped her make friends. Sam also helps Mona be more active. With his aid, she raised over $500 in a walk-a-thon for her local humane society.

Because of Sam, Mona doesn't have to ask people for help. Sam brings her closer to other kids. And he even helps her contribute to her community.

Questions

1) Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

    A. Why Mona Loses Her Balance
    B. How Mona's Service Dog Helps Her
    C. Sam Helps Mona at School
    D. Raising Money for the Humane Society

2) Using the passage as a guide, which of the following dogs is most likely a service dog?

    A. Frank's dog, who turns on the lights when Frank enters the room.
    B. Raul's dog, who fetches the newspaper for Raul while he is busy getting dressed.
    C. Mei's dog, who licks Mei's face when she cries.
    D. Teddy's dog, who loves to play catch, go on walks, and watch movies with the family.

3) According to the passage, Sam helps Mona by

    I. helping her to walk
    II. performing everyday tasks for her
    III. bringing her closer to her classmates

    A. I only
    B. I and II only
    C. II and III only
    D. I, II, and III

4) In paragraph 4, the author writes, "Mona's classmates flock around Sam like geese." Which of the following literary techniques is used in this sentence?

    A. *allusion*, characterized by a reference to, or representation of, people, places, events, literary work, myths, or works of art, either directly or by implication
    B. *personification*, characterized by giving human traits to nonhuman things, such as animals or objects
    C. *irony*, characterized by the use of words to express the opposite of their usual meaning
    D. *simile*, characterized by the making of a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**
A good title summarizes the main idea of the passage and lets the reader know what to expect should he or she read further. In paragraph 1, the author illustrates Mona's need for assistance with routine activities. In the beginning of paragraph 2, the author tells us that Mona has a service dog and explains that a service dog helps someone who has a physical problem. In paragraph 3, the author shows how Mona's service dog helps her lead a fuller life. In the final paragraph, the author sums up the main ways that Mona's service dog helps her. Using this information, we can understand that the main idea of this passage is to explain how Mona's service dog, Sam, helps her. Therefore, the best title for the passage would be *How Mona's Service Dog Helps Her*, since it best summarizes the main idea. Choice **(B)** is correct. The author never explains why Mona has trouble keeping her balance. So **(A)** is incorrect. The passage does show that Sam helps Mona at school **(C)**, and that Mona raised money for her local humane society **(D)**, but these are not main ideas. They are merely details the author uses to support a larger idea. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **A**
In paragraph 2, the author tells us a service dog is "a dog that has been trained to assist someone who has a physical problem." Later in the paragraph, the author tells us that Mona's service dog "pulls her wheelchair and turns lights on and off." This lets us know that a service dog does things that help someone who has a physical problem. Since Frank's dog turns on the lights when Frank enters the room, we can understand that this is something that a dog would do to help someone who has a physical problem. Therefore, it is most likely that Frank's dog is a service dog. This means choice **(A)** is correct. Raul's dog helps Raul by fetching the newspaper while he gets dressed. Although this is helpful, there is no indication that Raul is disabled, or that he *needs* a dog to do this work for him. This eliminates choice **(B)**. Although it seems sweet that Mei's dog licks Mei's face when she cries, this is not an act of helping her do something that she cannot do on her own. This means **(C)** is incorrect. **(D)** is incorrect because Teddy's dog does not do anything beyond what an ordinary dog would do.

3) **C**
In paragraph 2, the author tells us that "Sam lets Mona lean on him when she walks." This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 2, the passage shows us that Sam performs everyday tasks for Mona, such as pulling off her socks and carrying her schoolbooks. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 3, the author writes, "Mona's classmates flock around Sam like geese. This has helped her make friends." This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

4) **D**
The sentence in question uses the word "like" to compare Mona's classmates to geese. Therefore the above sentence is a simile, making **(D)** the correct choice. The above sentence does not reference to, or representation of, people, places, events, literary work, myths, or works of art, either directly or by implication. Therefore, the above sentence is not an allusion. **(A)** is incorrect. Saying that "Mona's classmates flock around Sam like geese" gives animal traits to human beings, not the reverse. Therefore, the above sentence does not use personification, and **(B)** is incorrect. Finally the phrase "flock around Sam like geese" uses words to express their ordinary meaning. Therefore, the above sentence does not use irony. So **(C)** is incorrect.