



This story is about a girl named Jennifer who is working at her parent's diner over the summer. She is trying to earn money to buy a new computer. Now read about Jennifer. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Bank Deposit

- 1 Jennifer watched as her mother counted the money from the cash register and filled out a bank deposit slip. Mom and Dad had agreed to let her work part-time at the family diner during her summer vacation. She wanted to earn enough money to buy a new computer. Jennifer's job was to clean the tables after people finished eating. She worked hard and tried to do a good job. She wanted to show her parents that they had made a good decision.

1. What is paragraph 1 mainly about?
- A. Jennifer's job at the family diner.
 - B. Jennifer's summer vacation.
 - C. The new computer Jennifer wants.

- 2 Mom wanted to take the deposit to the bank right away, but Jennifer's dad had not returned from getting the car repaired. "I guess I'll just have to take this money to the bank later," Mom said, walking into her office. She locked the money in a small lockbox in the desk drawer and put the key into her pocket.

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- 3 "I can take it for you, Mom," Jennifer said. She wanted to be helpful.
- 4 "That's O.K.," Mom said. "I need you to do just what you're doing."
- 5 Jennifer frowned. She knew that her mother didn't trust her with the money. "The bank's right across the street," she said.
- 6 "Oh, no! We're almost out of coffee," Mom said. "Jennifer," she said, reaching into her pocket and taking out some folded money, "will you go across the street to Fred's Market and buy a can of coffee?"

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2. The reader can conclude that Jennifer —

F. has taken a deposit to the bank before.

G. is the only helper her mother has that morning.

H. wants to have hours added to her work schedule.



- 7 "Sure," Jennifer said, taking the money. She went back to the office to get her jacket while Mom resumed waiting on customers. As Jennifer was putting the money into her pocket, she saw the key to the lockbox between the folded money her mother had given her. Jennifer remembered the bank deposit in the desk drawer. She knew it was ready to take to the bank. "I'll surprise Mom and take the deposit to the bank on my way to the market," she thought. "Then she'll see that I can be trusted." She took the key, unlocked the lockbox, and took out the bank bag. "I'll be right back," she said as she headed out the door.

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3. What does the word resumed mean in paragraph 7?
- A. Started again
 - B. Communicated to
 - C. Asked for
4. How does paragraph 7 help the reader understand the story?
- F. It shows why Jennifer decides to take the deposit.
 - G. It explains how much money is in the deposit.
 - H. It tells why Jennifer's dad is not at the diner yet.



- 8 "O.K. Thanks, Jennifer," Mom called after her.



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- 9 Jennifer walked across the street to the bank. "I should put the money in the bank first," she said to herself. But when she opened the bank door, she saw a long line. Jennifer decided to go to the market first. She went to the market and found the coffee aisle. As she grabbed a can of coffee, she put the bank bag down. Then she reached into her pocket to get the money for her purchase. Then she went to the cashier and paid for the coffee.

5. Why doesn't Jennifer deposit the money before buying the coffee?
- A. The grocery store is closing for lunch.
 - B. The line at the bank is too long.
 - C. She is afraid the store might be out of coffee.

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10 "Thanks, honey," Mom said when Jennifer walked into the diner. "Why don't you open the can and make a pot of coffee? Do you remember how?"

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11 "Sure!" Jennifer said. She could see that Mom was busy, and it felt good to be helping out. Just as she was starting the pot of coffee, her father returned.

6. Which sentence from the story shows that Jennifer likes to work in the diner?

F. *"Maybe there won't be as many people after I go to the market," she thought.*

G. *"Why don't you open the can and make a pot of coffee? Do you remember how?"*

H. *She could see that Mom was busy, and it felt good to be helping out.*

7. Why does Jennifer wait to tell her mother about the bank deposit when she returns from the grocery store?

A. Jennifer's mother needs her to clean more tables.

B. Jennifer has forgotten about the bank deposit.

C. Jennifer's mother is too busy unloading the supply truck.

12 "Hi, Dad," Jennifer said.

13 "Frank," Mom said as Dad walked into the diner, "can you take the money to the bank before you get started? It's in the desk drawer." Jennifer felt her stomach drop. The bank deposit! Her heart raced. What had she done with the bank deposit?

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- 14 "I don't see it," Dad called a moment later from the office.
- 15 "Well, I put it right there," Mom said, walking back to the office. After searching the office, she sighed. "Somebody must have sneaked in here and taken it while I was busy with customers and Jennifer was at the store."
- 16 "We should call the police," Dad said.
- 17 "Mom, Dad," Jennifer said slowly as she walked toward them, "I lost the bank deposit."
- 18 "What?" Mom asked. Jennifer explained as quickly as she could. "You must have left it at the market," Mom said. "Let's go look. Maybe someone turned it in." Jennifer and Mom dashed across the street to Fred's Market and asked the manager if anyone had turned in a bank bag. No one had. Then they retraced Jennifer's steps through the store. Finally Jennifer saw the bank bag lying on the floor, under the edge of a shelf.
- 19 "Mom," Jennifer said, "I found it!"

8. Why does Jennifer's heart race when her mother asks her father to take the money to the bank?

F. Her stomach is upset from the coffee.

G. She realizes she has lost the deposit.

H. Her father knows she took the money.

- 20 Mom looked worried as she opened the bag. "Well," she said, frowning, "the money is gone." Jennifer hung her head. "But the checks and the credit card receipts are still here, so it's not a total loss." Jennifer felt terrible. She went with her mother to the bank to deposit the checks. Then they went back to the diner and explained

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- everything to her father.
- 21 "I just wanted to show you and Mom that I could do more than wipe tables," Jennifer finished.
- 22 "Jennifer," Dad said, "I know you were trying to help, but that doesn't excuse what you've done."
- 23 "I guess you don't want me to work here anymore," she said softly, her face burning red. Jennifer felt sick to her stomach. She couldn't even look at her parents.
- 24 "Yes we do," Dad said. "You need to work to pay back the money you lost. And after you've paid your debt, you might still be able to save enough for that new computer."

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9. Which sentence from the story shows that Jennifer is ashamed of what she has done?

A. *"I guess you don't want me to work here anymore," she said softly, her face burning red.*

B. *"But the checks and credit card receipts are still here, so it's not a total loss."*

C. *"You will need to pay back the money you lost."*

10. How does Jennifer change by the end of the story?

F. She realizes she should listen to her parents.

G. She decides to work at the grocery store.

H. She doesn't want a computer anymore.





This is a newspaper article about a famous museum called the Smithsonian Institution. Now read about this well known museum. Then answer the questions that follow.



A Newspaper for the Students by the Students

On April 23 the Clear Springs sixth-grade class will visit the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. This issue of the Clear Springs Cougar will give readers information about the museum and its history. The next issue will describe the students' visit.

The Smithsonian Institution— How It Started

by Troy Mason

- 1 There is still mystery surrounding how the Smithsonian Institution was founded. In his will James Smithson gave more than \$500,000 to the United States. He wanted the government to establish an institution to help increase and spread knowledge. Congress accepted his gift and in 1846 created the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



The National Air and Space Museum is one of the Smithsonian's most popular museums.

Photograph courtesy of © Mark E. Gibson/CORBIS.

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No one is really sure why Mr. Smithson gave this money to our country. He wasn't a U.S. citizen. In fact, Smithson was born in France, grew up in England, and was educated there at Oxford University. He never even traveled to the United States.

11. From the information in paragraph 1, what can the reader conclude about James Smithson?

- A.** He wanted to increase and spread knowledge.
 - B.** He enjoyed living in France.
 - C.** He was a member of Congress.
-

2 The Smithsonian Institution had a humble beginning. It started in a large stone building called the Castle. At first the Castle housed a variety of objects from art and natural history. The Castle also had a chemistry laboratory and a library.

3 Since 1846 the Smithsonian has grown into a multi-building organization. It now includes a zoo and 16 museums. The National Air and Space Museum, which opened in 1976, is one of the Smithsonian's most popular museums.

12. How has the Smithsonian changed since 1846?

- F.** It now contains items from art and history
 - G.** The museums are now located in a different city.
 - H.** It is now made up of several different buildings.
-



- 4 The National Air and Space Museum is dedicated to the history of flying. The museum has more than 20 galleries, a theater, and a planetarium. Inside the museum are many famous aircraft, including the Wright 1903 Flyer, also known as the *Kitty Hawk*. On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made the world's first flight in the *Kitty Hawk*. Also displayed is the *Spirit of St. Louis*, the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.



Photograph courtesy of © Richard T. Nowitz/CORBIS.

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13. The *Kitty Hawk* is well known because —
- A. it performed the world's first flight.
 - B. it flew across the ocean.
 - C. it is on display at a famous museum.
14. The Spirit of St. Louis was the plane —
- F. also known as *Kitty Hawk*.
 - G. flown by Wilbur Wright.
 - H. flown by Lindbergh across the Atlantic.
-

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- 5 The museum holds some of the first U.S. spacecraft. These include John Glenn's *Mercury Friendship 7* capsule, which was the first U.S. spacecraft to orbit Earth. Also on display is the *Apollo 11* command module *Columbia*. In 1969 the *Columbia's* lunar module *Eagle* was the first spacecraft to land on the moon.

Use the whole story "The Smithsonian Institution – How It Started" on pages 8-11 to answer questions 15-17.

- 15.** The author probably wrote this article to —
- A.** tell about James Smithson.
 - B.** describe the Smithsonian Institution and its beginnings.
 - C.** give details about the history of air travel.
- 16.** Which sentence from the article shows that part of the Smithsonian's history is unusual?
- A.** Congress accepted his gift and in 1946 created the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.
 - B.** No one is really sure why Mr. Smithson gave this money to our country.
 - C.** Since 1846 the Smithsonian has grown into a multi-building organization.
- 17.** Which one of the following statements is a fact?
- A.** Mr. Smithson had mysterious qualities.
 - B.** The Smithsonian includes a zoo and 16 museums.
 - C.** Wilbur and Orville Wright were the best pilots of the 1900's.





This story is about a girl named Tracy. Tracy is competing in a barrel racing competition. Tracy's sister gives her advice about how to race if she wants to win. Read about the race. Then answer the questions that follow.

Riding to Win

- 1 Tracy waited anxiously for the gate to open and her race to begin. She could feel her horse, Stubby, restlessly stomping the ground. Tracy tried to pretend it was just like all her practices back at her father's ranch, but she couldn't fool herself. The rodeo crowd buzzed with excitement around her. "I can do this," Tracy told herself. Tracy looked over at her sister Sheri, who was always calm. Sheri had been through this many times before. Sheri smiled and gave Tracy a thumbs-up sign.

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- 2 The gate opened, and Stubby ran out toward the first barrel. The horse knew what to do without Tracy even guiding him. They had spent many hours practicing, so circling the barrels was automatic for both of them. Now Tracy thought Stubby was going a little too fast. She tugged on the reins and guided him carefully around the first barrel. Stubby seemed to fight her, as if to say, "I can do this. Let me show you." It was the first of two rides that would decide the winner of the Barrel Racing Championship. Riders had two chances to circle the three barrels with their horse and return to the starting point. The rider with the fastest combined time would win.
- 3 After Stubby sprinted around the first barrel, Tracy let him gain speed as they raced toward the second barrel. She could feel him picking up speed. Tracy knew they needed to be fast to have a chance of winning. She also knew that missing a barrel or knocking one over could put her in last place. She pulled back on the reins, just a little, to make sure that Stubby was not going too fast. Stubby snorted as they circled the second barrel. Now he shot toward the final barrel. Tracy slowed him again, leaning into the turn as they rounded the barrel. They sped toward the finish line. Tracy looked for her time: 19.6 seconds. Not bad for the newest rider in the championship. Tracy's time put her in fourth place.
- 4 Now it was her sister's second turn. "Ride carefully," Tracy said as her sister waited at the line.
- 5 "Lynda Adams finished her first race in 18.1 seconds," Sheri reminded Tracy. "I'm not going to beat that by riding carefully."

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- 6 "But—" Tracy started to say as the gate opened and Sheri raced out. She was riding a black horse named Beetle. Beetle and Sheri moved full speed toward the first barrel. "Slow down. Slow down," Tracy whispered. Tracy had watched her sister race before but never this fast. She was sure that Sheri would knock the barrel over. Somehow Sheri and Beetle made it safely around and raced for the second barrel. Tracy looked at the clock; Sheri had made good time. "Be careful," she pleaded under her breath. Again, somehow, Beetle managed to get cleanly around the barrel. Now they were charging for the last barrel. Tracy could see they were making great time. She could hear the cheering. "Maybe Sheri can beat Lynda's time!" Tracy thought. But then Beetle cut around the last barrel too early, knocking it down. The crowd groaned as Sheri and Beetle raced back to the start gate. Their time was 18.0, but a five second penalty was added for knocking one barrel over, bringing their time to 23.0 seconds—last place.
- 7 "Sheri, why weren't you more careful?" Tracy asked her sister in surprise. "Now you don't have a chance to win."

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8 "I told you, Tracy," Sheri said. "I didn't have a chance to win anyway if I rode carefully. So I rode to win." Tracy walked away slowly. She had another ride to make. She might still be able to finish in the top three. "I'm not like you, Tracy," Sheri called after her. "I try my best to win. If I lose, well, I will just try again next time."

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18. In paragraph 8, why does Sheri say "I'm not like you"?

F. Sheri is a better rider than Tracy

G. Sheri isn't afraid to make mistakes

H. Sheri thinks Tracy is upset about being in fourth place

9 Tracy mounted Stubby and got ready for her second ride. Tracy remembered Sheri's words of advice. Lynda Adams was just finishing her second ride. Her horse had slipped a little. She finished her second run in 19.8 seconds. Tracy did the math in her head. She needed to finish in 18.0 seconds to beat Lynda. "That's crazy," she thought. She had ridden that fast in practice but never in a real rodeo. If Stubby made a mistake, she wouldn't finish in the top three. She looked over at Sheri. Her sister smiled and clapped her hands. "Come on, Tracy!" she yelled. "You can do it!"

19. What happens during Lynda Adams's second ride?

A. Her horse knocks over a barrel.

B. Her horse moves to last place.

C. Her horse slips.



10 But it was Sheri's earlier words that went through Tracy's mind as the gate opened: "I'm not like you, Tracy." Stubby seemed to be charging too hard toward the first barrel. She started to pull back on the reins, but something stopped her. Instead, she leaned into the turn. Stubby had never felt so fast. The ground seemed to thunder under them as he ran toward the second barrel. Stubby whirled around it and streaked toward the final turn. Tracy could hear the noise of the crowd rising as they saw that she had a chance. Now Stubby turned hard around the last barrel, his hind legs bumping it as he dug for the finish. "That's it," Tracy thought. With a five-second penalty, she would finish in last place. But the noise of the crowd was increasing! The barrel had wobbled but hadn't fallen. As Stubby flashed across the finish line, Tracy saw her time: 17.9 seconds! She had done it. She had won! She looked at Sheri, who was jumping up and down. "Way to go, Tracy!" she shouted. "Way to go!"

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20. What is the mood of paragraph 10?

- F. Anger
- G. Suspense
- H. Disappointment

21. The crowd's cheers get louder during Tracy's second ride because people can tell —

- A. Tracy has a chance to win.
- B. Tracy is the audience's favorite rider.
- C. Tracy's horse has knocked over a barrel.



Use the whole story "Riding to Win" on pages 12-16 to answer questions 22-26.

- 22.** The author uses Tracy's memory of her sister's words to show —
- F.** why Tracy is inspired to ride fast
 - G.** that Tracy is not concentrating on her ride
 - H.** how angry Tracy is with Sheri
- 23.** What can the reader conclude about barrel racing after reading this story?
- A.** The judges must decide who is the best rider.
 - B.** The riders have to race around only two of the three barrels.
 - C.** There is not a time penalty for hitting a barrel that doesn't fall over.
- 24.** Which sentence explains how Tracy's attitude changes in the story?
- F.** Tracy realizes that being careful is more important than winning.
 - G.** Tracy thinks barrel racing isn't important after all.
 - H.** Tracy learns that she can't win if she is afraid to lose.



- 25.** Why does the author tell the story from Tracy's point of view?
- A.** To help the reader understand Tracy's fondness for barrel racing
 - B.** To help the reader understand the time Tracy took to train her horse
 - C.** To help the reader understand why Tracy's attitude changes
- 26.** Which sentence is the best summary of the story?
- A.** Tracy is riding in her first barrel racing championship. She is nervous as she waits to start her first ride. Tracy's sister gives her a thumbs-up sign.
 - B.** Tracy and her sister Sheri are in a barrel racing championship. Tracy watches her sister's first ride. She thinks her sister is riding too fast.
 - C.** Tracy is riding in a barrel racing championship. During her first race, she carefully guides her horse around the barrels. In her second race, Tracy follows her sister's advice and wins the race.





This article is about a boy named Mattie Stepanek who has a disease called muscular dystrophy, or MD. He spends much of his time speaking publicly about world peace. Now read about Mattie. Then answer the questions that follow.



Heroes of Today

A Celebration of People



June 2002

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Mattie Stepanek, Poet-Hero

by S. L. Dulak

- 1 Mattie Stepanek is very busy. He speaks at conferences and participates in fund-raising events. He has been a guest on television shows in Chicago and New York City. He has written two number-one best-sellers. He owns a motorized scooter that he calls Slick. Although this sounds like an exciting life, Mattie has had to face to many hardships as well. Mattie is an 11-year-old boy with a life-threatening disease.



- 2 Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek likes to be called Mattie. He was born with a rare form of muscular dystrophy, or MD for short. MD interferes with the body's ability to breathe and also affects the heart. Mattie's muscles have become so weak that he has a hard time walking. His scooter is a motorized wheelchair. He must take a portable oxygen tank everywhere he goes. These things remind Mattie of the seriousness of his disease, as do the many time-consuming medical treatments he has to have each day. But despite the disease, Mattie enjoys many of the same activities as other children his age. He loves to watch baseball and read. He has favorite games and toys. He even has a first-degree black belt in a martial art. And like other 11-year-olds, he has schoolwork. Because of the complications related to his disease, Mattie is homeschooled instead of going to a regular school.
-

27. What is paragraph 2 mainly about?

- A. The disease that Mattie has
 - B. Slick, Mattie's motorized wheelchair
 - C. Mattie's black belt in a martial art
-

- 3 Every summer Mattie spends one week at Camp Maria, the Muscular Dystrophy Association camp in Leonardtown, Maryland. The camp motto is "Friends Helping Friends." A friend is assigned to help each camper. Mattie's friend helps him with arts and crafts, wheelchair football and baseball, singing, and dancing. At the end of the session, campers write their special wishes on a piece of paper. The papers are then put into a basket, which is tied to balloons and released into the air. The balloons sail into the sky, launching the wishes.

- 4 For the past five years, Mattie has made the same three wishes: to have some of the poems he has written published in a book, to meet former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, and to have his poems read on television. Now Mattie believes the balloon wishes work.



- 5 Mattie's first wish came true during one of his numerous stays in the hospital. Cheryl and Peter Barnes, founders of VSP Books, read some of Mattie's poems and knew right away that they were special. In July 2001 the Barnes family agreed to print some of the poems in a book Mattie entitled *Heartsongs*. His second book, *Journey Through Heartsongs*, was published in October 2001. More than 450,000 copies of both books have been sold.
-

28. What was the first step in helping Mattie get his poems published?

F. Mattie's poems were found a wish balloon.

G. Mattie sent them to former president Jimmy Carter.

H. The founders of a book company read Mattie's poems.

- 6 While Mattie was in the hospital in Washington, D.C., another wish came true. He spoke on the telephone with Jimmy Carter. During their conversation Mattie didn't mention his disease. Instead, he and Mr. Carter talked of bringing peace to countries at war, such as Bosnia. Mattie thinks Jimmy Carter is the perfect hero. Since his presidency ended in 1981, Mr. Carter has worked for world peace and human rights. Mattie, too, wants to grow up to be a peacemaker and a politician.
-

29. Which idea from the article shows that Mattie doesn't think only about his own problems?

A. When Mattie spoke to former president Carter, he did not discuss his illness.

B. Mattie has written two best-selling books.

C. Some of the poems Mattie writes are about living with a serious illness.

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- 7 On October 19, 2001, the last of his wishes came true. Mattie was a guest on Oprah Winfrey's nationally televised talk show. He talked with Ms. Winfrey about his desire for peace in the world. She read several of Mattie's poems on television. Some of Mattie's poems are about the struggles of living with a serious disease. Most of his poems are about hope, peace, and wisdom.
-

30. Which sentence from the article shows the reader Mattie's attitude toward life?

F. *He spoke on the telephone with Jimmy Carter.*

G. *Mattie was a guest on Oprah Winfrey's nationally televised talk show.*

H. *On October 19, 2001 one of his wishes came true.*

.....

- 8 Mattie is the Muscular Dystrophy Association's 2002 National Goodwill Ambassador. As a spokesperson for Children's Hospice International, he speaks on behalf of sick children and their families. Although he has received many honors, Mattie feels that his greatest achievement is being alive today. Mattie continues to spread his message of peace and goodwill, hoping to inspire people to help others.
-

31. What does Mattie consider to be his greatest accomplishment?

A. Being alive

B. Acting as spokesperson

C. Receiving honors

.....



- 9 Mattie tries to live his life by three ideas. The first is to play in the puddles after every storm. The second is to celebrate life every day. The third is to never give up trying to reach what you want. Mattie's life is certainly a reflection of each of these principles.
-

Use the whole story "Mattie Stepanek, Poet-Hero" on pages 19-23 to answer questions 32-34.

- 32.** Which sentence from the article best shows the reader that Mattie is a determined person?
- F.** *Mattie tries to live his life by three ideas.*
- G.** *The second is to celebrate life every day.*
- H.** *The third is to never give up trying to reach what you want.*
- 33.** What is the author's purpose in this article?
- A.** To explain how to meet famous people
- B.** To persuade readers to visit Camp Maria
- C.** To tell readers about a boy who is fighting a disease



34. Which of these is the best summary of the article?

F. Mattie Stepanek is a busy young man who has a wheelchair he calls Slick. He uses his wheelchair because the muscles in his leg are weak.

G. Mattie Stepanek has a serious disease. He has published many poems and met Jimmy Carter. He shares information about world peace and ways to help sick children.

H. Mattie Stepanek likes to watch baseball and read. He writes poems. Someday he wants to become a politician and a peacemaker

