**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions**

Read the following selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

**Meteorites Mark Fields of Dreams**

**Small towns hope “space wanderers” make a dent in tourism.**

**Judy Keen**

USA Today

HAVILAND, Kansas

Don Stimpson peers into a 3-foot-deep hole on his farm as friends help dig

up a 150-pound meteorite. “Interesting shape,” he says. The new find will join the

collection of meteorites sitting on foil-covered chairs in his garage.

Stimpson hopes that his trove will soon be housed somewhere more

suitable. He envisions a museum here that would lure people off U.S. Highway 54

and make this town of 590 the “meteorite capital of the USA.” He’d like to give

tours of his excavation sites, where small plastic swimming pools cover the

impressions made when the meteorites, which are fragments of asteroids, plunged

from space about 20,000 years ago and fell across a 6-mile-long “strewn field.”

“If you look at small towns in rural America, a lot of them are struggling,”

Stimpson says. “We’d like to see the community benefit from the meteorites found

here.” Mayor Jeff Christensen agrees, and Haviland will hold its first meteorite

festival on July 8. “I’d like to see an educational center located here,” Christensen

says. “I see busloads of children coming for field trips.”

Haviland has competition just down the highway. Greensburg, 10 miles

west of here, has a head start when it comes to turning meteorites into tourist

draws: It’s home to the “world’s largest hand-dug well” and a 1,000-pound

meteorite found nearby in 1949. A big arrow on the town’s water tower points to

the attractions.

Greensburg’s well, 109 feet deep and 32 feet wide, was completed in 1888

and opened as a tourist site in 1937. For $2, visitors can walk to the bottom. Inside the

gift shop, past the T-shirts, the half-ton meteorite can be seen for free.

Last year, about 28,000 people stopped to see Greensburg’s Big Well and

meteorite, manager Richard Stephenson says. Greensburg Mayor Lonnie

McCollum wants to create an educational center with a mural and explanatory

video to highlight “the space wanderer.”

**Hefty Rocks, Hefty Prices**

Until last year, Greensburg’s 1,000-pound rock was the largest meteorite

found in the area and one of the biggest pallasites in the world. Pallasites are rare

meteorites that contain green olivine crystals as well as nickel and iron. But last

October, Steve Arnold, professional meteorite hunter, found a 1,430-pound

specimen 1–1/2 miles from Stimpson’s property.

Arnold’s discovery dented Greensburg’s bragging rights. His rock will be

displayed at Haviland’s festival in July. But Arnold is a businessman, not a

tourism booster, and his find is for sale. He says the meteorite is worth at least $1

million because of its size and rarity.

Arnold leases exploration rights from area farmers and pays them royalties

on meteorites he sells to museums and collectors. “The price is now well over $1 a

gram,” he says.

Stimpson, 53, a biophysicist who moved here with his wife, Sheila, in 1994

from Gurnee, Ill., hasn’t sold any of the dozens of meteorites he has found. He

grew up wanting to be a test pilot and is fascinated with space. He bought 1,000

acres because of the meteorites first discovered here in the 1880s by Eliza

Kimberly, a farmer’s wife.

“We assign a different value to these meteorites than monetary,” Stimpson

says. To finance his quest, he leases part of his property for cattle grazing. He has

taken temporary jobs in other states so he has enough money to continue searching

for meteorites.

There are enough meteorites buried in the flat fields to satisfy both

Stimpson and Arnold, but it’s uncertain whether both Haviland and Greensburg

can turn meteorites into profitable tourist attractions.

Stimpson thinks the competition between the towns stems in part from

their high school teams, the Greensburg Rangers and the Haviland Dragons.

Christensen says the rivalry has existed “since long before I was even born.”

However, he plans to invite Greensburg to take part in the meteorite festival. “I

really hope we pack their hotels and restaurants,” Christensen says.

Haviland is home to Barclay College, a small religious school, but has little

to offer tourists. There’s a farm co-op, hardware store, bank and rehabilitation

center in town, but no hotels or chain restaurants. Christensen plans meteorite

displays, lectures by scientists, and food vendors at this summer’s festival. He says

he’ll invite VIPs, including former Kansas senator Bob Dole and President Bush.

Greensburg has 1,486 residents and a thriving business district with a Pizza

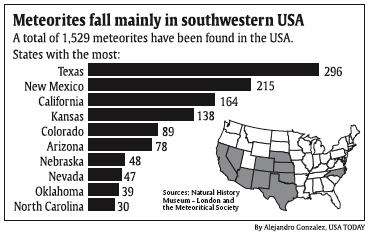
Hut, hardware and grocery stores and the Kiowa County courthouse. Besides its

well and meteorite, the town has Hunter Drugstore, a 1917 store with a lunch

counter where drinks are still mixed by a soda jerk. Still, the population is

declining. “That’s just a fact of life out in this part of the country,” says

McCollum, Greensburg’s mayor.

****

****

**Solid Competition**

McCollum thinks a bigger, more sophisticated meteorite display can help

his town’s economy. “We can make something out of this,” he says. Asked about

Haviland’s competing plans, he says, “We don’t care.” Because the two towns are

in the same county and separated by so few miles, he says, anything that helps

Haviland also benefits Greensburg.

Stephenson, who manages the Big Well tourist site in Greensburg,

dismisses Haviland’s plans. Greensburg, he says, simply has more to offer. “They

do not have the Big Well, and there’s no way they’re going to get it. It doesn’t

move.”

Stimpson is less interested in battling over tourist dollars than in sharing

the pleasure of holding the heavy orange and brown meteorites.

“It is just a rock, but what’s unique about it is how far it’s traveled and the

knowledge we’ve gained from it. It’s billions of years old. It came from the

asteroid belt,” he says. “Just holding it—that’s the value.”

Arnold shares Stimpson’s fascination with meteorites, which still fall to

Earth but are rarely seen making impact.

“It’s a buried treasure story,” Arnold says. “If you own an acre of property,

you’ve got as good a shot at finding a meteorite as anyone.”

“Meteorites Mark Field of Dreams” by Judy Keen, USA TODAY, May 17, 2006. Copyright © 2006 USA TODAY. Reprinted with permission.

**Comprehension:** Answer the following questions on your scan sheet about “Meteorites Mark Fields of Dreams.”

1. Which pattern of organization does the author use in this article?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | cause and effect |
| b. | chronological order |
| c. | classification |
| d. | compare and contrast |

2. The author’s main purpose for writing this article is to

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | inform |
| b. | entertain |
| c. | persuade |
| d. | express feeling |

3. Which word best describes the author’s tone?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | disturbed |
| b. | defensive |
| c. | factual |
| d. | ironic |

4. In lines 12-14 and 24–26, what do the towns’ mayors help you understand?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | how meteorites can attract tourists |
| b. | who enjoys finding meteorites |
| c. | where meteorites come from |
| d. | why people buy meteorites |

5. In lines 20-26, which pattern of organization does the author use to describe tourism in Greensburg?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | classification |
| b. | comparison and contrast |
| c. | cause and effect |
| d. | chronological order |

6. In lines 56–66, the author organizes the article by comparing and contrasting

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | meteorites and asteroids |
| b. | tourists and residents |
| c. | Haviland and Greenland |
| d. | men and women |

7. Which journalistic question does the map answer?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | where |
| b. | who |
| c. | why |
| d. | when |

8. Which city mentioned in the article is closest to Wichita?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Dodge City |
| b. | Haviland |
| c. | Topeka |
| d. | Greensburg |

9. What claim from the article does the map help illustrate?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Haviland and Greensburg are neighboring rivals. |
| b. | Kansas is the meteorite capital of the United States. |
| c. | Haviland and Greensburg offer different tourist attractions. |
| d. | Greensburg is home to the world’s largest hand-dug well. |

10. The author’s purpose for writing this article is revealed through the use of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | entertaining stories |
| b. | scientific terms |
| c. | personal opinions |
| d. | alarming statistics |

**Directions**

Read the following selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

**I Grew Up in a Grand Old Barn, So I Can Relate**

**The Final Word**

**Craig Wilson**

As I was flying into Omaha the other day, the farm fields of western Iowa

spread out below me. They were spring green, so green that everything else stood

out in contrast. And that included the farmhouses and their barns, little outposts of

civilization dotting the rolling countryside here and there.

Some of the barns were white. Some red. Many hadn’t seen paint in years.

But there they stood, classic symbols of American farm life. And now a symbol

quickly fading from the landscape.

I grew up in a barn. It’s gone now, burned to the ground a few years ago,

but the huge white structure on the Wilson farm was as much a home to me as my

parents’ house. There were years when I’m sure I spent more time in its haymow

than I did in my bedroom.

I can still hear the sound of the barn’s heavy door as it rolled to the side. I

can still smell the hay, bales of it stacked far and high, perfect for hiding from evil

brothers. I can still see the sunlight streaming through the solitary window high up

in the south-facing peak.

And I can still remember that following an afternoon of building forts and

swinging on ropes from outpost to outpost, the air would be so thick and cloudy

with dust you could hardly see the “enemy” a few feet away.

The barn’s foundation was nothing more than huge stones, its elegantly

arched roof held up with rough-hewn beams. And wide planks made up the main

floor, which I swept more often than I care to remember.

Like most barns built at the turn of the century—that other century—it was

a handsome building. Proud, if you can call a building proud.

But I was reading in the newspaper the other day that barns, iconic rural

symbols from Vermont to Wyoming, continue to disappear at an alarming rate.

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, for instance, reports that 1,000 barns are

lost in that state every year.

Preservation groups have asked Congress for $25 million to take a

comprehensive survey of America’s barns and promote their history. Few are

hopeful.

Barns are not high on Capitol Hill’s agenda. Congress authorized the

creation of a barn restoration program in 2002 but didn’t approve funding. Only a

few states, including New York and Vermont, have put money into barn

preservation.

But now a group of barn preservationists around the country is trying to

help, adding to the good work of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s

Barn Again! program.

Proudly dubbing themselves “barn huggers,” what they do is get farmers to

either sell or donate their structures, then take them down and reassemble them

elsewhere.

It’s too late to save the barn of my youth, but maybe others will survive

now, starting new lives over the hill or down the road or in another state, perhaps.

I hope so.

Rod Scott, who coined the term “barn hugger” and is with the Iowa

Historic Preservation Alliance, says he can’t imagine an America without a barn

on the landscape. Neither can I.

Now go out and hug a barn. While the door is still open.

“I Grew Up in a Grand Old Barn, So I Can Relate” by Craig Wilson.

**Comprehension:** Answer the following questions on your scan sheet about “I Grew Up in a Grand Old Barn, So I Can Relate.”

11. The title of the essay reveals that the author is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | familiar with his subject |
| b. | new to life in the city |
| c. | starting a preservation group |
| d. | building a barn of his own |

12. Which pattern of organization does the author use in lines 1–7?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | chronological order |
| b. | compare and contrast |
| c. | main idea and supporting details |
| d. | classification |

13. Which word best describes the author’s tone in lines 12–18?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | factual |
| b. | affectionate |
| c. | silly |
| d. | surprised |

14. What is the author’s purpose in describing the barn of his youth in lines 8–23?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | motivate people to move to the country |
| b. | seek sympathy for his difficult childhood |
| c. | build support for barn preservation |
| d. | explain life on a farm |

15. Which tone does the author use with the phrase “iconic rural symbols” in lines 24–25?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | respectful |
| b. | hopeful |
| c. | desperate |
| d. | indifferent |

16. Which aspect of the author’s life most likely influenced his interest in barns?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | job |
| b. | friends |
| c. | education |
| d. | childhood |

17. Which phrase best shows a persuasive tone?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | “New York and Vermont” (line 33) |
| b. | “adding to the good work” (line 36) |
| c. | “but maybe others” (line 41) |
| d. | “around the country” (line 35) |

**Comprehension:** Answer these questions about both selections on your scan sheet

18. The main audience for both articles is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the residents of Haviland |
| b. | college students |
| c. | scientists |
| d. | the general public |

19. Based on both passages, you can conclude that both “meteorite collectors” and “barn huggers” show

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | passion |
| b. | fear |
| c. | wealth |
| d. | anger |

**Directions**

Use context clues and your knowledge of similes and metaphors to answer the following questions on your scan sheet.

20. Which of the following expressions contains a simile?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Haviland is smaller than Greensburg |
| b. | different high school mascots |
| c. | meteorites fall like rain |
| d. | tourists stop to see the Big Well |

21. Which of the following expressions contains a simile?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | he hides from his brothers |
| b. | playing in the haymow |
| c. | bales of hay as sturdy as bricks |
| d. | barn floor was often swept |

22. Which of the following expressions contains a metaphor?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | row of meteorites on chairs |
| b. | Stimpson is a detective looking for clues |
| c. | the mayors of Haviland and Greensburg |
| d. | largest meteorite in the area |

23. Which of the following expressions contains a metaphor?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | barns are historians of the past |
| b. | government has other concerns |
| c. | barns in need of repainting |
| d. | preservation groups hope to help |

**Short Response**

**Directions: Write two or three sentences to answer the question on your answer sheet.**

24. Based on both passages, how does a person’s childhood affect what he or she thinks is important as an adult? Support your response with one detail from each article. Write your answer on your answer sheet.

**Extended Response**

**Directions: Answer the following question. Write two or more paragraphs on your answer sheet.**

25. Identify the author’s purpose in “I Grew Up in a Grand Old Barn, So I Can Relate.” Explain how the author achieved his purpose through his use of tone and word choice. Give two examples from the selection to support your answer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Short Response: Write two or three sentences to answer the question in the space provided**

24. Based on both passages, how does a person’s childhood affects what he or she thinks is important as an adult? Support your response with one detail from each article.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2 | Appropriate and logical response with two specific and relevant details from the text |
|  | 1 | Appropriate and logical response with incomplete or non-specific example from the text |
|  | 0 | Inaccurate, irrelevant, or illogical identification of purpose and/or of example from the text |

One detail from first article:

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |

One detail from second article:

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |

Response to question:

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

**Extended Response: Answer the following question. Write two or more paragraphs in the space provided**

25. Identify the author’s purpose in “I Grew Up in a Grand Old Barn, So I Can Relate.” Explain how the author achieved

his purpose through his use of tone and word choice. Give two examples from the selection to support your answer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 4 | The response is a thorough description of author’s purpose. Support is sufficient, relevant and specific. |
|  | 3 | The response is an adequate description of author’s purpose. There is some support which is relevant and specific. |
|  | 2 | The response is a limited description of author’s purpose supported by few, if any relevant details from the text. The support may be generalized details. |
|  | 1 | The response is a mostly inaccurate description of author’s purpose supported by irrelevant details, if any, from the text. |
|  | 0 | The response is totally inappropriate or inaccurate. |

**Author’s purpose:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Response to question:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

**Teac her Answer Key:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | Skill (GLE ) | Answer |
|  | Pattern of organization (2.4bI/T, 2.4i) | D (1pt) |
|  | Author’s purpose (2.4f, 2.51) | A (1pt) |
|  | Tone (2.4c, 2.51) | C (1pt) |
|  | Inference (2.4f, 2.51) | A (1pt) |
|  | Pattern of organization (2.4bI/T, 2.4i) | D (1pt) |
|  | Pattern of organization (2.4bI/T, 2.4i) | C (1pt) |
|  | Understanding text features (2.4b) | A (1pt) |
|  | Comprehension (2.3c) | B (1pt) |
|  | Understanding technical text (2.3b) | A (1pt) |
|  | Author’s purpose (2.4f, 2.51c) | B (1pt) |
|  | Author’s purpose (2.4f, 2.51c) | A (1pt) |
|  | Pattern of organization (2.5b, 2.51) | C (1pt) |
|  | Tone (2.4c, 2.51) | B (1pt) |
|  | Author’s purpose (2.4f, 2.51) | C (1pt) |
|  | Tone (2.4c, 2.51) | A (1pt) |
|  | Inference (2.4j, 2.5d, 4.4b) | D (1pt) |
|  | Tone (2.4c, 2.5l) | B (1pt) |
|  | Evaluate (2.5f, 2.5i/2.5j, 2.51) | D (1pt) |
|  | Synthesize (2.4f, 2.51) | A (1pt) |
|  | Context clues (2.2a, 2.2a1, 2.4c, 2.4c2) | C (1pt) |
|  | Context clues (2.2a2,2a1e, 2.4c, 2.4c2) | C (1pt) |
|  | Context clues (2.2a2.2a1e, 2.4c, 2.4c2) | B (1pt) |
|  | Context clues (2.2a, 2.2a1e, 2.4c, 2.4c2) | A (1pt) |
|  | Supporting evidence (2.4j, 2.5d, 4.4b2) | Drop down – 0, 1, 2 |
|  | Author’s purpose (2.4f, 2.51) | Drop down – 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 |

**Written Response: from McDougal-Littell**

24. ANS:

Responses will vary.

Students may use one of the following details from each article as support:

a. Don Stimpson’s childhood interests have affected what he finds important as an adult. As a child, Stimpson wanted to be a test pilot. As an adult, Stimpson is fascinated with space and spends his time and money searching for meteorites. (Lines 41–49)

b. Wilson’s childhood experiences have affected what he finds important as an adult. As a child, Wilson enjoyed playing in the barn on his family’s farm. As an adult, Wilson believes that barns across America should be preserved. (Lines 8–21,41–43)

25. ANS:

Responses will vary.

The author’s main purposes are to inform readers that barns are disappearing and to persuade them to take action that will prevent this loss.

Students may name one of the two purposes. They may support their answers with two of the following examples:

a. The author describes his experiences growing up in a barn. His affectionate, nostalgic tone reveals his purpose to convince you that barns are monuments worth saving (lines 8–23).

b. The author conveys an informational tone by giving facts and statistics on the number of barns disappearing and what the government is doing about it (lines 26–34).

c. The author uses a persuasive tone when describing the “good work” of barn preservationists who are trying to reverse the problem (lines 35–46).

d. The author implores you to take action and join the cause by choosing words such as “not too late” and “save”; his word choice conveys an urgent tone. (lines 41–43).

e. The author describes barns by using nostalgic, respectful words and phrases such as “classic symbols of American farm life,”“handsome building,”“proud,” and “iconic rural symbols.” His tone is respectful and earnest, and it plays to people’s patriotism and nostalgia (lines 6, 23, 24–25).