

Reading Comprehension Activity One

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

1. It could be said that the great battle between the North and South we call the Civil War was a battle for individual identity. The states of the South had their own culture, one based on farming, independence, and the rights of both man and state to determine their own paths. Similarly, the North had forged its own identity as a center of centralized commerce and manufacturing. This clash of lifestyles was bound to create tension, and this tension was bound to lead to war. But people who try to sell you this narrative are wrong. The Civil War was not a battle of cultural identities – it was a battle over slavery. All other explanations for the war are either a direct consequence of the South's desire for wealth at the expense of her fellow man or a fanciful invention to cover up this sad portion of our nation's history. And it cannot be denied that this time in our past was very sad indeed.
2. Although it's a common disease, the flu is actually not highly infectious; that is, it is relatively difficult to contract. The virus can only be transmitted when individuals come into direct contact with the bodily fluids of people infected with it, often when they are exposed to expelled aerosol particles resulting from coughing and sneezing. Since these particles only travel short distances and the virus will die within a few hours on hard surfaces, it can be contained with simple health measures like hand washing and face masks.

The flu is not considered to be highly infectious because

The main idea of the passage is that

- A. the Civil War was the result of cultural differences between the North and the South.
 - B. the Civil War was the result of national division over slavery.
 - C. the North's use of commerce and manufacturing allowed it to win the war.
 - D. the South's belief in the rights of man and state cost them the war.
- A. many people who get the flu will recover and have no lasting complications, so only a small number of people who become infected will die.
 - B. the process of viral shedding takes two days, so infected individuals have enough time to implement simple health measures that stop the spread of the disease.
 - C. the flu virus cannot travel far or live for long periods of time outside the human body, so its spread can be easily contained if measures are taken.
 - D. twenty-four hours is a relatively short period of time for the virus to spread among a population.

3. Mason was one of those guys who just always seemed at home. Stick him on a bus, and he'd make three new friends; when he joined a team, it was only a matter of time before he was elected captain. This particular skill rested almost entirely in his eyes. These brown orbs seemed lit from within, and when Mason focused that fire, it was impossible not to feel its warmth. People sought out Mason for the feeling of comfort he radiated, and anyone with a good joke would want to tell it to him. His laughter started with a spark in his eyes that ignited into his wide smile.

Which of the following is a logical conclusion that can be drawn from this description?

- A. Mason wishes people would tell him more jokes.
- B. Mason is very good at sports.
- C. Mason does not like when strangers approach him.
- D. Mason has many friends.

4. Skin coloration and markings play an important role for snakes: they help snakes attract mates and warn predators that the snake is poisonous. However, those markings may be misleading. Some snakes have found a way to ward off predators without the actual venom. The California king snake, for example, has very similar markings to the venomous coral snake with whom it frequently shares a habitat. But the king snake is actually nonvenomous; it's merely pretending to be dangerous to eat. A predatory hawk or eagle, usually hunting from high in the sky, can't tell the difference between the two species, so the king snake gets passed over and lives another day.

What can the reader conclude from the passage above?

- A. The king snake is dangerous to humans.
- B. The coral snake and the king snake are both hunted by the same predators.
- C. It is safe to handle snakes in the woods because it is easy to determine whether they are venomous.
- D. The king snake changes its markings when hawks or eagles are close by.

5. Providing adequate nutrition to patients is one of the most important responsibilities of healthcare facilities. Patients, like all people, have two basic nutritional needs: they require macronutrients, the carbohydrates, fats, and proteins that provide energy; and micronutrients, which are the vitamins and elements the body needs to function properly. A good diet will provide the appropriate amount of macronutrients, or calories, to keep patients energized and satiated without leading to weight gain, while also providing necessary amounts of micronutrients. Such a diet will help patients remain comfortable and heal properly. A poor diet, on the other hand, can make recovery significantly more difficult.

According to the passage, the nutritional needs of patients in acute and long-term care facilities

- A. are always determined by a medical formula that combines an appropriate ratio of macronutrients and micronutrients.
- B. vary depending on the patient.
- C. do not significantly affect the recovery of the patient; medication is more important.
- D. do not significantly vary from patient to patient.