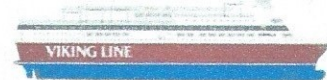


Logan looks out at the glittering, sparkling sea as he completes his morning stretches. "How did I get here?" he wonders. Touching his toes and twisting his torso. "How did I get so lucky?"



It probably started with his love of dance. For as long as Logan can remember, he's been the guy who jumps up and starts a conga line whenever he hears music. He even joined his middle and high school dance teams to compete on a national level.

When he got a little older, Logan decided to take his dancing skills to Broadway. He auditioned for roles in many different theater productions, and while he didn't always get the gig, he always valued the experience.

After a while; however, Logan started to crave something new. He was tired of performing in the same city night after night. He wanted fresh experiences in new, exotic cities, and he wanted to perform for different kinds of people instead of the usual New York City crowd.

That's when Logan decided to join a cruise ship as one of their entertainers. Not only would he get to travel the world, but he'd also perform for all kinds of people from many different walks of life. It was everything that he wanted in one unconventional package!

A typical day for Logan starts with morning exercises on the top deck of the ship. As a professional dancer, he has to stay limber, and he loves looking at the ocean as he warms up. If he crawls out of bed early enough, he can even watch the sun rise over the water.

Then it's off to rehearsals with the rest of the dance crew. Since their cruise ship will be at sea for several months, they have to learn a dozen shows and routines to entertain their guests on different nights. Logan spends most of his time counting steps, memorizing choreography and listening for musical cues. This last part is especially important since he has to coordinate with everyone from band players to acrobatic flyers.

There's also a practical side to being a dancer. For example, Logan has to be sized and fitted for various costumes depending on the show that night. The crew also has to run dress rehearsals to make sure that their lights and props look good on stage.

When it's time to perform, Logan will stand behind the curtain and wait for it to rise. His heart will be beating wildly in his chest, and he'll hear the audience murmuring as they wait for the show.

This feeling is the same whether he's on a cruise ship or a Broadway stage, and he can't get enough of it!

Name _____

Logan Burnett: Cruise Ship Dancer



1. Which of the following sentences best describes the setting of the passage?
- A. "Logan looks out at the glittering, sparkling sea as he completes his morning stretches."
 - B. "When he got a little older, Logan decided to take his dancing skills to Broadway."
 - C. "He was tired of performing in the same city night after night."
 - D. "He even joined his middle and high school dance teams..."

2. We can infer from reading paragraph 2, that Logan feels _____ when it comes to dancing.
- A. bashful
 - B. impressed
 - C. confident
 - D. anxious

3. What is the meaning of the word, **crave** as used in the sentence below?

"After awhile; however, Logan started to **crave** something new."

- A. Logan didn't care about trying something new.
- B. Logan was not at all excited about trying something new.
- C. Logan really wanted to try something new.
- D. Logan was wondering if he should try something new.

4. From Logan's point of view, what is a benefit of being a cruise ship dancer?

- A. He was able to watch the sunrise on some mornings.
- B. Logan was able to travel the world.
- C. He was able to perform for people from all walks of life.
- D. all of the above

5. What does the author say is the "practical side" of being a cruise ship dancer?

- A. being able to perform various shows for an audience
- B. having to be fitted for costumes and attend dress rehearsals
- C. having to get up early and stretch each morning to stay limber
- D. none of the above

Name _____

Logan Burnett: Cruise Ship Dancer



1. Describe Logan's role as a cruise ship dancer. Use *at least* three details from the passage.

2. Would you consider a career as a cruise ship dancer? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cruise Ship Dancer

Circle a number to show how interested you would be in a career as a cruise ship dancer. (One means not at all interested and ten means very interested.)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What would you like about being a cruise ship dancer?

What would be the drawbacks of this career?

Would you like to learn more about this career? Why or why not?

Gage Morris: Electroplater



Gage has always loved cars. When he was a little boy, he would zoom around the playground and pretend to be a race car driver. When he got older, he signed up for mechanic classes and workshops where he learned all about engines, brakes, batteries and carburetors.

As an adult; however, Gage realized that he didn't want to become a race car driver or a mechanic. He still dreamed about working with cars, but he wanted a safer, more stable career in the automotive industry.

This is how Gage became an electroplater: someone who coats metal objects with protective layers of waxes, tapes, finishes, alkalis and other metals. While electroplaters can find jobs in all kinds of scientific and medical fields, there's also a demand for them in the automotive world, and that's where Gage decided to hang his hat.

A typical day for Gage starts on the production line of a big factory. He'll receive all kinds of metal parts that need electroplating, and depending on their specific size and shape, he might use a variety of tools to get the job done.

For example, if he's completely covering a metal piece in a rust-resistant lacquer, he might dip the whole thing into a "bath" of the lacquer solution. When it emerges from the liquid, dripping and drying, he'll use a brush to smooth it out and make sure that every inch is covered.

If Gage is only coating part of an object, however, the process is a bit more complicated. He'll start by applying a special kind of wax to the areas that don't need coating. The wax will keep anything from adhering to its surface.

Then Gage will use an industrial sprayer to coat the metal by hand. This is harder than it sounds since he's doing delicate work while wearing goggles and work gloves, so he keeps a mirror nearby to help him see all of the sides and angles of the object.

Gage's favorite part of the job is oxidizing the metal. This involves sending an electrical current through it, so he always feels a little thrill of danger even as he follows all of his job's safety regulations.

When he's finished with the component, Gage will send it down the assembly line to another worker who will complete a different task with it. In this way, building a new car is a joint effort. Gage does his part as an electroplater, and other people do their jobs as builders, painters, engineers, electricians and inspectors.

Gage is glad that he followed his passion and found a job working with cars. It might have been an unconventional path to his childhood dream, but it worked out just fine!

Gage Morris: Electroplater



1. Which type of figurative language is being used in the following sentence?

"He would zoom around the playground. . ."

- A. consonance (harmony or agreement of sounds)
- B. assonance (use of similar sounds, as in rhyming)
- C. onomatopoeia (the formation of a word by imitation of a sound)
- D. alliteration (starting a group of words with the same sound)

2. How did Gage make a compromise with his career?

- A. Gage always wanted to be an electroplater.
- B. Gage doesn't like being an electroplater.
- C. Gage is happy that he is not a mechanic.
- D. Gage decided to become an electroplater instead of a racecar driver.

3. From the sentence below, what is meant by the idiom, "**hang his hat**?"

While electroplaters can find jobs in all kinds of scientific and medical fields, there's also a demand for them in the automotive world, and that's where Gage decided to **hang his hat**.

- A. where he decided to stay
- B. where the safety helmets are kept at work
- C. a series of hooks for safety equipment
- D. a place he plans to go as soon as possible

4. What is Gage's favorite part of the job?

- A. communicating with his co-workers
- B. oxidizing metal
- C. manually coating the metal
- D. dipping metal in lacquer

5. What does the word, **unconventional** mean in the last paragraph of the passage?

- A. unusual
- B. uneventful
- C. unfaithful
- D. similar

Name _____



Gage Morris: Electroplater

1. What is your favorite or least favorite part of Gage's job as an electroplater? Use details from the passage to explain.

2. Would you consider a career as an electroplater? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Electroplater

Circle a number to show how interested you would be in a career as an electroplater. (One means not at all interested and ten means very interested.)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What would you like about being an electroplater?

What would be the drawbacks of this career?

Would you like to learn more about this career? Why or why not?