

## Answer Key

### 1. A Soccer Superstar

1. A
2. H

### 2. Where Did We Get That Word?

1. B
2. H
3. It is about *eponyms*, or words that come from people's names.
4. He could eat while playing cards without stopping the game.
5. Bloomers are pants worn under a dress. They were first shown in a magazine edited by Amelia Bloomer, and reporters called the pants "bloomers."

### 3. Letter to Mr. Peralta

1. The purpose of the letter is to thank Mr. Peralta.
2. Mr. Peralta gives the weather report on TV.
3. Answers will vary. She wanted Mr. Peralta to tell her students about his job and to get them interested in studying the weather.

### 4. Secret Messages

1. GREETINGS!
2. D
3. A code gives special meanings to symbols or words; a cipher uses the regular meaning of words, but each letter is changed to something else.

### 5. The *Amistad* Sails Again

1. B
2. Answers will vary but should indicate that African slaves on board the ship rebelled and won their freedom.
3. They wanted to return to Africa, but they were not experienced sailors, and the ship's crew fooled them.
4. Answers will vary. They want people to understand what happened in 1839, they want to show how heroic the Africans on the *Amistad* were, or they want to remind people that the struggle for freedom never ends.

### 6. Get Ready for the Talent Show

1. C

2. There were too many lip-synch acts and they were too long. This year only six lip-synch acts can be in the show and each group must limit its time to five minutes.
3. F

### 7. Fighting Fires

1. B
2. Example: Men formed a line and passed buckets of water from a water source to the fire. Women and children formed another line to pass the buckets back.
3. In 1736, Benjamin Franklin convinced a group of people to form the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia.

### 8. On Being Yourself

1. A
2. J
3. You will probably be disappointed because there's always someone out there who is better than you are at something.
4. Example: The author uses *The Wizard of Oz* characters as examples of people who think they could be special if they only had certain qualities, but they learn that they already have these qualities and are already special.
5. Answers will vary but should focus on the writer's good points and why he or she is special.

### 9. Sequoyah

1. D
2. They were letters, books, documents, or sheets of paper with words on them.
3. H
4. Example: It enabled the Cherokee to record their own history.
5. The giant redwood tree and a national park were named after him.

### 10. The World of Harry Potter

1. D
2. The author of this review likes the book. You can tell because she says things like, "beautifully written," "you won't be disappointed," "very funny and imaginative," "will keep you reading long past your bedtime."



- Answers will vary but should suggest that the writer does not like the idea of school uniforms. The writer says that uniforms “crush creativity” and suggests other problems with uniforms.
- Example: The writer recommends that the school committee gather more information and hold public meetings to discuss the issue before voting.
- Answers will vary. Students should give their own opinions and support them with reasons.

### 19. Kingdoms of Gold

- B
- J
- Answers will vary. They made iron tools for farming, which made their farms more productive. Because one farmer could produce food for many people, more men could serve as soldiers. The soldiers had metal weapons that could easily defeat their rivals who used wood or stone.
- Example: People must have salt to live, and salt was scarce.

### 20. “I Will Fight No More Forever”

- C
- G
- Example: The government would not let him return to his homeland even after he surrendered.
- Example: People who are born free cannot be happy when they are forced to live in one place and are not allowed to go where they please.
- Opinions and reasons will vary.

### 21. Crockett Travel Agency

- A
- J
- B
- Lake Tahoe offers beautiful scenery, mountain climbing, mountain biking, and an alpine slide. Big Sky offers camping and horseback riding.
- Answers will vary. Students should choose one of the five places and give two or more reasons for their choice.

### 22. Beekeeping Basics

- A
- Examples: The work is done in steps; the bees all work together to make something that one bee could not make alone.
- Answers will vary. Steps could include: build the honeycomb, gather nectar from flowers, put nectar into a honey cell, fan the nectar to evaporate the water, put a wax cap on the cell.
- H

### 23. How I Came to the Museum

- C
- J
- Answers should indicate that she was interested in George Washington’s teeth because she, too, had false teeth. The story of Washington’s teeth helped her realize how lucky she was to have good-looking, comfortable false teeth.
- She was interested in how ordinary people lived long ago.
- Examples: tools a dentist would have used long ago, wooden false teeth.

### 24. Bridging the Gaps in New York City

- B
- Examples: Both are suspension bridges; boats can sail underneath; at the time each was built, it was the longest suspension bridge ever built; both use steel cables; each connects Manhattan with a nearby community; both bridges are beautiful.
- Answers will vary. The Brooklyn Bridge was the first long suspension bridge. Many people got sick while working on it. It was the first bridge to use steel cables. Building materials and techniques improved between the 1880s and the 1920s. People building later bridges learned from what people did before.



Answer Key for IRCMS reading passages

Passage		Grade	Week	Answer				
				#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Shark Facts		4 <sup>th</sup>	1	B	D	A	C	A
The Monster in the Barn		4 <sup>th</sup>	2	B	B	C	A	B
Gazpacho Soup		4 <sup>th</sup>	3	D	B	B	C	B
The Butterfly		4 <sup>th</sup>	4	C	C	A	D	C
The Horses of Chincoteague		4 <sup>th</sup>	5	B	D	A	A	B
Watching a Beekeeper		4 <sup>th</sup>	6	C	A	B	A	B
Thomas Edison		4 <sup>th</sup>	7	C	B	A	D	A
Lady and the Garden Hose		4 <sup>th</sup>	8	B	C	B	A	D
Hurricanes		4 <sup>th</sup>	9	B	D	A	C	D
Jackson's Day		4 <sup>th</sup>	10	B	A	C	A	A
Who is Dr. Seuss?		4 <sup>th</sup>	11	C	C	A	C	A
Piano Lessons		4 <sup>th</sup>	12	B	C	A	B	C
Types of Teeth		4 <sup>th</sup>	13	D	B	D	D	C
Paper Dragon Fairy Tale		4 <sup>th</sup>	14	C	A	B	D	B
Rosa Parks		4 <sup>th</sup>	15	C	B	A	B	C
Standing at the Foul Line		4 <sup>th</sup>	16	B	D	A	C	D

The Atmosphere: The Ocean of Air Above Us		4th	17	B	B	D	C	A
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The Atmosphere: The Ocean of Air Above Us		4th	17	B	B	D	C	A
The Cookie Caper		4 <sup>th</sup>	18	C	B	A	D	A
The Eager Beaver		4 <sup>th</sup>	19	B	A	D	B	C
Time to Start		4 <sup>th</sup>	20	C	A	C	A	D
Helen Keller		4 <sup>th</sup>	21	C	D	A	C	B
Snowball		4 <sup>th</sup>	22	D	B	A	B	C
Breaking a Bone		4 <sup>th</sup>	23	D	B	C	D	B