

"Healthcare clowns help patients laugh and recover"

GAP FILL

An English adage says, "laughter is the best (1) medicine". In these troubling times, good humour is in need more than ever. Doctors, and medical staff are taking (2) heed of this and incorporating it into their care treatments. One product of this is the (3) emergence of clown doctors and healthcare clowns in hospitals around the (4) globe. There is even an organisation that sets standards. The European Federation of Healthcare Clowns Organisations was (5) established in 2011. It says: "Healthcare clowns bring moments of happiness and (6) distraction to children who are ill or who have special (7) needs....Clowns also bring smiles to vulnerable adults, including seniors and people with (8) dementia who are in hospital care."

medicine
emergence
established
needs
dementia
heed
distraction
globe

Healthcare clowns are becoming especially (9) popular in Israel, which is considered a world leader in the (10) field. The first university ever to offer a Bachelor's degree in medical clowning was Haifa University, in 2007. One healthcare clown in Jerusalem, Leah Weiss, decided to divert her (11) inner clown to help patients after a COVID-19 ward opened in March. She said she knew the clown in her would have therapeutic (12) benefits for her patients. She wants to reduce their (13) anxiety and improve their wellbeing. She enjoys working (14) alongside doctors and said: "Obviously, the doctors, they take care of the (15) body. And we come in and take care of the soul. And it (16) integrates together - the doctors understand this."

inner
anxiety
body
popular
integrates
benefits
field
alongside

Name _____

Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Life on Mars?

For centuries, mankind has been fascinated by Mars. The closest planet to Earth is **observable** by the naked eye every fifteen years. This means that early man could see the so-called “Red Planet.” In fact, the first recorded notice of Mars was made by Ancient Egyptian astronomers. But it was not until the last 150 years or so that humans began to really think about the planet. That is when new telescopes made the surface of Mars visible. It is also when people began to assume that there was life on Mars.



Predictions about the Surface

In 1877, an Italian astronomer named Giovanni Schiaparelli set out to make a map of Mars. He saw something in his telescope that made him believe Mars to have what he called “canali.” Schiaparelli gave these canali the names of famous rivers on Earth. As a result, people mistranslated canali as canals, or rivers. In fact, he meant that Mars appeared to have channels or grooves on its surface. Making matters worse, those channels actually don’t exist! They were an illusion. Modern, closer looks at the surface of Mars have revealed that there are no canals or channels.

Despite not being there, the supposed canals led people to believe Mars had water. With water, there could be life. These astronomers predicted that Mars likely had life much like Earth. And science-fiction writers used that belief to make stories about Martian life. Books such as *John Carter of Mars* and *The Martian Chronicles* would become popular works over the next 75 years. And Hollywood movies would use these stories and others to make more Martian stories. Throughout the 20th century, millions still believed or at least imagined that there was life on Mars.

The Truth

Only in the past fifty years, as NASA has sent actual spacecraft to Mars, have these reports been broken. The Mariner Missions and later the Viking spacecraft sent back close-up images of Mars. They showed a dry planet lacking any sign of water, life, or the ability to form life. So the idea of Martian life remains more fiction than science.

- 1) As used in paragraph 1, the word **observable** means able to be
 - A. **seen**
 - B. reported
 - C. explained
 - D. felt

- 2) According to information in the second paragraph, why did astronomers think there were canals on Mars?
 - A. because spacecraft detected water on the surface
 - B. because Giovanni Schiaparelli said there were canals there
 - C. because Egyptian astronomers first predicted they were there
 - D. **because of a poor translation of an Italian word**

3) It can be assumed from the passage that which of the following is necessary for life to exist?

- A. grooves
- B. telescopes
- C. water
- D. air

4) This passage was most likely written to

- A. prove that astronomers have often been wrong about Mars
- B. discuss changing ideas about life on Mars in history
- C. argue that life is not possible on any planet other than Earth
- D. suggest that astronomers may one day find life on the surface of Mars

5) Based on the information in the passage, explain the belief in “canali” in your own words.

6) As science and technology have progressed, we have learned more and more about Mars. Sometimes this has meant throwing out old beliefs when new evidence proves those beliefs are wrong. Can you think of any other ways in which modern science has proven that old beliefs were wrong? Explain.

KEY

1. Many people get **pleasure** from watching sport instead of actively exercising. **(PLEASE)**
2. She had a very disturbing **childhood**. Nobody really cared about her. **(CHILD)**
3. The city is really **attractive** during the springtime. **(ATTRACT)**
4. If you want to become an actor or actress, you have to be able to **memorise** sentences. **(MEMORY)**
5. They stared at him in **silence**. Nobody said a word. **(SILENT)**
6. The Queen gave him an award for his **bravery**. **(BRAVE)**
7. If you want to be a professional **musician**, you have to practice several hours a day. **(MUSIC)**
8. This needs more explanation so let's **simplify** it a bit. **(SIMPLE)**
9. Our **flight** to America was cancelled because of bad weather. **(FLY)**
10. You need the right **qualifications** in order to work in the IT business. **(QUALIFY)**
11. They tried hard but couldn't find a **solution** to the problem. **(SOLVE)**
12. Jack took part in the school swimming **competition** last week. **(COMPETE)**
13. Young people think **classical** music is rather dull and boring. **(CLASSIC)**
14. Cats are very **playful** animals. **(PLAY)**
15. Don't be so **careless** with your briefcase. Someone could steal it. **(CARE)**
16. The team's **departure** was postponed until Monday evening. **(DEPART)**
17. In the world of streaming media hardly anyone has a CD **collection** anymore. **(COLLECT)**
18. Flight **attendants** are not as helpful as they were some time ago. **(ATTEND)**
19. The answer is **incorrect**. You must have made a mistake somewhere. **(CORRECT)**
20. You must read the **instructions** first before you begin putting the machine together. **(INSTRUCTIONS)**
21. You don't have any **choice**. You have to go to the meeting. **(CHOOSE)**
22. I've only been learning Chinese for a year, so I'm really a **beginner**. **(BEGIN)**
23. This chair is rather **uncomfortable**. Would you like to sit in that one over there? **(COMFORT)**
24. They have a special entrance for **disabled** visitors. **(ABLE)**
25. My sister was full of **admiration** for the plan I had come up with. **(ADMIRE)**

KEY

Truman Burbank is a 29-year-old **(1) insurance** salesman who lives in a comfortable town called *Seahaven*, which is **(2) located** on an island, probably off the coast of Florida. Truman is a sincere and very nice person who begins to **(3) suspect** that there is something very strange going on his life, and little by little, he learns the **(4) truth**. Ever since he was born, Truman has been filmed for a live television show that is **(5) broadcast** 24 hours a day to the rest of the world, and thus, everything and everyone that he thinks he knows is, in **(6) fact**, part of a giant television studio designed to **(7) show** his life.

Truman begins to discover the **(8) reality** of his world when the television producers of "The Truman Show" begin to make silly **(9) mistakes** that give Truman an idea of what is really happening. After listening to a radio broadcast that seems to be broadcasting everything he is doing, and then seeing workers who look like they're fixing his own **(10) office** building as if it were part of a movie set (which it is!), Truman **(11) decides** he needs to get away from Seahaven. He tells his wife and best friend that he wants to go to the island of Fiji, where the family of a girl he once liked very much had apparently moved.

Thus, the **(12) producers** of the show must think of every possible way to **(13) convince** Truman that it would really be much better if he stayed home in Seahaven, without of course, **(14) admitting** to him that his whole world is actually a giant TV studio. Eventually though, Truman becomes determined to leave the island that he has never left before, **(15) despite** his horrible fear of water (which began as a child when he thought he saw his father **(16) drown** in a storm). As each way off the island is mysteriously blocked---from car to bus to boat---Truman comes increasingly closer to finding out the true **(17) nature** of the world around him.

KEY

1. This mechanism **prevents** the engine from exploding (**AVOIDS / PREVENTS / FORBIDS / ESCAPES**).
2. She is a very **sensitive** young lady. Be careful about what you say. (**SENSIBLE / SENSITIVE / THINKING / LOGICAL**)
3. The heavy rain of the last few days **resulted** in widespread flooding. (**OCCURRED / LEAD / CAUSED / RESULTED**)
4. It was your decision that **led** to the situation we are in now. (**LED / CAUSED / RESULTED / DIRECTED**)
5. Many producers of the item have **increased** their prices. (**INCREASED / RISEN / EXTENDED / ADDED**)
6. The weather got so bad that the rescue team had to **abandon** the search for the missing people. (**DESERT / LEAVE / DUMP / ABANDON**)
7. He always looks at the problem from a different **angle** than all the others. (**CORNER / EDGE / ANGLE / VIEW**)
8. There hasn't been a **major** earthquake in this area for hundreds of years. (**PRINCIPAL / KEY / CHIEF / MAJOR**)
9. She worked as a war **correspondent** in the Middle East for many years. (**EDITOR / COMMUNICATOR / CORRESPONDENT / AUTHOR**)
10. The weather forecast tells us that rain is **unlikely** tomorrow. (**UNPROBABLY / UNUSUALLY / UNLIKELY / UNCERTAINLY**)
11. The telescope was **invented** hundreds of years ago. (**INVENTED / DISCOVERED / RECOVERED / EXPLORED**)
12. Our **consumption** of natural resources has become a major problem for the environment. (**CONSUMPTION / DIGESTION / SPENDING / WEAKENING**)
13. The zoologist spent a few weeks **observing** the behaviour of the new-born animals. (**OBSERVING / SEEING / LOOKING / NOTICING**)
14. I paid a lot of money to get a room with a **view** of the sea. (**SCENE / VIEW / VISION / LOOK**)
15. The **inhabitants** of the island have voted to become independent. (**OCCUPANTS / PUBLIC / INHABITANTS / TENANTS**)