

Read the passage from the nonfiction book *So You Want to Be a Rock and Roll Star?* Then answer questions 1 through 5.

Passage from  
***So You Want to Be a Rock and Roll Star?***

by Brian Krumm

**Playing in the Band**

1 Now that you've taken a look at some of the best reasons to start a band, think about your next steps. Namely, you need to find others who have the same ideas in mind, maybe even the same dreams. There are many ways to find future bandmates. One of the best ways is just to talk to friends, especially ones who already play musical instruments. You can also ask your music instructors or band teachers for ideas about whom to contact.

2 Start small and work your way to bigger resources, such as taking out ads in magazines or newspapers or posting on social media websites. There are also many websites that specialize in bringing prospective bandmates together. Just type "find a bandmate" in a search engine and explore some options. But be very careful with online searches. Always ask an adult to help you respond to any potential bandmates, especially if they want to meet you in person. If you do end up wanting to meet a potential bandmate in person, always do it in a public place and bring a parent along with you.

**A Band of Two, or One**

3 Starting a band doesn't mean you have to form a full orchestra. Many popular acts, such as The White Stripes and The Black Keys, have had exactly two members. Maybe you've also heard of Simon and Garfunkel, Indigo Girls, and the hip-hop duo OutKast. Some solo acts also record music using a band name, including Nine Inch Nails, Final Fantasy, Panda Bear, and St. Vincent.

## Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 5 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the passage.

**If you do end up wanting to meet a potential bandmate in person, always do it in a public place and bring a parent along with you.**

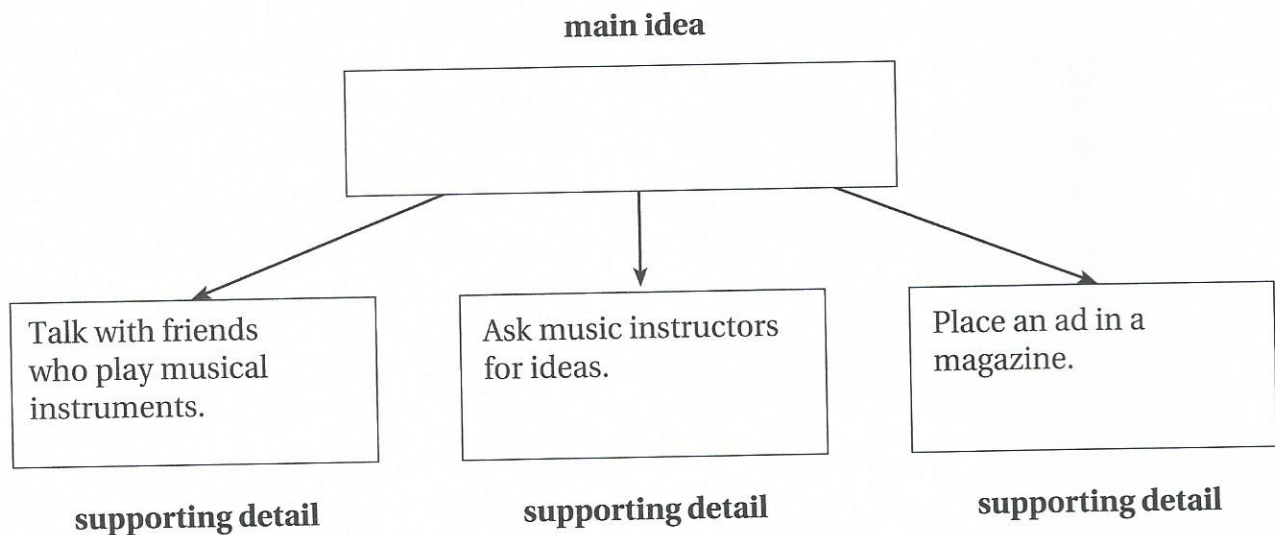
The word *potential* means

- A shy.
- B possible.
- C well-known.
- D uninterested.

2. How many syllables does the word *prospective* have?

- A one
- B two
- C three
- D four

3. The chart below shows three details from the passage. These details support a main idea. First, read the chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box in the chart?

- A There are many good reasons to start a band.
- B It is important to use care with online searches.
- C There are many ways to find future bandmates.
- D You can form a small band rather than a full orchestra.

4. Which is the **MOST** likely reason the author says that it is a good idea to meet future bandmates in public places with a parent?

- A** It's usually easier to find a public place than a house.
- B** There is often music playing in malls and other public places.
- C** You won't have to take public transportation if a parent drives.
- D** Meeting someone in a public place with a parent ensures safety.

5. What is the **MOST** likely reason the author includes the names of well-known bands like The White Stripes and The Black Keys?

- A** to help you find a famous bandmate
- B** to encourage you to choose a clever or catchy name for your band
- C** to show that a musical act can be successful with one person or two people
- D** to convince you that The White Stripes and The Black Keys are great bands



Read the passage from the fiction book *Starting Over*. Then answer questions 1 through 15.

Passage from  
***Starting Over***

by John Foley

*[Before the start of the passage below, high school freshman TD made the varsity football team. However, the police began to suspect him of a robbery, and TD realized that his friend Kenny committed the crime. The friends met secretly, and Kenny explained his plan to leave town for Crescent City, 100 miles away. His heavy backpack, he said, contained "everything I need."]*

1 . . . Kenny hefted the backpack over his shoulders. I could tell it was heavy, probably more than fifty pounds. It almost made him look small. "Well, I'd better get going."

2 "You sure? Couldn't you . . . ?"

3 "What? Try out for football?" he sneered.

4 There had to be something I could say or do to help him, but I didn't know what. Without really thinking about it, I said, "I'll go with you."

5 "Really?" He looked surprised. Relieved. "Cool!"

6 We started through the neighborhood, ducking and weaving toward the outskirts of town. It had been four months, but every shadow, every backyard, every noisy dog came back to me. I knew this town. I knew the night. But did I know Kenny?

7 It's a good thing some cops drive too fast or we wouldn't have gotten far. We heard the cruiser accelerate from two blocks away and started running without a backward glance, but still it was two blocks past us before it screeched into a U-turn.

8 We headed for Bear Creek Park. The cruiser rounded the corner just as we got there. "They're gonna catch us because of that pack," I said. "Let me take it. I've been lifting."

9 "I'm good," he said, but he was breathing hard.

10 We ducked into the trees. I figured they wouldn't chase us too hard. We looked a little suspicious, but they hadn't seen us do anything illegal. Through the branches I could see the cop get out of his car with a flashlight. Behind him I could see the lights of the football stadium, where I'd be suiting up for varsity in a few weeks. Wouldn't I? *Coach hears about this and I'm off the team for good.*

11 "Let's climb," I breathed.

12 By luck we found a good tree a few steps away. Kenny climbed and I handed him the pack. A second later, I scrambled up next to him.

*continued on next page*



13 "I love running from cops," he whispered.  
14 I loved running. "It's fun until they catch you," I said. "Is there a pile of jewelry  
in that pack?"  
15 "Nah," he answered. "The other guys kept it all."  
16 The cop's footsteps shut us up. We saw his flashlight beam scanning the area.  
The thing is, most people never look up. While he searched, I tried to hold my  
breath and think about other things. I thought about running, about blocking,  
about tactics and buddies and teamwork.  
17 The cop thrashed around for a while, his flashlight beam slashing through the  
trees. Then another cruiser pulled up. "Find 'em?" that cop yelled.  
18 "Nah," the first guy said, from right below us. "I didn't see what direction  
they ran. They must have cut through the access road, to the school." Both cops  
headed across the road in that direction, and we waited a minute or so and then  
clambered down.  
19 "I didn't bring enough food for both of us," Kenny whispered as we walked  
farther into the woods.  
20 I squinted through the trees toward the lights on the football field and  
stopped. "I'm not going, Kenny," I told him.  
21 He stared at me. He looked ticked off, scared, sorry—a lot of things all at once.  
Then his expression settled on acceptance.  
22 He nodded and held up his fist. I gave him a bump. "Good luck with football  
and school and everything," he said.  
23 "Thanks. Good luck down in Crescent City. You can start over, hey?"  
24 "Yeah. Right." He started up the trail. I watched him walk until he rounded a  
bend and disappeared. Turning back toward the lights in town, I wondered when  
those great days Coach mentioned would start piling up. Soon, I hoped.



## Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 15 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read these sentences from paragraph 10 of the passage.

**I figured they wouldn't chase us too hard. We looked a little suspicious, but they hadn't seen us do anything illegal.**

The word *suspicious* means

- A seeming very calm.
- B seeming quite friendly.
- C seeming not intelligent.
- D seeming possibly guilty.

2. Which syllable in *accelerate* has a long vowel sound?

- A first syllable
- B second syllable
- C third syllable
- D fourth syllable

3. Read these sentences from paragraphs 21 and 22 of the passage.

**... He looked ticked off, scared, sorry—a lot of things all at once. Then his expression settled on acceptance. He nodded and held up his fist.**

An antonym for the word *acceptance* is

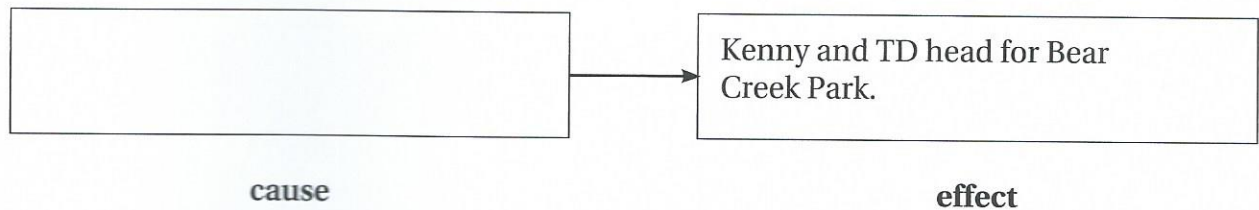
- A denial.
- B shame.
- C sorrow.
- D affection.

4. What does the prefix mean in the word *illegal*?

- A not
- B after
- C again
- D beyond



5. Read the cause-and-effect chart.



Which statement belongs in the empty box?

- A TD tries to talk Kenny out of leaving town.
- B Kenny needs a place to hide his backpack.
- C Kenny and TD want to see beautiful scenery.
- D Kenny and TD are running away from the police.

6. In TD's mind, he must choose between running away with Kenny and

- A coaxing Kenny to surrender to the police.
- B staying to play football on the varsity team.
- C telling Kenny that he no longer wants to be his friend.
- D telling Coach that he does not deserve to be on the team.

7. Why does TD decide not to go with Kenny?

- A He realizes it will ruin his chances for a better life.
- B He no longer feels as close to Kenny as he once did.
- C He fears that Kenny is so slow that they will be caught.
- D He realizes that there is not enough food for two people.

8. Which word BEST describes the kind of friend TD is?

- A caring
- B selfish
- C flighty
- D dishonest

9. Which sentence BEST states the theme of this passage?

- A Friends should always be there for each other.
- B Success on the football field always leads to success in life.
- C Sometimes you must put your best interests before your friends.
- D People can never really change no matter how hard they might try.

10. In the picture, TD and Kenny look

- A relieved.
- B distressed.
- C astonished.
- D embarrassed.

11. What will MOST LIKELY happen after the passage ends?

- A TD will change his mind and follow Kenny.
- B TD will get tired of football and leave the team.
- C TD will tell the police where they can find Kenny.
- D TD will behave himself and stay on the varsity team.

12. Which word BEST describes the author's attitude in this passage?

- A bitter
- B serious
- C amused
- D mocking

13. The problem in the passage is resolved when

- A Kenny has an expression of acceptance.
- B TD informs Kenny he is not going with him.
- C TD and Kenny escape the police by climbing a tree.
- D Kenny is relieved that TD wants to run away with him.

14. Which sentence lets you know that the first-person narrator is TD?

- A Kenny hefted the backpack over his shoulders.
- B He looked ticked off, scared, sorry—a lot of things all at once.
- C I squinted through the trees toward the lights on the football field and stopped.
- D "I'm good," he said, but he was breathing hard.

15. What is the genre of this passage?

- A mystery story
- B science fiction
- C realistic fiction
- D true-life adventure



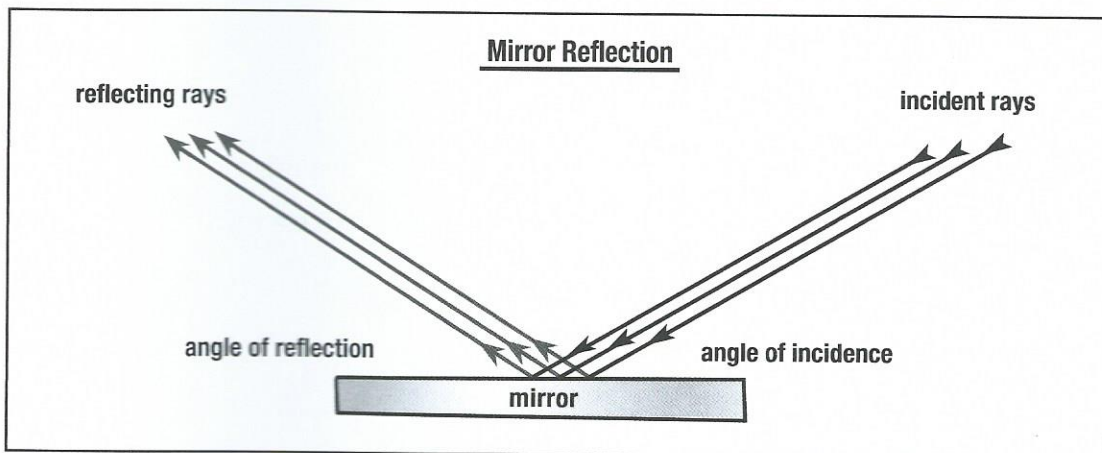
Read the nonfiction passage “Reflecting Light.” Then answer questions 1 through 5.

## Reflecting Light

1 Do you know the fairy tale or the movie about the character Snow White? If so, you may remember Snow White’s stepmother. She stared into a mirror to learn the answer to the question, “Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?” In the movie, the scene makes mirrors seem magical. But there isn’t anything magical about mirrors. At least, not if you understand reflection.

2 With a few exceptions such as flames, lightbulbs, and the sun, most objects in our world do not give off light. We see most objects because they reflect light. Reflection occurs when light rays strike a flat surface and bounce off. A light ray is called an **incident ray** before it strikes a surface. After the light ray bounces, it is called a **reflecting ray**.

3 When a flat surface is smooth and polished, all of the light rays from an object bounce off that surface in one direction. The result is a **mirror reflection**. Mirrors are made of very smooth, polished glass over a thin layer of a shiny metal. This combination makes the perfect surface for reflecting light. When you look in a mirror, each light ray from your body strikes the mirror at a certain point and at a certain angle. Each light ray bounces off the surface at another angle with exactly the same measurement.



4 Can you think of any other objects that reflect light? Smooth water is one. If you look into the smooth water of a pond or lake on a calm day, you can see your reflection. On the other hand, if wind is blowing and the water is choppy, you won’t be able to see a clear reflection. The reason is that when light rays hit a rough surface, they scatter in different directions and break up.

5 When Snow White’s stepmother asked her question about who was most beautiful, she wanted the answer to be herself. However, because she was gazing at a mirror reflection, she was bound to be disappointed.

## Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 5 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the passage.

**Reflection occurs when light rays strike a flat surface and bounce off.**

The way the word is used in this sentence helps you understand that a *surface*

- A is usually round.
- B gives off its own light.
- C is the outside layer of something.
- D cannot be seen by the human eye.

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the passage.

**“Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?”**

What is the base word in *fairest*?

- A fair
- B air
- C rest
- D est

3. The diagram shows that

- A a mirror absorbs light rays.
- B reflecting rays show an image backward.
- C light rays break up and disappear after they strike a mirror.
- D incident rays become reflecting rays after they strike a mirror.

4. Which object would probably reflect light BEST?

- A a fast-moving river
- B a painted wooden tabletop
- C a sheet of shiny white paper
- D a puddle of clean, still rainwater



5. How does the author draw your attention to important scientific terms?

- A** bold type
- B** italic type
- C** parentheses
- D** quotation marks

Read the fiction passage “Arachne and Athena.” Then answer questions 1 through 15.

## Arachne and Athena

1 Long ago in the time of Greek gods and goddesses, there lived a girl by the name of Arachne. Arachne loved to weave. She spent all her time weaving beautiful cloths with amazing pictures on them. People came from all over to gaze at these lovely cloths. Because Arachne was so good at weaving, people said she probably was taught by Athena. Athena was the goddess of weaving.

2 When Arachne heard this, she laughed. She said, “There is nothing Athena could have taught me. I am a better weaver than she. I taught myself. As a matter of fact, I’m sure I would win a weaving contest with her.”

3 Athena heard about Arachne’s boasts. She decided to go and visit Arachne. She wanted to give the girl a chance to apologize for boasting. Athena dressed in disguise as an old woman. She made her hair white, put lines on her face, and used a cane to walk. In her costume, Athena went to Arachne’s home. She pretended that she wanted to see Arachne weave beautiful pictures into her cloths. She watched Arachne for a while.

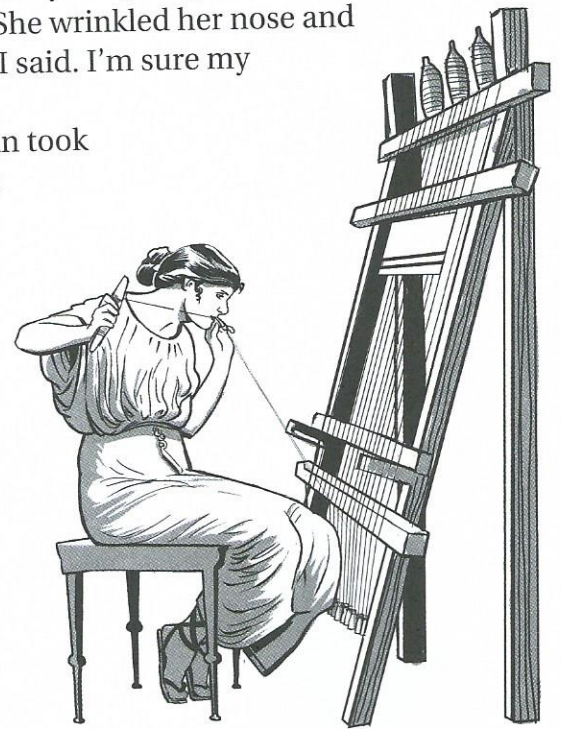
4 She said, “You are a very good weaver. You make beautiful cloths. But you are too proud. You should not think or say that you are better than the goddess of weaving! However, I’m sure Athena will forgive you if you apologize for boasting.”

5 Arachne didn’t like what the old woman said. She wrinkled her nose and said, “I don’t need your silly advice. I meant what I said. I’m sure my weaving is better than Athena’s.”

6 At these bold and foolish words, the old woman took off her disguise and said, “It is I, Athena. And I am ready to have the weaving contest!” Arachne was very surprised to realize that she was speaking to the goddess herself. Still, Arachne did not change her mind.

7 The contest began right away. The goddess and the girl sat at looms. They wove their threads in and out. Soon pictures appeared on the looms.

8 Athena’s pictures showed the gods and goddesses using their power against humans who had displeased them. Her images were a warning to Arachne. They gave the message that her pride was unwise and would get her into trouble.



*continued on next page*



9 Arachne ignored this warning. Her images showed the gods and goddesses doing foolish things. They looked silly and weak. Arachne's cloth was beautiful, but it was full of disrespect for the gods and goddesses.

10 Full of anger, Athena ripped Arachne's cloth. Arachne cried when her work was ruined. She had worked hard on it and was proud of its beauty.

11 Seeing Arachne cry, Athena said, "You are foolish and too proud. Yet, I can see that you love to weave. I will take pity on you and will not kill you. Instead, I will let you do what you love best. I will let you weave forever."

12 With those words, Athena sprinkled a magic juice upon Arachne. Arachne's body shrank. Her hair fell out. Her legs and arms changed and became long and skinny. Her belly grew round, and from it came a fine thread.

13 Athena turned Arachne into a spider. Now she could use her skill as a weaver to make spider webs.

## Reading Comprehension

Now answer questions 1 through 15 by filling in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Read these sentences from paragraphs 8 and 9 of the passage.

**... Her images were a warning to Arachne. They gave the message that her pride was unwise and would get her into trouble.**

**Arachne ignored this warning. Her images showed the gods and goddesses doing foolish things.**

In the third sentence above, *ignored* means

- A had a deep understanding of.
- B had no understanding of.
- C paid close attention to.
- D paid no attention to.

2. Read these sentences from paragraph 3 of the passage.

**Athena dressed in disguise as an old woman. She made her hair white, put lines on her face, and used a cane to walk.**

In the first sentence above, *disguise* means something that

- A looks like a work dress.
- B hides the way a person looks.
- C can be worn only by a goddess.
- D makes a person look younger than he or she really is.

3. In paragraph 3 of the passage, the word *apologize* is spoken with extra stress on the

- A first syllable.
- B second syllable.
- C third syllable.
- D fourth syllable.

4. What is the base word in *displeased*?

- A dis
- B displease
- C please
- D pleased

5. Why do people think that Arachne was taught to weave by Athena?

- A Arachne weaves beautiful cloths.
- B Someone sees Athena with Arachne.
- C Arachne brags that Athena taught her.
- D Athena loves to teach young girls to weave.

6. Why does Athena visit Arachne?

- A She wants to watch Arachne weave.
- B She wants Arachne to teach her weaving.
- C She wants to give Arachne a chance to apologize.
- D She wants to help Arachne with her weaving skills.

7. Which action happens FIRST in the passage?

- A Athena dresses as an old woman.
- B Athena turns Arachne into a spider.
- C Arachne and Athena have a weaving contest.
- D Arachne says she is a better weaver than Athena.

8. Why is Athena upset with the pictures Arachne weaves during the contest?

- A They show that Athena has a bad temper.
- B They make fun of the gods and goddesses.
- C They make Athena look like a careless weaver.
- D They do not include Athena and other goddesses.



9. Which word BEST describes how Athena feels about Arachne's disrespect for the gods and goddesses?

- A fury
- B amusement
- C sorrow
- D exhaustion

10. Why won't Arachne apologize to Athena?

- A She doesn't want to look foolish.
- B She is afraid of what will happen.
- C She doesn't believe the old lady is Athena.
- D She thinks she is a better weaver than Athena.

11. How does Arachne feel about her weaving?

- A She is tired of doing it.
- B She is very proud of it.
- C She wishes she were better at it.
- D She wishes more people would buy it.

12. Which sentence BEST states the lesson expressed in this selection?

- A Always do your best.
- B Too much pride can be dangerous.
- C You need to practice something to be good at it.
- D If you lose a contest, something bad could happen.

13. In what way does the illustration help you understand the passage?

- A It displays the story's theme.
- B It shows what Greece was like long ago.
- C It helps the reader picture how a loom works.
- D It makes it easier to picture the images on Athena's cloths.

14. In this passage, the author

- A tells the events in time order.
- B compares and contrasts events.
- C describes the most interesting events first.
- D states the main idea first and then adds details.

15. Which term BEST describes the text?

- A myth
- B poem
- C nonfiction
- D realistic fiction