

Name _____

Date _____

Text 11 *On May 17, Franny got quite a scare. Read this page from her journal to find out what happened.*

Franny's Journal

May 17

I had the scare of my life today. When I stopped by Mrs. Nolan's house, she asked if I would mind taking her dog Buster out for a walk. Are you kidding? A few minutes later, Buster and I were jogging happily toward the park.

We were almost there when this enormous black dog suddenly appeared from out of nowhere. Before I could react, the giant dog attacked Buster and tried to sink its teeth into Buster's neck. I just stood there frozen, unable to move. The next thing I knew, both dogs were rolling around on the ground, snarling and growling and biting each other. It was just awful. I was too scared even to cry out for help.

Thank goodness someone showed up just then. A boy about my age grabbed the black dog's collar and pulled him off Buster. The black beast was his. He said he was really, really sorry. His dog had yanked the leash right out of his hand and managed to get away. It wouldn't happen again.

I was still shaking when I got back to Mrs. Nolan's house. Poor Buster was limping. One ear was torn and he was bleeding in several places. Mrs. Nolan took one look at us and gasped. I helped her load Buster into the car, and we drove right over to the animal hospital.

Buster was beaten up pretty badly, but the vet says he should be fine in a few days. I'm not so sure about me, though. I still feel it was my fault that Buster got hurt. Mrs. Nolan says, no, no, of course not, there was nothing I could do. But her kind words didn't make me feel any better.

1. On the way to the park, Buster —

- (A) escaped from Mrs. Nolan. (C) was attacked by another dog.
(B) attacked someone else's dog. (D) bit another dog's owner.

2. Who do you think was really to blame for Buster getting hurt? Tell why you think so.

3. How did Franny feel about what happened to Buster?

Name _____

Date _____

Text 14 *What does it take to become a hero?*

A Hero for the World

When baseball player Sammy Sosa steps up to the plate, he hits home runs, and lots of them.

Born in 1968 in the Dominican Republic, Sammy Sosa learned early the value of hard work. When Sosa was only seven, his father died, leaving the family extremely poor. Everyone pitched in to help support the family. Sammy shined shoes every day and gave every penny he earned to his mother.

Young Sosa was so busy working, he did not have much time to play. Every once in a while, though, he would join some of the other neighborhood boys in a game of baseball. Too poor to own real equipment, the boys used tree branches or scraps of wood for bats and milk cartons for baseball gloves. The baseball was a piece of cloth wrapped with tape.

When he was fourteen, Sosa got to play on a real baseball team in his hometown. It was the first time he'd ever played using a real glove. He worked hard, and he had a lot of natural talent. When he hit the ball, he hit it hard.

Shortly after Sosa turned sixteen, he was noticed by a scout for the Texas Rangers. The Rangers offered him a contract to play baseball in the United States. Sosa signed the contract on July 30, 1985, becoming a professional baseball player at age sixteen.

Sosa was not an instant success. He still had a lot to learn about the game of baseball. Even though he could hit a fastball hard for a home run, he struck out a lot. Then he also started making more mistakes in the field.

Finally, in 1989, the Rangers traded Sosa to the Chicago White Sox. The White Sox were excited about having him. This helped restore Sosa's confidence, and he began to play well again. Unfortunately, his success did not last. Part of Sosa's problem was that he was trying too hard. He was thinking too much. He ended up making more and more mistakes. In 1992, the White Sox traded Sosa to the Chicago Cubs.

The Cubs believed Sosa could become a great player. They began to work with him to improve his batting. Sosa worked harder than ever before. Soon he was hitting more and more home runs, and he continued to improve. By 1998, he had become baseball's best all-around player. He was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player that year.



On the playing field or off, Sammy Sosa is, indeed, a hero for the world. In 1997, he created the Sammy Sosa Foundation to help people less fortunate than himself. "I want to be known as a good person more than a baseball player," Sosa said. He has donated money to worthy causes in both the Dominican Republic and in Chicago. When Hurricane Georges hit the Dominican Republic in 1998, Sosa arranged to have food, blankets, and other supplies sent there. Sosa's foundation also raised \$700,000 to help his country.

For his outstanding service to the community, Sosa received the Roberto Clemente Award in 1998. Mrs. Vera Clemente was present, and she had this to say about Sosa: "He's not just a good baseball player, but a great human being." These words most likely meant more to Sosa than any award he received that year.

1. Which of these events happened first?

- (A) The Texas Rangers traded Sosa to the White Sox.
- (B) Sosa played on a baseball team in the Dominican Republic.
- (C) Sosa signed a contract to play baseball in the United States.
- (D) A scout for the Texas Rangers noticed Sosa.

2. What is the most important thing in the world for Sammy Sosa?

- (F) being a good baseball player
- (G) living in the United States
- (H) helping others
- (J) being voted the Most Valuable Player



3. Why was Sosa most likely traded by the Rangers?

4. In what way is Sammy Sosa a "hero for the world"? Give one or two examples.



Name _____ Date _____

Text 15 *When is a whale not a whale?*

Whales and Dolphins

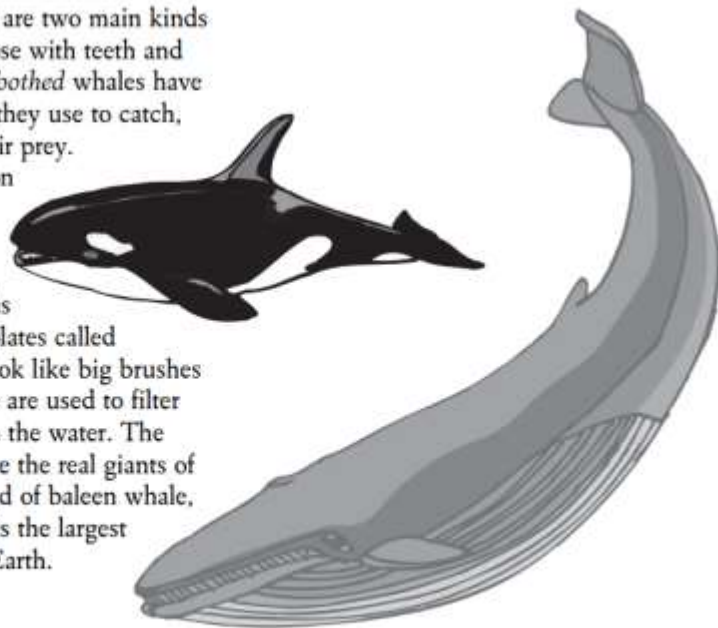
There are about 76 different kinds of whales and dolphins around the world. Even though they live in water, whales and dolphins are not fish. They are warm-blooded mammals, like cats, dogs, and humans. Like other mammals, their babies are born alive and feed on mother's milk. Mammals breathe air and cannot breathe underwater as fish do. Most whales and dolphins must come up for air after several minutes, or they would drown. A few, though, can stay under for an hour or more.

All whales and dolphins belong to the group of mammals called *cetaceans*. There are two main kinds of cetaceans: those with teeth and those without. *Toothed* whales have sharp teeth that they use to catch, bite, and kill their prey.

Baleen whales, on the other hand, do not have teeth. Instead, they have mouths full of hanging plates called baleen, which look like big brushes or combs. These are used to filter bits of food from the water. The baleen whales are the real giants of the sea. One kind of baleen whale, the blue whale, is the largest living thing on Earth.

All dolphins are whales, and they have teeth. Names can be confusing, though, especially when some dolphins are called *dolphins* and some others are called *whales*. Killer whales, for example, are really dolphins.

The killer whale is one of the most handsome beasts in the sea. It doesn't look much like other dolphins, which are a dull gray or all black. The killer whale is marked with a clear pattern of black and white, and it is the largest of the dolphins. But it is still much smaller than the baleen whales.



Bottlenose dolphins are probably the best known dolphins. They are the ones most often seen on TV and in marine parks. They can be trained to perform jumps, flips, and other exciting moves. Killer whales, too, can be trained to perform jumps and flips. Sea World's Shamu® is one example. During their training and while they are performing, the dolphins are rewarded often, usually with a fish, for carrying out certain behaviors. However, since these are all natural behaviors to begin with, the question is, who's training whom? Dolphins and whales are very intelligent creatures.

- 1. The killer whale is really a —**
 - (A) dolphin.
 - (B) fish.
 - (C) porpoise.
 - (D) baleen whale.

- 2. Which of these statements is an opinion?**
 - (F) All dolphins are whales.
 - (G) The killer whale is one of the most handsome beasts in the sea.
 - (H) Most dolphins are dull gray or all black.
 - (J) The blue whale is the largest living thing on Earth.

- 3. What are the two main kinds of cetaceans? Tell how they differ.**

- 4. All dolphins are whales, but not all whales are dolphins. Explain.**
