

Read the article and the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Amelia Earhart: Pioneer

Amelia Earhart was born in 1897 in a small Kansas town. That was six years before the Wright brothers took their famous first airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Over the next two decades, aviation developed rapidly. The pilots at the controls were mainly men. Amelia Earhart broke through that barrier to become a famous aviator, and she paved the way for the women who followed.

### Early Life

Amelia's early life was spent in many Midwestern towns. Her father had difficulty keeping a job. At times, Amelia lived with her grandparents. Her family moved frequently so her father could search for new employment. As a result, Amelia attended many different schools. She had trouble making friends and earning good grades, even though she was very bright.

The first time Amelia saw an airplane she was 12 years old, but it wasn't until several years later that she felt the urge to lift off. After graduating from high school, she worked as a nurse's aide and took care of wounded soldiers returning from World War I. Many of her patients were pilots. By talking with them, she became more interested in aviation.

In December 1920, Amelia attended the Long Beach Air Show in California. At the air show, she rode as a passenger on a 10-minute airplane flight. It was an experience that forever changed her life. As soon as she left the ground, Amelia knew she had to learn to fly.

### Amelia Takes Off

Amelia took her first flying lesson in 1921. At the end of the year, she received her pilot's license. She took odd jobs and received financial help from her mother to buy her own airplane.

Amelia quickly began making a name for herself in the aviation world. In October 1922, she broke a world record for female pilots by flying her plane to 14,000 feet in altitude. In 1923, she received her International Pilot's License—just the sixteenth woman in the world to do so. Unfortunately, Amelia had to sell her plane to give her mother money. For a while, her love of aviation became more of a hobby.

But this all changed in 1928 when Amelia was contacted by publisher George Putnam, whom she later married. He invited her to be a passenger on a cross-Atlantic flight. Amelia would have preferred to be the pilot, not the passenger. But at the time, flying a plane over an ocean was considered too dangerous for women.

The flight was successful, and Amelia became world-famous as the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. However, Amelia wasn't satisfied. She didn't get to operate the controls during the flight and thought of herself to be no more important to the flight's success than "a sack of potatoes." She was determined to fly on her own.

### **Amelia Reaches Stardom**

In 1929, Amelia became involved with an organization called the Ninety-Nines, a group that promoted female pilots in the aviation industry. She was the group's first president. In May of 1932, Amelia crossed the Atlantic again, but this time she was at the controls. She made the trip from Canada to Ireland in 15 hours. She received many medals and awards for her achievement.

Amelia hoped her success would open doors for women in aviation and in other fields, so she continued flying and setting records. She became the first person to fly across both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans when she flew from Hawaii to California.

### **An Extraordinary Mission**

Even after proving she was a world-class aviator, Amelia still wanted more. In 1937, she set off on an amazing trip: flying around the world. Amelia started in California but faced trouble along the way. She became ill; her plane needed repairs; and bad weather forced a change in the flight route. She made it to one of her planned stops near Australia, but she never made it to her next destination.

People all over the world were following the news of Amelia's trip—and now she was missing! President Franklin D. Roosevelt conducted a \$4 million rescue mission, but Amelia was never found.

Amelia hoped that her actions would inspire other women to follow their dreams. One of her lifelong missions was for the world to recognize that women could have the same careers as men. Even though she died at a young age, just 40 years old, Amelia was an inspiration to many.



## **A Basketball Dream**

“How many points are you going to score today?” my friend Jesse asks as I wrap my leg with an elastic bandage.

“I’m hoping for at least 20. You?” I reply as I finish wrapping. Then Jesse and I join the team for practice at the end of the court.

My leg isn’t wrapped because of an injury. I wrap it every game to make sure I don’t injure other people! This may sound strange, but let me explain. I was born without a tibia in my right leg (your tibia is the shin bone below your knee). When I was just two years old, I got a prosthetic leg. It’s made of metal and plastic, which is why I have to wrap it in case another player runs into me. If you didn’t know I had a fake leg, you probably wouldn’t be able to tell. At first, my parents and friends thought it would be too difficult for me to play, but they soon found out I can play just as well as anyone!

I’ve been playing basketball all my life. When I was three, my father placed a small plastic hoop on the back of my door. Every day, I took practice shots with an orange foam ball. As I got older, my parents installed a real hoop in our driveway. I practiced every day after school. All of my hard work paid off because I made the Ridgemont Middle School basketball team as a sixth grader. I’ve never let my leg stop me from reaching my goals. I’ve had to work hard to learn how to run and jump, but I never gave up.

After sinking a practice shot from the three-point line, I hear Coach Sanders blow the whistle, so I run over to the bench.

“Jason, watch number 45’s outside shot,” he tells me. “He scored 30 points last game, so we may have to double-team him.”

“Got it, Coach,” I reply. Coach Sanders issues a few more commands to the starting players, and then the referee’s whistle blows. It’s game time.

I remember the first time I stepped onto the basketball court to play in my first game. My head was swimming with the sounds of cheering fans. I didn’t think I’d be nervous, but I was.

I then realized that this was going to be very different from playing in the driveway with my dad! When my teammate won the tip-off, the orange orb headed straight for me. I caught it but felt like I was frozen in place. I soon came back to reality, turned, and headed down the court, the sound of the bouncing ball echoed in my ears.

From that moment on, my playing improved. Every game I got better and better. I sprinted up and down the court, keeping up with the other players. The ball was like a streak of lightning as I passed it across the court. The net seemed to nod its head with approval after almost every shot I took.

Sometimes I get very tired, and the ball feels like lead in my hands, but I don't let it defeat me. I push as hard as I can, knowing that I can rest later.

Today is a special day because my grandmother is in the stands for the very first time. She moved to Florida last year, so she has never seen me play on my new team. I call her after every game to tell her about how many points I scored or how many shots I blocked. Today, she'll get to see for herself.

I take my position on the court and get ready for tip-off. I keep a close eye on number 45, just as Coach told me to do. I can tell he's a good player by the way he dribbles the ball effortlessly between his legs. Suddenly, he takes a shot. I leap into the air and swat away the ball, blocking his shot! My teammate Tommy grabs the ball, runs down the court, and takes an easy shot to score the first points of the game. When I look up at the stands and see my grandmother beaming with pride, that makes my game even better.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use “Amelia Earhart: Pioneer” on pages 137–139 to answer Numbers 1 through 10.

- 1 Read the first paragraph of the article. Which words from the paragraph help the reader understand what *aviator* means?
- (A) a small Kansas town
  - (B) the next two decades
  - (C) pilots at the controls
  - (D) for the women who followed

- 2 Read these sentences from the article.

**She made the trip from Canada to Ireland in 15 hours. She received many medals and awards for her achievement.**

The author uses *achievement* instead of *deed* to suggest that the trip \_\_\_\_\_

- (E) was an ordinary one.
  - (G) was almost unsuccessful.
  - (H) required ability and great effort.
  - (I) meant that Amelia had nothing left to accomplish.
- 3 What problems did Amelia face during her childhood? Use text evidence from the article to support your answer.

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**GO ON →**

- 4 Read this sentence from the article.

**At the air show, she rode as a passenger on a 10-minute airplane flight.**

Which definition fits *rode* as it is used in the sentence above?

- Ⓕ way to go
  - Ⓖ took a ride
  - Ⓗ paddled with oars
  - Ⓘ strip of pavement or ground for vehicles
- 5 Why did Amelia sell her plane?
- Ⓐ Her mother needed money.
  - Ⓑ Her father could not find a job.
  - Ⓒ She had to live with her grandparents.
  - Ⓓ She decided flying should be just a hobby.
- 6 Which word is a homophone for the word defined below?
- to see how heavy something is**
- Ⓕ aide
  - Ⓖ field
  - Ⓗ way
  - Ⓘ world
- 7 After her first cross-Atlantic flight, why did Amelia say that she was no more important than a “sack of potatoes”?
- Ⓐ She did not have the skills required to be a pilot.
  - Ⓑ She did not get to operate the controls during the flight.
  - Ⓒ She thought she had stopped the flight from being a success.
  - Ⓓ She wanted to show that she was satisfied with the experience.

8 Read this sentence from the article.

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt conducted a \$4 million rescue mission, but Amelia was never found.**

Which word has almost the same meaning as *conducted* as used in the sentence above?

(F) considered

(G) canceled

(H) directed

(I) followed

9 Why does the author include details about Amelia's work as a nurse's aide?

(A) to tell the complete sequence of events in her life

(B) to show what caused her interest in becoming a pilot

(C) to describe how she solved a problem by helping others

(D) to explain how being a nurse is different from being a pilot

10 What problems did Amelia face once she decided she wanted to become a pilot, and how did she solve those problems? Support your answer with clear text evidence.

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Use "A Basketball Dream" on pages 140 and 141 to answer Numbers 11 through 20.

- 11 Which sentence shows that Jason is determined?
- Ⓐ I wrap it every game to make sure I don't injure other people!
  - Ⓑ I've had to work hard to learn how to run and jump, but I never gave up.
  - Ⓒ I call her after every game to tell her about how many points I scored or how many shots I blocked.
  - Ⓓ I then realized that this was going to be very different from playing in the driveway with my dad!

- 12 Read this sentence from the passage.

**The net seemed to nod its head with approval after almost every shot I took.**

The author compares the net to a person nodding to show that

- Ⓕ Jason needs a lot of practice.
  - Ⓖ Jason is making a lot of his shots.
  - Ⓗ the net seems large.
  - Ⓘ the net is broken.
- 13 What important information does the author tell readers near the end of the passage?
- Ⓐ Jason was born without part of his leg.
  - Ⓑ Jason's grandmother is watching him play.
  - Ⓒ Jason made the middle school basketball team as a sixth grader.
  - Ⓓ Jason's parents got him interested in basketball when he was young.

- 14** What is the theme in this passage?
- Ⓕ Hard work pays off.
  - Ⓖ Respect your elders.
  - Ⓗ Good friends are important in life.
  - Ⓘ Get to know people before you judge them.
- 15** How does the narrator in this passage feel about his grandmother? Use text evidence from the passage in your answer.

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- 16** Which evidence from the text tells you that Jason is proud of his achievements?
- Ⓕ He wraps his leg with an elastic bandage.
  - Ⓖ He calls his grandmother after every game.
  - Ⓗ He listens closely to his coach's instructions.
  - Ⓘ He has been playing basketball since he was young.

- 17 Which descriptive detail from the passage tells about how Jason moves?
- Ⓐ I take my position on the court and get ready for tip-off.
  - Ⓑ My head was swimming with the sounds of cheering fans.
  - Ⓒ I sprinted up and down the court, keeping up with the other players.
  - Ⓓ I've never let my leg stop me from reaching my goals.

- 18 Identify a flashback found in this passage. Then explain why the flashback you have identified is important to the passage. Support your answer with clear text evidence.

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- 19 Read this sentence from the passage.

**Sometimes I get very tired, and the ball feels like lead in my hands, but I don't let it defeat me.**

The descriptive details in this sentence support the idea that Jason

- Ⓐ is determined.
- Ⓑ is a skillful player.
- Ⓒ tries hard to do what the coach wants.
- Ⓓ gets tired more easily than other players.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use "Amelia Earhart: Pioneer" and "A Basketball Dream" to answer the question below.

- 20 Amelia Earhart and Jason both faced challenges in reaching their goals. Explain how their experiences were similar and what those experiences teach people about achieving their goals. Use text evidence from the article and the passage to support your response.

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**GO ON →**

Read the letter to the editor before answering Numbers 21 through 30.

## A Letter to the Editor

To the editor of *Oliver Community News*:

I would like readers of this newspaper to know about a special event. It is the yearly art show of the Pen and Ink Club at Oliver High School. Most people haven't heard the phrase "pen and ink drawing." However, they have probably seen at least one such drawing in their lifetime, in a book or hanging on a wall. Pen and ink drawing is just like pencil drawing. Yet it is a little trickier to learn. The most difficult part of learning it is the fact that ink is permanent. The artist cannot make a mistake because this ink cannot be erased.

Here are some details about the upcoming show. It is titled "Creatures in Ink." The opening is on Friday, November 2, at 6:30 P.M. in the Oliver Community Center next door to the high school. The drawings will remain on exhibit for three weeks after the opening.

In my opinion, "Creatures in Ink" is the best art show our club has ever held. Everyone who has already seen the drawings agrees with me. These drawings leap off the paper and grab you by the collar.

Many people have said that there are more talented students this year than usual. The proof of that talent is how many beautiful drawings there are in the show. A reporter for our school newspaper interviewed our principal about the Pen and Ink Club and the upcoming show. She told the reporter that she was proud to be part of a school with such gifted students.

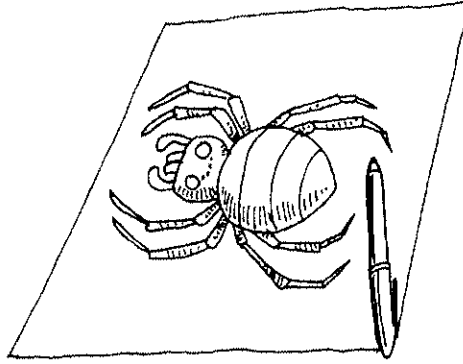
Finally, Javier Ramos, a former student of Oliver High, came to see the drawings as they were being prepared for the show. Mr. Ramos is a now a famous artist. He commented that the work was incredible. He said that when he was in high school, his drawings were not nearly as good. In fact, he said that his drawing skills at that time were rudimentary compared to what he saw here.

In the show, you'll see ink drawings of dinosaurs, birds, lizards, spiders, and monkeys. All of the drawings look very realistic. Every drawing took weeks, maybe months, to create. When you go to the show, plan to use your skills as a careful observer. Be sure to spend time in front of each drawing so you can appreciate the details.

Several people who have seen the drawings have said that the Pen and Ink Club should be given a special prize. I'm confident that by the time the exhibit is over, the entire community will love "Creatures in Ink." It is almost guaranteed that no one will leave the show disappointed.

Andrew Warrel

Secretary, Pen and Ink Club



Pen and ink drawing is not for everyone, but artists who choose to work with ink say that it is worth all the trouble. They like it because they can create pictures that are very exact.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 21 through 30. Base your answers on "A Letter to the Editor."

- 21** What makes pen and ink drawing trickier than other types of drawing?
- Ⓐ It is easier to make mistakes.
  - Ⓑ The drawings cannot be erased.
  - Ⓒ The ink is difficult to use on paper.
  - Ⓓ It takes a long time to learn how to do it.
- 22** Which pair of words from the letter have almost the same meaning?
- Ⓕ incredible, good
  - Ⓖ talented, gifted
  - Ⓗ confident, careful
  - Ⓘ beautiful, realistic
- 23** Read this sentence from the letter.

**These drawings leap off the paper and grab you by the collar.**

What does this sentence mean?

- Ⓐ Nobody can keep these drawings up on the wall.
- Ⓑ These drawings jump on your shirt and hold onto your collar.
- Ⓒ The drawings leave ink stains on your collar if you grab them.
- Ⓓ These drawings are so good that they really get your attention.

24 The illustration best supports which idea in the letter?

- (F) The drawings took weeks or months to create.
- (G) All of the drawings in the exhibit look realistic.
- (H) The Pen and Ink Club deserves a special prize for the exhibit.
- (I) There are an unusually large number of talented students in the Pen and Ink Club.

25 Which detail best supports the idea that “Creatures in Ink” is the best art show the club has ever held?

- (A) A reporter from the school newspaper interviewed the principal.
- (B) The show will contain drawings of many types of animals.
- (C) Every drawing took the artist a long time to create.
- (D) Javier Ramos said the work was incredible.

26 Read these sentences from the letter.

**He said that when he was in high school, his drawings were not nearly as good. In fact, he said that his drawing skills at that time were rudimentary compared to what he saw here.**

What does *rudimentary* mean in the sentences above?

- (F) boring
- (G) clever
- (H) educated
- (I) undeveloped



- 27 Read this sentence from the letter.

**Every drawing took weeks, maybe months, to create.**

Which word has the OPPOSITE meaning of the word *create*?

- (A) appreciate                      (C) invent  
(B) destroy                            (D) produce
- 28 Why does the writer speak directly to the reader and tell them to use their “skills as a careful observer” when they go to the show?
- (F) to challenge them to look for mistakes in the drawings  
(G) to explain how pen and pencil drawings are different  
(H) to tell that the drawings will be judged for a prize  
(I) to encourage them to attend the show

- 29 Read this sentence from the letter.

**It is almost guaranteed that no one will leave the show disappointed.**

What does the writer suggest is the reason that no one will leave disappointed?

- (A) They will be impressed by the number of drawings.  
(B) They will be delighted by the quality of the drawings.  
(C) They will find that the drawings are truly of creatures.  
(D) They will never have seen drawings of these creatures before.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 30 What problems does the author of the letter seem to have in making the art show sound appealing, and how does he try to solve those problems? Use details from the letter to explain your answer.

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