

2010 Year 7 — Literacy preparation material

Reading and Viewing



Wait for your teacher.

Read page 2 of the magazine and then answer the questions.

- 1** On 9 January 2008, the astronomers were
- scanning our galaxy.
 - looking for a new star.
 - studying an old supernova.
 - hoping to see an exploding star.
- 2** Which words show how unlikely it is for astronomers to witness the creation of a supernova?
- “I truly won the astronomy lottery.”*
 - “We caught the whole thing on tape ...”*
 - Seeing a star become a supernova isn’t easy.*
 - Imagine the surprise astronomers got on 9 January ...*
- 3** The word “*fire*” is shown like this to show that the word is used to
- refer to a hot, internal fire.
 - indicate a fire-like process.
 - show how fire consumes the fuel.
 - identify the beginning of the explosion.

4 Put a number into each square to show the sequence of events.

When it can shrink no further, the star explodes.

When a star has used all its available fuel, creation of energy ceases.

As a result, the star begins to shrink and its life as a star almost over.

Stars create energy by consuming fuel in a process called nuclear fusion.

The explosion sends gas, dust and other materials out into space.

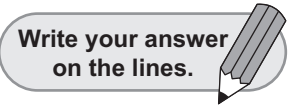
5 Scientists usually know that a star has exploded when

- heat generated by the blast reaches Earth.
- pressure waves pulse across the universe.
- remnants of the star hurtle into material it shed earlier.
- sound waves from the explosion reach the x-ray telescopes.

6 *Alicia quickly issued a worldwide alert ...*

Explain why Dr Soderberg did this.

Support your explanation with evidence from the text.



.....


.....

.....

7 As a result of this event, astronomers now have clues that help them

- combine their observations of a supernova.
- predict when a star will become a supernova.
- observe a supernova as it travels across the universe.
- locate a supernova at an earlier stage of its development.

8 Read the following word origin entries.

Write your answer on the lines. 

nova

1877, from Latin *nova*, feminine, singular adjective “new”, used with *stella* “star” in the term *stella nova* to describe a star not previously known. Plural is *novae*.

super

<Latin *super* (prep. and v. prefix) above, beyond, in addition, to an especially high degree; akin to Greek *hyper*.

Explain how and why the word *supernova* was formed.

.....

.....

.....

Read page 3 of the magazine and then answer the questions.



9 Ben and his family leave from

- Cloncurry.
- Richmond.
- Julia Creek.
- Charters Towers.

10 Why did Ben and his father travel to western Queensland?

- to buy cattle
- to go camping
- to stay on a farm
- to see the Min Min Lights

11 The utility broke down

- west of Cloncurry.
- east of Richmond.
- east of Julia Creek.
- west of Julia Creek.

- 12** Why did the men throw sticks?
- to make Ben feel better
 - to chase away wild animals
 - to stop the lights coming near them
 - to make the lights dance up and down

- 13** When Ben saw the lights coming towards him, he felt
- sleepy.
 - scared.
 - excited.
 - amazed.

- 14** *It was eerie* means it was
- chilly.
 - weird.
 - bright.
 - exciting.

- 15** Dad believes the lights were caused by
- car headlights.
 - an optical illusion.
 - phosphorescence.
 - reflections on the waterhole.

- 16** The lights are described as *mysterious* because
- they were silent.
 - it was a dark night.
 - they appeared only once.
 - their source was not known.

- 17** How does Ben feel about this even when he is writing this letter?
- excited.
 - worried.
 - amused.
 - frightened.

Read page 4 of the magazine and then answer the questions.



18 The scene is set in

- a house.
- a library.
- a theatre.
- a school.

19 When the girls entered the room, the governess seemed

- puzzled.
- startled.
- hesitant.
- expectant.

20 In line 9, the word *merely* means

- just.
- small.
- wholly.
- purely.

21 Line 9, Sylvia's reaction to Miss Slighcarp shows

- fear.
- anger.
- defiance.
- aloofness.

22 What does Bonnie demand in lines 11–13?

- breathing space.
- obedience.
- an answer.
- a dress.

23 By wearing the golden gown, the governess shows the girls that she will

- go to a ball later on.
- look more beautiful.
- take charge of the house.
- change back into her clothes.

24 Miss Slighcarp's reaction to Bonnie shows that she

- resents being questioned by a child.
- had enjoyed wearing a beautiful gown.
- feels children should never be spoiled.
- was horrified by Bonnie's bad manners.

25 *Bonnie, reckless with indignation,* (Line 21)

This means that Bonnie was too angry to

- know what to say next.
- think of the consequences.
- be polite to the governess
- care about Sylvia's feelings.

26 What does the word *disposition* mean? (Line 22)

- use.
- gift.
- sale.
- nature.

27 In line 24, the word *It's* means

- the theft.
- the clothes.
- the act of daring.
- the act of wearing.

28 *Two white dents had appeared on either side of Miss Slighcarp's nostrils.* (Line 26)

Examine this quotation in the context in which it appears.

Explain what that implies.

Write your answer on the lines.



Provide evidence from the text to support your explanation.

.....

.....

.....

29 What is most likely to happen next?

- Miss Slighcarp will lock Bonnie up.
- Bonnie will go and sit beside Sylvia.
- Bonnie will apologise to Miss Slighcarp.
- Miss Slighcarp will change into her own clothes.

30 Explain the status of the role Miss Slighcarp held in this household.

Provide evidence from the text to support your explanation.

Write your answer on the lines.



.....

.....

.....

.....