

Cafeteria Bully

Cody was finishing up soccer practice at school, and was walking to the parking lot with his friend Andrew. They were making plans to go to the park for a game of Frisbee golf on Saturday at a new course. Cody had a new frisbee putter that he wanted to try out. He had lost his last putter in the woods and looked for it for hours, but he couldn't find it. When they had given up Cody bought a newer putter Frisbee that had gone on sale. Andrew headed out of the parking lot, and Cody remembered he needed to pick up his little sister at the elementary school. He started his car, and flipped on the stereo. He turned it up, rolled down his windows, and headed out of the parking lot. When he arrived at the elementary school, his little sister was sitting on the curb sobbing. Cody jumped out of the car, put his arm around her and asked what was wrong. She said that a bully had dumped her lunch onto the floor and scared her. She sat in the back of the cafeteria and was hungry the rest of the day. Cody assured her that she could just tell a teacher and if anything happened he would take care of her. She calmed down, and she left to go home. There was quite a bit of traffic outside the elementary school as parents and buses were crowding the streets. Cody lived about 5 miles from school, and he knew a short cut to avoid all the traffic. He drove through the woods near the wildlife preserve. He could see bugs, birds and squirrels everywhere. While he was driving he got a text message. It was Andrew. Cody was messaging him back, despite protest from his sister to be careful. She reminded him of his two accidents earlier in the year. Cody hit a deer. He stopped to look and there seemed to be some guts on the hood. The car was ok, though. Cody, finally listening to his sister, told Andrew he'd call him shortly. He arrived home and he and Andrew talked about it.

What day were Cody and Andrew planning to play Frisbee golf? Where did Cody go to pick up his sister?
Why was his sister upset?
How far away did Cody and his sister live from school?
Who called Cody's cell phone?

Cheeseburgers and Concerts

Devin was driving to a concert in Atlanta that was being given by his favorite rock band. They had just released a new album after 3 years, and this tour was the first they had done in about 5. He was meeting some friends, and going out for drinks at a bar next door to the concert hall. This particular bar had his favorite cheeseburger. They would put on some American cheese, a spoonful of coleslaw, some chili and onions. He had been craving it for weeks. It was five hours to Atlanta and most of the time he was on four lane highways. It was a little rainy, and he was driving into a bad snowstorm. He had also heard that the road he needed to take might be getting paved this week. It probably wasn't being worked on now, because of the weather, but it was likely that it would be partially blocked off. Traffic began to build as he hit the edge of town. It was time for everyone to get out of work and rush hour traffic was beginning to pick up. His phone rang and it was his friend Steven. Steven was driving from south of town, and was missing most of the bad weather. His drive was fairly uneventful. They talked on the phone for a while. Devin was delayed in traffic because of a deadly accident, but the road ahead seemed to clear up quite a bit. It was pretty easy driving the rest of the way. Rush hour traffic let up and both Devin and Steven made it to the bar for dinner. Their friends got there shortly after they did. Devin got his cheeseburger and was very happy. The concert started on time and the opening band did a great job, and cleared off the stage quickly. The main event lasted almost 3 hours. There were two encores and the band members signed autographs after the concert. Devin and his friends had a really good time.

Why was Devin going to Atlanta?
How many hours of driving did it take for Devin to get to Atlanta?
Where was Steven driving from?
Why was Devin excited to go to this particular restaurant?
How long did the concert last?

Basketball Rush

Jordan was watching the NCAA tournament in the early afternoon. There was a double header on and four of the top teams were playing. Several of the games were likely to be close, although several of the players had been injured. He invited his friend Robert over, but he had to work. He would arrive after the games were over. Jordan grabbed a beer and some chips out of the kitchen sat down in his recliner and turned up the TV. This was his favorite part of the season and his favorite team was playing. The pregame show was on and the analysts were talking about the injured players. Luckily, in the first game, the team Jordan was rooting for put their first string point guard in. He had been injured for the last two games. The team was three points behind in the second half. They put the point-guard in and as the clock wound down he made a three point shot. Just then the phone rang. It was Jordan's brother. He couldn't get his car started and had to get to work in less than an hour. Jordan had no choice but to go pick him up and take him to work. The game was going into overtime, but there was no way he could make it back to see the end. If he acted quickly he could still make it back to see the second game he wanted to see. He made it to his brother's in ten minutes. Jordan urged him to hurry up. He finally dropped his brother off, and made it back home for the middle of the second half. He watched the rest of this game, and quickly flipped through the stations to see the scores of some of the other teams playing that day. Jordan missed his least favorite team win in double overtime in the semi-finals. It had been a close game from start to finish. Robert was going to be unhappy he missed it.

Why couldn't Robert watch the game with Jordan?
What was discussed during the pregame show?
Why did Jordan miss part of the first game and half of the second?
What time of day did Jordan start watching TV?
When will Robert arrive at Jordan's house?

Accidents

Linda lived in Florida and worked for a post office. She had been working since 4am, and it was nearing late morning. She enjoyed being a postal worker. It had a lot of perks. It allowed her to walk and get exercise on nice days, and to drive her car on days when it was rainy or cold. Her neighborhood was a nice area. During Christmas the decorations people put up were very festive. There seemed to be a competition between several of her neighbors as to how much electricity they could use in the displays. They seemed to put up more and more lights every year. This year they put up a big sleigh in one of the yards and a life-size nativity scene right next door. Linda liked seeing holiday decorations, and getting to know the people in the neighborhoods she delivered mail to. One woman, Shelby, had just moved into her own neighborhood. Linda had met her briefly the previous morning. Today it was a little cold. Linda was driving her car. Her own house was on her route and she wasn't too far away from home. This was the most difficult route, especially right before lunch. There was a little traffic, and she was trying to grab her jacket. It was just out of her reach. She tried a couple more times, while intermittently watching the car in front of her. As she got near Shelby's house, Shelby backed out of her garage. Linda suddenly heard a frantic car horn, and someone yelling at her. Shelby crashed into someone. She got out

immediately and went to the neighbor's for help. What made things worse was the car couldn't move. Linda called the police and a tow truck came. She watched as they pulled the car out of the yard and left. The police talked to her for a few minutes and got some information. Linda walked the rest of her route and finished her work for that day. She thought about the accident earlier and how much it scared her. She thought it was strange that such a sudden accident could unsettle her so much.

What was Linda delivering?

What seasonal decoration did Linda see?

Who did she ask for help?

Who delivered Shelby's mail?

What did Linda do the rest of the day after the accident?

Old Friends

Marsha was on a long morning shopping spree. She had hit most of her favorite stores at home so she headed to the city to get the last of what she needed for the holidays. She was meeting her friend Karen for coffee. She hadn't gotten a chance to talk to her this month, so it would be good to catch up. She had gone on a date last week and had some good stories to tell her. Karen got a puppy from her date on Friday night, and it was a good bet that this would be the predominant topic of conversation. Marsha arrived at the coffee shop a little bit before Karen, so she ordered a latte and sat down. Karen walked in a minute later with about 5 shopping bags full of clothes. Are all those things for other people? Well, it all seemed to be in my size. Marsha asked Karen how much she intended to buy the rest of the day. Karen assured her that the only limit was how much she could fit into her car. They both laughed. The coffee shop was a block or two away from some downtown shops Marsha was going to after coffee. They reminisced about where old friends were living, and talked about what they would do next in their careers. Their conversation turned toward "the date." Marsha thought he seemed a little strange. For the beginning of a dating relationship he seemed a little formal, even if they did have a good time. Karen thought he sounded very nice. She was looking forward to finding out if it was just nervousness about a first date, or if he really was a little backwards. However, they both had a lot in common. The hour wound down, it was time for Karen to head out. Marsha said she would be sure to tell her about any gifts she receives on her next date. Maybe there would be flowers, or a cockatiel next time. Regardless, it should be interesting.

What did Marsha order at the coffee shop?

How many shopping bags did Karen have?

What time of day did they meet?

How far away were shops from the café?

Where were Marsha and Karen going after coffee?

Early Bird

Mary was going to work at the train station early in the morning. She had brought coffee with her and was eating breakfast on the way. Mary had to pick up the mail and remember to put out the new train schedules. They were going to be displayed at the train station entrance. Mary got to her office and started her daily chores. She opened the ticket booth and counted the money for each of the drawers at the ticket counter. Now they would be ready for the staff that would be there in about 30 minutes. She walked near the tracks and picked up some stray magazines. Her new heels looked nice, but they proved to be difficult to walk in. She needed to watch where she stepped to avoid the uneven cracks in the

pavement. She also picked up newspapers that had blown out of their racks. The morning was still dark and quiet when a few people, families and some elderly people came through the door to make the early train into the city. She thought of how her former coworker, Jason, was probably arriving at the Hampton station several miles down the track. He always began work around now. Mary watched one particularly bright-eyed little boy who was already running around. He was chasing the pigeons who were awaiting bits of food. They would eat breadcrumbs dropped by morning travelers who ate their breakfast en route. Papers were blowing everywhere. She tried to catch one as it went toward the tracks. Mary could hear the train announcements on the intercom. After quickly stepping the wrong direction, Jason was hit by a train. The pigeons fluttered around the station. The passengers gathered around the train. The little boy watched her in confusion as his mom grabbed his hand.

Where did Mary work?

Which one of the following was part of her daily chores?

Where did Jason work?

What kind of birds were at the station?

What was playing over the intercom?

Exam Excitement

Allison was going to be late for work. She had stayed up late studying for a microbiology exam that was scheduled for 7:30pm that day. To make matters worse, her job was a good 15 minute walk from her apartment. She jumped out of bed and headed to the shower. After work at the Bagel Bistro she would have to rush to her classes at the local community college. She wanted to look nice since she would not be making it home until much later that night. She showered and was dressed in 5 minutes. Her cat was sitting next to her work shoes playing with her shoe laces. She distracted the cat with treats, and grabbed the shoes. She packed them in her backpack because she would need to wear her snow boots to walk to work. She grabbed an energy bar for breakfast and bundled up to head out into the -2 degree weather. She hurriedly wrapped her new pink scarf around her neck and covered her damp hair with the matching hat her friend Cassandra had bought her and walked to work. When she got in, Allison began putting her stuff into her locker. Cassandra was getting there at about the same time. It looked like she had to shovel her car out of the snow before coming to work. They both threw their snow boots into their locker and got out their work shoes. Allison was sliding her shoe on and found a mouse in the toe. She screamed. She pulled her foot out of the shoe immediately and shook it out over the trashcan. It fell out and she cautiously put the shoe back on. After work Allison put on her snow boots and carried her work shoes out with her. She got to class early and went over her notes one more time before the exam. This part of the final would involve identifying pictures of microorganisms that they had studied over the course of the semester. The professor arrived and started passing out answer sheets. The entire test was supposed to be given on the overhead projector. Suddenly, the power went out and the room went dark. The professor announced that they would sit and wait for it to come back on. Ten minutes passed, and then 25. Finally, after 35 minutes the professor cancelled the exam. All of the students gathered their stuff to leave. Allison was so glad to have the evening off to rest. It had been a long day.

What exam did Allison have to take?

What season was it?

What did Allison have for breakfast?

What did Allison do immediately after arriving to class?

How long did the professor wait to cancel the exam?

The Bachelor Party

Brian hadn't spent much time with his friends since he started dating his girlfriend, Shannon. He was excited that he would finally be getting to hang out with them this weekend. One of his friends was getting married in a week and he was going to the bachelor party. To start the night out, Brian and his friends would be going to their favorite steakhouse for dinner. They ordered drinks and chicken wings and celery as an appetizer. Brian hadn't seen some of these guys in years. Almost everyone there went to school in the same county that Brian grew up in. At dinner, Brian sat beside his best friend from high school, Gary. They had both been on the cross country team and now Gary and his girlfriend Ilene were preparing for a marathon. Gary was also serving as best man since he had known the groom since childhood. Brian and his friends talked for a couple of hours over dinner. Brian had had a number of odd jobs after school, but now he was settling into his new career. He was an ecologist for a state agency. As a part of his job, he monitored watersheds around manufacturing companies. Gary mentioned that he had recently purchased his first home. Everyone was catching up on what had gone on in their lives over the past few years. At seven o'clock they moved next door to the sports bar to sit around and watch the game. They talked to some people who were already there, including some girls who came over and talked to them for a while. Brian talked to them quite a bit, while the guys egged him on. In the meantime, the guys kept the drinks coming. Later that night the guys checked into their hotel rooms. The girls from the sports bar, who were still pretty chatty, were staying at the same hotel and were leaving around the same time. Brian cheated on his girlfriend. The next morning he admitted it to his friends because it made him feel really bad. He thought it bothered him more because he was thinking about his friend's wedding coming up.

Why were Brian's friends having a party?

What did he and his friends order for an appetizer?

Who was Brian's best friend from high school?

What job did Brian have?

What time did they go to the sports bar?

Cat Worries

Chelsea was making breakfast, and setting out cat food. Her cat came in through the cat door when she heard the rattling of the food hitting the aluminum bowl. She hesitated at the entrance and moved a bit more sluggishly today. The cat had lost a lot of weight, but recently she started eating again every few hours. Now she was moving more like her friend Lisa's cat; it had recently had some trouble getting around. Chelsea's cat had surgery on Thursday. It was doing alright, now. Chelsea got her kids ready for school and got them on the bus. She headed out to run her errands. Her twin nieces were turning 4 today and she had gotten them each a Bratz doll from their wish list. Before heading over to her stylist, she would have to stop at the post office to mail the gifts. She was getting her haircut and colored followed by a pedicure. After her appointment she would grab some lunch at the nearby deli before going shopping. The grocery shopping usually took several hours to finish. After that, she went home to get the cat and take it to the veterinarian to have it checked out. The vet was running a little behind schedule, but fit her in only 20 minutes late. He examined the cat and said she was doing fine. She left the vet's office and went to pick up her kids from school. Chelsea's daughter showed the cat to all her friends who were waiting with her. The cat, however, was not amused. At home Chelsea carried the cat inside and the kids followed. They were ready for their afternoon snack. Her son was following the cat around when Chelsea got a call from her friend Lisa. She told her that the cat was sleepy, but seemed fine.

What was the first thing Chelsea was doing in the morning?
What does Chelsea's cat do when food is poured into its bowl?
What kind of dolls did she mail?
Who did Chelsea pick up at school?
What errand did Chelsea run?

A Birthday Party

Elizabeth was drinking coffee and preparing for the busy day ahead of her. There would be a big party tonight, but in the meanwhile she had several things to do. She was going to do some shopping with her friend at some clothing stores, and eat lunch at a cute tea shop across from her hair stylist. She was getting her hair cut, too. Elizabeth was having her 13th birthday. That evening she opened presents. Elizabeth liked her gift. She got a music box that played a Gershwin song. Her cake was huge and it was covered with flowers and butterflies made out of icing. It was chocolate on the inside and it had a raspberry filling that had been one of Elizabeth's favorites. Her sister lit the candles and everyone helped blow them out. Elizabeth sat inside and watched the kids outdoors. It was a great day to be outside. All of the guests drank punch and iced tea, and the younger kids played on the swings and jumped rope. When it got dark outside they all gathered around the television to watch videos of the kids' school programs and some of the home videos that her relatives had made for their newest child. By the end of the evening most of the cake was gone, and the snacks had been nearly finished off. Elizabeth watched a few of her friends clean up the dishes and put away the silverware. The meatloaf they had for dinner was really good, and there was still some left. The next day all the streamers had come down. Elizabeth was glad that they had gone to all the trouble to decorate the house and get some balloons for the smaller kids. They all seemed to have a good time.

What flavor was the cake?
What videos did the family watch?
What did the kids do in the backyard?
What decorated the top of the cake?
What did Elizabeth take down the following day?

Ski Vacation

Greg and Rick were planning a ski trip. They were going to a ski lodge in Switzerland. It was famous for being a secluded, natural area. In addition to skiing, they had all kinds of other winter activities. There were even nature hikes, where they wore snowshoes and went into the surrounding valley. The first day they were there, Rick and Greg skied from morning until night. The slopes were great, and there weren't a lot of people around to slow them down. The second day they went on a nature hike. In the morning, there was a short guided walk. The guide explained that small animals were generally awake during the day, but the larger animals, like the wolves, elk and mountain lions were more active in the late evening. It was generally safe to walk around until dusk, and only then when the weather was clear. In the afternoon, Rick and Greg were free to hike on their own with some of the other tourists. Rick decided to walk with a group that wanted to look at the local plant life, while Greg went with some experienced animal trackers. They walked all day and into the evening. Rick's group made it back to the lodge with sunlight to spare. There was soup and hot chocolate being served in the lobby, and he sat by the fireplace to warm up. Greg's group was still following some footprints, when someone mentioned it was getting late. They had packed snacks, but Greg was getting a little tired and hungry. It was going to be a

long walk to get back to the lodge. Rick wondered where Greg could be. They planned on listening to the band playing in the lodge tonight and he might miss it. Greg watched the sun set over the mountains. He was getting worried. The group did have a member who was good at using a compass and stars to find his way back, but it was getting colder by the minute.

Where did Rick and Greg go on vacation?
What snack did Rick and Greg plan to have?
What did Rick and Greg do in the afternoon?
Rick was interested in seeing what?
How many people were on the ski slopes?

Weekend BBQ

Jeffery's friend, Brandon, was having a party at his apartment tonight. Jeffery enjoyed parties, and tended to be very social, for better or worse. He met most of the girls he dated at parties. He stopped to give a few other people a ride and picked up some beer and hot dogs. He arrived at Brandon's house just as the party was getting started. Their friend's rock band that was aptly named "Pain of Death" was setting up in the back yard. Pain of Death hadn't been able to get a record deal yet, but they were well known for the fact that when they had a concert the sound of power chords resonated across town. Brandon had two grills set up in the backyard with two picnic tables full of steaks and chicken wings ready to be cooked. Jeffery saw Brandon manning one of the grills so he handed him the hot dogs and talked to him about how the party was going so far. Jeffery knew that one of the reasons Brandon was having such a big party, aside from watching the Super Bowl, was that he and Jeffery had an interesting experience last week at his neighbor's party. Jeffery got a number from a cute girl there. Brandon wanted an excuse to have a good time and invite their new friend over. Slowly more people were arriving. The band was warming up and drawing a crowd. Jeffery headed over to meet one of his friends standing in a big group. He introduced himself to several people there and they ended up talking the rest of the evening. Unfortunately, the girl from last week didn't show up. Brandon met Jeffery back inside to help put things away. His only comment about it was, "Sometimes a line works, and sometimes it doesn't." They finished up what they could and left the backyard to clean up tomorrow. Jeffery headed home.

Where was the party being held?
What were they grilling for dinner?
Why did Jeffery stop on the way to Brandon's apartment?
What game were people watching at the party?
What was the band known for?

Pizza and a Movie

It was Friday night and Jill was headed out of work to pick up a pizza for dinner at her house that evening. Jill usually had a pizza and movie night once a week. Sometimes she invited friends, but tonight she was just going to sit and watch one of her favorite movies. Jill got in her car and pulled out of the parking lot. It was only a block to the pizza place, and a mile to get home. The pizza place wasn't too busy so she got the pizza and got out pretty quickly. She got home and put some garlic bread in the oven. Her dog, Spike was panting and wagging his tail. He sometimes got a few bites and he was always excited to see her when she got home. Jill put the movie in and her friend Ann called. She was watching something she had recorded off the sci fi channel. Ann asked Jill if she had left a glove in her car last

week, so Jill got up to check. Suddenly there was a shriek. Jill saw a big rat in her video. She hated rats. It ran on the sidewalk and went down a drain. Jill didn't find any gloves in her car, but she did find a half-eaten candy bar and cringed. Ann thought she might have left the gloves at work, so she would check on Monday. This weekend was her first weekend off of work in 2 months, so she was going to enjoy it. Jill and Ann made plans to run in the park in the morning and Jill sat down with a piece of pizza as she started the movie. It was an Italian movie from several years ago and her favorite film composer had written a great score. Her dog crawled up on her lap and settled in for the evening.

What was Jill having for dinner?

Why did Ann call?

What are Jill and Ann going to do in the morning?

What language was Jill's film in?

What is the name of Jill's dog?

Senioritis or Something Else

Katie was starting her senior year in college, and she was excited about taking some really interesting upper-level classes in physics, and spending one last year with her friends. Katie was very athletic and was on the volleyball team. She had practiced most days of the week and generally felt energetic and capable during her practices. She had started the last two years. This year she was a co-captain of the team. Everyone was exhausted after volleyball workouts but the last couple of weeks Katie had felt unusually sluggish and lethargic. Last Saturday she slept until 1 in the afternoon after having gone to bed very early. She didn't feel like she had the energy to hang out with her friends. Her roommate, Susan, even began to see the change in Katie. Susan herself wasn't feeling the best, but Katie seemed to be grumpy and tired more and more. Susan convinced Katie that since she was going to the doctor that Katie should come along, too. The doctor saw both of them. Susan was diagnosed with cancer. He scheduled a second appointment for her. The doctor told her roommate that she just needed to get more sleep and she would feel better in a few days. The nurse smiled sympathetically at Katie and Susan as they exited the clinic and headed back to their apartment. Katie knew that this was going to be a rough year.

What year was Katie starting in college?

What sport did she play?

How did Katie and Susan know each other?

How late did Katie sleep in on Saturday?

What area was Katie going to take classes in?

Family Vacation

Kyle's family would always go on vacation together every year. His aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents all got tickets to go to some American city and spend a week relaxing and exploring the local sights. He and his friend Joe were talking about traveling this summer. Kyle's aunt Cindy told him about their upcoming trip last week. This year Joe found out he was going on vacation to Hawaii. They talked about their plans, and then talked about last year's vacation. Last year Kyle and his family had gone to Las Vegas. He spent a great deal of time learning how to play blackjack and poker. While he was at the gambling tables he also met some interesting people. There was a mathematician he spent an evening talking to who had moved to Las Vegas just so he could work less often by supplementing his income with his winnings. He had the best time talking to that guy. They tried to stay away from too

much gambling, though, and drove through the surrounding area. They had gone to a ranch where some of the younger family members took a horseback ride through a canyon. They saw some burros and small birds, and looked for snakes, but didn't see any. The guide said that a horse had shied away from a diamondback snake last week. It had been sunning itself on a rock peacefully, when it woke up and saw a horse sliding and bumping rocks off a close trail. The horse and rider were fine, but the snake did look like it was going to attack if the horse came closer. Kyle was pretty disappointed not to see any snakes on his trip. He went to some shows while he was in Las Vegas, too. He saw one of the magicians there, as well as the trained lion and tiger act. Joe had been to Las Vegas the year before and had enjoyed it very much. Joe had brought back a set of poker chips and he and Kyle played frequently. It was a great place to visit. Kyle was very excited about this year's trip and what it would bring.

What did Kyle see when he was out in the desert?

Where did his family go while they were there?

Who did they see while they were in Las Vegas?

Who did he meet?

What game did Kyle and Joe play at home?

Camp Reunion

Patricia was pretty excited about the sleepover this evening. She had met a few girls at a camp last summer, and all of them were able to come back to the camp for a reunion. They had been planning this event for weeks. Her parents rented a place for them to stay at the camp. It was a little cabin on the edge of the woods that had all the necessary amenities and a view of the lake. This was her friend Ann's favorite spot. Canoes were available at the beach from dawn to dusk. She and Ann were coming early to set up. Patricia wiped down the counters and dusted to get rid of the few cobwebs in the kitchen. Ann unpacked the groceries and sorted the firewood she had collected. It was about 7 and they had all planned to meet at 8 and have a late supper. Ann's parents had bought hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and marshmallows for them. There was a small fire pit outside where they could make dinner. Her friends' parents began dropping their daughters off. Melanie arrived first, and the other girls soon followed. They all went inside to unpack their things. There were some cabinets and drawers to store their things in. They were filled with spiders, but some Raid and paper towels got rid of most of them. They got the grill going, and were cooking lots of food. Everyone ate until they were stuffed. After eating, they went inside. As they turned on the lights she saw a few bugs scurry. It was close to midnight since they had chatted for hours while eating marshmallows roasted on the fire. They dozed off quickly. Ann got one of the bunkbeds, but Patricia slept in the kitchen floor, because there were so many of them. Ann woke up as the sun was just coming up. She lifted her head and looked around to see her friends still asleep. Ann saw a spider crawl out of the cabinet. She startled a little, but tried to stay quiet so she wouldn't alarm anyone. Her friends woke up, but she decided not to mention it since one of her friends was terribly afraid of spiders. The girls got up and began to get breakfast ready. They had some eggs and sausage and headed out to the canoes. They spent the day on the lake and talked. Then it came time to pack up. They all enjoyed being together, but it was nearing time for them to head back home.

Where did the girls meet before?

What did Ann unpack when she first arrived?

How did they cook dinner?

What activities did they do?

Where was the cabin?

Airport Anxiety

Ryan and Derek were colleagues and both of them were flying to Baton Rouge to meet clients. Ryan was flying in from Boston on connecting flights and Derek was coming on a connecting flight from another city. On a preceding flight the week earlier, Derek's luggage got delivered at the airport, so hopefully things go smoothly today. Ryan arrived at the airport to catch his 9am flight to Baton Rouge. His meeting was downtown, but he was arranging to find a nice hotel so he could spend an extra two days at the beach. He had recently been unable to spend much time outside because of a broken ankle, and this was his chance to catch up. He was aware of the likelihood of his luggage not showing up on time for such a short trip, though, so he was anticipating the worst. Derek was helping lead the presentation to one of the larger companies that Ryan dealt with. They were showing his clients some new designs for chemical production that could be implemented to replace machinery that produced the company's large proportion of pollutants. These designs streamlined some of the processes for creating chemicals as well as being more environmentally friendly. The company seemed really interested, so it didn't seem like a hard sell. Ryan's flight was on time and he reluctantly checked his luggage. There wasn't much time for him to get through security, but as soon as he did he spent most of the remaining time reviewing his notes for his presentation. He had packed his laptop and displays away in his checked suitcase so it would be easy to get around once he was in the terminal. His flight boarded on time, and he had a comfortable seat over the wing. A woman and a small child sat down next to him. It was a relatively uneventful flight, except for the child's crying. It didn't stop from when the plane took off to when it landed. Their flight wasn't rough, so otherwise the flight was pretty good. When the plane landed Ryan headed toward the baggage claim. He waited while all the other passengers came and went. His suitcase with all his materials in it was not there. He talked to the baggage handlers and they assured him that it would be there soon. Meanwhile, his colleague Derek arrived. He was also waiting at the baggage claim and collected his luggage. A company car was waiting for them already. They waited for 20 more minutes. Finally, an airline official came over to give Ryan his luggage.

Where did Ryan fly in from?

Why was he there?

What injury had Ryan recently sustained?

Where did Ryan pack his laptop?

Who sat next to Ryan on the plane?

Class Project

Tammy had to do a parenting project for her 11th grade home economics class. She and her friend Joan sat around her dinner table and planned what they were going to talk about for their presentation. They were going to talk to their parents and ask them about how they parented. The teacher told them they could talk to their parents and ask them about some of the tough situations their parents had been in and how they dealt with them. Later that night, Joan found out that she was in daycare when she was two. She didn't think asking them about a tough situation would result in find out something they had kept from her for so long. This was surprising, because her parents generally seemed to be very protective. Tammy was concerned. Where did they take her? How long was she there? They said nothing bad happened, and she was home again after a short time. She had to pick one event or concept and talk about what she learned from her parents. She couldn't decide whether that was the incident she wanted to pick, or not. Tammy wanted to avoid talking about an event that was so surprising to her. Tammy decided to talk about how being a stay-at-home mom differs from being a

working mom, and Joan decided to talk about living with 5 siblings. Tammy and Joan talked about their topics and it turned out that several other students picked similar topics. One had two sisters, and another had parents who worked from home. All of the students had interesting things to say, although, there were no extremely exciting events that were brought up. In addition to the subject they talked about, they also had a class assignment to read about several parenting situations and describe how best to deal with them. This was a take home test and Tammy answered the questions about the situations pretty quickly. How do you soothe a crying infant? What do you do if a toddler looks like he is choking? It was mostly out of the textbook or from guest speakers. In the end, the class as a whole got good grades, and everyone, including Tammy and Joan, learned a lot from their project.

What parts composed the class project?

What were they studying?

Which one of these was a question for the project?

Where did the answers to the test come from?

What did Tammy decide to talk about?

Taking Care of the Kids

Todd had a big argument with his wife today.

They had been married for ten years, and the last several had been hard trying to make the household work.

His wife was sure that it was just a matter of him being at home more often.

For weeks she had wanted him to take on more responsibility for taking care of their kids.

He had made an effort to help with their homework and enforcing rules, but he was away so much of the time for work and she was not happy with that.

She wanted him to take the kids to swimming lessons, and play at the park, but he had meetings.

They spent a lot of time disagreeing about these issues.

She said that she was happy with other aspects of their relationship, but parenting alone so often was taking it's toll.

On one particular night after they had yelled at each other for half an hour, he decided to spend some time with his neighbor Blake.

Blake was busy packing up to move to his new house, and needed help anyway.

The divorce had been finalized last week, and he needed to get his stuff out.

He just had to load a few more boxes and a couple pieces of furniture.

Todd helped out and calmed down a lot while they were working together loading things.

Todd thought that his wife was a little unreasonable, and he didn't really know why it was such a big deal to take care of the kids when he wasn't around.

He continued working with Blake, and then he returned home for dinner.

It was uneventful.

The kids were quiet and everyone was civil.

The next day Blake left his house.

He knew a job was waiting for him but he would miss being here, and miss his friend.

How long had Todd been married?

Why wasn't Todd at home very much?

Who was Todd's neighbor?

What was Todd helping him do?

What did Todd's wife want him to do?

Doctor's Visit

Vanessa got up to take her boyfriend, Allen, to the doctor. He had scheduled an appointment yesterday because he was not feeling well. She picked him up from his apartment at 10:30 sharp. They drove across downtown to the hospital on Nineth Street. He did not feel bad enough to go to the emergency room, but his doctor worked out of the hospital after giving up his private practice. They arrived at the reception desk and filled out two forms before he saw the doctor. Then the nurse took him into the examination room, and Vanessa stayed in the waiting room. She spent the next hour looking through the sparse magazine collection. She wondered why it was taking so long. Finally, a nurse told her that she would have to wait for a little while longer. Vanessa was leaning back in her chair, thinking the worst when her friend Maria's boyfriend, Mike, came into the waiting room. He came in after a fall this morning. He had woken up feeling dizzy and sick and was talking to a doctor right now. The doctor's assistant came out and said that Vanessa's boyfriend has a headache. Evidently, he had suspected this for some time. Allen came out shortly, and the nurse explained that he would need further treatment and needed to see a specialist. Vanessa and Allen learned that the doctor was going to run some tests to see if there was an infection that caused some of his current symptoms. Getting some antibiotics might help him. Vanessa was pretty worried. She could tell that the doctors were very concerned about his condition. After waiting for another half hour to finalize the appointment the nurse got it scheduled on Thursday of next week. They would get more details then. In the meantime, she really needed to talk to her friend Maria.

What time did Vanessa pick up Allen to go to the doctor's appointment?

What street was the hospital on?

How many forms did he have to fill out?

Who took him into the examination room?

What day is Allen's second appointment?