

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about why the author wrote the passage and how Shirley Chisholm was important.

Shirley Chisholm

"Aim high!" Shirley Chisholm told her political supporters, and she practiced what she preached. Born in 1924 in Brooklyn, New York, Chisholm spent part of her childhood in the island nation of Barbados. She returned to New York later, graduated from Brooklyn College, and earned a Master of Arts degree at Columbia University. Chisholm spent some time working in early childhood education before running for political office in the New York State Assembly.

After serving in the assembly, Chisholm ran for U.S. Congress in 1968 and became the first African American woman to be elected. Chisholm opposed the Vietnam War, and in her first speech in Congress, she promised to vote against any more spending on defense. "Our children, our jobless men, our deprived, rejected and starving fellows, our dejected citizens must come first," she said.

Aiming higher still, in 1972 Chisholm decided to run for president of the United States. She was the first African American to run as a candidate for the presidency in a major political party, and she was the first woman to run for president as a democrat. Ultimately, the democrats chose George McGovern as their candidate. McGovern later lost the presidential election to republican Richard Nixon. Afterward, Chisholm explained that she was tired of waiting for change to come someday in the future. "I ran because somebody had to do it first. I ran because most people thought the country was not ready for a black candidate, not ready for a woman candidate. Someday—it was time in 1972 to make that someday come."

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Chisholm ran for U.S. president because _____.
☐ (A) she disliked George McGovern
☐ (B) she wanted the Democratic Party to become a major political party
☐ (C) it was time for the first African American and female candidate
☐ (D) she lost her position in the U.S. Congress
- Which of the following best supports the idea that Chisholm believed in "aiming high"?
☐ (A) She ran for the presidency in 1972.
☐ (B) She served in the New York State Assembly.
☐ (C) She was educated in Barbados.
☐ (D) She lost the election to George McGovern.
- Why does the author include the quote at the end of the passage?
☐ (A) to show that Chisholm believed that George McGovern should not be president
☐ (B) to show that Chisholm believed that she would become president
☐ (C) to show that Chisholm was brave and admirable
☐ (D) to show that Chisholm's ideas changed between 1968 and 1972
- Chisholm vowed to vote against spending additional money on the war because she wanted _____.
☐ (A) more money to be given to New York
☐ (B) the money to help poor people instead
☐ (C) people to oppose the Vietnam War
☐ (D) support from the Republican Party

STRATEGY PRACTICE

What information in the passage is most important for understanding Shirley Chisholm's political career?

HW

Write these sentences correctly.

1. Are squirrels commoner than foxs in the united states

2. my oldest cousin who lives in new york doesn't have no brothers or sisters.

Underline the subordinate clause in this sentence.

3. The town won't allow new buildings until the planning committee approves them.

Rewrite these sentences to correct the run-ons.

4. When it rains in the desert, many plants flower, some animals also become more active.

5. There are four types of angles, they are measured in degrees.

**READ THE PASSAGE**

Look for the details describing what Fannie Lou Hamer did that set her apart from others.

Crusader for Civil Rights

Fannie Lou Townsend was born in 1917 in Mississippi, the youngest of twenty children. She and her family were sharecroppers, moving from place to place to pick crops. Townsend toiled in the fields from the age of six. Her family was poor, and she often went hungry. But unlike most children of sharecroppers, Townsend went to school whenever she could, and after finishing sixth grade, she continued to study on her own.

Townsend married Perry Hamer in 1944 and worked hard just to try to get by. Then, in 1962, she attended a meeting that changed her life. The meeting was held by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Like other groups, such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the SNCC used nonviolent means to try to end segregation in the South. One of their aims was to register African Americans to vote. At the time, Fannie Lou didn't realize African Americans had a constitutional right to vote. When she later went to register, she and others were jailed and beaten. She lost her job as a result and continued to be threatened with violence.

Fannie Lou Hamer went on to work for the SNCC to help other African Americans register to vote. She was a founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and spoke on television about the terrible effects of segregation. She was beaten and shot at over the years for her efforts, but she never gave up. Until her death in 1977, Fannie Lou struggled to help the poor and needy in her community and worked in politics to end discrimination.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. How was Fannie Lou Townsend different from most sharecroppers' children?
 - (A) She grew up in Mississippi.
 - (B) She went to school.
 - (C) She did not work in the fields.
 - (D) She had enough to eat.
2. Why might the SNCC meeting have changed Fannie Lou's life?
 - (A) She made new friends there.
 - (B) She learned how to make more money.
 - (C) She met her future husband there.
 - (D) She learned about fighting segregation.
3. How were the SNCC and the SCLC similar?
 - (A) Both were founded in part by Fannie Lou.
 - (B) Both provided free education to children.
 - (C) Both used nonviolent means to end segregation.
 - (D) Both were started to help sharecroppers.
4. Based on information in the passage, Fannie Lou was someone who _____.
 - (A) had many opportunities
 - (B) was afraid of change
 - (C) did not give up easily
 - (D) disliked people in power

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Based on what you know about voting, why do you think Fannie Lou thought it was important to register African Americans to vote?

HW

Write these sentences correctly.

1. The nature club went hiking after they readed the essay mountain thoughts by john muir.

2. because, everyone in my family like annimals, we has a lot of pets.

Write the base word of each word.

3. adjustment _____

4. disengage _____

Circle the auxiliary, or helping, verb in this sentence.

5. If you need money, you should find a part-time job this summer.

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about whom the passage is about and what the theme of the story is.

HW

A Musical Prodigy

Imagine knowing at age two what you want to do for the rest of your life. Jay Greenberg, nicknamed "Bluejay" because these birds make a lot of noise for their size, did just that. He has been called the greatest musical talent to come along in 200 years. And all of this praise was said about a teenager!

When Greenberg was just two years old, he started drawing pictures of musical instruments and wrote the word *cello*. His parents got him a cello, and by age three, he was composing music. In 2001, at age ten, he began attending the Juilliard School, one of the world's best music conservatories, in New York City. Within two years, he had composed five symphonies. And by 2009, he had written more than 70 musical compositions for such groups as the New Haven Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Greenberg is a musical prodigy, or extremely gifted young person. Unlike most kids, he doesn't download music from the Internet; he downloads it from his own mind! When he composes works, he hears them in his head complete, as if an orchestra were playing them. His hero is Beethoven, and for fun, he fools around with classical music compositions, changing and rewriting them. He is completely devoted to his calling, once telling his mother that he would die if he could not compose music.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Which words best describe Jay Greenberg?
(A) carefree and relaxed
(B) anxious and withdrawn
(C) focused and gifted
(D) uncertain and unhappy
- Which statement best describes a theme of the story?
(A) Music appeals to all kinds of people.
(B) You do not have to be an adult to have great talent.
(C) Sometimes it is important to fit in.
(D) Education helps people accomplish their goals.
- Jay Greenberg's parents can probably be described as _____.
(A) stern
(B) controlling
(C) trusting
(D) supportive
- Which of these is a theme of the story?
(A) Kids should enjoy their childhood.
(B) People should pursue things they are passionate about.
(C) Being talented brings fame, as well as difficulties.
(D) People must create balance in their lives.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

What information in the passage helps you understand why Jay Greenberg is called a prodigy?

HW

Write these sentences correctly.

1. On July 4 1776 the American colonies declared their independence from England.

2. We aren't riding our bikes to the beach this afternoon because the wind is blowing too strong.

Circle the best word to complete this analogy.

3. ally : enemy :: praise : _____

compliment

complaint

angry

confusion

Write the correct abbreviation for each word.

4. March _____

5. Captain _____

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about why the author wrote the passage, and use the clues in the passage to predict what will likely happen next.

HW

A Wild Flamingo Chase

Rodney read the headline in the local paper: "Flamingo Flocks to Fern Fields." An exotic bird had found its way to his small California town. It was a flamingo, the report said, a real one—not like the faded, plastic version planted in Rodney's neighbor's yard. The town didn't even have a zoo, so this news was really exciting. But where was the bird? Rodney thought it would stick out like a sore thumb.

Only one man in town claimed to have seen the wild bird, in a wetland park on the outskirts of town. He described the flamingo's pink feathers and said it stood approximately 3 feet tall. He also said the flamingo did not seem sick or hurt.

Rodney thought the story sounded suspicious, though, so he decided to go on a flamingo-finding expedition. He also decided to take his best friend, Paul, with him. "If we find it," Rodney said, "we can write a report on protecting wild species." The boys assembled their gear—tall rubber boots, binoculars, and a camera. They packed some peanut butter sandwiches, too. Then they set out for the wetlands.

With boots up to their thighs, Rodney and Paul trudged through muck and mud for what seemed like an eternity, but they never spotted the flamingo. Finally the sun began to set, and a cold wind cut through the boys' jackets. Rodney and Paul decided to head home.

As they turned onto Paul's dark street, they saw Paul's mom waiting on the porch. Paul dragged his feet up the driveway. His mother put her arm on his shoulder, and the two went inside.

Rodney continued down the street toward his house, past his neighbor's yard and that ridiculous plastic pink flamingo. "Great," Rodney thought, "now they have a pair." Out of the corner of his eye, Rodney saw something move.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. What is the author's purpose in this passage?
☐ A to tell you facts about flamingos
☐ B to entertain you with a story about two friends
☐ C to teach you how to study birds
☐ D to persuade people not to study flamingos
2. What will Paul probably tell his mom?
☐ A He will recall the dangers of walking through the wetlands.
☐ B He will admit that they lost the sandwiches.
☐ C He will express disappointment for not spotting the flamingo.
☐ D He will say he is excited about being home.
3. Why does the author say the flamingo is *exotic*?
☐ A to let you know that the flamingo is not a native species
☐ B to tell you how beautiful the flamingo is
☐ C to tell you how expensive the flamingo is
☐ D to let you know that Rodney is intelligent
4. Which of these is most likely to happen next?
☐ A Rodney will look again at the flamingos on the lawn.
☐ B Rodney will return to the wetlands.
☐ C Rodney will put a flamingo in his yard.
☐ D Paul will go to Rodney's house for dinner.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Write a question you thought of while you read the passage.

HW

Write whether each sentence is *declarative*, *interrogative*, *imperative*, or *exclamatory*.

1. When was the Battle of Waterloo fought? _____
2. I wasn't sure if you had received my message. _____
3. Don't forget to write your name on your report. _____
4. Our band is going to the Rose Parade! _____
5. Doesn't John want to go to the movies tonight? _____