

ENGLISH 12
SAMPLE PASSAGES AND QUESTIONS
PART A: READING COMPREHENSION
STAND-ALONE TEXT

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following selection, “Terry Fox dollar unveiled,” and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

Terry Fox dollar unveiled

by Mike Beamish

It commemorates the 25th anniversary of Fox’s Marathon of Hope for cancer research

- 1 To Terry Fox, the one-legged runner whose life was the antithesis¹ of self-aggrandizement², the thought he would be the first Canadian depicted on a circulating coin would be considered loony.
- 2 Fox asked every Canadian for a dollar toward cancer research when he dipped his prosthesis into the frigid waters of St. John’s harbour on April 12, 1980, and began his cross-Canada marathon.
- 3 In 2005, that small change has added up to more than \$360 million through the annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope across Canada and worldwide.
- 4 To mark the 25th anniversary of the run, the Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a one-dollar commemorative circulation coin Monday on the campus of Simon Fraser University. Fox was an undergraduate student and basketball player at SFU when a malignant tumour was discovered in his right leg in 1977. It resulted in amputation. A bronze statue of Fox, one of many such tributes across Canada, looks over the academic quadrangle of the university, just a short stroll from the theatre where Monday’s unveiling was held.
- 5 “I think he’d be a little uncomfortable with it,” says Darrell Fox, Terry’s younger brother and national director of the Terry Fox Foundation, based in Chilliwack. “Terry always wanted to deflect attention to the real heroes, the cancer patients in the hospital wards. Ultimately he’d gladly trade a loonie with his picture on it for another dollar to fight cancer, if he would recognize its potential for fundraising.”
- 6 Betty and Rolly Fox, Terry’s parents, accepted the first of 11 million Terry Fox coins from mint employees. Another nine million will be issued in September to coincide with Terry Fox runs across Canada.
- 7 The Foxes’ nine grandchildren and Terry’s brother Fred and sister Judith Alder were in the audience that watched a moving tribute to the runner with a voice-over by Man in Motion campaigner Rick Hansen. Betty Fox said the pride the family feels in receiving the honour is tempered by the fact Terry could not be there to accept it.
- 8 The Royal Canadian Mint is based in Winnipeg where Fox was born in 1958 before the family moved to Port Coquitlam. Engraver Stan Witten, who designed the

¹ antithesis: *the direct opposite*

² self-aggrandizement: *to make oneself more important in appearance or reality*

coin image based on a picture from photographer Gail Harvey, lives near Terry Fox Drive in Ottawa and fills up his car at Terry Fox Esso, but his connection to the runner runs much deeper than that.

- 9 “I was in Grade 11 in Edmonton and I’d watch the run nightly on TV to see his progress,” Witten said. “I’ve participated in the Terry Fox run myself. It’s a real honour to be part of Canadian history.”
- 10 Terry’s is the first Canadian coin ever struck to show a human likeness other than a monarch. The sideways view of Fox, caught in his hypnotic hop-step gait, is displayed against a
- background of the Canadian Shield and evokes the loneliness of the long distance runner.
- 11 “I wanted to capture the courage and determination on his face,” Witten said. “It was important that he towered over the trees.”
- 12 Although the Terry Fox Foundation receives no direct benefit from the coin, Darrell Fox is hoping that the image will have a catalytic effect on fund-raising and awareness.
- 13 “I think BC’s population is over 4 million, but we raised \$1.8 million from the run last year in the province,” Fox says “There’s a lot of room to grow there. We hope people respond to the challenge.”

Small change adds up to millions

Fox commemorative coin is a first for Canada—it shows the likeness of a person other than a monarch



Terry Fox during his 1980 cross-country attempt. He died in June 1981 aged 21.



Terry Fox’s image, designed by Royal Canadian Mint engraver Stan Witten, is the reverse³ of the coin. The obverse³ features a rendering of Queen Elizabeth II by Susanna Blunt.

Fox, wearing his characteristic Marathon of Hope T-shirt, is heading west against a headwind, with the trees bent to the east. “Terry was often running against the prevailing westerlies,” Witten explained.

The rugged background of white pine, scrub and rock, is representative of northwestern Ontario, around Lake Superior, where Fox ended his run Sept. 1, 1980, just outside of Thunder Bay.

The sideways view of Fox, caught in his hypnotic hop-step gait, evokes the loneliness of the long-distance runner.

Done in collaboration with the Terry Fox Foundation, the image shows the power of the runner’s left leg as he ran the equivalent of a marathon a day for 143 straight days in the spring and summer of 1980.

³ obverse: *the side of a coin bearing the head or principal symbol*

(Recognize Meaning)

1. What does paragraph 1 suggest about Terry Fox's character?

- * A. He was humble.
- B. He was humorous.
- C. He was determined.
- D. He was competitive.

(Interpret Texts)

2. What does the image of "the trees bent to the east" suggest about the run?

- * A. It was very difficult.
- B. It was largely uneventful.
- C. It was always bitterly cold.
- D. It was assisted by the wind.

(Retrieve Information)

3. Which feature makes the coin unique in Canada?

- A. No date appears on the coin.
- B. No monarch appears on the coin.
- * C. It features a person other than a monarch.
- D. It is made of special alloy that will not rust.

(Retrieve Information)

4. Whose image is found on the obverse of the Terry Fox coin?

- A. Terry Fox
- B. Stan Witten
- C. Rick Hansen
- * D. Queen Elizabeth II

(Interpret Texts)

5. What does the last paragraph imply about British Columbians?
- A. They are proud of the new Terry Fox coin.
 - * B. They should give more money to the Terry Fox Foundation.
 - C. They should participate more regularly in the Terry Fox run.
 - D. They support the Terry Fox Foundation at a greater rate than other Canadians.

(Recognize Meaning)

6. By September of 2005, how many commemorative coins will be in circulation?
- A. 2 million
 - B. 9 million
 - C. 11 million
 - * D. 20 million

(Interpret Texts)

7. Which stylistic technique is used throughout the article?
- A. analogy
 - B. statistics
 - C. cause-and-effect
 - * D. emotional appeal

INSTRUCTIONS: In paragraph form and in at least **150 words**, answer question 1 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work. The mark for your answer will be based on the appropriateness of the examples you use as well as the adequacy of your explanation and the quality of your written expression.

(Analyze Texts)

1. Assess Terry Fox’s legacy in contemporary society.

KEY:

STEPS TO BE TAKEN	REFERENCE
• He is “depicted on a circulating coin”	paragraph 1
• The Terry Fox Marathon of Hope raised more than \$260 million by 2005	paragraph 3
• Coin unveiling ceremony held at SFU	paragraph 4
• Bronze statue of Terry Fox erected at SFU	paragraph 4
• Terry Fox was a selfless person who would “gladly trade a loonie with his picture on it for another dollar to fight cancer”	paragraph 5
• There are at least 20 million Terry Fox loonies in circulation	paragraph 5
• Honoured by a tribute from Rick Hansen	paragraph 7
• The Terry Fox loonie is the “first Canadian coin ever struck to show a human likeness other than a monarch”	paragraph 10
• The image on the coin shows his “courage and determination” and him “towering over the trees”	paragraph 11

Other responses are possible.

PART A: READING COMPREHENSION
STAND-ALONE TEXT

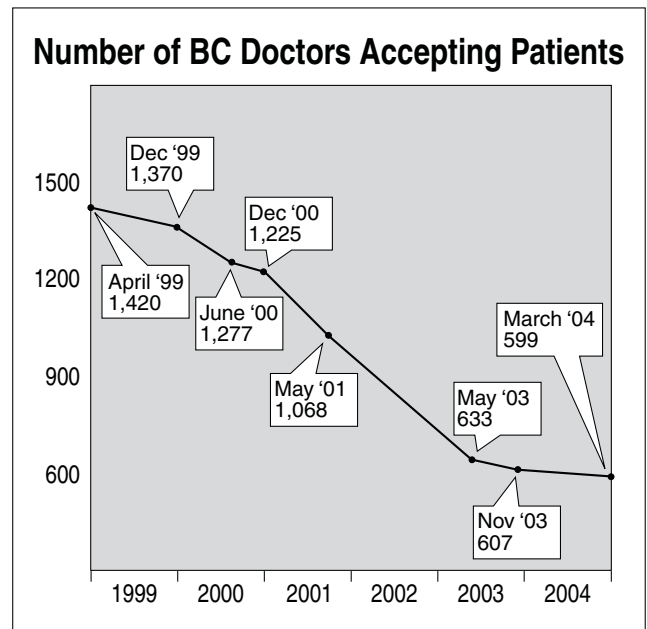
INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following selection, “Family physicians – an endangered species?” and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

Family physicians – an endangered species?

by Jack Burak

- 1 Many Canadians are aware that problems with the nation’s health care system have resulted in a lack of hospital beds and medical equipment, overcrowded emergency rooms, long surgical and diagnostic waiting lists, and not enough long term care homes. But with 3.6 million Canadians unable to find a family doctor, a particularly insidious¹ and growing problem is making itself evident.
- 2 The family doctor is the cornerstone of the nation’s health care system. The vast majority of Canadians have said many times over that they want their family doctor to be their first point of contact in the health care system. Nevertheless, family doctors are becoming a dying breed. With diminishing access to that first point of contact, many Canadians in need of medical help are finding it increasingly difficult to receive timely and appropriate care. In my province of British Columbia, the conservative estimate is that 200,000 British Columbians looking for a family doctor cannot find one.
- 3 There are many reasons for this predicament. Over the last 10 years, the number of medical students choosing family practice as their lifelong career has been dropping at a startling rate. It used to be that 50% of students chose family practice as their first

¹insidious: *working secretly or subtly*



choice. As of 1997, that proportion had fallen to 35%; in 2004, it has declined further to 24%. At a time when the population is living longer and increasing in size, these are alarming statistics.

- 4 When asked why they lack interest in family medicine, students cite a daunting student debt load (often more than \$100,000 upon graduation) and the long hours required of a doctor who is managing a family practice. As in other kinds of work, young doctors today want a balance between their professional and personal lives.

- 5 In BC this problem is compounded because the province produces fewer medical graduates per capita than any other province in Canada with a medical school. The number of graduates in BC is slowly rising – this year the University of British Columbia faculty of medicine graduated 128 students, up from 120. The provincial government has committed itself to doubling the number of medical student graduates to 256. When residency programs are taken into account, however, we will not see the full effects of this initiative until some time between 2016 and 2019. This strategy doesn't come close to giving us the 400 new doctors needed each year in BC to replace those who are retiring, moving out of the province, reducing their hours of practice, or dying. And at our current rate, we can expect only a small percentage of these new recruits to choose family medicine.
- 6 The primary care system is showing its cracks. Ten years ago, 2,030 of BC's family doctors (about half of the GP population) were providing obstetrical care. Today just 945 are performing this invaluable service. Although delivering babies is a "good news" area of medicine, the hours are long, malpractice insurance premiums are high and the remuneration for bringing new life into the world is modest. The result is that obstetrics is too much for many family physicians to contend with today. Comprehensive family practices see an increasing number of patients, many of whom have an expanding number of complex health problems. In addition, many more patients than in the past are in a "holding pattern" with conditions that are being monitored by their family doctor while they wait for specialist appointments and care.
- 7 It's no surprise, then, that many of BC's family doctors are no longer taking on new patients. In 1999, there were 1,420 family doctors accepting new patients – in 2004 that number declined to 599, a drop of 58%.
- 8 The foundation of primary care needs to be strengthened in order for it to be sustained. The Working Agreement between the doctors and government, ratified in July, 2004, by our membership of 8,000, includes a series of primary care renewal projects designed to make family practice more attractive to medical graduates, improve upon working conditions, and entice family doctors from outside BC to hang up their shingles here. Yet still more needs to be done.

Dr. Jack Burak is the president of the BC Medical Association

(Recognize Meaning)

1. What does the title suggest about family doctors?
 - A. They are no longer needed.
 - * B. They are too few in number.
 - C. They will soon become extinct.
 - D. They are rapidly leaving the province.

(Recognize Meaning)

2. Which stylistic device is used in paragraph 7?
 - A. analogy
 - B. repetition
 - C. expert testimony
 - * D. statistical evidence

(Retrieve Information)

3. According to medical students, what is responsible for their reluctance to become family physicians?
 - * A. student debt and long working hours
 - B. high malpractice insurance premiums
 - C. a limited number of places in medical school
 - D. an increasing number of patients and long waiting lists for specialists

(Interpret Texts)

4. Which quotation from the article is stated as opinion rather than fact?
 - A. "...the province produces fewer medical graduates per capita than any other province in Canada with a medical school." (paragraph 5)
 - B. "Ten years ago 2,030 of BC's family doctors...were providing obstetrical care." (paragraph 6)
 - C. "In 1999, there were 1,420 family doctors accepting new patients – in 2004 that number declined to 599, a drop of 58%." (paragraph 7)
 - * D. "Yet still more needs to be done." (paragraph 8)

(Recognize Meaning)

5. Which literary device is used in “The primary care system is showing its cracks”? (paragraph 6)
- A. pun
 - B. irony
 - * C. metaphor
 - D. hyperbole

(Interpret Texts)

6. What is the primary purpose of the article?
- A. to inspire young people to consider a career as a family doctor
 - B. to inform readers about the day to day stresses placed on a family doctor
 - C. to make readers feel sympathy for the difficulties experienced by family doctors
 - * D. to convince readers that the declining number of family doctors must be addressed

(Retrieve Information)

7. With reference to Figure 1, which time period on the chart shows the greatest decrease in the number of BC doctors accepting patients?
- A. April '99 to Dec '99
 - B. Dec '00 to May '01
 - * C. May '01 to May '03
 - D. May '03 to Nov '03

INSTRUCTIONS: In paragraph form and in at least **150 words**, answer question 1 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work. The mark for your answer will be based on the appropriateness of the examples you use as well as the adequacy of your explanation and the quality of your written expression.

(Interpret Texts)

1. Explain what steps need to be taken to remedy the issues presented in the article “Family physicians – an endangered species?”

KEY:

STEPS TO BE TAKEN	REFERENCE
• Make family practice more attractive to new practitioners	paragraphs 3, 8
• Reduce student debt load	paragraph 4
• Restructure expectations so that young doctors can balance their professional and personal lives	paragraph 4
• Increase the number of doctors produced in BC	paragraph 5
• Streamline the education of doctors	paragraph 5
• Reduce the number of hours worked	paragraphs 6, 8
• Reduce the price of malpractice insurance	paragraph 6
• Increase the remuneration for obstetrical care	paragraph 6
• increase the number of specialists so general practitioners can pass patients along rather than keeping them in a holding pattern	paragraphs 7, 8
• Entice doctors from outside BC to practice here	paragraph 8
• Encourage a healthy lifestyle	paragraph 8

Other responses are possible.

PART B: READING COMPREHENSION
SYNTHESIS TEXT 1

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following excerpt from “Circus in Town,” and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

**Canadian author Sinclair Ross was writing during the Depression in the 1930s.
In his fiction, he reveals the difficulties of farming life on the Prairies.**

adapted from **Circus in Town**

by Sinclair Ross

- 1 It was Jenny’s first circus. A girl in purple tights, erect on a galloping horse, a red-coated brass band, a clown, an elephant ripped through the middle. “And did you see the elephant?” she asked her brother Tom, who had found the piece of poster in the street when he was in town marketing the butter and eggs. “Was it really there? And the clown?”
- 2 But the ecstatic, eleven-year-old quiver in her voice, and the way she pirouetted on her bare toes as he led the horse out of the buggy shafts, made him feel that perhaps in picking up the poster he had been unworthy of his own seventeen years; so with an offhand shrug he drawled, “Everybody said it wouldn’t amount to much. A few ponies and an elephant or two—but what’s an elephant?”
- 3 She wheeled from him, resenting his attempt to scoff away such wonders. The bit of poster had spun a new world before her, excited her, given wild, soaring impetus to her imagination; and now, without in the least understanding herself, she wanted the excitement and the soaring, even though it might stab and rack her.
- 4 It was supper-time, her father just in from the field and turning the horses loose at the water-trough, so off she sped to greet him, her bare legs flashing, her throat too tight to cry out, passionate to communicate her excitement, to find response.
- 5 But the skittish old roan Billie took fright at the fluttering poster, and her father shouted for her to watch what she was doing and keep away from the horses. For a minute she stood quite still, cold, impaled by the rebuff; then again she wheeled, and, as swiftly as before, ran to the house.
- 6 A wave of dark heat, hotter than the summer heat, struck her at the door. “Look—” she pierced it shrilly— “what Tom brought me—a circus,” and with the poster outstretched she sprang to the stove where her mother was frying pork.
- 7 There was no rebuff this time. Instead, an incredible kind of pity—pity of all things on a day like this. “Never mind, Jenny.” A hot hand gentle on her cheek a minute. “Your day’s going to come. You won’t spend all your life among chickens and cows or I’m not the woman I think I am!” And then, bewilderingly, an angry clatter of stovelids that made her shrink away dismayed, in sudden dread of her father’s coming and the storm that was to break.

- 8 Not a word until he had washed and was sitting down at the table. Then as the platters were clumped in front of him he asked, “What’s wrong?” and for answer her mother hurled back, “Wrong? You—and the farm—and the debts—that’s what’s wrong. There’s a circus in town, but do we go? Do we ever go anywhere? Other children have things, and see things, and enjoy themselves, but look, look at it! That’s how much of the circus *my* girl gets!”
- 9 Jenny dared to be a little indignant at the scornful way her mother pointed to the piece of poster. A beautiful poster—a band and half an elephant—and she felt exasperated and guilty that there should be a quarrel about it, her father looking so frightened and foolish, her mother so savage and red.
- 10 But even had she been bold enough to attempt an explanation it would have been lost in the din of their voices. Her mother shouted about working her fingers to the bone and nothing for it but skimping and debts. She didn’t mind for herself but she wanted Jenny to have a chance. “Look at her clothes and her bare feet! Your own daughter! Why don’t you take hold—do something? Nothing ahead of her but chickens and cows! Another ten years—can’t you just see the big, gawky know-nothing she’s going to be?”
- 11 Jenny gulped, startled. Ten years from now it was a quite different kind of young lady she intended to be. For a moment there was a sick little ball of consternation down near her midriff, a clammy fear her mother might be right—and then she was furious. She wasn’t gawky and she wasn’t know-nothing. She was farther on in school than any other girl her age. She could do fractions and percentages and draw the map of North America with her eyes shut. Her mother to talk, who only last Sunday when she was writing a letter had to ask how to spell ‘necessary’!
- 12 But suddenly the din between her mother and father split apart, and it was Tom speaking. Tom unruffled and magisterial, rising to his seventeen years and the incumbency of maintaining adult dignity at their table. “Can’t you hold on and let us eat in peace? We’ve heard all that before.”
- 13 Jenny shivered, it was so fine and brave of Tom.
- 14 “Come on, Jenny, you’re not eating anyway. We’ll go out and leave them to it.”
- 15 It was dangerous, she thought swiftly—parents weren’t to be flouted—but she couldn’t help herself. Her pride in Tom was uncontrollable, mastering her discretion. Eyes down, bare feet padding quick and silent, she followed him.
- 16 They walked gravely across the yard and sat down on the edge of the water-trough. “It’s too bad all right you couldn’t go to the circus,” Tom consoled her, “but everybody said it wouldn’t be worth the money.”
- 17 She glanced up puzzled, impatient. Pity again! If only they would just keep quiet and leave her alone—join her, if they liked, to see the circus.
- 18 There was a sudden dilation of life within her, of the world around her—an elephant, a brass band in red coats, half a poster blown from a billboard—and to recapture the moment was all she wanted, to scale the glamour and wonder of it, slowly, exquisitely, to feel herself unfurl.

- 19 “There’s Dad now, starting for the barn,” Tom nudged her. “Better go and finish your supper. I don’t want any more.”
- 20 Neither did she, but to escape him she went. Uneasily, apprehensive that when she was alone with her mother there might be a reckoning for her having taken sides with Tom. And she was afraid of her mother tonight. Afraid because all at once she felt defenseless, perishable. This sudden dilation of life—it was like a bubble blown vast and fragile. In time it might subside, slowly, safely, or it might even remain full-blown, gradually strengthening itself, gradually building up the filmy tissues to make its vastness durable, but tonight she was afraid. Afraid that before the hack of her mother’s voice it might burst and crumple.
- 21 So when she found the kitchen deserted, there was a cool, isolated moment of relief, and then a furtive pose, an alert, blind instinct for survival and escape. She glided across the kitchen, took down the poster from where it still hung over the calendar, and fled with it to the barn.
- 22 There was a side door, and near it a ladder to the loft. No one saw her. She lay limp in the hay, listening to her heart-beat subside. It was a big, solemn loft, with gloom and fragrance and sparrows chattering against its vault of silence. And there, in its dim, high stillness, she had her circus. Not the kind that would stop off at a little town. Not just a tent and an elephant or two. No—for this was her own circus; the splendid, matchless circus of a little girl who had never seen one.
- 23 “You’ll catch it,” Tom said when he found her, “hiding up here instead of helping with the dishes.”
- 24 Catch it she did, but for once the threats of what would happen next time failed to touch her. The circus went on. All night long she wore her purple tights and went riding Billie round and round the pasture in them. A young, fleet-footed Billie. Caparisoned¹ in blue and gold and scarlet, silver bells on reins and bridle—neck arched proudly to the music of the band.

¹ caparison: *a rich covering for a horse*

(Interpret Texts)

1. What does “she pirouetted on her bare toes” (paragraph 2) imply about Jenny?

- * A. She is thrilled.
B. She is nervous.
C. She is confident.
D. She is frightened.

(Recognize Meaning)

2. Which term best fits the mother's vision of the future Jenny (paragraph 10) in relation to Jenny's vision of her future self (paragraph 11)?

- A. paradox
- * B. contrast
- C. cause and effect
- D. extended metaphor

(Interpret Texts)

3. What does paragraph 12 suggest about Tom?

- * A. He is behaving in a mature manner.
- B. He is embarrassed by the family's poverty.
- C. He is saddened by his sister's unrealistic hopes.
- D. He is acting as if he were a law court magistrate.

(Recognize Meaning)

4. "She glided across the kitchen, took down the poster from where it still hung over the calendar, and fled with it to the barn." (paragraph 21)?

Which technique is used in the above quotation?

- A. repetition
- B. run-on sentence
- * C. parallel structure
- D. sentence fragments

(Interpret Texts)

5. What effect does the poster of the circus have on Jenny?

- A. It motivates her to join the circus.
- B. It allows her to fulfill her destiny.
- C. It provides an inspiration for her future direction.
- * D. It enables her to use her imagination to fulfill her wishes.

(Interpret Texts)

6. What is the ultimate source of the conflict in the story?

- A. sibling rivalry
- B. lack of respect
- C. marital breakdown
- * D. struggle against poverty

SYNTHESIS TEXT 2

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following passage, “ ‘Happy’ for Sale,” and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

The story of Chris Gardner was told in both a book and a movie. The curious spelling of ‘happy’ comes from a sign that Chris Gardner saw when he was homeless.

‘Happy’ for Sale

Fortune Magazine, September 15, 2006

by Jia Lynn Yang

- 1 In 1982, Chris Gardner was just another go-getter in the training program at Dean Witter’s San Francisco office, making \$1,000 a month. He was also homeless. Gardner couldn’t afford both day care for his 20-month-old son, whom he was raising alone, and a place to live. So for a year he and Chris Jr. slept where they could—cheap hotel rooms in West Oakland, a shelter at a church in the Tenderloin, under his office desk, even, on occasion, the bathroom at the Bay Area Rapid Transit MacArthur station. He remembered the words of his mother, Bettye Jean Triplett, another single parent, who grew up during the Depression outside Rayville, La., where slavery was still a living memory: “You can only depend on yourself. The cavalry ain’t coming.”
- 2 So Gardner worked, making 200 calls a day to snag clients for Dean Witter. “Every time I picked up the phone,” he recalls, “I knew I was getting closer to digging myself out of the hole.” Within five years he had opened his own institutional brokerage firm in Chicago called Gardner Rich, which is still thriving today. Then, in 2002, a story on local TV set in motion a series of events that will culminate this December, when a movie based on his life, “The Pursuit of Happy,” hits the theaters, with Will Smith playing the lead role.
- 3 And that is just the beginning. At 52, Gardner has a new goal: to become a household name. “Oprah did okay,” Gardner says of the woman who is clearly one of his role models. “She’s helping people, and she’s making a ton of dough.” In May he released a memoir, which has the same title as the movie; it is now No. 7 on the *Washington Post* bestseller list. He has an agent at William Morris, a literary agent at Zachary Shuster Harmsworth, a publicist with Rubenstein PR, and a speaking contract with Keppler Speakers. He and Mark Clayman, an executive producer on the movie, have also formed a company called Chris Gardner Inc. to turn him into a brand. Among their ideas: another book, a CD of songs that have inspired him, a daytime talk show, and a reality-TV show with the same folks who did MTV’s *Real World*, in which Gardner will lead a team of people into blighted neighborhoods to help families in need.
- 4 On a hot late-July day in Chicago the humidity is stifling, and at the offices of Gardner Rich, a few blocks from the Sears Tower, the star of Chris Gardner Inc. is rustling through the papers on his desk. Gardner and his 14 employees work in a two-story building that looks like a squat glass box.

- 5 The office décor is as distinctive as the boss's life story. Gardner's desk is a 12-foot-long¹ gleaming metal tail wing of a DC-10. Mounted on the wall are two life-sized plaster elephant heads. Gardner, 6-foot-3 with a graying goatee, dresses in a style both breezy and impeccable: loose-fitting white linen shirt, cornflower-blue Bermuda shorts, and leather slippers. Gardner's quirks (he wears two watches, one on each wrist, to make sure he's always on time), his people skills, and his powerful personal story do have a made-for-TV resonance to them.
- 6 Except that at this moment, as he smokes a Kool, he sighs and declares, "I'm tired of talking about myself." Right. Not only is he speaking to *Fortune* (and *Entrepreneur*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Tavis Smiley, and so on), but he has also booked 50 speaking appearances. It is only Gardner's willingness to talk about himself that makes his plans plausible. Sure, he's something of an operator. His period of homelessness—devastating at the time—has become the dramatic center to his life story, the part that makes people stop and listen. But his sincerity is also compelling. Gardner is using his personal history—plus his persistence and manifest charisma—to sell the sense of possibility that he never lost.
- 7 Born in 1954 in Wisconsin, Gardner didn't know his father growing up, and his mother was married to an abusive man. At 18, Gardner graduated from high school and joined the Navy. He worked as a medic in North Carolina, then left the service in 1974 to work at a veterans' hospital in San Francisco. One day he saw a red Ferrari and, intrigued by the beauty of the car, asked the owner what he did for a living. Stockbroker, the man replied. From that moment, Gardner determined to become one too.
- 8 In 1982 he started at the Dean Witter training program. By this time he was sharing custody of an infant son. But his girlfriend decided motherhood was not for her, and Gardner began raising his son alone. The boarding house where Gardner lived did not allow children, and he struggled to find an alternative—thus the long nights at the shelter or the BART bathroom. All the while Gardner held his job and slowly worked his way up and, by the end of 1983, into an apartment in what he calls "the ghettos of Oakland." He worked at Bear Stearns (Charts) as a broker for 3½ years before starting Gardner Rich. (There is no "Rich" at the firm, of which Gardner owns 75%. The rest is owned by a hedge fund. He picked the name because he considers Marc Rich, the commodities trader pardoned by President Clinton in 2001, "one of the most successful futures traders in the world." The two have never met.)
- 9 The brokerage firm, with assets of \$475,326 in its last financial statement, earns its revenues from commissions on trades it does for its institutional clients. Melody Hobson, president of Ariel Capital Management in Chicago, which has done business with Gardner Rich for ten years, says it is "one of the top-tier firms we use for trading."
- 10 Gardner eventually got his Ferrari but these days drives a jet-black Bentley. His son, Chris, is now 25 and trying to make his way into the music business. His daughter, Jacintha, 20, is a business student.
- 11 For all his élan—he favors bespoke suits and Maui vacations—Gardner was a low-profile success story until late 2002, when a San Francisco TV station aired a segment about his occasional volunteer work at Glide Memorial Church, where he used to stand in line for food.

¹ foot: 0.3 metre

- 12 Lynn Redmond, a television producer, saw the segment, looked up Gardner, and suggested he tell his story on ABC's newsmagazine, *20/20*. "My first reaction was, 'Why me?'" Gardner says. "I was scared to death. My position was, if you want to do a piece about someone with some houses, some money, and toys, then no. But if you want to talk about someone who tried to do something with their life, with their family, and with their community, then I'm all for it."
- 13 The show ran on Jan. 17, 2003. Watching that night was Clayman, 39, a TV-actor-turned-producer, who is now working with Gardner on other projects. In a pivotal moment, the camera crew brought Gardner and his son to the bathroom they slept in back in 1982. Standing inside, Gardner declared, "A lot of hard decisions were made right here about, 'What are you going to do with your life?'"
- 14 Fired by the idea of turning Gardner's story into a movie, Clayman showed the *20/20* clip to the producers at *Escape Artists*, who then sent it to Will Smith. "It made people come together and say, 'Let's go all out,'" says Todd Black of *Escape Artists*, which produced "The Pursuit of Happyness" (the curious spelling comes from a sign that Gardner saw when he was homeless). Gardner flew out to Smith's home in L.A. for dinner so that the actor could study him, an experience Gardner describes as "surreal." He spent as much time as he could on the set during the 59 days of shooting, though some scenes were difficult to watch.
- 15 Driving through the streets of downtown Chicago in his Bentley, Gardner reflects on
- how the story of his life has taken on a life of its own. "Look, you know what I do know? All this could be real crazy," he says. "But I do believe, with all my heart, that some of the things that I had to go through were God's way of getting me ready for what He wants me to do."
- 16 In other words, Gardner wants his story to inspire. And because he is at heart a businessman—he still runs Gardner Rich, though he has delegated much of the day-to-day management—he also has ideas on how to make money while doing it. "This one TV producer I was talking to told me, 'The next Oprah is going to be a man,'" he explains. When asked if he was the next Oprah, Gardner says cheerfully, "You never know."
- 17 People are responding to his story. A table in Gardner's office is piled six inches² high with letters—offers to speak, requests for political donations, and pleas for help from people who feel they can relate to Gardner's past. On occasion, Gardner will pick up the phone and call someone who has written in about a personal crisis. "I find myself saying over and over: 'Baby steps count. But you've always got to be moving forward,'" says Gardner, who usually limits his assistance to phone calls because he says hope is sometimes all another person needs.
- 18 The Gardner gospel of persistence, progress, and faith is spreading—and the movie's not even in theaters yet. "His life is going to change a lot from what he knows," says Black. Gardner, too, can hear the rumbling of oncoming fame. It may not be the cavalry, but something's coming.

² inch: 2.54 cm

THE GARDNER FILE	
1954	Born in Wisconsin
1972	Joins U.S. Navy
1974	Moves to San Francisco
1981	Birth of son Christopher
1982	Starts training program at Dean Witter; becomes homeless
1983	Moves into apartment
1986	Birth of daughter Jacintha
1987	Starts Gardner Rich
2002	Radio station tells his story
2003	20/20 segment airs
2006	The <i>Pursuit of Happyness</i> , book and movie

Figure 1

(Recognize Meaning)

7. Which device is used in, “ ‘I knew I was getting closer to digging myself out of the hole’ ” (paragraph 2)?

- * A. cliché
- B. jargon
- C. dialect
- D. hyperbole

(Interpret Texts)

8. Which characteristic about Chris Gardner is emphasized in paragraph 3?

- A. He is generous.
- B. He is organized.
- C. He is inquisitive.
- * D. He is determined.

(Recognize Meaning)

9. Which device is used in, “ ‘Oprah did okay’ ” (paragraph 3)?

- A. pun
- B. stereotype
- C. apostrophe

* D. understatement

(Interpret Texts)

10. Why is the quotation, “ ‘I’m tired of talking about myself’ ” ironic (paragraph 6)?

- A. Gardner is well-known.
- B. Gardner is a private person.

* C. Gardner has scheduled over 50 interviews.
D. Gardner should be grateful for the opportunity.

(Interpret Texts)

11. Which quotation best demonstrates Gardner’s level of success?

A. “Gardner, 6-foot-3 with a graying goatee, dresses in a style both breezy and impeccable” (paragraph 5)

B. “His daughter, Jacintha, 20, is a business student” (paragraph 10)

C. “People are responding to his story” (paragraph 17)

* D. “The Gardner gospel of persistence, progress, and faith is spreading” (paragraph 18)

(Interpret Texts)

12. Based on the article, which statement best expresses Gardner’s message?

A. Strong families build strong communities.

* B. Individuals have the power to change their lives.

C. Charitable acts are the key to personal fulfillment.

D. Young people need role models in order to achieve their potential.

(Interpret Texts)

13. Which would be an appropriate title for the time line (Figure 1)?

A. Gardner’s path to financial freedom

* B. The personal milestones of Gardner’s life

C. Gardner’s decisions create an unexpected outcome

D. A comprehensive chronology of Gardner’s achievements

PART C: READING COMPREHENSION
ANALYSIS OF SYNTHESIS TEXTS 1 AND 2

Multiple-choice questions 14 and 15 and written-response question 1 are based on the literary prose passage “Circus in Town” and the informational text passage “ ‘Happy’ for Sale.”

(Analyze Texts)

14. How would readers likely feel after reading both “Circus in Town” and “ ‘Happy’ for Sale”?
- A. envious
 - * B. uplifted
 - C. overjoyed
 - D. sympathetic

(Analyze Texts)

15. What do Jenny from “Circus in Town” and Chris Gardner from “ ‘Happy’ for Sale” have in common?
- A. the ability to find humour amid despair
 - B. the ability to respect diverse points of view
 - C. the ability to imagine that their problems do not exist
 - * D. the ability to escape from their difficult circumstances

INSTRUCTIONS: In a multi-paragraph (**3 or more paragraphs**) response of at least **300 words**, answer question 1 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work. The mark for your answer will be based on the appropriateness of the examples you use as well as the adequacy of your explanation and the quality of your written expression.

1. Assess the role that optimism plays in the lives of Jenny in “Circus in Town” and Chris Gardner in “ ‘Happyness’ for Sale.” You must refer to **both** passages in your response.

KEY:

Both the character Jenny and entrepreneur Chris Gardner come from impoverished backgrounds and both are able to escape through the power of optimism and imagination.

“CIRCUS IN TOWN”	“ ‘HAPPYNESS’ FOR SALE”
<p>Despite being denied the opportunity to attend the circus and despite being caught in the middle of an argument between her parents, Jenny is able to escape through her imagination and envision a circus that is likely more fantastic and glorious than the actual event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pity again! If only they would just keep quiet and leave her alone—join her, if they liked, to see the circus.” (paragraph 17) • “There was a sudden dilation of life within her, of the world around her—an elephant, a brass band in red coats, half a poster blown from a billboard—and to recapture the moment was all she wanted, to scale the glamour and wonder of it, slowly, exquisitely, to feel herself unfurl.” (paragraph 18) • “And there, in its dim, high stillness, she had her circus. Not the kind that would stop off at a little town. Not just a tent and an elephant or two. No—for this was her own circus; the splendid, matchless circus of a little girl who had never seen one.” (paragraph 22) • “The circus went on. All night long she wore her purple tights and went riding Billie round and round the pasture in them.” (paragraph 24) 	<p>Despite being homeless and a single-father, Chris Gardner was able to envision the possibility of a more prosperous future and as a result, he set his goals in order to become the successful person that he is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In 1982, Chris Gardner was just another go-getter in the training program at Dean Witter’s San Francisco office, making \$1000 a month. He was also homeless.” (paragraph 1) • “He remembered the words of his mother... ‘You can only depend on yourself. The cavalry ain’t coming.’ ” (paragraph 1) • “So Gardner worked, making 200 calls a day to snag clients for Dean Witter. ‘Every time I picked up the phone,’ he recalls, ‘I knew I was getting closer to digging myself out of the hole.’ ” (paragraph 2) • “One day he saw a red Ferrari and, intrigued by the beauty of the car, asked the owner what he did for a living. Stockbroker, the man replied. From that moment, Gardner determined to become one too.” (paragraph 7)

Other responses are possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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