

Grade 4 Fiction

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 14.

The Paper Airplane Contest

- 1 Jacob listened to the morning announcements as he handed in his homework. "Today is the Jefferson Elementary School Science Fair. The fun will begin after lunch."
- 2 "No fun for me," Jacob mumbled. He looked down at the cast on his elbow.
- 3 The science fair was the best event of the school year. It wasn't an ordinary science fair where everyone displayed their science projects. This fair was a live competition. There was a volcano explosion contest. Wooden cars carved by the students were raced down tracks. Eggs cushioned in small boxes were dropped from the gymnasium roof to see whose would survive without breaking. A dozen other contests involved growing plants, rotting food, and paper parachutes. Then, there was Jacob's favorite contest: the paper airplane challenge.
- 4 Jacob had spent two weeks researching the types of paper airplane designs that flew best. He experimented with different types of paper. He tried changing the length of the wings. He added tape to the planes to make them sturdier. He tried dozens of designs for the nose so that his plane would stay afloat the longest.
- 5 Finally, he had the perfect paper airplane. It was shaped like the space shuttle. It was made of aluminum foil, newspaper, and glue. Jacob drew flames on the plane. It looked as if fire were propelling it through the air. When he tested it, the plane floated for ninety feet before coming to rest on the grass in Jacob's backyard.
- 6 "Perfect," said Jacob aloud as he ran over to pick it up. He didn't dare try to fly it again. What if something were to happen to it? He could never make another one just like it.
- 7 Jacob's older brother helped him place the plane in a shoebox lined with tissue paper. "This will protect it until you get to the science fair," Allen had said.
- 8 "Thanks," replied Jacob as he ran up the porch steps to put the box inside the house. Just as he reached for the handle on the screen door, he felt his foot slip on the plastic welcome mat. He fell backwards. Jacob grasped the box in his left hand. He reached back with his right arm to help break the fall. SNAP!

- 9 Now, a week later, he wondered how he would fly his plane with a cast on his arm. He couldn't launch his plane with an elbow that wouldn't bend. He had tried using his left arm, but it was no use. The plane wouldn't fly straight.
- 10 By one o'clock, all of the students were sitting in the cafeteria waiting for the contests to begin. The principal stepped in front of the microphone and the room went quiet. She welcomed everyone to the science fair and commented that the projects all looked wonderful. Then she said, "I have some bad news. We only had two contestants enter the paper airplane contest. One of them is absent today."
- 11 Jacob was stunned. He listened carefully to the principal as she continued. "Even though the contests have not begun, we already have a winner. Congratulations, Jacob Summers!" She held up his airplane as everyone clapped. She walked over to him and placed a ribbon with an attached gold medal around his neck. Jacob's friends cheered.
- 12 Even though Jacob didn't win the way he had hoped he would, he had a medal to show for his efforts. "Next year's science fair will be much better," he thought to himself. "I already have my project complete and ready to fly!"

1 **Which sentence from the story shows Jacob's problem?**

- A He could never make another one just like it.
- B He experimented with different types of paper.
- C He looked down at the cast on his elbow.
- D We only had two contestants enter the paper airplane contest.

2 **Read this sentence from paragraph 4.**

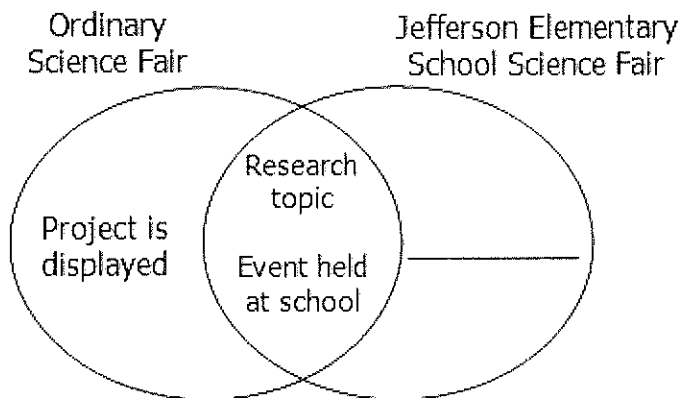
Jacob had spent two weeks researching the types of paper airplane designs that flew best.

Which word sounds like flew but is spelled in a different way and has a different meaning?

- A few
- B flu
- C fly
- D flute

- 3 **To find the meaning of the word "competition," a student should look in —**
- A a thesaurus
 - B a glossary
 - C a newspaper
 - D a dictionary
- 4 **How did Jacob win the gold medal?**
- A The principal thought his design was the best.
 - B He had the most people cheer for him at the fair.
 - C He was the only student with a paper airplane.
 - D The plane he built traveled the longest distance.
- 5 **Which word means the opposite of protect in paragraph 7?**
- A support
 - B guard
 - C harm
 - D save
- 6 **When doing research for his project, Jacob did NOT —**
- A copy an airplane design he found in a book
 - B try using different wing lengths
 - C experiment with different types of paper
 - D add tape to make the planes sturdier
- 7 **What most likely happens next at the end of the story?**
- A The science fair begins.
 - B Jacob goes home.
 - C Jacob takes his cast off.
 - D The principal cancels the fair.
- 8 **In paragraph 2, why does Jacob think he will not have fun at the science fair?**
- A He has an injured arm.
 - B He wants to eat lunch.
 - C He left his project at home.
 - D He doesn't like science.

- 9 **Why did Jacob most likely design a plane that looked like the space shuttle?**
- A He wanted to enter a space mission contest.
 - B The plane flew the farthest distance.
 - C The design looked like a real airplane.
 - D He built it with a cast on his arm.
- 10 **What does the word afloat mean in paragraph 4?**
- A having a small amount of heat present
 - B small in size, amount, or importance
 - C moving through air without being guided
 - D firmly fixed in place; unable to move
- 11 **Which sentence from the story explains why Jacob cannot participate in the science fair?**
- A He could never make another one just like it.
 - B It looked as if fire were propelling it through the air.
 - C He couldn't launch his plane with an elbow that wouldn't bend.
 - D Today is the Jefferson Elementary School Science Fair.
- 12 **Read the Venn diagram about science fairs.**



Which of the following best fits on the blank line?

- A Projects are graded
- B Projects must be able to fly
- C Projects are used in competition
- D Principal looks at projects

13 What happened right after Jacob fell in paragraph 8?

- A His brother tripped.
- B The plane was destroyed.
- C He went to school.
- D His arm broke.

14 What causes Jacob's problem?

- A He did not win the way he thought he would.
- B He slipped and broke his arm.
- C He ruined his paper airplane when he slipped and fell.
- D He did not get his project done in time for the science fair.