

SECTION 2: LONGER PASSAGE AND EXTENDED RESPONSE

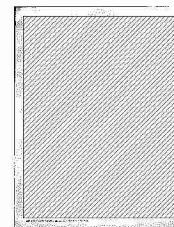
DIRECTIONS

Read the passage, then answer the questions that follow.

Bright Ideas

By Steph Smith

- 1 Taylor Hernandez, 11, of Cincinnati, Ohio, knew there must be a solution. Taylor's little brother and sister had grown tired of their small building blocks. They wanted kid-size blocks that they could use to build large castles and forts, but their mom did not think that was a good idea. The family had no room to store such large toys.
- 2 After **pondering** the problem for a while, Taylor got an idea. She imagined bigger blocks made of sponge or foam so that they could be **compressed** for easier storage.
- 3 She put her thoughts on paper and came up with the Magic Sponge Block Building System, a set of building blocks made of spongy material. The blocks are stored in a vacuum bag, where the air is sucked out of them—reducing their size by 80 to 90 percent. Problem solved.
- 4 Taylor's invention earned high praise. She won a top prize in a By Kids For Kids (BKFK) young inventors competition. By Kids For Kids encourages kid inventors and helps make their inventions a reality.
- 5 BKFK founder Norman Goldstein says it's important that kids have a "can-do" attitude. Great achievements come from people who rise to the challenge, he says, and nations that are full of problem solvers stay strong.
- 6 "Instead of a kid saying, 'Mom, I don't know,' or 'I'm stuck,' or 'It's broken,' [we need to] get kids to say, 'Now what? What can I do?'" said Goldstein.
- 7 At first, Taylor said, she was not sure what a kid like her could do to solve her siblings' toy problem. But she learned that many famous inventions, including Popsicles, earmuffs, and TV, were developed by kids. That was all she needed to know.
- 8 "I saw that other kids invented the TV and stuff, and I thought, 'If they can do this, I can do this.'" Taylor said. Taylor is one of thousands of kid inventors who have had their bright ideas noticed.
- 9 Throughout American history, kids have used their imagination to invent some amazing gadgets. From games like Jenga to helpful tools like braille (used by people who are blind to read and write), young people have used their brainpower to help



improve the world. And there is no sign that this trend of kid power is ending anytime soon.

- 10 By the time Nicholas Fornario, of Pearl River, New York, was 14, he already had 30 inventions to his name. His favorite is the Burn Free Oven Mitt, which he invented when he was 9. It's a traditional oven mitt that has tongs built into it. He invented it after his aunt was burned while using tongs to flip food baking in an oven.
- 11 When Shanuce Bacchus, of Bristol, Connecticut, was 11, she invented Vita-Stix. The vitamins are packaged in the form of a "Pixy Stick" to make taking vitamins more fun and appealing for kids.
- 12 A group of kids from California are also kid inventors. Alyssa and Amy Hansen and Nick and Kaycee Johnsen invented a swimming body board for kids called the Boogie2Boogie. The kids, ages 12 to 14, wanted something to use to surf the breaks, or "white water" near the shore. The boomerang-shape device is specially designed to fit kids' bodies and comes with a remote signaling device that parents can use to call their kids ashore.
- 13 When Justin Euliano, of Oceanside, New York, was 10, he came up with the idea for the Aim 'N Fish, a fishing rod that shoots a fishing line in the direction in which it is pointed. Justin dreamed up the tool after seeing a fishing line, hooks, and bobbers hanging from trees as he fished with his dad. Like Taylor, Justin won a BKFK award for his invention. Kids who win the top BKFK award get more than just a trophy. Their inventions are mass-produced so that they can be sold in stores nationwide.

15. Where would you most likely find the story "Bright Ideas"?

- Ⓐ in an encyclopedia
- Ⓑ in a newspaper
- Ⓒ in a storybook
- Ⓓ on an online message board

16. Why did Justin Euliano invent the Aim 'N Fish?

- Ⓐ He wanted to be famous.
- Ⓑ He wanted to find a solution to cooking fish.
- Ⓒ He wanted to make fishing easier.
- Ⓓ He wanted to win a kid inventors award.

17. The Vita-Stix invention is intended to ____.

- Ⓐ provide kids with a new game
- Ⓑ help kids have more healthy eating habits
- Ⓒ get kids to take their vitamins
- Ⓓ trick kids into drinking sodas

18. Which word is an antonym for *compressed* as used in the sentence below?

"She imagined bigger blocks made of sponge or foam so that they could be *compressed* for easier storage."

- Ⓐ expanded
- Ⓑ reduced
- Ⓒ shortened
- Ⓓ discarded

19. In paragraph 2, the word *pondering* means ____.

- Ⓐ throwing away
- Ⓑ thinking about
- Ⓒ creating
- Ⓓ solving