



SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

GRADE 6 ELA

STUDENT NAME

Day 1

What is your favorite season of the year? If you said winter, you are one of the few people who feel that way. Only seven percent of people say they like winter best, making it the least popular season of all. Winter is often cold, and many people dislike dealing with snow and ice. While a gentle snowfall might be rather nice to see, some winter storms are wretched. The worst of these, by far, is the blizzard. The combination of snow, driving wind and dangerous cold disrupts life and puts people at risk. If you live in an area that sees a lot of cold winter weather, it is essential to know about blizzards. While many people enjoy some winter weather, blizzards can create deadly situations.

1. What does wretched mean?

- a. pleasant
- b. miserable
- c. calm

2. What does essential mean?

- a. important
- b. basic
- c. optional

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What is a blizzard?

- a. A gentle snowfall that occurs during winter.
- b. Any type of precipitation that falls during winter.
- c. A dangerous storm that involves strong wind and very cold temperatures.

Day 2

Many people think that a blizzard is any winter storm that brings deep snow and lots of ice. A blizzard is actually a winter storm with sustained winds of at least 35 miles per hour. Those sustained winds can create a whiteout. A whiteout is induced by snow blowing around in the air which limits visibility. Even if there is no snow with the storm, strong winds can lift snow from previous storms, making it very hard to see. This is known as a ground blizzard. The inability to see the surrounding area is one of the biggest perils people face in a blizzard. People have even gotten lost in their own yards during blizzards because they couldn't see their front door.

1. What does induced mean?

- a. caused
- b. prevented
- c. maintained

2. What does perils mean?

- a. joys
- b. dangers
- c. commons

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What inference can be made about today's passage?

- a. Driving during a blizzard can be incredibly dangerous.
- b. Driving during a blizzard is easy if the driver is careful.
- c. People travel as usual during most blizzards.

Day 3

In order for a storm to be considered a blizzard, the winds must be sustained for three hours. Many storms bring fast winds, snow, and cold temperatures. However, if they last less than three hours, they don't qualify as a blizzard. Three hours or more of sustained blizzard conditions is dangerous. Anyone caught outside in such a storm runs the risk of frostbite or worse. For a long time, it wasn't clear how blizzards form. Due to current weather monitoring stations and satellites, experts can track the development of storms. This allows experts to predict blizzards with greater accuracy. When it is clear where the trajectory of the storm will take it, people can be warned so they can prepare by shopping for supplies.

1. What does sustained mean?
 - a. brief
 - b. trickle
 - c. continuous
2. What does trajectory mean?
 - a. path
 - b. weather
 - c. power
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the main idea of today's passage?
 - a. Not all winter storms qualify as blizzards, which are very dangerous storms.
 - b. People should be very serious about preparing for blizzards.
 - c. For many years, it was unclear how blizzards develop.

Day 4

When conditions made it seem possible for a blizzard to form, the National Weather Service used to issue a blizzard watch. This meant that a blizzard was possible, although it was not conclusive that one would form. The name of the warning has recently been changed and is now called a winter storm warning. When it is clear that a blizzard has formed and is on its way, the National Weather Service issues a blizzard warning. This tells people to take steps to close schools and businesses. It also alerts road and repair crews that people will be in need of their services. People are encouraged to refrain from traveling during a blizzard because it is so dangerous. Even airports close because it is dangerous to fly in a blizzard.

1. What does conclusive mean?
 - a. delay
 - b. certain
 - c. possible
2. What does refrain mean?
 - a. avoid
 - b. continue
 - c. repeat
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. Which of the following statements about blizzards is correct?
 - a. A blizzard warning means that a blizzard could possibly form.
 - b. Most people ignore blizzard warnings.
 - c. Blizzard warnings are serious signs that dangerous weather is coming.

Day 5

Modern conveniences like electricity and gas are helpful during storms. However, people should still prepare for blizzards in case those modern conveniences fail. Electrical services can fail due to sustained high winds and ice. Good emergency supplies to have on hand include candles, flashlights, and batteries. Blankets, warm clothing, and hand-warmers are also important to have on hand because if people lose power during a blizzard, indoor temperatures can become dangerously cold. Having a source of heat that doesn't require electricity is ideal. A battery-powered weather radio is important for keeping up with information about the storm. People are also advised to have a good supply of food at home since travel will be limited. In case of loss of power, it is also important that people have canned food that doesn't need to be cooked.

While snow can be very fun to play in, most people find blizzards to be miserable to deal with. Blizzards are a combination of some of the worst parts of winter, and they can be incredibly dangerous as well. Thanks to modern warning systems, they are less dangerous now. Years ago, people were surprised by blizzards, but this is no longer the case. Advanced warning systems give people a chance to prepare. With a good blizzard survival plan, people can ride out the storm as comfortably as possible.

1. What does conveniences mean?
 - a. services
 - b. deals
 - c. companies

2. What does ideal mean?
 - a. optional
 - b. best
 - c. impossible

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write a summary of today's passage.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push

By Walter Dean Myers
2007

Walter Dean Myers (1937-2014) was an American writer of children's books and young adult literature. Myers wrote over one hundred books and received many awards, including five Coretta Scott King Awards. In this short story, a boy must find a new way to accomplish his dreams after his life changes. As you read, take notes on Chris' dad's attitude throughout the text.

- [1] You might have heard of my dad, Jim Blair. He's 6'5" and played a year of good basketball in the pros before tearing his knee up in his second year. The knee took forever to heal and was never quite the same again. Still, he played pro ball in Europe for five years before giving it up and becoming an executive with a high-tech company.



"Basketball" by Chilli Head is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Dad loved basketball and hoped that one day I would play the game. He taught me a lot, and I was pretty good until the accident. It was raining and we were on the highway, approaching the turnoff toward our house in Hartsdale, when a truck skidded across the road and hit our rear bumper. Our little car spun off the road, squealing as Dad tried to bring it under control. But he couldn't avoid the light pole. I remember seeing the broken windows, hearing Mom yelling, amazingly bright lights flashing crazily in front of me. Then everything was suddenly dark. The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital. There were surgeries and weeks in the hospital, but the important thing was that I wasn't going to be walking again.

I didn't like the idea, but Mom and I learned to live with it. Dad took it hard, real hard. He was never much of a talker, Mom said, but he talked even less since I was hurt.

"Sometimes I think he blames himself," Mom said. "Whenever he sees you in the wheelchair he wants to put it out of his mind."

- [5] I hadn't thought about that when Mr. Evans, an elder in our church, asked me if I wanted to join a wheelchair basketball team he was starting.

"We won't have the experience of the other teams in the league," he said. "But it'll be fun."

When I told Mom, she was all for it, but Dad just looked at me and mumbled something under his breath. He does that sometimes. Mom said that he's chewing up his words to see how they taste before he lets them out.

Our van is equipped with safety harnesses for my chair, and we used it on the drive to see a game between Madison and Rosedale. It was awesome to see guys my age zipping around in their chairs playing ball. I liked the chairs, too. They were specially built with rear stabilizing wheels and side wheels that slanted in. Very cool. I couldn't wait to start practicing. At the game, Mom sat next to me, but Dad went and sat next to the concession stand. I saw him reading a newspaper and only looking up at the game once in a while.

"Jim, have you actually seen wheelchair games before?" Mom asked on the way home.

- [10] Dad made a little motion with his head and said something that sounded like "Grumpa-grumpa" and then mentioned that he had to get up early in the morning. Mom looked at me, and her mouth tightened just a little.

That was okay with me because I didn't want him to talk about the game if he didn't like it. After washing and getting into my pj's I wheeled into my room, transferred to the bed, and tried to make sense of the day. I didn't know what to make of Dad's reaction, but I knew I wanted to play.

The next day at school, tall Sarah told me there was a message for me on the bulletin board. Sarah is cool but the nosiest person in school.

"What did it say?" I asked.

"How would I know?" she answered. "I don't read people's messages."

- [15] "Probably nothing important," I said, spinning my chair to head down the hall.

"Just something about you guys going to play Madison in a practice game and they haven't lost all season," Sarah said. "From Nicky G."

"Oh."

The school has a special bus for wheelchairs and the driver always takes the long way to my house, which is a little irritating when you've got a ton of homework that needs to get done, and I had a ton and a half. When I got home, Mom had the entire living room filled with purple lace and flower things she was putting together for a wedding and was lettering nameplates for them. I threw her a quick "Hey" and headed for my room.

"Chris, your coach called," Mom said.

- [20] "Mr. Evans?"

"Yes, he said your father had left a message for him," Mom answered. She had a big piece of the purple stuff around her neck as she leaned against the doorjamb. "Anything up?"

"I don't know," I said with a shrug. My heart sank. I went into my room and started on my homework, trying not to think of why Dad would call Mr. Evans.

With all the wedding stuff in the living room and Mom looking so busy, I was hoping that we'd have pizza again. No such luck. Somewhere in the afternoon she had found time to bake a chicken. Dad didn't get home until nearly 7:30, so we ate late.

While we ate Mom was talking about how some woman was trying to convince all her bridesmaids to put a pink streak in their hair for her wedding. She asked us what we thought of that. Dad grunted under his breath and went back to his chicken. He didn't see the face that Mom made at him.

[25] "By the way" — Mom gave me a quick look — "Mr. Evans called. He said he had missed your call earlier."

"I spoke to him late this afternoon," Dad said.

"Are the computers down at school?" Mom asked.

"No, I was just telling him that I didn't think that the Madison team was all that good," Dad said. "I heard the kids saying they were great. They're okay, but they're not great. I'm going to talk to him again at practice tomorrow."

"Oh," Mom said. I could see the surprise in her face and felt it in my stomach.

[30] The next day zoomed by. It was like the bells to change classes were ringing every two minutes. I hadn't told any of the kids about my father coming to practice. I wasn't even sure he was going to show up. He had made promises before and then gotten called away to work. This time he had said he was coming to practice, which was at 2:30, in the middle of his day.

He was there. He sat in the stands and watched us go through our drills and a minigame. I was so nervous, I couldn't do anything right. I couldn't catch the ball at all, and the one shot I took was an air ball from just behind the foul line. We finished our regular practice, and Mr. Evans motioned for my father to come down to the court.

"Your dad's a giant!" Kwame whispered as Dad came onto the court.

"That's how big Chris is going to be," Nicky G said.

I couldn't imagine ever being as tall as my father.

[35] "I was watching the teams play the other day." Dad had both hands jammed into his pockets. "And I saw that neither of them were running baseline¹ plays and almost all the shots were aimed for the rims. Shots off the backboards are going to go in a lot more than rim shots if you're shooting from the floor."

Dad picked up a basketball and threw it casually against the backboard. It rolled around the rim and fell through. He did it again. And again. He didn't miss once.

"I happen to know that you played pro ball," Mr. Evans said, "and you're good. But I think shooting from a wheelchair is a bit harder."

1. the line marking each end of the court

"You have another chair?" Dad asked.

Mr. Evans pointed to his regular chair sitting by the watercooler. Dad took four long steps over to it, sat down, and wheeled himself back onto the floor. He put his hands up and looked at me. I realized I was holding a ball and tossed it to him. He tried to turn his chair back toward the basket, and it spun all the way around. For a moment he looked absolutely lost, as if he didn't know what had happened to him. He seemed a little embarrassed as he glanced toward me.

[40] "That happens sometimes," I said. "No problem."

He nodded, exhaled slowly, then turned and shot a long, lazy arc that hit the backboard and fell through.

"The backboard takes the energy out of the ball," he said. "So if it does hit the rim, it won't be so quick to bounce off. Madison made about 20 percent of its shots the other day. That doesn't win basketball games, no matter how good they look making them."

There are six baskets in our gym, and we spread out and practiced shooting against the backboards. At first I wasn't good at it. I was hitting the underside of the rim.

"That's because you're still thinking about the rim," Dad said when he came over to me. "Start thinking about a spot on the backboard. When you find your spot, really own it, you'll be knocking down your shots on a regular basis."

[45] Nicky G got it first, and then Kwame, and then Bobby. I was too nervous to even hit the backboard half the time, but Dad didn't get mad or anything. He didn't even mumble. He just said it would come to me after a while.

Baseline plays were even harder. Dad wanted us to get guys wheeling for position under and slightly behind the basket.

"There are four feet of space behind the backboard," Dad said. "If you can use those four feet, you have an advantage."

We tried wheeling plays along the baseline but just kept getting in each other's way.

"That's the point," Dad said. "When you learn to move without running into each other you're going to have a big advantage over a team that's trying to keep up with you."

[50] Okay, so most of the guys are pretty good wheeling their chairs up and down the court. But our baseline plays looked more like a collision derby.² Dad shook his head and Mr. Evans laughed.

We practiced all week. Dad came again and said we were improving.

"I thought you were terrible at first," he said, smiling. I didn't believe he actually smiled. "Now you're just pretty bad. But I think you can play with that Madison team."

2. a competition in which cars are driven into each other until only one is left running

Madison had agreed to come to our school to play, and when they arrived they were wearing jackets with their school colors and CLIPPERS across the back.

We started the game and Madison got the tip-off.³ The guy I was holding blocked me off so their guard, once he got past Nicky G, had a clear path to the basket. The first score against us came with only 10 seconds off the clock.

[55] I looked up in the stands to see where Mom was. I found her and saw Dad sitting next to her. I waved and she waved back, and Dad just sat there with his arms folded.

Madison stopped us cold on the next play, and when Bobby and Lou bumped their chairs at the top of the key, there was a man open. A quick pass inside and Madison was up by four.

We settled down a little, but nothing worked that well. We made a lot of wild passes for turnovers,⁴ and once, when I was actually leading a fast break, I got called for traveling⁵ when the ball got ahead of me, and I touched the wheels twice before dribbling. The guys from Madison were having a good time, and we were feeling miserable. At halftime, we rolled into the locker room feeling dejected.⁶ When Dad showed up, I felt bad. He was used to winning, not losing.

“Our kids looked a little overmatched in the first half,” Mr. Evans said.

“I think they played okay,” Dad said. “just a little nervous. But look at the score. It’s 22 to 14. With all their shooting, Madison is just eight points ahead. We can catch up.”

[60] I looked at Dad to see if he was kidding. He wasn’t. He wasn’t kidding, and he had said “we.” I liked that.

We came out in the second half all fired up. We ran a few plays along the baseline, but it still seemed more like bumper cars than basketball with all the congestion. Madison took 23 shots in the second half and made eight of them plus three foul shots for a total score of 41 points. We took 17 shots and made 11 of them, all layups⁷ off the backboard, and two foul shots for a total of 38 points. We had lost the game, but everyone felt great about how we had played. We lined up our chairs, gave Madison high fives before they left, and waited until we got to the locker room to give ourselves high fives.

Afterward, the team voted, and the Hartsdale Posse all agreed that we wanted to play in the league. Dad had shown us that we could play, and even though we had lost we knew we would be ready for the next season.

Dad only comes to practice once in a while, but he comes to the games when they’re on the weekend. At practice he shows us fundamentals,⁸ stuff like how to line your wrist up for a shot, and how the ball should touch your hand when you’re ready to shoot. That made me feel good even if he would never talk about the games when he wasn’t in the gym. I didn’t want to push it too much because I liked him coming to practice. I didn’t want to push him, but Mom didn’t mind at all.

3. a jump ball in basketball, between one player from each side, that’s used to begin the game with the official tossing the ball in the air
4. when a player loses the ball to the other team
5. to go too far with the ball without dribbling it
6. **Dejected (adjective):** sad and depressed
7. a one-handed shot made from near the basket
8. a basic principle that serves as the groundwork of a system

"Jim, if you were in a wheelchair," she asked, "do you think you could play as well as Chris?"

[65] Dad was on his laptop and looked over the screen at Mom, then looked over at me. Then he looked back down at the screen and grumbled something. I figured he was saying that there was no way he could play as well as me in a chair, but I didn't ask him to repeat it.

"Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push" from Boys' Life by Walter Dean Myers. Copyright © 2007 by Walter Dean Myers. Used by permission of Publisher. All rights reserved.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following identifies the theme of the text? [RL.2]
 - A. Obstacles arise in life, but that doesn't mean a person should give up on what they want.
 - B. When a tragedy occurs, we should allow people to grieve in different ways.
 - C. Overcoming life's difficulties will always make a person stronger.
 - D. Children cannot succeed without the support of their family.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 - A. "There were surgeries and weeks in the hospital, but the important thing was that I wasn't going to be walking again." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "He was there. He sat in the stands and watched us go through our drills and a minigame. I was so nervous, I couldn't do anything right." (Paragraph 31)
 - C. "Okay, so most of the guys are pretty good wheeling their chairs up and down the court. But our baseline plays looked more like a collision derby." (Paragraph 50)
 - D. "Afterward, the team voted, and the Hartsdale Posse all agreed that we wanted to play in the league." (Paragraph 62)

3. What does Chris' mother mean when she tells Chris that his dad is "chewing up his words to see how they taste before he lets them out"? (Paragraph 7). [RL.4]
 - A. That Chris' dad wants to make sure he is clear.
 - B. That Chris' dad is trying not to be mean.
 - C. That Chris' dad is deciding what to say.
 - D. That Chris' dad doesn't like what he's about to say.

4. How does the scene where Jim uses a wheelchair contribute to the text (Paragraph 39)? [RL.5]
 - A. He is able to better understand Chris' experience in a wheelchair.
 - B. He realizes he isn't as good of a basketball player from the wheelchair.
 - C. He understands Chris' frustration playing basketball in a wheelchair.
 - D. He feels guilty for not working with Chris' basketball team sooner.

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5. How does Chris' dad's attitude gradually change throughout the text?

[RL.3]

Name: _____

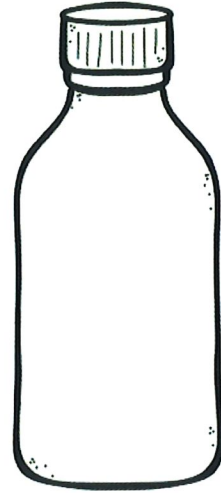
TEXT STRUCTURE

The human body is not always able to fight off certain infections caused by bacteria on its own. Pneumonia, scarlet fever and strep throat are all caused by bacteria and can lead to death if left untreated. Until recently, dying from some of these diseases was common.

Years ago, when someone became ill with an infection caused by bacteria such as pneumonia, treatment options were limited. Bloodletting was one treatment that doctors used. The sick would have blood released from their body because it was thought that too much blood caused infections.

Fortunately, the discovery of penicillin changed the treatment of these types of infections. Penicillin was accidentally discovered by Dr. Alexander Fleming in 1928. Dr. Fleming was studying petri dishes that were filled with bacteria. Some of the petri dishes were accidentally contaminated with a certain mold. The bacteria that had been contaminated with mold didn't grow normally. Dr. Fleming realized the importance of his finding and quickly worked to repeat his discovery.

Although it would be years until penicillin became widely available, its discovery changed the world. During World War II, soldiers were easily treated with penicillin for diseases that were considered deadly just a few years before. Today, penicillin and other antibiotics are regularly used to treat illnesses.



1. How does the structure of the passage help support its central idea?
 - A. The chronological structure shows the significance of the discovery of penicillin.
 - B. The chronological structure shows how deadly some infections were.
 - C. The compare and contrast structure shows the significance of the discovery of penicillin.
 - D. The compare and contrast structure shows how deadly some infections were.
2. What is the effect of the second paragraph?
 - A. It shows that there were effective treatment options before penicillin.
 - B. It shows how penicillin was discovered.
 - C. It explains that bloodletting was a very successful treatment.
 - D. It shows how limited treatment options were before the discovery of penicillin.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Voyage to Pluto

By Ken Crowell, Ph.D
2016

In this informational text, Ken Crowell discusses the New Horizons spacecraft's voyage to Pluto. The spacecraft was launched in 2006 and arrived at Pluto's system in 2015. Pluto was considered a planet until 2006, but then scientists decided it should not be counted as a planet. This announcement led to new interest in Pluto. As you read take notes on what the New Horizons spacecraft observed about Pluto.

- [1] In July 2015, a spacecraft named New Horizons sped past Pluto, the farthest world NASA has ever visited. The spacecraft found tall mountains on Pluto and deep canyons on its largest moon. "I think the solar system saved the best for last," said Pluto scientist Dr. Alan Stern.

Pluto is billions of miles from the Sun and Earth. It is so far away that our telescopes can't see it well. So no one knew what the spacecraft would see.

Pluto vs. Eris

Pluto belongs to a belt of objects beyond the orbit of the distant planet Neptune. If Pluto were as big as a basketball, the typical object in this belt would be smaller than a marble.

But in 2005, astronomers found a similar world, Eris, which is much farther than Pluto. "If it's not larger than Pluto, then I'll eat my telescope," the discoverer claimed. In 2010, Eris passed in front of a star and blocked its light. How long this event lasted revealed how big Eris is: 1,445 miles across.

- [5] The New Horizons spacecraft measured Pluto's size: 1,477 miles across. So Pluto is bigger than Eris. In fact, Pluto is the largest object in the solar system beyond Neptune.

A Cold World with a Heart

Pluto is so far from the Sun that sunlight there is weak. So Pluto is cold. The coldest temperature ever observed on Earth, near the South Pole, is -129 degrees F. But the spacecraft measured Pluto at -397 degrees F. Pluto is the coldest world a spacecraft has ever visited.

The New Horizons spacecraft surprised and delighted everyone by finding a huge white "heart" on Pluto. This heart-shaped region is a thousand miles across, bigger than Texas. Scientists named this heart Tombaugh Regio, after Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto in 1930.



"Pluto's 'heart' is bigger than Texas!" by NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute is used with permission.

Pluto's "heart" may be white because of frozen nitrogen and carbon monoxide. Nitrogen gas makes up most of the air on both Earth and Pluto. But Pluto is so cold that most of its nitrogen freezes and turns into ice. Carbon monoxide is a poison gas on Earth, but Pluto is so cold that this gas also turns to ice. Maybe geysers¹ or volcanoes in Tombaugh Regio erupt nitrogen and carbon monoxide gas that freezes, coloring this area white.

Pluto's heart has immense² mountains two miles high. That's as tall as the Rocky Mountains. But Pluto's mountains aren't made of rock. Instead, they're made of water ice! Pluto is so cold that its water ice is as hard as rock. Glaciers³ made of nitrogen ice flow across parts of Pluto.

Mysterious Moons

- [10] The spacecraft also looked at Pluto's five moons. The largest is Charon (pronounced "Karen" or "Sharon"). Spanning 753 miles, Charon is about half Pluto's diameter.

While Pluto is orange, Charon is gray, and it has a polar cap. The polar caps on Earth and Mars are bright white. Charon's polar cap is dark.

Charon has canyons that dwarf⁴ the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Grand Canyon is about a mile deep; it formed when a river cut through rock. Charon's canyons are hundreds of miles long and up to four miles deep. They probably formed when Charon's crust tore apart.

Charon has craters that scientists have named for characters on the TV series Star Trek: Kirk, Spock, Sulu, and Uhura.

Like Earth, Pluto and Charon are round because they have enough mass that their gravity squeezes them into spheres. But Pluto's other moons are so small that their gravity isn't strong enough to force them into round shapes.

- [15] Styx is egg-shaped. Another moon, named Nix, is shaped like a jelly bean. The next moon out, Kerberos, looks like two small moons stuck together. And Pluto's outermost moon, Hydra, is shaped like Michigan's lower peninsula.⁵

The New Horizons spacecraft looked for more moons around Pluto but did not find any. That disappointed scientists.

But the mission was a big success. Someday another spacecraft may visit, one that will circle Pluto again and again. Then we can study Pluto and its moons for years, discovering even more about these distant and mysterious worlds.

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1. a hole in the ground that shoots out hot water and steam
2. **Immense (adjective):** extremely large, especially in scale
3. an unchanging form of dense ice that constantly moves under the pressure of its own weight
4. **Dwarf (verb):** to cause to seem small or insignificant in comparison
5. a piece of land surrounded by water on the majority of its border, while connecting to a mainland from which it extends

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement best expresses the central idea of the text?
 - A. Pluto is likely the farthest point any spacecraft will travel in the universe, due to the length of the journey and temperature in space.
 - B. Scientists are now planning on sending a person to Pluto to further study the world and its moons.
 - C. After New Horizons spacecraft's trip to Pluto, scientists are ready to reclassify it as a planet due to its size and moons.
 - D. The New Horizons spacecraft was able to learn important details about Pluto's surface, landscape, and its moons.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "The spacecraft found tall mountains on Pluto and deep canyons on its largest moon. 'I think the solar system saved the best for last'" (Paragraph 1)
 - B. "But in 2005, astronomers found a similar world, Eris, which is much farther than Pluto. 'If it's not larger than Pluto, then I'll eat my telescope'" (Paragraph 4)
 - C. "But the spacecraft measured Pluto at -397 degrees F. Pluto is the coldest world a spacecraft has ever visited." (Paragraph 6)
 - D. "But the mission was a big success. Someday another spacecraft may visit, one that will circle Pluto again and again." (Paragraph 16)

3. Which of the following describes the difference between Pluto and Eris?
 - A. Pluto and Eris are both small worlds, but Pluto is frozen while Eris is not.
 - B. Pluto and Eris are similarly small worlds, but it was discovered that Pluto is bigger.
 - C. Pluto and Eris are both small worlds, but Pluto is within Neptune's orbit while Eris is not.
 - D. Pluto and Eris are small worlds, but it was discovered that Eris is significantly bigger.

4. Which of the following describes the relationship between Pluto's distance from the sun and its landscape?
 - A. Pluto is far enough from the sun that it doesn't get much light, which prevents plants from being able to grow.
 - B. Pluto is too far away from the sun to receive light, which has caused the landscape to turn a dull color.
 - C. Pluto is extremely cold because of its distance from the sun, however its surface does have liquid water.

5. How does the author use comparisons to familiar objects and places to develop ideas about Pluto in the article? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
