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You Pay the Price and Hope It's Worth It

What price is paid in hopes of having a winning season?

All is quiet at Lincoln High. The sky is just beginning to turn from black to blue. Coach Stockel is the only person there. He knows that with the slight breeze this hour will be the coolest time of the day.

Things will change before the sun peeps over the eastern horizon. There will be the chatter of the football team and the frequent sounds of the coach's whistle.

Soon, the temperature will start its daily climb. It has climbed above the ninety-degree mark every day for the last two weeks. That is where it will probably be when the team and coach return for their afternoon practice.

Coach says, "I hated these early morning practices as a player. I don't have any greater love for them as a coach. I know the boys hate two practices a day. I know they don't love wearing all that gear with temperatures of ninety degrees plus.

It's just that we know we have to pay the price. You might say it separates the men from the boys. This is the time of the year and the way that winning football teams are made."

Jack Low, a junior, is the first player to arrive. He says, "I could hardly drag myself out of bed this morning. Getting up before daylight during summer vacation is tough. Getting up this early and coming to practices in this weather sure make it easy to go to bed at twilight. This week I've cut out my social life.

Coach Stockel tells us it separates the men from the boys. But, it's the price I've got to pay."

As the sun is ready to peep over the horizon, the next player arrives. It's Chris Mora. He had his first day in gear yesterday. Chris admits, "My neck and a few other places are a little sore." Then he smiles as he says, "They said it was fun, and I was crazy enough to believe them. This going to bed at twilight and getting up at daylight is for the birds."

For Coach Stockel, the years come and go. Each year brings new faces, but much remains the same. The players make those early morning practices when they would rather be in bed. They return for those afternoon practices with temperatures in the nineties. They would rather be heading for the swimming pool.

No coach has ever learned to appreciate those smelly dressing rooms. There are all those sweaty uniforms and smelly socks and shoes.

Coach Stockel says, "It's the price you have to pay. Why do I do it? It's many things. There's tremendous pleasure in seeing the boys develop their confidence and bodies. We hope it's what separates us from the losing teams and makes us winners.

Then there's the dream of a championship. When I played here fourteen years ago, we lost the state championship by two points. I have a dream that during my coaching career here at Lincoln we will win a state championship trophy. That will be worth the price we pay."

A. New Words

- 1 **gear**
- 2 **horizon**
- 3 **peep**
- 4 **plus**
- 5 **separate**
- 6 **twilight**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

- 1. The word that means “added to, increased by, or along with” or “the sign for ‘add’” is _____.
- 2. It was twilight since the sun had just disappeared beneath the _____.
- 3. The equipment and clothing worn by athletes may be called their _____.
- 4. **Daylight** is to **morning** as _____ is to **evening**.
- 5. Practicing in the ninety-degree temperatures in the afternoon is tough. The coach says it will _____ the men from the boys.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

- 6. By afternoon, Coach Stockel expects the temperature to be
 - a. in the sixties.
 - b. as high as seventy-nine degrees.
 - c. peeping into the eighties.
 - d. ninety degrees plus.6. _____
- 7. The players have early morning and afternoon practices. Then most of them
 - a. go to bed at twilight.
 - b. enjoy lots of social life in the late evening hours.
 - c. know they will win the championship plus some money.
 - d. do none of the above.7. _____
- 8. Coach Stockel and the players pay the price. They do it because they
 - a. like the social life in the evening.
 - b. dream of winning the championship.
 - c. enjoy practicing in their gear at twilight.
 - d. enjoy practicing in their gear when the temperature climbs into the nineties.8. _____
- 9. In which list do the words *not* belong together or mean about the same?
 - a. equipment, gear, and clothing
 - b. horizon, twilight, and community
 - c. addition, plus, and gain
 - d. divide, split, and separate9. _____

- 10. What would be another good title for this article?
 - a. Practicing at Twilight When the Temperature Is Ninety Degrees Plus
 - b. Their Dreams of Winning the Championship Gets Them Up before Sunrise
 - c. By Paying the Price, They Know They Can Win the Championship
 - d. How Coach Stockel Separates the Men from the Boys10. _____

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. PERSON, TIME, OR WEATHER?

Read each word below. Think about the two short words that make the long word. Then think about what the word names or describes — a *person*, a *time of day*, or *weather*.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | 9 | 17 |
| sunup | downpour | shopkeeper |
| 2 | 10 | 18 |
| sunset | rainfall | sandstorm |
| 3 | 11 | 19 |
| bedtime | daybreak | dinnertime |
| 4 | 12 | 20 |
| sunrise | sunshine | grandchild |
| 5 | 13 | 21 |
| noontime | rainstorm | grandparent |
| 6 | 14 | 22 |
| raindrop | bookkeeper | housekeeper |
| 7 | 15 | 23 |
| teammate | snowstorm | thunderstorm |
| 8 | 16 | 24 |
| daylight | classmate | granddaughter |



The Bald Eagle

What does the bald eagle represent to the people of America?

Pictures of the bald eagle have been placed on money by different nations for thousands of years. They have also been placed on flags and buttons. This lets us know people have had a special interest in the big bird since ancient times. To some, it has represented strength and power.

The adult bald eagle is a very strong bird. It weighs from eight to twelve pounds (3.6 to 5.5 kilograms). It is about three feet (.9 meters) from the crest of its head to the tip of its tail.

The bald eagle is not bald. However, the adult bald eagle may look bald. Young eagles are mostly dark brown and do not appear to be bald. When they are about four years old, white feathers begin to appear on their head and tail. From a distance, the white head of the adult may appear to be bald.

Unlike people, eagles cannot move their eyes. They look different ways by turning their head. They can turn their head almost all the way around.

They have excellent vision. Their vision is so good they can spot a small animal for food as far as a mile (1.6 kilometers) away. Their favorite food is fish. With their excellent vision, they can see a fish below the surface of the water. It is an amazing sight to watch an eagle dive to the

surface of a lake and clasp a fish from the water. It's a show of skill, excellent vision, and power.

Sometimes, eagles live in groups during the winter. Then a pair mate for life. The mated pair separate themselves from the flock when it is time to build a nest. They are usually about four years of age when they mate and raise their first young eagles.

A nest for the eggs and their young is built on the edge of a cliff on a high mountain. The big nest is built by using sticks and small branches. The mated pair usually return to the same nesting place each year and add more sticks and branches to the old nest.

After the female lays the eggs, she sits on them to keep them warm. They must be kept warm, or they will not hatch. It takes them about thirty-five days to hatch.

The newly-hatched eagles are featherless. They begin to grow feathers when they are about one month old. Their parents search for food to carry to the nest for the babies.

At about three months of age, the young eagles begin to learn to fly. The parents continue to catch food for them until they learn to fly well. Then they begin to find food for themselves.

The bald eagle has had a special meaning to the people of America. It has represented different things to them. They also have used pictures of the eagle on their money and flags.

There is a picture of an eagle on the United States one dollar bill. The next time you see a U.S. one dollar bill, look closely at the picture of the eagle. Notice what the eagle is claspings in the claws of its feet.

In one foot it is claspings a branch. This branch is from an olive tree. The olive branch represents peace. The olive branch in the claws of the eagle means Americans want peace.

In the claws of the other foot, the eagle is claspings arrows. These arrows represent fighting and freedom. They mean Americans are willing to fight for the protection and freedom of their nation if necessary.

A. New Words

- 1 **clasp**
- 2 **cliff**
- 3 **crest**
- 4 **nation**
- 5 **olive**
- 6 **represent**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

1. The word that means “grip of the hand” or “a fastener or clamp” is _____.
2. The _____ branch represents peace.
3. The arrows _____ the willingness of Americans to fight for the protection and freedom of their nation.
4. **Base** is to **bottom** as _____ is to **peak** or **top**.
5. The United States became a country or _____ more than two hundred years ago.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

6. The young eagles begin to learn to fly
 - a. when they are about four years old.
 - b. at about three months of age.
 - c. when they weigh about eight pounds (3.6 kilograms).
 - d. in thirty-five days.6. _____
7. The bald eagle does *not* appear to have a bald head until
 - a. after it is about four years of age.
 - b. it turns its head instead of its eyes.
 - c. it loses the feathers on its head.
 - d. it is about three months of age.7. _____
8. The bald eagle can clasp a fish from a lake because of its
 - a. bald head and the way it can turn its head almost all the way around.
 - b. excellent vision, diving skills, and power.
 - c. webbed claws and swimming skills.
 - d. urgent need for food.8. _____
9. Which pair of words do *not* go together or match?
 - a. tree and olive
 - b. nation and United States
 - c. represent and twilight
 - d. gear and shoulder pads9. _____
10. We know man has been interested in the bald eagle since ancient times. We know this because
 - a. bald eagles have always had excellent vision.
 - b. the enormous bird weighs eight to twelve pounds (3.6 to 5.5 kilograms).
 - c. it has a very interesting bald head that it can turn all the way around.
 - d. it has been pictured on money for thousands of years.10. _____

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. ADDING ENDINGS TO WORDS

Read the pairs of words below. Think about how adding the ending changes the meaning of each word.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. | 2. |
| a. calf | a. collect |
| calves | collector |
| b. bald | b. represent |
| baldly | represented |
| c. cruel | c. citizen |
| cruelty | citizenship |
| d. athlete | d. arrange |
| athletes | arrangement |
| e. nation | e. separate |
| national | separation |
| f. crest | f. effort |
| cresting | effortless |
| g. style | g. value |
| stylist | valuable |