Edge Level B
Unit 1
Cluster 1
“The Good Samaritan”

1. What is the central conflict in this story?

A. Mr. Sánchez and Rey’s father work hard at competing companies.
B. Rey’s father wants him to get a summer job to pay for his car, but Rey wants to play ball.
C. Mr. Sánchez asks Rey to do hard work, and he promises to reward Rey for his efforts.
D. Orlando, Rey, and Hernando want to play on an afterschool basketball team, but their fathers won’t let them.

LA.910.2.1.5
The correct answer is C. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they represent plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text.

Option A is incorrect because the story does not indicate where either man works. Option B is incorrect because this is not part of the story. Option C is correct because as the reader learns on page 13, “This guy (Orlando) invited me and a few others over all summer to help his dad with some yard work because Mr. Sánchez told us, ‘If you help clean up the yard, you boys can use the pool any time you want so long as one of us is here.’” But, as the reader learns on page 14, the promised use of the pool never happens. On pages 14 and 15 the reader learns, “One of those times he promised us soft drinks and snacks if we helped clean up a yard across the street from his house… Well, we did get a soft drink and chips, only it was one two-liter bottle of Coke and one bag of chips for close to ten of us.” On page 15 the reader learns about the promised use of the new basketball court which is un-promised on pages 16 and 17. This continued pattern of promised rewards for hard labor that never quite happen as promised represents the central conflict of this story which is summarized on page 14, “I don’t know why we hadn’t learned our lesson. Twice before he had gypped us this way of our time and effort. Always dangling the carrot in front of our eyes, then snatching it away last second.” Option D is incorrect because there is no afterschool basketball team in this story.

2. From reading this story, the reader can infer that Mr. Sánchez invited some important people to his house because

F. he felt that Orlando should meet some community leaders who may give him a good summer job.
G. he wanted the town to build a community swimming pool so teens would not use his pool.
H. he wanted them to help him organize a drive to have the town hire a tow truck to help drivers in trouble.
I. he may need their support because he wants to become a member of the local school board.
LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is I. Option F is incorrect because it represents an incorrect inference or conclusion based on details found in the text. Options G and H are incorrect because they represent plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text.

Option F is incorrect because there is no mention of Mr. Sánchez trying to make connections so that Orlando could get a summer job, instead on page 12 the reader learns, “You know how it is in the summer. He (Orlando) and his dad (Mr. Sánchez) are always doing work here and there.” Option G is incorrect because although Mr. Sánchez may have wished that other teens not use his pool, there is no mention in the story about a community swimming pool. Option H is incorrect because although a tow truck may have helped him with his flat tire, Mr. Sánchez did not try to organize a drive to have the town acquire a tow truck. Option I is correct because on page 14 the reader learns, “And he was angling for a position on the school board.” On page 23 the reader learns that Mr. Sánchez is “… having a little barbeque for some important people here in town.” The reader can infer that he is inviting important townspeople to his house because he wants to be on the school board.

3. Which phrase best describes Mr. Sánchez?
A. manipulative and unfair
B. thoughtful and a man of his word
C. welcoming and warm-hearted
D. hardworking and generous

LA. 910.1.7.3
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text.

Option A is correct because he manipulates the boys into helping him with hard work in the hot weather but he is unfair because the promised rewards never happen. Option B is incorrect because the way he tricks the boys into doing work for him shows he is not thoughtful and the way he doesn’t fulfill the promises (go for a swim, use of the basketball court anytime) shows he is not a man of his word as the reader is told on page 14, “Or, we figured out later, he could have just said, ‘I used you saps to do my dirty work. And I lied about the pool, suckers.’” Option C is incorrect because he is the opposite of welcoming and warm-hearted as shown by the way he talks to the boys on pages 16 and 17. Option D is incorrect because he may be hard working, but he is not generous as shown by the way the ten boys were rewarded for digging holes for the basketball rims with just one two-liter bottle of Coke and one bag of chips.

4. What was the author’s purpose in writing this story?
F. to emphasize the importance of completing any tasks that you begin
G. to show the value of being able to speak and understand two different languages
H. to illustrate that people should help others regardless of their age, race, or ethnicity
I. to caution readers to work hard inside and outside of school to graduate on time
The correct answer is H. Option F is incorrect because it represents plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text. Options G and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect interpretations of the author’s purpose or perspective.

Option F is incorrect because although this may be a good practice, it is not the author’s purpose in writing this story. Option G is incorrect because the fact that the characters were bilingual is not the purpose for writing the story. Option H is correct because the importance of helping others in need as shown by Rey’s behavior on pages 22 and 23 is the reason for the story. No matter how badly others may treat you, you will feel better about yourself by being kind and helping others rather than ignoring their troubles. Option I is incorrect because although Rey is a hard worker, there is no mention of hard work leading to graduation, and, therefore, this is not the author’s purpose in writing this story.

5. Based on the story, what action will Rey most likely take when next asked to do some work by Mr. Sánchez?

A. He will gladly agree to do the work.
B. He will respectfully decline the offer.
C. He will ask to be paid before he does the work.
D. He will ask if Orlando and Hernando can help him.

The correct answer is B. Option A is incorrect because it represents incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text. Options C and D are incorrect because they represent plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text.

Option A is incorrect because the reader learns that Rey has worked for Mr. Sánchez over and over again without receiving the promised reward. Rey has decided that he does not want to associate with Mr. Sánchez, and, as the reader can see on page 23, Rey even declines the offer to go to Mr. Sánchez’s house for dinner. Option B is correct because as the reader can see on page 23 that Rey’s attitude when he turns down the invitation to dinner at Mr. Sánchez’s house is respectful. The reader can infer that the next time Rey is asked by Mr. Sánchez to do some work for him, Rey will respectfully decline the offer. Option C is incorrect because actual payment was never offered for any work for Mr. Sánchez. Option D is incorrect because since Rey will not want to work for Mr. Sánchez, and Rey feels that Orlando is not his friend as the reader learns on page 13, “I would not be coming back. Because I knew that Orlando was in the house, he just didn’t want to hang out.”
6. What is true about BOTH Rey in “The Good Samaritan” and the teens in “The World is in Their Hands”? 

F. They do things for other people without expecting to be paid for their efforts.  
G. They speak Spanish to their neighbors to show they want to be understood.  
H. They volunteer after school to help some young children with disabilities.  
I. They want to be able to get good jobs when they graduate from high school.  

LA.910.1.7.7  
The correct answer is F. Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text.  

Option F is correct because in “The Good Samaritan” on pages 21-23, Rey changes Mr. Sánchez’s tire knowing he will not be paid for doing so, and “The World is in Their Hands” is about teen volunteerism. Wordwizard.scholastic.com defines volunteer as a person who offers to work or help without pay. Option G is incorrect because although some Spanish words appear in “The Good Samaritan,” the focus of “The World is in Their Hands” is about volunteerism—there is no mention of people speaking Spanish in the newspaper article. Option H is incorrect because there is no mention of volunteering in “The Good Samaritan;” however, as the reader learns in “The World is in Their Hands” by reading the caption below the picture on page 27, some teens volunteer to help youths with special needs. Option I is incorrect because neither selection focuses on teens’ desires for good jobs after high school graduation.  

7. What is one reason why the author wrote “The World is in Their Hands”?  

A. to show that more adults actively volunteer than do teenagers  
B. to show that teens volunteer because their high schools require service hours  
C. to show that teenage volunteers earn better grades on their report cards  
D. to show that more teens are volunteering today than volunteered ten years ago  

LA.910.1.7.2  
The correct answer is D. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they represent plausible but incorrect distractors based on the text.  

Option A is incorrect because the focus of the newspaper article is teenage volunteerism not adult volunteerism. Option B is incorrect because although high schools may require service hours, the author does not mention this. Option C is incorrect because the author does not mention any cause/effect relationship between volunteering and student academic grades. Option D is correct because the newspaper article is about teen volunteerism. Eric Fell, the author, uses graphs, charts, statistics, and testimonials to show that teen volunteerism is the
strongest it has ever been. The information inside the blue box on page 30 presents statistics to show the increase in teen volunteerism from 1999.

8. If this article was published in a magazine, which would be the BEST title for the article?
   
   F. “Selfish Teens”
   G. “Teenage Volunteerism is Decreasing”
   H. “The Negative Influence of Today’s Teens”
   I. “This is the Greatest Generation”

   **LA.910.1.7.3**
   The correct answer is **I**. Option F is incorrect because it represents incorrect interpretations of the main idea. Option G is incorrect because it represents incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text. Option H is incorrect because it represents details that do not support the main idea.

   **Option F** is incorrect because teens who volunteer are not selfish; they are giving. On page 29, the author writes, “Today’s youth are building a unique background in altruism.” *Altruism* is defined as *caring about the well-being of others* which is opposite in meaning to *selfish*. **Option G** is incorrect because the author stresses that teenage volunteerism is actually increasing. **Option H** is incorrect because the author quotes Carl Nelson of State Farm as saying, “Young people have gotten a sort of negative rap when the majority of young people really are involved in their communities in very positive ways.” to illustrate that today’s teens actually provide a positive influence. **Option I** is correct because on pages 30 and 31 the author quotes Youth Service American president and CEO Steve Culbertson who talks about this generation as being tolerant to others regardless of their sexual orientation, disabilities, ethnicity, or race: “They (this generation of teens) don’t look at those differences as anything more than just part of what it means to be human. They don’t let those differences get in the way of progress. That’s what makes this the greatest generation I think we’ve ever seen in this country.”

9. Read these sentences from “The World is in Their Hands.”

   **Today’s youth are building a unique background in altruism. And they are not going to leave their service history behind them when they enter the workforce.**

   Which is the most opposite in meaning to *altruism*?

   A. humane behavior
   B. selfish
   C. generosity
   D. charitable behavior

   **LA.910.1.6.8**
   The correct answer is **B**. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they represent words/phrases that mean the same as the identified word.
The sentences are found on page 29. Definitions are from wordwizard.scholastic.com. **Altruism** is defined as *unselfish concern for the well-being of others*. **Option A** is incorrect because *humane* is similar in meaning to altruism. *Humane* is defined as *showing kindness or mercy*. **Option B** is correct because *selfish* is most opposite in meaning to altruism. *Selfish* is defined as *concerned only with oneself and not concerned about others*. **Option C** is incorrect because *generosity* is similar in meaning to altruism. *Generosity* is defined as *the condition of being willing and ready to give*. **Option D** is incorrect because *charitable* is similar in meaning to altruism. *Charitable* is defined as *generous in donations or benevolent actions for needy persons*.

10. Read this sentence from “The World is in Their Hands.”

   **Not when they are so engaged, so passionate.**

Which pair or words is most opposite in meaning to *engaged* and *passionate*?

- F. involved, caring
- G. idle, detached
- H. active, concerned
- I. busy, fierce

**LA.910.1.6.8**

The correct answer is **G**. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent words/phrases that mean the same of the identified word.

The sentence is found on page 30. Definitions are from wordwizard.scholastic.com. *Engaged* is defined as *to take part in; involve oneself* and *passionate* is defined as *having or showing strong emotions*. **Option F** is incorrect because these two words are similar in meaning and intent to the identified pair of words. *Involved* is used and defined on page 27 as *join, offer to help* and *caring* is defined as *to be concerned*. **Option G** is correct because these two words are most opposite in meaning and intent to the identified pair of words. *Idle* is defined as *not active or in use; not working* and *detached* is defined as *to separate from a whole*. **Option H** is incorrect because these two words are similar in meaning and intent to the identified pair of words. *Active* is defined as *always doing something; busy; full of energy* and *concerned* is defined as *to have to do with; be about; affect*. **Option I** is incorrect because these two words are similar in meaning and intent to the identified pair of words. *Busy* is defined as *doing something or working on something; active and fierce* is defined as *extremely strong or violent*. 