英语阅读丛书

READING LABORATORY

IIIb

5

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POWER BUILDER

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1

18,000 Feet — and No Parachute

by Ian Mackersey

1 The Caterpillar Club is composed of men who have saved their lives by parachute. But even the most terrifying of their bailouts pale into insignificance in comparison with the journeys of a small band of men who; although they fell out of the sky; will never be members. They are barred from the club for a simple reason—they came down without parachutes.

2 There are at least six such cases on record. The classic among them is that of an RAF rear gunner, Flight Sergeant Nicholas Alkemade.

3 On March 23, 1944, twenty-one-year-old Alkemade and his crew were returning from a raid on Berlin. Over Germany, shortly before midnight, their plane was caught by a German night fighter. The starboard wing was ripped open like a can of beans, and the aircraft caught fire. Alkemade saw flames pour back past his turret, and before long he heard the pilot's voice: "Sorry, boys, I can't hold her. Bail out!"

4 Alkemade opened the doors to the fuselage to get his parachute, which was in a metal container. He was too late. The fuselage interior was ablaze from end to end. In the brief seconds during which he saw his parachute pack burning, his face and wrists were scorched, and his rubber oxygen mask began to melt on his face.

5 Quickly he slid back into the turret and closed the doors. The discovery caused a hollow sensation in the pit of his stomach, but the merciless, skin-shriveling heat terrified him far more than the loss of his parachute. And now the turret, too, was burning. Far better, he decided, to die cleanly—better than a slow, frying death. With the hand control he rotated the turret, then fell out backward into the night. He had scarcely left the aircraft when in a fiery flash it exploded above him.

6 He found himself falling headfirst, rigidly at attention. It was a clear, dark night, and all

he saw during the minute and a half of his three-and-a-half-mile descent were the stars beyond his feet. After the inferno he had escaped from, the cool night air was peacefully soothing, and he found himself thinking: If this is dying, it's not at all strange.

7 No memories of his past life flashed before him. He felt no fear, no panic. There was nothing he could do to save himself, and he knew that he would know nothing of the end when it came. He decided not to turn his head and look down; he didn't want any warning of the end.

8 And that was his last recollection of his descent—inverted in space, the stars below his flying boots, and a sensation, which persisted to the end, that he was stationary.

9 Three hours later Alkemade regained consciousness, lying on his back in snow in a small pine wood. When he opened his eyes and looked up he could see the stars through the space he had made in the trees above him.

10 To make quite sure that he was alive, he wriggled his toes and with his hands began systematically to feel himself all over. Incredibly, fantastically, apart from severe bruising, numerous small cuts and scratches, and the burns he had received in the aircraft, he was in one piece. He remembered clearly his descent without parachute, yet strangely, after his initial discovery of the fact, he felt no great surprise that he was alive. It was not until several hours later that his emotional numbness was to wear off and his senses were to grasp fully the significance of the miracle.

11 As his eyes grew accustomed to the dark, he stood up and examined himself more thoroughly. Both boots were missing, presumably torn off when he had crashed at 120 mph through the branches of the pine trees. The trouser legs of his flying suit were charred and torn, but his parachute harness was still firmly in position. Not realizing then the part it was to play in corroborating his story, he took the harness off and dropped it in the snow.

12 The snow, he saw, was no more than eighteen inches deep. It had drifted in under the trees from open ground that bordered the pine wood. Out in the open there was no snow. If he had fallen just twenty yards to one side of the wood, nothing could have saved him. And so to two simple facts he owed his life: first, the branches of the pines were young and supple; second, the snow had received him as he dropped out of the branches.

13 When he tried to walk out of the wood, one leg crumpled under him; he remembered that he had twisted it as he flipped himself out of the turret. He knew he would have to give himself up, so he pulled up the whistle hooked on his battle dress and blew a series of long blasts.

14 Soon he heard voices and the sound of crashing through the trees. A torch shone in his face, and he saw that his captors were the German home guards. They brought a tarpaulin, laid him on it, and dragged him like a sack of potatoes to a cottage. Eventually Gestapo men arrived, and he was taken by car to a hospital.

15 Next morning the interrogation began. The Germans wanted to know what had become of his parachute. When Alkemade said he had come down without one, his interrogators laughed disbelievingly and accused him of being a spy and of hiding his parachute.

16 "If you don't believe me," said Alkemade indignantly, "go and find my parachute harness."

17 In due course the harness was collected from the pine woods. And when his accusers

saw it they were partly convinced, for the lift webs which extend when a parachute opens were clipped down. A few days later, in the burnt-out wreckage of the plane, which had fallen twenty miles away, the metal remains of his parachute were found. From being a suspect spy, Alkemade became a minor hero.

18 So impressed were the Germans that when Alkemade was delivered to prison camp, the two hundred Allied prisoners there were paraded to hear a Luftwaffe officer recite the details of the incredible descent. And so that he would not be doubted again, he was given a certificate stating that his story had been investigated and corroborated by the German authorities, and that it was true in all respects. Sergeant Alkemade had made a descent from 18,000 feet without a parachute, and had made a safe landing without injury.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Did you understand the reason?

1. **Alkemade cannot be a member of the Caterpillar Club because he**
   - **A** left the plane of his own free will
   - **B** does not owe his life to a parachute
   - **C** was captured by the enemy

2. **Alkemade had to jump without his parachute because**
   - **A** it was locked in the turret
   - **B** it had been destroyed
   - **C** he had forgotten to bring it

What difference did it make?

3. **If Alkemade had stayed with the plane instead of jumping, he would have**
   - **A** had a good chance to survive
   - **B** died within seconds
   - **C** met a slow, painful death

Did you grasp the main ideas?

4. **Alkemade's state of mind during the fall can best be described as**
   - **A** calm and resigned
   - **B** desperate and terrified
   - **C** determined and resourceful

5. **Alkemade's fall was broken by**
   - **A** tree branches
   - **B** drifted snow
   - **C** Both **A** and **B**

When did it happen?

6. **Alkemade regained consciousness after**
   - **A** only a few minutes
   - **B** about three hours
   - **C** more than a day

7. **Alkemade received his leg injury when he**
   - **A** jumped from the aircraft
   - **B** hit the ground
   - **C** left the woods

8. **The Germans became fully convinced of Alkemade's story when they examined**
   - **A** the wrecked plane
   - **B** his parachute harness
   - **C** his charred flying suit

What was the motive?

9. **Alkemade gave himself up to the Germans because he**
   - **A** hoped to become a spy
   - **B** wanted his story confirmed
   - **C** knew he could not escape

10. **The Germans suspected that Alkemade was a spy because he**
    - **A** landed near a prison camp
    - **B** had no parachute
    - **C** was only slightly injured

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. unimportance *(1)*
2. hot or blazing place *(6)*
3. not moving *(8)*
4. in an orderly, methodical way *(10)*
5. confirming; supporting *(11)*
6. easily bent; limber *(12)*
7. questioning *(15)*
8. hard to believe; astounding *(18)*

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits each word as it is used in the paragraph. Write the letter that stands before the meaning you choose.

9. cases *(2)*
   - **A** patients
   - **B** legal actions
   - **C** examples; instances

10. seconds *(4)*
    - **A** fractions of a minute
    - **B** articles of inferior quality
    - **C** aids; assistants

11. attention *(6)*
    - **A** thoughtfulness; courtesy
    - **B** careful observation
    - **C** erect posture of soldiers

12. descent *(8)*
    - **A** ancestry
    - **B** sudden attack
    - **C** fall

13. minor *(17)*
    - **A** under legal age
    - **B** lesser
    - **C** sad; melancholy

C. Many words are built on shorter base, or root, words that you already know.

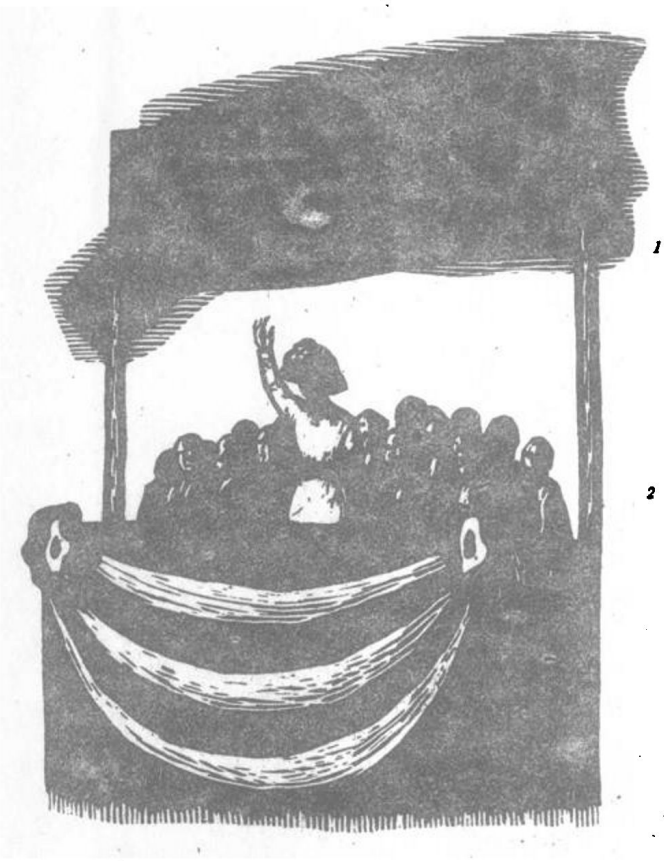
Directions: Each line below contains three words that have a root word in common. Write the root word for each set of three words.

14. retroactive, actor, react
15. aggrandize, grandeur, grandfather
16. copyright, photocopy, copyreader
17. masthead, headquarters, beheading
18. enjoy, joyousness, killjoy
19. resignation, insignificant, assignment
20. attractive, subtraction, tractor
21. deportation, exporter, portfolio
22. proverbial, adverb, verbatim

D. Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Directions: For each word in column I, find a synonym in column II and write it.

I	II
23. terrifying	memory
24. interior	stiffly
25. sensation	inside
26. rotated	feeling
27. rigidly	continued
28. recollection	frightening
29. persisted	turned
30. significance	first
31. investigated	burned
32. scorched	importance
33. initial	studied



She Signed DOLLAR BILLS

by Aylesa Forsee

1 Several years after her appointment as treasurer of the United States, Ivy Baker Priest returned to her old hometown of Bingham Canyon, Utah. Through misty eyes she viewed the banners that said "Welcome Home Ivy Baker Priest"; as she spoke to the crowd, she saw respect and pride in the faces of the audience, many of whom had been friends of her father, a miner.

2 This homecoming surpassed even her teenage dreams, in which she had pictured herself returning to Bingham in style, having achieved fame and fortune. As a teen-ager, Ivy was tall, tomboyish, and awkward, but secretly she had dreamed of becoming an actress. When a local newspaper announced that roles in a film to be made in Salt Lake City would be awarded to those who sold the largest number of subscriptions to the paper, Ivy went to work. She campaigned industriously and won second prize—the privilege of dancing in a beautiful costume during a short scene.

3 The night the film was to be shown in Bingham, anticipation kept her from eating. But when she saw herself on the screen, gangly and ungraceful, she sneaked out of the theater and went home to cry herself to sleep.

4 Every party was a nightmare. When she went to a prom in her sophomore year, only one boy asked her to dance; the following day she overheard one of the girls say, "Jim did it on a dare."

5 The next year Ivy attended school in Salt Lake City and then spent the summer in San Francisco. Her morale improved, and invitations to movies, parties, and dances began to come her way. One day Harry Howard Hicks asked her for a date, and it was Harry for the remainder of the summer. The following winter in Bingham,

Ivy served as a member of the student council, as assistant editor of the school newspaper, and as captain of the debate team; she played the leading role in the class play, and somehow found time for dates as well.

6 Harry wanted her to marry him as soon as she graduated, but Ivy wanted to go on to study law. Then she learned that her family could not afford to send her to college.

7 To earn some money on her own, she took a job as a ticket seller at the Princess Theater. After the box office closed, she could see the show. The contrast between her ordinary life and the romantic life pictured on the screen made her long for a change. Harry had taken a job in Salt Lake City so that he could see her on weekends. They were married on July 31, 1924, but after four years of marriage, Harry was killed in an airplane crash.

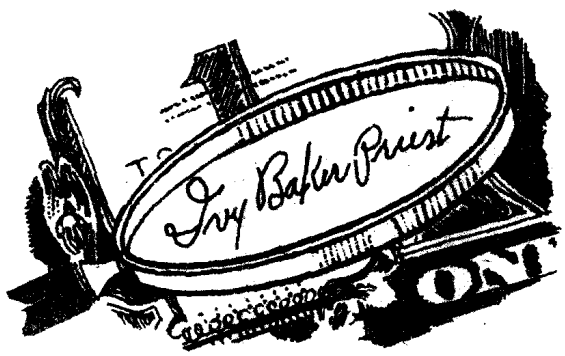
8 The demands of daily living left little time for self-pity. Ivy was living with her parents now. A nationwide depression brought lowered salaries and unemployment, and then, one winter, Ivy's father became too ill to work. Ivy and her mother grimly undertook the job of supporting the family. They decided to move to Salt Lake City. Ivy found a job as a night telephone operator. Days she worked as a salesclerk.

9 When the crisis passed, Ivy began casting about for new activities that would challenge her. Her mother had always been active in politics, and Ivy decided that it would be interesting to be a delegate to the Republican state convention. She had heard that a tight little group usually railroaded things through the precinct meetings. Seeing a chance to jolt the old-timers, Ivy tried their tactics. She and thirty fellow conspirators filed into the meeting, and a friend proposed Ivy for delegate. They forced a vote, and Ivy was elected.

10 Her enthusiastic approach to politics amused the hard-boiled politicians at the state convention. Later, to prove her usefulness to the party, Ivy did even the smallest jobs—stuffing envelopes, ringing doorbells, and watching at the polls. She found politics hard work. It was not always as exciting or as glamorous as she had imagined. Chosen Republican vice-chairman for her district, she arranged meetings, checked for non-registered voters, and planned publicity.

11 During this time Ivy met Roy Priest. They married in 1935, and Ivy pushed politics into second place: she remained active, however, at the local, state, and national levels. Whenever things became too complicated at home, her aunt and her mother stepped in to help with the three children.

12 In 1952 Ivy was called home from the national convention—her mother had had a stroke. Three weeks later Mrs. Baker died. It was a week later that Arthur Summerfield, director of the Eisenhower campaign, called. He asked Mrs. Priest to act as the assistant chairman of the committee in charge of the women's division. Ivy felt that she couldn't accept. Roy and the children persuaded her to take it.



13 All those traveling on the Eisenhower campaign train worked hard. They planned publicity, gave speeches, and made television appearances. The pressure of the campaign led to minor disasters. In Salt Lake City Ivy introduced Mrs. Richard Nixon with, "I present to you the next wife of the Vice-President of the United States."

14 On election day committee workers, filled with suspense, assembled at the Commodore Hotel in New York. When the Democratic candidate conceded defeat, Mrs. Priest felt rewarded for her efforts. Tired of travel, worn out by the strain of the campaign, she longed to be at home with her family; but much remained to be done, and Ivy stayed to do it. Finally, only one job remained—a last report to the chief.

15 After an exchange of greetings, Mr. Eisenhower said matter-of-factly, "Mrs. Priest, I want you to be the treasurer of the United States."

16 Ivy stared at him unbelievingly. Then, drawing a deep breath, she said, "I'd be honored, of course."

17 The family stood by proudly on the day she was sworn in. About three months later, she attended her first White House dinner. At a table covered with white damask and gold table service, she sat only two places away from the President. Ivy's thoughts raced back to the days when she had drunk thin soup out of thick cups in a bleak little mining town; she had never expected to get anywhere near the White House.

18 In her book, *Green Grows Ivy*, she says gratefully that her parents "set the ivy the way it should grow." Poverty could have handicapped Ivy Baker Priest, but her dreams, her faith, and her belief that talent must be used for others brought her a life of success as well as service.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Can you see the writer's purpose?

1. This story was written to illustrate the point that

A politics is a comparatively easy field in which to succeed

B handicaps can be overcome by hard work and perseverance

C women are needed in government

2. The writer relates the incident of Mrs. Priest's mistake in introducing Mrs. Nixon in order to

A insert a note of humor

B arouse sympathy for Mrs. Nixon

C show that Mrs. Priest is not an extraordinary person

Can you draw the right conclusion?

3. Mrs. Priest was appointed treasurer because she

A was an expert in economics and finance

B proved she was loyal and hardworking

C stayed at work after the campaign was over

Did you note the important points?

4. One factor in Mrs. Priest's success was that

A her family was willing to help her

B she depended entirely on herself

C politics was always more important to her than anything else

5. Mrs. Priest always was guided by the idea that

A it was unimportant to get ahead

B her talents must be used for others

C she could get ahead by disregarding others

Can you recognize the differences?

Some of the events in the story were turning points in Ivy Baker Priest's life. Others were important, but did not really change her life. For each event listed below, write *turning point* or *no change*.

6. her appearance in the movie
7. her year in Salt Lake City and San Francisco
8. her inability to go to college
9. her appointment as treasurer
10. her first White House dinner

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. expectation; a looking forward *(3)*
2. mental condition; confidence *(5)*
3. representative *(9)*
4. full of intense or eager interest *(10)*
5. complex; intricate *(11)*
6. admitted; acknowledged *(14)*
7. a kind of linen *(17)*
8. with deep appreciation *(18)*

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph. Write the letter that stands before the meaning you choose.

9. awkward *(2)*
   - **A** inconvenient
   - **B** clumsy
   - **C** delicate

10. parties *(5)*
   - **A** social gatherings
   - **B** political groups
   - **C** persons

11. depression *(8)*
   - **A** low place on a surface
   - **B** low spirits
   - **C** business recession

12. approach *(10)*
   - **A** resemblance
   - **B** access
   - **C** way of acting; attitude

13. appearances *(13)*
   - **A** pretenses
   - **B** acts of coming before the public
   - **C** aspects

C. *pre* (before in time, place, or rank)
pro (forward, ahead of, or favoring)

A knowledge of these prefixes will provide you with a key to the meaning of many unfamiliar words.

Directions: Use the prefix *pre-* or *pro-* to complete each word so that it fits the definition. Write the word.

14. __gress (move forward)
15. __ceed (go forward)
16. __dict (tell about something before it happens)
17. __spect (looking forward)
18. __pare (get ready for)
19. __slavery (favoring the institution of slavery)
20. __caution (care taken beforehand)
21. __side (to sit before; act as chairman)
22. __vious (occurring before in time or order)
23. __mote (to move ahead)

D. Antonyms are words that have opposite or nearly opposite meanings.

Directions: The words in column II are antonyms of the words in column I. Write the antonym for each word in column I.

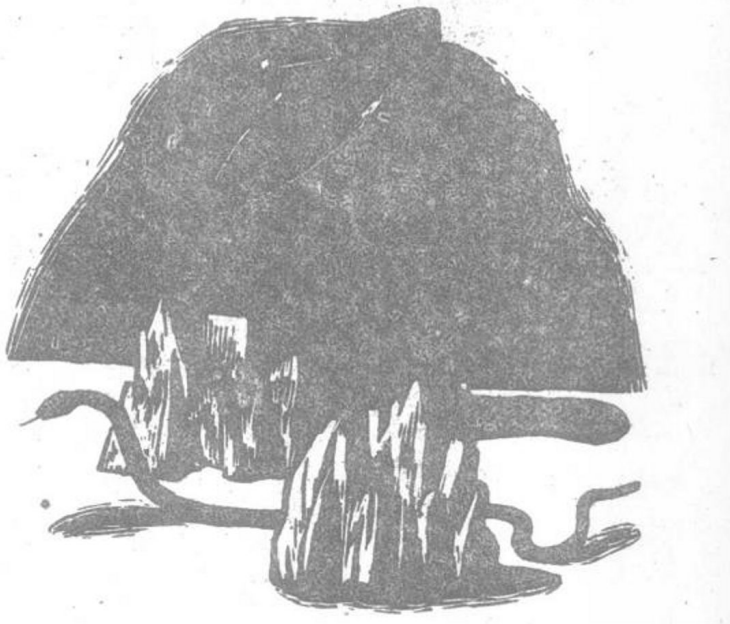
I	II
24. respect	halfheartedly
25. secretly	preceding
26. industriously	great
27. improved	disbanded
28. following	contempt
29. contrast	worsened
30. accept	wealth
31. minor	openly
32. assembled	reject
33. poverty	sameness

RED LAB IIIb

3

The Scientist and the Sensitive Snake

by Gerald Leach



A NEW SCIENCE TRIES TO COPY THE MARVELS OF NATURE

1 In the dark night of the desert a group of U.S. Air Force scientists is testing a new device for guiding a missile to its target. Designed to seek out the heat of an enemy aircraft engine, it is now going through its paces by tracing the movement of a flashlight waving thirty feet away in the darkness.

2 A hundred yards away, unseen by the men, an equally deadly missile is searching out its prey. Sliding between the stones of the desert, a rattlesnake senses a patch of warmth. Without a sound the snake closes in and strikes for the kill.

3 Those two incidents dramatize one of the newest and most fascinating investigations of modern science. For the simple fact is that the missile's heat seeker, with its few thousand pounds of electronic gadgets, is huge and clumsy compared to the snake's. Although the snake's mechanism is small enough to be packed into a head the size of a walnut, it can detect a change in temperature of one-thousandth of a degree. The men working on the missile finder would dearly love to know how, for no man-made device can equal this.

4 Wherever we look in the animal world we find the same story. Almost anything that man can do, nature has already done better (and in far, far less space). Compare the camera and the eye, the computer and the living brain, the radar set and the bat's echo system. Man can only gasp in awe—and console himself with the fact that whereas he has been at it for a mere thousand years, nature has been perfecting its living gadgets for two thousand million years.

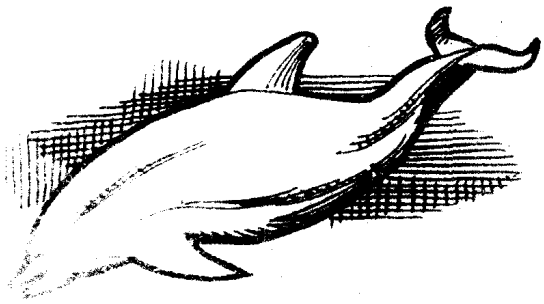
5 It is for the purpose of learning from nature that a new science has grown up. Called bionics, it is a kind of marriage between biology and electronics. Its aim is to find out how animals' apparatus work so that man can copy them for his own use.

6 In some of the older branches of science, the name bionics raises half-smiles and scorn. Perhaps it does seem strange for a modern scientist to study scorpions, toads, blind fish, or spiders. To some, this may sound more like medieval magic than modern science. The list extends to bats, beetles, electric fishes and eels, waltzing mice, ants, locusts, lizards, and a host of others. However when you look at the things this weird menagerie of creatures can do, the importance of bionics suddenly hits you.

7 Imagine being able to know a friend several miles off by his smell. Male silk moths can do this. Their antennae are so sensitive to the subtle chemical odor of female moths that they can detect their presence by picking up only one molecule of the chemical. Even with their most sensitive apparatus, human chemists cannot approach this perfection.

8 The high-pitched squeak that bats use for navigation is fairly well known. A bat can dart about in a room filled with crisscrossing wires without ever hitting one. This idea has already been copied in a navigation aid for the blind that utilizes sound. Even more delicate than the ear of a bat is the tiny ear of a kind of moth that bats prey on. This moth's ear is tuned in to the bat's ultrasonic squeak so that the moth can escape when it hears a bat in the area. Scientists have attached electrodes to the nerves of the moth's ear in order to produce a half living, half man-made microphone that possesses an unmatched sensitivity.

9 Dolphins and porpoises also navigate by some kind of echo system, and it is almost certain that these animals communicate in some way by sound. By swinging their heads from side to side, for instance, and letting out a series of ultrasonic blips, dolphins can "see" through twenty feet of muddy water and tell if a fish is good for eating. The U.S. Navy, whose own sound-locating apparatus is far less talented, would give a great deal to learn how the dolphin does this.



studying beetles' eyes has already paid off. A group of scientists in Germany found that a beetle can accurately measure with its eyes the speed of a moving background. After finding out how a beetle accomplishes this, the scientists built a machine that operated on the same principle. This instrument is able to determine the ground speed of moving aircraft with a high degree of accuracy.

11 Perhaps the most remarkable devices, and certainly the most sensitive, belong to the strange family of electric eels and fishes. In the muddy waters of South American rivers these fishes' eyes are of little use to them. Instead of eyes they use extremely accurate electric sense organs. These fishes send a series of blips of electricity into the water around them. By noting how the pattern of electricity in the water changes, they can not only find their way about, but even detect very small objects in the water. They "see" through the use of electrical impulses. This fact can be demonstrated by rubbing a comb through one's hair (to create static electricity) and placing it by an electric fish's tank. The fish will go wild trying to find out what's going on.

12 Electric fish can tell the difference between two glass rods put into their tank inside a porous pot, even though one rod may be as little as a tenth of an inch thicker than the other. In technical terms, this means that they can detect a change in the electric field around them as low as three thousandths of a millionth of a volt per millimeter. In human terms, this would be like being able to tell the difference in the weight of a car made by a tiny fleck of dust settling on its roof.

13 The list of marvelous animal devices is endless. There is the snail with its built-in compass,

the bee that navigates by polarized light, the fly that controls its flight by its back wings, which have become a delicate vibrating gyroscope. Man is now trying to copy all of these. Every child is familiar with the ability of birds to cross whole continents and oceans during their migrations. How do they do it—by following some kind of built-in compass, by making use of polarized light, by steering a course by the sun and stars? We do not know, but science has every hope of finding out.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

What was the writer's plan?

1. **The purpose of this article is to**
   - **A** stimulate scientific investigation
   - **B** explain how animal devices work
   - **C** show why bionics is a growing science

2. **The writer compares the rattlesnake with a missile in order to**
   - **A** dramatize the deadliness of the missile
   - **B** demonstrate what bionics is
   - **C** show that nature is wiser than man

Did you understand the important points?

3. **The goal of bionics is to**
   - **A** understand how evolution produced animal mechanisms
   - **B** apply science to the study of electronics
   - **C** duplicate animal processes with man-made machines

4. **The usefulness of bionics has been**
   - **A** demonstrated by some scientists
   - **B** universally accepted
   - **C** unproved as yet

Do you remember the important details?

5. **Studying the eye of the beetle has helped scientists to**
   - **A** produce an aid for the blind
   - **B** develop missile detectors
   - **C** measure speed of objects

6. **Scientists do not yet understand the method by which**
   - **A** electric eels navigate
   - **B** birds cross oceans
   - **C** moths detect bats

How are these things alike?

7. **Dolphins and bats are similar in that they**
   - **A** navigate by ultrasonic sounds
   - **B** have a highly developed sense of sight
   - **C** "see" by using electric impulses

8. **Devices of animals discussed here serve a purpose similar to that of the human**
   - **A** eye
   - **B** skin
   - **C** hair

Can you draw the right conclusions?

9. **Study of the male silk moth might lead to a new method of**
   - **A** detecting poisonous gas
   - **B** locating underground streams
   - **C** manufacturing cloth

10. **The military uses of bionics are**
    - **A** one reason for developing this science
    - **B** a relatively insignificant matter
    - **C** not referred to in the article

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. invention *(1)*
2. system whose parts work together *(3)*
3. comfort *(4)*
4. collection of animals *(6)*
5. equipment; machine *(7)*
6. makes use of *(8)*
7. too high-pitched for man to hear *(8)*
8. full of tiny holes *(12)*

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph.

9. subtle *(7)*
- **A** ingenious
- **B** hard to understand
- **C** faint; indistinct

10. fairly *(8)*
- **A** justly
- **B** moderately
- **C** completely

11. certain *(9)*
- **A** inevitable
- **B** unquestionable
- **C** controlled

12. accomplishes *(10)*
- **A** succeeds in
- **B** completes
- **C** reaches

13. principle *(10)*
- **A** law of nature
- **B** origin; cause
- **C** rule of conduct

C. The **suffixes** *-ity* and *-ty* add the meaning "quality," "condition," or "state of" to the base words with which they are combined.

Directions: The words in column II have the suffix *-ity* or *-ty*. Write the word that best fits each definition in column I.

I	II
14. quality of being faithful	unity
15. condition of being lawful	velocity
16. quality of being clear	reality
17. state of being poor	beauty
18. quality of being majestic	poverty
19. state of being united	legality
20. state of being beautiful	clarity
21. quality of speed	majesty
22. quality of being true to life	loyalty

D. Homonyms are words that sound alike but have entirely different meanings.

Directions: Match each of these six words with its definition.

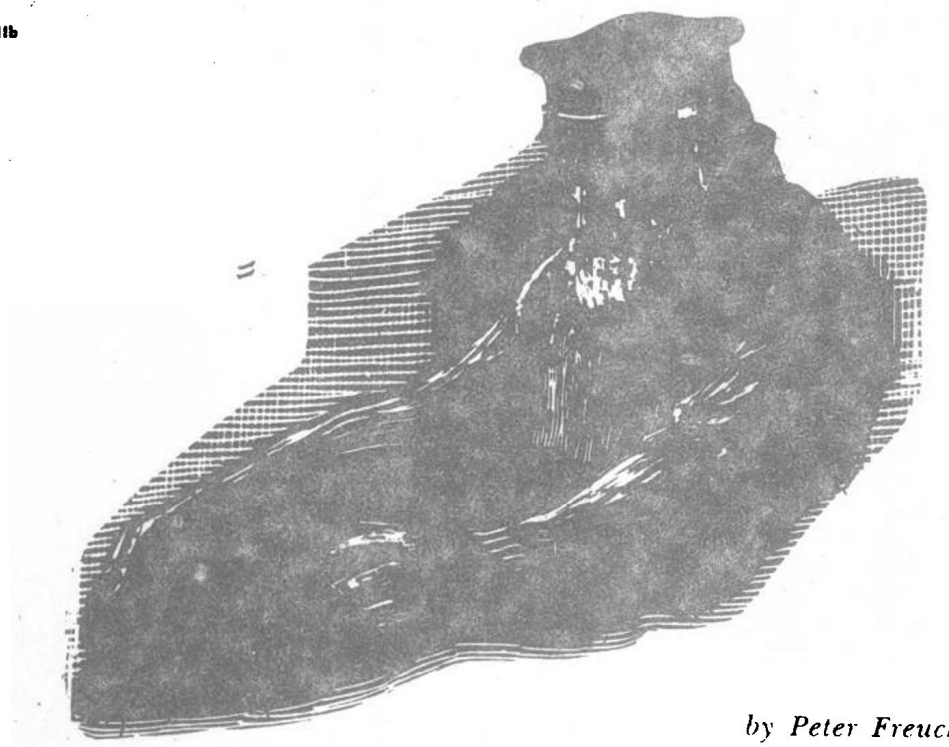
pear, pair, pare
raise, rays, raze

23. two things that go together
24. put into a higher position
25. remove the rind or skin from
26. tear down to the ground
27. soft, juicy fruit
28. beams of light

E. An **idiom** is an accepted phrase or expression that does not mean literally what it says. "He flew into a rage" does not mean that he traveled through the air. It means that he had a violent outburst of anger.

Directions: The idioms in column II are built on the word *fly*. Write the idiom that best fits each meaning in column I.

I	II
29. financially unsound; not trustworthy	fly in the face of
30. shoot or throw (at)	fly-by-night
31. defy or oppose openly	fly at
32. attack suddenly; spring at	on the fly
33. while in motion; in a hurry	let fly



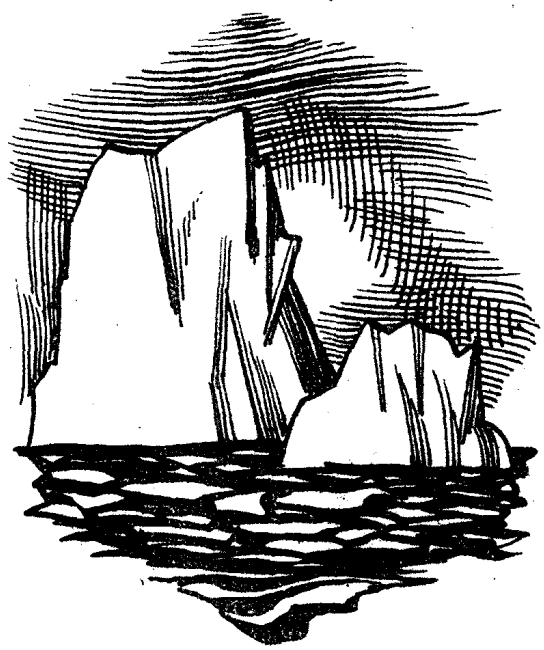
by Peter Freuchen

Unsolved Mystery--THE SEA

1 I really began to learn about the seven seas in Greenland, although I was born and raised in a little port, Nyköbing Falster, in Denmark. I had known ships and sailors and stories about famous voyages all my life, but when I sat through the long, dark nights of the arctic winters at Thule for years, for many years indeed, I discovered the wondrous ocean in my imagination.

2 There was little enough of it that we could see, for all winter long the ice stretched out for interminable miles and miles in front of us, firm and solid. As soon as the sun showed over the horizon in spring, we had a wide outlook; but it took months for the ice to break up, and during that time it was tantalizing to look out from the shore at huge icebergs drifting south in endless procession. When a fellow is sitting alone for months as I was, he lets his imagination fly freely. In my mind I followed those big fragments of icecap as they floated eternally to their doom. I thought of them sailing so majestically south until they were off Newfoundland; I knew they would turn east there and meet the warm waters of the Gulf Stream where they would die, swiftly and inevitably, for the Gulf Stream can finish off even a large berg in twenty-four hours.

3 Well, I wondered, where does the Gulf Stream originate, and why and how does it happen to be exactly where it is? On the sails of my imagination still, I followed this mighty current to where it is born in the Caribbean.



That took me to the waters of other currents, and to studying the winds and tides that play such an important part in the mysterious movements of the sea. Why, I asked myself, do the winds blow so steadily in one place and so capriciously in another, and not at all somewhere else; why should the tide rise as high as a house on one coast and hardly at all on another? Why twice a day in most of the world, but in some places only once? And where, after all, does all that water come from in the first place?

4 Little by little it dawned upon me that there is a logical connection between all the things that happen in that immense connected body of salted water that covers 71 per cent of the surface of the earth. The amazing fact is that the ripples from a pebble thrown by a child could actually be traced all over the seven seas if only we had scientific instruments delicate enough to record them. There is, indeed, a grand pattern in the wonderful phenomena of the ocean. This pattern regulates the ocean's storms and calms, deeps and shallows, the animals and plants that inhabit it, the birds flying over it, its myriad islands, volcanoes, and caves, and even the men and ships moving about on its surface.

5 Since those long, dark, lonely winters in Thule, I never have stopped wondering and learning about the seven seas. Why seven? This was one of the first questions I asked myself, since I could easily name seven times seven that are called seas on the maps. For every answer I found, there were two new questions, because the majesty and the mystery of the sea are inexhaustible, and much lies beyond the comprehension of man. Immense in their extent, irresistible in their power, unconquerable in their precision, the seas have inspired men through all ages with feelings of awe and mysticism and fear. Man feels himself weak and impotent when he faces their might, for no one can halt the tides or fight the currents or control the waves. But everywhere men feel a compulsion to pit their strength against the sea, to explore it and wander about on it, to use it for their own ends and wrest its wealth from it.

6 Primitive people worshiped the sea out of fear of what it might do to them, and in gratitude for the treasures which it washed up for them on its beaches. Even in the days of Columbus, the sailors were deathly afraid of "monsters" in the sea that might rise at any moment from the mysterious depths and devour them. The Romans believed the sea to be a dark kingdom ruled by a god whom they called Neptune. Today we know a great deal more than was known in ancient times; yet we still stand on the shore, humble in our insignificance as we face the waves rolling in from a turbulent ocean.

7 When gales whip the trees and rattle our windows, or snow piles up outside so that no one wants to go for a walk, landlubbers snug and safe in warm rooms are likely to tell each other how sorry they feel for all the poor sailors on a night like this. But, underneath the sympathetic talk, they actually feel a little wistful envy of the men who brave the elements—winds, rain, snow, cold, and storms—upon the restless water. Then on a fine day the sight of foreign seamen, or of tall ships from far away, or of an exotic bit of merchandise from halfway round the world, or even an oddly shaped scrap of driftwood cast up on the beach gives any of us a pang of jealousy of the men who move about over the sea viewing the wonders of the deep. And it must be confessed that these incredible wonders lose

nothing in the seamen's telling of them, for their words seem to set fire to the imagination and give shore-bound people a sense of excitement that they can never find on land.

8 The fascinating stories these fellows bring us are the stuff our dreams are made of. Perhaps we may not believe the salty tales for a minute, but in our secret minds we live them, and we are all great heroes in these dreams. We experience countless exciting adventures, and we drift endlessly in hot, dead calms while all on board except us are in despair. We baffle the most violent storms, conquer the bravest fighters, foil the most bloodthirsty pirates, bring home the richest cargoes from the most amazing voyages, wrestle with monsters, dive for sunken gold, see the strangest sights. Then, in the end, science takes over from imagination—and behold, there are even greater wonders than we dreamed.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Can you read between the lines?

1. **This selection was probably taken from the beginning of a**
   - **A** reference book about weather
   - **B** sailor's handbook
   - **C** study of the seas

2. **The author's main purpose was to**
   - **A** supply factual information
   - **B** trace the route of the icebergs in an imaginative way
   - **C** pass on to the reader his own feeling about the sea

What did you learn about the author?

Which of the following statements would seem to be true of Peter Freuchen? Write *true* or *false* for each statement.

3. He has great love and respect for the sea.
4. He is a land dweller who has never been to sea.
5. He is a land dweller who hopes that he will never need to go to sea.
6. He knows many of the salty tales of the sea and tells them well.
7. He has never studied the sea in a scientific manner.
8. He believes that the mysterious fascination of the sea is being destroyed by scientific investigation.

Can you draw the right conclusions?

9. **The main point of this article is that the seas are**
   - A contrary to the pattern of nature
   - B wondrous
   - C unconquerable

10. **The statement "all on board except us are in despair" is intended to show**
    - A how exaggerated sailors' tales can be
    - B what life on the open seas is like
    - C how sailors' stories fire the imagination

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. teasing *(2)*
2. with certainty; unavoidably *(2)*
3. unpredictably; playfully *(3)*
4. innumerable; many *(4)*