**2.3 a Main Idea**

Directions: Read the passage, and then answer the questions below it.

After two days were past we determined to go in search of maize, and not follow the road to the cows, since the latter carried us to the north, which meant a very great circuit, as we held it always certain that by going towards sunset we should reach the goal of our wishes.

So we went on our way and traversed the whole country to the South Sea, and our resolution was not shaken by the fear of great starvation, which the Indians said we should suffer (and indeed suffered) during the first seventeen days of travel.

-“A Journey Through Texas” by Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca

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| 1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?    1. The explorers are in need of food and decide to go in search of it.    2. Some of the exploring party wants to look for the cows.    3. The road to the cows will lead them astray.    4. The explorers are unconcerned with finding the maize. 2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?    1. The explorers traveled fore seventeen days.    2. The explorers grew depressed because they were hungry.    3. The explorers faced starvation but remained determined.    4. The Indians were starving when the explorers found them. | 1. Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?    1. Starvation was a distant threat to the explorers.    2. The explorers were more interested in farming than in raising cattle.    3. The Indians predicted that the explorers would need food.    4. The explorers searched for maize while facing the threat of starvation. 2. Which of the following would make the best title for this passage?    1. Life in the Desert    2. The Road to the Cows    3. The Search for Corn    4. Hunger in the South Sea |

Directions: Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,

And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there

Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay

In leaves no step had trodden black.

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way,

I doubted if I should ever come back

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

(Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken”)

1. The implied main idea of this poem is that
   1. One should be willing to choose a path in life that is unpopular
   2. One should make sure that one doesn’t get lost in the woods
   3. One will probably regret any decision one makes
   4. Life is confusing and troubling
2. What does the speaker mean when he says, “Yet knowing how way leads on to way, / I doubted if I should ever come back”?
   1. He knew the way back to this part of the woods.
   2. He knew that this path led him to another way out of the woods.
   3. He feared that this path would lead to his death.
   4. He doubted that he would come back because his life it too short.
3. What conclusion does the speaker make about the path he has chosen to follow?
   1. Because it was grassy and wanted wear
   2. Oh, I kept the first for another day!
   3. I shall be telling this with a sigh.
   4. And that has made all the difference.

Answers Page 1:

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C

Answers Page 2:

1. A
2. D
3. D