

## Newspaper Article

Introduction: As you read this newspaper article, be thinking about what the problem is and what a possible solution might be. The problem is often connected to the main idea.

### *Should Carlyle Elementary Be Closed?*

— by Morgan Richards

Fifth-Grade Reporter

Last week the Fairchild School Board announced that our school might close at the end of this year. The reason they gave was that the school is old and needs a lot of repairs. They said it would be less expensive to bus the students to different schools in the area. Parents and students are angry that the school might be closed. Many of the parents went to school here at Carlyle. Some of their teachers still teach at the school.

Teachers are divided in how they responded to the news. For a few of them, this is the only school they have ever taught in. They will also miss working with each other, Mr. Clark, who is the custodian, and the lunchroom ladies.

Many of the other teachers said they knew it was coming, especially after the school had to be closed for two days last winter while the furnace was repaired. Principal Fisher is sad. She said this is the best school she has been principal of and that the students are supreme.

Most students are waiting to find out what school they will be bussed to and if any of their friends will be there. The whole fifth grade is mad that they might not have their sixth-grade promotion at Carlyle.

If the school board decides to close Carlyle, it looks like it won't be a popular decision.

## Reading Comprehension

1. From reading the newspaper article, you can tell the problem is what?
  - A. The teachers are unhappy.
  - B. The furnace at the school is broken.
  - C. Not everyone agrees that Carlyle Elementary should be closed.
2. The reason the school may close is that
  - A. there are newer and better schools.
  - B. the school is old and needs repairs.
  - C. there are not enough students.
3. The author's purpose in writing the newspaper article is
  - A. to persuade the reader that the school should stay open.
  - B. to inform the reader about what might happen to Carlyle Elementary.
  - C. to entertain the reader with stories about the old school.
4. As you read this article, it is clear that
  - A. closing the school will be sad for many people.
  - B. there is an easy solution.
  - C. no one really cares about the school.

## Seneca Daily Editorial Page

### *Carlyle Closure Sensible*

I can't believe anyone would even consider sending their children to Carlyle Elementary School. Two of my children got sick from the fumes the school's furnace sent through the classrooms last winter. As responsible parents, we pulled our children out and sent them to Whitman Elementary. All this talk about neighborhood kids staying with their friends and whole families going to the same school is a bunch of emotional nonsense. Giving our children a good education is what's important. They can certainly get that at any school.

I am also not interested in using my hard-earned tax dollars to repair a school that falls apart faster than it can be fixed. The lengthy list of repairs at Carlyle grows every day. The schools don't have enough money for all the equipment and books they need. Let's put our money into things that matter. The closure of Carlyle Elementary is obviously sensible.

Eliot Jacobson  
Hidden Heights

## Reading Comprehension

To make an effective argument, a good writer covers all the issues of his or her topic. Here is one issue that Eliot Jacobson has not covered in his editorial: What will happen to the school building if it is closed?

Can you think of two other issues he didn't cover? Write them here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of an editorial is to persuade the reader. When a writer wants to persuade someone, it is best to follow these guidelines:

1. Do use detail—don't use general statements.
2. Do use fact—don't use opinion.
3. Be fair—don't use emotional or judgmental language like "I hate" or "that is stupid."

Below, in the left column, list how Eliot Jacobson does or does not follow the three guidelines. Then read Mindy Richards's editorial on the following page and do the same for hers.

Eliot Jacobson	Mindy Richards
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



*There's More to School*

There is more to a child's education than what is taught at school. Carlyle Elementary's end-of-year test scores are well known citywide. They have been in the top ten percent the past three years for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. Our school also got a \$50,000 grant two years ago for a brand new computer lab. Not to mention that two of our teachers have won prestigious Educator of the Year awards. Many of us in the area had Mrs. Denny and Mr. Brush, who are still teaching at Carlyle.

All of these things show that our children are being well taught. But if a student's education is well rounded, he or she learns not just from books but from life. Carlyle Elementary has a history in the neighborhood where it is located. Most of us in the area grew up here and went to school at Carlyle.

The class sizes are perfect now, but what happens when you add children to another school? Class sizes increase. Some would say that just a few children are added at one school and a few at another. I think that's the biggest problem with closing Carlyle. Children who have gone to school and played together for years will be split up. Part of an education is learning who you are. There is no sense of community when your neighbors go to a different school than you.

There is more to school than what is taught in books.

Mindy Richards  
Hidden Circle

Reading Comprehension

Reread both editorials. Using the three guidelines given earlier, list three reasons why one editorial is more persuasive than the other.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

One issue that Mindy Richards has not dealt with in her editorial is this: If Carlyle Elementary is kept open, where will the money come from to make needed repairs? Think of a possible solution and describe it here.

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## The Black and White Beauty

The zebra is a wonderful animal. They have black and white stripes all over their body except for their stomachs, which are white. Similar to horses and donkeys, zebras have short hair that sticks up from their neck. This hair is called their "mane".

Zebras grow up to be between 6 and 8 feet long and can weigh 500 to 800 pounds. The lifespan of a zebra is 25 to 45 years of age.

The habitat of zebras can range from hilly grasslands to mountainous regions of up to 6,500 feet. The zebra spends half of the day eating. What do you think the zebra spends the other half of the day doing?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: Reading Comprehension

## The Black and White Beauty

1. A zebra's stomach is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Black and White
- B) Large
- C) White
- D) Black

2. Zebras are similar to what two animals?

- A) Cow and Horse
- B) Horse and Donkey
- C) Zebra and Horse
- D) Donkey and Hippo

3. The hair on the back of a zebra's neck is called their \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Hair
- B) Ears
- C) Feathers
- D) Mane

4. The average lifespan of a zebra is about \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) 35 years
- B) 6 to 8 years
- C) 500 years
- D) The same as a human

5. Zebras spend about half of the day \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Finding a place to sleep
- B) Eating Food
- C) At School
- D) Talking to each other