

## **Lesson: Reasons and Evidence**

### **Lesson Topic: Identify a claim**

#### **Question 1:**

Read the passage below.

#### From **Science Fiction Explosion!**

Written by Guy Montague

What life will be like in 100 years? Will there be flying cars? Humans brains plugged into their computers? Will vast star ships travel to distant galaxies? Will there be a human colony on Mars?

Imagining these things is what science fiction writers do for a living. Believe it or not, science fiction writers over the last 100 years have predicted much of today's technology.

For example, a science fiction writer created the word "robots." Isaac Asimov coined the word in his story "Runaround," in 1941. In "Runaround," Asimov also wrote the Three Laws of Robotics. Robotics engineers today continue to apply these laws in robotic development.

Ray Bradbury wrote about future laws in *Fahrenheit 451*. In this 1953 novel, Bradbury also foresaw the modern earbud. Characters in *Fahrenheit 451*'s future walk about with "little seashells...that bring an electronic ocean of sound" to the listener's ear. This sounds like students walking around school, bopping their heads to the beats escaping from earbuds.

These two examples are just a hint of what science fiction authors successfully predicted about the future in the early 20th century. To get a glimpse of what the world may look like in 100 years, you may want to tune into what today's science fiction authors are imagining. Or study science and technology to become a science fiction writer yourself!

#### **What is the author's main claim in this text?**

- New technology develops independent of what science fiction writers predict.
- Science fiction writers predicted much of today's technology.
- Science fiction writers will predict the next 100 years of technology.
- Isaac Asimov's stories serve as inspiration for scientists developing new technology.

#### **Question 2:**

Read the passage below.

#### From **Lesser Known Facts About British Writers**

Written by Benjamin Prattlestone

Roald Dahl wrote treasured and well-known children's novels. His books *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Matilda* have even been made into movies. In addition to his stories, Dahl made several important, but lesser known contributions.

A decorated military career is not something someone would expect from an author of classic juvenile literature, but Dahl escapes expectations. He flew for Britain's Royal Air Force in World War II, shooting down many German planes. And when he was forced to stop flying because of headaches, Britain recruited him for another job.

Dahl served as a spy for MI6, the British version of America's CIA. His job was to secretly collect intelligence from the United States. Dahl even served with Ian Fleming, the author of the James Bond novels.

People may not know that after the war, Dahl kept in touch with Fleming and even wrote a screenplay for a James Bond movie. *You Only Live Twice* is Dahl's film version of a Fleming novel. It turned into a big hit, starring Sean Connery as James Bond.

Dahl's lesser known contributions only make him a more fascinating person. He is an incredible example of how interesting and complex a person's life can be.

**What is the author's main claim in this text?**

- Dahl's work as a spy led him to write a James Bond screenplay.
- Dahl served as a spy for the British version of the CIA.
- Dahl is an important contributor to children's literature.
- Dahl made several, but not well-known cultural contributions.

**Question 3:**

Read the passage below.

From **The Meaning of Wedding Gifts**

Written by Laura Reynolds

Weddings are a time for celebration. A wedding represents the start of a new life for two people. Since this ceremony has existed for thousands of years, weddings are full of tradition. One of the wedding traditions common throughout history is the giving of symbolic gifts.

Long ago, it was common for guests to give fruit as a wedding gift. The fruit was supposed to help bring the newlyweds a lot of children. It was also said to bring the couple wealth.

Rings are traditionally traded between a couple during the wedding. The circle of the wedding band symbolizes eternity. This is because a ring has no end. This tradition is said to have come from an old tribal custom. In ancient times, circles of grass were used to decorate the bride. The bride would wear these symbolic circles of grass around her ankles and wrists.

A diamond ring is a modern symbolic gift given to a bride or groom. This ring is called an engagement ring. It is used to show that a person wants to marry his or her partner—that's why it's also sometimes known as a promise ring. If the person accepts the proposal, he or she will wear the ring. This tradition dates back to Victorian times. The ring isn't always made of diamond, though. People use all kinds of materials for engagement rings.

**What is the author's main claim in this text?**

- Fruit is a traditional wedding gift said to bring children or wealth.
- The giving of symbolic gifts is a wedding tradition common throughout history.
- Weddings are a tradition that have existed for thousands of years.
- Weddings are occasions for celebration.

**Question 4:**

Read the passage below.

From **Fairy Tale Origins**

Written by Elizabeth Baker

A fairy tale is a children's story. They are often about magical beings and imaginary, faraway lands. There is almost always a happy ending. Though fairy tales may sound like pure fantasy, they are often based on real people and real events. Here are two such stories that inspired a pair of the most popular fairy tales of our time.

Charles Dodgson wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* under the pen name Lewis Carroll. He created the story to amuse some young friends. One of the children, Alice Liddell, asked him to write the story on paper. Once he started writing, he knew he had a great book. The main character was named after Liddell. Friends and family were used as inspiration for some of the other characters. For example, Alice Liddell's

father was the inspiration for the White Rabbit.

A second story likely inspired by real events is *Cinderella*. The story of Cinderella is one of the oldest and most popular fairy tales. While there are several versions, the story is likely based on a real person. Rhodopis was a lovely woman who lived in ancient Greece. She was known for her long blond hair and blue eyes. One day, the Pharaoh noticed a woman with beautiful golden shoes. When he got a closer look at Rhodopis, he fell in love. The mighty ruler asked her to marry him, and the rest is fairy tale history!

What other fairy tales do you know? You may not know it, but they may owe their roots to true history.

**What is the author's main claim in this text?**

- The real Alice was one of Lewis Carroll's friends.
- Cinderella* is based upon a real, ancient Greek woman.
- Some fairy tales have a basis on real people and events.
- There may be more fairy tales than you know.

**Question 5:**

Read the passage below.

From **What's For Lunch?**

Written by Sal Amis

Look around your cafeteria at lunch, and there is bound to be quite a few students eating sandwiches. Sandwiches come in all shapes and sizes, with all types of fillings in between two pieces of bread. What you might not know is that some sandwiches may be very unhealthy.

Sandwiches may be unhealthy because they are high in fat. Where does that fat come from? The fat comes from cheese and mayonnaise. Cheese, especially processed cheese, is made from milkfat and salt. The more processed a cheese is (think American cheese), the more fat and salt it will contain. Mayonnaise also contains a great deal of fat. According to the American Medical Association, there is about 11 grams of fat in just one tablespoon of mayo.

Sandwiches made with processed bread can also be unhealthy. Bread makers add taste to their bread with sugar and high fructose corn syrup. When sugar enters a person's body, there is a brief rush of energy followed by a crash. If you've ever felt very drowsy after lunch, you know what this crash feels like.

Not all sandwiches are bad for you. A whole grain sandwich loaded with vegetables and dressed with mustard can be very healthy. If you watch what you eat, you can end up feeling much healthier and full of energy.

**What is the author's main claim in this text?**

- Some sandwiches may not be very healthy.
- Mayonnaise is high in fat.
- Vegetables and mustard are much healthier sandwich toppings.
- A lot of students eat sandwiches for lunch.

## Lesson Topic: Identify the reasons an author gives to support an opinion

### Question 1:

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Imagining these things is what science fiction writers do for a living. Believe it or not, science fiction writers over the last 100 years have predicted much of today's technology.

For example, a science fiction writer created the word "robots." Isaac Asimov coined the word in his story "Runaround," in 1941. In "Runaround," Asimov also wrote the Three Laws of Robotics. Robotics engineers today continue to apply these laws in robotic development.

Ray Bradbury wrote about future laws in *Fahrenheit 451*. In this 1953 novel, Bradbury also foresaw the modern earbud. Characters in *Fahrenheit 451*'s future walk about with "little seashells...that bring an electronic ocean of sound" to the listener's ear. This sounds like students walking around school, bopping their heads to the beats escaping from earbuds.

These two examples are just a hint of what science fiction authors successfully predicted about the future in the early 20th century. To get a glimpse of what the world may look like in 100 years, you may want to tune into what today's science fiction authors are imagining. Or study science and technology to become a science fiction writer yourself!

### What reasons does the author give to show his claim that science fiction writers have predicted a lot of modern technology?

Check all that are true.

- Isaac Asimov created the word "robots."
- Ray Bradbury predicted the appearance the earbud headphone.
- Ray Bradbury foresaw a future where governments burned books.
- Science fiction writers have predicted much of today's technology.
- Tune into what today's science fiction authors are imagining.

### Question 2:

Read the passage below.

#### From **Lesser Known Facts About British Writers**

Written by Benjamin Prattlestone

Roald Dahl wrote treasured and well-known children's novels. His books *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Matilda* have even been made into movies. In addition to his stories, Dahl made several important, but lesser known contributions.

A decorated military career is not something someone would expect from an author of classic juvenile literature, but Dahl escapes expectations. He flew for Britain's Royal Air Force in World War II, shooting down many German planes. And when he was forced to stop flying because of headaches, Britain recruited him for another job.

Dahl served as a spy for MI6, the British version of America's CIA. His job was to secretly collect intelligence from the United States. Dahl even served with Ian Fleming, the author of the James Bond novels.

People may not know that after the war, Dahl kept in touch with Fleming and even wrote a screenplay for a James Bond movie. *You Only Live Twice* is Dahl's film version of a Fleming novel. It turned into a big hit, starring Sean Connery as James Bond.

Dahl's lesser known contributions only make him a more fascinating person. He is an incredible example of how interesting and complex a person's life can be.

**What reasons does the author give to support his claim that Dahl made several major, lesser known cultural contributions?**

Check all that are true.

- Dahl made several, but not well-known cultural contributions.
- Dahl served as a spy for the British version of the CIA.
- Dahl is an important contributor to children's literature.
- Dahl's work as a spy led him to write a James Bond screenplay.

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A second story likely inspired by real events is *Cinderella*. The story of Cinderella is one of the oldest and most popular fairy tales. While there are several versions, the story is likely based on a real person. Rhodopis was a lovely woman who lived in ancient Greece. She was known for her long blond hair and blue eyes. One day, the Pharaoh noticed a woman with beautiful golden shoes. When he got a closer look at Rhodopis, he fell in love. The mighty ruler asked him to marry her and the rest is fairy tale history!

What other fairy tales do you know? You may not know if, but they may owe their roots to true history.

**Which of the following are reasons that support the claim that fairy tales are often based on real people and real events?**

Check all that are true.

- Some fairy tales have a basis on real people and events.
- Cinderella* is based upon a real, ancient Greek woman.
- There may be more fairy tales than you know.
- The real Alice was one of Lewis Carroll's friends.

**Question 4:**

Read the passage below.

From **The Metals of Man**

Written by Hep Phaestus

Steel is one of the strongest man-made substances. Without steel, the world would look much like it did in the beginning of the 1800s. This was not the first time humans had used steel, however. Human civilizations having actually been using steel for over 2,000 years.

From the 4th century B.C.E., steel aided the military in spreading ancient empires. The spread of the Han dynasty in China was aided by almost unbreakable steel weapons. And the ancient Spartans forged strong steel swords in combination with intense training to form one of the strongest militias ever known.

The Indian empire created Damascus steel, famed throughout the world, around 1000 C.E. The legends of Damascus steel hold that its edge can split a single human hair and slice a metal rifle in half with one swipe.

Steel not only helped to build the modern world, it was also an important part of ancient civilizations. Next time you find yourself among skyscrapers, take a moment to realize what an impact steel has had on humans.

**Which of the following choices is not a reason that supports the claim that humans have been using steel for 2,000 years?**

Check all that are true.

- Damascus steel could supposedly cut a human hair in half.
- Hard steel swords aided ancient militaries.
- Steel did not become a universally used substance until the Industrial Revolution.
- The Indian empire created Damascus steel around 1000 C.E.

**Question 5:**

Read the passage below.

From **A History of Cave Exploration**

Written by Kari Harreman

Caves are exciting places to explore. People have drawn precious resources from caves for centuries. Lack of proper tools, however, kept people from going into the real depths of many caves. The development of tools in the 20th century allowed people to spelunk, or explore deeper into caves.

Using ropes and steel ladders, a Frenchman named Martel pioneered cave exploration. He first descended a cave in 1889. Six years later, he explored caves across Europe and the United States. Martel worked to improve his tools with each cave he explored. By the 1920s and 1930s, spelunking became a famous hobby as people used Martel's tools and methods. People soon found places that no one had ever seen before. They even found new life forms thriving deep in caves.

In the 1940s, cavers looked for new ways to explore. A team of spelunkers came up with the idea of using nylon ropes and scaling poles to descend deep into caves. They set a record for caving depth with them.

Today, anyone can tour famous caves in trains and hiking tours with expert cavers. People can learn about the animals in the caves and protect this natural environment. Doing so is important since caves still have many things left for humans to discover. Even now, new tools and methods are being researched so that humans can go deeper into caves.

**Which of the following reasons do not support the author's claim that tool development allowed deeper cave exploration?**

Check all that are true.

- Cavers in the 1920s and 1930s found new life forms thriving in caves.
- A Frenchman named Martel pioneered cave exploration using ropes and ladders.
- People have descended as far as they can into the depths of caves.
- Spelunkers developed nylon ropes and scaling poles to set a record for caving depth.



## Lesson Topic: Identify the evidence an author uses to support reasons

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### Which of the following choices support the claim that Isaac Asimov created the word "robots"?

Check all that are true.

- Isaac Asimov created the word "robots" in his 1941 story "Runaround."
- Ray Bradbury predicted the appearance of the ear bud headphone.
- Ray Bradbury foresaw a future where governments burned books.
- Robotics engineers today continue to use Asimov's Laws of Robotics.

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Which of the following choices is evidence that Dahl knew Ian Fleming?

Check all that are true.

- Dahl made several, but not well-known cultural contributions.
- Dahl served with Fleming as a spy for the British version of the CIA.
- Dahl is an important contributor to children's literature.
- Dahl's screenplay for one of Fleming's novels was turned into a film.

**Question 3:**

Read the passage below.

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Written by Elizabeth Baker

A fairy tale is a children's story. They are often about magical beings and imaginary, faraway lands. There is almost always a happy ending. Though fairy tales may sound like pure fantasy, they are often based on real people and real events. Here are two such stories that inspired a pair of the most popular fairy tales of our time.

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A second story likely inspired by real events is *Cinderella*. The story of Cinderella is one of the oldest and most popular fairy tales. While there are several versions, the story is likely based on a real person. Rhodopis was a lovely woman who lived in ancient Greece. She was known for her long blond hair and blue eyes. One day, the Pharaoh noticed a woman with beautiful golden shoes. When he got a closer look at Rhodopis, he fell in love. The mighty ruler asked him to marry her, and the rest is fairy tale history!

What other fairy tales do you know? You may not know it, but they may owe their roots to true history.

Which evidence does the author provide to support her point that Cinderella was a real woman?

Check all that are true.

- The Pharaoh fell in love with Rhodopis when he saw her golden shoes.
- Rhodopis was a lovely woman in ancient Greece known for her long blond hair and blue eyes.
- The main character Alice was named after one of Carroll's friends.
- There are many fairy tales with their roots in reality.

**Question 4:**

Read the passage below.

From **The Meaning of Wedding Gifts**

Written by Laura Reynolds

Weddings are a time for celebration. A wedding represents the start of a new life for two people. Since this ceremony has existed for thousands of years, weddings are full of tradition. One of the wedding traditions common throughout history is the giving of symbolic gifts.

Long ago, it was common for guests to give fruit as a wedding gift. The fruit was supposed to help bring the newlyweds a lot of children. It was also said to bring the couple wealth.

Rings are traditionally traded between a couple during the wedding. The circle of the wedding band symbolizes eternity. This is because a ring has no end. This tradition is said to have come from an old tribal custom. In ancient times, circles of grass were used to decorate the bride. The bride would wear these symbolic circles of grass around her ankles and wrists.

A diamond ring is a modern symbolic gift given to a bride or groom. This ring is called an engagement ring. It is used to show that a person wants to marry his or her partner—that's why it's also sometimes known as a promise ring. If the person accepts the proposal, he or she will wear the ring. This tradition dates back to Victorian times. The ring isn't always made of diamond, though. People use all kinds of materials for engagement rings.

**What evidence does the author provide to support his point that rings are traditionally traded between a couple during the wedding?**

Check all that are true.

- The wedding band symbolizes eternity because it is a ring, and rings have no end.
- The tradition of rings goes back to tribal times when brides would wear hoops of grass around their ankles.
- Long ago, fruit was a gift that was supposed to bring couples wealth and a bounty of children.
- Weddings have existed for thousands of years.

**Question 5:**

Read the passage below.

From **The Metals of Man**

Written by Hep Phaestus

Steel is one of the strongest man-made substances. Without steel, the world would look much like it did in the beginning of the 1800s. This was not the first time humans had used steel, however. Human civilizations having actually been using steel for over 2,000 years.

From the 4th century B.C.E. on, steel aided the military in spreading ancient empires. The spread of the Han dynasty in China was aided by almost unbreakable steel weapons. And the ancient Spartans forged strong steel swords in combination with intense training to form one of the strongest militias ever known.

The Indian empire created Damascus steel, famed throughout the world, around 1000 C.E. The legends of Damascus steel hold that its edge can split a single human hair and slice a metal rifle in half with one swipe.

Steel not only helped to build the modern world, it was also an important part of ancient civilizations. Next time you find yourself among skyscrapers, take a moment to realize what an impact steel has had on humans.

**Which reason does the following evidence support?**

- **The Han Chinese conquered with almost unbreakable steel weapons.**
- **The ancient Spartans formed a very strong military with steel swords.**
- Steel not only helped to build the modern world, it also signaled the end of 1800s.
- Steel aided the military spread of ancient empires.
- Human civilizations have used steel for over 2,000 years.
- Steel did not become a universally used substance until the Industrial Revolution.

## Lesson Topic: Understand the connection between claims, reasons, and evidence

### Question 1:

Read the passage below.

From **What Can Kids Do to Protect the Environment**

By Donna Schwontkowski

Do you know what happens to the plastic waste you throw away? This plastic usually ends up in our natural environment, often doing damage. Thousands and thousands of pounds of this plastic waste finds its way into the ocean, causing drastic damage ocean life.

One way plastic affects ocean life is when large fish and mammals end up swallowing or getting caught in the plastic. This plastic ends up interfering with the way these marine animal and fish bodies work. Then they eventually get sick and oftentimes die.

Plastic also affects tiny organisms in the ocean. The only way plastic breaks down is when the sun breaks up the bonds that hold it together. When this happens, a big piece of plastic becomes hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic. Tiny marine organisms eat these tiny pieces, but cannot digest it. These organisms either die or get eaten by other animals. In turn, this causes both starvation and sickness up the food chain.

How can you help keep plastic out of oceans? Remember to recycle your plastics every day. Use a glass instead of a plastic cup when you drink. Store food in glass containers instead of plastic ones. Use glass bottles to feed your baby sister. Give your dog water in a glass or ceramic bowl. And always consider the welfare of birds, fish, and mammals.

**Which of the following choices is the main claim the author is making in this passage?**

- Plastic in the ocean affects tiny organisms that eat, but cannot digest the plastic.
- Ocean life uses the thousands of pounds of plastic that finds its way there in unique ways.
- Tons of plastic waste ends up in the ocean, causing dramatic damage to ocean life.
- In order to keep plastic out of oceans, you can recycle it as well as use different materials like glass.

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Plastic also affects tiny organisms in the ocean. The only way plastic breaks down is when the sun breaks up the bonds that hold it together. When this happens, a big piece of plastic becomes hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic. Tiny marine organisms eat these tiny pieces, but cannot digest it. These organisms either die or get eaten by other animals. In turn, this causes both starvation and sickness up the food chain.

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**Which choice is one reason the author gives to support her claim that plastic waste causes drastic damage to ocean life?**

- Using plastic to feed pets is a good way to keep plastic out of the ocean.

- Plastic often ends up doing damage to our natural environment.
- Plastic affects ocean life when mammals and large fish swallow or get caught in it.
- Marine animals end up interfering with plastic waste.

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**Which of the following is another reason that the author gives to support her claim that waste damages ocean life?**

- Thousands of pounds of plastic damages ocean life.
- Recycling plastic keeps it out of ocean waters.
- Tiny organisms in the ocean are also affected by plastic waste.
- The sun is the only thing that breaks plastic down in the ocean.

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**Which choice is one piece of evidence that the author provides to back up her reasoning that large ocean life is affected by plastic waste?**

- Tiny pieces of plastic affect the digestion of tiny marine mammals.
- Marine animals use plastic for protection and to hide from predators.
- Plastic gets marine animals sick when it affects how their bodies work.
- Plastic interferes with marine animal homes, leaving them with nowhere to nest.

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**Which of the following choices is another piece of evidence the author provides to back up her reasoning that plastic waste affects large fish and mammals?**

- Glass bottles are better than plastic bottles to feed babies because plastic becomes ocean waste.
- The sun breaks down plastic, leaving it harmlessly broken up in ocean water.
- Large animals eat smaller animals with plastic inside of them and get sick as a result.
- Tiny marine organisms eat plastic, but cannot digest it.