

February Break HW Packet

7th Grade ELA



DUE on Monday, February 24th!
TOTAL ----- / 25 points

Part 1: Reading Log (-----/10 points)

Page Goal: 225

| Day/ Date | Book Title | Author | Pages (min. 45) |
|-------------|------------|--------|--------------------|
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| Fri. 2/21 | | | |

Telling Plastic to ‘Bag It’

by Patricia Smith

with reporting by William Yardley of The New York Times

Two years ago, a dead gray whale washed ashore in Seattle’s Puget Sound. When scientists examined the contents of the whale’s stomach, they found more than 20 plastic bags.

5 “It was a gut-wrenching experience for me,” says Robb Krehbiel, 23, of Seattle, “Nothing that we use for a few minutes should ever end up in the belly of a whale. That’s just so wrong.”

For the last seven months, Krehbiel has been working on a campaign to ban plastic grocery bags in Seattle. The ban passed in December and will go into effect July 1.

10 Seattle will join cities like San Francisco; San Jose, California; Portland, Oregon; Brownsville, Texas; and Westport, Connecticut, as well as the Outer Banks of North Carolina and several counties in Hawaii, that have already banned plastic grocery bags. And Washington, D.C., has begun charging a five-cent tax on plastic bags to discourage customers from using them.

15 Since 2009, 12 states have considered a variety of plastic-bag bans, according to The National Conference of State Legislatures. No statewide bans have passed. But the list of cities and counties with bag bans is growing.

Americans use between 70 billion and 100 billion plastic bags annually, with families taking home an average of 1,500 a year.

Paper Vs. Plastic

20 Environmental groups say plastic bags, which are made from petroleum products, increase America’s dependence on oil and are a chief cause of litter. It takes about 12 million barrels of oil to make the plastic bags used in the U.S. annually. Most plastic bags eventually end up in landfills, where it can take hundreds of years for them to decompose. But first, or instead, many become litter.

25 “They’re hanging from trees and littering our beaches,” says Eric Goldstein of the National Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Plastic bags are also a major source of pollution in the ocean, where they can harm sea turtles and other ocean creatures that mistake the bags for food and eat them.

But Mark Daniels of Hilex Poly, a plastics maker based in South Carolina, calls the bans “badly misguided efforts.”

30 He says 90 percent of Americans already reuse plastic grocery bags—as garbage bags, to pack school lunches, and to store household items.

“Moving consumers away from plastic bags only pushes people to less environmentally friendly options, such as paper bags, which require more energy to produce and transport, and reusable bags, which are not recyclable,” Daniels says.

35 The plastic-bag manufacturing industry employs 10,000 Americans, and bans jeopardize those jobs, the industry says.

The U.S. is not the only place where bans have been instituted. Plastic bags are now banned in several nations including China, Italy, France, Bangladesh, Brazil, and Rwanda. Other countries tax plastic bags to discourage their use. In Ireland, for example, a
40 15-cent-per-bag tax introduced in 2002 has reduced their use by more than 90 percent.

Plastic Bottle Bans

Environmentalists in recent years have also targeted disposable plastic bottles for many of the same reasons they’ve set their sights on bags. The town of Concord, Massachusetts; several national parks, including the Grand Canyon; and a growing list of universities now ban the sale of disposable water bottles. A handful of big cities, like San Francisco and
45 Seattle, ban the sale of plastic water bottles in government offices.

The plastic-bag bans already in effect have had a dramatic effect on litter, some officials say. In Brownsville, Texas, a plastic-bag ban in place for more than a year has eliminated more than 350,000 bags per day, according to former Mayor Pat Ahumada. He says the ban “transformed our city from littered and dirty to a much cleaner city.”

50 Under the Seattle ban, plastic bags will still be available for produce and bulk grocery items. The new law also imposes a five-cent fee on paper bags.

Three years ago, Seattle city officials approved a 20-cent-per-bag fee on paper and plastic bags. The idea was to create a financial incentive to reduce pollution; the fee was supposed to prompt people to bring reusable bags with them to shop.

55 But before the 2008 fee could take effect, the plastic-bag industry led a petition drive that forced the issue onto a citywide ballot. In August 2009, in the midst of the recession and after the industry spent \$1.4 million on the campaign, Seattle voters rejected the fee. It’s not yet clear if the plastic bag industry will mount a similar campaign this time.

60 If there’s a fight, Krehbiel, the Seattle activist, will be one of those arguing to keep the ban.

“It’s not going to be a silver bullet that solves all our environmental problems,” he says. “But my thinking is you do what you can, when you can, where you can.”

Plastic Bags: By the Numbers

1,500

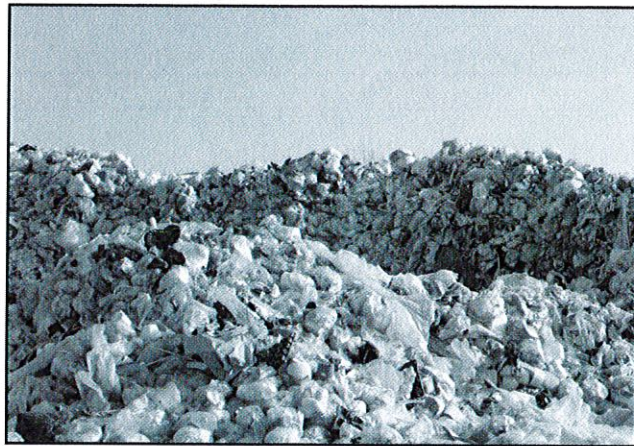
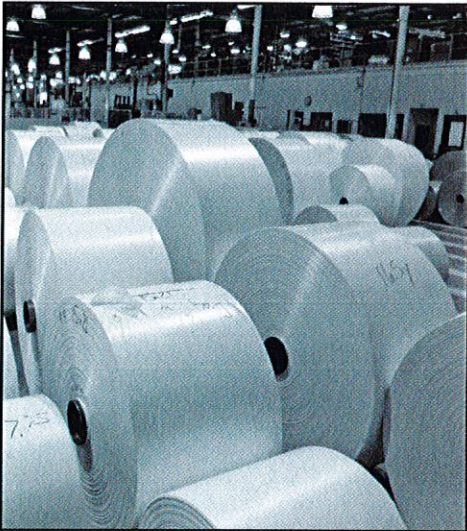
Average number of plastic shopping bags American families take home annually.

12 million

Barrels of oil it takes each year to make the plastic bags used in the U.S.

10,000

Number of U.S. jobs in the plastic-bag manufacturing industry.



43

The Seattle activist's use of the phrase "gut-wrenching" in line 4 suggests that learning about the plastic bags in the whale's belly was

- A** physically demanding
- B** emotionally painful
- C** very informative
- D** extremely tense

44

Why does the author include the information about plastic bottles in lines 41 through 45?

- A** to show where the idea for the plastic-bag ban originated
- B** to illustrate the conflict between environmentalists and businesses
- C** to show how the government is concerned with litter in public places
- D** to illustrate a widespread concern with plastic waste in the environment

45

In lines 52 through 58 of the article, the author explains events surrounding a citywide vote. Based on this information, readers can infer that

- A** Seattle voters were familiar with high fees
- B** economic concerns overrode concern for the environment
- C** Seattle city officials knew what the people really wanted
- D** leaders in the plastics industry were helpful in explaining a complex issue

46

Which evidence from the article suggests that plastic-bag bans are effective?

- A** A city in Texas has eliminated thousands of bags per day.
- B** Officials in Seattle have passed a ban on bags.
- C** Many cities now ban the use of plastic bags.
- D** Many people reuse their plastic bags.

47

The author of the article balances different points of view on the issue of banning plastic bags by including

- A information about plastic-bag bans in Europe and Asia
- B arguments from environmentalists and businesses on plastic-bag bans
- C data from scientists concerned with plastic bags in the environment
- D quotes from people living in American cities where plastic bags are banned

48

Which statement is supported by sufficient evidence from the article?

- A The petroleum industry is fighting plastic-bottle bans.
- B A statewide ban on plastic bags is unlikely to happen.
- C Paying a fee on plastic bags is unappealing to some people.
- D Many Americans prefer paper or reusable bags to plastic bags.

49

The author **most likely** includes “Plastic Bags: By the Numbers” at the end of the article to

- A introduce new facts about plastic bags into the argument
- B compare figures about plastic-bag use across the country
- C emphasize the figures about plastic bags mentioned in the article
- D show that plastic-bag bans can cause factory closures and large-scale job loss

Directions

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Read this story. Then answer questions 54 and 55.

In this adventure story set in 1751, the narrator, David Balfour, has survived a shipwreck and finds himself stranded on a small islet. In this excerpt, he makes several attempts to cross a body of water to reach the main island, which appears to be deserted.

Excerpt from *Kidnapped*

by Robert Louis Stevenson

As soon as the day began to break I put on my shoes and climbed a hill—the ruggedest scramble I ever undertook—falling, the whole way, between big blocks of granite, or leaping from one to another. When I got to the top the dawn was come. There was no sign of the brig, which must have lifted from the reef and sunk. The boat, too, was
5 nowhere to be seen. There was never a sail upon the ocean; and in what I could see of the land was neither house nor man.

I was afraid to think what had befallen my shipmates, and afraid to look longer at so empty a scene. What with my wet clothes and weariness, and my belly that now began to ache with hunger, I had enough to trouble me without that. So I set off eastward along
10 the south coast, hoping to find a house where I might warm myself, and perhaps get news of those I had lost. And at the worst, I considered the sun would soon rise and dry my clothes.

After a little, my way was stopped by a creek or inlet of the sea, which seemed to run pretty deep into the land; and as I had no means to get across, I must needs change my
15 direction to go about the end of it. It was still the roughest kind of walking; indeed the whole, not only of Earraid, but of the neighbouring part of Mull (which they call the Ross) is nothing but a jumble of granite rocks with heather in among. At first the creek kept narrowing as I had looked to see; but presently to my surprise it began to widen out again. At this I scratched my head, but had still no notion of the truth: until at last I came to a
20 rising ground, and it burst upon me all in a moment that I was cast upon a little barren isle, and cut off on every side by the salt seas.

Instead of the sun rising to dry me, it came on to rain, with a thick mist; so that my case was lamentable.

I stood in the rain, and shivered, and wondered what to do, till it occurred to me that
25 perhaps the creek was fordable. Back I went to the narrowest point and waded in. But not three yards from shore, I plumped in head over ears; and if ever I was heard of more, it

was rather by God's grace than my own prudence.¹ I was no wetter (for that could hardly be), but I was all the colder for this mishap; and having lost another hope was the more unhappy.

30 And now, all at once, the yard² came in my head. What had carried me through the roost would surely serve me to cross this little quiet creek in safety. With that I set off, undaunted, across the top of the isle, to fetch and carry it back. It was a weary tramp in all ways, and if hope had not buoyed me up, I must have cast myself down and given up. Whether with the sea salt, or because I was growing fevered, I was distressed with thirst,
35 and had to stop, as I went, and drink the peaty water out of the hags.³

I came to the bay at last, more dead than alive; and at the first glance, I thought the yard was something farther out than when I left it. In I went, for the third time, into the sea. The sand was smooth and firm, and shelved gradually down, so that I could wade out till the water was almost to my neck and the little waves splashed into my face. But at that
40 depth my feet began to leave me, and I durst venture in no farther. As for the yard, I saw it bobbing very quietly some twenty feet beyond.

I had borne up well until this last disappointment; but at that I came ashore, and flung myself down upon the sands and wept.

The time I spent upon the island is still so horrible a thought to me, that I must pass it lightly over. In all the books I have read of people cast away, they had either their
45 pockets full of tools, or a chest of things would be thrown upon the beach along with them, as if on purpose. My case was very different. I had nothing in my pockets but money and Alan's silver button; and being inland bred, I was as much short of knowledge as of means.

¹ **prudence:** being wise in handling practical matters

² **yard:** a wooden pole used to support a square sail on a boat

³ **hags:** a peat bog

54

In lines 1 through 21 of “Excerpt from *Kidnapped*,” how does the setting contribute to the mood? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.

55

What do lines 22 through 29 in “Excerpt from *Kidnapped*” reveal about the narrator’s character? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.