Name_____

Date_____

"Julian's Work"

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

Julian works at the bookstore.

First, his job is to unload boxes of books from the truck.

Then he opens the boxes. After that, Julian puts the books in different piles.

One pile is for books that tell true stories. These are called books of fact.

Another pile is for books that tell stories that are not true. These are called books of fiction.

Julian then puts the books on shelves in the bookstore.

Putting books on shelves is what Julian likes to do best at work.

When Julian has free time at work, he likes to read through all of the books.

His favorite books are the ones that tell true stories about real people and their lives.

On Sunday and Monday, Julian does not work at the bookstore.

On these days, he stays at home. He uses this time to write a story about himself.

Julian grew up in Peru. Now he lives in the United States. He works at the bookstore to pay for school.

Julian wants to be a teacher.

One day, he hopes to turn his story into a book.

He hopes to see it at the bookstore.

Questions:

1) Where does Julian work?

    A. on a truck
    B. at a bookstore
    C. in Peru
    D. at an art store

2) What must Julian do first at his job?

    A. open the boxes of books
    B. read through all of the books
    C. unload boxes of books
    D. sort through piles of books

Questions (continued):

3) What is the second thing Julian must do at his job?

    A. open boxes
    B. tape boxes shut
    C. put books on shelves
    D. put books in piles

4) In how many piles must Julian put the books?

    A. two
    B. three
    C. four
    D. six

5) In what piles are the books placed?

    A. easy and hard
    B. long and short
    C. true and not true
    D. funny and not funny

6) A book that contains a story that is <u>not</u> true is called

    A. a book of fact
    B. a book of fiction

7) Which word describes a story that is true?

    A. fact
    B. fiction

8) What does Julian like to do best at work?

    A. unload boxes
    B. open boxes
    C. put books in piles
    D. put books on shelves

9) What does Julian do during his free time at work?

    A. write stories
    B. read books
    C. tell stories
    D. put books on shelves

10) Which books does Julian like best?

    A. true books
    B. funny books
    C. sad books
    D. books with happy endings

11) Why does Julian work at the bookstore?

    A. to buy a house
    B. to pay for clothes
    C. to pay for school
    D. to pay for a trip to Peru

12) What does Julian hope to turn his story into?

    A. a book
    B. a movie
    C. a play
    D. a TV show

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The first sentence of the story says that Julian works at a bookstore. Therefore **(B)** is correct. He unloads boxes from a truck, but he does not work *on* the truck, so **(A)** is incorrect. He grew up in Peru, but he lives and works in the United States now. This means **(C)** is incorrect. The story does not say anything about an art store, so **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **C**

At the beginning of the story, it says, "First, his job is to unload boxes of books from the truck." Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Julian does open the boxes of books, but he does not do this first, so **(A)** is incorrect. The story says that Julian likes to read through all the books when he has free time. This makes **(B)** incorrect. Julian does sort the books into piles, but he does not do this first. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

3) **A**

After he unloads the boxes of books, Julian opens the boxes. Opening the boxes is the second thing that Julian does. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not say he tapes the boxes shut, so **(B)** is incorrect. He must open the boxes before he places them on shelves. This makes **(C)** incorrect. He must open the boxes before he puts the books into piles. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

4) **A**

In the beginning of the story, the author describes Julian putting the books into *two* piles: one pile for books of fact and one pile for books of fiction. Therefore **(A)** is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **C**

In paragraph 4, it says that Julian puts books that "tell true stories" in one pile. In paragraph 5, it says that he puts the "books that tell stories that are not true" in another pile. This means **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **B**

In the beginning of the story, the author says that books of fiction tell stories that are not true. Therefore **(B)** is correct. In the beginning, the author says that books of fact tell stories that <u>are</u> true. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

7) **A**

A fact is something that is true. According to paragraph 4, books that tell true stories are called "books of fact." Therefore **(A)** is correct. In the

beginning of the story, the author says that books of fiction tell stories that are <u>not</u> true. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

8) **D**

In the middle of the story, we learn that "putting books on shelves is what Julian likes to do best." This means **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **B**

Paragraph 8 says that Julian he reads books when he has free time at work. Therefore **(B)** is correct. In paragraph 11, we learn that Julian writes stories when he has free time at home, but the question asks what Julian does when he has free time at work. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not say that Julian tells stories. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Julian puts books on shelves as part of his job. Therefore it is not what he does during free time at work. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **A**

Near the end of the story, it says that Julian's favorite books are "about real people and their lives." We can understand that these are books that are true, because they are about real people. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

11) **C**

In paragraph 12, the author writes that Julian "works at the bookstore to pay for school." This means **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. In paragraph 12, the author states that Julian grew up in Peru, but he is not saving his money for a trip to Peru. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

12) **A**

Julian is writing a story about himself. In paragraph 14, the author tells us that "one day, he hopes to turn his story into a book." This makes **(A)** correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.