

# Session 1—Reading

## *Directions*

In this part of **ELAP Plus Third Edition**, you will read five passages:

- The Big Kahuna
- The Quest
- Meerkat Mania
- Limiting Auto Pollution in Our Town
- The Class Election

There are multiple-choice questions for you to answer after each passage. Refer to the passages as often as you need to. Then fill in the circle of the best answer to each question.

Now turn the page and begin.

SAMPLE

Read this article. Then answer questions 15 through 21.

# Meerkat Mania

1 Do the names Flower, Mozart, Zaphod, Youssarian, and Mitch mean anything to you? If they do, you have watched Animal Planet's hit show *Meerkat Manor*, which follows a family of meerkats called "the Whiskers" that live in a South African desert. The show has turned these adorable little creatures into international superstars.

## What Exactly Is a Meerkat?

2 A meerkat is a small, sand-colored African mongoose. It weighs only about two pounds and is a foot tall when it stands on its hind legs. Meerkats are able to stand erect like people because they use their long, stiff tails to balance themselves. A meerkat has black rings around its eyes, which are one of several adaptations that help it live comfortably in the hot, sandy desert. The dark fur around the animal's eyes reduces glare, so the meerkat can see in the bright sun. A meerkat also has a membrane that covers its eyes and a special type of ears that close to keep out sand when it digs. Its long, sharp claws help it dig deep into the sand to find a tasty meal.

## Meerkat Mobs

3 Meerkats are social creatures. Several families of meerkats live together in groups of about 20 or 30. These groups are called mobs or clans. One strong female is in charge of a mob and oversees its activities. Members of a mob enjoy close relationships with one another. They play together and groom one another.

4 To keep safe, mobs live in elaborate burrows, which can extend more than six feet under the ground. These burrows contain a series of tunnels and have about 15 exits and entrances. Burrows have rooms called chambers, and some have more than one level. Surprisingly, even though meerkats love to dig, they don't usually make their own



## The Scoop on *Meerkat Manor*

1 *Meerkat Manor* is a reality show about meerkats. It is based on the real-life adventures of the Whiskers mob, a large group of meerkats that were observed by researchers for many years.

2 However, to add suspense and drama to the show, the storyline sometimes strays from researchers' observations. Some scenes are exaggerated or made up to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. Routine activities, such as the meerkats' daily grooming and sunbathing habits, are nearly left out of the show because producers worried they would bore viewers.

3 The footage shown on the show is not always accurate, either. Some storylines are blended with footage from multiple mobs living in the Kalahari Desert. For example, some of the footage on the show about the Commandoes mob is actually footage of the Vivian mob. The dominant female of the Commandoes mob and her mate were actually members of the Vivian mob. The footage of the show's Zappa mob was actually footage of a mob called the Young Ones.

4 Viewers don't seem to mind that *Meerkat Manor* may be more soap opera than documentary. The show was wildly popular from 2005 to 2008, the three years in which it aired. It brought fame to meerkats, who are now featured on DVDs and websites, in more than 70 zoos, and on dozens of television commercials.

burrows. They prefer to take over burrows made by other animals, such as ground squirrels. A mob lives in a burrow for only a few months and then moves to a new one. When does it decide to relocate? A mob might look for a new burrow when the food supply in the area begins to dwindle or when it is forced out by another mob.

### Daily Routine

5 Meerkats are active mostly during the day. Amazingly, they groom and sun themselves like people. They begin each day this way and increase their body temperature by lying on their backs in the sun.

6 Members of a mob are assigned unique jobs that they must perform each day. Many search for food. Meerkats eat a variety of organisms, such as insects, snails, small rodents, birds, lizards, and snakes. Meerkats are immune to scorpions' venom, so they can hunt them without being harmed. Other

meerkats tend to the babies, called pups. If a mob decides to move to a new burrow, these meerkats carry the pups to their new home by the scruff of their necks. And still others stand guard to alert the mob of danger. When they sense a nearby predator, guards bark loudly. This warns other meerkats to seek safety in the burrow or stand and fight. Meerkats are small, but they are fierce fighters. Before a fight, they band together and hiss and growl. Meerkat predators include other mobs, snakes, jackals, eagles, and hawks.

### The Kalahari Meerkat Project (KMP)

7 Scientists at the Kalahari Meerkat Project (KMP) have been studying meerkats for many years. When they began the project, they hoped to learn about the meerkats' cooperative behavior and reproductive habits. They had no clue that their notes would lead to a popular movie and show about meerkats called *Meerkat Manor*.

**15** Which idea in “Meerkat Mania” does the author of “The Scoop on *Meerkat Manor*” contradict?

- (A) It is interesting to watch meerkats groom themselves and sunbathe.
- (B) Meerkats are able to eat scorpions without being harmed.
- (C) The show *Meerkat Manor* contains some made-up events.
- (D) Meerkats live together in the desert in large groups called mobs.

**16** Which sentence from “Meerkat Mania” **best** shows that meerkats are intelligent?

- (A) “Several families of meerkats live together in groups of about 20 or 30.” (paragraph 3)
- (B) “To keep safe, mobs live in elaborate burrows, which can extend more than six feet under the ground.” (paragraph 4)
- (C) “Meerkats are able to stand erect like people because they use their long, stiff tails to balance themselves.” (paragraph 2)
- (D) “Members of a mob are assigned unique jobs that they must perform each day.” (paragraph 6)

## Session 2—Reading and Writing

### *Directions*

In this part of **ELAP Plus Third Edition**, you will read three passages:

- Sharing the Bounty
- Paul Revere's Midnight Ride
- A Poet's View

Then you will write about what you read.

Now turn the page and begin.

SAMPLE

# A Poet's View

1 “Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.”

2 These lines open the great poem “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.” The writer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote the poem in 1860 to honor Revere and his bravery. Revere was an American Patriot who warned people around Boston about approaching British soldiers. Longfellow’s poem is not entirely accurate, but it turned Revere into a folk hero.

3 The poem is told from the viewpoint of an imaginary innkeeper. This speaker starts by explaining how Revere set up a system of signal lanterns. He asked a friend to watch for British activity and then, if he saw soldiers moving, to bring lanterns into a high tower. One lantern would mean the British were marching on land. Two lanterns would mean they were coming by boat on the river.

4 In the poem, Revere then crosses the river in a rowboat, carefully slipping past a British ship. Once on shore, Revere waits to see the lantern signals. His friend at the tower sees the British begin to sail, and hurriedly brings two lanterns into the tower. Revere sees them and jumps onto his horse.

5 Longfellow writes:

“A hurry of hoofs in a village street,  
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,  
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark  
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;  
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,  
The fate of a nation was riding that night...”

6 Revere then rides through the towns of Medford and Lexington. Finally, he arrives at his destination, Concord. He brings his warning to the people there:

“A cry of defiance, and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo for evermore!”

7 The poem ends by explaining the effects of Revere’s warning. The people of Concord decide to resist the British soldiers. The next day, American soldiers as well as farmers fight back and help to drive off the British. It is a day that changes America forever.

8 The poet then adds that people must continue to be aware of problems facing their country. They must be ready to act when they hear the alarm:

“For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.”

9 This poem made Paul Revere into an American folk hero. It also celebrated the bravery of the early Patriots’ fight for freedom. Many people think that Longfellow had other things in mind as well. The poem was written in 1860, when slavery still existed in the country. The poet believed that slavery was a terrible threat to freedom. He wanted people to “waken and listen” to the call to end slavery. In this way, this great poem served several important purposes.

SAMPLE

**39** How does the author of “A Poet’s View” **best** illustrate the importance of Longfellow’s poem? Use details from the article to support your response.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**40** In paragraphs 2 and 9, why does the author of “A Poet’s View” call Paul Revere a folk hero? Use details from the article to support your response.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**41** Why does “A Poet’s View” mention slavery but “Paul Revere’s Midnight Ride” does not? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



42

What event in “A Poet’s View” does “Paul Revere’s Midnight Ride” contradict? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

In your response, be sure to do the following:

- compare and contrast the two articles
- tell what event is inaccurate in “A Poet’s View”
- include details to support your answer

20 horizontal lines for writing a response.