Ag Literacy Project: All Creatures Great & Small *by C. Kohn*

Name: Hour Date:

Date Assignment is due: Why late? Score: + ✓ -
 Day of Week Date If your project was late, describe why

**Directions**: after reading Chapter 11 the novel *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot, use the information in the chapter to complete the questions below.

1. Summarize the main idea of this chapter in four sentences using your own words.

1. Which would be the primary reason for including this particular chapter in a book about a veterinary surgeon?
A. To demonstrate a specific technique used in veterinary medicine.
B. To show the importance of veterinary surgeons in society.
C. To demonstrate the difficult choices and depth of emotion that often is part of being a veterinary surgeon.
D. To show how diseases like cancer can be prevented in animals.

How do you know that the other options for this question are incorrect? List each of the incorrect options and state why they are incorrect.

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?
2. The writer is trying to convey what main message in this particular chapter?
A. Veterinary medicine requires advanced scientific training and methodology.
B. It can often be personally difficult to make decisions that are ultimately in the best interests in the animal.
C. Veterinary surgeons are often needed to prevent cruelty to animals by their owners.
D. Most people are not aware of how widespread cancer can be in animal patients.

How do you know that the other options for this question are incorrect? List each of the incorrect options and state why they are incorrect.

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

1. The phrase "...certainly a splenic or hepatic carcinoma,..." could be reworded to say:
A. Clearly a major wound in the abdomen.
B. Obviously a blot clot.
C. Absolutely a build-up of fluid in the intestines.
D. Definitely a harmful growth in the liver or spleen.
2. Before proceeding, use a dictionary or internet search engine to find the definition of the word "ascites". Based on this definition, the phrase "ascites was pronounced" means...
A. The veterinarian said this word out loud for the owner of the dog.
B. The veterinarian observed that there was obvious swelling in the abdomen of this dog.
C. The veterinarian could only just barely notice swelling in the dog's abdomen.
D. The dog had cloudy eyes.
3. The author uses very complex, medically-based language throughout the entire book. What reason would best explain his decision to do this in his writing?
A. He is trying to confuse the reader.
B. He is trying to teach the reader about words they will use in everyday situations.
C. These are the only words he could use in order for the reader to be able to visualize what is happening.
D. He is trying to help the reader see these situations directly from his own perspective as a veterinary surgeon.

Briefly summarize why you chose the answer that you did for the previous question. *I chose*  *because….*

Justify your answer using evidence from this reading.

*Read the passage on the next page and answer the accompanying questions that follow.*

# Modern Technology in Progressive Veterinary Practices

Although many veterinarians eventually learn to be business savvy, most of us spend so much time on our medical training that business skills are placed low on a list of priorities. The reality is business skills are probably more important in our profession, where profit margins are not high, student debt is, and the cost of modern technology can make or break a practice’s bottom line. Medical technology is changing at light speed rates and veterinary practices must evolve to meet the growing demands of the profession.

The most important and costly tool we have is our brain power, which, of course, is a prerequisite to our jobs. Compassion and caring for those that cannot communicate with us is a given. Beyond that, other tools are becoming essential in a progressive modern vet practice. Gone are the romantic days of James Herriot where a stethoscope, x-ray machine, and supporting laboratory are all a veterinarian needs to practice. Today the potential equipment list is mind boggling; digital radiography, ultrasound, in house labs, surgical lasers, therapeutic lasers, stem cell treatments, MRI’s, anesthetic monitoring equipment, bone plates, dental radiographs, physical therapy pools, and so on. These are not just “toys” for a vet; they improve successful diagnosis and treatment which an educated clientele demands.

Digital radiography provides far superior detail over standard x-ray, is better for the environment because no toxic developing chemicals are needed and uses less technician time. With a digital image and the internet we can communicate and collaborate with radiologists with a click of the mouse. Ultrasound technology has progressed to where it is the mainstay in soft tissue diagnostic capability in most progressive practices. Anesthetic monitoring equipment makes anesthesia safer than a decade ago, saving lives and allowing us to minimize risk to our patients. Blood pressure monitoring is as essential in veterinary practice as it is in human medicine. Telemedicine has developed to where clinicians can collect cardiac information, transmit to a remote location and work with a cardiologist for an immediate specialized diagnosis. Improved dental imaging and care are decreasing the systemic diseases associated with poor dental health. The speed and efficiency of in house blood tests is allowing faster diagnosis and more appropriate care to be immediately started for a sick pet. Stem cells can now be surgically harvested from a pet, processed and concentrated then re-injected to aid in treating certain diseases and healing injuries. Physical therapy has gone from almost nonexistent to an important modality in recovery from injury and surgery. Pet owners expect to receive the quality of care provided by these technologies. Veterinarians in general practice that are not updating to these standards soon find themselves losing clients to the practices that provide these services.

While providing all of these technologies is expensive, the bottom line is that they provide much better care for the family pet. Grow and improve are business axioms that have become increasingly important in veterinary medicine. Practices that educate their clients on the advantages of these tools then see an increased return on investment from capital equipment. In our highly competitive market keeping up with recent technological advances increases the value of medicine and allows your veterinarian to be the family doctor for your feathered and furry family members.

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1. Summarize the main idea of the entire reading in four sentences using your own words.

1. Why would the author choose to write this article?
A. To demonstrate a specific technique used in veterinary medicine.
B. To show the importance of veterinary surgeons in society.
C. To demonstrate that veterinary medicine has changed significantly since the days of Dr. James Herriot.
D. To show why it is important for owners to have their animals checked regularly by a veterinarian.

How do you know that the other options for this question are incorrect? List each of the incorrect options and state why they are incorrect.

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why incorrect?
2. The writer is primarily discussing…
A. The different kinds of animals that a veterinarian treats in modern medicine.

B. The different kinds of advanced tools that are regularly used by veterinarians.

C. Why veterinarian medicine is more costly than it used to be.

D. How similar veterinary medicine is to how it was practiced 100 years ago.

1. The tone of the author is primarily…
A. Comical B. Critical C. Harsh D. Informative
2. In the second paragraph, the author states that the most important tool is brain power. Is this similar or different to the nature of the profession almost 100 years when James Herriot was practicing?

Look at the painting by Normal Rockwell at the right, entitled *At the Vet/Boy at the Veterinarian’s Office*, 1952. Use this painting to answer the questions below (use an internet search engine if you would like to see this picture in color).

1. Rockwell’s painting emphasizes what aspect about the role that veterinarians play in society?
A. Veterinarians use highly technical equipment in their clinics.
B. Veterinarian clinics have changed significantly in the last 100 years.
C. Veterinarian medicine is completely different from human medicine.
D. Veterinarians not only care for animals, but through their work they also help human beings (especially on an emotional level).
2. In what ways is the painting that is shown here very similar to Chapter 11 from the book *All Creatures Great and Small*?
3. In what ways is the painting that is shown here similar to the second reading?
4. Analyze the boy and the dog with the wrapped head at the center of the painting. What message do you think that Rockwell is trying to convey with how the boy and dog are portrayed (based on their expressions as well as on how they are positioned in the painting)?

*I think the message that Rockwell is trying to convey with this painting is that*