



1. Great hitters in baseball know how to look for the "sweet spot." It's a special place on their bats that gives the most power with the least effort. The players use their fingertips to find it. They feel for vibrations when something hits their bats. The area without vibration is the "sweet spot."

2. Strange winds may cause some people in Europe and North Africa to feel bad. These winds are called siroccos, and they blow near mountains and deserts. Some people get headaches or can't sleep when the winds blow. Other people have accidents or get angry. A chemical in people's bodies increases when the winds blow. Scientists think that this may cause some people to feel sick.

3. A new medicine for wounds has been found—sugar! There were some patients sick with skin ulcers. Skin ulcers are open sores that don't heal. A doctor tried sugar and found that it worked. Since then sugar has been used on more than three thousand injuries. French doctors tried the treatment on people who had heart operations and found that the sugared wounds healed much faster than usual.

4. People used to dance to cure spider bites. Taranto, an Italian town, had many spiders called tarantulas. People feared these ugly but harmless spiders. They thought that a bite could kill. Fast dancing was supposed to release the spider's poison by making people sweat. A country dance called the tarantella got its start from this belief.

5. Scientists have tried teaching chimpanzees how to talk. But chimps can't speak with words. So they are learning the sign language used by people who are deaf. The chimps ask questions and create new words, such as *red drink fruit* for *watermelon*. Some chimps even try to teach sign language to other animals.

SCORE

Name: _____
Block: _____

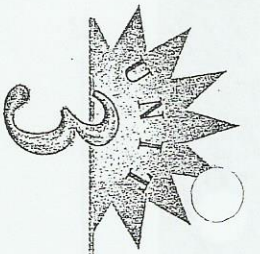
1. The story mainly tells
- A. about the players' fingertips
 - B. how great baseball hitters look for the "sweet spot"
 - C. what gives hitters the most power
 - D. how baseball bats vibrate

2. The story mainly tells
- A. why some people get sick
 - B. how certain winds may affect people's health
 - C. why winds blow near mountains
 - D. where the strange winds are likely to occur

3. The story mainly tells
- A. who first thought of using sugar on wounds
 - B. how sugar can help heal wounds
 - C. how many people have been treated with sugar
 - D. how sugar has been used in heart operations

4. The story mainly tells
- A. which town in Italy had many spiders
 - B. whether the Italian tarantulas were poisonous
 - C. why people danced to cure spider bites
 - D. how country dances were created

5. The story mainly tells
- A. what kind of monkeys are learning to talk
 - B. what language the chimps use in the tests
 - C. how chimps are learning sign language
 - D. whether other animals can learn special languages



Frankenstein

A storm raged around Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Winds blew and thunder roared. Four young people sat inside a house by a fireplace, reading stories to each other. The stories were tales about haunted castles and strange lights flickering in windows. At that time, in 1816, stories like these were fairly new.

One of the people in the house at Lake Geneva was Mary Shelley. She was 19 years old. She had just married the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Their friend Lord Byron was the third person present. He was already a well-known poet. The fourth person was a doctor. On that stormy night, the four friends decided to have a writing contest. The one who wrote the most frightening story would be the winner.

The young people wrote for several days. At last Mary announced that she had finished her story. She told her friends that the idea for her story had come from a dream. She read the story to her friends. After hearing it they decided that they would not even try to finish their tales. No one could top her story!

Mary's tale was about a man named Dr. Frankenstein. He wanted to create a living person. In his dark castle cellar, Dr. Frankenstein built a strange, ugly creature. Then he used lightning from a thunderstorm to make the creature come to life. Dr. Frankenstein wanted his creation to be good. But the monster turned out to be a killer.

Mary put into her story many of the things she had read and studied as a young person. She used much of what she had learned about science. These things made her story more real.

Frankenstein was published in 1818 and became an instant hit. Since then it has been translated into more than thirty languages. Mary Shelley's chilling tale made her the mother of science fiction.

SCORE

1. Put these events in the order that they happened. What happened first? Write the number 1 on the line by that sentence. Then write the number 2 by the sentence that tells what happened next. Write the number 3 by the sentence that tells what happened last.

_____ Mary Shelley wrote a scary story.

_____ *Frankenstein* was published.

_____ Mary Shelley had a dream.

_____ 2. When did the friends decide to have a writing contest?

A. in 1816

B. in 1818

C. four years later

_____ 3. What did her friends do after hearing *Frankenstein*?

A. continued their tales

B. stopped writing

C. started a long contest

_____ 4. When did Mary Shelley learn about science?

A. during her marriage

B. after she wrote *Frankenstein*

C. when she was a young person

_____ 5. When was *Frankenstein* translated into other languages?

A. before it was published

B. while Mary Shelley was writing it

C. after 1818