

**Bird of Dreams**

1 At night in dream I travel from my bed.  
2 On wing of light I soar across vast skies  
3 Where colors swirl and dance, and mingle and soar,  
4 To far beyond the veil, where Phoenix flies.

5 The Phoenix is a wondrous bird of dreams.  
6 Each five hundred years she builds a nest,  
7 Piling feathers, branches, twigs, and leaves—  
8 Now will she lay her eggs and sit to rest?

9 But no! The Phoenix strikes a blazing spark  
10 And sets her cozy nesting place afire!  
11 She dives in flight into the dancing flames!  
12 Why does she go into the flaming pyre?

13 There is no need to weep, for all is well.  
14 For her the pyre's fiery heat and flame  
15 Burn away the years. She is reborn!  
16 Her radiant, shining youth she doth reclaim.

17 The pyre burns down to ash, and all is still.  
18 And from the ashen pile, her eyes alight,  
19 The Phoenix rises up into the sky,  
20 Renewed, with feathers luminous and bright!

21 And so this night, perchance my dreams will go  
22 With wondrous Phoenix rising in the sky,  
23 To soar among the planets and the stars,  
24 Deep in the night to fly and fly and fly!

**1** Which words from the poem’s first and last stanzas tell the reader that these stanzas are written in the first person?

- A Phoenix, sky
- B night, dreams
- C beyond, across
- D I, my

CSR00377.042

**2** In this poem, what is *both* destructive and creative?

- A fire
- B ash
- C light
- D air

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**3** The Phoenix could *best* represent a person who

- A makes a promise and then breaks it.
- B loses everything and starts over.
- C wants only to be carefree and have fun.
- D lives a life of habit and routine.

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**4** Which words from the poem are intended to provide a sense that the poem was written long ago?

- A soar, fly
- B branches, twigs
- C flame, burn
- D doth, perchance

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Read the following letter to the editor taken from a local newspaper.

### Letter to the Editor

- 1 A debate is currently raging in our town. Should we allow the Odeon Triplex Cinema to be constructed at the Havenswood Shopping Center? There is just one large lot left to build on, and the theater would use up all of that space. Some people are thrilled at the idea of finally having our own movie theater in Havenswood. Others would rather travel ten miles north to the nearest theater in Gadway in order to keep our quiet town the way it is. They say it is enough to have Marvin’s Movie Video Rentals in the shopping center. As a Havenswood citizen and small-business owner, I would like to express my opinion on this issue.
- 2 There are certainly benefits to renting videos. For one thing, you can plan your own movie-watching schedule by renting and viewing movies when it is convenient for you. You can relax on your cozy couch, grab snacks from your kitchen, and take a break whenever you need one. You can also talk to friends or family members who are watching the movie with you without bothering any strangers seated nearby. In addition, it is a less expensive way to view a movie compared to going to a theater, especially if more than one person is watching the video.
- 3 On the other hand, seeing a movie in a theater is an experience all its own. For one thing, you can see the movie on a wide screen as the filmmaker intended. To be viewed on a television screen, a film must be changed in some way to make it smaller. One way is known as the “pan-and-scan” method, which involves removing some of the details in the picture. This results in an image that is not complete. The other way, called “letterboxing,” keeps the image the way it is on the big screen, with one annoying exception: because the big-screen version is wide, the same picture on a television screen must be long and narrow, with black strips above and below it.
- 4 Another issue is sound. The sound from a television, even when it’s attached to a home stereo system, cannot compare to the sound system in a movie theater. Your experience of a movie improves when you can clearly hear all of the sounds, loud and soft. Furthermore, at home, viewing companions often talk during a movie, which makes you miss out on what’s happening in the film.
- 5 Besides, having a movie theater will not mean that you can’t still go to Marvin’s and rent a movie! You will just have a choice that you didn’t have before. Isn’t it time for Havenswood residents to enjoy a little progress?

A Concerned Citizen

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- 5 Read this sentence from the editorial.

There is just one large lot left to build on, and the theater would use up all of that space.

In this sentence, the word lot means

- A a great amount.
- B a complete group.
- C a section of land.
- D a result of chance.

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- 6 Read this sentence from the editorial.

They say it is enough to have Marvin’s Movie Video Rentals in the shopping center.

This statement would be made stronger by adding which of these sentences?

- A After all, Marvin’s store stocks thousands of the latest video releases.
- B After all, videos rented at the store do not have to be returned the same day.
- C After all, the management at the store is friendly and helpful.
- D After all, Marvin’s store occupies 2,000 square feet at the shopping center.

CSR10407.133

- 7 The author’s argument in Paragraph 2 that renting videos is “less expensive” than going to the movies would have been stronger if she had included

- A a newspaper story on the expense of managing a theater.
- B a quotation from a moviegoer regarding the cost of tickets.
- C a chart comparing theater ticket prices to movie rental prices.
- D a statement from the owner of the video store about his rental fees.

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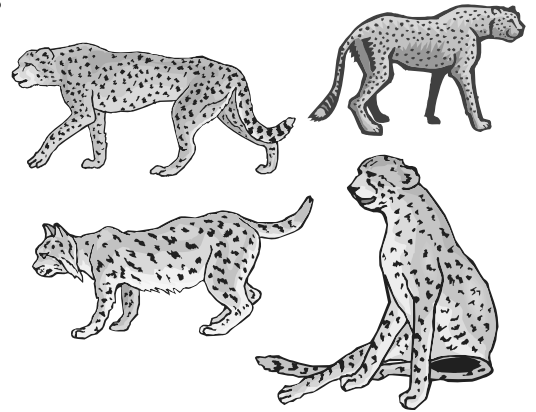
- 8 Which of the following sources would provide the *best* evidence to support the main idea in paragraph 3?

- A an editorial page about popular movies
- B a magazine about the history of moviemaking
- C a story about a famous filmmaker
- D a book about changing movies into videos

CSR10402.133

### Spotted Cats

- 1 Several members of the cat family have spotted fur. Do you know the difference between a leopard, a jaguar, and a cheetah? From a distance they may appear somewhat similar. Examined at closer range, however, they are clearly different cats. They differ in various ways, including where they live, how big they are, how they move and hunt, and how their fur is marked.
- 2 Of all the big cats in the wild, the true leopard is found across the largest area. Leopards live in much of Asia and Africa. A leopard grows to be from 3 to 6 feet long, with an added 3 feet of tail. Leopards are skilled climbers that can hunt monkeys in trees. They can also lie in wait and pounce on passing prey. When food sources are scarce, they might eat fruit, field mice, and large insects. Leopard spots are not actually solid spots; they are broken circles.
- 3 The jaguar is native to the Americas. Its natural range is from the southern United States to northern Argentina, with the largest concentration of jaguars being in Brazil and Central America. The beauty and power of the jaguar inspired worship among ancient peoples. It measures between 3 and 6 feet long without the tail, which adds another 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet. Possessing a large head and body, the jaguar has legs that are shorter and thicker than a leopard's. Jaguars are excellent climbers and can also swim well. They dine on a variety of land, tree, and water creatures. Their fur can be a vivid yellow color or a rusty shade; their "spots" are called rosettes. Each rosette is large and black, consisting of a middle spot with a circle of spots around it.
- 4 Most cheetahs live in the wilds of Africa. There are also some in Iran and northwestern Afghanistan. The cheetah's head is smaller than the leopard's, and its body is longer. This cat is built for speed. Its legs are much longer than the leopard's, allowing it to run at speeds of up to 70 miles per hour! This incredible ability helps the cheetahs catch their dinner, which is usually an unfortunate antelope. A cheetah's spots are simply black spots, not rosettes or circles.
- 5 Other spotted cats include the smaller ocelot, mainly of Central and South America, and the lynx or bobcat, mainly of North America. What all of these cats have in common is that they are wild, powerful animals of tremendous grace and beauty.



CSR0P043

**9** All of these are ways to tell the difference between spotted cats *except*

- A how big they are.
- B what their spots look like.
- C where they live.
- D how beautiful they are.

CSR00391.043

**10** Which words from the passage are used as persuasion in that they express an attitude of sympathy for animals that are prey to big cats?

- A . . . how they move and hunt . . .
- B . . . might eat fruit, field mice, and large insects.
- C . . . dinner, which is usually an unfortunate antelope.
- D . . . that they are wild, powerful animals . . .

CSR00402.043

**11** Which of these is the *best* summary of this passage?

- A All spotted cats are powerful, beautiful, and graceful.
- B Spotted cats may look similar, but they are different in many ways.
- C There are many different spotted cats in the world.
- D Spotted cats in the wild hunt many different kinds of animals.

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