### Putting It All Together

**Directions:** To synthesize means to combine parts from different sources. Answer the questions below to synthesize information from the article “Toys or Treasures?” (TOT) and the essay “My Priceless Treasure” (MPT). We’ve indicated where you can find each answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What do toy collectors do with the toys they buy?</td>
<td>(TOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What is a collectible?</td>
<td>(TOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Why do people collect things?</td>
<td>(both texts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Why are the things people collect often expensive?</td>
<td>(both texts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Why is it hard to predict which toys will become worth a lot later?</td>
<td>(TOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. How do you decide the value of something?</td>
<td>(both texts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. What makes an item priceless?</td>
<td>(MPT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Write Now!** Use your answers above to help you respond to the writing prompt at the bottom of page 19.
Find the Evidence

Directions: Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text evidence.

1. The author explains why people collect toys. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best explains why:

   a. “Most people buy toys to play with them.”
   b. “They buy them and set them safely on a shelf, still wrapped tightly in their original boxes or packages.”
   c. “Today many toys are made just to be collected.”
   d. “They hope the toys will be worth more money one day.”

2. In your own words, explain how a Luke Skywalker action figure that cost $2.49 in 1978 became worth $25,000 in 2015. Use details from the text.

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3. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best shows that Americans spend a lot of money on collectible toys each year:

   a. “If you’re lucky enough to have one still in its packaging, you might be able to sell it to a collector for $150,000. That’s enough to buy five real cars!”
   b. “That’s right. A 37-year old plastic toy became more valuable than a big diamond ring.”
   c. “In 2016, Americans spent nearly $2 billion on them.”
   d. “We could ask the same question about a person who paid $500,000 for a letter signed by George Washington, or who bought a painting by a famous artist for $5 million.”

4. In your own words, explain how toy collectors are different from most people who buy toys. Use evidence from the text.

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Continued on next page >
5. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that describes what a collector’s edition is:
   a. “The company stopped making the toy, so not many of them exist.”
   b. “. . . toys are made just to be collected.”
   c. “It sat in a toy store wrapped in plastic and cardboard.”
   d. “Most people who bought these toys returned them—or threw them out.”

6. Explain this sentence from the article: “Interestingly, the toys that gain value are often the ones nobody wanted when they were brand-new.” Use details from the text.

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7. Which of the following states the reason the author thinks of the locket her grandmother gave her as a treasure?
   a. “It was very valuable, I was sure—solid gold.”
   b. “Because to me, the value of the heart is . . . in the memories that flood back when I wear it.”
   c. “. . . my precious heart was a mix of brass and copper—fake gold.”
   d. “Decades passed, and my collection of jewelry grew. But that necklace remained my prized possession.”

8. What does the story “My Priceless Treasure” tell you about the relationship between the author and her grandmother? Use specific evidence from the text.

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Find the Evidence

Directions: Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select two or three pieces of text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text.

1. The author of “Toys or Treasures?” describes toy collecting as a “wacky world,” where once cheap toys are later sold for lots of money. Circle the letters of the TWO pieces of text evidence that show why he chose the word wacky:
   b. “A 37-year-old plastic toy became more valuable than a big diamond ring.”
   c. “In 2016, Americans spent nearly $2 billion on [collectibles].”
   d. “[Toy collectors] buy them and set them safely on a shelf, still wrapped tightly in their original boxes or packages.”
   e. “If I were to buy one like it today, it might cost $10, $20 tops.”
   f. “If you’re lucky enough to have one still in its packaging, you might be able to sell it to a collector for $150,000. That’s enough to buy five real cars!”

2. In your own words, explain this sentence from the article: “Interestingly, the toys that gain value are often the ones nobody wanted when they were brand-new.” Use details from the text.

   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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3. Circle the letters of the FOUR pieces of text evidence that explain why people collect toys:
   a. “Today many toys are made just to be collected.”
   b. “They hope the toys will be worth more money one day.”
   c. “. . . because they remind a person of happy moments from their childhood.”
   d. “They buy Nerf guns for backyard wars. They buy Barbies to dress them up.”
   e. “. . . because they want to feel connected to history, or because they are inspired by a work of art.”
   f. “Some love the hunt for a rare toy, the thrill of finding a hidden treasure.”

Continued on next page >
4. Explain in your own words what toys that become valuable years after they were purchased have in common. Use evidence from the text.

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5. The value of some things cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Circle the letters of the THREE pieces of text evidence from “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure” that best support this statement:
   a. “Maybe your old LEGO bricks will never be worth a fortune. But years from now, they might remind you of your best friend.”
   b. “And there are collector’s editions of LEGO sets that sell for as much as $799.”
   c. “It was a gold heart necklace. It was very valuable, I was sure—solid gold.”
   d. “Because to me, the value of the heart is not in the gold. It’s in the memories that flood back when I wear it . . .”
   e. “But the real fun of toy collecting is buying regular toys with the hope that their worth will increase over time.”
   f. “That locket might not be worth much money. But to me, it’s priceless.”

6. What can you infer about the relationship between Lauren Tarshis and her grandmother? Use specific evidence from the text.

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A summary is a short retelling of the most important parts of a story. It should include the information that someone would need to know to understand the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

Directions: Complete the summary below, using the prompts in the margins to help you.

Summary of “Toys or Treasures?”

“Toys or Treasures?” is about ____________________________________________________________ .

Sometimes, a toy can become worth a lot of money years after it was first bought.

For example, _____________________________________________________________________ .

Most people buy toys to enjoy them, but toy collectors hope ________________________ ________________________________________________________________________________ .

Often, toys become valuable because _______________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________________________ .

People also collect toys for other reasons, such as ________________________________ .

“My Priceless Treasure” is about ____________________________________________________________ .

The first article explains how some toys become worth a lot of money, while the second one shows that ____________________________________________________________ .

1. Begin with a topic sentence that tells what the article is mainly about.

2. Describe a toy that became more valuable over time.

3. What is the main goal of toy collectors?

4. Name one thing that can make toys gain value.

5. Why else do people collect things?

6. What is the second article mainly about?

7. How is the value of something connected to its cost?
Quick, Tell Me What Happened!

Your friend Ari had to leave class and didn’t get to read “Toys or Treasures?” in Storyworks. Poor Ari! You call him to tell him about it, but he has only one minute before he must rush off to a play rehearsal. Quick, give him a short summary!

Directions: Follow the prompts below to write a two-paragraph summary of “Toys or Treasures?” You'll write one paragraph for each article. Remember, a summary is a brief retelling of the most important parts of the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

1. Decide what the first article is mainly about. Think about:

   What do the headline, subhead, and pictures on pages 16-17 suggest the article is about? _____________________________

   How does the author organize the information in the article? (Hint: What topic does the article explore? What does the author include to help you understand the topic better?) _____________________________

   Use what you wrote to write a topic sentence for your summary:

   ___________________________________________________________

2. Decide what the most important information in the article is. Go through each section and jot down notes about what you think is necessary to know to explain what you wrote in your topic sentence. Your notes don’t have to be complete sentences. We’ve given you some examples (and crossed out what does not belong).

   Opening Section
   __________________

   most toys start out wrapped in plastic and cardboard
   __________________

   action figure cost $2.49; sold 37 yrs later for $25,000
   __________________

   world of toy collecting
   __________________

   “Treasure Hunt”
   __________________

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Quick, Tell Me What Happened!  p. 2

“Now and Then”

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3. Now go to page 19 and decide what the second article, “My Priceless Treasure,” is mainly about. Think about:
What do the headline and photos suggest it’s about? ___________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
What conclusion can you draw from the information included? ____________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
How does it relate to the first article? ________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Look at your notes. Cross out anything you wrote that is not necessary. Add anything that’s missing.
Ask yourself:
* Did I include an overview of the main topic? Why it’s interesting or important? Some details that will help
  readers understand it better? One or two examples from real life?
* Did I write down details that aren’t essential for understanding the main
  topic? Get rid of those! (See example on page 1.)

5. Number your notes above so you can retell them in an order that makes sense.

6. Use your topic sentence and your notes to write your two-paragraph
summary on a separate sheet of paper, retelling what happened in your own words. End with a sentence
tying the two texts together. Reread it to make sure it’s clear and that it sums up what’s important in the
feature. Then you can share your summary with your friend Ari!
**Making Inferences**

**An inference is something you can figure out from clues in a story, even though the story doesn’t say it directly.**

**Directions:** The chart below lists clues from “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure” on the left and inferences you can make from them on the right. Fill in the blanks on the chart with clues or inferences from the article.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider these lines from “Toys or Treasures?”:</td>
<td>What can you infer about what the author thinks about toy collecting?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “That’s right. A 37-year-old plastic toy became more valuable than a big diamond ring. Welcome to the wacky world of toy collecting.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Most people buy toys to play with them.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “But toy collectors don’t buy toys for fun.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write two lines from “Toys or Treasures?” that support the inference on the right.</td>
<td>It’s hard to know how much a toy will be worth in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1

2

Continued on next page >
Inference
“Toys or Treasures?”
May/June 2018

Name: ______________________________ Date: ______________

Making Inferences, p. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Consider these lines from “Toys or Treasures?”:
  • “For almost 40 years, no one played with the Luke toy. In fact, no one even opened the package.”
  • “They buy [toys] and set them safely on a shelf, still wrapped tightly in their original boxes or packages.”
  • “If you’re lucky enough to have one still in its packaging, you might be able to sell it to a collector for $150,000.”

What can you infer about the condition toys must be in for them to be worth a lot of money? |
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Write two lines from “My Priceless Treasure” that support the inference on the right.

The author and her grandmother had a warm and loving relationship.

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4
**Use Your Words**

**Directions:** Use the words and definitions in the left column to complete the tasks in the right column. (Hint: If you need help, find the words in the story to see them used in context.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| collectibles: objects that are considered valuable by people who collect things | Write a sentence describing a collectible that you have seen or owned. (It might be a rare book, an artwork, a coin or stamp, or something else people collect.)
Sentence: ____________________________________________________________|
| costly: expensive | Write an antonym for the word costly.
Antonym: ____________________________ |
| original: first or earliest; existing from the beginning | Complete the sentence below.
Our 300-year-old house still has its original wooden doors, which ____________________________ |
| packaging: the wrapping on something, especially something that you buy | Give two examples of products that have bright, colorful packaging.
Answers: ____________________________ and ____________________________ |
Think About It!

**Close-Reading Questions:** After reading the articles “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. According to the section “Treasure Hunt,” how are toy collectors’ reasons for purchasing toys different from those of other people?

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2. What is a collectible? Support your answer with an example from the section “Now and Then.”

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3. What might make a regular toy become more valuable over time?

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Think About It! p. 2

4. Reread the last two paragraphs of the article. What are some reasons people collect toys (and other items)? Which of those might be reasons you would collect something?

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5. What are some words and phrases the author, Lauren Tarshis, uses to help you understand what her grandmother Jennie was like?

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6. How did Lauren feel about the gold necklace when she was growing up?

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Think About It! p. 3

7. Once Lauren found out that the heart was not worth much money, why did she buy a real gold chain for it?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of both articles.

8. In the first article, Tod Olson writes, “The real fun of toy collecting is buying regular toys with the hope that their worth will increase over time.” Why might this be fun? Do you agree with Olson?

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9. Imagine you’re a dictionary writer. (That’s called a lexicographer!) Based on what you read in both articles, write a dictionary entry for valuable. Include at least two definitions.

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Think About It!

Directions: After reading the articles “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

“Toys or Treasures?” Close-Reading Questions:

1. According to the section “Treasure Hunt,” how are toy collectors’ reasons for purchasing toys different from those of other people?

2. What is a collectible? Support your answer with an example from the section “Now and Then.”

3. What might make a regular toy become more valuable over time?

4. Reread the last two paragraphs of the article. What are some reasons people collect toys (and other items)? Which of those might be reasons you would collect something?

“My Priceless Treasure” Close-Reading Questions:

5. What are some words and phrases the author, Lauren Tarshis, uses to help you understand what her grandmother Jennie was like?

6. How did Lauren feel about the gold necklace when she was growing up?

7. Once Lauren found out that the heart was not worth much money, why did she buy a real gold chain for it?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

8. In the first article, Tod Olson writes, “The real fun of toy collecting is buying regular toys with the hope that their worth will increase over time.” Why might this be fun? Do you agree with Olson?

9. Imagine you’re a dictionary writer. (That’s called a lexicographer!) Based on what you read in both articles, write a dictionary entry for valuable. Include at least two definitions.
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read the article “Toys or Treasures?” and the essay “My Priceless Treasure.” Then go back and reread sections of the texts to answer the questions below. We’ve started the first answer for you.

1. Reread the section “Treasure Hunt.” Why don’t toy collectors play with the toys they buy?

Instead of playing with the toys they buy, toy collectors

2. What is the difference between a collectible toy and a regular toy?
3. Based on “Now and Then,” why did the Luke Skywalker action figure and the Roller Beach Bomb become so valuable?

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4. What are two reasons that people collect toys or other objects, according to the article?

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Think About It! p. 3

5. In “My Priceless Treasure,” what “shocking news” did Lauren find out about her gold heart necklace?

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6. Why did Lauren buy a real gold chain for her necklace instead of a cheaper chain?

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Think About It! p. 4

Critical-Thinking Question (big question about both stories):

7. Based on what you read in both texts, what are two different meanings of *valuable*?

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### Making Inferences

An inference is something you can figure out from clues in a story, even though the story doesn’t say it directly.

**Directions:** The chart below lists clues from “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure” on the left and inferences you can make from them on the right. Fill in the blanks on the chart with clues or inferences from the article.

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<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider these lines from “Toys or Treasures?”:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- “That’s right. A 37-year-old plastic toy became more valuable than a big diamond ring. Welcome to the wacky world of toy collecting.”
- “Most people buy toys to play with them.”
- “But toy collectors don’t buy toys for fun.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What can you infer about what the author thinks about toy collecting?</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Write two lines from “Toys or Treasures?” that support the inference on the right.</th>
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<th>It’s hard to know how much a toy will be worth in the future.</th>
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## Making Inferences, p. 2

### Clues

Consider these lines from “Toys or Treasures?”:

- “For almost 40 years, no one played with the Luke toy. In fact, no one even opened the package.”

- “They buy [toys] and set them safely on a shelf, still wrapped tightly in their original boxes or packages.”

- Write one more line from the article that supports the inference on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inferences</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can you infer about the condition toys must be in for them to be worth a lot of money?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write two lines from one or both of the texts that support the inference on the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write your own inference from the texts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4

3
"Toys or Treasures?" Quiz

Directions: Read the articles “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure” in the May/June 2018 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Some people keep their old toys because they might become ______.
   A. popular  
   B. valuable  
   C. useful  
   D. cheaper

2. Based on the article, what is one reason certain toys become worth a lot of money?
   A. Very few of the toys still exist.  
   B. The toys are fun to play with.  
   C. People give these toys away.  
   D. The toys are very strong.

3. Which line from the article supports the answer to question 2?
   A. “Today many toys are made just to be collected.”  
   B. “It came with a lightsaber—a sword—that broke easily.”  
   C. “Today they’re very rare, which is why people will pay so much money to own one.”  
   D. “In 2016, Americans spent nearly $2 billion on them.”

4. In the sentence “If you’re lucky enough to have one still in its packaging, you might be able to sell it . . .” packaging means the same as ______.
   A. totebag  
   B. suitcase  
   C. frame  
   D. box

5. Based on “My Precious Treasure,” Lauren Tarshis always believed her necklace was ______.
   A. brass and copper  
   B. not valuable  
   C. her mother’s  
   D. solid gold

6. Which of the following is a main idea in both articles?
   A. Many owners returned their Hot Wheels vans.  
   B. Most people do not collect toys.  
   C. Ordinary objects can be valuable to their owners.  
   D. Toy collecting is fun and profitable.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the articles.

7. Based on both articles, what are two reasons that an item might be considered valuable by its owner?

8. Why does Lauren Tarshis think her grandmother’s gift is a “priceless treasure”?
“Toys or Treasures?” Quiz

Directions: Read the articles “Toys or Treasures?” and “My Priceless Treasure” in the May/June 2018 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Why don’t toy collectors play with their toys?
   A The toys are not worth much money.
   B The toys break too easily.
   C The toys are not fun to play with.
   D The value of their unused toys can increase.

2. What does original mean in “They buy them and set them safely on a shelf, still wrapped tightly in their original boxes or packages”?
   A dirty  B first  C broken  D spoiled

3. If only a small number of a toy is sold, the toy can become more ______ over time.
   A disliked  B popular  C worthless  D valuable

4. Which line from the article best supports your answer to question 3?
   A “Interestingly, the toys that gain value are often the ones nobody wanted when they were brand-new.”
   B “In 2016, Americans spent nearly $2 billion on them.”
   C “Today many toys are made just to be collected.”
   D “It’s hard to predict just which toys might make you rich . . .”

5. What is one reason some adults like to collect old toys?
   A to play with the toys
   B to give the toys away
   C to connect with their past
   D to repair the toys

6. Which line from the article best supports your answer to question 5?
   A “People collect for many different reasons—because they hope an object will become more valuable . . .”
   B “. . . because they remind a person of happy moments from their childhood.”
   C “Some love the hunt for a rare toy . . .”
   D “Today they’re very rare . . .”

7. Based on “My Priceless Treasure,” which statement about Lauren’s necklace is false?
   A Her grandmother gave it to her.
   B It is made of real gold.
   C It is priceless to her.
   D It brings back happy memories.

8. A main idea in both articles is that . . .
   A some toys increase in value over time.
   B a gold heart necklace is beautiful.
   C an old toy car is now worth $150,000.
   D ordinary objects can be valuable to their owners.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the articles.

9. Based on both articles, what are three reasons that an item might be considered valuable by its owner?

10. Why do you think Lauren Tarshis titled her article “My Priceless Treasure”?
Toys or Treasures?

To the teacher: We suggest using these questions with the lower-Lexile version of the texts, supported by the lower-Lexile audio version. Select the ones that are best for your students, depending on where they are in their acquisition of English. Ask them orally or choose questions to create your own written assignment. If students are ready, prompt them to follow up their answers with more details.

Yes/No Questions
These questions allow students who are new to English to show their understanding with a simple answer.

1. Do some toys become worth more money over time? (Yes, they do.)
2. Was the Luke Skywalker toy popular in 1978? (No, it wasn't.)
3. Do toy collectors buy toys for fun? (No, they don't.)
4. Is the Hot Wheels Roller Beach Bomb worth $150,000? (Yes, it is.)
5. Was the gold heart necklace from Lauren's grandmother really made of gold? (No, it wasn't.)
6. Would the gold heart be sold for about $10 today? (Yes, it would be.)

Either/Or Questions
These questions allow students to use the language in the question to support their answer.

1. Do most people buy toys to play with or to collect? (Most people buy toys to play with.)
2. Do collectors who buy Barbie dolls dress them up or keep them in boxes? (They keep them in boxes.)
3. In 2016, did Americans spend 2 million or 2 billion dollars on collectible toys? (Americans spent 2 billion dollars on collectible toys.)
4. Is the gold heart necklace valuable to the author because it is worth a lot of money or for another reason? (The necklace is valuable to the author for another reason.)

Short-Answer Questions
These questions prompt students to produce simple answers on their own with language from the text.

1. What made the Luke Skywalker toy worth so much money? (Luke's lightsaber broke easily, so the company stopped making the toy. That means the toy is rare, so people pay more to own one.)
2. Why did the author of “My Priceless Treasure” decide to buy a real gold chain for her heart necklace? (The heart is precious to her. It's not worth a lot of money, but it's special because it reminds her of her grandmother. This made it worth it to her to buy a real gold chain.)