Directions: After reading “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:

1. Reread the beginning of the article, on pages 4-5. What details in this section help you understand how dangerous the Paradise fire was?

2. How does author Lauren Tarshis describe Paradise before the fire? Why do you think she includes these details?

3. Based on “Bigger and Deadlier,” what is climate change? How has it affected wildfires in California?

4. According to “Flaming Birds,” how was the November 2018 fire different from other wildfires that had threatened Paradise before?

5. Reread “Beloved Things.” What challenges did people like Eleanor Weddig, Lucas Fisher, and Kevin McKay face when trying to escape the fire?

6. In “Grueling Fight,” what dangers did people experience in the supermarket parking lot? How did Josh Fisher and other firefighters help?

7. What is the main idea of the section “Life Continues”?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

8. In the last section of the article, Tarshis explains that “the town’s strength didn’t come from the wood and bricks of the houses and buildings” but from the people. What evidence in the article supports this statement?

9. Look at the “Faces of Paradise” sidebar on page 7. Why do you think Tarshis told the story of the Paradise fire through the eyes of these different people?