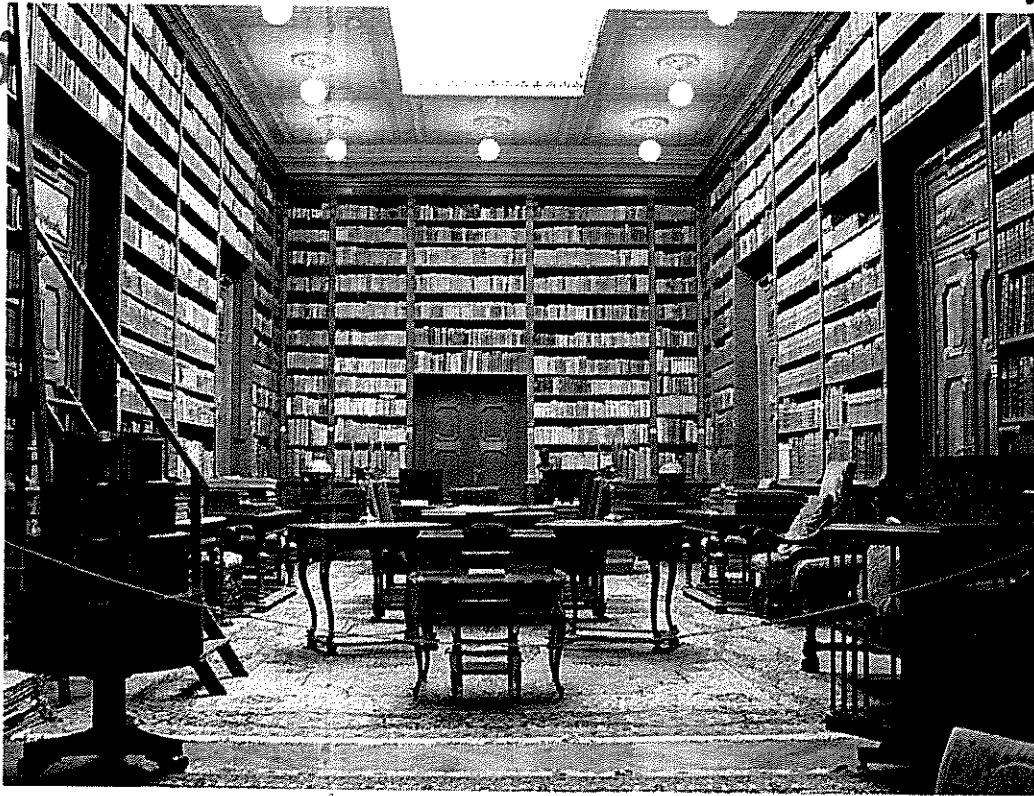Name: _____

Computers vs. Books

Use strategies!

Due Feb. 5th

Mia Murphy was tired when she got home from school last Friday. It had been a long week—she was working on a computer project and had stayed late at school to finish her work. After stepping off the bus and trudging home, she plopped onto her chair in the kitchen.

"What's up, Mia?" Mr. Murphy asked. He was making Mia her favorite after-school snack, a grilled cheese sandwich.

"This project is taking me forever!" Mia replied. "I have to design a website page for my computer class."

"Wow, fancy!" Mrs. Murphy shouted from the living room. "When we were in middle school, we didn't even know how to use computers." She walked into the kitchen and sat down next to Mia. She asked her daughter if she had anyone to help her with her project.

"We have partners—mine is named Ali," she explained. "Today we learned how to insert pictures into our page!"

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy looked at each other and smiled. Mia noticed their little exchange. "What?" she asked, wondering what they were thinking.

"Well, we first met when we were working on a project together in high school," Mr. Murphy explained. "We were assigned to do a research project on American Indian history."

Mrs. Murphy chimed in. "But we didn't have computers back then, so we had to go to the library every day to do research!" She explained that they didn't have online search engines to help them with their work; they could only rely on books. They didn't have cell phones to text each other when they needed help—they had to work together at each other's houses.

"But that sounds so hard!" Mia said. "I can't imagine completing a project without the help of a computer."

Mr. Murphy chuckled. "I know. But I have that project to thank for meeting your mom! All those countless hours in the library...we had to spend a lot of time together," he said.

Now Mia was curious. She wondered what else was different when her parents were growing up. So she asked.

Mrs. Murphy started to list off things she didn't have as a child, like an mp3 player and a flat-screen television. "Also, since I had many brothers and sisters, we had to pitch in more. I helped my mom cook dinner, and we repaired our clothes ourselves when they tore," she said, tapping Mia on the nose. "How about you help me cook dinner tonight then?" Mrs. Murphy suggested, laughing.

"Sure!" Mia exclaimed. "How about something that you used to make as a kid?"

"Chicken noodle soup it is," Mrs. Murphy said with a smile.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who is Mia?

      A a girl in elementary school
      B a girl in middle school
      C a teacher at an elementary school
      D a teacher at a middle school

2. What does Mia mainly learn about in the story?

      A how her parents met
      B how her mother's life differed from hers
      C how to use computers to do homework
      D how to work in pairs

3. Read the following section from the story:

"[Mia's mother] explained that they didn't have online search engines to help them with their work; they could only rely on books. They didn't have cell phones to text each other when they needed help—they had to work together at each other's houses.

"'But that sounds so hard!' Mia said. 'I can't imagine completing a project without the help of a computer.'"

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

      A Mia thinks new technology makes homework easier.
      B Mia's parents think that her homework is too easy.
      C Mia thinks it would be more fun to work with a partner.
      D Mia's parents think she should have a cell phone.

4. Read the following sentences: "Mr. Murphy chuckled. 'I know. But I have that project to thank for meeting your mom! All those countless hours in the library...we had to spend a lot of time together,' he said."

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

      A Mr. and Mrs. Murphy grew annoyed with each other while working on their project.
      B Mr. and Mrs. Murphy began to fall in love during their long hours in the library.
      C Mr. and Mrs. Murphy were first introduced by a librarian.
      D Mr. and Mrs. Murphy think Mia would more easily find a boyfriend in the library.

5. What is this story mainly about?

    A a conversation about generational differences
    B a conversation about the evils of technology
    C a conversation about how Mia's parents met
    D a conversation about devices that are popular with teens

6. Read the following sentences: "Mrs. Murphy started to list off things she didn't have as a child, like an mp3 player and a flat-screen television. 'Also, since I had many brothers and sisters, we had to **pitch in** more. I helped my mom cook dinner, and we repaired our clothes ourselves when they tore,' she said, tapping Mia on the nose."

As used in the passage, what does the phrase "**pitch in**" mean?

    A sacrifice
    B help
    C suffer
    D cook

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Mia and her parents think that technology has made life easier for students today as they complete their homework. _____, thanks to the lack of modern technologies during their school days, Mia's parents were able to spend time together and fall in love.

    A Obviously
    B On the other hand
    C Finally
    D As a result

8. Why does Mia's mother think her computer class homework is "fancy"?

_____

_____

_____

_____

9. How does Mia agree to "pitch in" like her mother at the end of the story?

_____

_____

_____

_____

10. What is one way that Mia's life is different from her mother's? How do you know? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____