

These two passages, a play and an article, are about Henry Ford and the invention of the Model T automobile. Read the first passage and answer questions 31–35. Then, read the second passage and answer questions 36–41.

## Travels: A Play in Two Acts

by Kaden Barkov

### Act I

*(Fred and Jarred are talking near the fence that separates their properties.)*

**JARRED:** Tom's supposed to come by today. You all expecting anything?

**FRED:** Abby is waiting for some ribbon so she can finish Miss Anna's wedding dress. Miss Anna is getting married tomorrow! I hope Tom makes it through all this mud.

**JARRED:** Yeah, rain's been so bad this spring that the frogs are drowning.

**FRED:** Didn't Tom say he was going to buy an automobile? He oughta have fun trying to get through the mud and potholes.

**JARRED:** Why in the world would a fella want an automobile, for goodness sake? They're noisy. *Putt, putt, putt, BANG.* They make stinky smoke. Flat tires—you don't get flat tires on a horse.

**FRED:** Don't think much of automobiles, do you, Jarred?

**JARRED:** Nope, there's no future in 'em. Give me a good horse and wagon anytime. The animals are gonna go nuts. All we need is a bunch of crazy bulls bashing down the fences. Can you imagine driving an automobile when you go out courtin'? Women would run away from you.

**FRED:** I hope Tom gets here soon. Abby is really fretting. *(Fred notices Abby approaching.)* Yup! Here she comes now.

*(Abby enters stage right and runs to Fred.)*

**ABBY:** *(anxiously)* Fred, have you seen Tom? I don't know what I'll do if he doesn't get here.

**FRED:** It's all right, Abby. He'll be here soon.

**ABBY:** That's easy for you to say, Fred. You don't have to do all that sewing.

**FRED:** Well, if push comes to shove, I think I can help sew on ribbons.

*(There's a cloud of smoke and a putt, putt, putt, BANG in the distance.)*

**ABBY:** What in the dickens is that, Fred?

**FRED:** *(laughing)* That would be Tom, I reckon. Better get out of the road.

**Act II**

*(Fred, Jarred, and Abby stare in wonder as Tom drives up to them.)*

**TOM:** Howdy, howdy. *(Tom turns off the car and jumps out.)* Beautiful day for a ride in a Model T. How're you all doing?

**ABBY:** We're sure glad to see you, Tom. You got my ribbon?

**TOM:** *(Tom reaches into the car, pulls out a box, and hands it to Abby.)* Right here, young lady.

**ABBY:** *(obviously relieved)* Oh, thank you, Tom. I'll get those ribbons sewn on right now. Nice automobile!

**FRED:** If you don't mind, Tom, I'll leave you to visit with Jarred. I need to get the horse and wagon ready so I can take Abby to Miss Anna's. Nice automobile!

**TOM:** You go right ahead, Fred. Jarred and I have a lot to talk about.

*(Fred exits left to the barn.)*

**JARRED:** See you got one of those new-fangled motorcars, Tom?

**TOM:** I did. *(gesturing to the car)* You want a ride, Jarred?

**JARRED:** No way. Not on your life. I wouldn't ride in that thing for love nor money.

**TOM:** How about just sitting in it? I won't drive; I promise. I won't even start it up.

**JARRED:** *(reluctantly)* Well . . . I guess it won't hurt to sit in it—just for a bit, mind you.

*(Tom sits in the driver's seat and motions for Jarred to get into the car. He enters.)*

**JARRED:** So when did you get this thing, Tom?

**TOM:** A couple of months ago. I've wanted an automobile for a long time, but they were too expensive. Then after Henry Ford figured out how to mass-produce them, the prices dropped way down.

**JARRED:** What are those three things on the floor for?

**TOM:** They're pedals for operating the automobile. Takes a bit of fancy footwork, I'll tell you.

**JARRED:** Just out of curiosity, of course, how do you start this thing?

**TOM:** The first thing you have to do is put these blocks in front of the wheels.

GO ON 

*(Tom removes the blocks from behind the seat and puts them in front of the wheels. He stays at the front of the car as Fred drives up in his wagon.)*

**JARRED:** Why do you have to do that?

**TOM:** The car has a tendency to jump forward when you start it. The blocks stop that.

**JARRED:** I had a horse that tended to buck whenever I got on it.

*(Fred reaches them in his wagon.)*

**TOM:** Hey, Fred. How's it going?

**FRED:** Just waiting for Abby to finish up. Then we're heading over to Miss Anna's.

*(Abby walks up with the wedding dress wrapped in a sheet. Fred jumps down from the wagon and takes the dress from her. He lays it in the back of the wagon and then helps Abby into the wagon.)*

**ABBY:** I can't thank you enough for the beautiful ribbons, Tom. Guess we'd better be going, Fred.

*(Fred starts slowly down the road. He hits a pothole in the road and breaks a rear axle. The wagon tips to the side and Abby tumbles out.)*

**ABBY:** The dress! The dress! Is the dress all right? *(Abby scrambles up and runs to the back of the wagon. She grabs the dress and holds it tightly. Tom and Jarred jump out of the car and run over to the wagon.)*

**FRED:** Oh, my. What are we going to do now?

**TOM:** May I suggest the automobile? We can get it to Miss Anna's in no time flat.

**FRED:** Don't see that we have any other choice, Abby.

*(Tom goes back to the car and starts it up.)*

**JARRED:** You know, Abby, I could go with Tom and hold the dress—keep it safe and clean. I mean, I wouldn't normally ride in a car, Abby, but for you, I'd do anything.

**ABBY:** *(smiling)* Why, Jarred, that's the sweetest thing. I'd be honored if you'd do that.

*(Tom drives up and Jarred gets in. Abby hands him the dress and closes the door.)*

**ABBY:** You all be careful now, you hear?

*(Abby and Fred stand with their arms around each other as Tom and Jarred drive off.)*

31. The play takes place on a farm in the early twentieth century. Which of the following tells a way in which the setting shapes the characters' ideas or actions?
- A. Tom thinks the automobile is a great new invention that saves people time.
  - B. Tom offers to drive the wedding dress to the person who needs it.
  - C. Jared notices that the rain has been particularly bad lately.
  - D. Abby needs someone to bring ribbon before she can finish making a wedding dress.
32. How does the form of this play affect how its story is told?
- A. Stage directions provide characters' backgrounds.
  - B. Character development occurs only through dialogue.
  - C. Characters create suspense by speaking directly to the audience.
  - D. A cast of characters list provides a road map for the plot to come.



33. Which sentence from the passage explains why Tom was able to purchase a Model T car?
- A. "They're pedals for operating the automobile."
  - B. "Beautiful day for a ride in a Model T."
  - C. "Why in the world would a fella want an automobile, for goodness sake?"
  - D. "Then after Henry Ford figured out how to mass-produce them, the prices dropped way down."

34. Read the sentences from the passage.

**TOM:** I did. (*gesturing to the car*) You want a ride, Jarred?

**JARRED:** No way. Not on your life. I wouldn't ride in that thing for love nor money."

The phrase "for love nor money" is a figure of speech. What does Jarred mean when he uses this phrase?

- A. He feels too unloved to ride in the car.
- B. He is excited to ride in the car.
- C. Nothing will make him want to ride in the car.
- D. Only a large sum of money will make him ride in the car.

35. Towards the end of the play, Fred's wagon breaks down. Why did the author **most likely** include this event?
- A. to show that Fred is a bad wagon driver and Abby should not trust him with the wedding dress
  - B. to show that Jarred's statement about wagons being more reliable than cars may not be true
  - C. to show that Tom is misguided for trading his wagon in for an automobile
  - D. to show that Abby should not have completed the wedding dress at the last minute



Read the second passage and answer questions 36–41.

## Henry Ford: An American Innovator

by Lucy Morales

Henry Ford and his Model T had such an impact on American lives that we sometimes forget that Ford did not invent the automobile. He didn't invent the first automobile in the United States, and he didn't even invent the first mass-produced automobile; however, Henry Ford was a genius as an inventor and a businessman.

While European engineers had been experimenting with steam-powered vehicles throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Americans began building vehicles with gasoline-powered motors in the 1890s. It is believed that the Bauschke brothers in Benton Harbor, Michigan, built the first car in the United States. The Duryea brothers were the first Americans to build a commercially successful automobile. Ransom Eli Olds developed the first mass-produced automobile.

So what did Henry Ford do? He greatly improved the assembly line and later installed the first conveyor-belt assembly line. Ford made his first car, called the Quadricycle, in 1896. He introduced the Model T, his third car, in 1908. In 1913, Ford installed the moving assembly line, which could soon produce a car in ninety-three minutes.

And what about the business genius of Henry Ford? First, he sold the car as inexpensively as possible, and then he paid his employees enough so they could afford to buy the cars themselves. This helped push wages and automobile sales up and up all over the country. Now, Americans were mobile like never before. When workers bought cars, they moved out of the cities, and subsequently, new homes were built in the suburbs.

People were no longer tied to walking or to train lines. They could get around easier and faster and on their own schedules. There were other business benefits as well—it became easier for salespeople to travel away from home, and farmers could get to town faster. Life became easier for people in the cities and on the farms. By the time the Model T was taken out of production to be replaced by new models in 1927, fifteen million Model Ts had been sold and the United States was a very different nation.

GO ON 

36. The author of the passage says that Henry Ford was a genius. Which statement from the text supports that idea?
- A. "People were no longer tied to walking or to train lines."
  - B. "First, he sold the car as inexpensively as possible, and then he paid his employees enough so they could afford to buy the cars themselves."
  - C. "It is believed that the Baushke brothers in Benton Harbor, Michigan, built the first car in the United States."
  - D. "The Duryea brothers were the first Americans to build a commercially successful automobile."





37. Read the sentence from the passage.

“Ransom Eli Olds developed the first mass-produced automobile.”

What does the phrase mass-produced mean?

- A. individually produced
  - B. manufactured
  - C. made for many people to share
  - D. made in large numbers
38. Which of the following was one of Henry Ford’s accomplishments?
- A. inventing the automobile
  - B. building the first commercially successful automobile
  - C. building the first gasoline-powered automobile motor
  - D. making automobiles affordable



39. Which of the following **best** describes how the author structures the passage to suit her purpose?
- A. The author catches the reader's attention by listing common misconceptions about Henry Ford's accomplishments before arguing for why Henry Ford's actual contributions are crucial to the history of the automobile.
  - B. The author spends most of the passage focusing on the accomplishments of other automobile inventors in order to make the argument that Henry Ford is not a significant figure in the history of the automobile.
  - C. The author begins by listing Henry Ford's accomplishments and goes on to explain how other inventors built on his ideas to create improved automobiles.
  - D. The author devotes equal time to each inventor who contributed to the history of the automobile, beginning with the first automobile inventors and continuing into the present day.

40. Read the sentences from the passage.

"Now, Americans were mobile like never before. When workers bought cars, they moved out of the cities, and subsequently, new homes were built in the suburbs."

Based on the context in which the word mobile appears, which of these statements is true?

- A. The root word "mob" means "work" and the word mobile means "able to work."
- B. The root word "mob" means "move" and the word mobile means "able to move."
- C. The root word "mob" means "buy" and the word mobile means "able to buy."
- D. The root word "mob" means "build" and the word mobile means "able to build."

Question 41 refers to more than one passage. Be sure to read the question carefully.

41. You have read two passages that touch on the influence of Henry Ford and his Model T automobile. Write an essay that explains what you learned from each passage about the Model T and Henry Ford's contributions to automobile history. Describe how each author presents information about Henry Ford's contributions, discussing how the presentation differs based on the structure and genre of each passage. Be sure to use specific details from each passage to support your analysis.

## Writer's Checklist

### PLAN before you write

- Make sure you read the question carefully.
- Make sure you have read the passages carefully.
- Think about how the question relates to each passage.
- Organize your ideas on scratch paper. Use a thought map, outline, or other graphic organizer to plan your essay.

### FOCUS while you write

- Analyze the information from the passages as you write your essay.
- Make sure you use evidence from each passage to support your response.
- Use precise language, a variety of sentence types, and transitions in your essay.
- Organize your paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

### PROOFREAD after you write

- I wrote my final essay in the assessment booklet.
- I stayed focused on answering the question.
- I used evidence from each passage to support my response.
- I corrected errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.



**ASSESSMENT 1**  
**Reading**

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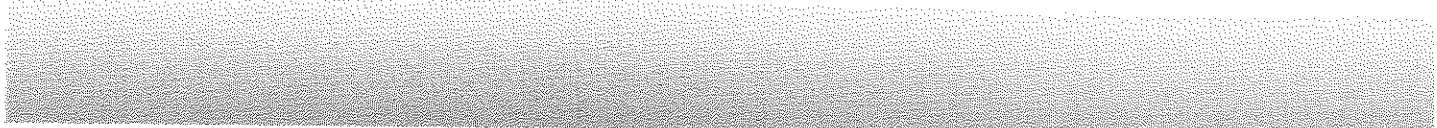
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**GO ON** 



**ASSESSMENT 1**  
**Reading**

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines for student responses.

**GO ON** 

