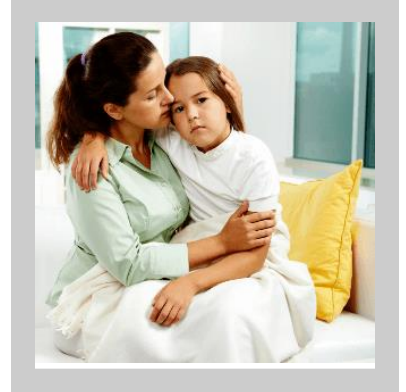Name _____
Date _____

Managing Her Illness

I am the mother of three children. My youngest daughter is sick. She has an illness that will never go away, but it can be managed. She needs medicine to manage her illness. This medicine used to cost ten dollars a month. Now it costs thirty dollars a month. Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing. Sometimes her lungs do not work well. She cannot get enough air into her lungs.

Then she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again. We have to buy the medicine. We do not have a choice. But it will be hard to find an extra thirty dollars a month. What will we do?

1) Which of these words best describes how the mother in this passage feels?

    A. angry

    B. confused

    C. worried

    D. sad

2) Based on its use in the passage, it can be understood that the word **manage** belongs to which of the following word groups?

    A. control, direct, treat

    B. cure, fix, heal

    C. breathe, live, survive

    D. fuel, aid, promote

3) Which of these words best describes the medicine in this passage?

    A. interesting

    B. new

    C. needed

    D. amazing

4) How did the daughter's medicine change in cost?

    A. It used to cost $15. Now it costs $30.

    B. It used to cost $10. Now it costs $40.

    C. It increased in price by $10.

    D. It increased in price by $20.

5) Some people think it is unacceptable to make medicines cost more money than people can afford. But some medicine is very expensive to make. Do you think all medicines should be affordable for the people who need them? How can we make the most expensive medicines available to everyone?

Answers and Explanations

1) C
   Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

The mother in the passage discusses a problem. She says that the medicine her daughter needs "used to cost ten dollars a month," but "now it costs thirty dollars a month." The mother also tells us that her family will "have to buy the medicine" even though it is more expensive now. Finally, the mother asks, "What will we do?" Based on this information, we can understand that the mother of this passage feels worried about the problem of how to pay for the medicine. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the mother of a sick child might feel scared or sad, the passage does not provide information to suggest that she feels this way. Therefore choices **(A)** and **(D)** are incorrect.

The mother is not confused. She knows what is going on and clearly understands the problem she faces. Therefore choice **(B)** is incorrect.

2) A
   Core Standard: Craft and Structure

 manage (*verb*): to control or take care of.

In the passage, the mother writes, "She has an illness that will never go away, but it can be managed. She needs medicine to manage her illness." From these sentences, we can understand that the medicine cannot fix her illness completely, because it "will never go away." But the medicine does help her daughter control her illness. We know this also because later in the passage, the mother describes how the medicine works: "Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing. Sometimes her lungs do not work well. She cannot get enough air into her lungs. Then she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again." This information tells us that the medicine helps her daughter treat her illness, even though it does not make the illness go away. This means that *manage* belongs to the word group control, direct, treat. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The mother writes that the illness "will never go away." This means that the medicine cannot cure, fix, or heal her daughter's illness. This eliminates **(B)**.

The mother does not say whether her daughter needs the medicine to breathe, live, or survive. But the mother does tell us that she "needs medicine to manage her illness." This means that manage is something that is done to the illness. It does not make sense to say that her daughter needs to be or live her illness. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

The mother does not use the medicine to help her daughter's illness. This is the opposite of the meaning we are looking for. So, we are not looking for the words fuel, aid, or promote. This makes
(D) incorrect.

3) C
   Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

Throughout the passage, the mother describes the medicine used to treat her daughter's illness. First, she writes, "She needs medicine to manage her illness." Later the mother explains how the medicine works, writing that "she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again." Finally, the mother tells us that even though the price of the medicine has gone up, the family will still buy it, because they "do not have a choice." Both the word "needs" and the fact that the family must buy the medicine tell us that it is not just important, helpful, or useful. The medicine is required. This means the word needed best describes the medicine. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) D
   Core Standard: Key Ideas and Details

In the middle of the passage, we learn that "This medicine used to cost ten dollars a month. Now it costs thirty dollars a month." Using this information, we can see that the daughter's medicine increased in price by $20. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide evidence to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.