Mom senses danger. It’s a villainous wasp hovering just overhead. She quickly gathers her 24 nymphs under her triangular body.

The wasp approaches.

Mom frantically waves her antennae. Not fazed, the wasp flies even closer. Mom turns her tough, shield-like back and quickly buzzes her wings. The wasp ignores her.

It works. But the determined wasp only takes to the air and darts back and forth.

One of the nymphs edges out to see what all the commotion is about. The wasp speeds towards it. Mom’s ready and silently drops her most powerful secret weapon...the stink blob. The wasp catches a whiff of this noxious smell and zips away in the opposite direction. Lunch will have to wait.

Stink bugs range from 6 to 12 mm in size and come in various colors. Most are brown, grey and green. Some, like the harlequin stink bug, are black with bright yellow or orange markings. All stink bugs have a large triangular structure on their backs. This raised covering points towards their hind end and is called the scutellum. As their name suggests, stink bugs also produce a chemical so noxious and foul that most insects and animals are repelled by it immediately. However, the stench-gob is used only as a last resort since it saps the bug of most of its energy.

Not all insects are as protective of their young as the ‘parent bug.’ She will still protect her young even when they’re old enough to be on their own. When the young wander off they secrete a scent trail. If in trouble they send out a powerful alarm scent. It’s Mom to the rescue as she follows this scent path right to her nymph.
1. Why did the author write this article?
   a. to explain how wasps hunt for prey
   b. to give information about stink blobs
   c. to tell you how nymphs protect themselves
   d. to give information about stink bugs

2. Why do stink bugs release their terrible smell only as a last resort?
   a. releasing the odor could kill nymphs
   b. releasing the odor will help predators find them
   c. releasing the odor takes lots of energy
   d. releasing the odor kills plants

3. Why are stink bugs called the “parent bug”?
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

4. Explain how the writer’s style changes in the last two paragraphs.
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

5. Why do you think the author begins this passage with an exciting story?
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

By Sandie Lee
Stink Blob to the Rescue

By Sandie Lee

Part 1: Reread “Stink Blob to the Rescue.” As you read, find and highlight these vocabulary words in the passage: nymph, villainous, saps, commotion, noxious, secrete, and triangular.

Part 2: Match each word with its definition. Use a dictionary if you need help.

Part 3: Use a vocabulary word from above to correctly complete each sentence.

8. When the machine in the factory broke, it released a _________________ odor into the air.

9. When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, “What is all of this _________________ about?”

10. Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare’s _________________ plan to take over the world.
Stink Blob to the Rescue

By Sandie Lee

They are called the “parent bug” because the mother looks after its young and tries to protect them for a long time.

The beginning was an exciting story about stink bugs. In the last two paragraphs, the author gives information about them.

The author begins with an exciting story to pull the reader in, and make them interested in reading more.
8. When the machine in the factory broke, it released a ______________________ odor into the air.

9. When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, “What is all of this ______________________ about?”

10. Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare’s ______________________ plan to take over the world.

- nymph
- villainous
- saps
- commotion
- noxious
- secrete
- triangular

1. ______  nymph  d. shaped like a triangle

2. ______  villainous  c. wicked or evil

3. ______  saps  b. weakens

4. ______  commotion  f. wild excitement

5. ______  noxious  e. unpleasant and harmful, usually refers to a smell

6. ______  secrete  g. to release a chemical substance from the body

7. ______  triangular  a. young insect that hasn’t reached the adult stage