Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Triangle of Fear

1 On a calm, clear December afternoon in 1945, Flight 19 took off from the south coast of Florida on a routine Army training mission. The five Avenger planes that made up Flight 19 would never return. Incredibly, a Martin Mariener plane sent to rescue Flight 19 was also lost without a trace. As one Navy officer said at the time, "They vanished as completely as if they'd flown to Mars."
2 Well, Mars was a bit beyond the reach of these airplanes. Yet, whenever planes or ships disappear in the infamous Bermuda Triangle, the wildest stories are heard. Many people think that the waters off the coast of Florida are the deadliest in the world. Legends tell of hundreds of ships and airplanes simply disappearing in the Bermuda Triangle. For this reason, the area is also known as the Hoodoo Sea, or the Limbo of the Lost, or the Triangle of Death.
3 Why is the Bermuda Triangle such a graveyard? Some say that it is a hunting ground for UFOs. According to this theory, UFOs hover above the Bermuda Triangle waiting to scoop up innocent ships and airplanes. Others say that the lost continent of Atlantis still exists under the sea and is using its magnetic force to pull down ships and planes. Still others claim that the area creates a time warp, causing vessels to vanish into the fourth dimension. Whatever the case, the Bermuda Triangle is made to sound like a place to avoid.
4 In fact, one member of Flight 19 did avoid the Triangle. He claimed he had a premonition about the flight, an unexplainable feeling that something was going to go wrong. So he did not go. The rest of the crew, however, did go. The leader was Lieutenant Charles Taylor, a pilot with over 2,500 hours of flying experience. Flight 19's training mission was to fly 160 miles east, then 40 miles north, then back west to the base at Fort Lauderdale.
5 Not long after the takeoff, trouble developed. Taylor radioed the control tower. "Control tower, this is an emergency. We seem to be off course. We cannot see land. Repeat, we cannot see land."
6 What is your position?" the tower asked.
7 We can't be sure of where we are. We seem to be lost."
8 Head due west," said the tower.
9 "We don't know which way is west. Everything is wrong ... strange ... we can't be sure of any direction. Even the ocean doesn't look as it should."
10 Later came this message from Flight 19: "We must be about 225 miles northeast of base...it looks like we are..."
11 Then silence.
12 A Martin Mariner flying boat was sent out immediately to rescue the Avengers. But upon entering the Triangle, it too fell silent. The 14 men of Flight 19 were gone. And now 13 more who were involved in the rescue mission were missing too. A massive search of the area by hundreds of boats and planes turned up nothing but water.
13 What is the explanation for these disappearances, which many people regard as the greatest aviation mystery of all time? To true believers in the powers of the Bermuda Triangle, the fate of the five Avengers and the Martin Mariner is just another piece of evidence proving that the Triangle is one spooky stretch of ocean. They argue that experienced pilots could not have gotten lost on such a simple mission. They wonder why there was no oil slick, no wreckage, no bodies. They do not believe that the planes could have just vanished into thin air.
On the other hand, there is plenty of evidence that there is no mystery here at all. The Avengers and the Mariner did go down. But skeptics point out that the popular story concerning their disappearance is wrong in almost every way.

For example, the pilots were not all experienced airmen. With the exception of Taylor, they were all students. And Taylor was new to the area. The only thing that is really clear from the radio transmissions is that Taylor was completely lost. His compass was not working. At times Taylor thought he was west of Florida, over the Florida Keys in the Gulf of Mexico. But, in fact, he was over the Grand Keys in the Bahamas, east of Florida. Taylor was so confused that he had his men flying in circles. Eventually, at night and in weather that had turned stormy, the Avengers ran out of gas and went down. It would have taken only about 45 seconds for an Avenger to fill with water and sink.

And what about the Martin Mariner flying boat that was sent to rescue Flight 19? It did not take off until after dark - at 7:29P.M. Observers aboard the steamship Gaines Mills saw an explosion in midair. The burst of flames occurred exactly where the Martin Mariner was supposed to be. It is not unlikely that the Mariner exploded, for it had a pretty sorry safety record. Gas fumes were always present. Mariners were commonly referred to as "flying gas tanks." A cigarette or a spark could have caused the entire aircraft to burst into a ball of fire.

The fate of Flight 19 and the Martin Mariner continues to stir discussion. Since that fateful night in December 1945, several other planes and ships have disappeared in the area of the Bermuda Triangle. This fact has only fueled the fires of debate. But as the U.S. Coast Guard noted in an official communication, "The combined forces of nature and the unpredictability of mankind outdo even the most farfetched science fiction many times each year."

Circle the letter of the best answer choice.

1) Which of the following BEST states the main idea of the article?
   A) Both Flight 19 and a Martin Mariner flying boat were lost while flying over the Bermuda Triangle.
   B) Because many planes and ships have disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle without a good explanation, many people think the area has strange powers.
   C) Many people have been lost at sea under mysterious circumstances.

2) Flight 19 was
   A) a scheduled commercial flight.
   B) a routine Army training mission.
   C) canceled because of poor weather.

3) Lieutenant Charles Taylor was
   A) an experienced pilot.
   B) a student pilot.
   C) familiar with the Bermuda Triangle.

4) The control tower told Taylor to
   A) "head due west."
   B) "head due east."
   C) "head 225 miles northeast."

5) The Martin Mariner was known for
   A) its excellent safety record.
B) having superior night radar.
C) being a "flying gas tank."

6) The author's purpose in writing "Triangle of Fear" is to
   A) express conflicting opinions about the forces at work within the Bermuda Triangle.
   B) persuade the reader to believe that powerful forces are at work within the Bermuda Triangle.
   C) entertain the reader with mysterious tales about the Bermuda Triangle.

7) In this article the statement that "the combined forces of nature and the unpredictability of mankind outdo even the most farfetched science fiction many times each year" means
   A) reality is stranger than anything anyone could write.
   B) much of science fiction is based on what happens in real life.
   C) both people and nature are unpredictable.

8) Choose the summary that says all the most important things about the article but in the fewest words.
   A) In 1945, the planes and crew members of Flight 19 disappeared without a trace over the Bermuda Triangle. The flying boat sent to rescue Flight 19 also vanished.
   B) Some people blame the mysterious powers of the Bermuda Triangle for the disappearance in 1945 of Flight 19 and the flying boat sent to rescue it. Others insist that there is a reasonable explanation for the incident.
   C) Mystery still surrounds the disappearance in 1945 of Flight 19 over the Bermuda Triangle.

For each statement below, write O if it expresses an opinion or F if it expresses a fact:

9) __________ Neither wreckage nor bodies were found after Flight 19 and the flying boat disappeared over the Bermuda Triangle.
10) __________ The Bermuda Triangle causes the ships and planes that travel over it to disappear.
11) __________ The lost continent of Atlantis exists beneath the Bermuda Triangle.
When you combine your own experience and information from a text to draw a conclusion that is not directly stated in that text, you are making an inference. Below are four statements that may or may not be inferences based on information in the article. Label the statements using the following key:

C-Correct Inference

F-Faulty Inference

12) ________ Even an experienced pilot can get lost in an unfamiliar area.

13) ________ The U.S. Army does a poor job of training its pilots.

14) ________ Many people think that the Bermuda Triangle is governed by forces not found in other parts of the ocean.

15) ________ When unusual occurrences that cannot be quickly and easily explained take place, people often seek a mysterious cause.
The Psychic Who Wasn’t

1 On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan walked out of the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. As he approached his limousine, a gunman took aim at him and fired six quick shots. One bullet struck Reagan between his left ribs. Another severely wounded press secretary James Brady. A police officer and a Secret Service agent were also hit.

2 Reagan was rushed to a nearby hospital. There he underwent two hours of surgery to repair a collapsed lung and other internal damage. The bullet had missed his heart by just three inches.

3 The would-be assassin was a young, sandy-haired man named John Hinckley, Jr. It turned out that Hinckley had acted alone and was not part of a larger conspiracy. He later admitted that he was obsessed with Jodie Foster, the young star of the movie Taxi Driver. Hinckley said he identified with Robert DeNiro's role from that movie. That character was a taxi driver who tied to assassinate a U.S. senator. Apparently, Hinckley hoped that assassinating the President would impress Jodie Foster.

4 Shortly after the shooting, it was announced that the whole episode could have been avoided. A 32-year-old Los Angeles psychic named Tamara Rand said she had predicted the entire assassination attempt three months before it happened. In fact, she had sent a messenger with a warning to President Reagan. It was, Rand said, received by an unnamed White House aide and ignored.

5 Rand went on to say that she had made her prediction on TV. She'd done it on January 6, 1991, while being interviewed on the Dick Maurice and Company talk show. The show had been taped at the studios of Las Vegas television station KTNV.

6 On April 1, Rand called a friend at an NBC station in Los Angeles, saying, "I have a tape of my predictions." She then gave a copy of the tape to that station. On it, Tamara Rand could indeed be seen forecasting the assassination attempt. Her prediction included an image of Reagan getting a "thud" in the chest. She said that the gunman would be a young man with fair hair, acting alone. There would be "shots all over the place." Rand even named the approximate date. "I feel at the end of March, perhaps the last week of March… is a crisis time," she said. She also saw the assassin's name; it was, she said, something like "Jack Humley." Near the end of the tape, Rand said, "I really frankly hope I'm wrong."

7 News of Rand's psychic ability caused a sensation. After all, she had been exactly right on just about everything. The tape of her predictions was picked up by national TV programs. It was shown on April 2 on Cable Network News. It was aired by NBC's Today show and ABC's Good Morning America. The Los Angeles Times also reported the story.

8 What the news media didn't know was that the tape Rand provided had not been made on January 6. Instead, it had been made on March 31, one day after the shooting. That day Rand had returned to KTNV, saying she wanted to tape her predictions again. In her words, she needed to "rearticulate" her January predictions. This was necessary, she told the film crew, because she had slurred and stumbled over a few words on the first tape.

9 The crew didn't think much of it at the time, but when they saw the tape being shown across the country with a January 6 date on it, they realized something fishy was going on. KTNV crew member Forrest Owen said he was "shocked and surprised" when he saw the tape on TV being billed as having been made on January 6. "I know for a fact it wasn't recorded on January 6," said Owen. "I know it was recorded on the 31st of March."

10 Others, too, quickly began to voice their doubts. Arthur Lord, a top NBC official, said, "I have very grave doubts about the authenticity of the tape."
The comments of Ed Quinn, the station manager at KTNV, were more pointed. He said, "We have reason to believe the interview was taped on March 31st. He then added, "To the best of our knowledge, the Tamara Rand piece [that] aired this morning [April 2] ... never aired on KTNV prior to today."

By the afternoon of April 2, critics had turned up the heat on both Tamara Rand and Dick Maurice. Rand continued to maintain that she had made her predictions on January 6, and Maurice stood by her. In fact, that same day, Maurice began to sue everyone in sight at KTNV. "I am suing because they are trying to ruin my career," he said. "[Quinn's claim is] totally untrue. It's untrue about a hoax."

The very next day, however, ABC and NBC admitted that they hadn't screened the story carefully enough. Jerry Hansen, a producer at the NBC station in Los Angeles said, "It never entered our minds that someone would fabricate something like that. I've been in the business twenty-four years. I simply believed them."

Meanwhile, the evidence of fraud piled up. Maurice had claimed that the original January 6 tape had been erased, but it was found. When reviewers watched it they discovered that Rand had made no mention at all of the shooting. At last, on April 5, Dick Maurice was forced to confess. He had gone along with the hoax, he said, to help boost his friend Rand's career. In an article which appeared in the Las Vegas Sun, Maurice wrote, "I am sorry. I've committed a terrible wrong. I have perpetrated a hoax on the public and feel very much ashamed." The next day station KTNV fired him.

As for the disgraced Tamara Rand, it seemed that she wasn't much of a psychic after all. If she really could see into the future, she would have known that her little hoax would backfire on her. In the end, all she could do was sob, "I know the people who love me will continue to love me."

Circle the letter of the best answer choice.

16) Which of the following BEST states the main idea of the article?
A) Although Tamara Rand tried to deceive the public, her lie was eventually exposed and she was disgraced.
B) Reports about psychic Tamara Rand's amazing prediction of the shooting of President Reagan aired on CNN, NBC, and ABC.
C) After President Reagan was shot, so-called psychic Tamara Rand claimed that she had predicted the event, but was later shown to be lying.

17) Tamara Rand claimed that she had predicted the shooting
A) three days before it happened.
B) three months before it happened.
C) three years before it happened.

18) Rand actually taped the "prediction" on the day
A) of the shooting.
B) before the shooting.
C) after the shooting.
19) When the original tape of the program was found, it proved that
   A) Rand had not made the prediction.
   B) Rand had really made the prediction.
   C) Rand's description of the assassin was just slightly inaccurate.

20) When Rand's friend Maurice was exposed as a liar, he was
   A) forgiven because he was helping a friend.
   B) congratulated on a well-done hoax.
   C) fired from his job.

21) The main purpose of the first paragraph is to
   A) prove that John Hinckley, Jr., was the lone gunman.
   B) convey a light-hearted mood.
   C) describe the incident that Tamar Rand would later say she had predicted.

22) What does the author imply by saying "critics had turned up the heat on both Tamara Rand and Dick Maurice"?
   A) Critics had begun to focus intensely on whether or not Rand and Maurice were telling the truth.
   B) Critics began to support Rand and Maurice more strongly.
   C) Critics had begun to spread the story of Rand's prediction on Maurice's show.

23) Below are summaries of the article. Choose the summary that says all the most important things about the article but in the fewest words.
   A) For a while, Tamara Rand fooled the public into believing she had predicted an 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan, but later she was exposed as a fraud.
   B) Tamara Rand and her friend Dick Maurice were both part of a hoax concerning President Reagan.
   C) The major networks and much of the American public were deceived by Tamara Rand and her friend Dick.

24) Which of the following statements from the article is an opinion rather than a fact?
   A) "As for the disgraced Tamara Rand, it seemed that she wasn't much of a psychic after all."
   B) "The very next day, however, ABC and NBC admitted that they hadn't screened the story carefully enough."
   C) "The bullet had missed his heart by just three inches."

25) According to paragraph 9, the TV crew became suspicious that Rand could be perpetrating a hoax because ________________.
   A) Dick Maurice supported his friend Tamara Rand.
   B) Rand said the tape she made March 31 was actually made on January 6.
   C) She had lied about being psychic before.
When you combine your own experience and information from a text to draw a conclusion that is not directly stated in that text, you are making an inference. Below are five statements that may or may not be inferences based on information in the article. Label the statements using the following key:

C-Correct Inference                                    F-Faulty Inference

26) ________ In times of crisis, the large TV networks sometimes place more importance on being the first with the story than on offering the most accurate report.

27) ________ The movie Taxi Driver is to blame for John Hinckley’s attack on the President.

28) ________ It is unlikely that anyone can predict a random future event with total accuracy.

29) ________ It is normal for a performer to retape a TV show in order to improve it.

30) ________ The events surrounding this hoax proved that Tamara Rand is probably not a psychic.

Summary

Choose ONE of the two articles you just read (either “Triangle of Fear” or “The Psychic Who Wasn’t”) and write a summary. Use the pink sheet from your folder to help you as you write. Your summary should be at least FIVE (5) complete sentences and will be graded using the same summary rubric as always.