***Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** I can determine the main idea of a text.

I can explain how the main idea of a text is supported by key details.

***GREAT PERFORMANCES IN AIR***

*Circus performers lead exciting lives. Often they find themselves in the air. Truly,*

*Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus is the greatest show on earth.*

***AERIALISTS***

Aerialists perform gymnastics high above the ground

using ropes, rings, and bars. In his act, Valeri Panteleenko

climbs down a rope headfirst while supporting his partners.

Their combined weight is 455 pounds.

***FLYING TRAPEZE***

A trapeze is like a swing—a very high swing. The rigging

that holds a trapeze is 33 feet off the arena floor. Most

trapeze bars weigh about 10 pounds. Performers called

flyers and catchers swing back and forth on the trapeze. A

flyer will let go and perform a daring stunt in midair. The

catcher then swings out and catches the flyer. To complete a

triple somersault, a flyer must go about 60 miles an hour. For

a quadruple, the flyer travels about 80 miles per hour.

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***WIRE WALKING***

Most high-wires are about 35 feet long and 30 to 36 feet off

the ground. Daring performers walk the wire, balancing on

each other's shoulders and doing somersaults. One of the

greatest high-wire acts ever was the Wallenda Family. They

would stand on their heads on a wire 40 feet in the air, and

they'd ride bicycles across the wire. Seven of them stood on

each others' shoulders to form a pyramid while walking

along the wire—and there was no net below them!

In the Mednikov High-Wire act, Sasha Mednikov does a

back somersault blindfolded!

***HUMAN CANNONBALLS***

These performers put on their back and knee braces and

their costumes, slide into a double-barreled cannon, tighten

every muscle, close their eyes, and wait. Boom! Out they go,

flying through the air at 65 miles per hour. One goes 32 feet

high and into the net 110 feet away. The other goes 26 feet high

and hits the net 85 feet away. In four seconds it’s all over.



**1.** What is this passage mainly about?

A. How different types of circus performers perform tricks high in the air.

B. The total time circus performers spend flying through the air.

C. How circus performers fly through the air as human cannonballs.

D. The distances circus performers can fly through the air while performing tricks.

**2.** Which of the following is NOT a supporting detail from the passage?

A. In the Mednikov High-Wire act, Sasha Mednikov does a back somersault blindfolded!

B. To complete a triple somersault, a flyer must go about 60 miles an hour.

C. The human cannonballs are planned with one person going farther than the other

 so that they look better.

D. Aerialists perform gymnastics high above the ground using ropes, rings, and bars.

**3.** According to the passage, a trapeze is most like a

A. balancing act.

B. tight wire.

C. very high swing.

D. swinging rope.

**Justify your answer to question number one. Explain why the main idea you chose is correct. Use supporting details from the passage in your answer as evidence.**

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