**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Text 1**

**A Talk with a Snake Catcher**

Art: Doug, your job is different. What is it?

Douglas: I catch dangerous snakes in South

Africa.

Art: Why would you want to do that?

Douglas: There are times when a dangerous snake, like a mamba, must be caught. This will keep it from hurting or killing people. A snake never goes out of its way to bite people. But if it is scared or surprised, it is likely to strike.

Art: Do you always kill the snakes you catch?

Douglas: I try never to kill a snake. I know how to catch them without hurting them. I often use a pole and a sack. If a snake is hiding inside a house, I try to drive it out first.

Art: Where might a snake hide inside a house?

Douglas: Some poor people’s houses have dirt floors. Some have holes in the walls or the roof. In hot weather, snakes like cool, shady places. They also hunt mice and other small creatures. A snake could be in a cupboard. It could be under a bed or even under a pillow. You never know!

Art: In that case, how can people sleep at night?

Douglas: Sometimes they can’t! But if a snake is around, they know they can call on me.

I can identify whether a passage is written as first hand or second hand account.

I can compare and contrast accounts about the same topic and describe differences in focus or information provided.

**Text 2**

**How to Catch a Snake**

Have you ever wondered how the professionals on TV catch snakes so easily? Do you want to get one out of your garden without hurting it? Or do you just think it would be cool to catch and get a close look at such a fascinating creature? Here's how to catch a wild snake safely and humanely.

1. **Be sure the snake isn't venomous**. You don't want your first attempt at snake catching to end in a disaster! Observe the snake--its length, its colors, and other distinguishing features. Identify the species by searching on a computer. If you are worried a snake might be venomous, call the local animal shelter immediately before anyone gets hurt.
2. **Get a stick or other long slender object, or whatever you have at hand**. 3
3. **Distract the snake with the stick**. Firmly grasp its tail and lift the snake upwards, leaving the front part of its body on the ground, but keeping your legs and own body as far away as possible. 4
4. **Place the end of the stick under the front half of the snake**. Lift the front half of the body off the ground. This will keep the snake calmer than if you grabbed its head, and will also let you control the snake's position easily.
5. **Release the snake into a new area with plenty of places to hide such as a stone wall or some bushes**. 'Aim' the snakes head toward the hiding places, and release the tail. The snake will immediately seek shelter to escape the 'predator' that picked it up. 6
6. **Wash your hands well--snakes and other reptiles sometimes carry bacteria**. While usually a minor concern, there have been examples of serious illness and even death in humans who have handled reptiles that carry the bacteria.