

Whole Story Comprehension

Directions: Read the story below and answer the questions on the following page.

It's Time to Pay the Price

To the Editors:

I am an eighth-grade student at Fowlerville Middle School and I am upset over the way our teachers are being treated. In my opinion, teachers perform one of the most important jobs in our community. They are entrusted with educating us and preparing us for the future. The teachers I know work very hard to do that.

We don't pay teachers enough for the very important job they are doing. The average yearly salary for educators in our area is \$29,000. As professionals, teachers should be paid like other professionals in our community, such as lawyers and doctors.

Of course, the question isn't, "Why would anyone want to be a teacher?" The real question is, "How could anyone afford to be a teacher—when they are paid such a salary?"

Let me tell you about my social studies teacher, Mrs. Miller. She teaches tirelessly and expertly all day. She spends her own money on certain projects for her students. She volunteers her free time on weekends to sell snacks at the football and basketball games, but she is also raising three kids. Don't you think Mrs. Miller and other teachers like her deserve to be rewarded for their commitment to students?

I checked with the National Education Association (NEA) and low salaries for educators is not a problem in just our area. It's happening all over the U.S. According to the NEA, teachers' salaries actually went down in 1998.

The NEA also said that in order to keep up with the growing number of students, and to replace all the teachers who will be retiring, schools will need to hire over one million new teachers in the next ten years. Do school boards across the U.S. honestly believe they will be able to lure one million of the best minds if they are offering meager salaries that are in decline?

What is the solution? It's simple: raise the salaries of teachers. Make the amount they earn more in line with other professionals.

Sincerely,

Bill Hunter

Fowlerville, Michigan

Whole Story Comprehension *(cont.)*

Directions: After you have read the story on the previous page, answer the questions below.

1. The author is
 - a. an eighth-grade female.
 - b. determined to be a teacher.
 - c. concerned with teacher salaries.
 - d. a student at Michigan State.

2. NEA stands for
 - a. New Educators Alliance.
 - b. National Educator Assistance.
 - c. New Educator Assistance.
 - d. National Education Association.

3. The author feels his teacher Mrs. Miller
 - a. prepares him for the future.
 - b. knows her subject well.
 - c. is energetic.
 - d. all of the above

4. Teachers should be treated like other professionals, like
 - a. policemen and firemen.
 - b. doctors and lawyers.
 - c. actors and athletes.
 - d. all of the above

5. Low salary for educators is a problem
 - a. in a few places.
 - b. in England.
 - c. in the United States.
 - d. all of the above

6. In 1998,
 - a. enrollment in teacher education programs went down.
 - b. teacher salaries went down.
 - c. teachers went on strike.
 - d. teachers formed the NEA.

7. *Meager* means all of the following except
 - a. poor.
 - b. puny.
 - c. small.
 - d. large.

8. A concern for the future of education is that
 - a. individuals can not afford to be teachers.
 - b. many teachers are at the retirement age.
 - c. salaries are actually decreasing.
 - d. all of the above