Name _____ Date _____

"All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury

Reading Warm-up B

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

Venus is a fascinating planet. It is almost the same size as Earth. For that reason, scientists have called Venus the sister planet of Earth. For many years, astronomers, people who study planets and stars, thought that life might exist on Venus. They believed there were good reasons to predict that plants and animals might be found there. They even thought that a human civilization might exist on Venus. Contributing to that idea was the fact that a gigantic, dense cloud covers most of Venus's surface. The planet cannot be easily seen, and for a long time scientists could not take a clear photograph of it.

Today, scientists know that the climate of Venus is too hot to support life as we know it. Its cloud cover traps much of the heat the planet absorbs from the sun. The heat is suspended in place above the surface of the planet and is unable to move. Therefore, Venus has the hottest average temperature in our solar system.

Venus is similar to Earth in many ways besides its size, however. It has mountains, valleys, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Scientists have noted formations from lava flows that must have drenched the planet's surface at one time. They wonder whether those formations are the remembrance of a long-past time when Venus's volcanoes erupted.

The information we have today about Venus comes mainly from spacecraft. The vehicles have orbited the planet and inserted probes into its atmosphere. The probes send back a great deal of information. One probe mapped the complete surface of the planet. Another explored the materials that make up Venus's surface. It also recorded the planet's surface temperature.

Venus is indeed a fascinating planet. There is still much on Venus to explore and discover.

1. Underline the words that tell what astronomers had reason to predict about Venus. Define *predict.*
2. Circle the word that tells what kind of civilization there might have been on Venus. What does *civilization* mean?
3. What is an antonym for gigantic? Define *gigantic.*
4. Underline the words that tell why scientists could not take a clear photograph of Venus. Use *photograph* in a sentence of your own.
5. Circle the words that tell what is suspended above Venus. What does it have to do with the high temperature on Venus?
6. Circle the words that tell what once drenched the planet's surface. Define *drenched.*
7. Circle the words that tell what may be a remembrance of a past time on Venus. Use *remembrance* in a sentence.
8. Circle the word that tells what was inserted into Venus's atmosphere. Use *inserted* in a sentence.

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