

## POW 6: The Sky's the Limit

**Fire!** On October 8, 1871, a fire started in a wooden barn behind Patrick and Catherine O'Leary's house. Legend holds that their cow was at fault: It had knocked over a lit lantern. It had been a dry summer in Chicago; the ground was parched and the blaze spread briskly. By the time the fire exhausted itself two days later, it left behind a 2.2-square-mile barren swath through the heart of the city. But as it happens, the simultaneous emergence of the two major innovations turned that disaster into a significant milestone in Chicago's history. For around the same time that a new kind of construction was being invented, so, too, were electric-powered elevators.

**Innovation.** Large structures at that time relied fully on stone and brick, which limited how high they could rise. Then, in 1885, architect William Jenney completed the 10-story Home Insurance Building atop downtown Chicago's rubble. Jenney's unique building was innovative because it employed steel frames that completely supported its walls, making it sturdy and fireproof. And since having supporting walls was no longer necessary, buildings like this could have as many large windows as the architects desired. *Steel-beam construction*, a new form of architecture, rose above the ashes of the devastating fire.

**Ascent.** But you can't have skyscrapers without elevators. Although the Otis Company had been manufacturing elevators since the 1840s, they were steam-power, painfully slow, and frequently unsafe. In 1880 in Germany, Werner von Siemens invented the first electrically powered one. A few years after that, William Sprague significantly improved the electric elevator's speed and safety. Now the sky was the limit, and hundred-story buildings were no longer pipe dreams.

**Results.** America's architectural giants- Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan among them- flocked to Illinois to exhibit their talents. Within a few years, they and others changed the city's skyline. To this day, Chicago is considered a marvel of architecture and design. In a way, it all started with the O'Learys, or maybe with the cow.

1. When two events are *simultaneous*, they happen \_\_\_\_\_. (RI6.4)

- A. Slowly
- B. In the same place
- C. At the same time
- D. Separately

2. What was innovative about William Jenney's 1885 building? (RI6.3)

- A. It offered great views of the city.
- B. It housed an insurance company.
- C. It was located where a fire had burned.
- D. It was constructed with steel frames.

3. What is the author's purpose in writing this article? (RI6.6)

- A. To entertain
- B. To inform
- C. To persuade
- D. To remind

4. How did the fire at the beginning of the article relate to the statement "America's architectural giants- Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan among them- flocked to Illinois to exhibit their talents"? (RI6.5)

- A. It is a problem-solution relationship
- B. It is comparing and contrasting
- C. It is a cause and effect relationship
- D. The architects going to Chicago explain how the fire occurred.

**5. Which section explains why the invention of skyscrapers and elevators are related?**

**(RI6.5)**

- A. Fire**
- B. Innovation**
- C. Ascent**
- D. Results**

**6. Why would steel frames be innovative 1885? (RI 6.3)**

- A. Steel supports did not burn like wood supports**
- B. Steel was a new metal**
- C. Steel was the common material used**
- D. 1885 was the year steel rose from the ashes of Chicago**

## **POW 6: Off-Leash**

To the Editor:

In our congested city, my Chella, like all dogs, is allowed outside only when on leash. She must be on a leash when strolling the sidewalks, crossing the streets, entering stores that graciously permit her, and even while frolicking in our spacious parks. This is a completely understandable rule in a city chock-a-block with pooches. It's best for the safety of others and of the dogs themselves. Thankfully, there is a time each day when dogs are allowed to be off-leash in some city parks. That's a wonderful regulation since dogs are meant to run free when they can, to be their natural curious, playful selves without hindrance. It is with the allotted leash-free times that I take issue.

Where we live, that time period is from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. The nighttime hours are sensible, but few care to amble into our park in darkness. It's the early morning time that's problematic, for that's when the park hosts races. Particularly on weekends, the park roads are clogged with competitive runners, marathon walkers, and whirring packs of cyclists. This is

unfortunate because this is when many dog owners have their sole opportunity to provide their dogs, off-leash freedom.

Pairing hundreds of free-roaming dogs with these athletes is unfair to dogs and racers alike. At best, dogs must wait for long periods just to cross the roads as the racers pass. At worst, a perky pup could easily romp into a pack of runners or cyclists and cause serious accidents. I myself have seen this happen.

What to do? I fully understand the value of holding these races, many of which are for good causes. And I appreciate that it is preferable to schedule them early in the day when parks are less jammed with people and, during summer months, when temperatures are more cooperative. Therefore, I don't suggest changing the race times to accommodate the dog owners and dogs. But I do propose extending the off-leash hours to 11 a.m. In accordance with the changes, I think posting dates for planned races both online and on signs placed at park entrances would be a useful step.

I adore seeing Chella prance about with a prized stick in her mouth, chase another pooch around a tree, or sprint after a thrown ball. But I prefer seeing these things under safer conditions. I fully support a sensible change in the off-leash times.

-- Madison Rosen

**7. What does the letter writer not do in arguing for changing leash laws? (RI 6.3)**

- A. She presents both sides of the argument**
- B. She expresses anger and frustration**
- C. She offers a possible solution**
- D. She supports her position**

**8. What is the author's purpose? (RI 6.6)**

- A. To persuade the city to extend off-leash times**
- B. To inform the city about off-leash hours**
- C. To describe leash laws**
- D. To entertain by telling a story of an unleashed dog**

**9. What makes a city *congested*? (RI 6.4)**

- A. The air quality and visibility are poor.**
- B. There are many restaurants and food carts.**
- C. It has few parks, playgrounds, or open spaces.**
- D. It has crowded streets, sidewalks, and public areas.**

**10. How would you describe the author's tone? (RI 6.4)**

- A. Polite but frustrated**
- B. Angry and sad**
- C. Content and polite**
- D. Frustrated and rude**

**11. What is the structure of this letter? (RI 6.5)**

- A. Cause and effect**
- B. Problem and solution**
- C. Description**
- D. Chronological**

**12. Which statement from the article lets the reader know it is written in First Person Point of View? (RI 6.6)**

- A. Pairing hundreds of free-roaming dogs with these athletes is unfair to dogs and racers alike.**
- B. Particularly on weekends, the park roads are clogged with competitive runners, marathon walkers, and whirring packs of cyclists.**
- C. What to do?**
- D. But I prefer seeing these things under safer conditions.**

13. Which statement from the passage supports the author's tone? (RI 6.6)

- A. But I prefer seeing these things under safer conditions. I fully support a sensible change in the off-leash times.
- B. That's a wonderful regulation since dogs are meant to run free when they can, to be their natural curious, playful selves without hindrance.
- C. Pairing hundreds of free-roaming dogs with these athletes is unfair to dogs and racers alike.
- D. This is a completely understandable rule in a city chock-a-block with pooches.