

## Passage 21 Unlikely Hackathon Champ + page 1

Informational Text: Technology Article

- Focus** Students explore cause-and-effect and problem-and-solution links to follow an idea from inception to implementation.

### Teaching Tips

#### Before Reading

- Brainstorm smartphone apps students know or use. Talk about those that offer assistance regarding health and safety concerns.

- Identify *hackathon* as a portmanteau word (hacker + marathon).

#### During Reading

- Suggest that as students read, they highlight evidence about problem-solution details in one color and cause-effect links in another color.

#### After Reading

- Preview the website [www.rodedog.com](http://www.rodedog.com). If appropriate for your students, have them visit it to see an interview with Victoria Walker and to learn more about the current status of the Rode Dog app.

### Common Core Connections

RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.3, RL.5.4, RL.5.7, RL.5.8, RL.5.10 • RF.5.3, RF.5.4 • W.5.9, W.5.10 • L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, L.5.4, L.5.5, L.5.6

Complexity Index

Quantitative  
Lexile 980

|           | Qualitative | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Purpose   |             |   | + |   |   |   |
| Structure |             |   | + |   |   |   |
| Language  |             |   | + |   |   |   |
| Knowledge |             |   | + |   |   |   |

### Reader & Task

- Students are likely to connect with this upbeat real-life story about a young student's clever idea to address a familiar and serious safety issue.
- Have students infer the nature of the relationship between Victoria and her mother, and how it led to Victoria's success.

### Answers

#### Passage 21: Unlikely Hackathon Champ

1. B; Sample answer: When I read the first paragraph, I realized that the noise of the dogs made Victoria stop being able to do her work (lines 1–5). 2. A; Sample answer: Even though Victoria's mother was a software engineer, the big break came when there was a contest for exactly the kind of app Victoria imagined (lines 17–22). 3. Sample answer: Her dogs barked, and she recognized that noise can be a deterrent. She also saw her mother texting while driving, and knew that was a dangerous habit that had to be changed (lines 1–5). 4. Sample answer: A hackathon is a contest for software designers to compete to create the best app. There are time limits and prizes. Victoria was an unusual champ because she was so young and not a programmer herself (lines 17–28). 5. Sample answer: Victoria had the idea, and her mother introduced her to a programmer, who helped move the idea forward. A contest encouraged them to make it come together quickly, and Victoria's team won the prize, which let them keep improving Rode Dog.