

< To Fix A Few Potholes, 'Guerrilla' Group Takes Matters Into Its Own Hands

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MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

Too many drivers know this sound...

(SOUNDBITE OF SUSPENSION BUCKLING)

BLOCK: ...The sound of hitting a pothole. In this case, many potholes. This is what it's like to drive through of hitting a pothole this case many potholes. This is what it's like to drive through Hamtramck, Mich., a 2-square-mile city surrounded by Detroit. As Sarah Hulett of Michigan Radio reports, they're all too familiar with potholes of the rim-bending, tire-blowing kind.

SARAH HULETT, BYLINE: Jon Sucher is kind of a barometer for road conditions in Hamtramck.

JON SUCHER: Oh, yeah. You know what? A lot of times if you hear about a bad pothole on the news, I'll know about it before the news does because if it's around here, people come to me.

HULETT: Sucher owns Sucher Tire. He's got a bunch of cracked and bent rims stacked by the front door of his shop. Some of them are from repeat customers.

SUCHER: So you see, a big piece of that rim is missing right there.

HULETT: To be clear, the roads aren't really great anywhere in Michigan, but in Hamtramck, hardly anybody has a garage. That means everybody parks on the street, and that makes the potholes really hard to dodge. Politicians at the State Capitol have been squabbling for years over how to raise the billion-plus dollars needed to fix the state's roads, so a group of Hamtramck residents decided to take matters into their own hands.

MARITZA GARIBAY: OK, who has a truck?

HULETT: They call themselves the Hamtramck Guerrilla Road Crew. They're fed up with the potholes, and so over beers a couple of weeks ago...

JONATHAN WEIER: So we were just kind of hanging out.

HULETT: This is Jonathan Weier.

WEIER: The conversation steered in the way of potholes, and we just sort of posed the questions of, what would we do? What do you fill it with? How much does it cost? How difficult is it to accomplish well?

HULETT: The next day, Weier says he took the extra money he had in his paycheck and bought 17 bags of asphalt. He and his friends borrowed some tools and filled a stretch of what look like craters near where they live. Tabitha Hojna and Jeff Salazar say they were already paying to fix their cars, so why not instead put some of that money into fixing the roads?

TABITHA HOJNA: I guarantee if you've lived here long enough, you've had a flat tire or a bent rim or...

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Ball joints.

JEFF SALAZAR: Ball joints, suspension components - I mean, the tire guys love it around town, you know what I mean? They're making a killing off of it.

HULETT: Salazar says patching the potholes turned out to be pretty simple work. So they launched a fundraising campaign, and money started pouring in. They raised more than \$4,000, enough to buy three-and-a-half tons of asphalt. On Saturday, they gave a quick demonstration to the three-dozen people who showed up to pitch in.

GARIBAY: Step one, sweep the hole.

HULETT: Step two, pour in the asphalt. Step three, tamp it down.

GARIBAY: This is where you get to take out all your aggression.

HULETT: And of course, don't hold up traffic.

SALAZAR: If you've ever played street hockey, just yell out car, and everybody gets out of the way.

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Game on.

GARIBAY: We got a van coming.

SALAZAR: Game on. Oh, there you go - car.

(LAUGHTER)

HULETT: These neighbors aren't the first to take a do-it-yourself to Michigan's notorious pothole problem. Last year, the city of Ann Arbor asked a resident who took it upon himself to fill the potholes on his street to please not do that. But Hamtramck officials are so far OK with the help. They even gave the group a list of streets the city planned to patch soon so they wouldn't double up. So far, the Guerrilla Road Crew has tackled more than 20 city blocks. They say they'll be back out there this Saturday. For NPR News, I'm Sarah Hulett.

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10th Form Olympiad

**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

Listening Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

To Fix A Few Potholes, 'Guerrilla' Group Takes Matters Into Its Own Hands

Task 1. Choose whether the statements are True or False.

1. Hamtramck, Michigan is surrounded by Detroit.
2. Patching the potholes is complex work.
3. In Hamtramck many people have garages.
4. The cost of fixing Michigan's roads will be more than three billion dollars.
5. When a vehicle approaches the volunteers they yell, "Car!" to avoid blocking traffic.
6. Hamtramck officials are angry with the 'guerrilla' group.
7. The roads are really great in most of Michigan.

Task 2. Choose the best answer.

8. The volunteer group raised more than
 - a) Three billion dollars
 - b) Two billion dollars
 - c) Four thousand dollars
 - d) Five thousand dollars
9. The group calls themselves the
 - a) Barometer For Road Conditions
 - b) Hamtramck Volunteer Road Club
 - c) Hamtramck Guerrilla Road Crew
 - d) Just Yell Out Car!
10. The term 'guerrilla', in this story, most probably refers to:
 - a) A small, independent, volunteer group taking part in 'irregular' work.
 - b) A powerfully built great ape with a large head and short neck, found in the forests of central Africa.
 - c) A group of government workers on strike
 - d) A group of people angry and apathetic about the potholes of Michigan
11. John Sucher is kind of a barometer for road conditions in Hamtramck because.
 - a) He talks to many people who are agitated by the government failing to fix the roads.
 - b) He knows when the weather is bad, and the affect it will have on the city's roads.
 - c) He repairs cars damaged by the city's potholes.
 - d) His cars are often damaged by the roads.

12. When Jeff Salazar says that the tire guys are “making a killing off of” the bad roads, he most likely means that:

- a) The mechanics are sad about the number of people killed by Michigan’s bad roads.
- b) The people who sell tires and repair tire rims are making a ton of money.
- c) The tire guys are not making enough money to cover their costs.
- d) The tire guys are hoping that the roads will be repaired soon.

13. The three steps in order for filling potholes are:

- a) First sweep the hole, then pour in the asphalt, finally tamp it down.
- b) First pour in the asphalt, second sweep the hole, finally tamp it down.
- c) Call the city for help.
- d) First Tamp it down, then sweep the hole, at last pour in the asphalt

14. When the journalist says that, “Politicians at the State Capitol have been squabbling for years over how to raise the money needed to fix the state's roads”, she most likely means that:

- a) Politicians have been physically fighting over the need to fix the state’s roads.
- b) Politicians don’t agree about how to pay for the required infrastructure improvements.
- c) Politicians have had a lot of constructive dialogue about how to fix the state’s roads, and are near a solution.
- d) Politicians have been paying a lot of money over the years to fix the state’s roads

15. Tabitha Hojna and Jeff Salazar said that they were already paying to fix their cars, so they thought:

- a) Why not instead put some of that money into fixing the roads?
- b) Why not call the city to fix the roads?
- c) Why not pay more taxes to the city to fix the roads?
- d) Why not create more potholes to teach the city a lesson?

**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

Reading Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

How Cockroaches Could Save Lives

Cockroaches are often associated with dirty kitchens and grimy bathrooms - scuttling away as soon as you enter the room and turn on the light. But pest controllers aren't the only people interested in them - these insects are inspiring research into antibiotics, robots and mechanical limbs.

Wise and beautiful are words not often associated with these creatures but their bad reputation is not always justified. Out of the 4,500 known species, only four are considered pests. Most don't live near human homes and they perform a vital ecological role, eating dead and decaying matter. Some species are exquisite with brilliant colours and patterns. They can hiss, sing and make drumming sounds to attract a mate, and they are supremely hardy, surviving on the most meagre rations for months on end. One type can survive for a year on water alone.

But rather than finding them repulsive, scientists see them as a source of inspiration. In 1999, the way cockroaches moved inspired Prof Robert Full, to devise a six-legged robot that moved faster and more easily than any others. The insects' legs are also providing ideas for researchers designing the next generation of prosthetic legs for humans. And the mechanics of their springiness are the basis for the grip in a new mechanical hand.

There is cockroach-related research in medicine too. Scientists had long wondered how roaches could spend their lives in dirty environments with no ill effects and it turns out they produce their own powerful antibiotics. They might hold the key when it comes to developing drugs to knock out the most virulent bacteria that make humans ill, such as E. coli, MRSA and other superbugs resistant to many existing treatments. Today, hospitals in parts of China use a cream made from powdered cockroaches to treat burns and a cockroach syrup is sometimes given to patients to relieve the symptoms of gastroenteritis.

The insects can also be eaten - in China, the American cockroach is the preferred delicacy. Double frying them in hot oil is said to give them a crispy outer and succulent inner with the consistency of cottage cheese. A sprinkling of chili gives an extra zing. As the human population and its need for mass produced protein grows, perhaps the reviled cockroach will one day feed the world. If only people could be a little less squeamish.

Choose the option that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

1. The term "super bug" refers to what?
 - A. Cockroaches
 - B. Strong Diseases
 - C. Antibiotics
 - D. Insects

2. This essay falls into which category?
 - A. Persuasion
 - B. Informative
 - C. Argument
 - D. Discussion
3. Cockroaches are not susceptible to illnesses because:
 - A. They produce their own antibiotics
 - B. They live in dirty environments
 - C. They are resistant to treatments
 - D. They eat human bacteria
4. The writer would most likely agree with this statement:
 - A. Cockroaches could be replaced by faster robots
 - B. Mass produced protein should be vegetable-based
 - C. Prosthetics development are the best use of cockroaches in medicine
 - D. Cockroaches are as useful in the modern world as in an ecosystem
5. What does the author's imply is the biggest challenge for utilizing cockroaches?
 - A. Humans haven't developed science enough
 - B. Humans can use cockroaches for protein
 - C. Humans are too disgusted by them
 - D. Humans can use them for medicine
6. What are cockroaches' evolutionary strengths?
 - A. Bright colours and survival of dirty environments
 - B. Superior immune system and incredible survival traits
 - C. Dexterity and inflexibility
 - D. Tasty innards and drug developments
7. Cockroach-based treatments for sicknesses are currently administered:
 - A. Topically and orally
 - B. Only orally
 - C. Only topically
 - D. Externally

Why Do Adult Siblings Stop Speaking? The Psychology Behind the Not-So-Rare Phenomenon

Blood Enemies

In many families, there comes a time when a decision is made that someone “is *done*”. Sometimes childhood dynamics can turn into toxic resentment. Sometimes an awareness dawns that you have never liked the person passing the mashed potatoes and you see no reason to keep trekking halfway across the country to see her. Sometimes an aging parent’s needs—or the prospect of an inheritance—fire the burner under simmering dysfunction.

The number of Americans who are completely estranged from a sibling is relatively small—probably less than 5 percent, says Professor Karl Pillemer. Yet only 26 percent of 18- to 65-year-olds in a survey reported having a highly supportive sibling relationship; 19 percent had an apathetic relationship, and 16 percent had a hostile one.

How Rivalry Turns to Strife

As kids, brothers and sisters fight. They get angry for stealing toys or crossing invisible boundaries in the backseat of the car. “The ability to fight with your sibling and resolve those conflicts can be an important developmental achievement,” says psychologist Laurie Kramer. Siblings who never learn to manage these conflicts are most at risk for adult estrangement, says the director of the Family Research: “You have no incentive to remain in contact. You just want to stay away.”

There are two personality types who appear prone to being estranged by siblings: those who are extremely hostile and those called “grievance collectors”. These are the ones who say, ‘You never thanked me for the flowers I gave you in 1982.’ That wears people out.

Mom Did Have a Favorite

To some extent, evolution is to blame. Siblings are hardwired to engage in rivalry because they compete with one another for one of life’s most critical resources—parental care. “Two hundred years ago, half of all children did not make it out of childhood,” says a professor of psychology. “The intensity of sibling competition makes much more sense when you realize that very small differences in parental favoritism could determine whether a child is taken to a doctor or not.”

Two thirds to three quarters of mothers have a favorite child, according to Pillemer’s research. When favoritism is obvious or is interpreted as such, siblings are more likely to become estranged.

But many adults shrug off perceived less-favored-child status; others let it fester. The difference is how the siblings feel about their adult lives, says psychologist Joshua Coleman. Those with successful careers and fulfilling lives are less likely to fixate on the past and even enjoy overcoming their “underdog” reputation.

To Break Up—or Make Up?

Completely cutting off a sibling, regardless of how much it may be deserved, has serious ramifications, Safer says. Those who initiate estrangement often feel deep regret later. “We have our parents for 30 to 50 years, but we have siblings for 50 to 80 years,” she says. “This is the only person who remembers your childhood, and you have nothing to say to them? It’s tragic.”

This is one reason, Kramer notes, that even siblings in contentious relationships still feel pulled to one another. “Another person knows how your mother gets when she’s packing for a trip or when the car breaks down,” she says. “That shared set of experiences and that shared understanding are very powerful.”

Choose the option that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

8. What percentage of people do **not** have an estranged, apathetic or negative relationship with their siblings?
 - A. 5%
 - B. 26%
 - C. 40%
 - D. 60%
9. Two main causes of sibling strife are:
 - A. Evolution and Biology
 - B. Evolution and Favoritism
 - C. Personality and Biology
 - D. Regret and Evolution
10. The majority of siblings who cut off contact:
 - A. Still feel a connection
 - B. Feel like they are the favorite
 - C. Expect an inheritance
 - D. Never feel regret
11. Which statement does the author support in the article?
 - A. Parental favoritism has no serious ramifications
 - B. Childhood behavior patterns are impossible to overcome
 - C. Parental favoritism does not have to be blatant to be damaging
 - D. Childhood traits are easily overcome when they are an underdog
12. What is the key issue that leads to sibling estrangement?
 - A. Never learning to be successful in conflict management
 - B. Finding satisfaction in their adult lives
 - C. Always fighting with their siblings as children
 - D. Inability to feel regret over actions
13. Which argument does the author ignore as a possibility for sibling estrangement?
 - A. Parental nurturing experiences
 - B. Hostility and Grievance Collectors
 - C. Personality characteristics
 - D. Emotional or physical abuse
14. What could be a realistic solution for preventing sibling estrangement?
 - A. Prevent children from fighting
 - B. Promote the importance of egalitarian parenting techniques
 - C. Force siblings to spend time together
 - D. Limit every family to one child
15. What factors were presented that can promote reconciliation between siblings?
 - A. Death of parents and evolution
 - B. Guilt and leading a successful life
 - C. Shared experiences and regret
 - D. Regret and evolution

**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**
Speaking Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students

DIRECTIONS: In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

1. Zoos are places where animals are collected for study and education. The first zoo was created by the Egyptians in 3500 BC! But many people think that keeping animals in zoos is not right, and that it is cruel to keep animals in cages.
 - a. What do you think of zoos? Have you ever visited a zoo, petting farm or animal preserve?
 - b. What are the positive and negative aspects of zoos?
 - c. Do you think that it is cruel to keep animals in zoos? Why or why not?

2. “A good traveler has no fixed plans and is not intent on arriving.” – Lao Tzu
 - a. What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Describe a memorable journey that you took with your family or friends.
 - c. How has technology changed the ways we travel, and what we do as we travel?

3. “What are you going to do when you grow up?” is a commonly asked question of teenagers.
 - a. What is your answer to this question?
 - b. What type of preparation and/or training will it involve in order to join this occupation?
 - c. What are your responsibilities likely to be in this occupational field?
 - d. Why is this an ideal job for you?
 - e. How will it affect others?

4. “I’m not smart, but I like to observe. Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the one who asked why.” –William Hazlitt
 - a. What does this quote mean to you? What does Hazlitt say is the difference between seeing and understanding?
 - b. Do you agree that there is a difference between seeing and understanding? Why or why not?
 - c. How observant are you? How has that helped you in life?

5. Traditionally we say that people have 5 senses; seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, and tasting.
 - a. What sense is your favorite? Give some examples of why you like it.
 - b. If you had to lose one sense, what would it be?
 - c. Describe your favorite smell, or favorite sound. Where does it come from?

6. “Tragedy is when I cut my finger; comedy is when you fall down the stairs.” Mel Brooks
 - a. What does this quote mean to you?
 - b. What kinds of things do you find funny?
 - c. Do you agree with this quote?

7. Humans have accomplished some amazing things while we have been on this planet. Things like the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and other things have been declared “wonders of the world.”
 - a. What are some new wonders of the world? What do you think are the greatest things that humans have accomplished?
 - b. What are some of the wonders, or famous buildings or monuments of your country? Have you ever visited them?
 - c. Which would you prefer to see, human wonders or natural wonders?

8. 34% of Ukrainians between the ages of 15 and 24 have jobs, and even more of them do some work or are looking for work. Jobs and employment are a huge part of life, and as you get older, it is something you must spend some time thinking about.
 - a. What kinds of jobs are the most common in your region?
 - b. What kind of job would you like to have, if you could have any job? Why?
 - c. Have you ever had a job, or known someone your age who has? Did that person like it?
9. Musical styles change so quickly, sometimes year by year! And of course the music of today is very different from the music of 20 or 30 or 40 years ago. What do you think of the changes in musical style over time?
 - a. What kind of music do your parents listen to? Do you like that music, too?
 - b. What do you think of traditional Ukrainian music? How does it compare with current popular music?
 - c. How and where do you usually listen to music? Are you alone or with friends? Do you buy songs or listen to music online?
10. The relationship between neighbors is different everywhere. In many parts of America, people often know their neighbors but aren't really friends with them. In some places, people go years without ever meeting their neighbors! In a few places, people are good friends with their neighbors. What is the relationship between neighbors like in Ukraine?
 - a. What do you think of your neighbors? Are you friends with them?
 - b. What kind of a person would make the perfect neighbor? Describe them
 - c. Are your neighbors important in your life at all? Why or why not?
11. Imagine that an alien has to Earth. Explain basketball to them.
 - a. What are the rules of basketball?
 - b. What people like basketball? Why do we play it?
 - c. Do you like basketball? Describe a personal experience with basketball.

12. Fashion changes all the time, from year to year and from decade to decade.
- What clothes are fashionable now? What do people usually wear?
 - Is the current fashion practical? Should clothing be practical?
 - Do you think it is important to stay fashionable?
13. An English proverb says, “The pen is mightier than the sword”
- What does this proverb mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - Do you believe that an idea or a poem or a book can change the world? Why or why not?
 - Describe a time that you used words and ideas to solve a problem instead of violence.
14. All children are taught to be polite, to say “please” and “thank you”, to ask permission for things, to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as “manners.”
- What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
 - Are manners important? What difference to manners make in society?
 - What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners? Can you give an example?
15. Describe your favorite fairy tale/folk tale.
- Who are the characters? Where do they live?
 - What happens in the story?
 - What is the message of the story?
16. Every culture has literature that is important to it, including traditional stories and classic literature.
- Describe the most famous traditional or classical literature in Ukraine.
 - Do you read this literature in school? How did you like it?
 - What have you learned about your own culture by studying these stories?

17. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.

- a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
- b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
- c. How have you used this ability?

18. An English proverb says, "No man is an island."

- a. What does this mean to you?
- b. Do you think that it is important to connect with people?
- c. Describe a time when you felt alone. How did you connect with people?

19. In 200,000 years, humans have risen to be one of the most successful animals on the planet. Today there are more than 7 billion humans on earth, and we affect the planet in many ways.

- a. What traits or characteristics have made humans such a successful species?
- b. Describe one way that humans have changed the planet.
- c. Have humans made more positive or negative changes? Explain your reasoning.

20. 15 % of the population in Ukraine is older than 60. In many cultures, it is considered important to respect your elders and to care for them.

- a. Is it important to respect your elders? How do you and Ukrainian culture show respect for them?
- b. What things can we learn from old people? What role do they play in your life?
- c. What do you know about the life of your grandfather or grandmother? Do you know any stories about them?

2016

**Stage III National Students Olympiad in the English Language
Writing Comprehension Test for 10th Form Students**

1. Bert and John Jacobs lived in their van for a year while they launched their clothing business, the Good Life brand. That company now is one of the most successful businesses ever in the US.

Imagine living in a car for a year. Describe what you think it would be like, using examples.

Describe some characteristics of these brothers that set them apart from other entrepreneurs (people who start their own businesses) whose businesses fail.

Do have you any of these attributes? Please explain in detail.

2. A group of legislators in your oblast has proposed a new law that would require all children under the age of 12 to wear helmets while cycling.

Write an essay for the website of a local bike shop encouraging people to support or oppose the law.

3. The German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said: “There is nothing insignificant in the world. It all depends on the point of view.”

Explain why it is important to see a situation from another person’s point of view.

Use examples and anecdotes from your own experience to support your viewpoint.