

Bruce Y Inventions unit 1

1. What a great idea! But I have given it some more thought. Perhaps have your microwave heaters installed only along the road to keep the snow and ice from accumulating there. The people who run ski resorts would surely despise your invention as it would put them out of business. Have you considered how you would have the heaters turn off and on?
2. Bruce, you have the mind of a great storyteller or movie script writer! I think your scenario is plot for a great book. I am trying to guess if you made up that story or if it is really part of your life. I do NOT need to know!
3. I like your definition of an inventor. I would add that in order to be an inventor, you have to DO something about your idea.
4. A. Good idea! I thought it perhaps was a tool for making holes in a belt to make it smaller or larger. But then again, a cave man wouldn't have a belt (as we know them).  
B. Again, a good idea! Obviously, it is a hand tool. I might have guessed that it was a tool for grinding tough nuts or seeds into flour, or something like that.  
C. What a novel idea! I thought about it for a while and decided that the top edge was rather sharp and perhaps it was a kind of knife suitable, say, for skinning that bear you just caught.
5. I disagree with you. I say cracking a nut with a handy rock doesn't qualify as an invention but simply as a tool. I think an invention has to be a novel solution to a specific problem.
6. Hmmmmmm. Not sure about that. If you altered the vice grips to have, say, insulated handles so they could be used for taking things out of a hot oven, then maybe that would make it an invention.
7. A TANK! Wow! I agree that it would provide shelter, and a few other things, but the practical side of me says "Hold it a minute! How are you going to supply it with the necessary fuel and guns (etc.)". So it would be good for a day, and then what? If I were to go back in time, I would like to take warm clothes, a sharp knife, and a flint thing to help make a fire. None of these things answers the question, though,....which is what MODERN INVENTION would I take. Maybe a generator so I could make electricity and then create creature comforts.
8. Animals are clever because they develop the means to solve their problems (simple problems, so it seems to us). There have been animals who have exercised some ingenuity to solve new and more difficult problems. You are right in that they don't seem to have the imagination (like us) to solve problems that are not the immediate ones.
9. Heckle speaks very complicated language to explain to his simpleton friend what he is doing. If you went on with the story, I would have Heckle hand the stick to his friend and say "Here, take this. See if you can find a good bug or two to eat. You will find them delicious."
10. Mirror writing is difficult and I am glad we don't have to do it. It must have taken Leonardo quite a while to become good at it.
11. Great idea! Why hasn't that been patented and appeared on the market already? Or maybe it has!
12. What a nice story! I am sure Edison would have appreciated having a means to keeping people from interrupting his work!

13. I agree with you on Gutenberg, but not on Crapper! I think I would have picked Edison instead as his invention of the electric light made it possible to turn "night" into "day" and increase the ability of people to use more time to learn, play, and ....whatever.

14. Let me join you, please! and have dinner with Edison. He is a hero of mine. I would hope that we wouldn't be too much of a bother to him. We could bring the food so he wouldn't have to cook..... (kidding!!).

15. You are an excellent comedy writer and you do it in rhyme too! Delightful!

16. I think you have learned a lot from Edison (maybe during our dinner there with him) as you chose his quote to write an essay on. Your essay is serious and thoughtful and makes me think about work as well. I find often that when I have a problem, sometimes it is best to go and do something physical (work!) because while you are working, you can still keep thinking about the possible solutions to the problem.

Bruce: I have really enjoyed working through this unit with you because I find your responses lively, imaginative and well written. You have obviously given a good deal of thought to your answers. Mind you! I do not necessarily agree with you all the time!

Julie K