RI 2a: I can determine the central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.

RI2b: I can provide a summary of the text without giving my personal opinions.

**New Lives for Old Buses**

What happens to old school buses when they can no longer safely carry kids to school? Most go to junkyards to be converted to scrap metal. But a few of the old vehicles find new lives—in the center of Africa. Most of those buses end up on the streets of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo).



The Kinshasa buses are that familiar yellow color, which makes them stand out in the city's swirling traffic, but the buses don't look at all as they did

in the United States. Their blinking taillights are almost all missing or broken. They don't obey traffic rules and often race around the city at breakneck speeds. The buses **vie,** or compete, with honking motorcycles, cars, trucks, and other vehicles for space on the road. They chug and rattle along, packed with people carrying loads of preserved fish, powdered milk, beans, onions, and cassava*.* Cassava is a starchy, potato-like root vegetable that is popular in many Congolese dishes.

Kinshasa businesspeople love the old, dented yellow buses, which they buy from American companies, because the vehicles are sturdy, reliable, and inexpensive. A used bus sells for about $2,000 in the Congo. A new bus is more expensive. In the United States, a new school bus (with all its lights working) costs about $80,000.

The fare to travel across the city is usually the equivalent of 30 U.S. cents. "Transport is a big problem in the city," says passenger Bruce Kingambo. "The yellow buses help regular people get around.”

1. The main idea of the passage is:

a. Kinshasa has a lot of traffic.

b. old school buses still have a purpose.

c. new school buses are expensive.

d. Kinshasa drivers act lawlessly.

2. The details that suggest that Kinshasan people are not rich include all of

the following *except*

a. the people carry heavy loads of food.

b. Bruce Kingambo mentions “regular people.”

c. the old school bus lights often don’t work.

d. the bus fare is pretty low compared to U.S. fares.

3. A detail that supports the main idea is:

a. the drivers don’t obey traffic rules.

b. the buses help regular people travel.

c. the buses compete for road space.

d. cassava is a starchy, potato-like root vegetable.

4. A detail that should not be included in the summary is

a. Most of those buses end up on the streets of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo).

b. Their blinking taillights are almost all missing or broken.

c. The buses should obey traffic laws.

d. Kinshasa businesspeople love the old, dented yellow buses, which they buy from American companies, because the vehicles are sturdy, reliable, and inexpensive.

ERQ: Provide a short summary of the text. Be sure to include all important details.

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