

**ACTIVITY ONE**

**Article:** Twins take flight, *Thurs., May 23, Sports, page 1B*

- The following selection is from the article. Underline conjunctions.

Knowing a little about the background of Cale and Rob Simmons, it's difficult to believe they have yet to face what might be their scariest challenge.

The identical twins just graduated from the Air Force Academy. That's a challenge in itself, but both also compete in the pole vault for the Falcons' Mountain West champion track and field team. The event isn't for weak-kneed competitors when you consider that they let a fiberglass pole hurl them more than 18 feet in the air and there's nothing to hold on to on the way down.

The Simmons brothers finished first and second at the conference meet in Las Vegas this month and will compete this weekend at the NCAA West Regional in Austin, Texas. Cale won the conference outdoor title for the second year in a row and Rob cleared 18 feet for the first time in his career.

Competition in the pole vault might seem tame to these 5-foot-10 daredevils, who talk about their activities as if discussing a game of Scrabble.

Craig Simmons started the pole vault craze in the family when he began vaulting in high school. The twins' older sister, Rachel, was an Air Force cadet too and competed for the women's team (2008-10). She has the fifth-best leap in the AFA women's pole vault record book.

- Which of the following, as used in the article, is a noun meaning "a striving or vying with another or others for profit, prize, position, or the necessities of life; rivalry"?
  - challenge                       identical
  - competition                       vault
- Write a complete sentence correctly using each of the words in the preceding answer selection.

**ACTIVITY TWO**

**Article:** Two of a kindness, *Fri., May 24, Main, page 1A*

- What are the names of the two young women featured in this article?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- How would you communicate with someone who is "for the most part, nonverbal"?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- What have both Kati and Elena accomplished?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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- Why is their friendship unusual?

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**ACTIVITY THREE**

**Article:** Denver girl is confident hard work spells success, *Mon., May 27, Main, p. 1A*

- What are the names of the two Colorado students traveling to Washington, D.C. to represent Colorado at the 86<sup>th</sup> annual Scripps National Spelling Bee?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Nine Coloradans have won the national spelling bee. When was the first spelling bee held?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Why does studying semantics help with spelling?

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\_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWERS****ACTIVITY ONE**

competition

Answers will vary.

**ACTIVITY TWO**

Kati Pietrafeso and Elena Nevel are featured in this article.

Communicating nonverbally will include touch, signing, facial expression and perhaps, writing.

Kati and Elena have become friends and are graduating from Overland High.

Their friendship transcends the realities that often affect the interactions of and with persons with special needs. It is the acceptance of one another that allows the friendship to be mutually rewarding.

**ACTIVITY THREE**

Himanvi Kopuri, 12, and Eva Kitlen, 14, will represent Colorado at the 86<sup>th</sup> annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

The first Scripps National Spelling Bee was held in 1925.

Semantics helps with spelling by learning the originations of words and their meanings

**Colorado Academic Standards**

Reading, Writing and Communicating

Standard 2: Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of information, literary, and persuasive texts

2. Comprehension and fluency matter when reading informational and persuasive texts in a fluent way

b. Use Craft and Structure to

i. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area

Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

Benchmarks

- Knowing and using subject/verb agreement;

- Knowing and using correct modifiers;

- Knowing and using correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations; and

- Spelling frequently used words correctly using phonics rules and exceptions.