Honors Biology

Text Dependent Questions

“Fish Out of Water”

Dooner/Carmel High School

**ASSIGNMENT**: Perform a close reading of “Fish Out of Water” by Neil Shubin in Natural History. February 2008. Vol 117 no. 1 and then answer the following questions on a separate sheet. You do not need to re-write the questions but number your responses.

1. On page 27 Shubin writes “imagine trying to jury-rig a vintage Volkswagon to travel at speeds of 150 miles per hour”. Based on the context of the paragraph, what is meant by the words “jury-rig”?
2. What does Shubin mean when he says “you can dress up a fish only so much without paying a price.”?
3. According to Shubin, what do snoring, choking, sleep apnea, and human speech have in common?
4. Why can we say that the “phrenic nerve” is a more efficient adaptation in fish than it is in humans?
5. What are known as the “unhappy triad” among doctors(according to Shubin)?
6. Give an example of how our evolutionary history may contain potential solutions to our problems.
7. This article was adapted from Shubin’s 2008 book entitled Your Inner Fish: A Journey Into the 3.5 Billion Year History of the Human Body. What point do you think Shubin in trying to make with his choice of a title?