Read the passages and answer the questions that follow. Then write a response to the writing prompt.

**Passage1**

**Adventure**

Jan. 25, 2012

16­Year­old Girl Is Youngest Ever to Sail Around the World Solo

This week, Dutch sailor Laura Dekker sailed into port on the Caribbean island of Sint Maarten in the Lesser Antilles and became the youngest person ever to solo circumnavigate the globe. She had been at sea on and off for a little more than a year.

Dekker first began sailing alone at the age of six and had decided by eight that she one day wanted to sail around the world. She didn’t wait long to make it a reality; if she had had it her way, she would have finished the journey long ago. Dekker had wanted to set the record when she was just 14, but was blocked by the Dutch courts, which put her in the care of welfare officers to prevent her from setting sail. In response, she ran away to Sint Maarten, where she would begin her challenge, and arrive victorious a year after that.

After a ten month battle with the courts, she did win the right to attempt the voyage, and began in August 2010 with her father on board the 38’ ketch Guppy. She left Sint Maarten alone in January 2011. She sailed through the Panama Canal, across the Pacific Ocean to Australia, from there to South Africa and then back to the Caribbean. Unlike Jessica Watson, the Australian sailor who circumnavigated the world without stopping at the age of 16 in 2010, Dekker did make a series of port calls. However, Dekker is younger and beat Watson’s time by eight months.

Officially, however, no records were set by either Dekker or Watson. The Guinness World Book of Records does not acknowledge youngest person sailing accomplishments, for fear of encouraging dangerous expeditions. The World Sailing Speed Council will not recognize the feat, either. Nonetheless, Dekker’s journey is an impressive one. And now that she’s accomplished her life goal—before graduating from high school—she’ll have to come up with something even more daring.

**Passage2**

**Excerpt from Laura Dekker’s Blog**

*While preparing to sail around the world on her sailboat named Guppy, Laura Dekker traveled to many places and kept the public informed by writing on her blog. Lanzarote is in the Canary Islands, where Dekker spent several weeks before sailing solo across the Atlantic to Sint Maarten to start her epic voyage.*

**Sep. 8, 2012**

**Tour of the Island**

For the past few days I visited the island of Lanzarote by car and bus.

I saw volcanoes, caves, lagoons and lakes, and I enjoyed the great views from the tops of volcanoes and mountains. In short, I have done my Geography class for this week.

The Lanzarote government representatives gave me free tickets to all the beautiful places of interest around the island. There are very beautiful places. The landscape is different from place to place and some are just like moon landscapes. In places, the people have tried without much success to have something grow in the ash soil, but the land is too dry and barren and so hot. The only vegetation on the island that can grow are cacti and palm trees that are usually found in the area of the lagoons and interior lakes where I was.

There are many underground passages and grottoes dug by the water in the lava and many flooded caves. Because it is humid enough there, the ground is moist so palm trees and many other types of vegetation grow, making it a sort of huge underground jungle.

I have also been to a cave that was just hardened lava all around. Further inside that cave there was also a lake. But even with the water no greenery could grow there. It was so quiet that the surface of the water was as smooth as glass, and because of the reflection of the grotto’s walls, it looked like a very deep hole. But it really was water.

I have also traveled by bus on the narrow canyon roads, although I would personally have preferred walking on those. Both sides of these roads plunge straight down at the edges and have hairpin bends not exactly designed to be traveled by a touring bus.

Nevertheless, it was definitely worth doing because it was awfully nice. We drove by volcanoes, craters and lava fields for as far as the eye can see on the horizon. It is only possible to come here by bus because in a car you might get lost and people often drive where they shouldn’t. Because the lava rock is extremely brittle, parts of the way may break loose and it would be too dangerous.

In the middle of the lava fields there is a restaurant where they are barbequing by using the heat of the earth. All it is is a very deep hole, on top of which you don’t want to hang because that is where the heat comes from. It is perfect for grilling. If you walk around it, better not wear rubber sandals like me because if you stay for too long in the same place, the soles will melt and stick to the ground. I know.

More knowledgeable from my practical lessons in geography, I returned to Guppy, who was quietly waiting at berth for her mistress.

Now I am again on board of Guppy and eager to explore and discover the secrets of the other islands.

Writing Prompt

You have just read two passages about 16­year­old Laura Dekker. Write a fictional story that tells about her voyage to Lanzarote and the adventures she had there. You may add additional characters or events to make the story more interesting. Your story should be fictional but based on factual details from both passages.

Manage your time carefully so that you can plan your narrative and do some prewriting in the space provided. Be sure to use details from both passages. And avoid over­relying on one passage.

Your written response should be in the form of a multi­paragraph narrative.