

## Close Reading and Text Dependent Questions in Science Rube Goldberg Biography (Levers and Pulleys – Grade 5)

The text selection, *Rube Goldberg Biography*, can be found at the following link:  
<http://www.rubegoldberg.com/about>

We apologize that we cannot include this reading directly; it is copyrighted material and we do not have special permissions that would allow us to post it publically. If you have difficulty accessing this article at the site above, please check the **Science Page of Aspen/SIS** for assistance accessing it.



Look in the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Documents for guidance on when this should be taught. These can be found on the BPS Science Department's website: <http://bpsscience.weebly.com/> You will find the Student Learning Outcomes documents organized there by grade level.

## **Rube Goldberg Biography (Levers and Pulleys – Grade 5)**

### **Student Questions**

1. What job did Rube have before working at the newspaper?
2. What did he do while working for the newspapers that eventually led him to New York City?
3. The article states, “Rube’s early years as an engineer informed his most acclaimed work.” Describe the type of invention that the author believes made Rube Goldberg famous.
4. The author states “The promise and pitfalls of modern technology make Rube Goldberg’s inventions even more relevant now...” How are his inventions “even more relevant?”
5. How does the author demonstrate that building a Rube Goldberg machine is a major accomplishment?

## **Rube Goldberg Biography (Levers and Pulleys – Grade 5)**

### **Sample Answers**

**1. What job did Rube have before working at the newspaper?**

Students will answer this question—that he was an engineer at the Sewers Department—while they are doing the read aloud portion. They will do a turn and talk and then share out answers.

**2. What did he do while working for the newspapers that eventually led him to New York City?**

He created drawings and ultimately cartoons that led to his being hired at the Evening Mail, a newspaper in NYC.

**3. The article states, “Rube’s early years as an engineer informed his most acclaimed work.” Describe the type of invention that the author believes made Rube Goldberg famous.**

According to the author, what made Rube Goldberg famous were his drawings of simple tasks that were “solved” by extraordinarily complicated designs.

**4. The author states “The promise and pitfalls of modern technology make Rube Goldberg’s inventions even more relevant now...” How are his inventions “even more relevant?”**

Modern technology offers solutions to even the simplest of tasks, but also can complicate things unnecessarily – much like a Rube Goldberg creation.

**5. How does the author demonstrate that building a Rube Goldberg machine is a major accomplishment?**

By devoting an entire paragraph to the National Contest and detailing how the winners are treated like celebrities.