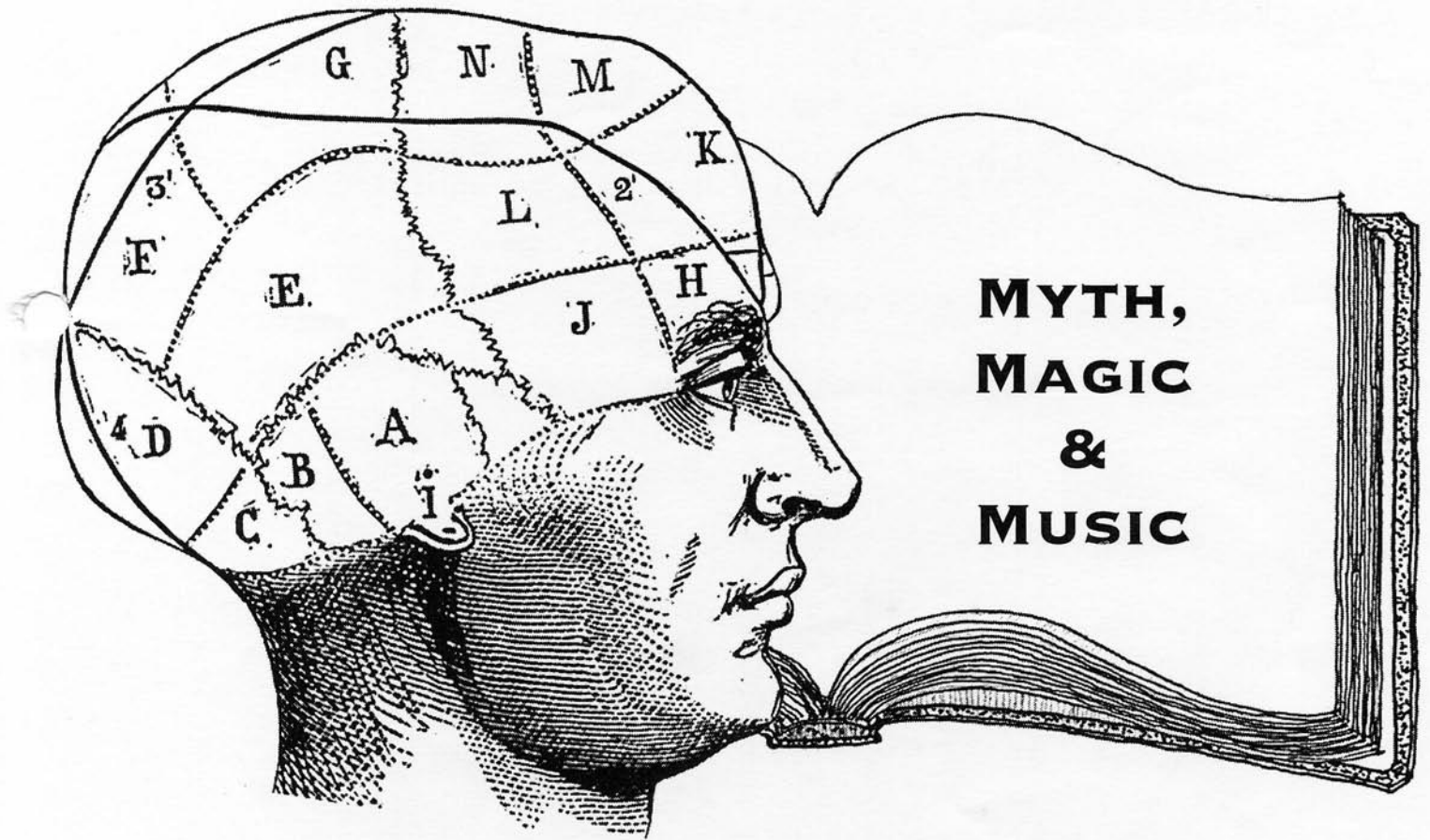


Gray Matters™ Series for Critical Readers

# BOOK & BRAIN READING®

INFORMATIVE VERSION



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Patented 2001

## FEATS OF ENGINEERING

Down through history, certain man-made buildings and structures have amazed people. The great Egyptian pyramids were built 4,000 years ago. Each stone of the pyramids took hundreds of people to put into place. People have considered them magical perhaps because they are burial plots for kings and queens.



The Great Wall of China is the longest structure ever built. It spans 1,500 miles across northern China and, adding its other branches, the length is 4,000 miles. That's 1,000 miles greater than the distance from New York City to Los Angeles, Calif. It stands two-stories high and 12-feet wide. No one person has ever seen the entire length, and no map accurately charts its entire course.

The Tower of Pisa in Italy has a problem. The eight-floor-high bell tower leans and looks like it's ready to fall down. It's 14 feet out of line, the length of an average-sized room in your house. Builders did not accurately design the foundation to support the structure. The tilt worsens each decade, or through the years, and someday it will fall.

The Panama Canal lets ships in either the Atlantic or Pacific oceans cross over a wide piece of land to get to the other ocean. Ships are lifted 85 feet above sea level and lowered back to the water. It works through a series of mechanical water-filled chambers that move the ships along until placed back into the open sea.

**What is the correct order stated in this passage?**

A. Egyptian pyramids, Tower of Pisa, the Great Wall of China

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B. Egyptian pyramids, the Great Wall of China, Panama Canal

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C. Egyptian pyramids, Tower of Pisa, burial plot of kings and queens

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D. Egyptian pyramids, a map of the Great Wall, burial plot of kings and queens

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## **THE HUMAN BODY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM**

When you are sick, you might get a greeting card or two wishing you to "Get Well Soon!" Your body has its own fascinating system to make sure you do. Your skin, mouth, nose and stomach are the first line of defense. They put up barriers to block or crush most wimpy intruders carrying germs that can make you ill.

An even more remarkable process is the body's immune system. White blood cells, not the red ones, travel constantly through your body. They are on patrol to seek and destroy bacteria, viruses or disease.

The cells are doing their job when a cut on your skin turns puffy and red before healing. Also, a fever is a sign that the army of good cells are in a war with evil intruders.

Different types of white blood cells have different duties, but they all record their progress. That way the next time you start feeling ill, they already have a plan of action to make you well again. They make up a team called your body's immune system.

**Which of the following is an opinion expressed in this passage?**

A. The human body has a fascinating system.

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B. Red blood cells constantly travel through the body.

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C. White blood cells have different duties.

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D. A fever is a sign that the army of good cells are working.

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**CAREERS IN MUSIC**

Listening to or making music doesn't have to be just a hobby. Many people work in jobs and careers that let them continue to enjoy their love of music while sharing it with others.

The music industry needs sound-equipment engineers, producers, promoters and music-store clerks to produce, record and sell the music. Also, radio stations depend on disc jockeys (DJs) to play the music.

Public schools and universities need music teachers to instruct budding artists. Jobs are also available in music libraries, ticket sales and concert-hall management and support. Some counselors even specialize in the use of music to treat people with emotional depression.

Musicians and singers are also needed to provide music for churches and synagogues. There are also opportunities to work in music through community arts groups.

Last but not least, a fortunate and talented few are the actual musical artists, singing stars and musicians who perform for their fans' enjoyment.

**A generalization from this passage could be . . .**

A. It takes many people to help create a musician's career.

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B. Public schools and universities need teachers to instruct budding artists.

\_\_\_\_\_

C. The making of music does not just have to be a hobby.

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D. There are opportunities to work in music through community art and music groups.

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