Animals and Earthquakes

A. There is some evidence that animals can tell when an earthquake is about to happen. A diary from 373 B.C. describes how mice, birds, snakes and insects left the area days in advance of an earthquake that struck a Greek city. The same kind of thing was seen in China when snakes came out of hibernation and slithered away before an earthquake in 1975. And in 2010, animals in Washington D.C.’s National Zoo started acting strangely just a few minutes before an earthquake. Snakes moved out into the open, apes climbed to the tops of trees, flamingos huddled together and animals cried out in distress all across the zoo.

B. On the night of the earthquake, I was awakened by my dog. L.W. was laying on the floor beside my bed, and he started to whine. I sat up and asked him what was wrong. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Everything was quiet. L.W. got up and started to pace.

“What is it boy? What is it?”
He just whined, and then began to bark.
Then the rumbling and shaking started. I will never forget that, how L.W. knew, at least five minutes before it happened, that the earthquake was coming.

1. What evidence about animals predicting earthquakes is in each passage?
   A. __________________________________________
   B. __________________________________________

2. Which passage is a personal story? __________________________

3. Which passage is from an article? __________________________