

*Differentiated*

GRADE  
4

# HOME LEARNING Reading & ELA

## 3 WEEKS

OF READING, WRITING, AND GRAMMAR LESSONS

## FREE!

BY: *Teaching and Tapes*





## Do You Get Enough Sleep?

Humans need a lot of sleep. However, many people do not get enough. Being healthy starts with plenty of sleep. The quality of sleep can affect how you feel.

The National Sleep Foundation studied how much sleep each person needs. They found that children and adults need different amounts. They suggest preschoolers get 11-13 hours each night. Kids in elementary school need 9-11 hours each night. Teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep. Adults need 7-9 hours.

People who do not get enough sleep can be at risk for many medical problems. Not enough sleep can also create problems in school. For example, tired students may struggle to stay awake. It may also make it harder to listen to lessons.

Figure A

### EFFECTS OF NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP

- Irritability
- Less clear thinking
- More forgetful
- Weaker moral judgments
- More yawning
- Hallucinating
- Trouble focusing

- Weaker immune system

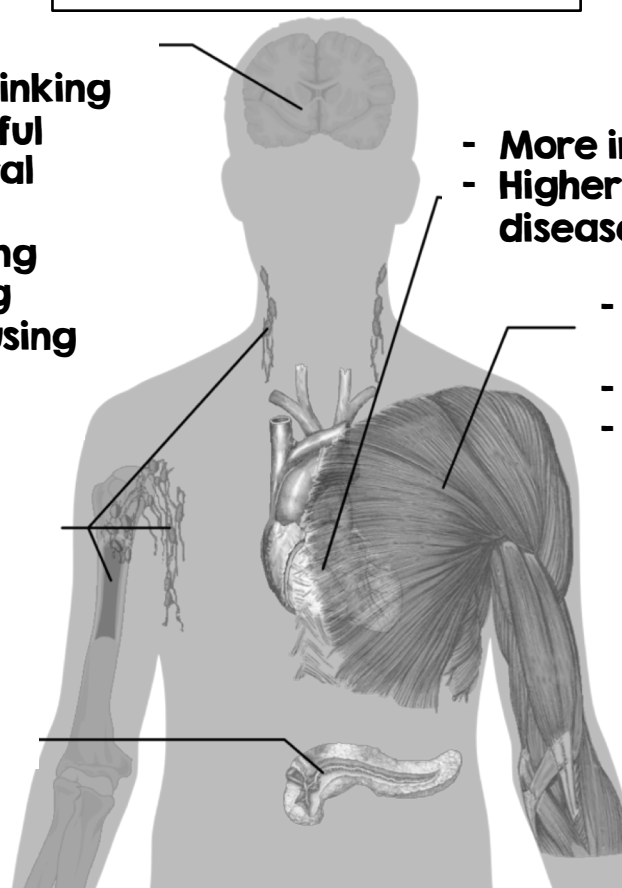
- Risk of Type 2 diabetes

- More irregular heartbeat
- Higher risk of heart disease

- Slower reaction time in muscles
- Less accuracy
- More body aches

#### Other:

- Kids may not grow as much
- Risk of gaining excess weight
- The body is generally colder





E

Poor habits and choices lead to not enough sleep or not good quality sleep. Making small changes can fix this. Homework and activities should be finished long before bedtime. Staying up too late can make it harder to sleep deeply. Going to bed and getting up at the same time each day helps the body stay in a good sleep pattern. Some people find that it is helpful to have a bedtime routine. The same routine each night can help you relax before bed. A restful evening can help a person fall asleep more easily. Screens such as computers and phones should be taken out of the bedroom. They are great during the day. However, at night, the lights and sounds from screens can make it harder to fall asleep. Finally, for the best sleep, it is important to watch what you eat in the evening. People who want to have a good night of sleep should avoid eating big meals or lots of sugar.

Every person should try to get enough sleep. So much of our health depends on it!

1. Write two questions where the answer could be found in the text. Then find the answer to your question and color it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question



2. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question



2. After reading the article, do you believe you get enough sleep? Cite the evidence and details in the article that help you answer this question.

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3. How can poor habits and choices lead to a lack of sleep? Cite the evidence and details in the article that help you answer this question.

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4. In paragraph E, the text says, "People who want to have a good night's sleep should especially avoid eating large meals." What can you **INFER** about this statement?

**INFERENCE** = Educated guess.

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## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Directions: Use the given words/phrases at least one time in a sentence.

**CLOSE TO** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BEHIND** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXCEPT FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ON TOP OF** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS TO** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ALONG WITH** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## The Family Champ

Aito and Kimiko were playing ping pong in the basement. Their game was intense. They both wanted to win. Aito's younger sister, Kimiko, was usually slow. In the past couple of weeks, however, she had started to keep an eye on the ball. Aito used to just hit it hard and fast to her, but she never could hit it back. When he did this, the game would end. However, now he couldn't just whack the ball off the green table like usual because she could hit it back. Now he had competition.

Kimiko huffed. Her straight black hair was in her eyes. She was starting to sweat a little bit. "You're afraid 'cause your little sister is about to beat you," she said.

She was right. Aito was not ready for a little girl to beat him. She was starting to make him nervous and he didn't like it.

She threw the ball and hit it with all her might. She hit it too hard. It zoomed past Aito's head. The ball zipped off the table and onto the other side of the basement. It landed somewhere by all the boxes full of their parents' stuff.

Aito put his paddle down. He walked to the dusty corner of the basement. It was dark in the corner. He reached around to feel for the ball. Instead of touching the ball, he felt a box. He took a better look and saw an old wooden box. It looked fancy. There were Japanese characters written on the sides of the wooden box. He got down on his knees and opened it.

Inside were some old black and white photos and some trophies. There was also a heavy, golden ping pong ball. When Aito looked at the photos, he saw a woman he recognized. She was being given a trophy. She was standing on top of a trophy stand with men in the second and third place spots. He looked carefully at the background of the photo and saw the words "World Ping-Pong Championships". He knew the face of the woman very well. "Grandma?" said Aito, surprised.

Aito looked at the photo and realized he was not the best ping pong player in the family. He wondered if maybe he wasn't even the second best player in the family anymore either.

1. Write three questions where the answer could be found in the text. Then find the answer to your question and color it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question



2. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question



3. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question



2. Does Aito take the game against his sister seriously? How do you know? Refer to the details found in the text in your response.

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3. What can you **INFER** about Aito's personality? What can you **INFER** about Kimiko's personality? Refer to the details found in the text in your response.

**INFERENCE =**

What the text says + what you know in your life

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[illegible]



## The World at Night

Animals and insects that are awake at night are called nocturnal. Nocturnal means to be active at night and sleep in the day. There are good reasons why some animals are nocturnal.

Some animals are nocturnal because of the temperature. In many areas, it can be too hot for an animal to be out in the day. For example, iguanas live in the desert. They sleep in shade to keep cool during the day. At night, they wake up and hunt.

Animals may be nocturnal because of competition. That means they eat the same types of food as others. For example, coyotes and mountain lions like to eat rabbits and deer. It is better for one to hunt during the day and the other at night. So, coyotes are nocturnal while mountain lions are active in the day. This is a way that nature finds a way to balance.

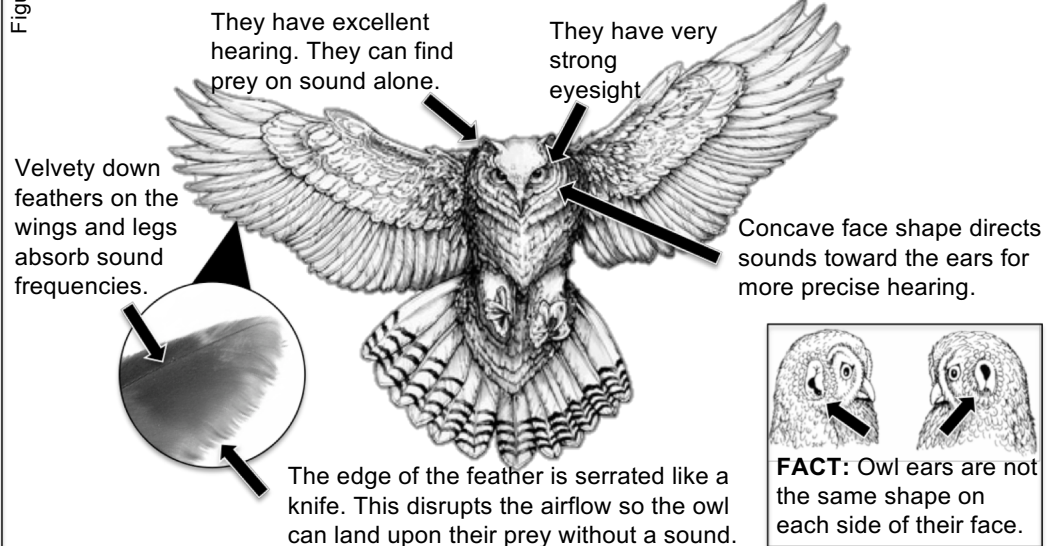
F Animals like owls are nocturnal because the food they eat is also nocturnal. Owls eat mice and other small rodents. These animals come out mostly at night. That means owls must come out at night to find them. Owls are strong hunters in the dark.

Even with the darkness providing cover for these small rodents, owls are very successful hunters.

Our human world is very busy during the day. Most humans are awake and active. The world of nocturnal animals starts to wake up as our heads hit the pillow at bedtime.

Figure A

### How Are Owls Such Successful Nocturnal Hunters?





1. What is the **MAIN TOPIC** of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA =**

2. What is the **MAIN IDEA** of this text.

Topic + What the author says about the topic

3.  Color in a **KEY DETAIL** that supports the main idea of the text. Explain in your own words how this detail supports the main idea.

4.  Color in a **KEY DETAIL** that supports the main idea of the text. Explain in your own words how this detail supports the main idea.

5. Write a **SUMMARY** of this text.

**SUMMARY =**

Main Idea + Supporting Details

## COMPLETE SENTENCES

Directions: Read each sentence. Write "Fragment", "Run-on Sentence", or "Correct" depending on how you would describe the sentence structure.

		Fragment? Run-on Sentence? Correct?
1.	Marco is a sweet boy, he really loves animals.	
2.	Plays well with his friends.	
3.	The science test is really hard, you should start studying right away.	
4.	I love math even though I think it is the hardest subject.	
5.	Ran around the room and jumped on the couch.	
6.	My best friend lives by the park on the other side of town.	

Choose one of the FRAGMENTS from above and write it as a correct sentence on the lines below.

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Choose one of the RUN-ON SENTENCES from above and write it correctly on the lines below.

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## An Extraordinary Day

It was a calm summer morning. The sun danced in the blue sky. The waves of the ocean made a gentle sound. The beach was empty, which is just how Sara liked it.

Sara looked in the sand for shells. Before long, the pail was half full. She looked towards the water. She could see a huge shell. She ran towards the water and picked it up. It was extraordinary. The colors inside looked like a rainbow.

Sara was distracted. She did not notice the huge wave coming toward her. All of a sudden, the wave crashed into her. She was pulled under. Sara could not see anything. Everything was black. Sara swung her arms, but she just went deeper.

Suddenly, two strong arms grabbed Sara and swam her to the surface. She could feel that her rescuer was swimming towards the shore. Sara looked at her hero. She had Aphrodite-like beauty and Neptune-like strength. The woman's eyes were dazzling and kind. The woman did not speak to Sara. She just nodded her head.

The woman strongly swam Sara to the shore. The woman then placed her firmly onto the sand. She paused for a second, then turned and dove under the water.

The woman swam away quickly. Soon she was far out in the deep water. Suddenly, the woman dove under the water. Sara rubbed her eyes. She felt she must have been seeing things. Where the woman's legs should have been, there was a shiny, slippery, sparkling tail! It splashed the surface of the water.

A beautiful woman with a fish tail could only mean one thing. Sara jumped and ran to her house. No one was going to believe her. Sara knew what happened. She was rescued by a mermaid. This was an extraordinary day that she'd never forget!




1. What is the **THEME** of this text? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the **THEME** of the text.

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3.  Color in a **DETAIL OR SENTENCE** that helps you identify the **THEME**.  
Explain in your own words how this detail supports the **THEME**.

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4.  Color in a **DETAIL OR SENTENCE** that helps you identify the **THEME**.  
Explain in your own words how this detail supports the **THEME**.

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5. Write a **SUMMARY** of this text.

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## DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Describe your idea of the perfect day. Start from the beginning of the day and continue until the end of the day. Use at least 10 adjectives in your writing. Circle the adjectives.

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Do you have any friends that are good friends. What makes someone a good friend? Use at least 10 adjectives in your writing. Circle the adjectives.

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## Brontosaurus: The Mixed Up Dinosaur

You have probably heard of a Brontosaurus before. You might even be able to describe it. It was a huge dinosaur with a long neck and tail. It may seem strange to you, but Brontosaurus never really existed. It is all a case of mistaken identity.

Othniel Marsh and Edward Cope both studied dinosaurs. They sometimes competed with each other. Back in 1877, they were on a mission to see who could find more fossils. They would even smash fossils just so the other could not get them.

In 1877, Marsh found a dinosaur skeleton. It had a long neck and tail. However, it was not the complete skeleton. Marsh did not care. He just wanted to make sure he was a better paleontologist than Cope. Usually, scientists would take their time to study their discoveries. Marsh rushed. He quickly named it Apatosaurus.

Two years later, Marsh was looking for fossils in another area. He found a skeleton similar to the one he called Apatosaurus. The new skeleton was bigger and had more bones to it. However, there was one problem. This skeleton had no head! Marsh had a solution. A few miles away, they found a skull. Once again, Marsh was in a hurry. Instead of finding out who the skull belonged to, he added it to the other skeleton. He called his “new” discovery Brontosaurus.

Marsh and his team did not tell anyone about what they had done. Several years later, someone realized that the Brontosaurus skeleton was actually the same as Apatosaurus. The skull that Marsh used for Brontosaurus actually belonged to a dinosaur called Camarasaurus. Marsh was too impatient to wait and find this out himself.

Some people say that the Brontosaurus did exist. They would be sort of correct. You must remember that Brontosaurus was really a combination of Apatosaurus and Camarasaurus. Both of these dinosaurs had already been discovered and given their names. In science, the name given first is the name that stays. Since Marsh discovered and named his first skeletal remains Apatosaurus, this is the official name.

1. Write a paragraph describing why there has been confusion about the Brontosaurus. Use the words **FIRST, THEN, NEXT, and FINALLY** in your paragraph.

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2.  Color the sentences in the text that explain **WHY** there was no such thing as a Brontosaurus.

3. **EXPLAIN** in your own words **WHY** there was no such thing as a Brontosaurus.

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4. Describe how an Apatosaurus and a Brontosaurus are **CONNECTED**.



[illegible]



## The Kitten

Sophie always wanted a pet. Her mom told her that she was not responsible enough. Sophie knew that if she had a pet, she would do everything she was supposed to. Sophie could not understand why her mom thought she was not ready.

One day, Sophie was walking home from school when she heard a sound in the bushes. She looked closer and saw a tiny kitten. It looked scared and very hungry. Sophie knew she had to help. She scooped it into her arms. "I am going to call you Ghost," Sophie whispered.

Sophie ran home with Ghost in her arms. First, she took Ghost to the bathroom sink. She gently poured soap and water over Ghost's grey fur. Then, she grabbed her bath towel and dried him off. "I bet you're hungry, Ghost," said Sophie. "Let's go to the kitchen and get food." Sophie and Ghost went to the kitchen and opened the pantry door. She opened a can of tuna and put some on a plate. In seconds, Ghost ate all of it.

Right then, the front door opened and in walked Sophie's mom. Sophie picked up Ghost. "Don't be mad. I found this scared kitten in the bushes and I brought her home," Sophie said quickly. Sophie was worried that her mom was angry. She wanted to keep Ghost. She was sure her mom was going to make her get rid of the kitten.

"Sophie, we've talked about this. I don't think you're ready for the responsibility of a pet. Pets are so much work. They need to be bathed, fed, and played with. It is a big job to have a pet," Sophie's mom said.

"Mom, I know it is work, but I am ready for it. I found Ghost scared and alone. She needed me. I brought her home, gave her a bath, dried her, and fed her some tuna. I promise I will be responsible for her. Please can I keep her?"

Sophie's mom looked at the cute kitten. She looked at Sophie's hopeful face. "I think you better get your clothes changed. We need to go to a pet store to get some supplies for our new pet," her mother said with a smile.

**CHARACTER CLOSE UP: Sophie**

Use details from the text to describe this character.



Color her **FEELINGS, THOUGHTS, or WORDS** in the text. Describe below.

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Color her **ACTIONS** in the text. Describe below.

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Is this a character you like or connect to? Why or why not? Use details from the text to support your response.

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**MAIN EVENT CLOSE UP**

Use details from the text to describe the MAIN EVENT in this story.

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## CONTEXT CLUES

Directions: Use the context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

- ① To be defined as a desert, the place must get less than 10 inches of precipitation, such as rain or snow, per year.

Precipitation means: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in your own sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ② Birds and mammals are endothermic animals because they can generate their own body heat.

Endothermic means: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in your own sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ③ A koala bear is a marsupial because it can carry its own baby in a pouch on its body.

A marsupial is: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in your own sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ④ The river was full of noxious materials such as cleaning agents from factories and pesticides from the nearby farms.

Noxious means: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in your own sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## Can We Drink Salt Water?

Humans need water every day to stay alive. Our world is made of two types of water– fresh water and salt water. The human body cannot survive more than a few days without fresh drinking water. It helps the body flush out waste.

Drinking salt water from the ocean is not healthy. Salt water is a hypertonic fluid. This means that it has more salt than a body can handle. The human body quickly fills with salt when a person drinks salt water. The fast rise in salt makes the body's cells release water. This can make the person very sick.

Fresh drinking water is not easy to find in many parts of the world. Some parts of the world do not have enough water, even though they are by the ocean. Oceans hold about 9/10 of all of the earth's water. Many countries use a process called desalination to make fresh drinking water. Desalination can turn salt water into safe drinking water.

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There are a few ways to desalinate salt water.

Reverse osmosis uses very fine filters to separate the water from the salt. Distilling is another method. To distill salt water, it is heated to boiling until it turns to steam. The steam is pure fresh water. The steam is trapped and becomes drinking water. The salt is left behind in the pan.

The desalination process can cost a lot of money. However, we need water to stay alive. We should be thankful for desalination!

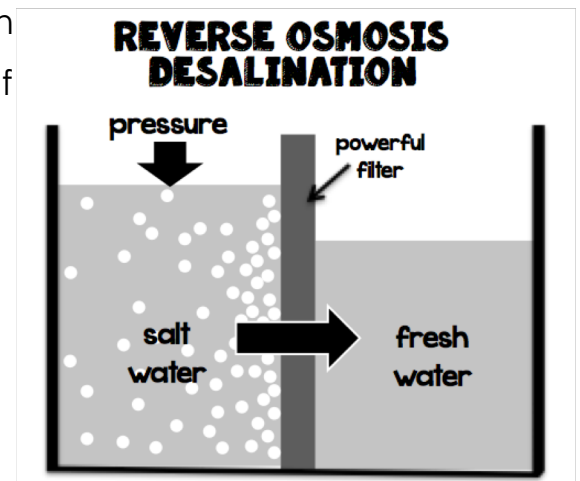


Figure A

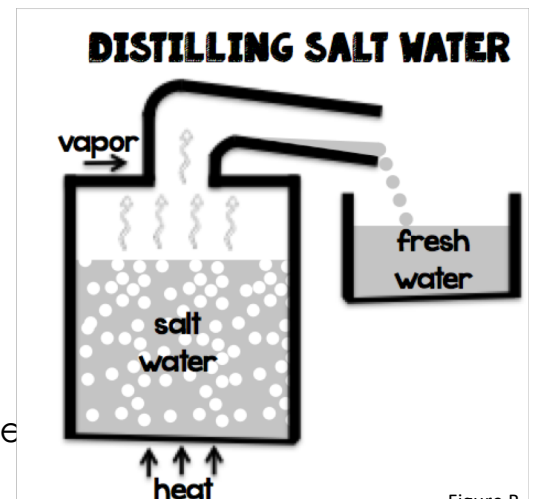


Figure B

Use the text to find and explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Step 1 : Underline the text that helps you understand the meaning

Step 2: Explain the meaning in your own words.

## What does it mean?

**HYPERTONIC FLUID** is...

Now use the word **HYPERTONIC FLUID** in a sentence:

**DESALINATION** is...

Now use the word **DESALINATION** or **DESALINATE** in a sentence:

**REVERSE OSMOSIS** is...

Now use the word **REVERSE OSMOSIS** in a sentence:

**DISTILLING** is...

Now use the word **DISTILLING** or **DISTILL** in a sentence:

## COMMON EXPRESSIONS

Directions: Explain what the following sentences mean in your own words.

**You can kill two birds with one stone.**

**Your guess is as good as mine.**

**Cross that bridge when you come to it.**

**Don't bite off more than you can chew.**



## The Climb

They were halfway up the mountain when Anne called a time-out. She sat on a rock in the shade. Anne was so tired, yet she had bet her friend Lydia that she could make it to the top. The mountain was not that big. Anne, however, was more of an indoor person. She liked to stay inside and read books. This was not her style.

"Maybe we are not meant to climb this mountain," said Anne. "Like how the Olympians never climbed Mount Olympus because they thought their Gods lived at the top."

"We are not in mythical times," laughed Lydia. "Stop stalling. Let's keep going."

They kept walking. Anne looked down at her town. She had lived there all her life. She had never seen it from above. Now here she was, headed up into the clouds.

"I better be a hero at the end of this," Anne muttered as she climbed over a pile of rocks. She pretended she was climbing Mount Olympus and she would be made a hero when she reached the top. She could live in the clouds with Zeus and the other Greek gods and goddesses.

Anne looked up and realized the last section of the hike was practically vertical. The rest of the hike, up until now, was mostly flat.

For the last mile, Anne thought of what her hero name might be. Perhaps it would be "Anne, Mountain Climber," or perhaps, "Anne, Undefeated Hiker." She would be gifted with the winged shoes of Hermes, the messenger for the Gods. She would never have to walk again. She could just float around while reading.

The girls could see the end of the path. Up ahead, there was a bench looking at the view. It was a clear day. From the bench, you could see most of the town. Anne sat there quietly for a long time. It was an amazing view. After a short rest, Lydia said they should head back to the car. During the 30-minute drive back to town, Anne felt like she had changed. Maybe she was not going to be just an indoor girl anymore. It seemed like she found some peace. It was at the top of that mountain.

Use the text to find and explain the meaning of the following words and phrases.

Step 1 : Underline the text that helps you understand the meaning

Step 2: Explain the meaning in your own words.

## What does it mean?

**MOUNT OLYMPUS** is...

Now use the term **MOUNT OLYMPUS** in a sentence:

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**MYTHICAL** means...

Now use the word **MYTHICAL** in a sentence:

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**ZEUS** is...

Now use the word **ZEUS** in a sentence:

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**VERTICAL** means...

Now use the word **VERTICAL** n a sentence:

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**HERMES** is...

Now use the word **HERMES** n a sentence:

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## WHAT IS THE BEST SEASON?

### FALL, WINTER, SPRING, OR SUMMER? WHY?

[illegible]



## The Clean Up Crew

Have you ever dropped food crumbs on the ground? Did you ever throw an apple core into a bush? When you are outside, where do those food scraps go?

There are a lot of food scraps in big cities. The more people there are, the more food that is dropped. Why not let wild animals have it? They need to eat, too. However, this can be unsafe. It attracts rodents such as rats and mice. Many rodents carry diseases.

Rodents are good at finding food. They want to find it quickly and easily. They usually come out at night. This is when they feel safe to scurry around dark places. They look for food in trash cans and dumpsters. Sometimes they go into people's homes.

However, there is an insect that has helped get rid of many rodents. This is the tiny pavement ant. Like rodents, pavement ants also eat food scraps. Pavement ants get their name because they like to live near cement. This makes cities perfect places to live. There is a lot of food, so it is easy to find it and bring it back to their home. Since they are so small, humans don't usually notice them. These ants are a tiny clean up crew working just below our feet.

E
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Here is how it works. If pavement ants are cleaning up all of the food scraps, then there is nothing left for the rodents to come after. Since mice and rats do not like to be out during the day, they wait until dark. Ants are so small that it does not matter if they are out during the day. Most people don't care if they see an ant. By the time night falls, the ants have already cleaned the area. This leaves nothing for the rodents to eat. Those pesky rodents have to go somewhere else to find food.

Thanks to the pavement ant, not only are our streets cleaned up, they are also free of unwanted rodents! So next time you see an ant crawling, don't smash them. They are busy cleaning up after us.

1. Which of these text structures do you think best describes the overall text?

- ☐ **CHRONOLOGY** (sequence of events)
- ☐ **COMPARISON** (comparing two subjects, events, or ideas)
- ☐ **CAUSE / EFFECT**
- ☐ **PROBLEM / SOLUTION**

Why do you think this is the best way to describe this text?

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Describe the overall structure of this text.

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2. Read Paragraph E.

This paragraph has a cause and effect relationship.

Color the cause



Color the effect

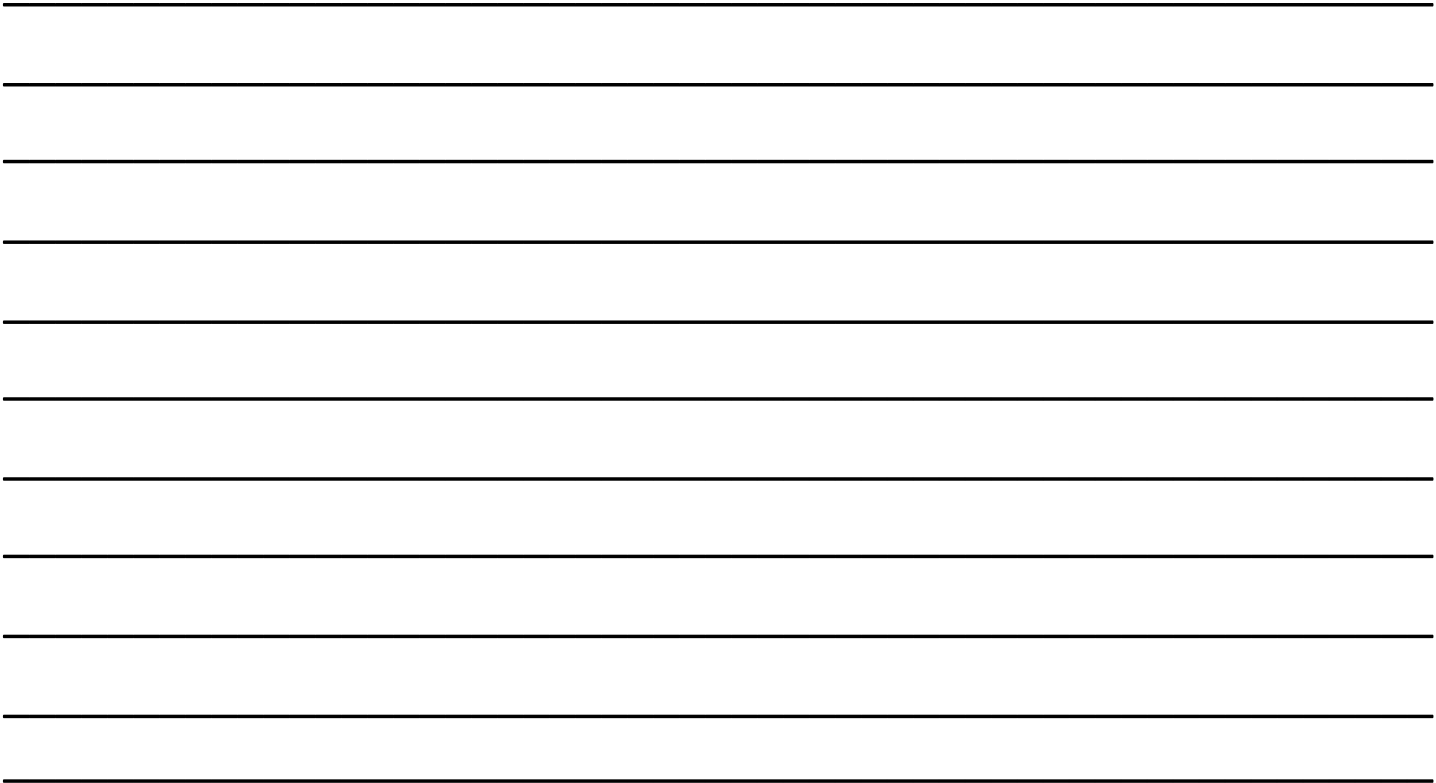


**DESCRIBE** this cause and effect.

CAUSE:	EFFECT:
<div></div>	<div></div>



Directions: The diagram below shows how potatoes spread around the world as a crop. Study the diagram. Then, write a paragraph with at least five sentences explaining how the potato crop spread.





## My Shadow

By Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward, you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

1. Explain what the FIRST **STANZA** is about.
2. Explain what the SECOND **STANZA** is about.
3. How does the second **STANZA** build upon the first **STANZA**?
4. How is this poem **DIFFERENT** than prose or a drama?

Complete Sentences	Cite the Text	Correct Punctuation
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5. Describe the literary elements the author used in this poem. Use words from the WORD BANK in your response.

**WORD BANK**

stanza   meter   rhyming   meter   verse

## COMPOUND SENTENCES

Directions: Add the commas where they belong in the following sentences. Some sentences may not need a comma.

**I want to be a writer when I grow up so I work really hard in writing class.**

**I want to buy a new dress but I don't have enough money.**

**It is really sunny today so I think I will wear my sunglasses.**

**I don't like orange or red.**

**We picked them up early but they still missed their plane.**

Directions: Create two compound sentences of your own that use some of the coordinating conjunctions from the word bank.

Word Bank				
and	or	for	nor	
so	but	yet		

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## Man on the Moon!

In 1961, President Kennedy announced a goal for the country. He wanted America to put a man on the moon. Scientists worked hard for the goal. The agency called NASA led the outer space missions.

The first Americans went around Earth in 1968. Two months later, astronauts went to the dark side of the moon and back. Yet, they did not land on the moon. Three more astronauts went to the moon and back in May 1969. However, they also did not land on the moon.

On July 16, 1969, three astronauts took off to go to the moon. When they got close, the main spaceship orbited the moon. A smaller lunar module flew down to the moon. It was called The Eagle. At 4:17 on July 20, 1969, the lunar module landed on the moon. The astronauts announced to Earth, "The Eagle has landed."

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Six hours later, astronaut Neil Armstrong opened the hatch of the lunar module. Television cameras recorded him as he walked down the ladder. At 10:56 on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to step foot on the moon. As he stepped down, he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

On July 22, 1969, the crew began their trip back to Earth. They returned safely on July 24, 1969.



## The Steps That Changed Us All

By Michael Smith, 57 years old

I was outside when my dad called my name. I knew the time was finally here. History would happen in front of us. When I got inside, I rushed to find a seat. Everyone sat by the TV set. No one wanted to miss a second of the show.

The pictures on TV were black and white. No one cared. We were watching the greatest thing humans had ever done! Americans were going to land on the moon.

We watched the surface of the moon get closer to the camera. Finally, we heard Neil Armstrong say "The Eagle has landed." We watched Armstrong climb down a ladder. Everyone in the room held their breath. As Armstrong stepped off the ladder, we heard him say "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

I remember looking at my dad and seeing tears on his face. I will never forget it. It seemed like it couldn't be real. Walking on the moon seemed as crazy as the idea of talking animals. It seemed like a fantasy. Yet, it was very real. In a way, my life changed a little that day. Maybe it made me more willing to try new things. If people could walk on the moon, then anything is possible, right?

1. Which passage is the first hand account and which is the secondhand account?

**FIRST HAND ACCOUNT** = \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND HAND ACCOUNT** = \_\_\_\_\_

I know this because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How are the first hand account and second hand accounts the **SAME**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Color the details in the first hand account that match the information given in the secondhand account.

3. How are the details, tone, or feelings in the first hand account **DIFFERENT** from the information in the secondhand account?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe how the **FOCUS** is different in the two passages.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

Directions: Write two synonyms (similar meaning) and two antonyms (opposite meaning) for each word given. Use a dictionary or thesaurus if needed.

	TWO SYNONYMS	TWO ANTONYMS
<b>fast</b>		
<b>happy</b>		
<b>little</b>		
<b>new</b>		
<b>wrong</b>		
<b>scared</b>		
<b>start</b>		
<b>bad</b>		
<b>sad</b>		
<b>love</b>		
<b>small</b>		





## The Extra Passenger

Yuri Woodland was an explorer. He was the kind of person who you would want in a dangerous place. He was a pilot, hunter, farmer, boat captain, and a survivor. Standing six-feet tall, he was a big man.

Yuri was on an expedition to Brazil. He was on a mission to explore the dangerous and wild Amazon River. When he arrived, he went to the first explorer store he could find. He prepared himself a backpack full of survival gear. While in the store, a little kid started talking to him. "I can survive anything," the boy said. "I can help you." Yuri just laughed. He thought the jungle was no place for a kid.

Yuri packed up his boat and headed up the Amazon River. Before long, he was deep in the jungle. Suddenly, he heard a rustle on his boat. Maybe something crawled in, thought Yuri. He threw the nets off the creature. To his surprise, the creature was actually a little kid. It was the same kid from the store.

Yuri was ticked. He was already a day into the trip and he couldn't just leave him. "You're really grinding my gears," said Yuri. "I'll have to take you... but you better have your own food. I only pack for one."

To Yuri's surprise, the kid was prepared. He brought his own backpack and tent. They set up camp and went to bed. The next morning, Yuri woke to the sound of a scream. It was deep in the jungle. He heard more cries and ran further in. He heard the rush of a river. It got louder and louder, and before he knew it, there was Sinai. He was barely holding on to a log. The log was covered with white rapids. The kid had tried to cross the river and fell. Thank goodness he was still there.

Yuri reached and grabbed Sinai's hand. They both fell into the fast water. Yuri held Sinai as they rushed down the river. Then, Yuri saw a vine hanging from a tree. Using his strength, he reached up and grabbed it. He swung out of the water, carrying Sinai with him. They made it. They were safe. The kid put up a gentle smile. It was the only thing he could do. Then Sinai said something that annoyed Yuri.

"Oopsies!"

*To be continued...*



## The Mini Explorer

"Help me!" I yelled louder. Who could hear me over the raging river? I should have just stayed home with Mama and Papa. This is it, I thought. My fingers slipped a little further. I was holding on just by my finger tips.

Then I saw him. Yuri showed up just in time. "Help me!" I wailed. He told me to give him my hand. He grabbed my hand, and I grabbed at his coat, and then SWUNK! We fell into the river! I started to panic. Yuri put his arms around me. We were bumping into everything. I thought, "I'm doomed!"

Out of nowhere, we lifted up out of the water and into the air. Then, we hit the ground. Hard. What a ride! That was crazy, I thought, then I looked at Yuri.

"Oopsies," I said to him. This didn't help. He stood up and walked off into the forest. I can't repeat what he said, but I can tell you that he was MAD.

I ran up to him. I had to explain. "Okay, mister. I was crossing the river because there were some bananas on the other side. I thought that you might like some fruit for breakfast. Second of all, I slipped 'cause it started raining again, so it's not my fault. Third, we just have to walk back up the river. No big deal."

He was mad. I guess I can't blame him. It was kind of my fault. Yuri thought he knew everything, but he was wrong. He didn't even know that you can't use a boat where we were headed. The trees are way too low. He would have known that if he asked a local, but he didn't like to talk to people. He's gonna have to change that.

Along the way, we saw a mango tree. He picked a fruit off the tree. "You're not gonna want that one." I said.

He ignored me and bit into the mango. He quickly started spitting it out everywhere. He was rubbing his tongue like a baby.

"I told you, you're not gonna want it. Spiders lay eggs in mangos on the bottom of the tree. You gotta start listening, mister." This didn't make him any nicer. I, however, was right.

*To be continued...*

1. From what point of view are each of the stories written?

**THE EXTRA PASSENGER**= \_\_\_\_\_

**THE MINI EXPLORER**= \_\_\_\_\_

I know this because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How are both stories the **SAME**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Color the details in **THE EXTRA PASSENGER** that match the details in **THE MINI EXPLORER**.

3. How are the details, tone, or feelings **DIFFERENT** between the stories?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which story do you like more? **WHY**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## DOGS OR CATS?

### WHICH MAKE THE BEST PETS? WHY?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

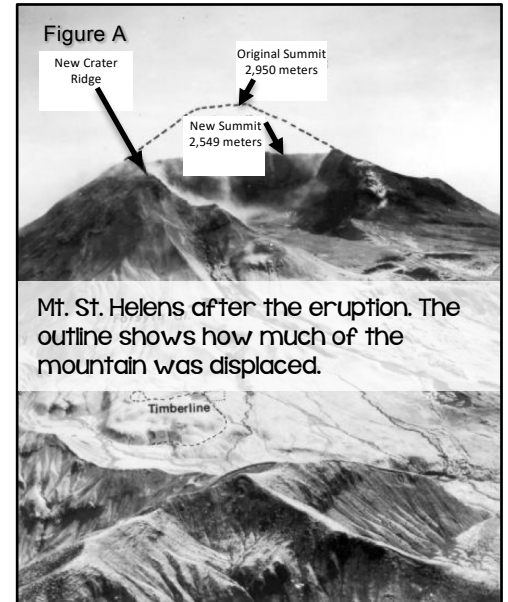


## The Ring of Fire

A

In 1980, there was a small earthquake near Mt. St. Helens in Washington. It made one side of the mountain slide down. Then, the volcano erupted. Lava and rocks slid down and hit everything in their path. A thick plume of smoke rose 80,000 feet into the sky.

Mt. St. Helens is an active volcano. The 1980 eruption was the largest ever in the mainland United States. There are not many volcanoes in the United States. Most volcanoes in the world are dormant, or sleeping. In the United States, most active volcanoes, like Mt. St. Helens, are found on the West Coast or in Alaska or Hawaii.



Alaska and the West Coast are in what is called "The Ring of Fire". The Ring of Fire has 452 volcanoes. These are a mix of dormant and active volcanoes. The Ring of Fire is also where nearly all of the world's earthquakes happen.

Earthquakes and volcanoes are related. They both happen because of changes under Earth's surface. Under the ground, there are big plates of Earth's crust, called tectonic plates. These plates move and bump into each other. This can cause earthquakes. The plates move slowly, so this does not happen often.



1. Describe what **FIGURE A** shows.

How does it help the reader understand the text?

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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2. Describe what **FIGURE B** shows.

How does it help the reader understand the text?

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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3. Describe what **FIGURE C** shows.

How does it help the reader understand the text?


Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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4.  Color the information in Figure C that you cannot get from reading the text?

## OPINION WRITING

Do you think students should be able to bring cell phones to school? Include an introduction, three reasons, and a conclusion.

**Introduction (1 sentence)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reason #1 (2 or more sentences)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reason #2 (2 or more sentences)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reason #3 (2 or more sentences)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion (1 sentence)** \_\_\_\_\_

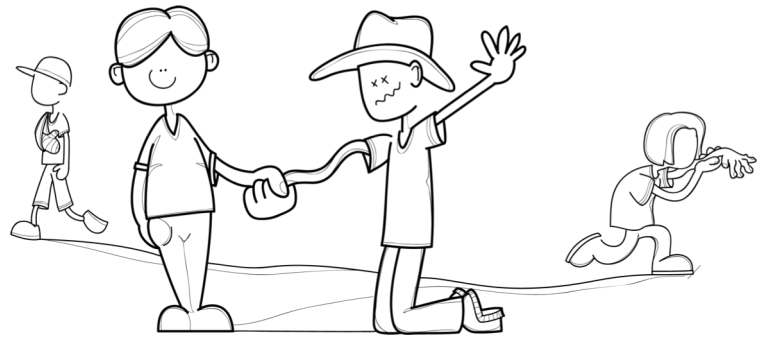
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Unbreakable Betty Blue

Jeremy had the biggest tractor in the state. It was big, old, and the bluest blue you've ever seen. Jeremy named her "Betty Blue". He loved to drive it on the open country roads in his small town.

Then one day, Larson moved to town. Larson had a tractor, too. Larson was not a nice guy. Whenever he shook someone's hand, he would break it. On his first day, he broke six people's hands. On his second day, he broke ten. Within the first week, Larson had broken fifty-five hands. It was not good.



Jeremy and the people in the town wanted Larson to stop being so mean.

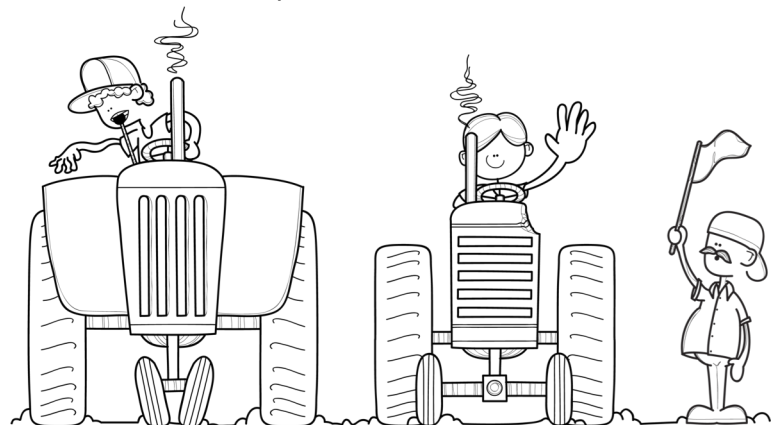
"Doesn't Larson have a tractor, too?"

Jeremy asked. Of course he did. Within an hour, Jeremy made a plan. There would be a tractor race. The winner could stay, and the loser would have to leave town.

The next day at noon, the whole town came to Main Street. There were no cars on the street. It was only the two tractors. Larson was there ready to go. He was looking at his big hands with a mean grin. He hadn't broken anyone's hand in a while. Jeremy walked up to him.

"May the best man win," said Larson, and they shook hands. Jeremy shook his hand. He was trying to be a good sport. He heard the crunch. Jeremy's hand was broken. The whole town gasped. How could Jeremy win with a broken hand?

Jeremy ran to his tractor. He got on and then wondered how he would use the controls. He saw Larson drive away. Then, with his teeth, he bit down on the controls. He was able to drive fast with his teeth and one hand

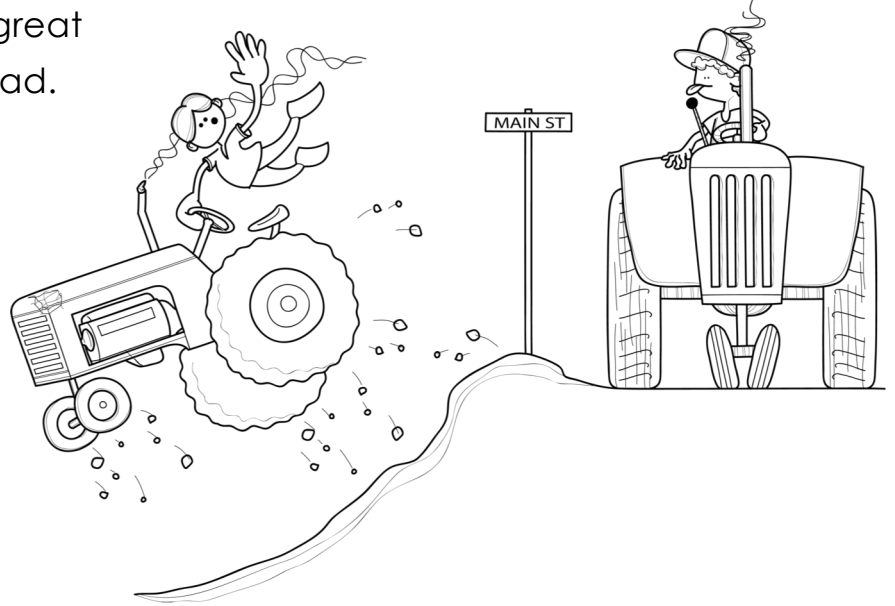






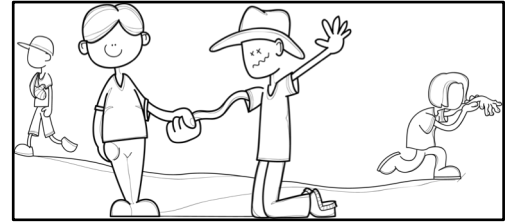
Larson could not believe what he was seeing. He laughed as he watched Jeremy push the controls with his teeth. It was pretty funny to see. Larson was not looking at the road. Suddenly, there was a ditch. Larson drove right into it! His tractor went flying. It fell with a great thwack. Larson's tractor was dead.

Jeremy slowly turned around. He stuck out his tongue at Larson as he passed, then slowly drove back down Main Street. Larson was so embarrassed, he just left his tractor and ran out of town.





Color the text that matches this **ILLUSTRATION** in the story.

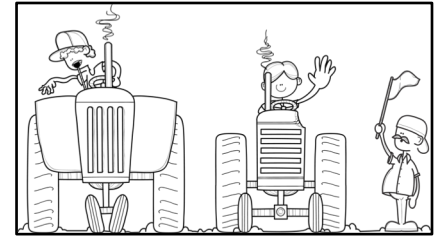


Describe how this illustration matches the text.

How does this illustration enhance the reader's understanding of the mood, setting, or characters?



Color the text that matches this **ILLUSTRATION** in the story.

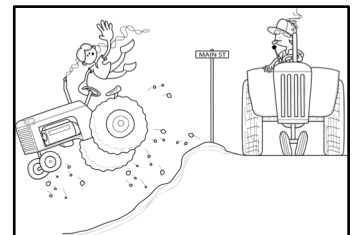


Describe how this illustration matches the text.

How does this illustration enhance the reader's understanding of the mood, setting, or characters?



Color the text that matches this **ILLUSTRATION** in the story.



Describe how this illustration matches the text.

How does this illustration enhance the reader's understanding of the mood, setting, or characters?

## METAPHORS AND SIMILIES

What does the underlined part of each sentence mean in each sentence?

It's as plain as day that she works so hard so that she can be the best.

The twin sisters are like two peas in a pod.

The mother's soft voice was music to the baby's ears.

I do not like him because he is a shady character.



## Do Forests Need Fires?

Forest fires can be very bad. They can burn down homes. They can put the lives of firefighters at risk. They can get out of control. However, there are times when fires are started on purpose by firefighters. These fires can help a forest.

Leaves, branches, and dead trees fall on the ground in a forest. After time, it covers the ground and nothing new can grow. This is one way fires can be good. Fires burn the old brush so that new life gets a fresh start. This is called a surface fire. Foresters prevent out of control fires by setting controlled fires. Controlled fires are set on purpose to clean out old brush that can easily catch on fire. In fact, a controlled fire can cut the chance of wildfire in half for five years.

A second way fires help forests is by getting rid of unwanted plants and trees. Plants and trees that are meant to grow in an area are called native species. Plants and trees that are NOT meant to grow in an area are called invasive species. Sometimes invasive species get into forests. They can make problems for native plants. This is because they take the nutrients in the soil from the native plants. A fire can kill unwanted plants. Then, only native plants grow back. In fact, fires usually kill invasive species for 3-15 years. Sometimes it kills the invasive species forever. This gives the forest a new start.

D

There is a third way fires can help forests. Some trees have seeds that need heat from fires. Intense heat is the only way to open their seed pod. In fact, scientists say some species need a fire every 3-25 years in order to grow new seedlings. These seeds fall to the ground and work their way into the soil. They stay that way until heat lets them break out of their shell. Once this happens, new plants will begin to grow.

Even though we may think fires only destroy forests, we now see that they can be helpful. In many ways, forests need fires to survive.

The **MAIN POINT** the author is trying to make is:

Three supporting **REASONS** are:

1. Supporting **REASON**:



Yellow

Color the **EVIDENCE** that supports this reason.

2. Supporting **REASON**:



Orange

Color the **EVIDENCE** that supports this reason.

3. Supporting **REASON**:

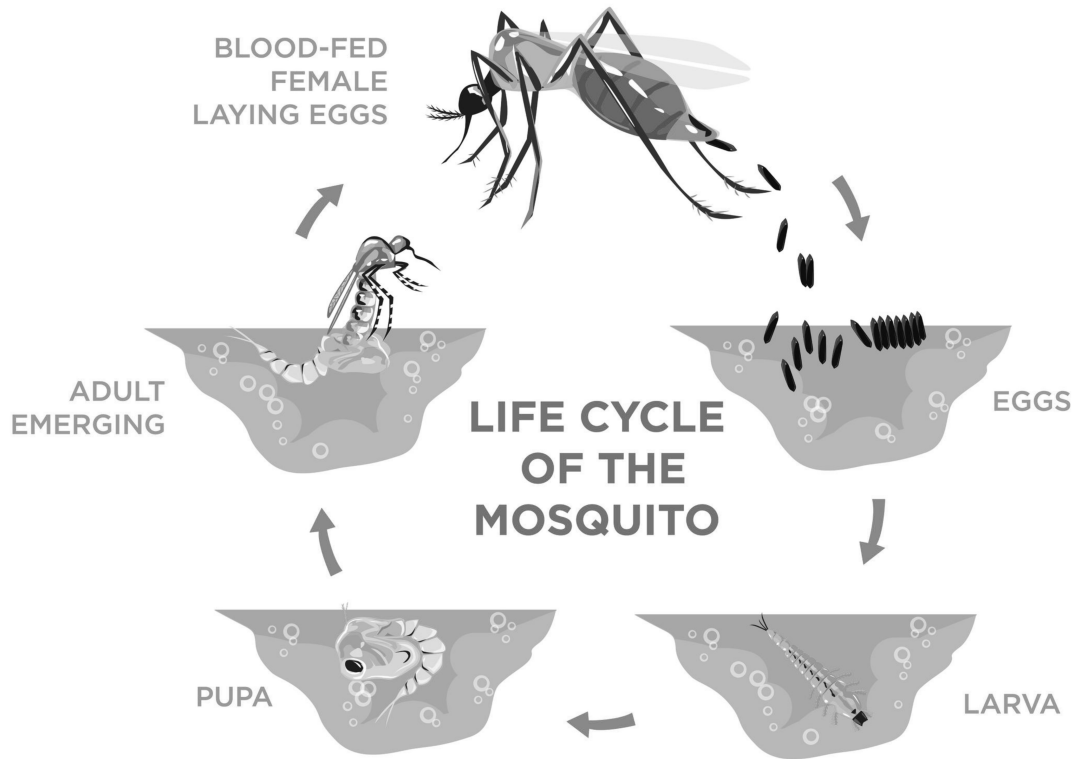


Blue

Color the **EVIDENCE** that supports this reason.

## UNDERSTANDING DIAGRAMS

Directions: The diagram below shows the life cycle of a mosquito. Study the diagram. Then, write a paragraph with at least five sentences explaining the mosquito life cycle.



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WE ARE ALL  
IN THIS  
TOGETHER!

*Alyssa*  
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