

Reading for Details II

A Day at the Office

by Lydia Lukidis

Parker was extremely excited today. In fact, he had been looking forward to this day all week! He got to miss an entire day of school and join his dad at work. His special assignment at school was to write an essay on his experience.

Parker's father, Henry, worked at a busy law firm in a busy downtown district. As they drove into the city, Parker gazed out the window at the tall skyscrapers and enormous buildings. He would love to grab his skateboard and skate on one of those rooftops!

His dad's firm was on the 32nd floor, so they had to use the elevator to go up. Ding! Once the elevator doors opened, they marched down a long winding hallway and found Henry's office.

Parker asked, "Okay Dad, what do you usually do first?"

"Well, every morning we have a meeting to review our cases," his dad replied.

Soon they found themselves in the big white boardroom. The meeting itself was really boring; they just discussed legal stuff and money. Henry got really excited when he was talking about one case. Parker didn't understand much of what he was saying. After that, Henry had to do some research. He showed his son his collection of thick law books as he flipped through them and took notes.

Then it was time for lunch. Parker was hoping for a little more excitement in the afternoon.

"Dad," he asked, "What will we do now?"

"I have a meeting with my client," his dad answered.

Geez, it seemed like his dad was always in meetings. So Parker sat through yet another one, as he listened to his dad talk and talk and talk.

Lawyers sure do a lot of talking, he thought to himself.

It was now 5 o'clock, and it was time for the "end of the day" meeting in the boardroom. Another meeting! thought Parker.

When it was all over, Henry asked his son what he thought about his job.

"Well, it sure seems like you enjoy it!" was all Parker could say. But on the inside, he felt really fortunate that he wasn't a grown-up yet. That meant no boring meetings and no stuffy boardrooms. Instead, he could skateboard and go to the park any time. He was even excited about going back to school the next day!

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This story is mostly about:

- A. Parker spending a day at his dad's office.
- B. What children like to eat.
- C. Parker's passion for skateboarding.
- D. Lots and lots of meetings.

This story is about Parker spending a day with his father at the office to see what it's like. Parker sat in lots of boring meetings, but this is not the central idea. Parker loves to skateboard, but this is not the central idea either.

What did the lawyers discuss during their first meeting of the day?

- A. Their cases, legal stuff, and money.
- B. What they will have for dinner.
- C. Research.
- D. What their clients want.

When the first meeting of the day is mentioned, we learn that the lawyers need to discuss their cases. In the next paragraph, we learn what they specifically discussed (legal stuff and money). So the mention of all three of these elements (their cases, legal stuff and money) is the most complete answer. They probably talk about what their clients want when they talk about the cases, but we don't know this from the story.

When they go to the office building they:

- A. Took the elevator to Henry's office.
- B. Walked up the stairs to Henry's office.
- C. Took an escalator to Henry's office.
- D. Took the fire escape to Henry's office.

We learned that they took the elevator to the 32nd floor.

You can guess that:

- A. Parker might find his father's work more exciting when he got older.
- B. Lawyers don't do much during the day.
- C. Henry finds his job as a lawyer boring.
- D. Lawyers hardly ever learn new things after graduating from law school.

Throughout his day, Parker is bored by all the meetings and discussions. You can tell that he just wants to be a young boy and do things like skateboarding and going to the park. But Henry seems to enjoy his work, so maybe Parker would too if he was older. Since Henry spent a long time researching, he probably learns new things every day.

Something to think about:

What would it be like if you spent a day at work with someone you know?

Reading for Details II

A Holiday with Aunty Mo

by Victoria Zurakowski and Gordon Miller

Several times a year, Jo and Nicky's family head up north to visit their mother's sister, Aunty Mo. It doesn't take them long to get there from Hamilton. It's only about two hours by car to Aunty Mo and Uncle Connor's house in Auckland, New Zealand.

There are harbors and bays all around the city and miles of beaches. From any place in the city, it is just a few miles to the water. Because of the popularity of sailing, it's known as the "City of Sails".

Aunty Mo is an artist and a little eccentric, so it's always interesting. Her house is full of wonderful things from her travels. Jo and Nicky love admiring all the souvenirs and art from different countries.

Today they are having a barbecue in the back yard. All of the cousins are running around barefoot in the back yard while they wait for the food. Uncle Connor and Dad are in charge of the barbecue. Jo notices a strange burning smell in the air.

"Dad, look!" Jo shouts pointing at the sizzling sausages. "The sausages are on fire!"

Uncle Connor looks at the barbecue in a panic. Thick black smoke wafts up into the air.

"Oh no, there goes dinner." He laughs nervously.

Aunty Mo rushes out. "Quick! Get a bucket of water!" she cries.

A sizzling sound fills the air. Mum has just poured the bucket of water over their dinner.

"It looks like it is takeaway fish and chips for dinner today." Dad says shaking his head. He's trying to hide his embarrassment.

"Kids get your towels. The best fish and chips are right on the beach."

"Yay!" Jo, Nicky, and their cousins shout in unison.

At the beach, the sand is very hot. Jo and Nicky bend down to put on their sandals so their feet don't burn. All the cousins run around leaping about. They're happy Dad and Uncle Connor ruined the dinner. Fish and chips at the beach are much more delicious.

After dinner, Dad and Uncle Connor get the boat off the top of the car and the kids sail a little way into the bay to watch the colorful sunset.

This story is mostly about:

- A. A holiday in Auckland.
- B. Hot sand.
- C. Aunty Mo's house.
- D. A holiday in Australia.

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We learned some things about Aunt Mo's house but most of the story is about their holiday in Auckland, New Zealand.

Aunt Mo is:

- A. An artist.
- B. A firefighter.
- C. A tourist.
- D. A chef.

The story says Aunt Mo is an artist. She likes to travel but she is not a permanent tourist. It says nothing about her cooking.

What is one thing Dad and Uncle Connor did?

- A. They destroyed the dinner.
- B. They made a bonfire.
- C. They burned the steak.
- D. They cooked fish and chips.

Dad and Uncle Connor burned the sausages. Because they were burned, they could not eat them. They had to go out for fish and chips. Dad and Uncle Connor took the boat off the car. That is not one of the choices.

You can guess that:

- A. Water sports are popular in Auckland.
- B. Snowboarding is popular in Auckland.
- C. The beaches are always cold in Auckland.
- D. Aunt Mo and Uncle Connor hardly ever go to the beach.

We know from the story that the sand was hot, so the beaches are not always cold. We also know that everyone lives close to the beach. Since they know that the best fish and chips are at the beach and the boat was already on the car, they probably go there all the time. Since it is so close to the water, other water sports are probably popular too.

Something to think about:

What kinds of water sports do you like?

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Andria's Saxophone Lesson

by Beth Crumpler

Andria stepped into the office with her new saxophone. Dr. Carson smiled and gestured for her to sit down. Dr. Carson said, "Andria, let's put your saxophone together." Andria was excited to begin. This was only her second saxophone lesson. Last week she learned to put it together. Today was the review.

Andria opened the saxophone case. She took out the body. The body of the saxophone was heavy, so Dr. Carson helped lift it. Andria was careful not to press down on the keys. The keys are sensitive and can break easily. Andria knew to be gentle with them. Dr. Carson helped hold the saxophone body, and Andria inserted the neck. Next, Andria screwed the neck screw in place.

Dr. Carson held the saxophone. Andria took out the mouthpiece and reed. Then she put the reed in her mouth to moisten it. Dr. Carson was glad she remembered this step. Next, Andria loosened the ligature. She loosened it by unscrewing the screws.

Andria took the reed and inserted it into the mouthpiece. Dr. Carson said, "Andria, remember, don't tighten the ligature too much." Andria listened. The reed was placed in the ligature. Andria did it exactly right.

Dr. Carson then lifted the saxophone neck closer to Andria. Andria slowly pushed the mouthpiece into the neck. Dr. Carson said, "Watch your hand. Don't touch the reed." Andria's hand started to slip toward the reed tip. Dr. Carson reminded her that it could break the reed. A broken reed meant starting over. Andria did not want to start over, so she moved her hand.

Dr. Carson and Andria looked down at the reed tip. They wanted to see if the tip broke. Luckily, it was okay! Andria made the last push. The mouthpiece was in place. The entire saxophone was put together. Dr. Carson congratulated Andria and Andria smiled with pride.

Next, Dr. Carson asked Andria to put the neck strap on. Andria put it on and connected the saxophone. It was time to play a note. Andria lifted the saxophone. Dr. Carson said, "Andria, blow into it. You can do it!" Andria shaped her mouth and blew.

The story is mostly about:

- A. Putting a saxophone together.
- B. Putting a sousaphone together.
- C. Taking saxophone lessons.
- D. Performing at a concert.

Andria was at the second saxophone lesson and spent all of the story putting the saxophone together—not a sousaphone. There is no mention of performing at a concert.

After Andria opened the saxophone case:

- A. Dr. Carson helped lift the body.
- B. Dr. Carson put the saxophone together.
- C. Andria put the saxophone together.
- D. The reed was broken.

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The first thing that happened was that Andria and Dr. Carson lifted the body out of the case. After the body was out of the case, Andria put the rest of the saxophone together. The reed could have been broken, but it was not.

Which part of the saxophone did Andria's hand almost break?

- A. The reed.
- B. The bell.
- C. The keys.
- D. The neck strap.

They checked the reed to make sure it wasn't broken. The keys and strap are mentioned, but weren't almost broken. Saxophones have a bell but it wasn't mentioned.

You can infer that:

- A. Andria continued to take lessons.
- B. Andria would not take lessons from Dr. Carson.
- C. Andria would break the saxophone.
- D. Playing the saxophone would not be fun for Andria.

Andria had a good lesson and remembered what was learned in the first lesson. It seems likely that she will take more lessons.

Something to think about:

Can you think of other instruments that you need to put together before you play them?

Reading for Details II

Aunt Mary and Barney by Jeanette Cottrell

Casey and Mom drove to Aunt Mary's house. Aunt Mary was disabled and used a wheelchair. Her body was stiff and she had trouble moving around. Her hands didn't work very well. Now she had a trained service animal to help her.

Casey knew about service animals. Guide dogs helped blind people ride on a bus or go to work. Aunt Mary didn't need a guide dog. She needed a different kind of help.

"Be careful," Mom said. "We don't want to scare the monkey."

"Mom, I won't!" Casey had been waiting for a week to meet the monkey.

Casey had only seen monkeys at the zoo. It would be neat to see a monkey living in Aunt Mary's house. His name was Barney. He was a capuchin monkey. He helped Aunt Mary with things she couldn't do by herself.

Mom and Casey knocked on the door of Aunt Mary's house. Aunt Mary called to them from the living room.

"We're in here. Come meet my new friend!"

They went to the living room. Aunt Mary sat in her wheelchair. A small brown monkey sat in her lap. Aunt Mary ran her stiff fingers through his fur.

"Casey, come meet Barney."

Barney had a white face and light brown fur. He had big brown eyes. He seemed curious about the visitors. Casey stood by the wheelchair. Aunt Mary raised her hand. Barney rubbed his face against her hand.

"Barney, say hello to Casey."

Casey leaned forward and slowly put out one hand. Barney sat up straight and screeched. Casey was startled and jumped back quickly.

"Don't worry about Barney," said Aunt Mary. "He's just reminding us that he's the boss here. Barney, dear?" Barney cocked his head, listening closely. "Please get me some juice, Barney."

Barney leaped off the wheelchair. He bounded across the room and into the kitchen. Then he ran back holding a small bottle of juice. He jumped onto the arm of the wheelchair.

"Thank you, Barney. Would you open it?"

Barney chattered to her. He unscrewed the cap and held out the bottle. Aunt Mary held it between her stiff hands. She lifted the bottle to her mouth.

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A dribble of juice ran down her chin. Barney let out a squeak. He pulled a tissue out of its box. He dabbed at Aunt Mary's chin, wiping away the juice. Aunt Mary chuckled. "He takes good care of me. He really is the boss around here!"

This story is mostly about:

- A. Aunt Mary's new service animal.
- B. Casey being afraid of the monkey.
- C. Aunt Mary being the boss around the house.
- D. Barney, who is a monkey with black fur.

Most of the story is about the visit to Aunt Mary and her service animal Barney. When the monkey screeched, it startled Casey, but that is only part of the story. Barney is taking care of Aunt Mary, and wipes her face without being told to. Aunt Mary says it shows that Barney is the boss of the house. Barney has a white face and light brown fur.

When Barney left Aunt Mary, where did he go?

- A. To the kitchen.
- B. To Casey's house.
- C. To the living room.
- D. To the car.

Barney went to the kitchen to get juice. The story takes place in Aunt Mary's house. Barney stays in this house all through the story. Barney was in the living room when Aunt Mary asked for juice. Then he went to the kitchen.

What is wrong with Aunt Mary?

- A. Her body is stiff and doesn't work well.
- B. She has a heart problem.
- C. She's afraid to get out of her wheelchair.
- D. She can't move her legs.

Aunt Mary is in the wheelchair because her body is very stiff and she can't move well by herself. We don't know if Aunt Mary is afraid to get out of her wheelchair. The story doesn't tell us. Aunt Mary might be able to move her legs. We only know that her hands are stiff, and that her body doesn't move well.

You can guess that:

- A. Aunt Mary is proud of Barney.
- B. Barney is a bad service animal.
- C. Casey wants a monkey just like Barney.
- D. Casey thinks that a guide dog would help Aunt Mary.

Aunt Mary wants Barney to show off. She is proud of his ability to help her. Now she doesn't need to ask people for as much help. Barney is very useful. That makes him a good service animal. Barney is a service animal and Casey doesn't need a service animal. Casey may like Barney, but wouldn't want a monkey just like him. Casey knows that guide dogs are for blind people and Aunt Mary is not blind.

Something to think about:

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Bats, Bats, and More Bats by Jeanette Cottrell

Jamie waited on the bridge with Grandpa. All around them, other people were waiting too. Some of them had folding chairs. Families crowded together, talking excitedly. Some people hung over the side of the bridge, holding out cameras.

Next to them, a little girl clung to her father. "I'm afraid, Dad. They'll try to bite me!"

The girl's father picked her up and put her on his shoulders. "They won't bite. They're regular bats, not vampire bats."

Jamie wasn't worried. Vampire bats don't live in the United States. These were Mexican free-tailed bats. They lived in Mexico in the winter and then flew to Texas for the summer. Grandpa said they lived under the Congress Avenue Bridge, right here in Austin. Jamie had thought they were kidding. Why would a colony of bats live under a bridge?

Someone bumped into Jamie from behind. Jamie moved closer to Grandpa. There were crowds of people all over the bridge. They were testing their cameras to make sure they worked.

"Grandpa, you were kidding. Weren't you?" Jamie stared up at Grandpa. Sometimes, it was hard to tell when Grandpa was joking. "I know there are bats living here. But there aren't really a million bats, are there?"

"That's what the rangers tell us. There are over one million bats living under Congress Avenue Bridge. They've been flying up here for thirty years, ever since we rebuilt the bridge. They come here to have their babies. They don't hurt the bridge at all, so people let them stay."

"Look," someone called. "There's one. And there's another!"

Jamie leaned against the side of the bridge and looked around, trying to spot a bat. Grandpa said the bats came out every night to look for food. The bats flew across the city, hunting for insects and bugs. A million bats could eat 20,000 pounds of insects every single night. Jamie was glad they did. Without the bats, the city would be full of bugs!

The sun was setting. It glowed red and orange. The people on the bridge whispered together. Something small and dark flew in front of Jamie's face.

"Grandpa, look!"

Two small furry things flew by. Another swooped up right in front of them. He looked to the left and to the right. Bats flew in all directions, hunting for insects. They darted from side to side. They curled their wings and dropped suddenly. Soon there were so many bats that Jamie couldn't count them.

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This story is mostly about:

- A. a colony of bats that lives under a bridge.
- B. a colony of vampire bats.
- C. Jamie's relationship with Grandpa.
- D. insects in Texas.

Jamie and Grandpa came to the bridge just to see the bats. Grandpa explains that the colony comes back every year. All the facts are about these bats. Jamie knows that there aren't any vampire bats in the US. We don't know much about Jamie's relationship with Grandpa except that they came to the bridge together.

Insects are important to the story because they are food for bats, but they are a detail, not the main idea.

Where do the bats come from?

- A. Mexico
- B. Texas
- C. a cave
- D. a zoo

The story says that these bats live in Mexico. They come to Austin, Texas every summer to have their babies. The bats might have lived in a cave in Mexico, but all we know from the story is that they are now living under a bridge.

How many bats live under Congress Avenue Bridge?

- A. Over a million bats.
- B. Thirty bats.
- C. 20,000 bats.
- D. Ten million bats.

Grandpa says there are over a million bats under the bridge. He got his information from a ranger. The bats have been coming to the bridge for thirty years. They eat 20,000 pounds of insects every night. That's where you saw the numbers "thirty" and "20,000".

You can guess that:

- A. Austin, Texas has a great many insects.
- B. Austin, Texas is very close to Canada.
- C. Mexico is in Texas.
- D. Austin, Texas has many bridges.

The bats eat 20,000 pounds of insects every single night and they stay at the bridge all summer. Austin must have a great many insects to feed that many bats.

The story doesn't say anything about the number of bridges in Austin. It only talks about Congress Avenue Bridge.

If bats fly from Mexico to Texas, a reader might guess that Mexico and Texas are close together. But the story does not say that Mexico is in Texas.

Something to think about:

Why do you think so many bats stay under just one bridge instead of under lots of bridges?

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Castle Fun

by Janet Davies of Oxenhill Ltd.

“Have you ever visited a real castle?” Chris asked Robin.

“No,” replied Robin. “But I would love to! I like stories about knights and dragons.”

“We can go to Bodiam Castle, if you like,” offered Chris. “It’s not far away from here.”

Robin’s family loved visiting places with Chris’s family. They jumped in the car and in no time at all, they arrived at the castle. As they paid to go in, Robin was jumping with excitement.

From the outside, the castle looked perfect. There were tall lookout towers and great stone walls. There was a giant gate called a portcullis and a moat with a narrow bridge.

When they entered the castle, Robin’s face fell. “I’m very disappointed. It’s just a load of old stones! I thought there would be flags and tapestries from the Middle Ages. I was looking forward to seeing gold decorations and valuable treasures in here.”

Chris’s dad laughed. “I’m afraid not. This castle is seven hundred years old. Anything from the Middle Ages has probably worn out, been stolen, or been sent to a museum. But you can still have fun here. Race you to the top of that tower over there!”

Chris, Robin, and Dad ran up the spiral stone staircase to the top of a tower. Down below they could see a group of kids learning how to use bows and arrows.

“Wow!” said Robin. “Can we have a go at that?”

“Of course,” said Chris’s dad. “Archery is great fun! Let’s give it a go!”

There were many other activities to try. They made shields and helped fire a giant rock from a catapult. As they ate their picnic, they listened to some musicians play tunes from the Middle Ages on their pipes and drums. Then they watched hawks and owls fly off to hunt for food. Finally, they tried on some metal armor.

“How could they fight wearing this?” wondered Robin. “I can hardly see a thing.”

Chris agreed. “It’s so heavy, too. I can only just lift up my arm and I’m not even carrying my sword!”

As they left the castle, Robin said, “That was a great day out! The only thing missing was a dragon.”

“I’m quite pleased there wasn’t a dragon,” decided Chris. “We might have ended up as a dragon snack!”

This story is mostly about:

- A. Visiting a castle.
- B. Going to a museum.
- C. Dressing up in olden day clothes.
- D. How to fire a catapult.

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Chris and Robin visited a castle in this adventure. They did not go to a museum. Dressing up and firing a catapult were mentioned, but only in passing.

In the castle, Robin expected to see:

- A. Tapestries, flags, decorations, and treasure.
- B. A beautiful princess.
- C. Knights in armor.
- D. Dragons.

Robin thought that the old castle would still have all its old furnishings, decorations, and treasure. Robin doesn't mention anything about expecting to see princesses, dragons, or a knight at the castle when they arrive.

When Chris and Robin dressed up, they wore:

- A. Metal armor.
- B. Musician's outfits.
- C. Archer's clothes.
- D. Dragon costumes.

Chris and Robin tried on some metal armor in this story. They listened to the musicians, but didn't dress up like them. They didn't dress in archer's clothes or as dragons.

You can guess that:

- A. There was plenty to do at the castle, even though it was a load of stones.
- B. Real people from the Middle Ages still live at the castle.
- C. Dragons live in castles.
- D. Heavy metal armor stopped the knights from fighting each other.

Chris and Robin had great fun at the castle. Nobody lives at the castle now; we know that it is just a load of stones. The story doesn't say that dragons live in castles. The knights wore the armor to protect themselves when they were fighting.

Something to think about:

What brave deed would you do if you were a knight?

Reading for Details II

Cleanup Day by Diana K

Jordan and Ashley went to the park with their class. It was the fall cleanup project with other local schools. The students worked together to rake the leaves and put them in bags. They also picked up trash and items to recycle. It was more fun than work and it was nice to be outdoors.

The teachers talked about how doing good things helped people and the community. Jordan and Ashley also learned about how even one person could make a difference. Lots of students volunteered for other school projects. Jordan and Ashley decided they wanted to do more cleanups.

At lunch, Jordan and Ashley ate by the playground. Jordan noticed a boy watching them nearby. Though he was with some of his friends, he smiled and came over to them. "Hello," he said. "My name is Dave. Do you mind if I have lunch with you?"

Jordan and Ashley giggled and nodded. Dave was tall, blond, and had blue eyes. He was wearing a red and green hoodie. He was also the cutest boy at the park. Jordan smiled back. "We'd like it if you had lunch with us," she said. "My name is Jordan, and this is my best friend, Ashley."

After lunch they helped each other rake leaves. They had a race to see who could rake the biggest pile. They talked about the project, their schools, and what they liked to do. Dave told Jordan and Ashley that he played baseball but liked all sports. He wanted to try out for baseball when he started high school. Jordan and Ashley said they liked sports too. Their favorite sports were swimming, tennis, and skating, but they also loved dancing and music. They promised to look for Dave at the next baseball game.

On Friday, Dave's team played at Jordan and Ashley's school. They talked before the game started and wished Dave good luck. His team was very good and was at the top of the league. He was the pitcher and they won by one point. After the game everyone went to the pizza parlor and had a good time. Dave, Jordan, and Ashley became good friends and volunteered for many more community projects.

This story is mostly about:

- A. Cleaning up the park.
- B. A trip to the playground.
- C. Good causes make good friends.
- D. After school activities.

Jordan and Ashley went to the park to rake leaves. They ate lunch at the playground. The park cleanup was a school project. They met Dave and became friends.

What does Dave look like?

- A. Blond hair and blue eyes.
- B. Brown hair and brown eyes.
- C. Red hair and green eyes.
- D. Black hair and black eyes.

We learned that Dave has blond hair and blue eyes and was wearing a red and green hoodie.

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What team sport does Dave play?

- A. Baseball.
- B. Dancing.
- C. Tennis.
- D. Soccer.

Dave is a pitcher on his baseball team. Jordan and Ashley play tennis and soccer. They like dancing.

After reading the story you can guess that:

- A. Working together is a good way to make friends.
- B. You need to take a class if you want to rake leaves.
- C. Playgrounds are the best places to have lunch.
- D. Everyone eats pizza after a baseball game.

The new friends didn't meet until they worked together on a project. Playgrounds aren't mentioned in the story. The kids ate pizza after the ball game, but not everyone does.

Something to think about:

Which projects need volunteers in your school or community?

Reading for Details II

Dolphins to the Rescue by Shirley Booth

Dolphins are the favorite animal of many people. Their friendly faces and graceful swimming make them popular. Dolphins also seem to like people and understand them. They are known to be very intelligent creatures. Some people say that dolphins can be heroes as well? There are many reported stories of dolphins helping people in trouble.

In the year 2000, a 14-year-old boy fell off a boat in Italy. He could not swim. As he sank in the water, he felt a dolphin pushing him. He grabbed the dolphin and it pulled him to the surface of the water. The dolphin guided him back to the boat. It went close to the boat so the boy's dad could pull him up.

In 2004, twelve divers were lost in the Red Sea for over half a day. Dolphins leaped out of the water around them when some boats came near. The divers believed that this helped their rescuers see them.

Also in 2004, four lifeguards were swimming together at a beach in New Zealand. Suddenly a pod of dolphins started swimming around them. At first, the lifeguards were excited to be so close to dolphins. When the dolphins did not go away, they started to get nervous. The dolphins swam around the lifeguards in tighter and tighter circles. They did not let them move away. One lifeguard finally swam out of the circle of dolphins. That was when he saw the huge Great White shark. He quickly joined the others again. The dolphins kept swimming around the group for 40 minutes. Then they swam away. The lifeguards were sure that the dolphins had protected them from the shark.

In 2007, a surfer in California was bitten three times by a shark. A pod of dolphins came and swam around him. This kept the shark away. They circled him until he was able to paddle back to shore.

Dolphins have also rescued other animals. In 2013, a lady and her dog fell off some rocks into the water in Australia. Dolphins swam around them and pushed them back to shore.

There are hundreds of stories about dolphins rescuing people. Some of these stories go back thousands of years. It seems like people have a good reason to have dolphins as their favorite animal!

This story is mostly about:

- A. How dolphins have rescued people.
- B. How to train a dolphin.
- C. Lifeguards in Australia.
- D. Great White Shark attacks.

Sharks and lifeguards are mentioned in the story, but it is mostly about how dolphins have rescued people.

Why are dolphins the favorite animal of many people?

- A. They seem graceful, friendly to people, and intelligent.
- B. They are good at fishing.
- C. They eat sharks.
- D. They swim in tight circles.

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The story starts out telling us that their friendly faces and graceful swimming make them popular. Rescuing people is something that would make them popular too, but that is not one of the answers. They are probably good at fishing and the story mentions that they swam in tight circles around swimmers, but that isn't why they are popular.

When did the four lifeguards start getting nervous?

- A. When the dolphins did not go away from them.
- B. When they were hungry.
- C. When a pod of dolphins started swimming away from them.
- D. When they saw a Great White Shark.

The lifeguards thought it was fun when the dolphins first started swimming around them. They did not get nervous until the dolphins would not let them swim away. One diver saw the shark after he swam away.

You can guess that:

- A. Dolphins seem to care about people.
- B. Dolphins are afraid of people.
- C. As long as dolphins are around, it is safe to swim.
- D. Sharks ignore dolphins.

The dolphins in the story rescued many swimmers. If you rescue someone, you probably care about them. So maybe dolphins care too. If the sharks in the story had ignored the dolphins, they may have eaten the swimmers.

Something to think about:

Do you think dolphins really care about people?

Reading for Details II

Getting to the Match

by Janet Davies of Oxenhill Ltd.

“Hurry up you two!” Dad shouted up the stairs. “We don’t want to miss kick off!”

The two cousins, Chris and Robin, came running down.

Robin was visiting from Chicago, and couldn’t wait to go to a real English soccer match. Robin was wearing the Arsenal away jersey, which was yellow. Chris lived in London and had chosen Arsenal’s home jersey. The home jersey was red.

The three of them jumped in the car and set off through the busy London streets. “English football fans love to sing special team songs when they watch a match,” said Chris. “They are called ‘football chants’. Shall we teach you some of them? Then you can join in during the game.”

“Yes please!” said Robin. “Isn’t it funny how you say ‘football’ and we say ‘soccer’?”

Just then, Dad frowned. “Uh-oh! There’s something wrong with the car!”

He just managed to pull over when the car stopped.

They all got out of the car.

“Make sure you stand well back on the pavement,” said Dad.

“Or the sidewalk,” laughed Robin.

Dad scratched his head. “I wonder what could be wrong,” he said. “Perhaps I should take a look under the bonnet.”

“Isn’t a bonnet a sort of hat?” asked Robin. “Why on earth would you want to look under your hat?”

Chris laughed. “Over here, the bonnet of the car is what you call the hood. And we don’t have a trunk on our cars. We have a boot.”

“It’s all very confusing,” said Robin. “We all speak English, but sometimes it’s very difficult to understand each other!”

Dad thought for a minute. “Do you know what?” he said. “I think we’ve run out of petrol.”

“Or GAS!” laughed the two cousins. They had spotted another word that is different in the two countries.

“Oh dear,” sighed Dad. “How will we get to the game on time?”

Then they realized that they were standing next to a bus stop.

“We can leave the car here for now,” said Dad. “Let’s catch a bus to the match!”

Reading for Details II

Soon, a big, red bus drew up at the bus stop.

“Perfect,” sighed Robin. “A real-life London double decker bus AND a soccer match in one day. This is the best day ever!”

This story is mostly about:

- A. Getting to a soccer match.
- B. Speaking a different language.
- C. Cars.
- D. Soccer chants.

Chris and Robin almost miss the soccer match when Dad’s car breaks down. They both speak English, but have different words for the same things.

Dad’s car does break down, and Robin learns about soccer chants, but these things are just a small part of the story.

What colour soccer jersey does Chris wear?

- A. Red
- B. Yellow
- C. Blue
- D. Orange

Chris wears the red jersey. It is Robin who wears the yellow jersey. There is no mention of a blue or orange soccer jersey in the story. Did you notice that in England ‘color’ is spelled, ‘colour’?

How do they get to the soccer match?

- A. By double decker bus.
- B. By car.
- C. By train.
- D. They walked.

They end up having to take the bus, because Dad’s car has broken down. There is no mention of a train journey in the story. We don’t know whether they could have walked to the stadium.

You can guess that:

- A. Dad, Chris and Robin made it to the match and had a great time.
- B. The bus wasn’t going past the stadium and they missed the game.
- C. Chris and Robin played in the match.
- D. Only boys love soccer.

We can assume that they got on the bus that stopped at the bus stop, and that they enjoyed themselves. There is nothing to suggest that they might miss the game. Only professional players could play for Arsenal. Boys and girls enjoy playing and watching soccer!

Something to think about:

Could you make up the words to a song about your favourite team?

Reading for Details II

Green Belt

by Robin Merrill

Sunshine through the window wakes Carson up. He doesn't know why, but he feels happy. Then he remembers why. Today he will get his green belt in Taekwondo. He jumps out of bed.

It has taken Carson a lot of hard work to earn a green belt. This will be a great day. Plus, he is really tired of the camouflage belt. He thinks it is ugly. (He would not tell his instructor this.)

Carson gets dressed. He heads to the kitchen. His mom has already made breakfast. "Mom, may I please go up and see Ashley?" Ashley is Carson's friend. Ashley lives in the apartment directly above Carson. They are in the same Taekwondo class. Carson wants to spend time with someone who is as excited as he is.

"Not before breakfast," his mom says. "Eat up. You have a big day ahead."

Carson eats quickly. He is too excited to be hungry. He asks again, "Mom, may I please, please go see Ashley?"

Carson's mom sighs. She nods. Carson runs out of the apartment. He sprints up the stairs and knocks softly on Ashley's door. He does not want to be disrespectful to Ashley's parents.

Carson did not really need to knock at all. After one tap, Ashley flings open the door. Ashley's smile tells Carson that Ashley is about as excited as he is. They go to Ashley's room to practice their forms. Before long, it is time to go.

Their Taekwondo school is fifteen blocks away. They take the subway. Carson's mom hates the subway. Carson thinks it is kind of fun. There are always interesting people on the subway. He is always proud to wear his Taekwondo uniform on the subway.

They get off at their stop. The street is very crowded. Normally, Carson does not want to hold his mom's hand. Today, he grabs it and tugs. He just wants to get to the school.

They enter the school. The noise of the street disappears. He bows to his instructor. Carson cannot stop smiling.

The ceremony is short. Carson is awarded his green belt. He has never felt so proud. His mom takes many pictures. He is only a little embarrassed. He is secretly glad she is so proud of him.

Then a new feeling replaces his pride. Carson realizes that he really wants to earn a purple belt.

This story is mostly about:

- A. Carson earning his Taekwondo green belt.
- B. Carson learning to read.
- C. Carson eating breakfast.
- D. Taking the subway to class.

Reading for Details II

Carson and Ashley are excited because this is the day they get their green belts. Carson eats breakfast and takes the subway, but those are details of the story, not the main idea.

Why does Carson want to go to Ashley's apartment?

- A. He wants to be with someone else who is excited.
- B. His mom doesn't want him in the apartment while she makes breakfast.
- C. Ashley is Carson's Taekwondo instructor.
- D. Ashley is teaching Carson Taekwondo.

Carson wants to go visit Ashley to be around someone who is as excited as he is. Ashley is his friend, not his instructor, and they practice together.

What color belt does Carson receive at his ceremony?

- A. Green
- B. Pink
- C. Camouflage
- D. Purple

Carson is awarded his green belt. He already has his camouflage belt. At the end of the story, he wants to earn his purple belt.

You can guess that Carson likes Taekwondo because:

- A. He is excited about his belt promotion.
- B. He is a fast runner.
- C. He gets to ride the subway to class.
- D. He gets to practice in the park.

We can tell he likes Taekwondo because he is excited about his belt promotion. Carson thinks it is kind of fun to take the subway since there are always interesting people on the subway. But that is not why he likes Taekwondo. We don't know if he is a fast runner or if he practices in the park.

Something to think about:

What have you accomplished that you are really proud of?

Reading for Details II

Herăstrău Park

by Ioana Breha

Alex is a seventh grader who keeps a daily diary. Alex writes about all the interesting places and fun things that happened each day. These are a few thoughts from last week:

20 September I am so excited! I think I will not sleep tonight, because tomorrow is the day of our field trip to Bucharest.

The next day, the class gathered in the school yard. Alex waved to Adi and together they got on the bus. They had been best friends forever and had taken many field trips together. The first stop was at the most beautiful park in Bucharest, Herăstrău.

21 September It was such a beautiful and sunny day. Herăstrău is huge! Actually, it is the biggest park in Bucharest. Adi had the idea to rent bicycles and Ms. Wigner agreed. We rode our bicycles to the Village Museum which is inside the park. After we paid 10 lei for the ticket, we stepped into the museum. Wow! During a two hour visit, I travelled to every part of Romania. It is an open air museum, so I felt like I was in a real village. There were big traditional houses and churches from the three regions of Romania: Transylvania, Moldavia, and Walachia. We could enter every house and see different objects people used to make bread or to sew their clothes. It was interesting to know a little more about my Romanian ancestors. After this, we went to eat ice cream, but Adi chose some big donuts with chocolate.

They boarded a boat for the trip across Herăstrău Lake. During their twenty-five minute boat ride, they saw gulls, ducks, and swans. After such a full afternoon, they were all hungry, so Ms. Wigner decided that they should go and eat.

21 September My teacher took us to Sarpele Roz, a place with traditional Romanian food. I may be biased, but it is the best. I chose to eat sarmale, a mix of rice and beef, folded in cabbage. This was our last stop before going home. It is almost time for bed, but I had a great day. Bucharest is a beautiful city with many places to visit.

This story is mostly about:

- A. A trip to Bucharest.
- B. Riding in a sarmale.
- C. Gulls, ducks and swans.
- D. Romanian ancestors.

Alex wrote in the diary about the birds on the lake and about Romanian ancestors, but it is just a quick note. The main idea of the story is the trip.

From this story, you can tell that:

- A. Herăstrău is a large park.
- B. There are no museums in the park.
- C. The children rode bicycles all afternoon.
- D. They enjoyed the trip to Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia.

Reading for Details II

Alex says in the diary that Herăstrău is huge, it must be if it takes twenty-five minutes to cross the lake. They didn't actually travel to Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia. They saw traditional houses from those areas. Also, the children didn't ride bicycles all afternoon, just to the museum.

Sarmale is:

- A. A traditional Romanian food.
- B. The name of Alex's best friend.
- C. The name of the restaurant where they ate.
- D. The name of a park.

Alex went to Herăstrău park with Adi and they ate sarmale at the Sarpele Roz restaurant.

You can guess that:

- A. Many of the stories in the diary are about Alex and Adi.
- B. Parks are just for picnics.
- C. Alex and Adi often take the train to Bucharest.
- D. Many of the stories in the diary are about Alex and Sarmale.

Since Alex and Adi are best friends, there are probably more stories about them in the diary. The diary says that Alex was really excited about the trip, so it was probably not something that happened often. There are lots of things to do in this park, so parks are not just for picnics. Sarmale is a kind of food, not a person.

Something to think about:

If you could go on a field trip, where would you go and what would you see?

Reading for Details II

Joe's First Job—A story of the 1930s by Jeanette Cottrell and Joe

Joe looked through the store window. There it was, a bright red Pilot bicycle. It had a tail light and a push-button horn. If he had a fast bike like that, he could go anywhere. He wished it didn't cost so much. It was \$27.50.

He had to get a job to make money. For a boy, there was only one paying job. He'd have to deliver newspapers on foot. There was one good thing, though. He'd make 25 cents a day!

Joe's route was three miles long. When it was muddy, it felt as if it took forever. Every week, he collected the money from each house. He carried it to Mr. White's news agency. Mr. White counted out Joe's dollar and fifty cents.

Joe thought that his mother worked hard taking care of the family. She deserved a newspaper for free. He paid for it himself out of his earnings.

Sometimes, Joe went to the Firestone store. He didn't just look in the window. He was making money, so he'd be a customer soon. Joe went in and studied the bike. He ran a finger over its glossy finish. A man was talking to the manager. The man smiled at him. Joe remembered his name. It was Mr. Clarke, who owned the drug store.

Joe said, "I'm going to buy that bike."

"How much have you saved so far?"

"Seven dollars and fifty cents," he said proudly.

"Good for you. You just keep saving."

Autumn came. The rain and snow came day after day. Customers were picky. They wanted papers put inside the door, so they didn't get wet. Mr. Clarke's paper went right to the drug store counter. It took time, but Joe always did it. He might get a tip, someday. It never happened, though.

At last the day came. Joe stuck his pay into the bag with his savings. He ran to the Firestone store. He poured his money onto the counter. Nickels and dimes spun everywhere. The manager laughed.

"Great job, boy. The bike's all yours!"

The doorbell jangled. Mr. Clarke walked in, smiling.

"Look, Mr. Clarke! I did it! I bought my bike!"

"You did, indeed. Do you like delivering papers?"

"Not really, but it's a good job."

Mr. Clarke nodded. "Tell you what. I need a delivery boy at my store, a boy with a bike. I'll pay twice what

Reading for Details II

you get now. What do you think?”

“Yes, sir! I’d love to!”

This story is mostly about:

- A. Joe earning money to buy a bike.
- B. Mr. Clarke.
- C. Delivering newspapers.
- D. The Firestone store.

The story is about Joe, who wants a bicycle and has to earn the money himself. Mr. Clarke shows up in the story a lot, but the story isn’t about him.

What does Mr. Clarke do?

- A. He owns a drug store.
- B. He works in a tire store.
- C. He owns a newspaper agency.
- D. He sells bicycles.

Mr. Clarke owns a drug store and wants his paper delivered to the counter.

What is special about the bicycle?

- A. It is a red Pilot bicycle, with a tail light.
- B. It is a blue Harley-Davidson.
- C. It is a red Schwinn bicycle with a push-button horn.
- D. It is a green Pilot bicycle with a tail light and a push-button horn.

The bicycle is a red Pilot bicycle with a tail light and a push-button horn.

You can guess that:

- A. Joe’s parents didn’t have a lot of money.
- B. Mr. Clarke is Joe’s uncle.
- C. Mr. Firestone likes Joe.
- D. Mr. White doesn’t like Joe.

If Joe was related to Mr. Clarke he would already know his name and wouldn’t have to remember it. Joe works for Mr. White, so he probably likes him. But we really don’t know how he feels about Joe. There is a Firestone store in the story, but no Mr. Firestone.

Something to think about:

What do you do to earn money for things you want to buy?

Reading for Details II

Just a Normal Day by Victoria Zurakowski

Kata and Piri are twins who live in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Like every other morning, their mother shook them trying to wake them up. They were deep sleepers. It was always a struggle to get them out of bed.

“Get up you two! It’s time for school,” their mother said impatiently.

They grumbled as they pulled on their clothes. As they walked into the kitchen, the smell of their grandmother’s freshly baked byrek filled the air. The smell quickly perked them up and their stomachs rumbled.

“Mmm that smells good,” Kata muttered, happy that Grandma had made their favorite breakfast.

They hungrily ate their breakfast preparing for another day at school. At exactly 7:30 they heard the usual honking sound. The bus had arrived to pick them up. They piled onto the bus and greeted their friends.

Their day began with a test. They cringed as their teacher collected their tests. The bell rang. They were relieved that the next hour was gym class. At least they could forget about the difficult test they had just sat.

During the break, all the kids gathered in the schoolyard. They played and shouted until their teacher gestured for them to return to class.

“I can’t wait for this day to be over,” Kata told Piri, who was running ahead.

Piri turned back to Kata and shouted, “I know, but don’t forget we’ve got English after school.”

Piri loved English. Their English teacher was sweet and sympathetic. She taught them all about life in the US. They dreamed of studying abroad when they were older, especially Piri. Piri has dreams of one day becoming a great scientist. They understand that to follow their dreams they must work hard.

This story is mostly about:

- A. A typical school day for Kata and Piri.
- B. An unusual day for Kata and Piri.
- C. Playing sports in Albania.
- D. A typical school day in Romania.

The story is about Kata and Piri and a normal school day in Albania. The story does mention gym class, but it doesn’t say if they played sports.

Byrek is:

- A. Baked food.
- B. Ice-cream.
- C. Fried food.
- D. Boiled food.

Reading for Details II

It mentions that they could smell freshly baked byrek. It doesn't tell us in the story but byrek is philo dough that is filled with cheese, minced meat, or vegetables.

After school Kata and Piri have:

- A. Extra lessons.
- B. A trip to the US.
- C. Dinner with their English teacher.
- D. Gym class.

Piri shouted to Kata that they had English. English refers to their English lesson because their teacher was mentioned. Gym class was during the day. The story doesn't mention dinner.

You can guess that:

- A. Kata and Piri live with their grandmother.
- B. Albanian kids don't eat breakfast.
- C. Albanian children don't get to play during school hours.
- D. Albanian school life is different from life in other countries

The story mentions gym and a break during school hours so they do get to play. We learn that the kids have math and gym class and have play breaks during the day. So school life is similar to other countries. Kata and Piri woke up to fresh smelling byrek baked by their grandmother. If it had been freshly baked in the morning, it means that the grandmother probably lives at their house.

Something to think about:

How would you describe a typical school day in your country?

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Reading for Details II

Lawrence Avenue—Part 1

by Milton Shocket

There was a time when my life was a lot different. Let's travel down a street in Chicago called Lawrence Avenue. The year is 1935.

Our first stop is the tailor shop. The tailor could make you a suit or repair your clothing. It cost fifty cents to have a suit cleaned and pressed. Dress shirts cost twenty-five cents. You had a choice of on or off a hanger. The place always smelled of cleaning fluid.

Our next stop is the grocery store. You tell the clerk what you want to buy. He would take it off the shelf and put it in a paper bag. Silver Cup white bread sold for fifteen cents a loaf. He would write down your purchases on butcher paper. Then he would add them up in his head. They didn't have calculators then.

The barbershop had an aroma all its own. It smelled like hair tonic. The shop contained three chairs. A sign said "no waiting". In front of the shop was a striped barber pole. A hair cut cost fifty cents. For an extra thirty-five cents it would include a shave. The shop also offered shoeshines for twenty-five cents. For one dollar and fifteen cents, you could feel like a king.

The smell in the deli was heavenly and overwhelming. The deli gave off an aroma from the pickles, sauerkraut, and green tomatoes. They were all in barrels. I still yearn for a fresh dill pickle!

The owner stood behind the counter. He wore a white apron. It never seemed to be all white. Behind the counter were huge salamis. There was a slicing machine on a table. Next to it were large piles of corned-beef and pastrami. I liked mustard with my sandwich. He would fold some butcher paper into the shape of a cone. Then he poured in the mustard. The house special was an egg cream drink. It was a mixture of cream, chocolate, and seltzer.

Moving on down the street we come to the Butcher Shop. The shop had a large meat counter. On the wood chopping block there were several sharp knives. I grew up thinking that all meat and chicken could only be boiled. One day I found out there was such a thing called fried foods.

I never went in the corset shop. I can't say much about it. The display windows had various styles of corsets.

This story is mostly about:

- A. A city street in 1935.
- B. Buying clothes in 1935.
- C. A shopping mall.
- D. Old people.

The story talks about the prices of clothes in the tailor shop but there are other shops on the street too.

Which shop had a sign saying, "no waiting"?

- A. The barber shop.
- B. The corset shop.
- C. The deli.
- D. The grocery store.

Reading for Details II

We learned that only the barber shop had a sign saying, “no waiting”.

One kind of food the story teller likes is:

- A. Fresh dill pickles.
- B. Lasagna.
- C. White bread.
- D. Chicken.

The story mentions white bread and chicken. And we know the story teller bought a sandwich at the deli. Since the story teller said they still yearn for a fresh dill pickle, they probably like them.

You can guess that:

- A. Lawrence Street was a busy place.
- B. Most of the shops in 1935 were in the mall.
- C. You couldn't buy lunch on Lawrence street.
- D. The grocery store clerk used a calculator instead of a cash register.

There were many different kinds of shops on Lawrence Street, so it was probably a busy place. The story talks about buying a sandwich at the deli, so you could buy lunch there. There were no electronic calculators then so the clerk would write your purchases on paper and add them up in his head.

Something to think about:

The egg cream drink was a mixture of cream, chocolate, and seltzer. Why do you think it was called an egg cream?

LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS

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Reading for Details II

Lawrence Avenue—Part 2

by Milton Shocket

In 1935 the center of Lawrence Avenue had tracks for the streetcars. For seven cents you could ride for miles. The cars were painted red. A motorman was in front. A conductor stood in the rear. The electricity came from an overhead line. The El Train was an elevated train that ran from Lawrence Avenue to the Chicago Loop. The cost was ten cents.

The Terminal Theater was the place for movies. There was a large sign on the marquee. It said “Air Conditioned” in big letters. It was the place to be on a hot summer day. The first movie I remember was Cinderella. For fifty cents adults could see a double feature, newsreel, cartoon, and coming attractions. Children got in for twenty-five cents. On the weekend they had serials. Each week you would have to return to see what happened next. It was the babysitter of the times.

The Bowling Alley had twelve lanes. Pinsetters stood behind each lane. In the early forties automatic pinsetters were installed. The cost was thirty-five cents per lane. You could rent shoes for fifteen cents. The afternoons and weekends were for league bowling. All other times were called open bowling. A large part of their income came from a restaurant inside the alley.

The drug store had an ice cream soda bar. They made hot fudge sundaes and sodas. They also made Cokes with lemon, cherry, or any flavor you might want. This was all for five cents. The malted milk was thick. It was made with real ice cream. The center of the drug store was stocked with general merchandise. The druggist was in the rear of the store. Kids would hang out in front of the drugstore. A lot of them wore cowboy hats and western shirts. People started calling the kids “Drugstore Cowboys”.

In the shoe repair shop there were rows of shoes to be repaired. To keep the cost down, most people would order half soles. People would repair their shoes several times until the upper parts of the shoe would fall apart. The odor of tanned leather and rubber cement was always present.

If you had a problem with your coffee maker, toaster, Mixmaster, or other small appliance, you could take it to the Fix It Shop. The owner would repair it and make it like new again. Today, there are not any shops like this around.

This story was mostly about:

- A. Shops and entertainment on Lawrence Avenue.
- B. Streetcars.
- C. Things to do on Saturday afternoon.
- D. Shops and entertainment on Milton Avenue.

The story talks about streetcars, a theater and bowling alley as well as some shops. While you could go to the movies or bowling on weekends, it wasn't the main idea of the story. The street is called Lawrence Avenue, not Milton Avenue.

In the story, the drug store sold:

- A. Hot fudge sundaes.
- B. Prescription medicine.
- C. Mixmasters and small appliances.
- D. Serials.

Reading for Details II

The druggist was in the back of the store where prescriptions were filled, but the story doesn't mention them. The author was more interested in the things at the soda fountain—like hot fudge sundaes. Mixmasters and small appliances were fixed at the Fix It Shop. Serials are movies shown on weekends.

On weekends the movie theatre had:

- A. Serials.
- B. Free admission.
- C. Triple features.
- D. Air conditioning.

On weekends they had serials. The air conditioning was probably available any time it was hot. The story never mentioned free admission or triple features.

You can guess that:

- A. There were lots of kids at the movie theatre and drug store on weekends.
- B. Kids weren't allowed on Lawrence Avenue without an adult.
- C. There were lots of kids at the shoe repair shop on weekends.
- D. There were lots of kids at the playground on weekends.

We learned that the “Drugstore Cowboys” hung out at the drugstore and that movies were the babysitter of the times. So kids were allowed on the street by themselves. Since they didn't have school on weekends, there were probably a lot of kids at the movies and the drugstore on weekends. There doesn't seem to be much for kids to do at the shoe repair shop.

Something to think about:

Why do you think people would have their shoes repaired instead of buying new ones?

Reading for Details II

Lily the Elephant by Jeanette Cottrell

Lily is a baby Asian elephant at the Oregon Zoo. When she was born, she weighed 300 pounds. She's over a year old now. Compared to grown elephants, Lily is very small. They are about ten times her size. When a baby elephant is born, the mother helps the baby stand up. If it doesn't stand up, it won't be able to drink milk. A brand new baby drinks up to 3 gallons of milk a day. Lily still drinks milk from her mother. She eats other food, too. She eats leaves and hay.

There's a lot for a baby elephant to learn. It's hard to learn to walk if you are 300 pounds. The elephant has to balance a lot of weight on four stout legs. A new baby can trip over its trunk. As it gets older, it learns to walk without falling. It uses its trunk to drink water, pick up a carrot, or scratch an itch. It can even pick fruit off of a tree with its trunk.

Lily loves fruit. When there's fruit for dinner, she pushes right in with the other elephants. She wants her share and she gets it. She loves apples and carrots. Her trainers use fruits and vegetables as treats when they train her. Trainers do a lot of work with elephants. Lily is learning many things that will make her life easier.

If an elephant has a toothache, a keeper must look inside its mouth. If the elephant isn't trained, working on its teeth is dangerous. Elephants learn to pick up their feet when a trainer asks. If there is a cut or an infection, the keeper must be able to treat it. This kind of training makes it possible to take care of an elephant.

There are some stories about elephants that have wrong information in them. Elephants don't really like peanuts. They would much rather have carrots. They aren't afraid of mice, either. But there are some things elephants just hate. They really, really, really, don't like ants. Ants can crawl inside of an elephant's trunk. Then the trunk itches very badly. It's hard to get rid of the ants.

Lily likes to play. She has a brother named Sam. He is five years older than she is. They climb on a huge pile of sand and push each other off. She likes playing in the pool too. When she's lonely, she bellows until Sam comes to play. Elephants can be very noisy, even the small ones.

This story is mostly about:

- A. Young elephants.
- B. An elephant named Sam.
- C. Elephants living in the wild.
- D. Teaching a baby elephant to stand up.

The story talks a lot about Lily. But it's about other young elephants too. It also talks about how young elephants are trained, what they eat, and how they like to play.

Sam is an elephant in the story, but he is mentioned only once. Lily lives in a zoo with other elephants—not in the wild.

Baby elephants have to learn to stand up so they can drink. The story doesn't talk about teaching the baby to do this.

Reading for Details II

Why is it important to train an elephant?

- A. So that a keeper can take care of it when it's hurt.
- B. So they can do tricks in a circus.
- C. So they can play games with each other.
- D. So they eat the right kind of food.

The trainers teach elephants to open their mouths and lift their feet. That way keepers can safely help them if the elephants get hurt.

Lily and Sam do play games but it doesn't sound like the kind of game they would be taught.

The keepers and Lily's mother provide all the food she eats. She can't get any food that's not good for her.

Which of these sentences is true?

- A. Elephants don't like ants.
- B. Elephants are afraid of mice.
- C. Lily's mother wouldn't feed her.
- D. Lily is an African elephant.

Elephants don't like ants because ants can go inside their trunks. It itches a lot, and it's hard to get rid of them. The story explains that elephants are not afraid of mice. That's an untrue story that is often told about elephants. Lily still drinks milk from her mother. Elephants live in Asia and Africa, but we learned that Lily is an Asian elephant.

You can guess that:

- A. Elephants can get sick or be injured.
- B. Elephants can run by the time they are two weeks old.
- C. Lily has a picky appetite.
- D. Lily is shy around other elephants.

Keepers must take care of elephants when they are hurt. That is why trainers work with elephants to teach them to lift their legs and open their mouths. The story says that learning to walk is hard, but doesn't mention running. Since Lily pushes her way into the herd to get her share, she is probably not a picky eater. If Lily is lonely, she bellows until Sam comes to play with her. She pushes her way into the herd if she wants something. She is not shy.

Something to think about:

Can you think of other animals that require a lot of care and training?

Reading for Details II

Looking for the Loch Ness Monster

by Janet Davies of Oxenhill Ltd.

Chris and Robin are cousins. They are on vacation in Scotland with their parents. “Let’s walk down to the lake,” suggests Chris’s mom on the first day of their break. “Perhaps we’ll spot the Loch Ness monster.”

Many people believe that there is a monster in Loch Ness. There is no real proof that she exists, though. There are some photographs of the monster, but they are not very clear. Some of the photos may be fakes.

Chris and Robin help pack up supplies for a day of monster-spotting. They pack sandwiches, hot drinks, fruit, and chocolate. They pack folding chairs, binoculars, and a camera. Then they set off for the lake.

“Loch is the Scottish word for lake,” explains Chris’s mom, “and Loch Ness is the biggest loch of them all! There is lots of water here for Nessie to hide in.”

It is very busy by the loch. Lots of tourists have come to look for the monster. The local people make money by selling souvenirs to the visitors. Robin buys a cuddly Nessie toy and a key ring to take home.

“The monster would be too scared to show up here,” says Mom. “It’s far too busy. Let’s walk farther along the lake shore.”

They have to walk quite a long way to find a quiet spot. Finally, they reach a deserted part of the lake, far away from the crowds. They sit down on their comfortable folding chairs, facing the loch. As they eat their picnic, they look out over the water, just in case Nessie shows up. They peer through their binoculars whenever they see the surface of the water ripple.

Soon Chris’s Mom is asleep in her chair, snoring.

Chris and Robin keep looking.

Suddenly, Chris jumps up.

“I saw a flipper in the water!”

Robin looks through the binoculars. Yes! There is something black swimming out there! Perhaps it’s Nessie visiting this quiet part of Loch Ness?

They watch as the black object swims towards them.

“Quick! Take a picture!” shouts Chris.

What a disappointment. A diver in a wetsuit wades towards them.

“Good afternoon,” says the diver. “Have you saved a tuna sandwich for me?”

Reading for Details II

This story is mostly about:

- A. Two cousins hoping to spot the Loch Ness monster.
- B. How busy the monster is, visiting the tourists.
- C. A picnic by the lake.
- D. Collecting monster souvenirs.

Chris and Robin hope that they will see the Loch Ness monster. We definitely don't find out that the monster has been meeting the tourists! The two cousins do have a picnic and Robin buys souvenirs. But, these two things are just small parts of the story.

What did the family take when they went monster-spotting?

- A. Folding chairs, binoculars and a camera.
- B. A Nessie identification book.
- C. A cuddly Nessie toy.
- D. A key ring.

Chris, Robin, and Mom take chairs, binoculars, and a camera to the lake shore. They do not take an identification book. This wasn't mentioned in the story. The Nessie toy and key ring are just souvenirs they buy for fun. They won't help find a real monster!

Why do they think they have found the monster

- A. They see a flipper in the water.
- B. Nessie swims up to them.
- C. They take a picture of the monster.
- D. A diver says he has found the monster.

Chris and Robin mistake the diver for the Loch Ness monster. The story doesn't say that Nessie swims up to them. Chris does try to get Robin to take a picture, but this is before they realize that it's a diver in the water. The diver doesn't say that he has found the monster. He asks for a sandwich.

From reading the story, you can guess that:

- A. Nobody has found the Loch Ness monster. Yet.
- B. Tourists have discovered the Loch Ness monster.
- C. The Loch Ness monster only likes the quiet parts of the lake.
- D. Divers only eat tuna sandwiches.

Nobody has come up with real proof that the monster exists. Tourists visit for fun, but they have never spotted her. There is no proof that she is in a quiet part of the lake. Divers probably like all sorts of sandwiches. We can't tell which they prefer!

Something to think about:

What would you do if you saw a monster?

Reading for Details II

Making Supper

by Lily Erlic and Gordon Miller

Dylan's mom is a busy lawyer in an office downtown. Sometimes she has an important case to prepare for and can't make it home in time to make supper. When Dylan got home from school, there was a message on the answering machine.

"I'm going to be late tonight. I should be home at 6:30. Could you make supper tonight? I don't know what ingredients we have, but I'm sure you'll think of something! See you tonight."

Dylan looked in the refrigerator. There was cheese, milk, carrots, and butter. In the cupboard there was flour, salt, and macaroni.

"I could make carrot soup but we don't have any celery or onions. Too bad. That's my favorite."

"I guess I'll make macaroni and cheese instead. And I can shred some carrots and put them on top."

Dylan liked making meals and watching cooking shows. The cooking shows that showed how to make fast, easy meals were the best. Once, there was a program that demonstrated how to make pasta. It wasn't fast and easy. The show where they made muffins, cakes, and cookies was good too.

Dylan looked in the recipe box for the macaroni and cheese recipe. Under the cooktop was a saucepan that was just the right size. In went the butter. When it was melted, flour was added a little at a time and stirred so it stayed smooth. It doesn't say to add the the milk and keep stirring until your arm aches. But it should. Next comes a little salt and the cheese. The sauce was ready.

There was a big pot in the pantry that they used for making pasta. It was heavy when it was half-full of water. The box of macaroni said to bring the water to a boil and cook for 10-12 minutes. Dylan wondered when the pasta should be put on the stove.

"OK. Let's work backwards. If Mom comes home at 6:30 and the pasta takes 10 minutes to cook that means I should put it in boiling water at 6:20. But this much water will probably take 15 minutes to boil. I guess I should put the water on at 6:00. Then I'll have plenty of time to strain it."

After the pasta was done and strained, the cheese sauce was stirred in. Dylan put some shredded carrots on top for a great garnish. Mom came home and was so happy to find a meal waiting for her!

"Thank you, Dylan!"

"I hope you like it," said Dylan. "I really had fun making it!"

"It's delicious! You are a great cook!" said Mom.

The story is mostly about:

- A. Making supper.
- B. Ordering takeout.
- C. Mom working late.
- D. Muffins, cakes, and cookies.

Reading for Details II

The story is mostly about making supper because Dylan's mom had to work late.

What was in the refrigerator?

- A. Cheese, milk, carrots, and butter.
- B. Celery, broccoli, peppers, and parsley.
- C. Onions, garlic, tomatoes, and cucumbers.
- D. Watermelon, grapes, pears, and apples.

Dylan saw cheese, milk, carrots, and butter in the refrigerator.

What kind of cooking shows did Dylan like the best?

- A. Shows about fast and easy meals.
- B. Cake and cookie shows.
- C. Pasta shows.
- D. Pizza shows.

Dylan liked cooking shows that demonstrated fast and easy meals the most. Dylan thought that cake and cookie shows are good too. Pasta shows were mentioned, but we don't know if Dylan likes them.

After reading the story you can guess that:

- A. Dylan had made supper before.
- B. Dylan's mom usually ordered pizza when she worked late.
- C. Dylan decided to make pizza.
- D. Dylan didn't learn anything from cooking shows.

Dylan saw what was in the refrigerator and then decided to make macaroni and cheese. It's likely that Dylan had made macaroni and cheese for supper before. The message on the answering machine indicates that it was not unusual for Dylan's mom to work late and ask Dylan to make supper.

Something to think about:

What would you make for dinner?

Reading for Details II

Can you think of any other animals that would be good service animals?

Natee and the Train

by Edward Alan Kurtz

Natee lives in Thailand, a country in Asia. Natee's family lives in a house in a village.

All the children in the village go to the same school. In Thailand, people speak and read and write in the Thai language. At school, the village children learn how to read and write Thai.

One day, Natee's whole school went on a trip together. Everyone was really excited because they were going to a big city called Korat. And the best part was that they were going to ride on a train!

On the day of the trip, Natee and all the other students and their teachers waited at the train station near the village. When the train arrived, everyone got on the train. They sat down on the seats. Soon the whistle blew and the train slowly started to leave the station.

It was an old train. It was not very fast. You could open the windows. This was good, because it was a hot day. The air coming in the windows felt good. The train was very crowded but Natee was lucky. A seat next to the window!

It was fun to look out the window. The students saw lots of rice fields, trees, animals, villages, roads, and cars.

When the train stopped at Korat, the teachers led all the students off the train, across the station platform, and out of the station.

In Korat, they visited a very famous statue. It is called Lady Mo. Lady Mo was someone who helped fight the enemies of Korat many years ago. Today, many people from Korat visit this statue. They place flowers around the statue to thank Lady Mo for saving their city.

After the students visited the statue, it was time for lunch! The teachers led all the students to a restaurant near the statue. There were lots of different kinds of dishes for the students to try. There were some rice dishes, some dishes with fish or chicken, and some vegetable dishes.

After lunch, everyone was a little sleepy, but it was time to head back to the train station. At the station, they waited until the train stopped, and then everyone got on board. Soon they heard the whistle of the train, and they were on their way home.

Back at home, Natee's family was excited to hear the story about the train ride and Lady Mo!

This story is mostly about:

- A. School children riding a train to visit Korat.
- B. Learning how to drive a train.
- C. School children riding a bus to visit Korat.
- D. Parents taking their children to see a statue.

The children took a train to spend the day in the big city of Korat. They went with their teacher, not their parents.

Reading for Details II

What was special about the train in the story?

- A. The windows could be opened to allow fresh air to come in.
- B. It was pulled by an elephant.
- C. The windows were very clean.
- D. The train was new and fast.

We learned that it was an old, slow train, so it was not new and fast. The windows must have been clean enough to see the sights along the way. But, we don't know how clean the windows were.

Who is Lady Mo?

- A. She was a famous person who helped save Korat from its enemies.
- B. She was a famous Thai singer.
- C. She was a famous person who helped poor people.
- D. She was a famous person who built a train station.

We learned that Lady Mo was someone who helped fight the enemies of Korat many years ago.

After reading the story, you can guess that:

- A. The story of Lady Mo is important to the people of Korat.
- B. Korat is a kind of Thai food.
- C. Riding trains in Thailand is dangerous.
- D. Thai children learn how to read and write French.

The people of the city erected a statue of Lady Mo, so she must have been important to them. Korat is the city where the statue is located. The Thai children may learn French in school, but the story doesn't mention it. The trains must be safe if school children ride them.

Something to think about:

How many statues of other famous people can you think of?

Reading for Details II

Natee and the Water Buffalo

by Edward Alan Kurtz

Natee lives in a village in Thailand, a country in Southeast Asia. Thailand is a hot country where it often rains, but never snows.

Natee lives in a wooden house with an older brother, younger sister, mother, father, and grandmother. The house is up on stilts because it is next to the rice fields. During the rainy season, there is so much water! Sometimes, it comes higher and higher up the steps towards the front door of Natee's house! This is why the house is up on stilts.

But no one minds the water. Everyone in the village grows rice. To grow rice, you need plenty of water. Before the rice grows, you have to plant it. And before you plant it, you have to plow the fields for the little rice plants. And to plow the fields, you need a water buffalo!

What is a water buffalo? It is a big animal that looks a little like a huge dark cow with great big scary-looking horns. But water buffalos are quite gentle. They only know how to plow the rice fields. And usually there is a little white bird that sits on top of the water buffalo's back.

One day Natee went down the steps of the house and looked for Anon, the water buffalo. Natee walked along the paths between the rice fields, and called, "Anon! Anon! Where are you?"

At the far end of all the many little rice fields, there was a small jungle. Natee walked past all the rice fields and finally came to the jungle.

"Should I go in?" Natee wondered.

There was a path and it didn't look scary. Soon Natee heard a familiar sound. It was Anon!

The sound was coming from up ahead, so Natee started to run. And there was Anon! Those extra-large horns were stuck between several trees in the jungle!

Natee had an idea. Some of the trees were not very big. They were easy to bend down out of the way. One tree bent to the right and another bent to the left. And eventually Natee was able to help free Anon!

So, instead of a white bird riding on Anon's back, Natee was able to enjoy a fun ride back to the village on top of Anon!

This story is mostly about:

- A. finding a lost water buffalo.
- B. learning how to ride an elephant.
- C. learning how to plant rice.
- D. a water buffalo named Natee.

From the story we learn that the water buffalo is named Anon and it belongs to Natee's family. The story talks about how important rain is when growing rice, but we don't learn how to plant it. Most of the story is about finding Anon when it was lost.

Reading for Details II

The horns of the water buffalo:

- A. are very wide.
- B. make a honking sound.
- C. are made of rice.
- D. friendly looking.

We learned that they have great big scary-looking horns. They are so wide that they got stuck in the trees. Scary-looking horns aren't very friendly looking.

Why is Natee's house built up on stilts?

- A. So that the family is safe if the rains bring a lot of water.
- B. Because the family doesn't want any snow to blow under the house.
- C. So that the family can sit on the steps and wash their clothes.
- D. So that the family can jump on boats that pass in front of their house.

The house is on stilts because, during the rainy season, water comes up to the steps of the house. The family probably could wash their clothes from the front steps and jump on boats. Those activities weren't mentioned in the story.

After reading the story you can guess that:

- A. a water buffalo is an important animal to village families in Thailand.
- B. it is not necessary to have water to grow rice.
- C. Natee's house had only one room.
- D. Natee's family watched TV every night.

Without a water buffalo Natee's family would not be able to grow rice. So it is very important to them. We learned that rain can cause problems but it is necessary for growing rice. The story doesn't mention how many rooms are in the house or whether they watched TV.

Something to think about:

Why do you think a bird would ride on Anon's back?

Reading for Details II

Natee Takes a Bike Ride

by Edward Alan Kurtz

Natee's family lives in a village in Thailand. They have a big field next to their house where they grow rice.

Natee goes to school just like all the other children in the village. Sometimes they ride their bikes together after school.

One day, after school, Natee said, "I want to go on an adventure!" So two of the village children joined Natee and they jumped on their bikes.

They left the village and pedalled their bikes along the rice fields. It wasn't very long before the children were beyond the rice fields. And now the road started to go through the jungle!

It was a wide road, and there were lots of trees and vines on both sides.

"Do you think we should turn around and go back to our village?" asked Natee.

But neither of the other two children wanted to go back yet. They wanted to go just a little bit farther.

And then they saw it. It was an elephant!

There was a man riding on top of a big elephant in front of them on the road! They all stopped and stood beside their bikes and watched. The elephant walked very slowly, one foot at a time, and soon it was just in front of them.

"Would you like a ride?" asked the mahout. A mahout is the name of the person who takes care of an elephant. A mahout finds food for the elephant and helps the elephant take a bath.

All the children were so excited. "Yes, please!" they shouted.

They parked their bikes along the road. The mahout asked the elephant to get down on its knees. Then the mahout helped the children climb onto the elephant's back.

Next, the mahout asked the elephant to stand up. "Hold on, children!" he shouted. The children really did have to hold on tightly! The elephant moved back and forth a lot as it stood up.

Finally, the elephant was standing and the mahout led it down the road. The children were so happy! They had never been this close to an elephant. And they had never been able to ride one.

The children wanted an adventure, and they got their wish!

This story is mostly about:

- A. Natee taking a bike ride and an elephant ride.
- B. A group of children walking to school.
- C. Three children watching an elephant at a circus.
- D. Natee helping to feed an elephant.

Reading for Details II

The story doesn't say how the children get to school. On this day, they rode their bikes after school and met an elephant. It was on the path, not in a circus. And they rode it. They did not feed it.

Where did Natee and the other two children ride their bikes?

- A. To a jungle.
- B. To the beach.
- C. To a rice field.
- D. To the next village.

The children rode past the rice fields and into the jungle. The path might have gone to the next village or the beach, but we don't know where it went.

What are some things that a mahout does for an elephant?

- A. A mahout gives food to an elephant and helps the elephant take a bath.
- B. A mahout helps an elephant to get on a bike and take a ride.
- C. A mahout walks the elephant to the circus.
- D. A mahout teaches an elephant how to do a cartwheel.

We learned in the story that the mahout feeds the elephant and helps the elephant take a bath. The mahout must have taught the elephant to kneel, but probably not to do cartwheels.

After reading the story, you can guess that:

- A. It is a lot of fun to ride on top of an elephant.
- B. An elephant can talk to its mahout.
- C. There are no elephants in Thailand.
- D. Natee does not know how to ride a bike.

The story takes place in Thailand, so there must be elephants there. They were riding bikes on the path, so Natee must know how to ride a bike. The children were happy to ride on the elephant, so it must be fun.

Something to think about:

How many of your friends would fit on the top of an elephant?

Reading for Details II

Natee's Birthday Dinner

by Edward Alan Kurtz

Thailand is a very hot country in Asia. You might think that the people of Thailand would like to eat cold food. But instead of eating cold food, Thai people love to eat hot and spicy food!

Everyone in Natee's family loves spicy food. They live together in a wooden house in a village in Thailand. Most people who live in villages in Thailand do not sit on chairs at a table to eat. They usually sit on a mat on the floor inside their house. Sometimes they place the large mat out on the front porch.

One day it was Natee's birthday. Everyone knows one another in small villages, so the whole village was invited to the party. Natee's whole family helped to prepare the meal.

The most important part of every Thai meal is white rice. In Thailand, this is called "kao suay". "Kao" (sounds like "cow") means "rice". "Suay" (sounds like "Sue - eye") means "beautiful". So, in Thailand, white rice is beautiful rice!

What makes Thai food so spicy? It's the chili peppers! They are red and long and skinny.

Natee's family made their own chili sauce. First they had to crush the chili peppers. To do this, they use a mortar and pestle. A mortar is a small strong bowl, usually made out of wood or stone. The pestle looks almost like a tiny baseball bat and is used to grind things.

They put the chili peppers into the bottom of the mortar. Then they hold the pestle with their hands and grind and grind. Soon the chili peppers are smooth like a paste. Next, it is time to add some other things like water, sugar, and garlic. After a lot of work, their chili sauce is ready!

Natee's family placed many mats on their big front porch for the guests. Everyone sat on the mats and looked at all the wonderful dishes.

One dish was called "Tom Ka Gai" (sounds like "tom - ka - guy"). This is a tasty soup made from chicken, coconut milk, vegetables, and spices. Another dish was called "Gaeng Phet Gai" (sounds like "gang - pet - guy"). This is also made from chicken but is not a soup. It is a spicy curry dish. There were many other dishes.

And, of course, the rice! Everyone enjoyed eating the "beautiful rice" and all the other dishes at Natee's birthday party.

This story is mostly about:

- A. The Thai food served at Natee's birthday party.
- B. Why Thai people do not like to eat white rice.
- C. How to put mats down on the floor of a house in Thailand.
- D. How to make chili sauce.

Natee lives in Thailand, so they eat Thai food. They enjoy eating the "beautiful rice". We did learn how to make chili sauce, but that was a detail in the story, not what the story is was mostly about.

Reading for Details II

Where do Thai people in the villages sit to eat their meals?

- A. Thai people sit on mats that are placed on the floor.
- B. Thai people sit in their cars when they eat their meals.
- C. Thai people sit on chairs made of wood or stone.
- D. Thai people eat standing up.

We learned in the story that most people in the villages sit on mats to eat. Usually they are in the house, but sometimes they put them on the porch.

How do Thai people grind chili peppers?

- A. They use a mortar and pestle.
- B. They make an elephant stomp on the peppers.
- C. They grind them with a stone on top of a wooden table.
- D. They use a mortar and pistol.

We were told that Natee's family crushed the peppers with a mortar and pestle. They did not use any of the other methods. Pistol and pestle are similar-looking words but they mean different things.

After reading the story, you can guess that:

- A. Natee has lots of friends and family.
- B. It is too hot to grow rice in Thailand.
- C. All the guests sat on chairs.
- D. Natee's birthday was in July.

They invited too many people to eat in the house, so they had to eat outside. Lots of people must have come to Natee's party. The meal of rice and spicy dishes was served on the porch. The guests sat on mats. The story doesn't tell us the date of Natee's birthday.

Something to think about:

Do you think you would like to eat some really spicy Thai food?

Reading for Details II

One Stormy Night

by Janet Davies of Oxenhill Ltd.

“Stuff and nonsense!” shouted Grandma at the TV weather presenter. “If we have a hurricane tonight, I’ll eat my hat!”

Chris and Kim smiled at each other. Their grandma often shouted at people on the telly. She thought that the presenters could hear what she was saying.

“Grandma,” said Chris, “it really does look as if we’ll have a big storm tonight. We may not be able to get to school tomorrow if the roads are blocked by falling trees.”

“Hurray!” shouted Kim. “A day off school!”

“We’ll see about that,” said Grandma. “I bet we just have a bit of a gale, with a few twigs broken off the trees.”

“That’s gale force eight on the Beaufort scale!” said Chris, excitedly.

“What do you mean?” asked Kim. “What’s a Beaufort scale?”

“It’s a way to describe how strong the wind is,” explained Chris. “It was invented by a British naval officer called Francis Beaufort in 1805. It helps everyone describe windy conditions in the same way. If the leaves are just rustling in the breeze, the wind is blowing at gale force two. A hurricane is gale force twelve, with winds of over seventy four miles an hour. It can tear up trees and blow roofs off.”

Chris could see that Kim was a bit worried by this.

“Don’t worry! We hardly ever get winds that strong here in Great Britain.”

The next morning when Kim woke up, it was strangely quiet outside. There were no cars driving past their house. There were no trains passing through the nearby station.

“That’s funny,” thought Kim, sleepily. “My alarm clock didn’t go off. What time is it?”

Chris came running in.

“We’ve had a power cut! And have you seen the tree that’s fallen across the road?”

Kim jumped out of bed and ran to the window.

“Hey, there must have been a real storm last night!”

“You mean you didn’t hear it?” asked Chris. “It kept me awake all night. I thought the roof was going to blow off!”

“I was fast asleep,” said Kim. “I didn’t hear a thing.”

Reading for Details II

They ran downstairs. Grandma was reaching into the cupboard in the hall.

“Good morning, you two,” she said, with a smile on her face.

She lifted her hat from the top shelf.

“I thought you’d want to see me eating this!”

This story is mostly about:

- A. Strong winds.
- B. Temperatures in Great Britain.
- C. A day off school.
- D. Grandma’s hat.

Chris and Kim hear that there is going to be a very windy night where they live. Temperatures aren’t mentioned at all. Kim is hoping that they may get a day off school, but that is only part of the story. Grandma’s hat isn’t an important part of the story.

What will happen if there is a gale force two wind?

- A. The leaves will rustle on the trees.
- B. The wind will blow trees over.
- C. There will be a power cut.
- D. Grandma’s hat will blow off.

The leaves will rustle, because there will be a light breeze. The wind will not be strong enough to blow trees over. It won’t be strong enough to cause a power cut either. The story doesn’t mention Grandma going out in the wind.

Who was Francis Beaufort?

- A. He was an officer in the British Navy.
- B. He was a weather presenter in 1805.
- C. He was a train driver.
- D. He was Kim’s teacher at school.

We learn that Beaufort was a British naval officer. There was no television in 1805, so there were no weather presenters. We don’t read anything about Kim’s teacher in this story.

After reading this story, we can guess that:

- A. School was cancelled.
- B. Chris and Kim watched TV and played on their Wii all day.
- C. Chris and Kim’s school was knocked down by falling trees.
- D. Grandma’s hat was very tasty.

We know that there was no power and no transport, so it’s likely that school was cancelled. Also, the road was blocked by a fallen tree. It is likely that many roads were blocked, so children couldn’t get to school. They couldn’t watch TV or play on their Wii because there was no power. We don’t hear whether the school was damaged. Grandma didn’t really eat her hat; it’s just a saying!

LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS

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Reading for Details II

Something to think about:

What can you do for fun if there is no power to your home?

Reading for Details II

Safety Test

by Jeanette Cottrell

Tracy pulled on the brand new helmet. “Now, can I go?”

Dad nodded. With a sigh of relief, Tracy jumped on the bike. The bike was smaller than Parker’s, but it was just as fast. They lined up together. A policeman was reading the rules, but Tracy was too excited to listen.

“Quit jumping around and listen,” Parker whispered. “Otherwise you’ll mess up on the Safety Test.”

Tracy straightened up right away. The Safety Test was important. Right now they could only ride on the sidewalk and in parking lots. Dad said that if they passed the test, they could ride to the park with their friends.

A policeman reminded them, “Be sure to stop at the stop sign.” The bike course was marked with orange cones. The policeman pointed toward one end. Tracy saw the stop sign, way past Dad’s truck.

Dad shouted some last minute advice, “Put one foot on the ground. Then look both ways before you cross the street.”

“Tracy, if a dog walker crosses the street, who has right of way?” asked Parker.

“What?” said Tracy.

Parker frowned. Tracy tried to remember what right of way meant? Oh! It meant ‘Who gets to cross the street first?’

“The dog walker?”

Parker grinned. “Right. Now listen, okay?”

Tracy listened hard and then they practiced the Safety Course. Finally, they tried the rodeo course. That was great fun. They rode around cones, making sudden turns and quick stops. It was really hard to ride in small circles. The first time, Tracy only managed two circles before falling over. The next time it was much easier.

“Tracy!” Dad called. “It’s time for your test.”

Tracy had forgotten about the test. In no time, they were standing by a police woman. Tracy handed the woman a blank score card.

“Good luck, kid,” Dad said.

Tracy concentrated on the course, riding carefully and using hand signals.

Suddenly, a dog ran out in front of the bike. It was dragging its leash. Tracy quickly stopped and put both feet on the ground.

Reading for Details II

“Ricky, come back!” The dog scampered away while a woman chased after it.

The police woman ran over to Tracy.

“Well done! That was perfect.” She held out Tracy’s score card. “You passed the Safety Test. Even the part that happened by accident!”

This story is mostly about:

- A. Tracy taking a bicycle safety test.
- B. Teaching kids to pass a motorcycle safety test.
- C. Tracy and Parker riding in a bike rodeo.
- D. A dog running away from its owner.

The story is about Tracy taking the bike safety test. Tracy practices for the test, and then takes the test.

What happened during the test that Tracy didn’t expect?

- A. A loose dog ran out into the Safety Course.
- B. Tracy almost got hit by a car.
- C. Tracy fell off the bike.
- D. A car almost hit Tracy.

Tracy is surprised when a loose dog runs across the safety course. Tracy did fall off the bike while practicing, but not during the test.

What does “right of way” mean?

- A. Who gets to cross the street first.
- B. When you turn on a street, always turn right.
- C. Always use hand signals when turning right.
- D. There’s only one “right way” to ride in a bike rodeo.

Right of way means knowing who gets to cross the street first. It doesn’t have anything to do with turning right or left.

You can guess that:

- A. The local police are running the Safety Test.
- B. Parker and Tracy’s mother is shopping.
- C. Tracy is afraid of riding a bike.
- D. Parker is mean to Tracy.

A policeman explains the rules of the Safety Test, and a police woman keeps score for Tracy. It is clear that the police are running the test. We don’t know anything about Tracy’s mother. Parker is helpful to Tracy.

Something to think about:

What did you have to learn before you could ride your bike in the street?

Reading for Details II

The Bronx Zoo

by Diana Stapleton

Today will be a day I will never forget! If I could describe it in one word, it would be “amazing!” I have been waiting for this for months. I remember back in March when Grandma and Grandpa said they had something special planned for my birthday. I asked them over and over again what the surprise was. No matter how many times I asked them, they wouldn’t tell me what it was. They said they really wanted me to be surprised.

Then one day, it happened. The secret was out. I accidentally overheard my cousin talking to my grandparents. I heard my cousin say, “I’m so glad I get to go to the Bronx Zoo with you and Mika!” That’s when I knew that this would my favorite birthday!

I absolutely love going to the zoo! I’ve been there lots of times but it has been a year since I was there last. I am so happy that Grandma and Grandpa are taking me there today.

We’re going to do all of my favorite things. We’re going to walk around to see my favorite animals. I like a lot of different animals. My favorite is the zebra because it has interesting black and white stripes. We’ll also visit my other animal friends. We’re going to see the giraffes, the tigers, and the gorillas. Then Grandma and Grandpa will take me to the sea lion show. That should be a lot of fun.

They told me they’re taking me to the Dancing Crane Café to get my favorite meal after the show. Wow! I get to spend time with Grandma, Grandpa, and my animal friends. And I get to eat a cheeseburger too! They really know how to make my birthday fun and special. I just can’t wait! One more hour to go and we’ll be off to one of my favorite places. I have my camera ready to take lots of pictures. One day I’ll look at them and remember my best birthday!

This story is mostly about:

- A. Being excited about a day at the zoo.
- B. A trip to the mall.
- C. Kittens.
- D. An unhappy day.

Mika is excited about going to the zoo and can’t wait to see the animals. There were no kittens mentioned. The story talks about how happy the main character is. Therefore, it is not about a sad day.

How long has it been since the main character has been to the zoo?

- A. 1 year.
- B. 7 years.
- C. 3 years.
- D. 5 years.

The story says that it’s been a year since Mika has been to the zoo.

Reading for Details II

What are Mika's favorite animals?

- A. Zebras.
- B. Dogs.
- C. Giraffes.
- D. Tigers.

Mika's favorite animal is the zebra. Tigers and giraffes are mentioned in the story. Dogs are not in the story.

You can guess that:

- A. Mika would like to go to the zoo in San Diego.
- B. Mika is afraid of wild animals.
- C. Mika has never been to the zoo before.
- D. Mika's grandparents are wealthy.

We know from the story that Mika has been to the Bronx zoo lots of times. So Mika would probably like other zoos too. Mika's grandparents might be wealthy, but you don't have to be wealthy to go to the zoo. You probably wouldn't like the zoo if you were afraid of wild animals.

Something to think about:

Do you have a favorite wild animal?

Reading for Details II

Visiting the Aquarium by Victoria Zurakowski

Jesse's teacher, Ms. Pearse, announced they were going on a field trip. They were going to go to the local aquarium. The students jumped with joy and cheered loudly. Jesse smiled thinking it was going to be the best trip ever. He thought that watching the sharks swim above them was going to be the best part.

On the day of the trip, Ms. Pearse counted all the students as they passed through the gates. She nodded to the assistant to let them through. Everyone was present.

Ms. Pearse noticed Jesse was looking particularly sad. She found this odd since all the students had been excited.

"Jesse, what's wrong?" she asked kindly.

"I just saw a sign on the front door. It said that the shark exhibit was closed," Jesse replied.

"Oh Jesse, don't be upset. There's going to be plenty more to see. You can even see some penguins," Ms. Pearse said cheerfully.

"Really? I didn't know that," Jesse replied eagerly.

Once inside, the children looked around in awe. Colorful fish swam all around them. You could even look up and see fish. Tropical fish like clownfish, pipefish, and seahorses danced in the water above.

"Look! There's a piranha," one student shouted. All the others rushed to look at the angry looking fish.

"There's a flounder," shouted another student. The flounder was lazing on the rocks at the bottom. It was very difficult to see. It was brown and flat like the rocks.

"Okay kids, it's time for the penguins," Ms. Pearse announced happily.

"Yay! Yay! Yay!" the kids chanted. Jesse cheered the loudest and ran ahead toward the flightless birds.

"Penguins are much better than sharks." Jesse said turning to Ms. Pearse.

"I agree. At least they aren't scary!" She replied laughing.

This story is mostly about:

- A. A school trip to the aquarium.
- B. A trip to the beach.
- C. The sharks in the aquarium.
- D. The penguins in the aquarium.

Ms. Pearse told the class about the trip to the aquarium. They went to the aquarium and saw many interesting fish. They didn't see any sharks because that area of the aquarium was closed. They saw penguins, but it was only a part of their field trip.

Reading for Details II

How many different kinds of fish did the story say they saw?

- A. 5
- B. 500
- C. 7
- D. 6

They saw clownfish, pipefish, seahorses, flounder and a piranha. They didn't see any sharks because that area was closed. Penguins aren't fish.

Why was the flounder difficult to see?

- A. It was the same color as the rocks.
- B. It was a bright color.
- C. It was hiding in the seagrass.
- D. It was small.

The flounder was difficult to see because it was the same color as the rocks. It was also flat like the rocks it was lying on.

We understand that:

- A. Jesse was glad to see penguins.
- B. In the end Jesse wanted to go home.
- C. In the end Jesse liked the sharks more.
- D. Jesse saw the sharks.

At the end of the story, Jesse says that penguins are much better than sharks. Since the shark exhibit was closed, they probably didn't see any sharks.

Something to think about:

Describe your perfect field trip.

Reading for Details II

Watching the All Blacks Win by Victoria Zurakowski

“Taylor, Taylor!” Dad is shaking me like mad. It’s 7:30 am on a Saturday.

I look up at him groggily. My eyes are half closed and my vision is blurry. He’s smiling like a Cheshire cat. Something has happened.

“We won, we won!” Dad is jumping up and down. He’s clearly excited. He’s even more excited than we are when Christmas rolls around.

I lie in bed for a moment or two. I sit up slowly. Then it dawns on me, I know what he’s talking about.

Two weeks ago he entered a competition. It was on the local radio station. They had asked a question about New Zealand’s national rugby team, the All Blacks. They asked listeners to name the full All Blacks squad. Dad is crazy about rugby. He picked up the phone immediately and dialed the number.

They had told him he was correct. A number of other people had called in. They too were big rugby fans and got all the names right. Dad was told he had to wait until the draw was made.

“We won? We won the rugby tickets?” I jump out of bed in a flash. Dad is speechless. He’s far too excited to speak. Instead, he stands there with a big grin waving the tickets frantically.

“Yes, that’s right. We are going to the game tonight. We’ll watch the almighty team win.” He’s like a little kid. He’s already proudly wearing his All Blacks jersey.”

I can’t believe we’re actually going to the game. They have a great chance of beating Australia. They’ve won every game of the season so far.

Dad is still jumping around. He starts doing the All Blacks war dance, the Haka. The Haka is the traditional Maori war dance. The All Blacks always perform it before a game to intimidate their rivals. He looks more like a bird flapping its wings than anything intimidating. He’s happy, so I don’t say anything about how silly he looks.

Instead of trudging down the stairs, I run. I’m wearing my number 7 All Blacks jersey and I’m ready to go. It’s going to be a long day waiting for the game. It doesn’t start until 8:30 this evening. But that’s okay, I don’t care. I’m going to the biggest game of the season. I’m excited because the All Blacks are going to win. They will bring home the shield.

This story is mostly about:

- A. Winning tickets to a game.
- B. Going to Australia.
- C. Taylor’s favorite team.
- D. The best rugby team in the world.

The story starts with dad waking up Taylor saying they have won the tickets. It then mentions what Dad had to do in order to be put in the draw. As a result of winning the draw, they were going to go to the game that evening.

Reading for Details II

What did Taylor's dad have to do to win tickets?

- A. Name all the players in the team.
- B. Predict the final score.
- C. Be an All Blacks fan.
- D. Call the hotline.

Lots of people called the hotline but only those who could name all the players on the team had a chance to win. If you could name all the players, you are probably a fan. But being a fan isn't enough to win.

What is the Haka?

- A. A Maori War dance.
- B. A bird dance.
- C. The name of a war.
- D. The name of the native people of New Zealand.

Dad started doing the Haka and he looked like a bird doing it. It's a traditional Maori War dance performed by the All Blacks at the beginning of each rugby game.

You can guess that:

- A. The All Blacks are a very strong team.
- B. They have lost all their games.
- C. The All Blacks are the best team in the world.
- D. The All Blacks are all Maoris.

The team has won every game this season, which makes them a good team. It doesn't mention anything about being the best in the world as it only mentions their game against Australia. They do a Maori war dance to scare their opponents, but it doesn't mean they are all Maoris.

Something to think about:

What do you think the crowd would be like at an important sports game?

Reading for Details II

Ziplining

by Jeanette Cottrell

Maria was nervous and excited, all at once. Her little brother looked up at her.

“You’re going to do it?” Oscar said. “It looks really scary, Maria.”

“It’s an adventure. When you’re big like me, you won’t be scared.”

Oscar’s mouth hung open. He was so impressed. Maria smiled as if it was nothing, but her stomach hurt. She swallowed hard and put on a happy face. Where was Mom? She was taking so long to buy the tickets! Maria wanted to finish this adventure and go home.

“Maria, Oscar!” Mom waved from the ticket booth. Aunt Lupe and the kids ran over to her. Lupe, do you want to go with Maria?”

“Oh no, not me! I’m not the crazy one in the family! We’ll just watch you. Won’t we, Oscar?” Aunt Lupe and Oscar went to the viewing area.

Maria kept a frozen smile on her face. She’d watched the videos. It would be easy. All she had to do was jump! The thought scared her.

“Are you okay, honey?” Mom asked. “This is going to be so much fun!”

Maria felt sick but she couldn’t back out. Mom was proud of her and Oscar was watching.

“I was just checking my shoelaces,” Maria fibbed. She waved to Oscar and climbed up the ladder to a platform.

A young woman grabbed Maria and pushed her arms and legs through a harness. A moment later, Maria was wearing a helmet. There was a loud clicking noise behind her. The woman jerked on the harness. She bent down to Maria and grinned.

“I know you’re scared,” she whispered. “So was I, a long time ago. But believe me, you’re going to love this. Ziplines are the best fun in the world. Okay?”

Maria felt a great sense of relief. Someone understood how she felt. “Okay. Besides, this is just a test run, right?”

“Right! This one’s only ten feet from the ground. It’s a breeze.”

Ten feet from the ground? Maria opened her mouth to scream. I don’t want to jump! It was too late. The young woman pushed Maria off the platform.

Maria dragged in a deep breath. Then suddenly, the fear was gone! She was flying, wind whistling by her ears. She loved it! A man caught her as she got to the other platform. Maria shrieked with joy. Seconds later, her mom zipped in.

Reading for Details II

“Again! Mom, I want to go again!” yelled Maria.

Mom grinned down at her. “Of course you do. You’ll love the next line. It’s thirty feet up!”

Maria just laughed. It sounded great to her.

This story is mostly about:

- A. Maria overcoming her fear and riding a zipline.
- B. What happens if you ride a zipline without a helmet.
- C. Maria showing off for her little brother.
- D. Oscar’s fear of the zipline.

Maria is scared to go on the zipline, but she rides it anyway. She’s showing off a little, but it’s not the biggest part of the story.

What equipment does Maria need to ride the zipline?

- A. A helmet and a harness.
- B. A helmet and tied shoelaces.
- C. A harness and tied shoelaces.
- D. A helmet, a harness, and a water bottle.

When Maria climbs the ladder, the guide puts a harness and helmet on her. Maria used her shoelaces as an excuse to move slowly. There were no water bottles in the story.

Who rode on the zipline?

- A. Maria and her mother.
- B. Aunt Lupe and Oscar.
- C. Just Maria.
- D. Everyone except Aunt Lupe.

Maria and her mother rode. We know this because she finished the first run soon after Maria.

You can guess that:

- A. Oscar might want to try the zipline.
- B. The people on the platform wouldn’t have let her leave.
- C. Aunt Lupe would never take her ziplining again.
- D. Maria never gets nervous trying new things.

Oscar admired Maria and when she told him how much fun it was, he might want to try it too. Who knows, maybe Aunt Lupe would want to try it too! Aunt Lupe was there but Maria’s mother took her to the ride.

Something to think about:

Have you ever been afraid of doing something and then found out that it wasn’t anything to be afraid of?