

Wester Hailes – English Department

S3 Home Learning Materials

Week beginning 22 February 2021

Please complete the tasks on paper/computer/tablet over the course of the next 2 school weeks.

e-mail a picture to your teacher when you are finished for marking:

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Learning Intention:

- To build up my skills of putting information into my own words.
- I can answer a question about what I have read and answer using my own words.

Tip: when we use our own words, we use the words in our head and not the ones in the text.

Activity 1

Step 1

Read the text and look for information which will answer the question.
Underline or highlight this information.

Step 2

Answer the questions in your own words in a simple sentence which fits the way the question is worded.

The Secret of City Cemetery

That's why he was beside himself with glee when he saw city workmen digging graves at the edge of the public cemetery. They were paupers' graves, intended for persons whose families couldn't afford the fancy plots near the centre of the cemetery. Several graves were dug before winter frost would make digging difficult. Willard knew they would be filled in as needed.

He was clever enough to see that the part of the cemetery where the graves had been dug was located next to the playground of Mark Twain Middle School. The sidewalk leading into the school playground and up to the front entrance ran beside the freshly dug graves. There was no way a kid could go in or out of the playground or school building without passing by the graves.

When weather permitted, smaller neighbourhood children always played in the schoolyard till dark. Willard didn't believe in ghosts. But he knew most of the kids did. He counted on that.

(From *The Secret of City Cemetery* by Patrick Bone)

- 1.What does the word 'glee' mean?
- 2.Who were digging graves?
- 3.Who were the paupers?
- 4.What made digging difficult?
- 5.Which word is used to describe Willard?
- 6.Where were the new graves located?
- 7.What would the children have to pass before entering school?
- 8.What do you understand by the phrase, 'When weather permitted'?
- 9.What did Willard not believe in?

10.What did Willard count on?

ACTIVITY 2

Here is a list of words. Think of another word that means the same thing and write it down.

To hibernate

Cold

Appetite

Region

To emerge

Nervous

Excited

Spectacles

Cautious

School bag

ACTIVITY 3

**Read the text and look for information which will answer the question.
Underline or highlight this information.**

Express the information in your own words in a simple sentence which fits the way the question is worded.

Socks

Socks was the happiest dog in town. He had black fur and two white paws that everyone said looked like a pair of socks. His favourite thing in the world was his bright yellow ball which was made of rubber and squeaked when he bit it.

One day, Socks lost his ball in the park and came home looking very sad. Everyone tried to cheer him up but no matter what they did they couldn't make Socks smile. They tickled his tummy and scratched his ears, but nothing seemed to work. He just lay there looking sad.

Then Ben, his owner, had an idea. He ran to the shops and came back with a present in a beautiful box. Inside was a new ball that was a brighter yellow with red spots and squeaked even more loudly than the old one. When Socks saw his new ball he jumped up, barked with joy and chased his tail. He was the happiest he had ever been.

1. What kind of personality does Socks have?
2. How did he get his name?
3. What is his favourite thing?
4. What noise does his ball make?
5. Why was he sad?
6. What things do they do to try and cheer him up?
7. Why does this not work?
8. What is his present in?
9. How is his new ball better than the old one?
10. What does Socks do to show how happy he is?

Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs were reptiles that lived on earth millions of years ago, before human beings appeared. There were many different kinds of dinosaurs and they lived in every part of the world. They ruled the land for more than 150 million years before dying out about 65 million years ago.

There were over 300 different types of dinosaur who came in all shapes and sizes. Some were as tall as large buildings, while some were as small as chickens. Like most other reptiles, dinosaurs lived on land and laid eggs. Today's reptiles include lizards, snakes and crocodiles.

Some dinosaurs were meat-eaters who would either hunt their prey or eat dead animals they found. Others were plant-eaters who did not kill their prey, but instead lived on trees and other plants. Scientists call the meat-eaters carnivores and the plant-eaters herbivores.

1. What kind of creatures were dinosaurs?
2. When did they exist?
3. What parts of the world did they live in?
4. How long did they rule the earth?
5. When did they die out?
6. How many different types of dinosaurs were there?
7. How did they give birth to their young?
8. What are some of the reptiles that exist today?
9. What did the carnivores eat?

10. What did the herbivores eat?

The Storm

The wind howled and the rain smashed against the windows of the cottage. What seemed like every couple of minutes, the night sky was lit up by a blue flash of lightning and the walls shook as the thunder roared.

The children were huddled under the blanket in the living room looking out into the darkness with a mixture of fear and excitement. They had pleaded to be allowed to stay up for an extra half hour and watch the storm, saying that they wouldn't have been able to sleep anyway. Their mother had finally agreed.

The children imagined themselves as sailors on a ship that was being tossed and blown about on the waves, water splashing onto the deck and nothing but the sea for miles around. It felt good to be warm and safe inside while outside the storm continued to blow angrily.

1. What noise does the wind make?
2. How do you know the rain is very heavy?
3. What colour is the lightning?
4. How are the children feeling?
5. How much longer are the children allowed to stay up?
6. What reason do they give for not going to bed?

7. Where do they imagine they are?
8. What do they think is happening to the ship?
9. Why do they feel safe?
10. What word in the final paragraph describes the storm?

Learning Intention:

- To identify the most important/central thought of a text.

Main Idea

What do we mean by main idea?

The main idea is what a writer is trying to say in a piece of writing. Sometimes it takes a bit of working out to get to the main message or idea of a text.

Example

The rain poured down all night, soaking the grass and forming huge puddles by the back door. The temperature had dropped to two degrees. I looked out of the window and sighed. The mud was going to spoil the match.

Question

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

Answer

The main idea is to let the reader know about the weather that day.

ACTIVITY 4

The main idea of a paragraph is what all the sentences are about. Read the paragraph and ask, “What’s your point?” Then decide what the main idea is. Circle the letter of your answer.

1. Bill loves to play games. His favourite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thought. Bill also likes to play less demanding board games that are based mostly on luck. He prefers Monopoly because it requires luck and skill. If he’s alone, Bill likes to play action video games as long as they aren’t too violent.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Bill dislikes violence.
- b. Bill likes to think.
- c. Bill enjoys Monopoly.
- d. Bill enjoys playing games.

2. Pat is watching too much television. A toddler shouldn’t be spending hours staring blankly at a screen. Worse yet, some of her wild behavior has been inspired by those awful cartoons she watches. We need to spend more time reading books with her and pull the plug on the TV!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Watching a lot of television isn’t good for Pat.
- b. Books are good.
- c. All cartoons are bad.
- d. Some cartoons are bad for Pat.

3. Samantha, I can't eat or sleep when you are gone. I need to hear your scratchy voice and see your lovely toothless smile. I miss that special way that you eat soup with your fingers. Please come home soon!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Samantha, you have bad manners.
- b. Samantha, you should see a dentist.
- c. Samantha, I miss you.
- d. Samantha, I have lost my appetite.

4. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants. They will look and behave much like real humans. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience. They will be smart, strong, and untiring workers whose only goal will be to make our lives easier.

Which sentence from the paragraph expresses the main idea?

- a. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants.
- b. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind.
- c. They will look and behave much like real humans.
- d. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience.

5. Mr. Caddy yawned and looked at the blank piece of paper. He had to type one more paragraph on Main Ideas. It was nearing midnight and he kept thinking of how comfortable his bed was. He started to type and finally had finished. The Main Ideas test page was complete.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Mr. Caddy didn't like to type.
- b. Mr. Caddy wanted to go to bed.
- c. Mr. Caddy had to type the Main Ideas page.
- d. Mr. Caddy is fantastic and wonderful and loves his class of children.

Sometimes it is easy and obvious to spot the main idea in a piece of writing e.g. 'It is telling us about Scotland' or 'It is all about World War 2'

However sometimes you have to be a detective and use **inference** (work out what is really being said) by looking for clues.

Example

The murder happened by the old canal. Under the bridge closest to where the stabbed body was found, a man lived. He had prison tattoos and many people had seen him with a long knife.

What is this passage about?

- a) Murders often happen by canals
- b) The body was found by the canal
- c) The man who lived by the bridge committed the murder

The writer doesn't say the man actually committed the murder, but he **implies** it!

We've looked at two new words. Write their definitions below.

Inference (to infer)

Implies (to imply)

ACTIVITY 4

Be a detective and work out what the writer is **really** saying in the passages below. The first one is done for you.

Pine Martens, squirrels, badgers and foxes are just a few of the animals you can find in Scotland. Travel into the Highlands and you can find creatures that you won't find anywhere else in the UK.



Question

What is the main idea in this passage?

Answer

There is a lot of wildlife in Scotland.

The Chow is a breed of dog that doesn't appeal to all families. They can be stubborn and don't take kindly to being given instructions from more than one owner. They will need firm boundaries and good training if they are to live with more than one person.

What is the main idea in this passage?

Kyle liked desserts best of all. If it was chocolate that was even better. He liked lemonade, Coke and took three sugars in his tea. He kept a big packet of sweets in his pocket in case he got hungry.

What is the **main idea** in this passage?

I am writing to let you know about my plans for Christmas. I know we talked about me coming up to visit but I have heard from a friend that I haven't seen in five years and he would like to stay with me. I've had a look at flights to come to you and the cheapest I can get costs £500. Do you still want me to come to you?

What does the writer seem to be **implying** in this passage?

The money was on my desk when I left the room. The only person who went into the room when I was gone was David.

What is being **implied** in these sentences?

Now have a go trying to use inference:

Write a couple of sentences that imply you are scared of heights:
