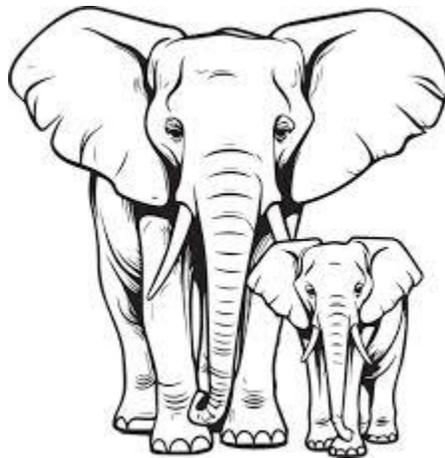


# Reading Comprehension Activities

## Year 3



**Students – Please write answers in your workbook. Do not write on or mark these pages.**

## Comprehension Strategy 1: Finding the Main Idea

### HOW DO YOU FIND THE MAIN IDEA?

You can find the main idea of most stories in the first sentence or last sentence. Read the story below.

People wear different clothes in winter. I wear a coat and boots. Sometimes I wear a hat and a scarf. These clothes keep me warm.

Think about the most important idea in the story.

Let's find the main idea.

Look at the triangle below. The sentences at the top tell about the main idea. But they do not tell the most important idea.



The sentence at the bottom of the triangle is the most important idea. This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.

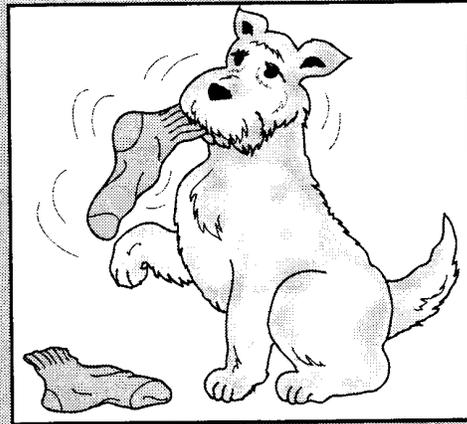
The main idea is found in the first sentence of the story.

You just found the main idea!

## PART TWO: Learn About Main Idea

Read this story about dogs. As you read, think about the most important idea in the story.

A pet dog needs many things. A dog needs a soft bed. It also needs special food made for dogs and a dish for water. You might also want to give your dog a toy to play with. Dogs love to play.



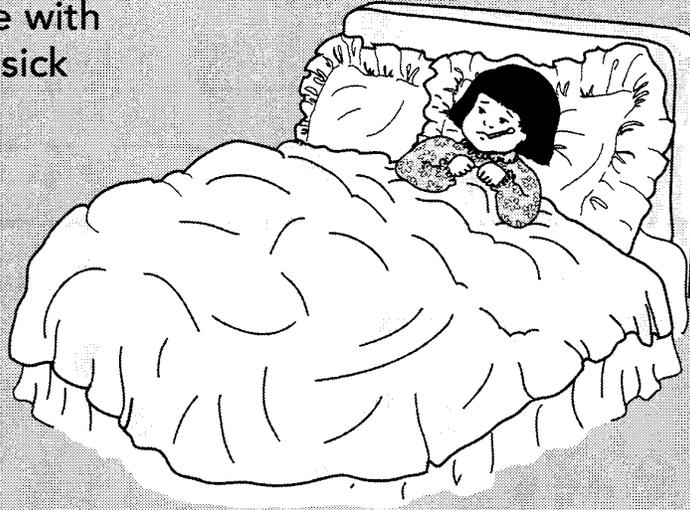
The most important idea is in the first sentence of the story.  
The most important idea in the story is **A pet dog needs many things.**

The most important idea in a story is called the **main idea**.  
The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the last sentence of a story.

Read this story about Meg. As you read, think about the main idea of the story. Then answer the questions.

Today is the first day of school. Meg has been waiting for this day. She can't wait to begin year one. But Meg cannot go to school today. She cannot meet her new teacher. She cannot be with all her friends. Meg is sick with the flu.



1. What is the main idea of the story?
  - Ⓐ Meg cannot meet her teacher.
  - Ⓑ Meg is sick with the flu.
  - Ⓒ Today is the first day of school.
2. Where did you find the main idea?
  - Ⓐ in the first sentence
  - Ⓑ in the second sentence
  - Ⓒ in the last sentence



Talk about your answers to questions 1 and 2. Tell why you chose the answers you did.

**Remember: The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.**

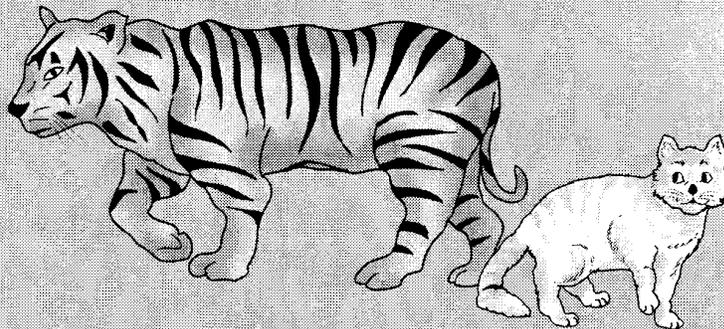
- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes in the last sentence of a story.

**Read this story about cats. As you read, ask yourself, ‘What is the story mostly about?’ Then answer the questions.**

Cats come in many shapes and sizes. Some cats are wildcats. Lions and tigers are two wildcats. Wildcats live outside. Other cats are house cats. House cats live inside with people.

Some house cats are grey and some are white. Some are dark, and some are light. Many cats have stripes or patches.

Some house cats do not have any fur at all. These cats look as if they are bald! Some cats are white and have blue eyes. These cats often cannot hear.



3. What is the story mostly about?
- Ⓐ Many cats have stripes or patches.
  - Ⓑ Cats come in many shapes and sizes.
  - Ⓒ Some cats cannot hear.
4. Where did you find the main idea?
- Ⓐ in the first sentence
  - Ⓑ in the second sentence
  - Ⓒ in the last sentence

Look at the answer choices for each question.

Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

3. What is the story mostly about?

- Ⓐ Many cats have stripes or patches.

*This answer is not correct.*

*This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that have stripes or patches.*

- Cats come in many shapes and sizes.

*This answer is correct. The story is mostly about different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.*

- Ⓒ Some cats cannot hear.

*This answer is not correct.*

*This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear.*

4. Where did you find the main idea?

- in the first sentence

*This answer is correct. The first sentence of the story says that ‘Cats come in many shapes and sizes’. This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.*

- Ⓑ in the second sentence

*This answer is not correct.*

*The main idea is in the first sentence of this story. The second sentence says that ‘Some cats are wildcats’. This is just one idea in the story. The story is not mostly about wildcats.*

- Ⓒ in the last sentence

*This answer is not correct.*

*The last sentence of the story says that ‘These cats often cannot hear’. The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear. The story is mostly about different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.*

## PART FOUR: Learn More About Main Idea

- ★ The main idea is sometimes not in the story. You can figure out the main idea by thinking about what the story is mostly about. Ask yourself, 'What is the story telling me?'
- ★ Many stories have a title. A title usually tells something about the main idea of a story.

**Read the first part of a story about Max.  
Then answer the questions.**

### Getting Ready to Paint

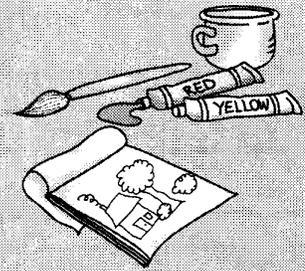
Max sat outside on the ground. He held a paintbrush in one hand and a cup of water in his other hand. Paper and paint lay in front of him. Max was about to paint a picture when his friend called in.

'What are you doing, Max?' Tim asked.

Max looked up. 'I am getting ready to paint.'

'I like to paint,' Tim said. 'I helped my mother paint our house last summer. Do you need any help?'

'No, this is the kind of painting that you do by yourself,' Max said.



5. What is the story mostly about?
  - Ⓐ Max likes to paint.
  - Ⓑ Max does not want any help.
  - Ⓒ Max is going to paint a picture.
6. Where or how did you find the main idea?
  - Ⓐ in the first sentence
  - Ⓑ in the last sentence
  - Ⓒ by thinking about the most important idea in the story
7. The title of the story gives you a clue about
  - Ⓐ the ending of the story.
  - Ⓑ the most important idea in the story.
  - Ⓒ all the things that will happen in the story.
8. What is another good title for this part of the story?
  - Ⓐ 'How to Paint'
  - Ⓑ 'Pretty Pictures'
  - Ⓒ 'Max the Painter'

Read the next part of the story about Max.  
Then answer the questions.

'So, you don't need any help?' Tim asked, sadly.

'No,' Max said as he dipped his brush into some red paint. 'But if you would like, you can paint a picture of your own.'

'Really?' asked Tim, his voice sounding much happier now.

'Sure,' Max said. 'I have lots of paper and some extra brushes.'

'This sounds like fun,' Tim said as he sat down near Max.

'Well, it's a lot more fun than painting a house,' said Max, smiling.

9. What is this part of the story mostly about?
- Ⓐ Tim feels sad.
  - Ⓑ Max wants to be alone.
  - Ⓒ Max shares his things with Tim.
10. What is the story telling you?
- Ⓐ Max is kind to his friend.
  - Ⓑ Max does not need any help.
  - Ⓒ Max is not painting a house.
11. What is the main idea of this part of the story?
- Ⓐ Tim asks if he can help Max paint.
  - Ⓑ Max asks if Tim wants to paint.
  - Ⓒ Tim feels sad that his friend does not need his help.
12. What is a good title for this part of the story?
- Ⓐ 'Left Out'
  - Ⓑ 'Helping a Friend'
  - Ⓒ 'Let's Paint Together'

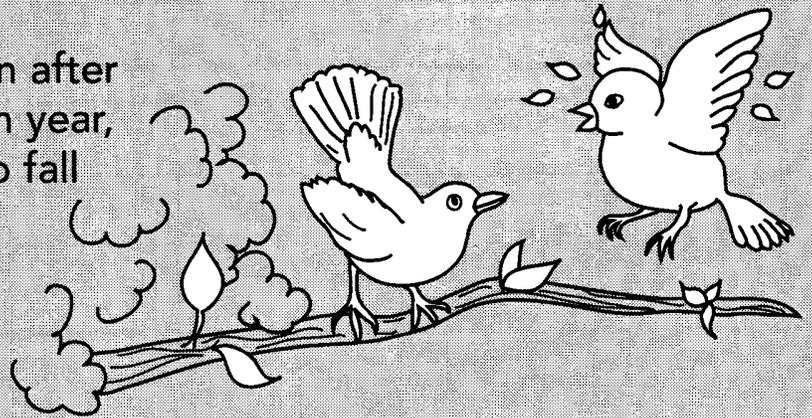
## PART FIVE: Prepare for a Test

- ★ A test question about the main idea may ask you what a story is *mostly* or *mainly* about.
- ★ A test question about the main idea may ask you to choose the best name or the best title for a story. A good title tells something about the main idea of a story.

**Read this story about feathers. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.**

Feathers are important for birds. Feathers are much warmer than fur. Birds fluff up their feathers on cold days to keep warm.

Feathers become worn after a while. About once each year, a bird's feathers begin to fall out. New ones grow in their place.



### Finding Main Idea

13. The story tells mainly about
- Ⓐ how birds keep warm.
  - Ⓑ why feathers are important.
  - Ⓒ what kind of animals have fur.

### Finding Main Idea

14. What is the best title for the story?
- Ⓐ 'All About Birds'
  - Ⓑ 'Feathers and Fur'
  - Ⓒ 'Birds and Their Feathers'

Read this story about a fish. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

### Mia's Fish

'What is that?' Jim asked. He pointed to a bowl that his sister was holding. The bowl was filled with water. A small orange fish was inside.

'That is my new fish,' Mia told her brother.

'Where did you catch it?' Jim asked.

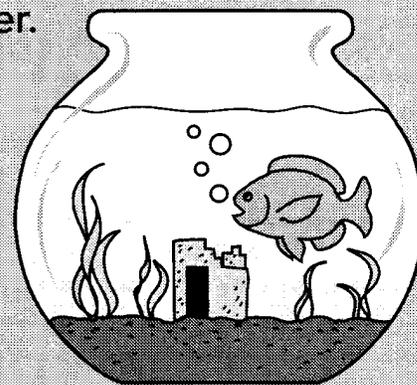
'I didn't catch it,' said Mia. 'I bought it at a shop.'

'Wow,' Jim said. 'I didn't know you could buy a fish. I thought you could only catch them in a lake.'

Mia laughed. 'Fish from a lake are for eating.'

'Are we going to eat this fish?' Jim asked.

Mia smiled. 'No. This fish is a pet. Besides, even if we could eat it, it wouldn't make a very big meal.'



### Finding Main Idea

15. What is the main idea of the story?
- Ⓐ Not all fish come from a lake.
  - Ⓑ New pets need a lot of care.
  - Ⓒ A girl gets a fish for a pet.

### Finding Main Idea

16. What is another good name for the story?
- Ⓐ 'The New Pet'
  - Ⓑ 'The Silly Question'
  - Ⓒ 'The Fish from the Lake'

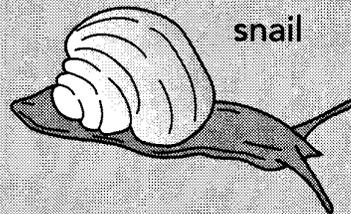
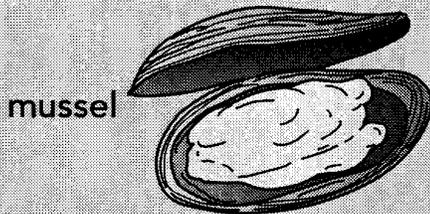
# Shells

Read this story about shells.  
Then answer the questions.

Shells are the homes of many different animals. These animals have soft bodies. The shells keep the animals safe.

Snails and mussels are two animals that live inside shells. Some snails live on land. Some snails live in ponds, lakes or the ocean. Mussels live only in the ocean.

A mussel shell has two parts. A mussel can open its shell. A snail shell has only one part. A snail cannot open its shell. Many animal shells can be found near the ocean. Some people like to collect these shells.



5. A mussel lives
  - Ⓐ on the land.
  - Ⓑ in the ocean.
  - Ⓒ under the ground.
6. Which of these is true?
  - Ⓐ Snail shells can open.
  - Ⓑ Shells keep animals safe.
  - Ⓒ Mussels have one part.
7. Shells are a kind of
  - Ⓐ mussel.
  - Ⓑ animal.
  - Ⓒ home.
8. What can a mussel do?
  - Ⓐ It can open its shell.
  - Ⓑ It can live on land.
  - Ⓒ It can live without a shell.

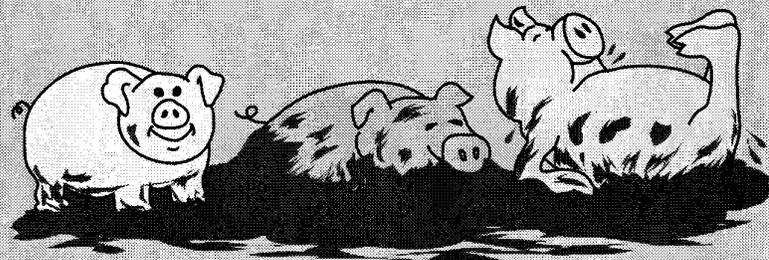
## Pigs

Read this story about pigs. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.

Pigs live on farms. Most pigs live inside a shed. They usually have a pen outside. They also have a mud hole outside. Pigs like to roll in the mud to keep cool. Pigs will eat almost anything. They will eat meat, bread and vegetables.

Pigs have small, round bodies. Their legs are short, and their tails are curly. Pigs can be black, white or light brown. They can also have spots.

Pigs are very smart. They can be taught to roll over, catch a ball and even dance!



### Recalling Facts and Details

13. Which of these is not a colour of a pig?

- Ⓐ black
- Ⓑ white
- Ⓒ yellow

### Recalling Facts and Details

14. Pigs keep cool

- Ⓐ in a shed.
- Ⓑ in mud.
- Ⓒ in a pen.

## Baking a cake

Read this story about Ben and his father. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.

Ben and Dad will bake a cake. First, Dad turns on the oven. Next, Ben opens the cake mix and pours it into a bowl. Then Dad adds water and some eggs. Ben stirs everything together. Then Ben pours the mix into a cake tin. Last, Dad puts the tin into the oven.



### Understanding Sequence

13. The second thing that happens is
- Ⓐ Ben stirs everything together.
  - Ⓑ Ben pours the mix into a cake tin.
  - Ⓒ Ben opens the cake mix and pours it into a bowl.

### Understanding Sequence

14. What does Dad do after Ben pours the mix into a cake tin?
- Ⓐ He turns on the oven.
  - Ⓑ He puts the tin into the oven.
  - Ⓒ He adds water and some eggs.

## Penguins

Read this sign at the zoo. Then answer questions about the sign. Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.

### Penguins

Penguins are found mainly in cold ocean waters. Penguins are birds, but they cannot fly. They are known for their black-and-white bodies. They have large bodies and short legs. Their short legs make it hard for penguins to walk.

Penguins live mostly on land. They go into the water when they are hungry. Penguins are good swimmers. They can swim fast and dive deep. This helps penguins hunt for their food. Most penguins eat fish, squid and a tiny animal called krill.

The penguins in this zoo are from the South Pole. They are called emperor penguins.

#### Recognising Cause and Effect

13. Why is it hard for penguins to walk?

- Ⓐ because they are birds
- Ⓑ because they cannot fly
- Ⓒ because they have short legs

#### Recognising Cause and Effect

14. When penguins are hungry, they

- Ⓐ try to fly.
- Ⓑ go into the water.
- Ⓒ hunt for food on the land.

## The Ant and the Dove

Read this story about an ant and a dove. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 6.

### The Ant and the Dove

A tiny ant was thirsty. So, he went to a river to get a drink. But the ant got too close to the river. He was carried away by the rush of the water. The ant needed help quickly or he would drown.

'Help!' cried the tiny ant.

A dove was sitting on a tree nearby. She saw what happened to the ant. She pulled a leaf from the tree and held it in her mouth. Then she flew over to where the tiny ant was. She dropped the leaf into the water. The ant climbed onto the leaf and floated to safety.

'Thank you,' said the ant to the dove. 'One day, I will do something to help you.'

'That is very kind,' said the dove. 'But I do not think a tiny ant like you could ever help me.'

A few days later, the ant saw a bird catcher. The bird catcher was standing under a tree. He was getting his net ready to catch the dove. The ant knew that the dove was in trouble. So, he ran over to the bird catcher and stung him on the foot. The bird catcher threw down his net in pain. The dove was able to fly away.

'You saved my life,' the dove said to the ant. 'I guess I was wrong. Even little friends can be great friends.'



## The Ant and the Dove (2)

<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>1. What happened first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ The ant floated to safety.</li><li>Ⓑ The ant went to the river.</li><li>Ⓒ The ant cried, 'Help!'</li></ul>	<p><b>Recognising Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>4. The ant went to the river</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ to get a drink.</li><li>Ⓑ to go for a swim.</li><li>Ⓒ to see the dove.</li></ul>
<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>2. What did the dove do right after she saw that the ant needed help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ She flew away.</li><li>Ⓑ She thanked the ant.</li><li>Ⓒ She pulled a leaf from a tree.</li></ul>	<p><b>Recognising Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>5. What happened when the ant got too close to the river?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ He ran away.</li><li>Ⓑ He was carried away.</li><li>Ⓒ He saw the bird catcher.</li></ul>
<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>3. When did the ant see the bird catcher?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ the same day that the dove saved him</li><li>Ⓑ a few days after the dove saved him</li><li>Ⓒ the day before the dove saved him</li></ul>	<p><b>Recognising Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>6. How did the ant save the dove's life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ⓐ by dropping a leaf into the water</li><li>Ⓑ by taking the net away from the bird catcher</li><li>Ⓒ by stinging the bird catcher</li></ul>

## Dogs

Read this story about dogs. As you read, look for clues that tell about the kinds of things that dogs do. Then answer the questions.

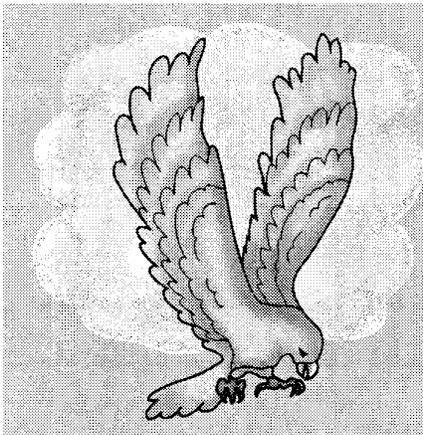
You should never pat a strange dog. You should always ask the dog's owner if the dog is friendly. When a dog meets you for the first time, let the dog sniff your hand. This is how the dog gets to know you. Then see if the dog's tail is wagging. A wagging tail means a happy dog. If the dog growls or barks, leave the dog alone.



3. If a dog likes you, it will probably
- Ⓐ growl or bark.
  - Ⓑ wag its tail.
  - Ⓒ sniff your hand.
4. What detail from the story helped you answer question 3?
- Ⓐ If the dog growls or barks, leave the dog alone.
  - Ⓑ You should never pat a strange dog.
  - Ⓒ A wagging tail means a happy dog.

## Hawks

Read this story about hawks. As you read, think about the meaning of the word *soar*.



Hawks like to eat other animals. The hawk has long wings. They use their long wings to soar in the air. Hawks look at the ground while they fly high in the sky. They are looking for an animal to eat.

You can figure out the meaning of the word *soar* by looking at the words around it. The words *in the air* and *fly high in the sky* are clues to the meaning of the word *soar*.

**The meaning of the word *soar* is 'fly high in the air'.**

When you use clues in a story to figure out the meaning of a new word, you are **finding word meaning in context**.

The words around a new word often give clues to the word's meaning.

- ★ Clues are often in the sentence where the new word appears.  
Clues may also be in the sentences before and after the new word.
- ★ Clues about the meaning of a new word are often found by thinking about the way the word is used in the sentence.

# Toothbrushes

Read this story about toothbrushes. As you read, ask yourself, 'What clues will I use to figure out the meaning of the word *hogs*?' Then answer the questions.

Toothbrushes have been around for a long time. The first toothbrushes were made of sticks. People used to chew on the sticks. The sticks did a good job of keeping teeth clean.

People later used stiff hairs to make toothbrushes. Some people used hair from hogs or other creatures with four legs. They put the hair on sticks or bones to make a toothbrush.

1. You can tell that hogs are a kind of
  - Ⓐ stick.
  - Ⓑ animal.
  - Ⓒ toothbrush.
2. Which words give a clue to the meaning of the word *hogs*?
  - Ⓐ creatures with four legs
  - Ⓑ hair on sticks or bones
  - Ⓒ keeping teeth clean

## Up in the sky

**Remember:** Drawing a conclusion or making an inference is a way of figuring out things that are not told in a story.

- ★ Think about the details in a story. Use these details to help you figure out something that is not explained.
- ★ Use the details in the story and what you know from your own life to draw a conclusion or make an inference.

**Read this poem.** As you read, ask yourself, ‘What details help me figure out what the poem is about?’ Then answer the questions.

Up in the sky,  
They float all day,  
Drifting about,  
Some white, some grey.  
  
They bring us rain.  
They bring us snow.  
They can be found  
Up high or down low.  
  
They have many shapes  
And many sizes, too.  
They add soft colour  
To the sky’s deep blue.

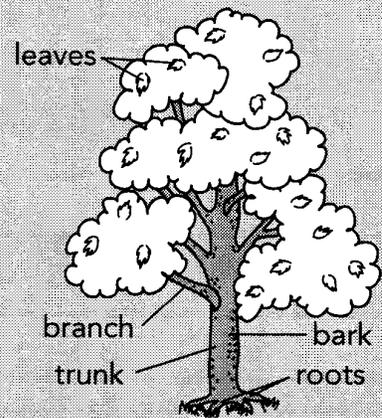
3. The poem is about something that is found
- (A) in the sky.
  - (B) on the ground.
  - (C) high in a tree.
4. You can tell that the poem is about
- (A) stars.
  - (B) clouds.
  - (C) birds.

## Trees

Read this story about trees. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

A tree is a living thing. A tree has many parts. It has roots, a trunk, branches and leaves. The roots, the trunk and the branches grow each year. New leaves grow on the branches each year.

There is a part of a tree that is not alive. This part of the tree is the bark. Bark is hard and tough. Bark protects the tree. Bark stretches as the tree grows. On some trees, the bark stretches easily. On these trees, the bark is smooth. On other trees, the bark does not stretch easily. The bark on these trees looks rough and bumpy.



### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

15. You can tell that a tree you look at this year
- Ⓐ will be bigger next year.
  - Ⓑ will be the same size next year.
  - Ⓒ will be smaller next year.

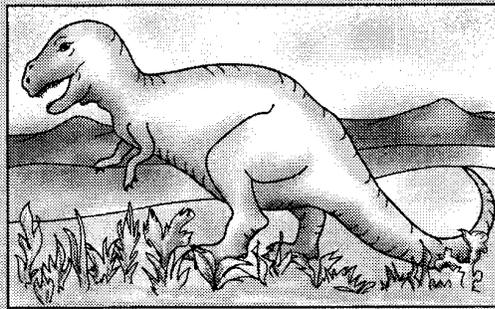
### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

16. What can you tell about a tree with bark that is smooth?
- Ⓐ The tree grows slowly.
  - Ⓑ The bark stretches easily.
  - Ⓒ The tree is not alive.

## Dinosaurs

Read this story about dinosaurs. As you read, ask yourself, 'What details will help me figure out what the picture shows?' Then answer the questions.

One of the biggest dinosaurs was the *Tyrannosaurus rex*. This dinosaur walked on its two back legs. It had two small, short front legs. Another large dinosaur was the *Apatosaurus*. The *Apatosaurus* walked on all four legs. Some dinosaurs were birds. They had wings and could fly.



1. You can tell that the picture shows
  - Ⓐ a bird.
  - Ⓑ an *Apatosaurus*.
  - Ⓒ a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.
2. What detail gives a clue about what the picture shows?
  - Ⓐ This dinosaur walked on its two back legs.
  - Ⓑ They had wings and could fly.
  - Ⓒ The *Apatosaurus* walked on all four legs.

## The sea monster

Read the first part of this story about Kim and Tan.  
Then answer the questions.

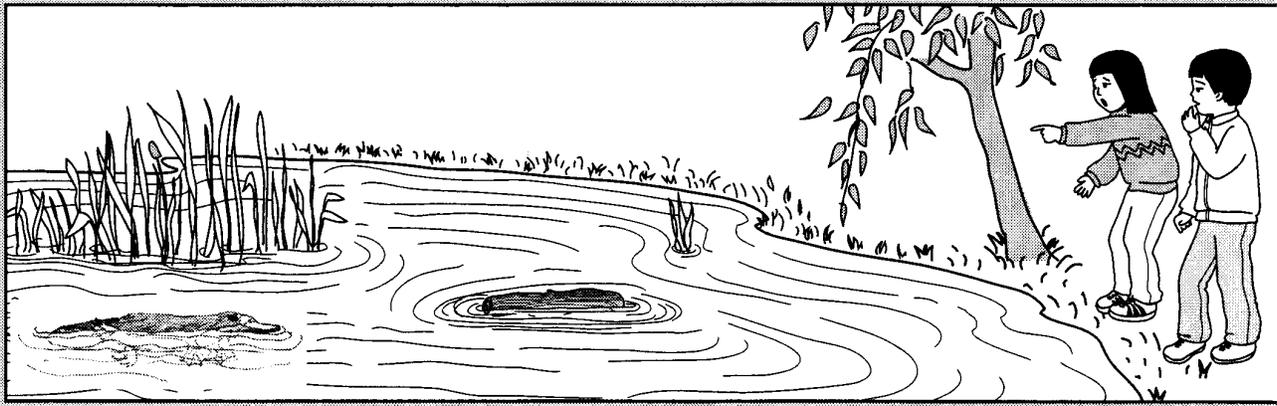
### The Sea Monster

'Tan, look!' Kim yelled. She pointed to the river.

'What is it?' Tan asked.

'Look!' Kim shouted. There was something in the water. It had a head and tail.

'Do you think it's a sea monster?' asked Kim.



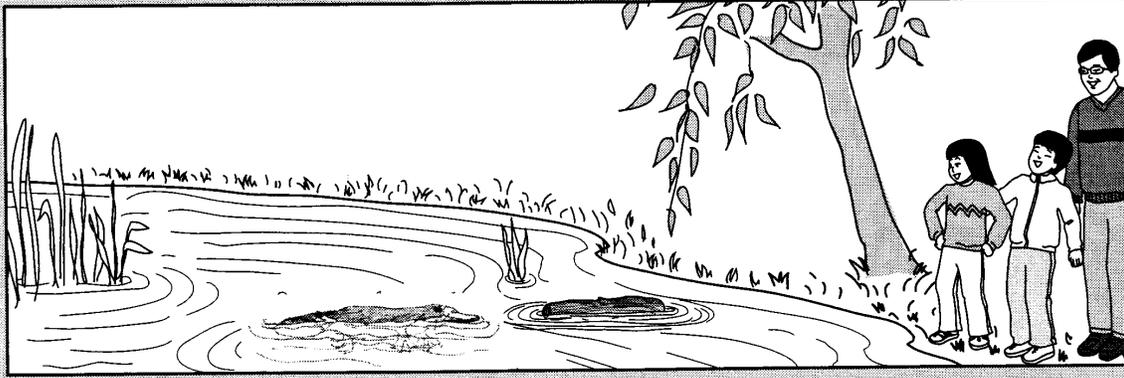
5. The picture shows
- Ⓐ Kim pointing.
  - Ⓑ Tan pointing.
  - Ⓒ Kim and Tan swimming.
6. You can tell from the picture that there is
- Ⓐ nothing in the river.
  - Ⓑ something in the river.
  - Ⓒ a monster in the river.
7. Kim and Tan both look
- Ⓐ sad.
  - Ⓑ happy.
  - Ⓒ afraid.
8. What can you tell from the picture?
- Ⓐ The creature is a duck.
  - Ⓑ The creature is moving toward Kim and Tan.
  - Ⓒ The creature needs help.

## The sea monster (2)

A platypus is a small animal that lives in Australian rivers. It has brown fur, webbed feet and a bill like a duck.

Read the second part of the story about Kim and Tan.  
Then answer the questions.

Tan shook his head. 'I don't think you would find a sea monster in a river.'  
The creature was moving closer.  
'Oh, no!' Kim cried. 'What will we do?'  
Tan froze. Kim was ready to run.  
'What are you looking at?' a voice asked. It was their father. 'Don't worry. That's just a platypus. She won't bother you. She probably just wants to get to her burrow to look after her babies.'

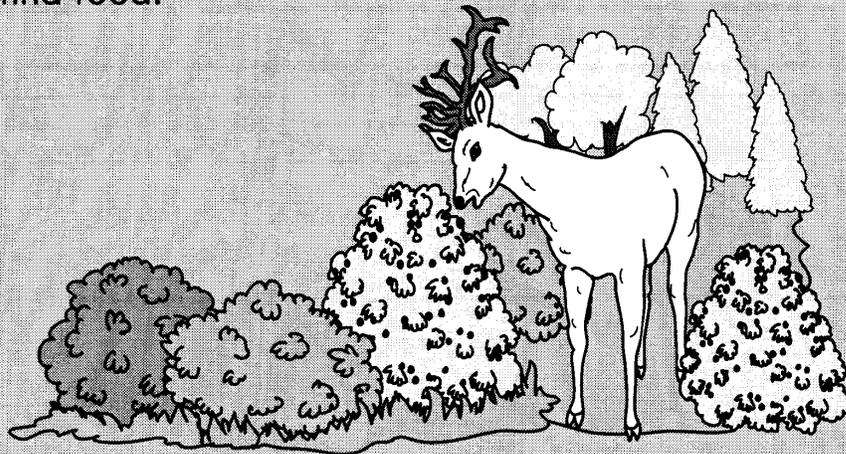


9. What are Tan, Kim and their father doing?
- (A) running away
  - (B) watching the platypus
  - (C) looking for logs
10. You can tell from the picture that Kim and Tan are
- (A) not afraid anymore.
  - (B) ready to leave the pond.
  - (C) helping the platypus.
11. In the picture, the platypus is probably
- (A) going to go hide in the reeds.
  - (B) trying to get to a burrow
  - (C) swimming after her babies
12. The picture helps you figure out that
- (A) platypuses like people.
  - (B) platypuses know how to swim.
  - (C) platypuses are afraid of people.

# Deer

Read this story about deer. Then answer questions about the story. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

Deer are found in open forest areas. The female deer is smaller than the male deer. She takes care of the baby deer. She finds food for them. She shows them how to live in the wild. Male deer have antlers on the top of their heads. The antlers look like branches from a tree. Deer do not bother people. Sometimes they come near people's homes. They do this only when it is hard to find food.



## Reading Pictures

15. Look at the picture. You can tell that the picture is of

- Ⓐ a male deer.
- Ⓑ a female deer.
- Ⓒ a baby deer.

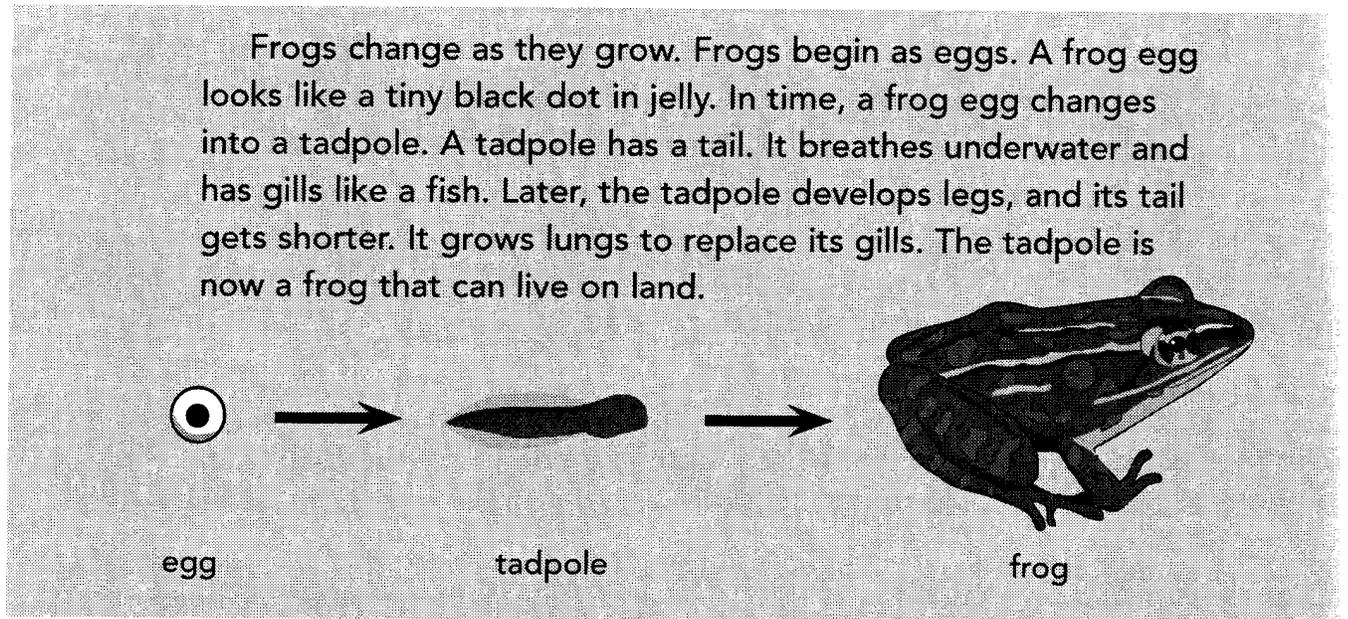
## Reading Pictures

16. What is the deer doing in the picture?

- Ⓐ running
- Ⓑ eating
- Ⓒ sleeping

## Frogs

Read what Louis wrote about frogs. As you read, think about the most important idea in the paragraph.



The most important idea in Louis's paragraph is **Frogs change as they grow.**

The most important idea in a paragraph is called the **main idea**.

The main idea tells what a paragraph is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the first sentence of a paragraph.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the last sentence of a paragraph.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes not found in the paragraph. You can figure out the main idea by thinking about the most important idea in the paragraph.

## Birds

- ★ Each paragraph in a reading passage has one main idea. The whole reading passage also has one main idea. The main idea of a whole reading passage is often found in the first or last paragraph.
- ★ The title of a reading passage tells something about the main idea.

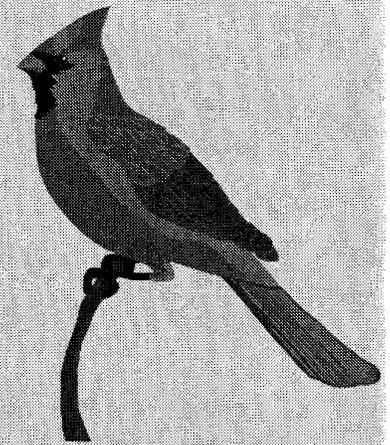
Read this article about birds. Then answer the questions.

### Outside and Inside

Birds have two kinds of feathers. The outside feathers help keep the bird dry. These feathers cover each other. They form a kind of raincoat for the bird. These outside feathers are flat and smooth.

Under these outside feathers is a different kind of feather. These feathers are called 'down'. Down feathers are soft and fluffy. Down feathers are right next to the bird's skin.

The down keeps the bird warm. Baby birds have only down feathers. As they get bigger, their outer feathers grow in.



5. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
  - Ⓐ Outside feathers are flat and smooth.
  - Ⓑ Outside feathers keep birds dry.
  - Ⓒ Feathers keep a bird dry.
  - Ⓓ Birds have feathers.
6. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
  - Ⓐ Down feathers keep birds warm.
  - Ⓑ Down feathers are fluffy.
  - Ⓒ Feathers keep birds warm.
  - Ⓓ Baby birds have only down feathers.
7. What is the article mostly about?
  - Ⓐ As birds get bigger, their outer feathers grow in.
  - Ⓑ Birds have two kinds of feathers.
  - Ⓒ All birds have feathers.
  - Ⓓ Feathers are called 'down'.
8. What is another good title for this article?
  - Ⓐ 'Baby Birds'
  - Ⓑ 'Where to Find Birds'
  - Ⓒ 'How Birds Fly'
  - Ⓓ 'All About Feathers'

## The ant and the grasshopper

Read this fable about an ant and a grasshopper. Then answer questions about the fable. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

### The Ant and the Grasshopper

One summer day, Grasshopper hopped about, chirping and singing to his heart's content. Ant passed by, carrying a kernel of corn he was taking to his nest.

'Why do you work so hard?' asked Grasshopper. 'Come and chat with me.'

'I am storing food for the winter,' said Ant. 'You should do the same.'

'Why bother about winter?' said Grasshopper. 'We have plenty of food right now.' But Ant went on his way and continued his work.

Grasshopper continued being lazy. When the winter came, he had no food. He saw the ants sharing corn and grain every day from the food they had collected in the summer. Then Grasshopper knew: *Prepare today for the things you need tomorrow.*

#### Finding Main Idea

15. The fable is mostly about
- Ⓐ busy ants.
  - Ⓑ a hungry grasshopper.
  - Ⓒ planning for the winter.
  - Ⓓ sharing with others.

#### Finding Main Idea

16. Another good title for the fable is
- Ⓐ 'Plan for Tomorrow'.
  - Ⓑ 'Take Time to Chirp and Sing'.
  - Ⓒ 'Hard Work Can Be Fun'.
  - Ⓓ 'Helpful Neighbours'.

## Metals

Facts and details help writers tell a story. Facts and details make a story more interesting. When you read, look for sentences that

- ★ describe a person, place or thing.
- ★ tell the order in which things happen.
- ★ explain how to do something.

Read this article about metals. Then answer the questions.

### Metals

There are many different kinds of metals. Most metals are bright and shiny. Iron is a metal used to make steel. Steel is important because it is needed to build cars, buildings and bridges.

Gold and silver are also metals. They have been used to make jewellery and coins for thousands of years.

Most metals change when they are heated. When they are heated, they can be stretched or pressed. Wire is made by stretching and pulling metal. Aluminium foil is made by pressing metal into a thin sheet. Gold can also be made into a foil. But don't wrap your sandwich in it! Gold foil is expensive.

5. Steel is important because it is used to make
  - (A) jewellery.
  - (B) wire.
  - (C) bridges.
  - (D) gold foil.
6. Which detail tells more about the main idea of the last paragraph?
  - (A) Gold and silver are also metals.
  - (B) When they are heated, metals can be stretched or pressed.
  - (C) Iron is used to make steel.
  - (D) There are many different kinds of metals.
7. Most metals are
  - (A) bright and shiny.
  - (B) rough and dull.
  - (C) long and thin.
  - (D) hard and thick.
8. How is aluminium foil made?
  - (A) by stretching metal
  - (B) by pressing metal
  - (C) by pulling metal
  - (D) by tearing metal

## The human body

Read this article about the human body. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

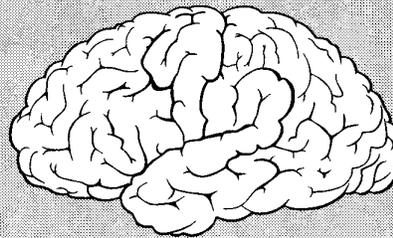
### A Different Kind of Machine

The human body is like a machine that never stops running. Every minute, your heart is beating. It pumps blood through your body with each beat. Your heart is always at work, even when you sleep.

Your brain is also always busy. It sends thousands of messages to other parts of your body. These messages travel at more than 150 kilometres an hour. These messages tell your ears about sounds. They also tell your eyes about pictures you see.



human heart



human brain

#### Recalling Facts and Details

15. Which detail tells more about the human heart?
- (A) Your brain is also always busy.
  - (B) It pumps blood through your body with each beat.
  - (C) These messages tell your ears about sounds.
  - (D) The human body is like a machine that never stops running.

#### Recalling Facts and Details

16. Messages from your brain travel at
- (A) more than 1500 kilometres an hour.
  - (B) less than 15 kilometres an hour.
  - (C) more than 150 kilometres an hour.
  - (D) less than 1.5 kilometres an hour.

## The boy who cried wolf

Sometimes, there are no clue words to show cause and effect in a reading passage. When there are no clue words, do the following:

- ★ To find an effect, think about *what* happened.
- ★ To find a cause, think about *how* or *why* it happened.
- ★ Think about what you already know about how one thing might cause another thing to happen.

Read this fable by Aesop. Then answer the questions.

### The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There once was a boy who lived in a small village. Each day, he took his sheep to a high meadow to eat grass. One day, the boy was bored with his work. So, he decided to play a trick. 'Wolf! Wolf!' he cried. 'A wolf is here!'

The people in the village rushed to the meadow to save the boy and his sheep. They found the boy safe and laughing. 'I was only kidding,' the boy said. 'There is no wolf here,' he laughed.

'You are very naughty,' the people said.

The next day, the boy played the same trick. And, once again, the people rushed to the meadow only to find the boy laughing.

A few days passed. The boy was in the meadow, when he saw a real wolf. 'Wolf! Wolf!' he cried. 'A wolf is getting the sheep.'

The people in the village heard the boy's cries. This time, they did not rush to help him. They weren't going to be tricked again.

5. The boy took the sheep to the meadow so that they could
  - (A) eat grass.
  - (B) run in the meadow.
  - (C) sleep in the grass.
  - (D) play in the meadow.
6. Why did the boy cry 'wolf' the first time?
  - (A) He saw a wolf.
  - (B) He was doing his job.
  - (C) He needed help.
  - (D) He was bored.
7. The people did not come the last time the boy cried 'wolf' because they
  - (A) were too busy working.
  - (B) thought it was another trick.
  - (C) did not hear the boy.
  - (D) were afraid of the wolf.
8. Why did the people say that the boy was naughty?
  - (A) They didn't like to laugh.
  - (B) They didn't like funny jokes.
  - (C) They didn't like his trick.
  - (D) They didn't like the boy.

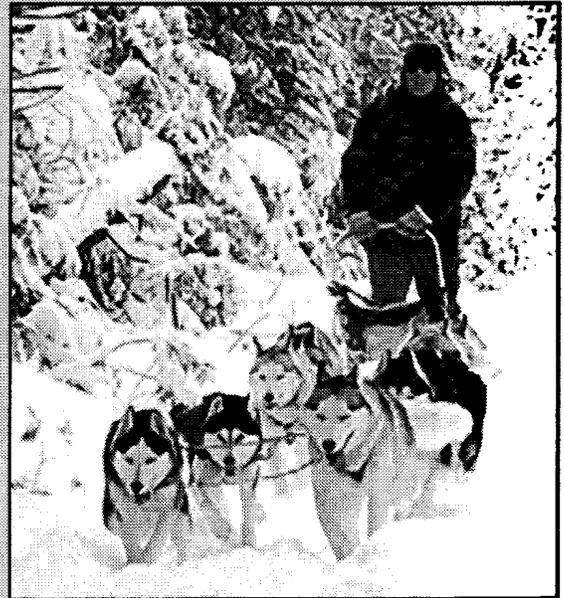
## People of the arctic

Read this article about travel in a land full of snow and ice. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

Winters are long in the Arctic. People who live there cannot grow crops on the frozen earth. They must find animals and fish to eat. Arctic hunters and fishers must travel across snow and ice.

Long ago, Arctic people learned how to build sleds. They built sleds with runners. Runners are blades on the bottom of a sled. The runners moved easily over the hard-packed snow. The runners were usually made out of wood. But few trees grow in the Arctic. Strips of animal bones and horns were added to make the wooden runners stronger. The Arctic people trained dogs to pull the sleds.

Today, people of the Arctic still hunt and fish. But snowmobiles have become more popular than sleds. Snowmobiles can go faster than sleds pulled by animals. And snowmobiles don't get tired or need to rest!



### Recognising Cause and Effect

15. Bones and horns were added to runners because they
- (A) made it easier for dogs to pull the sleds.
  - (B) helped the runners move across the snow.
  - (C) caused the sled to go faster.
  - (D) made the runners stronger.

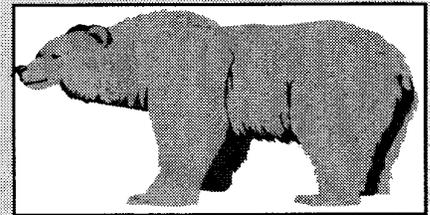
### Recognising Cause and Effect

16. Why are snowmobiles more popular than sleds?
- (A) There are few trees to build sleds.
  - (B) Snowmobiles go faster than sleds.
  - (C) There are no animals to pull the sleds.
  - (D) Snowmobiles hold more people than sleds.

## Bears

Read this article about bears. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.

There are about seven types of bears throughout the world. Only two types live in the wild forests of North America. These are the black bear and the brown bear.



Both of these large mammals live in forests. The black bear and the brown bear are also covered with fur and have big heads, short legs and strong tails.

About 80,000 American black bears live in the northern forests of North America. They have black or dark-brown fur. Most American black bears grow to be about two metres long and weigh up to 150 kilos. They are shy, and they usually hide from people.

There are a few thousand brown bears that live in the western forests of North America. Most brown bears have brown fur. Some have white fur mixed in with the brown fur. These bears are called 'grizzly bears'. Most brown bears grow to be about 2.5 metres long and weigh up to 800 kilos. These bears are not shy. In fact, they can get angry quickly and are known to chase people!

### Comparing and Contrasting

13. How are black bears and brown bears alike?
- (A) Both are shy.
  - (B) Both are short.
  - (C) Both live in forests.
  - (D) Both weigh about 150 kilos.

### Comparing and Contrasting

14. One way that black bears are not like brown bears is that black bears
- (A) are not found in North America but brown bears are.
  - (B) are dark brown and brown bears are white.
  - (C) grow to be longer than brown bears.
  - (D) hide from people and brown bears do not.

## The Crow

out information that is not stated in a reading passage.

- ★ Think about the details that are stated in a reading passage. Use these details to help you figure out information that is not explained.
- ★ Use the details from the reading passage and what you know from your own life to draw a conclusion or to make an inference.

Read this fable about a crow. As you read, ask yourself, 'What information can I figure out on my own?' Then answer the questions.

There once was a crow that thought he was treated very unfairly. Every day, he watched while the farmer threw out food for the doves to eat. The crow, on the other hand, had to scratch and search for every bite of food. 'This isn't fair,' thought the crow. He decided to do something about it.

The crow covered himself with white powder. Then he quietly entered the bird feeder. The doves thought the crow was one of them. They greeted him and shared their food with him. 'This is the life!' thought the crow. Everything went smoothly until one day when the crow spoke, and let out a very crowlike, 'Caw! Caw! Caw!' The doves realised at once that this new bird was a crow and not a dove. They chased him out of the bird feeder.

The crow tried to return to live with the other crows. But the crows did not recognise the white bird. They wanted nothing to do with him.



3. The crow covered himself with white powder so that he
  - (A) could trick the farmer.
  - (B) would look like a dove.
  - (C) would be liked by other crows.
  - (D) could steal food from other birds.
4. You can figure out that
  - (A) crows look very much like doves, except for their colour.
  - (B) doves and crows make the same sounds.
  - (C) doves do not like to share their food.
  - (D) crows never have enough food to eat.