



Name _____

Date _____

JUNE BUGS

Have you ever seen a metallic green bug buzzing around in the summertime? You were probably looking at a June bug. June bugs get their name because they emerge as adults at the beginning of summer. It takes a year for a June bug to complete its full life cycle.

A June bug is an insect with six legs and is usually about 15 to 22 cm long. It has a dull, metallic-green body with wings. Its underside is light brown or black. The June bug is part of the beetle (coleopteran) family. This beetle can be found all over the United States, but it is prominent in the northeastern states. The beetle loves to feed on ripening fruit. They will gather in clusters and eat ripened apples, peaches, pears, or any other fruit. When the beetle is still a grub, it will feed on decaying matter, grass, and other plants. These grubs will also go underground to eat plants such as sweet potatoes and carrots.

In the past, a fun summer activity for many children was to catch June bugs. Children would tie a string to one of the legs and then let the June bug fly around while holding the string. This provided hours of entertainment for children. Some children still participate in this activity today.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to this reading passage, why would someone want to catch a June bug?
 - a. They are trying to keep the June bug from eating their plants.
 - b. The June bug can bring good luck.
 - c. The June bug can provide entertainment.
 - d. The June bug likes to live in captivity.
2. This passage is mostly about . . .
 - a. protecting your lawn and fruit trees from June bugs.
 - b. good extermination practices.
 - c. the anatomy of a June bug.
 - d. general information about June bugs.
3. According to the passage, what do adult June bugs eat?
 - a. They eat seeds and seedlings.
 - b. They eat ripening fruit.
 - c. They feed on the grass.
 - d. They dig underground to eat sweet potatoes and carrots.
4. How did the June bug get its name?
 - a. It is named after the famous first lady June Cleveland.
 - b. It is a cousin to the ladybug.
 - c. It lays its eggs in June.
 - d. It is an adult beetle in the summer months.



Name _____

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LESSON LEARNED

Once there was young lad. He sold apples and pears at the market each day in the village. He wanted to be the first seller at the market. He knew that the earlier he got to the market, the more he could sell. It drove him crazy that other sellers always beat him. So one day, he decided that he would have to make some changes.

He decided that if he ate his breakfast at night, then he wouldn't have to eat breakfast in the morning. So that night, after he ate dinner, he ate his breakfast. He went to bed stuffed that night, but he knew it was for a good cause.

Morning came and the young lad was surprised to see that there were many people already there. He realized that his plan had failed. That night he decided to get dressed at night so he could save time in the morning. He went to bed with his work clothes on top of his pajamas. But in the morning, sellers were there before him again.

He decided to spend the night at the marketplace. He gathered up his items for sale and carried his bed to town. That night he lay on his bed and watched the night sky. The moon was full and it was hard to sleep. When morning came, the young lad was so tired that he couldn't get up. And so, he slept the day away as the buyers and sellers swirled around him.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following events did not happen in the story?
 - a. The young lad spent the night at the marketplace.
 - b. The young lad ate his breakfast at night instead of in the morning.
 - c. The young lad sold his spot to another man at the marketplace.
2. What can you guess about the young lad in this story?
 - a. He took pity on his fellow sellers.
 - b. He is very good with animals.
 - c. He learned his lesson.
3. Which of the following statements is not true?
 - a. The townspeople realized that the young lad needed a reserved spot to sell his goods.
 - b. The marketplace was a busy and hectic place.
 - c. Some of the sellers arrived earlier than the young lad did.



Name _____

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PG-13 MOVIES

Have you been to the movies lately? You have probably noticed that each movie has a rating. The ratings are meant to be guidelines for viewers, to explain levels of violence, language, and other characteristics of movies. The rating system was set up to prevent children from being exposed to inappropriate or intensive scenes or story lines. It seems that these days the rating is used to entice movie fans to go to a movie, as opposed to avoiding a movie.

Adding the PG-13 rating has allowed movie producers to avoid the strict standards of the ratings system. It seems that if a movie wanted to add more violence or bad language but not get the R rating, movie producers would go for the PG-13 rating. Exactly what is the difference between the R rating and the PG-13 rating? As far as I can see, there isn't one.

At one time, the R rating meant that it was not appropriate for children under a certain age. In fact, they were not allowed into the theater without an adult. Now, not only can children go to the movie without an adult, but also movie producers change the rating to PG-13 so that more kids can attend. By using the PG-13 rating, just about anything goes. When will movie executives and producers be held to a high standard again? Kids are seeing worse things on the big screen than they've ever seen before. What's next: a PG-8 rating?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is a reason presented in this passage as to why children should not be allowed to watch PG-13 movies?
 - a. PG-13 movies are produced with higher budgets than R movies.
 - b. Movie producers are allowed to add more violence and language with the PG-13 rating than an R rating.
 - c. Many PG-13 movies have high levels of violence and bad language.
 - d. The rating system was set up to prevent children from seeing anything inappropriate.
2. Which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely make?
 - a. Children need to be taught how to decipher the ratings system on movies.
 - b. Parents should hold movie theaters accountable for letting their children in movies.
 - c. Movie producers should be held to higher standards when they are given a rating for their movies.
 - d. PG-13 movies should not be allowed.
3. What is the meaning of the word *intensive* as used in this passage?
 - a. strenuous
 - b. deceased
 - c. concerned
 - d. graphic



Name _____

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SATURN

Saturn is the sixth planet from our sun. This amazing planet is best known for its rings. We may think that these rings are small in number, but when seen through a telescope, there are hundreds of them. The rings of Saturn are made up of very tiny pieces of matter. There are so many objects floating that from a distance, they look like solid rings. The rings are also very thin. The rings are made up of rocky ice particles and dust. Saturn also has many moons.

Galileo was the first person to look at Saturn through a telescope. The year was 1610. He was amazed at what he could see, but he didn't understand it. The telescopes today are much better and can reveal the intricate details of the rings and moons.

Another interesting fact about Saturn is that it could float. That seems surprising because Saturn is the second-largest planet. Even though it is big, it doesn't weigh very much. It is less dense than water. Saturn rotates very quickly, which means that a day on Saturn is only about 10 hours long. Saturn is made up mostly of hydrogen and helium. There have been many unmanned trips to get a closer look at Saturn. Four spacecrafts have taken pictures and visited Saturn. These were the *Pioneer II*, *Voyager 1*, *Voyager 2*, and *Cassini*.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What would be the best title for this passage?
 - "Saturn: The Planet with Rings"
 - "Outer Planets"
 - "Low-Density Planets"
 - "Planets with Moons"
- According to the passage, which of the following is not a fact about the planet Saturn?
 - Saturn is the second-largest planet.
 - A day on Saturn is about 10 hours long.
 - Saturn has a great red spot.
 - Saturn rotates very quickly.
- What is one reason why humans cannot live on Saturn?
 - Saturn has more rings than other planets.
 - Saturn is so light it could float.
 - Saturn rotates quicker than Earth.
 - Saturn is made up of mostly hydrogen and helium.
- How did the telescope change what people thought about Saturn?
 - Saturn was the first planet viewed through a telescope.
 - Galileo discovered that Saturn had rings.
 - It was determined that Saturn was not located in a star's position.
 - Saturn was discovered to be the center of the universe.



Name _____

Date _____

SKY HIGH

Jeff and Chris breathed heavily as they climbed the mountain. The switchbacks were getting steeper and steeper. The boys had slowed considerably since they had started. Chris could tell that Jeff was losing steam.

"Do you want to sit for a minute?" asked Chris.

"Yeah," replied Jeff in a hollow voice.

The boys sat down on pine needles and took swigs of water in an attempt to cool off.

"We are at the same point where we quit last time," commented Jeff.

"That's right," said Chris, "so we should keep going to get further up this mountain."

"I just don't think I have it in me today," said Jeff.

"C'mon Jeff, you've got to try," encouraged Chris.

Jeff thought about it and then decided he did want to give it a try. Before he could change his mind, he bolted up the hill. He climbed so fast he almost fell over.

"Dude! Slow down," called Chris.

"No way. If I stop, I'm never going to make it," yelled Jeff. He continued his push up the mountain. Chris followed close behind. Each grueling step shot pain throughout their bodies, but they just kept going. Higher and higher they climbed. Before long, they found themselves just below the top of the mountain. Jeff looked back at Chris.

"Are you ready?" asked Jeff.

"More than I'll ever be," answered Chris.

The two climbed to the top of the mountain and watched the sun rising. It was a beautiful morning.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Using the context clues, what does the word *hollow* mean?
 - a. filled
 - b. perplexed
 - c. vacant
 - d. ferocious
2. According to the passage, what helped Jeff make it up the mountain?
 - a. He was in better shape than Chris.
 - b. He was motivated by a stronger incentive than Chris.
 - c. He knew his friends were waiting at the top.
 - d. He didn't want to fail again.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Being creative and using many resources can help you accomplish a task.
 - b. If you try hard enough, you can do it.
 - c. It's important to knock out your competition.
 - d. Having a good friend can be helpful at times.



Name _____ Date _____

THE WAND

Tina was angry! She had tried to cast a spell at the king's ball but had been denied. "Can you imagine?" she thought, "Me! Just imagine that the most adorable fairy in the countryside is not allowed to cast her spell."

Just the thought of it made Tina's blood boil. Was it truly her fault that her wand had been bent and wouldn't work? King Trenton had grown tired, so when it came time for Tina, she had been dismissed after just five minutes. King Trenton wouldn't wait another second.

"Oh, what am I going to do? The humiliation of it all!" thought Tina.

Tina began trying to straighten her wand, hoping that it would help. She thought smugly to herself that the spell she was planning to cast was "prosperity." No other fairy had remembered to use that one.

"I bet the King will wish for that in a few years," thought Tina.

She pulled harder on her wand, when all of a sudden it snapped in two. Tina sat staring at what she had done. Did this mean she would never cast a spell again? Did that mean that she wasn't a fairy anymore? Why was she always in a mess?

Tina went straight to the head fairy's house and pounded on the door. She glanced at her watch to see that it was very late in the evening. Was it too late to call on the head fairy now? Tina cringed when she thought of creating another mishap this evening.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the spell "*prosperity*" that Tina was trying to cast?
 - a. secrecy
 - b. success
 - c. humor
 - d. peace
2. According to the passage, how did Tina's wand get bent?
 - a. Tina broke it when she was trying to straighten it.
 - b. Someone had sat on Tina's wand.
 - c. Tina's sister bent the wand while she was playing with it.
 - d. You can't tell by reading the passage.
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. skim the entire passage and determine the main idea.
 - c. reread the second paragraph and search for clues.
 - d. use context clues to determine the meaning.



Name _____ Date _____

WASHED ASHORE

Melinda and her brother Ben were climbing the rocks on the beach one day when they happened to come across a bone. A bone may not seem that unusual, but this was a big bone. It wasn't one you'd usually find lying on the beach.

"I wonder why this is here," Melinda thought aloud. "Why would there be a big bone like this lying around? It looks like a human bone."

"That sounds creepy," said Ben.

Just then, a truck drove up to the beach. Melinda watched a man get out with his dog. The two began running up and down the beach looking for something.

"Alright," said Ben. "Let's figure out where this bone came from."

The two began combing the beach looking for other bone pieces. Melinda was scared and worried. Ben didn't say much. They pondered on the bone's origin.

Just then, the dog came running up to Ben, who was carrying the bone. The dog began barking.

"Oh, there it is," said the man.

"Where is what?" asked Ben.

"That's Franklin's bone. We've been looking for it. We left it here yesterday."

"And just where did you get the bone?" asked Melinda skeptically.

The man started laughing when he realized what the kids must be thinking. "This is a deer bone. We brought it here to the beach," explained the man. "Case closed?" he asked.

"Case closed," said Ben as a little smile crept onto his face. Melinda just shook her head.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which word best describes how Melinda and Ben felt at the end of the story?
 - a. organized
 - b. relieved
 - c. annoyed
 - d. exhausted
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. last paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Another good title for the passage could be . . .
 - a. "A Bony Beach."
 - b. "Melinda and Ben."
 - c. "Give Me My Bone."
 - d. "The Mystery Bone."



Name _____ Date _____

ANNE SULLIVAN

Anne Sullivan was born on April 14, 1866, in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. She was born to Irish immigrant farmers. She had one brother, Jimmie, who was crippled from tuberculosis. Anne's family was extremely poor, and her father was an alcoholic and abusive. When she was five years old, Anne got a serious eye infection that left her almost completely blind. Her mother died two years later, and her father put both of the children in an orphanage. Her brother died shortly after being placed in the orphanage.

When the head of the orphanage came to visit, Anne pleaded and begged him to let her go to school. She was allowed to go to school, and after a few operations, she regained some of her vision and managed to graduate at the top of her class from the Perkins Institute for the Blind.

Anne began some of her most important work when she was called on to tutor a young blind and deaf girl named Helen Keller. Helen was seven years old and very undisciplined. Anne had to teach her obedience before anything else. A breakthrough finally happened, and Anne was able to teach Helen to read words using Braille and the manual alphabet. Anne helped Helen go on to accomplish great things. Both Anne and Helen were invited to make speeches all over the world. Anne's work had a lasting impact on Helen and others, including both blind and sighted people. She continues to be an inspiration.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the author's feelings about Anne Sullivan?
 - a. indifferent
 - b. disapproves
 - c. unsure
 - d. approves
2. Which sentence shows how the author feels about Anne Sullivan?
 - a. She managed to graduate at the top of her class from the Perkins Institute.
 - b. She continues to be an inspiration.
 - c. Despite all of her struggles, Anne worked hard to succeed.
 - d. Anne's family was extremely poor and her father was an alcoholic and abusive.
3. Which sentence is not an example of the Anne's accomplishments?
 - a. Anne began some of her most important work when she was called on to tutor a young blind and deaf girl named Helen Keller.
 - b. Anne had to teach her obedience before anything else.
 - c. Anne helped Helen go on to accomplish great things.
 - d. Her mother died two years later, and her father put both of the children in an orphanage.



Name _____

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THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

On September 17, 1862, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War was fought. More lives were lost on this day than on any other day in the history of the country. The North and South were fighting over possession of the Miller Farm cornfield.

General Robert E. Lee was the leader of the Confederate army. He had his men positioned along the banks of the country lane. The general for the Union army was George B. McClellan. This general had a scout that had gotten a copy of the Confederate army's plan. This was very helpful for the Union.

Bullets rained down on the Confederate soldiers. The Union soldiers broke through the line and killed thousands. The country lane where the Confederates were hiding became known as "Bloody Lane" because of all the people who died there.

More than 23,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing in this battle. But the Confederate army was not finished. They would go on to fight another bloody battle with the Union army known as the Battle of Gettysburg.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement best explains the reason for the Battle of Antietam?
 - a. Both sides were fighting over the taxes.
 - b. The Confederate soldiers were trying to make a statement.
 - c. The Union soldiers were trying to get their independence from Britain.
 - d. Both Confederate and Union armies were trying to claim the Miller Farm cornfield.
2. Where in the passage does it explain the advantage that the Union soldiers had at this battle?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fourth paragraph
3. Which of the following statements is false about the Battle of Antietam?
 - a. More than 23,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing in this battle.
 - b. The North and South were fighting over possession of the Miller Farm cornfield.
 - c. More lives were lost on this day than on any other day in the history of the country.
 - d. General Lee had a spy that helped him learn his opponent's strategy.
4. What is the author's opinion of the Battle at Antietam?
 - a. The author is glad the North won.
 - b. The author is impressed and appreciative.
 - c. The author has a neutral feeling about it.



Name _____

Date _____

FIRE ON THE PRAIRIE

The smoke came pouring out of the barn all at once. It seemed that the fire started immediately and went from bad to worse. It took a while for the smoke to reach the noses of the Steed family inside the house. Pa had just sat down to say grace over the meal when he smelled the smoke. He jumped out of his seat. At the same moment, Joe yelled, "Fire!"

Mother gathered her skirts about her and ran to get a bucket. Mimi shuddered as she looked at her family in a panic. She grabbed Baby Ellie, who had started crying from all the commotion, and she ran outside. The smoke was thick, and the barn was engulfed in flames.

"If we hurry, maybe we can save part of it," called Pa.

Joe was throwing buckets of water as quickly as he could, but they didn't seem to have any effect. Mimi could see his muscles bulging through his shirt. Mother was hitting the flames with a large rug.

Just then, a wagon pulled up and Mimi saw the Jenkins who lived just down the way, jump out and rush over to help. They must have seen the flames from a distance. The Jenkins had five sons. Their help came at the perfect time. The fire that once seemed formidable was reduced to a small flame.

"Thanks," gasped Pa to the Jenkins. "I owe you one."

"Happy to help," said the oldest Jenkins boy as he climbed back into the wagon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place during the time the settlers set up homes on the prairies?
 - a. At the same moment, Joe yelled, "Fire!"
 - b. "If we hurry, maybe we can save part of it," called Pa.
 - c. Mother gathered her skirts about her and ran to get a bucket.
 - d. Just then, a wagon pulled up and Mimi saw the Jenkins family jump out.
2. Where in the story does it explain the problem?

a. first paragraph	c. third paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. fourth paragraph
3. Which of the following characters did not have a speaking part in the story?

a. Pa	c. Mimi
b. Joe	d. the oldest Jenkins boy
4. What is the meaning of the word *formidable* as used in the story?
 - a. fearsome
 - b. poor quality
 - c. annoying