

Specific Skills Series

READING TO UNDERSTAND

REM 445

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INTRODUCTION

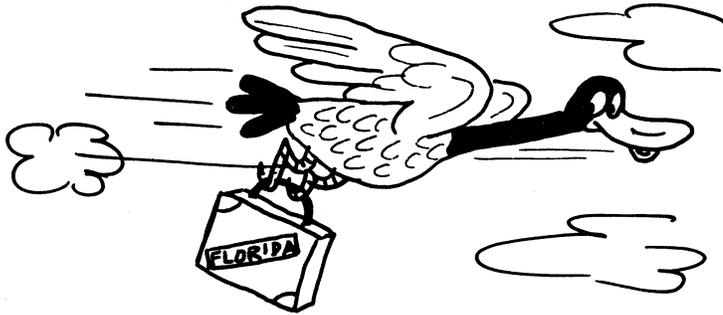
This book provides important practice in a variety of essential comprehension skills. Critical reading, thinking, and understanding are required in order to answer the questions following each short, high-interest article. Some questions call for factual answers found in the text. Other questions are based on the reader's ability to apply logic, make inferences, recognize cause and effect, draw conclusions, and use reason in order to come up with answers. Clever illustrations pertaining to the topics are sometimes part of the comprehension process.

Reading to Understand was designed for use in grades 4-8. Readability is on the 3rd-4th-grade level.

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Cold, Cold, Cold



When winter comes, animals must find ways to take care of themselves. They do this in many different ways.

Many birds fly from their cold homes to places where it is warmer. They stay there until spring comes to their home land.

Animals cannot fly away from the cold. Many find safe, warm places to sleep through the winter. They stay there until it gets warm outside again.

Other animals stay out in the cold. They grow heavy fur coats that will keep them warm. When spring comes, much of this heavy fur falls out. A few animals change color. Their brown fur changes to white for the winter.



1. Why can't birds stay where it is cold? _____

2. Why don't other animals travel to where the weather is warmer in the winter? _____

3. When animals sleep through the winter, how do they eat? _____

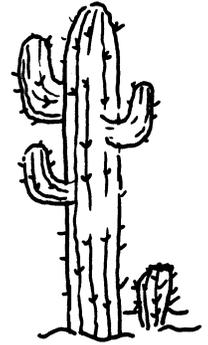
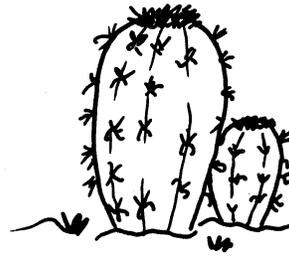
4. How does it help animals to have white fur in winter? _____

5. Some birds live where it is always warm. What do they do in the winter? _____

6. Where would be a safe, warm place for an animal to spend the winter? _____

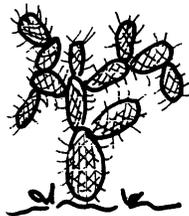
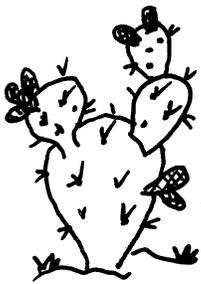
Cactus Facts

The barrel cactus has one fat stem. It can hold a lot of water. It has sharp thorns. It grows slowly and gets to be about four feet tall. It blooms with bright, colored flowers.



The saguaro is the tallest cactus. It has a tall stem with branches. It grows so slowly that when it is ten years old, it is only five inches tall. It has white flowers and sweet, juicy fruit that is good to eat.

The prickly pear has many stems. They look like green paddles. Some have thorns and some don't. It grows fast. People make jam and candy from its delicious fruit.



The cholla cactus has many short stems. They are covered with sharp thorns and hooked together very loosely. They break off easily and stick in anything that comes near them. They have pretty flowers and red, juicy fruit that tastes awful.

1. Why don't people use the fruit of the cholla cactus?

2. Which cactus could you see from far away?

3. From which cactus would it be easiest to pick fruit?

4. The flat, round stems can be cooked and eaten. Which cactus is this?

5. The state flower of Arizona is a creamy white cactus flower. From which cactus does it come?

Boats

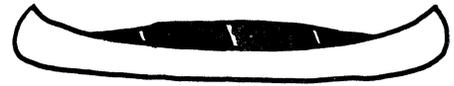
An ocean liner is very large. It has windows along its side. These windows are called portholes. An ocean liner uses very big engines to make it move.

A sloop is a kind of sailboat. It has two sails, one large and one small. It does not carry many people.

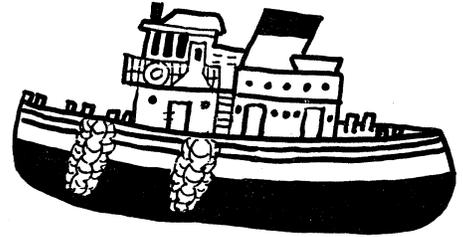
A canoe is long and narrow. People must use paddles to make it go. A canoe has no seats and will tip over if you aren't careful.

A tugboat is a working boat. It is small but it has a very strong motor. A tugboat helps big ships get in and out of harbors.

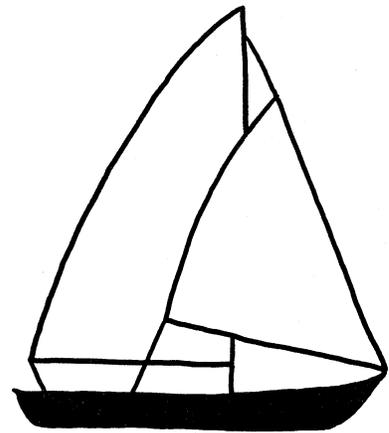
This flat boat is a barge. It is used to carry heavy things like lumber and coal. Barges are found mostly on rivers. There is a house on one end of the boat.



1. _____

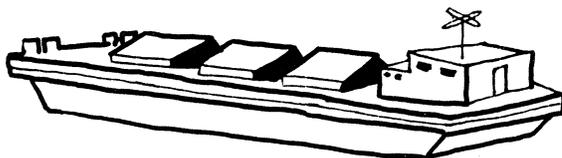


2. _____

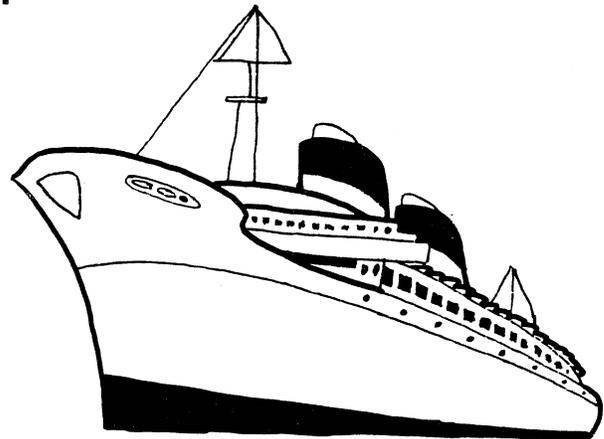


3. _____

Write the name of each boat under its picture.



4. _____



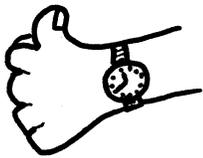
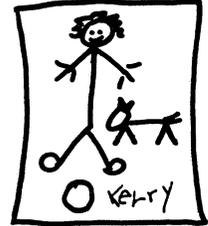
5. _____

Feelings



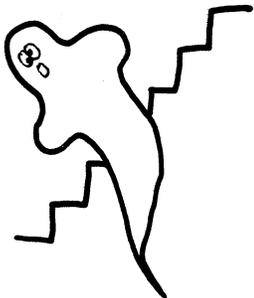
“Is it true you climbed that mountain alone?” Hank asked. “How did you do it with no help? Were you scared? Wow! That’s really something.”

“I shouldn’t have laughed at Kerry’s drawing,” thought Brooke. “He worked so hard on it. For someone as young as he is, it really is pretty good.”



“I wonder where Kristie is,” thought Ann. “She was going to meet me here 20 minutes ago and she is not here yet. I hope her brother’s old bike didn’t give her any trouble.”

“Are you sure that clock is right?” asked Natalie. “I was reading such an exciting book last night that I couldn’t put it down. I feel like I have been up for two days instead of only seven hours.”



“Let’s get out of here,” whispered Lynn. “This house is probably haunted. I jump every time I hear this old floor creak. It is so dark and gloomy.”

1. Which person do you think felt worried? _____
2. Which person felt amazed? _____
3. How do you think Lynn felt? _____
4. Which person might feel ashamed? _____
5. Which person might be feeling tired? _____
6. What is something that makes YOU feel proud?

It's About Time



Story #1

Sara flopped down in front of the TV. Just then her brother came in. He had his arms full of books. "No TV now, Sara," he said. "I've got tons of homework to do and I really need it to be quiet."

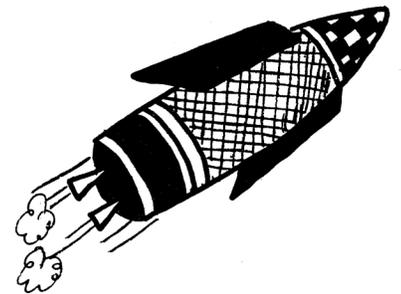


Story #2

Jake sat on the rail in front of the post office. He was waiting for the stagecoach. In just a few days he would be in Dallas, which was 200 miles away. He knew he had a long, tiring trip ahead of him.

Story #3

Alice pressed the button by the door of her white, plastic house. The door slid open without a sound. She felt the heat from the launching pad where the noon rocket for Mars had just taken off.



Story #4

Sam parked his bike outside the market. He had to pick up some milk for his mom before he went to play ball. He gulped when he saw all the people with full shopping carts waiting to check out.

1. Which stories could be happening now? _____
2. Which story happened in the past? _____
3. When might Alice's story take place? _____
4. Do you think Sara's family had more than one TV? Why or why not? _____

5. About how long does it take to drive 200 miles today? _____