



Introduction



Comprehension is the primary goal of any reading task. This *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension* box will help students develop the comprehension skills necessary for a lifetime of learning through the use of nonfiction passages followed by questions that require vital reading and thinking skills.

Each card in the *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension* box covers a grade-level appropriate topic. The cards are arranged in order of readability, ranging from 3.0–3.9. The reading level is based on the Flesch Kincaid Readability Formula. This formula determines readability by calculating the number of words, syllables, and sentences. The reading level is given at the bottom left-hand corner of each card. Occasionally the levels have been adjusted due to proper nouns or numbers which tend to skew the reading level. When this is the case, it is noted with an asterisk.

The activities are time-efficient, allowing students to practice the skills often. Independent and group practice should begin early in the school year.

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An Amazing Coincidence

In 1965 a child nearly drowned at a beach in Massachusetts. The four-year-old's name was Roger Lausier. He had wandered too far from shore. He tried to cry out, but he just swallowed water. A woman named Alice Blaise came to his rescue. She saved the drowning boy.

The Lausiers were grateful. They told Roger the story many times. Nine years later, he went to the same beach. He was big and strong for 13. Suddenly he heard a cry. Far out in the water a man was struggling.

Roger grabbed his air raft and paddled rapidly to the man. The man was barely conscious when the boy reached him. He pushed the man up into the raft and towed him to shore. There he discovered the man's name. It was Alice Blaise's husband.



An Amazing Coincidence



1. Why is the title “An Amazing Coincidence”?
 - a. because it’s a story about two people being saved from drowning
 - b. because it’s surprising that the boy ended up saving his own rescuer’s husband
 - c. because Amazing Coincidence is the name of the beach in Massachusetts
2. Why was Roger smart to use his raft to rescue the man?
 - a. It was slower than just swimming out to him.
 - b. The man may have been too big for Roger to pull to shore.
 - c. A shark was attacking the man.
3. To whom were the Lausiers grateful in 1965?
 - a. Alice Blaise
 - b. Alice Blaise’s husband
 - c. Roger Lausier
4. How old was Roger when he saved the man from drowning?
 - a. 4 years old
 - b. 9 years old
 - c. 13 years old



Nomads

Nomadic families live in western Mongolia. They move with their sheep or goat herds from place to place all year long. When the animals finish grazing in one area, they go to another pasture.

Nomads have no addresses. They don't have houses. They live in yurts. Yurts are tall, round tents. They are supported by a set of stakes driven into the ground. They look a bit like a Native American tipi. But yurts are not made of animal skin. They are made of felt. Beating wet wool for a long time turns it into felt.

These people have no dressers or luggage. It would be too hard to move them from place to place. Instead, all their possessions are kept in saddlebags. The horses carry the saddlebags. The people walk.



Nomads



1. Since they have horses, why do the nomads walk for miles?
 - a. The horses couldn't bear the extra weight in addition to all they must carry.
 - b. Their horses are old and sickly.
 - c. They caught wild horses and haven't yet trained them to carry riders.
2. What's one thing the nomads worry about living in a yurt?
 - a. Their sheep could choke to death eating the yurt.
 - b. The yurt could explode.
 - c. Bad weather could damage the yurt.
3. Why don't the nomads have addresses?
 - a. The post office refuses to let them have an address.
 - b. They keep moving their homes around.
 - c. Their horses' saddlebags are so full they can't carry any mail.
4. Another word for *possessions* is
 - a. yurts.
 - b. belongings.
 - c. food.