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Introduction

Instant Reading Comprehension Practice provides short reading and writing exercises that develop and strengthen the skills needed for reading comprehension.

This book is divided into two main sections: *Comprehension Activities* and *Strategies in Writing*. *Comprehension Activities* is divided into eight sub-sections that focus specifically on each of the following comprehension skills:

- Finding Main Ideas
- Noting Details
- Using Context Clues
- Identifying Facts and Opinions
- Finding Cause and Effect
- Sequencing
- Making Inferences
- Predicting Outcomes

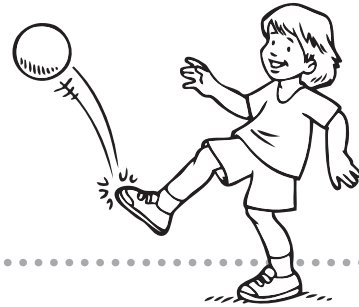
Each sub-section includes at least 30 passages with questions designed to challenge students and guide them towards mastery in one of the eight skill areas.

The *Strategies in Writing* section provides students with the opportunity to identify and practice the same comprehension skills but in an open-ended, short-answer format. The activities in this section allow students to focus on a specific strategy and to think more critically as they respond to a given writing task.

Name _____ Date _____

Troubled Times

Emma looked up at the smashed clock in horror. She had never thought that the bouncing ball could go up that high. Her mother's favorite clock—broken! Emma liked the clock, too. It had been in the family for generations. Emma fought back tears. How was she ever going to explain to her mother what had happened?



What is the main idea?

- A. Emma must explain why she bounced the ball so high.
- B. Emma's favorite clock was broken.
- C. Emma is upset over a broken family clock.

Yawn Lake

Jake sat on the bench. His shoulders were slumped with boredom. He wondered why so many people were staring at a lake at night. Just then, water started shooting high out of the lake—moving to music! It looked as if the water was dancing. Lights turned on to color the water. It was amazing! "Maybe my parents took me to see something fun after all," he thought.

What is the main idea?

- A. Jake was bored by the nighttime water show on the lake.
- B. Jake was bored until the nighttime water show on the lake started.
- C. Jake was excited about his nighttime trip to the lake.

Name _____ Date _____

Blue Tongues

Kyle and Kelly got lollipops after they finished their chores. Kyle and Kelly licked their lollipops. Their tongues turned blue! Kyle and Kelly stuck out their tongues and made funny faces in the mirror.



When did Kyle and Kelly get a lollipop?

- A. after they finished their chores
- B. after they finished their homework
- C. after they finished their dinner



Loving Mothers

Crocodile mothers take really good care of their hatchlings. After they build a nest, the mother crocodile stays close. She guards the nest. She keeps lizards, mongooses, and raccoons from eating the eggs. Sometimes, the mother looks as if she is eating her own eggs. She isn't! She is gently biting them so the hatchlings can get out more easily. She does this only when she hears barking or grunting noises coming from inside the eggs. The hatchlings make this noise when they are ready to break out of the eggs.

The mother crocodile gently bites her eggs

- A. before she hears barking or grunting noises inside the eggs.
- B. when a lizard, mongoose, or raccoon tries to eat the eggs.
- C. after she hears barking or grunting noises inside the eggs.

Name _____ Date _____

Sweet Sisters

Belle and her little sister Liz like to play together most of the time. Sometimes Belle likes to play by herself. Sometimes Liz pesters Belle by poking her in the ear over and over. Belle does not like that. That's when she would rather play alone.

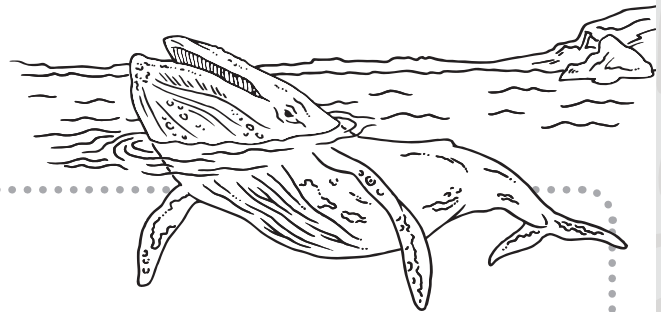


The underlined word means

- A. hugs.
- B. bothers.
- C. colors.

Whale of a Sickness

The boat went up and down on the waves. Ava and James wanted to see the whales, but the boat's movements were making them feel queasy. Suddenly, a whale came up next to the boat! Ava and James were excited. They had never seen anything so big. Looking at the whale made them forget about the sick feeling in their stomachs.



The underlined word means

- A. hungry.
- B. tired.
- C. nauseous.

Name _____ Date _____

A Dime at a Time

Which statement is a **fact**?

- A. Shopping with dollar bills is better than shopping with dimes.
- B. A one-dollar bill and ten dimes are the same amount of money.

Loving Language

Which statement is an **opinion**?

- A. A proper noun is the specific name of a person, place, thing, or idea.
- B. Learning about common and proper nouns is easy.

Word Play

Which statement is a **fact**?

- A. Some words sound the same but have different meanings.
- B. Learning the difference between *to*, *too*, and *two* is tricky.

Extra Butter, Please

Which statement is an **opinion**?

- A. Popcorn is the most delicious snack to eat when you are at a movie theater.
- B. Popcorn is sold at most movie theaters.

Fancy Pants

Which statement is a **fact**?

- A. Blue jeans are too expensive.
- B. Blue jeans come in a variety of designs and sizes.

The Write Stuff

Which statement is an **opinion**?

- A. Authors come up with story ideas very easily.
- B. The person who writes a book is called the author.

For Those About to Rock

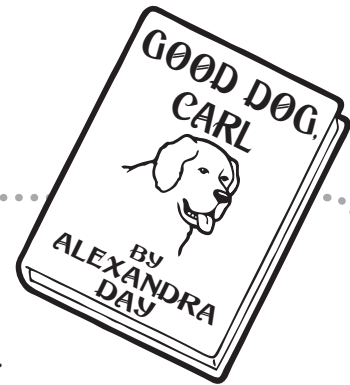
Which statement is a **fact**?

- A. Being able to play the drums or the flute is a great skill to have.
- B. People can take classes to learn how to play the drums or the flute.

Name _____ Date _____

A Dollar a Day

Angie checked out a book from the library. She has to return it in three weeks. The library charges one dollar for each day that a book is returned late. Angie went to her grandma’s house the day the book was due and stayed for the weekend. She didn’t return the book until two days after its due date.

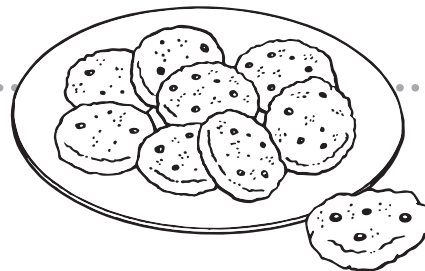


Predict what will happen.

- A. Angie will have to pay for the book.
- B. Angie will not be allowed to check out more books.
- C. Angie will have to pay two dollars.

Birthday Cookies

Everyone in Mr. Sing’s class is allowed to bring treats to share with classmates on their birthdays. Today is Todd’s birthday. He brought cookies so he could share with his classmates. Todd’s teacher said Todd could give each student one cookie at recess time. At ten o’clock, the bell rang to start recess.



Predict what will happen.

- A. Mr. Sing will keep all of the cookies.
- B. Todd will eat all of the cookies himself.
- C. Todd will give one cookie to each classmate.