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Name: _____

Date: _____

INTRODUCTION

You might have already read part of the following story, in which you practiced using context clues and drawing conclusions. Now let's read *That Proverbial Cat* to try **noting details**.

Details play an important part in written works. Details help to give the reader a clear understanding of the story or the topic. Details can give different types of writing its particular flavor. Details often allow the reader to draw conclusions. (See page 26.) When looking at details, we must determine whether or not they are appropriate. (See Relevant and Irrelevant Information on page 44.)

Look at this story from *That Proverbial Cat* by Elizabeth Best.

So Darin made a vow to himself that from now on he would be far more careful in the protection of his beloved cat.

Darin gave up a lot of time to play with

Tiger, while the cat was confined indoors.

Then at last the bandage was taken off, the paw was cured, and Tiger was free to roam again where he would.

We read that Darin is looking out for his cat, Tiger. The detail can give us some understanding of the type of person Darin is.

1. What are two details that suggest Darin cares about Tiger? _____

2. What detail suggests that Darin has not always taken good care of Tiger? _____

3. What details suggest that Tiger had hurt a paw? _____

Read the next story from *That Proverbial Cat*.

Once again Darin prepared himself to guard and protect Tiger against the cat's now quite insatiable curiosity.

And so it all began again.

Tiger, after inspecting his paw, so recently

unbandaged, gave it a bit of a lick over and was ready to go. Moving steadily, his body rolling gracefully, he walked to the side fence where the lower part of the board was broken off.

4. How can the reader tell that Tiger knew where he was going? _____

5. What detail tells the reader that Tiger's paw was completely healed? _____

Answers:

1. Possible answers: Darin took time to play with Tiger. Darin vowed to protect Tiger. 2. Possible answer: Darin vowed "from now on" he would be more careful, which suggests that he hadn't been as careful as he would have liked in the past. 3. Possible answers: Tiger was confined indoors, which implies he couldn't walk well. When the bandage came off, the paw was cured. Tiger could roam again. 4. Tiger went straight for the hole in the fence. 5. Tiger didn't limp or stagger. He moved steadily.

Name: _____

Date: _____

TIME CAPSULE

by Rachael Collinson

You might have already read part of the following story, in which you practiced finding the main idea. Now let's read *Time Capsule* to try noting details.

They had reached the old ghost town of Caranyah. What a strange place it was. Once a lively township, where men and women rushed to find gold, where peddlers and traders flocked from China, India, and England. Caranyah was deserted now.

Buildings stood in various stages of decay and disrepair. Weeds grew everywhere as the bushes crept in to reclaim the town. Wooden planks littered the ground or swung from broken frames. An occasional creak could be heard, as though the pitiful small huts were about to fall over.

Anne stood still, looking around in wonder. In spite of the eerie atmosphere, she was not at all afraid. She felt rather excited indeed, and her heart was beating faster.

Cousin Elizabeth was right. This was the place! James leaned against a tree, his arms folded. He had the peculiar feeling that he was about to discover some strange secret.

Suddenly, they seemed to hear singing. It was not a song they knew, and, yet, it sounded vaguely familiar. Voices echoed faintly around them, singing in words they could not understand. A wild kind of wailing sound it was, high and thin, carried through the air like a reed being played by the winds.

James and Anne whirled around. Where was that singing coming from?

They realized then that Cousin Elizabeth had disappeared—just like that.

1. Draw lines to connect “Old Caranyah” and “Present-Day Caranyah” to details that describe the town at those times.

Old Caranyah

people from China

eerie atmosphere

many traders

Present-Day Caranyah

wooden planks littering the ground

weeds everywhere



2. Why was Anne's heart beating quickly? _____

Write short answers for these questions.

3. What was James doing while Anne looked around? _____

4. What was slowly taking over the town? _____

5. What are three ways the singing is described? _____

Fill in the blanks to complete this sentence.

6. Caranyah was once a _____ mining town, but now it was a _____ town. The people had left their _____, which were now in a state of _____. Many _____ houses were about to fall over.