Lesson 5
Asking and Answering Questions About Stories

Ask questions about what you read, and use details from the text to support your answers.

Read  Stories are made up of characters, settings, and events. A character is person or animal. A setting is where and when a story takes place. An event is something that happens in a story.

When reading, you can ask questions about characters, settings, and events. You can also answer questions about those same things. When you answer a question about a story, support your answer with details from the text. This will show that you understand the story.

Erika was doing her homework. Her pencil rolled off the desk and under the bed. She was peering under the bed, looking for it, when she spotted an old wooden box she had never seen before. How did that get there? she asked herself. When Erika opened it, she saw gold coins glittering in the dim light. “Wow!” she said, “I think it’s a treasure chest.”
Think  You’ve learned about why it’s important to ask and answer questions as you read. Now, look at the chart. Finish the chart to show how the questions can be answered with details from the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Story Details</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Erika find under the bed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Why does Erika think she has found a treasure chest?</td>
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Talk  Which question had an answer in the text? Which one did you have to think more about? Explain how you figured out each answer in the chart.

Academic Talk  Use these words to talk about the text.
- character
- setting
- event
Annie dreamed of being a famous singer one day. She and her grandmother both liked watching competition shows on TV that transformed ordinary people into singing stars.

One night Grandma brought down a small, dust-covered box from the attic. “I’d like to show you some old photographs,” she said. “I think you might find them interesting.”

One photo showed four girls singing on a stage, gathered around a microphone. They were wearing matching dresses, and their hair was elaborately styled. “Who are those people?” Annie asked.

“Look at the girl on the right,” Grandma said. Annie leaned closer, peering at the photograph.

“Oh my gosh, Grandma, that’s you! What are you doing??”

“I’m singing on a TV show with my group, The Wildflowers,” Grandma said. “It was about 40 years ago. We recorded a song, and it played on the radio. It was so popular that we were asked to perform it on TV.”

“Why didn’t you tell me this before?” asked Annie.

Grandma smiled. “Oh, I guess I just haven’t thought about it for a long time.”

Now it was Annie’s turn to smile. “So, Grandma, what else have you done that you haven’t told me about?”

Close Reader Habits

What questions do you have about Grandma and her secret? Underline sentences that tell important details about Grandma’s secret.
Explore

How can details from the story help you answer questions about Grandma and her secret?

Think

1. Finish the chart by using details from the text to find answers. Add a question of your own in the second row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Story Details</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who are the girls in the picture?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Talk

2. What is one thing Annie and her grandmother have in common? How do you know?

Write

3. **Short Response**  Describe the secret that Grandma had been keeping. Why didn’t Annie know about it? Use the space provided on page 84 to write your answer.

HINT What does Grandma say when Annie asks why her grandmother hadn’t shared her secret before?
Frankie Ortiz had a secret. Each day after school, he would climb into a pine tree and wait for his friends to leave. Then he would climb down and ride his bike home as fast as he could. As he reached Green Street, Frankie would cross the street. On the other side, a white dog tied in a yard would bark fiercely. Its barking echoed around the neighborhood.

Today’s trip home was a little different. Frankie’s friend Mike lived next door to the dog. Today Mike was in his driveway when Frankie rode by. “Frankie, come here!” he called.

When Frankie didn’t stop, Mike got on his own bike and caught up to him. “What do you want?” Frankie asked angrily, hoping Mike would leave him alone.

But Mike didn’t leave. He said, “How come you always go home by yourself?”

Frankie stopped his bike to catch his breath. “That dog,” he said quietly.

Mike started to laugh until Frankie glared at him. “Are you scared of that mutt? Snowball’s noisy, but she’s harmless. You just have to get to know her.”

Frankie frowned, but he followed Mike back down the street. The closer they got to Snowball, the louder she barked, and the slower Frankie pedaled. His heart was pounding hard enough to break down a door. He wanted to cry, he wanted to run away, but he knew Mike would laugh again.

Frankie watched as Mike knelt on the ground and scratched the dog’s chin. “Hiya, Snowball, you loudmouth fur ball,” Mike said. Snowball sniffed around Frankie’s legs and then wandered away.

Frankie let out a long sigh and said, “I still don’t like that dog. But let’s ride home together tomorrow.” Mike just smiled.
Think

1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A
Why does Frankie cross Green Street on his way home?
A. He doesn’t want his friends to see him.
B. He wants to avoid his friend Mike’s house.
C. He is afraid of the dog on the other side.
D. He likes to be left alone.

Part B
Which two details from the story best support the answer to Part A?
A. “. . . he would climb into a pine tree and wait for his friends to leave.”
B. “On the other side, a white dog tied in a yard would bark fiercely.”
C. “Frankie’s friend Mike lived next door to the dog.”
D. “Are you scared of that mutt?”
E. “Snowball’s noisy, but she’s harmless.”
F. “Hiya, Snowball, you loudmouth fur ball.”
G. “Snowball sniffed around Frankie’s legs and then wandered away.”

Talk

2. Why doesn’t Frankie run away when the dog keeps barking? What detail from the text helps you answer the question?

Write

3. Short Response What are two good things that come from what happens to Frankie? Use details from the story in your answer. Use the space provided on page 85 to write your answer.

HINT What does Frankie ask Mike to do the next day?
Grandma’s Secret

3 Short Response  Describe the secret that Grandma had been keeping. Why didn’t Annie know about it?

HINT What does Grandma say when Annie asks why her grandmother hadn’t shared her secret before?

Don’t forget to check your writing.
**Short Response** What are two good things that come from what happens to Frankie? Use details from the story in your answer.

**HINT** What does Frankie ask Mike to do the next day?

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**Check Your Writing**

- Did you read the prompt carefully?
- Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- Are your ideas clearly organized?
- Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- Did you check your spelling and punctuation?
“Your homework is to collect sounds,” Mrs. Olson said. She handed out sheets of paper shaped like giant ears. Then she held up a shiny blue kazoo. “Everyone who gets an ‘earful’ will get one of these.” The class laughed.

Later, Jacob glared out the school bus window. Not fair, he thought. How could he collect enough sounds on his family’s farm? There were plenty of noises in town. If only he lived where tires squeal.

Jacob scrambled off the bus when it screeched to a stop at his mailbox. But he wasn’t in the mood to wave as it drove away.

When he threw open the gate, it groaned like a ghost. That was how he felt about his homework.

On the porch, Jacob knelt beside the kittens curled on the rug. They sounded like tiny motors when they purred.

“I’m home!” Jacob called. He thumped his book bag down on a kitchen chair.

The rocker in the nursery stopped creaking.

“How was school?” his mother asked, walking in with his baby brother on her shoulder. She was patting his little back.

“I’ve got homework,” Jacob grumbled.

The baby burped, and Jacob laughed. “That’s what I think about it, too!”

“Have a snack before you do your chores,” his mother said. She took the animal crackers down from the cupboard.

Jacob rattled the carton. Not many left. He crunched two tigers, three lions, and a seal, then gulped down some milk. Grrr, roar, ork! If only animal crackers were real. He would have plenty of noises to list!

Goldie, Jacob’s collie, woofed as Jacob walked toward the barn. Her puppies were yipping in a straw-filled stall. Jacob plinked dog-food pellets into their pan, and the pups snuffled and crunched.
14 In the chicken house, Jacob shooed two cackling hens from their nests. He slipped their warm eggs into his jacket. Wouldn’t it be funny if he forgot about the eggs and they hatched? He’d have a peeping pocket!

15 In the corral, a black cow napped in the sun. Jacob woke her when he poured corn into her pan. “Moo, thank you!” she seemed to say.

16 Tap, clatter, clink. Dad drove the tractor into the yard. The lid on the tractor’s smokestack rattled when it chuffed and chugged to a stop.

17 “How was school?” Dad asked, stepping down from the cab.

18 Jacob shrugged. “OK, I guess,” he said. “I have some homework.”

19 Jacob put the eggs in the kitchen, then climbed to his tree house. He could see Dad’s beehives by the hay field. Six hives usually meant plenty of humming. But today he couldn’t hear it over the scolding of the blue jays and the chattering of the sparrows. How could a person think?

20 “QUIET!” Jacob shouted.

21 Suddenly, he sat up straight. Cows mooed and puppies yipped. Chickens cackled in their yard. When Goldie began barking below, Jacob grinned. There were plenty of noises on the farm. “I hear you!” he called. He hurried down from the tree. He had an earful of homework to do.
Think Use what you learned from reading the selection to respond to these questions.

1 Based on details from paragraph 1, how would you describe Mrs. Olson?
   A  Rules are very important to her.
   B  She likes learning to be fun.
   C  She only uses books to teach.
   D  She enjoys music.

2 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A
Why is Jacob so upset about his homework assignment?
   A  He has other plans after school.
   B  He was already in a bad mood.
   C  He thinks there will not be enough noises on a farm.
   D  He hates homework of any kind.

Part B
Underline a sentence from paragraphs 2–4 of the story that best supports your answer from Part A.

   Later, Jacob glared out the school bus window. Not fair, he thought. How could he collect enough sounds on his family’s farm? There were plenty of noises in town. If only he lived where tires squeal.

   Jacob scrambled off the bus when it screeched to a stop at his mailbox. But he wasn’t in the mood to wave as it drove away.

   When he threw open the gate, it groaned like a ghost. That was how he felt about his homework.
3 Which detail explains why Jacob wished the animal crackers were real?
   A  “She took the animal crackers down from the cupboard.”
   B  “Jacob rattled the carton. Not many left.”
   C  “He crunched two tigers, three lions, and a seal …”
   D  “He would have plenty of noises to list!”

4 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

   Part A
   Why does Jacob need a lesson on collecting sounds?
   A  He needs to learn to follow directions.
   B  He doesn’t hear the sounds around him.
   C  He can’t tell one sound from the other.
   D  He doesn’t listen to his teacher or parents.

   Part B
   Reread paragraphs 13–16. Put at least four sounds that Jacob could have collected into each column.

   **Animal Sounds**

   **Machine Sounds**
5 Read this sentence from paragraph 16.

The lid on the tractor’s smokestack rattled when it chuffed and chugged to a stop.

Read the sentence for context clues. The word smokestack is made from two smaller words. What does the whole word mean?

A a chimney used for letting out smoke
B a stack of metal on a train or tractor
C a column of smoke in the sky
D lids piled on top of each other

6 Which noise finally made Jacob aware that the farm had plenty of sounds?

A the humming bees in the hives
B the noisy blue jays and sparrows
C the cackling chickens in their yard
D the yipping puppies in the stall

7 How does Jacob feel about his homework at the end of the story?

A He still is upset about it.
B He wants help to do it.
C He is eager to start it.
D He decides to do it later.
**Learning Target**

Now that you understand how to use details from the text to support your answers to questions, tell how this can show how well you understand a story.

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**Short Response**  The writer provides a number of details to show that Jacob was missing the sounds around him. Use some of those details to demonstrate that Jacob just wasn’t listening.

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Write