



Comprehension Skills


40 Short Passages for Close Reading

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Monkey Trouble

Most animals you see in cities are pets. But if you visit Thailand, watch out for monkeys. Many wild monkeys have moved into a city there. These monkeys make trouble. They go into houses and take things. On the street they **snatch** bags and eyeglasses. How do people get their things back? They give food to the monkeys!



1. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. most animals in cities are pets.
- ☐ B. some monkeys in Thailand take eyeglasses.
- ☐ C. some monkeys in Thailand make trouble.

2. The word **snatch** in this paragraph means

- ☐ A. sit in treetops.
- ☐ B. steal.
- ☐ C. come out of an egg.

3. How do you think people feel about what the monkeys do?

1. Main Idea 2. Context Clues 3. Inference

Main Idea & Details

Predict

Fact & Opinion

Compare & Contrast

Context Clues

Inference

Linda Ward Beech

 SCHOLASTIC

Comprehension Skills

40 Short Passages for Close Reading

GRADE 3

Linda Ward Beech

New York • Toronto • London • Auckland • Sydney
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Teaching
Resources



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Using This Book

Reading comprehension in nonfiction involves numerous thinking skills. Students require these skills to make sense of a text and become successful readers. This book offers practice in key skills needed to meet the Common Core State Standards in Reading/Language Arts for grade three. (See page 6 for more.) Each student page includes a short passage focusing on three of these essential comprehension skills.

Comprehension Skills At-a-Glance

Use the information that follows to introduce the reading comprehension skills covered in this book.

Main Idea & Details

Understanding the main or key idea of a paragraph is crucial for a reader. The main idea is what the paragraph is about. The other parts of the paragraph help to explain more about this key idea. Sometimes the main idea is in the first sentence of a paragraph.

The information that supports the main idea is usually referred to as the details. Details help a reader gain a fuller understanding of a paragraph.

Context Clues

Using context clues means determining an unfamiliar word's meaning by studying the phrases, sentences, and overall text with which the word appears. Context clues help readers comprehend and enjoy a text and also read more smoothly and efficiently.

Compare & Contrast

Recognizing how events, characters, places, and facts are alike and different helps a reader gain a richer understanding of a text. Sometimes a reader can learn more about something by finding out what it is *not* like than what it is like. A comparison shows similarities, while a contrast shows differences.


Passage 12

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Winds of the World

Do you know what a *chinosol* is? It's a warm winter wind in the western United States. Another wind is a *purga*. This very cold wind brings snow to Russia. In France, there is a dry wind called a *mistral*. Egypt has a *khaman*. This wind blows across the desert, stirring up sand. Around the world different winds come and go with the seasons.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is
☐ A. winds of the western U.S.
☐ B. how winds bring snow to Russia.
☐ C. different winds around the world.
2. A detail that tells more about the main idea is
☐ A. what a *purga* is.
☐ B. where the word *mistral* comes from.
☐ C. how people dress during a *khaman*.
3. How are a *purga* and a *chinosol* alike?
☐ A. They are winter winds.
☐ B. They are warm winds.
☐ C. They bring snow to Russia.

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In this paragraph, students have to read the entire text and ask themselves, "What is this paragraph mainly about?" The main idea is supported by different facts about winds.


Passage 38

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

The Ice Cream Worker

Connor worked in an ice cream shop. He was an excellent worker. On a summer day, he was very busy. It seemed that everyone loved ice cream then. Each morning Connor checked his supplies. Most people ordered cones. The flavors they chose would *vary* though. Connor was careful to have plenty of each flavor on hand.



1. In this paragraph, the word *vary* must mean
☐ A. plenty.
☐ B. differ.
☐ C. taste.
2. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
_____. A. Most people ordered cones.
_____. B. He was an excellent worker.
_____. C. Connor worked in an ice cream shop.
3. You can predict that Connor
☐ A. always ran out of supplies.
☐ B. only worked in the summer.
☐ C. rarely ran out of flavors.

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In this example, the last sentence in the paragraph provides a context for comprehending the word *vary*.

Inference

Although most primary students don't know what an inference is, many are most likely making inferences—both in their daily lives and when reading—without being aware of it. Students should understand that writers don't include every detail in their writing; it is up to readers to supply some information. A reader makes a guess or inference by putting together what is in a text with what he or she already knows. Inferring makes a significant difference in how much a reader gains from a text.

Predict

Good readers take time to think about a text. One way they do this is by thinking ahead to determine what may happen next or how an event will unfold. Often, information a reader has come across in the text provides clues to what will happen next. In many cases readers also use what they already know when they make predictions.

Fact & Opinion

Readers who can identify and differentiate between statements of fact and opinion are better able to analyze and assess a text. Students should learn to recognize phrases, such as *I think* and *you should*, that signal opinions.

Tips

★ Tell students to first read the passage and then answer the questions. Show them how to fill in the circles for bubble-test questions.

★ The comprehension skills targeted in the questions accompanying each passage are labeled at the bottom of the page.

★ Review the completed pages with students on a regular basis. Encourage them to explain their thinking for each correct answer.


Passage 29

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Dining Out

Kate was having dinner in a restaurant. She **decided** to order something different. When her meal came, Kate took a big bite. It was good. But then Kate's eyes opened wide. She began to cough. Her face turned red. Tears rolled down her cheeks. Quickly, Kate grabbed a glass of water and drank it down. She asked for another.



- Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Kate ate something hot and spicy.
 - ☐ B. Kate is suddenly very sad.
 - ☐ C. Kate ordered a very sweet dessert.
- You can predict that Kate will
 - ☐ A. order something else next time.
 - ☐ B. order the same meal again.
 - ☐ C. ask for the recipe.
- In this paragraph, the word **decided** means
 - ☐ A. thought about.
 - ☐ B. chose to.
 - ☐ C. began to.

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The writer never says what Kate ordered, but information in the paragraph plus what readers already know helps make it a likely guess.


Passage 16

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Meet the Marsupials

Some animals carry their young in a pouch. These animals are called marsupials. A kangaroo is an example. Another marsupial is the koala. It looks like a little bear. I would love to have one as a pet. I think a kangaroo might be hard to keep at home. Still another marsupial is the wombat. That's a funny name! The wombat looks something like a badger.



- Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
 - _____ A. Some animals carry their young in a pouch.
 - _____ B. These animals are called marsupials.
 - _____ C. That's a funny name!
- Write another opinion from the paragraph.

- How are a koala and a wombat different?
 - ☐ A. A wombat is a marsupial.
 - ☐ B. A koala carries its young in a pouch.
 - ☐ C. A wombat looks like a badger.

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To appreciate this passage, the reader should understand that the writer has shared several opinions as well as facts about marsupials.

Meeting the Common Core State Standards

The passages and comprehension questions in this book are designed to help you meet both your specific English/Language Arts standards and learning expectations as well as those recommended by the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI). The activities in this book align with the following CCSSI standards for grade three.

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

1. Ask and answer such questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
3. Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

1. Ask and answer such questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

Craft and Structure

4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words in a text relevant to a *grade 3 topic or subject area*.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text.
8. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences in a text.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills

Fluency

4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
 - a. Read on-level text with purpose and understanding.
 - c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

Language Standards

Knowledge of Language

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 3 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.
 - a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

In the Band

When a band plays, you hear brass instruments.

The players make different sounds by blowing into a mouthpiece. A trumpet player presses valves to change the sound. A trombone player pulls a slide back and forth. The trumpet has a higher sound than the trombone. The trombone is a larger instrument.



1. How are the trumpet and the trombone alike?

- ☐ A. The players pull a slide back and forth.
- ☐ B. The players blow into a mouthpiece.
- ☐ C. The instruments are the same size.

2. How are the trumpet and the trombone different?

- ☐ A. The trombone has a lower sound.
- ☐ B. The trumpet is played in bands.
- ☐ C. The trombone is a brass instrument.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. how to play a trumpet.
- ☐ B. brass instruments in a band.
- ☐ C. the size of a trombone.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Animal Ways

Animals have different ways of protecting themselves. Suppose a strange dog **threatens** a cat. What does the cat do? It stretches its legs and arches its back. It fluffs its fur and turns so its side faces the dog. All this makes the cat look much bigger. In case the dog doesn't get the idea, the cat also hisses!



1. In this paragraph, the word **threatens** must mean
 - ☐ A. causes a feeling of joy.
 - ☐ B. wants to make friends with.
 - ☐ C. shows signs of hurting.

2. You can predict that when a cat hisses, a dog usually
 - ☐ A. attacks.
 - ☐ B. backs off.
 - ☐ C. gets bigger.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. how dogs protect themselves.
 - ☐ B. why dogs threaten cats.
 - ☐ C. how cats protect themselves.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Doris Practices

Doris is a little short for her age, but she wants to play on the school basketball team. So Doris practices all the time. She plays with friends, her uncle, and her brother at home. Next week the coach is holding tryouts.



1. In this paragraph, the word **tryouts** means

- ☐ A. tests.
- ☐ B. practices.
- ☐ C. demonstrations.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Doris is a quitter.
- ☐ B. Doris is determined.
- ☐ C. Doris is a star player.

3. What will most likely happen next?

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Wise About Words

Thomas Blanket sold woolen goods long ago in England.

The English word *blanket* comes from his name.

A cloth called calico is named after Calicut.

This is a town in India where cotton cloth was made.

You should always know where words come from.

It's the best way to **impress** people.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

_____ A. A cloth called calico is named after Calicut.

_____ B. The English word *blanket* comes from his name.

_____ C. You should always know where words come from.

2. Write another opinion from the paragraph.

3. In this paragraph, the word **impress** means

- ☐ A. to push down hard.
- ☐ B. to teach something.
- ☐ C. to have a positive effect on.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Home, Sweet Home

Coober Pedy is a small mining town. It is in the southern part of Australia. The temperature there is usually 100 degrees in the summer. Some people in Coober Pedy have made their homes in old mines. They **escape** the heat by living in underground tunnels.



1. Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Coober Pedy has no regular houses.
 - ☐ B. It is cooler to live underground.
 - ☐ C. Miners prefer to live underground.
2. You can guess that the mines are
 - ☐ A. full of coal.
 - ☐ B. no longer operating.
 - ☐ C. open for business.
3. In this paragraph, the word **escape** means
 - ☐ A. get free from.
 - ☐ B. enjoy.
 - ☐ C. make use of.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Trucks on the Runway

It takes a lot of trucks to get an airplane ready to fly.

Fuel trucks are very important. They fill the fuel tanks of planes. Baggage trucks carry people's suitcases to and from planes. Still other trucks deliver food. You might also see mail trucks and cargo trucks. Also standing by at airports are repair trucks.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is
 - ☐ A. airplanes are like trucks.
 - ☐ B. some trucks carry food.
 - ☐ C. how trucks help planes.

2. A detail that tells about the main idea is
 - ☐ A. trucks are more important than planes.
 - ☐ B. many people carry on their luggage.
 - ☐ C. airplanes depend on trucks for fuel.

3. You can predict that the trucks
 - ☐ A. follow the planes down the runway.
 - ☐ B. leave before planes taxi down the runway.
 - ☐ C. block planes from taking off.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Rosa's Surprise

After the snow stopped, Rosa went out to build a snow house. She worked at it all afternoon. That night she told her family all about it at dinner. The next morning Rosa couldn't wait to go outside. She was shocked. Her snow house was a big mess.

"Who would **ruin** my house?" Rosa asked.

"The sun," said her dad. "It melted the snow."



1. In this paragraph, the word **ruin** must mean

- ☐ A. cause damage.
- ☐ B. steal away.
- ☐ C. run around in.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. It was very cold that night.
- ☐ B. The sun was out all night.
- ☐ C. It was much warmer in the morning.

3. The main idea of this story is

- ☐ A. dinner with Rosa's family.
- ☐ B. Rosa's snow house.
- ☐ C. a big mess of a snow house.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Aibo and Fido

Meet Aibo and Fido. Aibo is a dog. But he is also a robot. Aibo is **expensive**—he costs \$2,500. Many people like this metal pet. He comes when he’s called, and he doesn’t need to be walked. Fido is a mutt, but he’s a real dog. His furry coat sometimes sheds. His owner must take him out twice a day. Fido’s owner got him for free from an animal shelter. Both Aibo and Fido have learned to do tricks.



1. How are the dogs alike?

- ☐ A. They cost a lot of money.
- ☐ B. They are someone’s pets.
- ☐ C. They are both mutts.

2. How are the dogs different?

- ☐ A. Fido can do tricks.
- ☐ B. Aibo is made of metal.
- ☐ C. Aibo needs to be walked.

3. In this paragraph, the word **expensive** means

- ☐ A. cheap.
- ☐ B. costly.
- ☐ C. extensive.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Factory Fun



Many people like to see how things are made.

Factories have found that visitors can be big business.

For example, families drive many miles to visit factories that make crayons and baseball bats.

Other popular factories with tours are places that make teddy bears, cereal, and chocolate bars.

Many tours end with a question-and-answer period.

1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?

- ☐ A. People will wait in line to take the tour again.
- ☐ B. People will shop at the factory gift shop.
- ☐ C. People will try to get jobs working at the factory.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. touring chocolate factories.
- ☐ B. driving miles to see factories.
- ☐ C. taking factory tours.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?

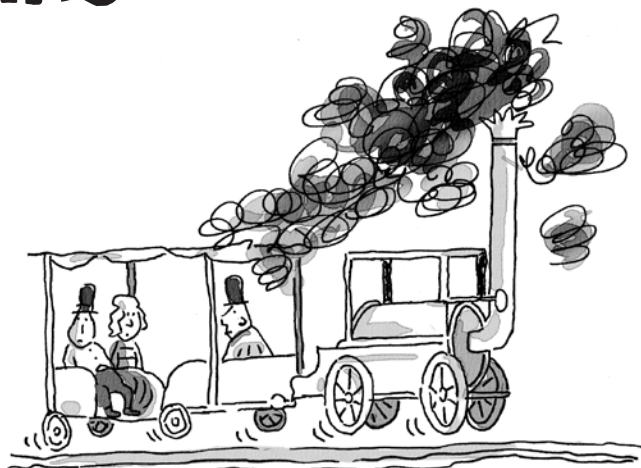
- ☐ A. Factories make money from visitors.
- ☐ B. Factory tours are dangerous.
- ☐ C. Visitors get free teddy bears.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Long-Ago Trains

The first railroad cars were scary. In the 1830s passengers rode in cars that looked like stagecoaches. Often showers of sparks from the engine blew back on them. That is so unsafe! The crew on these early trains didn't even ride inside a car. If it rained or snowed, they just got wet. I would not have worked on one of these trains.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

_____ A. The first railroad cars were scary.

_____ B. That is so unsafe!

_____ C. The crew on these early trains didn't even ride inside a car.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is

☐ A. riding on a train in the rain.

☐ B. problems with the first train rides.

☐ C. hard times for train workers.

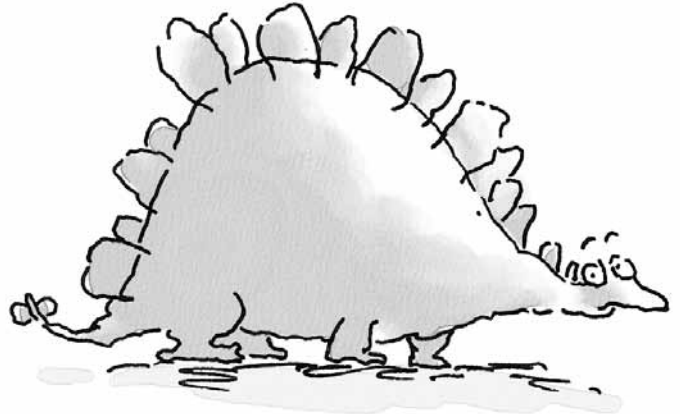
3. Write a detail that tells more about the main idea.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Meet Stegosaurus

Stegosaurus was an interesting-looking dinosaur. It had large plates shaped like triangles along its back. However, Stegosaurus had a very small head. Stegosaurus also had **weak** jaws. It had no teeth in the front of its jaws. It could not tear through tough skin. Stegosaurus ate things it found on the ground.



1. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Stegosaurus was a plant-eating dinosaur.
- ☐ B. Stegosaurus had teeth shaped like triangles.
- ☐ C. Stegosaurus used its mouth for protection.

2. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. Stegosaurus also had weak jaws.
- _____ B. Stegosaurus was an interesting-looking dinosaur.
- _____ C. Stegosaurus ate things it found on the ground.

3. In this paragraph, the word **weak** means

- ☐ A. powerful.
- ☐ B. not strong.
- ☐ C. large.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Winds of the World

Do you know what a *chinook* is? It's a warm winter wind in the western United States. Another wind is a *purga*. This very cold wind brings snow to Russia. In France, there is a dry wind called a *mistral*. Egypt has a *khamsin*. This wind blows across the desert, stirring up sand. Around the world different winds come and go with the seasons.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is
 - ☐ A. winds of the western U.S.
 - ☐ B. how winds bring snow to Russia.
 - ☐ C. different winds around the world.

2. A detail that tells more about the main idea is
 - ☐ A. what a *purga* is.
 - ☐ B. where the word *mistral* comes from.
 - ☐ C. how people dress during a *khamsin*.

3. How are a *purga* and a *chinook* alike?
 - ☐ A. They are winter winds.
 - ☐ B. They are warm winds.
 - ☐ C. They bring snow to Russia.

Name _____ Date _____

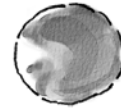
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Two Planets

Mercury and Venus are closer to the Sun than Earth. However, Mercury is 36 million miles from the Sun. Venus is 67 million miles away. It takes Mercury 88 days to orbit the Sun. Venus spends about 230 days orbiting once around the Sun. Venus is about the same size as Earth. Mercury is much smaller. Both Mercury and Venus get very hot. Scientists do not think there is life on either planet.



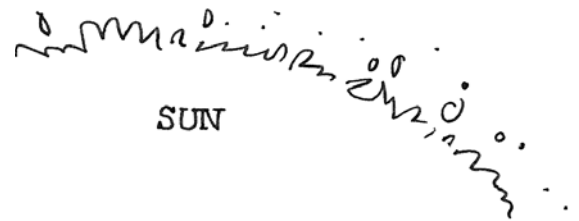
Earth



Venus



mercury



1. How are Mercury and Venus alike?

- ☐ A. They are the same size.
- ☐ B. They both orbit the Sun.
- ☐ C. Mercury is nearer the Sun.

2. How are Mercury and Venus different?

- ☐ A. Venus takes longer to orbit the sun.
- ☐ B. There is no life on either planet.
- ☐ C. Mercury is closer to the sun than Earth.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Mercury and Venus get hot because they are near Earth.
- ☐ B. Mercury and Venus get hot because they are near the Sun.
- ☐ C. Mercury and Venus get hot because they have no life.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Harry's Show

Harry was telling his family about a show with a juggler. "He wore funny clothes," said Harry. "And he had lots of balls. He could keep them all in the air at the same time."

Harry's father was puzzled. How had Harry seen a show? Their TV was broken. "Where did this show **occur**?" Dad asked. "Did you see it at school?" Harry shook his head. "It happened in a book!" he said.



1. In this paragraph, the word **occur** must mean

- ☐ A. toss around.
- ☐ B. turn off.
- ☐ C. take place.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Harry will show the book to his father.
- ☐ B. Harry's father will fix the TV.
- ☐ C. Harry's father will go to the school.

3. Write a sentence from the paragraph that is an opinion.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Cranes Calling

Wild cranes fly south each fall. But cranes raised by people do not have parents to teach them how to do this. So scientists **trained** some cranes they had raised to follow a small plane. The pilot played a tape of adult cranes calling one another. Then the plane took off. The tame cranes followed it. The plane flew for two hours each day. So did the birds.



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?
 - ☐ A. The cranes will learn to fly south by themselves.
 - ☐ B. The cranes will get into the plane with the pilot.
 - ☐ C. Wild cranes will start to follow the plane, too.
2. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. wild cranes fly south.
 - ☐ B. cranes and planes.
 - ☐ C. teaching tame cranes to go south.
3. In this paragraph, the word **trained** means
 - ☐ A. asked.
 - ☐ B. taught.
 - ☐ C. helped.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Meet the Marsupials

Some animals carry their young in a pouch. These animals are called marsupials. A kangaroo is an example. Another marsupial is the koala. It looks like a little bear. I would love to have one as a pet. I think a kangaroo might be hard to keep at home. Still another marsupial is the wombat. That's a funny name! The wombat looks something like a badger.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. Some animals carry their young in a pouch.
 _____ B. These animals are called marsupials.
 _____ C. That's a funny name!

2. Write another opinion from the paragraph.

3. How are a koala and a wombat different?

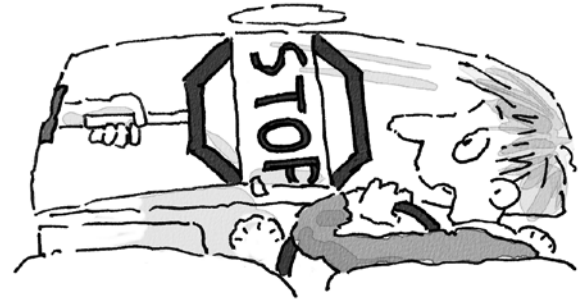
- ☐ A. A wombat is a marsupial.
☐ B. A koala carries its young in a pouch.
☐ C. A wombat looks like a badger.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Good Advice

Drivers see many of the same signs each time they are on the road. One of the most common traffic signs is “Stop.” Another one is “Slow.” These two signs alone **prevent** lots of accidents. Some other helpful signs are “Enter” and “Exit.” The road signs “Yield” and “Caution” also provide good advice.



1. Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Drivers do not obey traffic signs.
 - ☐ B. Road signs are hard to read.
 - ☐ C. Many road signs are for safety.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. reading “Yield” signs.
 - ☐ B. seeing the same signs.
 - ☐ C. road signs that help drivers.

3. In this paragraph, the word **prevent** means
 - ☐ A. cause to happen.
 - ☐ B. keep from happening.
 - ☐ C. are responsible for.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Monkey Trouble

Most animals you see in cities are pets. But if you visit Thailand, watch out for monkeys. Many wild monkeys have moved into a city there. These monkeys make trouble. They go into houses and take things. On the street they **snatch** bags and eyeglasses. How do people get their things back? They give food to the monkeys!



1. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. most animals in cities are pets.
 - ☐ B. some monkeys in Thailand take eyeglasses.
 - ☐ C. some monkeys in Thailand make trouble.

2. The word **snatch** in this paragraph means
 - ☐ A. sit in treetops.
 - ☐ B. steal.
 - ☐ C. come out of an egg.

3. How do you think people feel about what the monkeys do?

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Mystery Footprints

People tell of strange creatures. One is Sasquatch. Reports of this furry, apelike creature come from forests in North America. Explorers have seen large footprints that might belong to Sasquatch. Another creature is the Yeti. It is also hairy and apelike. The Yeti is said to live in the Himalayas near Tibet and Nepal. People there say they, too, have seen footprints. No real proof of these creatures has been found.



1. How are Sasquatch and the Yeti alike?
 - ☐ A. They are apelike creatures.
 - ☐ B. They live in North America.
 - ☐ C. Scientists say they are real.
2. How are Sasquatch and the Yeti different?
 - ☐ A. The Yeti is said to live near Tibet.
 - ☐ B. People have reported footprints.
 - ☐ C. Sasquatch is a hairy animal.
3. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. creatures from the Himalayas near Tibet.
 - ☐ B. a North American furry ape.
 - ☐ C. strange creatures no one has proof of seeing.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Cookie Alert

An ant spotted something on the step.
It looked like a cookie. Quickly, the ant raced
back to its nest to let others know.
Soon a line of ants made its way to the cookie.
But just then a large foot appeared.
It stepped on the cookie and **crushed** it.
The ants didn't mind. They waited until the
foot moved. Then they picked up the small
pieces and carried them to the nest.



1. In this paragraph, the word **crush** must mean
 - ☐ A. break into pieces.
 - ☐ B. made a noise.
 - ☐ C. carried away.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Crushing the cookie was helpful to the ants.
 - ☐ B. Crushing the cookie made it harder for the ants.
 - ☐ C. Crushing the cookie was harmful to the ants.

3. You can predict that the ants
 - ☐ A. didn't bother to eat the cookie.
 - ☐ B. carried all the cookie to their nest.
 - ☐ C. left pieces of cookie for other animals.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Family Fun on the Nile

People in ancient Egypt weren't lucky enough to have televisions or computers.

They spent their free time in other ways.

Families often went on **outings** along the Nile River. Sometimes they sailed in boats.

The children caught fish with spears or nets.

They also picked flowers that grew along the shores. Children today have a lot more fun.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

_____ A. Families often went on outings along the Nile River.

_____ B. Children today have a lot more fun.

_____ C. The children caught fish with spears or nets.

2. In this paragraph, the word **outings** means

- ☐ A. boats.
- ☐ B. overnights.
- ☐ C. short trips.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Children in ancient Egypt wanted computers.
- ☐ B. The Nile was important to ancient Egyptians.
- ☐ C. Every family had a boat in ancient Egypt.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Let's Go Camping

Camping keeps getting easier. In 1923 the first gas camp stove was sold. Backpacks became lighter in the mid 1950s. That's when aluminum tubes were used in backpack frames. By 1976 campers could take freeze-dried foods on their outings. In the 1980s, special lightweight hiking boots came out. And in the 1990s, terrific new tent designs were available.



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?

- ☐ A. Improved equipment will help campers.
- ☐ B. People will give up hiking and camping.
- ☐ C. Camping equipment will get harder to use.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Freeze-dried foods were first sold in 1923.
- ☐ B. Hiking keeps getting harder.
- ☐ C. Early backpacks were made of heavy material.

3. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

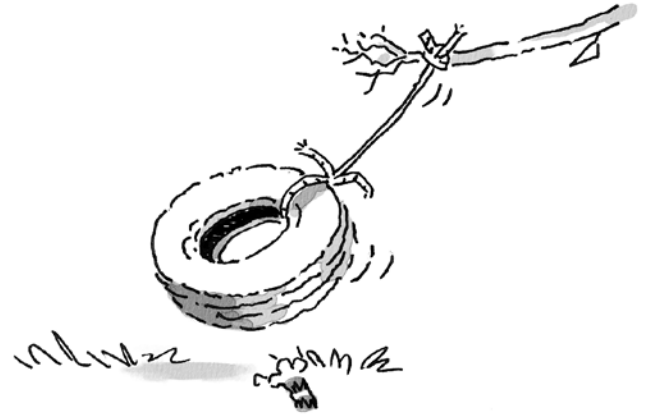
- _____ A. Backpacks became lighter in the 1950s.
- _____ B. In 1923 the first gas camp stove was sold.
- _____ C. And in the 1990s, terrific new tent designs were available.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Meet Princess

Princess sat in the sun. What beautiful striped fur she had! Princess rose and padded over to her scratching post. It was the trunk of a big tree. After sharpening her claws, Princess played with her ball. It was the size of a pumpkin. Then Princess **batted** at her favorite toy. It was an old tire hanging from the tree. When she was thirsty, Princess drank from her pool.



1. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Princess is a household cat.
- ☐ B. Princess is a zoo tiger.
- ☐ C. Princess lives in the wild.

2. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. It was the trunk of a big tree.
- _____ B. Princess sat in the sun.
- _____ C. What beautiful striped fur she had!

3. In this paragraph, the word **batted** means

- ☐ A. hit.
- ☐ B. licked.
- ☐ C. sniffed.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Bandit Birds

Crows are the robbers of the bird world.
Crows especially like to steal food from other birds.
Sometimes they are very bold about taking things.
They might chase another bird, cackle at it,
or even bump into it. At other times crows are sneaky.
They get close and then snatch food away
when another bird isn't looking.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is
 - ☐ A. why crows like to take food.
 - ☐ B. the kind of food that crows eat.
 - ☐ C. how crows act like thieves.

2. A detail that tells about the main idea is
 - ☐ A. how crows can be sneaky.
 - ☐ B. how other birds fight crows.
 - ☐ C. where crows make their nests.

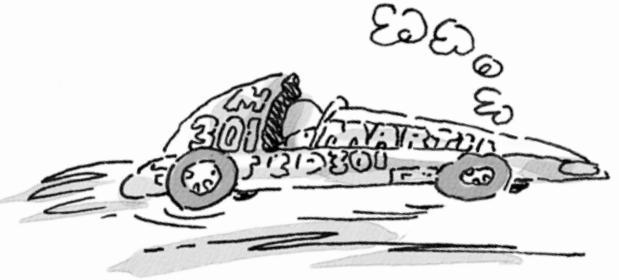
3. Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Other birds really like crows.
 - ☐ B. Other birds try to stay away from crows.
 - ☐ C. Other birds learn to act like crows.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Fast and Faster

Have you ever seen a racing car? Formula One cars race on tracks. These are high-powered cars that go very fast. They have specially-made bodies and engines. Stock cars are regular cars that have been changed for racing. These cars go fast but not as fast as Formula One racers. Stock cars **usually** race on tracks, too.



1. How are Formula One cars and stock cars alike?
 - ☐ A. They have specially made engines.
 - ☐ B. They are made from regular cars.
 - ☐ C. They are used for races on tracks.

2. How are Formula One cars and stock cars different?
 - ☐ A. They use a parachute to stop them.
 - ☐ B. Formula One racing cars go faster.
 - ☐ C. Stock cars have specially made bodies.

3. In this paragraph, the word **usually** means
 - ☐ A. never.
 - ☐ B. mostly.
 - ☐ C. sometimes.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

A Mighty Snake

Meet the python. This mighty snake grows up to 23 feet long. When the python is hungry, it needs a big meal. A python might grab a wild pig or small deer for dinner. The snake wraps itself around the animal until it is dead. Then the python opens its mouth and its dinner **vanishes** in one large gulp. After that, a python may not need to eat again for a while.



1. In this paragraph, the word **vanishes** must mean

- ☐ A. disappears.
- ☐ B. runs away.
- ☐ C. stretches.

2. A title that sums up this paragraph is

- ☐ A. How a Python Eats.
- ☐ B. A Very Long Snake.
- ☐ C. A Wild Pig's Problem.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. A python eats slowly.
- ☐ B. A python doesn't chew.
- ☐ C. A python is rarely hungry.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Washtub Race

Many places have boat races. But the town of Rieti in Italy has a washtub race. What a silly event! The race takes place on the Velino River. The racers, all men, kneel in the tubs. They use oars to **paddle**. If a racer isn't careful, the tub tips over. Also, if a racer doesn't paddle correctly, the tub spins around. In my opinion, you have to be a good sport for this race.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. The race takes place on the Velino River.
 _____ B. What a silly event!
 _____ C. The racers, all men, kneel in the tubs.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. The racers never get wet.
☐ B. The racers have a good time.
☐ C. The washtubs are very comfortable.

3. In this paragraph, the word **paddle** means

- ☐ A. hit someone.
☐ B. wave to people.
☐ C. move the tub.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Space Junk

Did you know there is junk in space? This junk is made up of old satellites, rockets, and even tools lost by astronauts. Space junk can hit a spacecraft and **damage** it. Usually, scientists can guide a spacecraft away from space junk. But as more and more junk is left in space, the danger grows. So scientists are working on ideas for getting rid of space junk.



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?

- ☐ A. Scientists will stop worrying about space junk.
- ☐ B. Space junk will start to fall to Earth.
- ☐ C. Scientists will find ways to clean up space.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. avoiding space junk.
- ☐ B. kinds of space junk.
- ☐ C. the problem of space junk.

3. In this paragraph, the word **damage** means

- ☐ A. harm.
- ☐ B. steer.
- ☐ C. decorate.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Dining Out

Kate was having dinner in a restaurant. She **decided** to order something different. When her meal came, Kate took a big bite. It was good. But then Kate's eyes opened wide. She began to cough. Her face turned red. Tears rolled down her cheeks. Quickly, Kate grabbed a glass of water and drank it down. She asked for another.



1. Which sentence is most likely true?
 - ☐ A. Kate ate something hot and spicy.
 - ☐ B. Kate is suddenly very sad.
 - ☐ C. Kate ordered a very sweet dessert.
2. You can predict that Kate will
 - ☐ A. order something else next time.
 - ☐ B. order the same meal again.
 - ☐ C. ask for the recipe.
3. In this paragraph, the word **decided** means
 - ☐ A. thought about.
 - ☐ B. chose to.
 - ☐ C. began to.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Goats as Firefighters

Goats help prevent fires in California.

In parts of the state, the fall season is very dry. Hot winds blow over the land. The smallest spark can start a fire. The fires spread easily through grasses and bushes. So people use goats to eat the plants as a form of fire control. The goats eat anything, even plants with thorns. Many people rent the goats until the rains come and the danger is over.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is

- ☐ A. goats are not very fussy eaters.
- ☐ B. goats prevent fires by clearing land.
- ☐ C. California's dangerous dry season.

2. A detail that tells more about the main idea is

- ☐ A. the goats are rented for the dry season.
- ☐ B. cows do not work well for this job.
- ☐ C. goats also eat plants people want to keep.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. The goats don't like the rain.
- ☐ B. The rain is very welcome when it comes.
- ☐ C. The goats aren't afraid of fire.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

A Popular Water Sport

Surfing is a popular sport in oceans and the Great Lakes. It takes a stormy day for good waves to build on the lakes. Usually lake surfers go out in the winter. They wear long wetsuits to keep warm in the cold waters. Ocean surfing is much better. Ocean surfers can count on good waves much more often. They can usually wear just bathing suits and surf in sunny weather. Surfers use a board for both lake and ocean surfing.



1. How are lake and ocean surfing alike?

- ☐ A. The surfers always wear wetsuits.
- ☐ B. The surfers use a board on the waves.
- ☐ C. The surfers can count on good waves.

2. How are lake and ocean surfing different?

- ☐ A. Lake surfers usually wear bathing suits.
- ☐ B. The sport is popular in both kinds of water.
- ☐ C. Lake waves build only in stormy weather.

3. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. Usually lake surfers go out in the winter.
- _____ B. Ocean surfing is much better.
- _____ C. Ocean surfers can count on good waves much more often.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

That Chilly Feeling

As you climb out of the swimming pool, a breeze blows up. You can't find your towel. You are chilly. You begin to shiver. What makes you shiver? When your body temperature drops, a part of your brain quickly **reacts**. It takes control of your muscles and makes you shiver. When you shiver, you make extra body heat. This helps you warm up.



1. In this paragraph, the word **reacts** must mean

- ☐ A. warms up.
- ☐ B. shuts down.
- ☐ C. acts in response.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. how your body warms up.
- ☐ B. what happens when you lose your towel.
- ☐ C. how your muscles work.

3. You can predict that as your body warms up,

- ☐ A. you get very chilly.
- ☐ B. you stop shivering.
- ☐ C. you find your towel.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Silly Laws

Some laws are really stupid. In Idaho, you can get in trouble if you fish from a camel's back.

That's ridiculous! In Arizona, there's a fine if you let a donkey fall asleep in your bathtub.

That's just silly. In Vermont, it's against the law to whistle underwater. And a city in Minnesota has a law **forbidding** people to drive red cars.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

_____ A. Some laws are really stupid.

_____ B. In Arizona, there's a fine if you let a donkey fall asleep in your bathtub.

_____ C. That's ridiculous!

2. Write another fact from the paragraph.

3. In this paragraph, the word **forbidding** means

- ☐ A. persuading.
- ☐ B. encouraging.
- ☐ C. not allowing.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Monster Story

Loch Ness is a large lake in Scotland.

Many people think a huge monster lives in the lake. The stories first started in the year 565. At that time, reports said that a lake monster killed a swimmer. Since then many people

have told tales about the monster. Some people have even made **fake** photos of it. Scientists have made tests but cannot prove it is real—or unreal.



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?

- ☐ A. Loch Ness monster stories will continue.
- ☐ B. People will stop believing in the monster.
- ☐ C. The Loch Ness monster will come up on land.

2. You can guess that many people

- ☐ A. think the monster is a good swimmer.
- ☐ B. have seen the monster.
- ☐ C. want to believe there is a monster.

3. In this paragraph, the word **fake** means

- ☐ A. real.
- ☐ B. clear.
- ☐ C. pretend.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

A Tense Moment

Mrs. Pence stood at the front of the room. Everyone watched her. Then she began to call out names. One by one, the students stepped forward and got a paper. Some students smiled in relief. Others looked upset. Tina waited. When her name was called, she held her breath. Then she looked at her paper. Thank goodness she had studied!



1. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Tina will have to come in after school.
- ☐ B. Mrs. Pence is assigning homework.
- ☐ C. Tina did well on the recent test.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is

- ☐ A. calling out names one by one.
- ☐ B. getting papers back in school.
- ☐ C. a teacher named Mrs. Pence.

3. Write a detail that tells more about the main idea.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Place Names

Community names often have words for water in them. For example, Riverview is a town in Kansas. Running Springs is in California. You'll find Bay City in Michigan. Storm Lake is in Iowa, Great Falls is in Montana, and Brookfield is in Vermont. Where is Silver Creek? Why, it's in Mississippi.



1. The main idea of the paragraph is
 - ☐ A. where to find Silver Creek.
 - ☐ B. names of places with water words.
 - ☐ C. different bodies of water in states.

2. A detail that tells more about the main idea is
 - ☐ A. which state has the most bodies of water.
 - ☐ B. in which state you'll find Bay City.
 - ☐ C. why water words appear in names.

3. You can guess that
 - ☐ A. Storm Lake is near a storm.
 - ☐ B. Bay City is on a bay.
 - ☐ C. Running Springs is known for its runners.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Paul and Bill

In the early days of our country, people told tall tales. These were about characters with larger-than-life powers. One was Paul Bunyan, a lumberman. He had a blue ox named Babe. Paul did things in a big way. When he needed drinking water, he dug some ponds. They became the Great Lakes. Pecos Bill was a tall-tale cowboy. He rode a horse named Widow-Maker. He taught broncos how to buck. He also invented scorpions as a joke.



1. How were Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill alike?
 - ☐ A. They had larger-than-life powers.
 - ☐ B. They were mighty lumbermen.
 - ☐ C. They taught broncos how to buck.
2. How were Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill different?
 - ☐ A. Paul was a tall-tale character.
 - ☐ B. Pecos Bill had a special animal.
 - ☐ C. Pecos Bill invented scorpions.
3. The main idea of this paragraph is
 - ☐ A. powerful tall-tale characters.
 - ☐ B. a lumberman called Paul Bunyan.
 - ☐ C. how the great Lakes were started.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

The Ice Cream Worker

Connor worked in an ice cream shop. He was an excellent worker. On a summer day, he was very busy. It seemed that everyone loved ice cream then. Each morning Connor checked his supplies. Most people ordered cones. The flavors they chose would **vary** though. Connor was careful to have plenty of each flavor on hand.



1. In this paragraph, the word **vary** must mean

- ☐ A. plenty.
- ☐ B. differ.
- ☐ C. taste.

2. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

- _____ A. Most people ordered cones.
- _____ B. He was an excellent worker.
- _____ C. Connor worked in an ice cream shop.

3. You can predict that Connor

- ☐ A. always ran out of supplies.
- ☐ B. only worked in the summer.
- ☐ C. rarely ran out of flavors.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Talking on Trains

Some railroad trains have quiet cars. This means that talking on cell phones is not allowed. It's a great rule. Many people are tired after working all day. They don't care to hear someone else's conversation. People who blab away on cell phones are really rude. Under the cell phone rule, people who do need to talk sit in cars where phones are allowed.



1. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.

_____ A. Some railroad trains have quiet cars.

_____ B. It's a great rule.

_____ C. Many people are tired after working all day.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

☐ A. Quiet cars were started after riders complained.

☐ B. No one can make cell phone calls on trains.

☐ C. The writer likes to hear people's conversations.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is

☐ A. talkative train riders.

☐ B. rules about cell phone use on trains.

☐ C. allowing cell phones in some train cars.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Jessie's Job

Jessie is a photographer. Most of the time she works in a zoo. She loves her job, but it is not easy to get good pictures. The animals do not know they should stay still for a photo. So Jessie has to wait for just the right moment. Today Jessie is taking **shots** of the orangutans. They are her favorites. She knows they can be very silly!



1. Which sentence tells what most likely happens next?

- ☐ A. Jessie will yell at the orangutans.
- ☐ B. The orangutans will sit quietly.
- ☐ C. The orangutans will make funny faces.

2. Which sentence is most likely true?

- ☐ A. Jessie has to be patient in her job.
- ☐ B. Jessie gets results by yelling at the animals.
- ☐ C. The animals like to make Jessie mad.

3. In this paragraph, the word **shots** means

- ☐ A. shooting.
- ☐ B. vaccinations.
- ☐ C. pictures.

Answers

page 7:

1. B
2. A
3. B

page 8:

1. C
2. B
3. C

page 9:

1. A
2. B
3. Answers will vary but should reflect the text.

page 10:

1. A. Fact
B. Fact
C. Opinion
2. It's the best way to impress people.
3. C

page 11:

1. B
2. B
3. A

page 12:

1. C
2. C
3. B

page 13:

1. A
2. C
3. B

page 14:

1. B
2. B
3. B

page 15:

1. B
2. C
3. A

page 16:

1. A. Opinion
B. Opinion
C. Fact
2. B
3. Answers will vary but should reflect the text.

page 17:

1. A
2. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact
3. B

page 18:

1. C
2. A
3. A

page 19:

1. B
2. A
3. B

page 20:

1. C
2. A
3. He wore funny clothes.

page 21:

1. A
2. C
3. B

page 22:

1. A. Fact
B. Fact
C. Opinion
2. Possible: I think a kangaroo might be hard to keep at home.
3. C

page 23:

1. C
2. C
3. B

page 24:

1. C
2. B
3. Answers will vary.

page 25:

1. A
2. A
3. C

page 26:

1. A
2. A
3. B

page 27:

1. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact
2. C
3. B

page 28:

1. A
2. C
3. A. Fact
B. Fact
C. Opinion

page 29:

1. B
2. A. Fact
B. Fact
C. Opinion
3. A

page 30:

1. C
2. A
3. B

page 31:

1. C
2. B
3. B

page 32:

1. A
2. A
3. B

page 33:

1. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact
2. B
3. C

page 34:

1. C
2. C
3. A

page 35:

1. A
2. A
3. B

page 36:

1. B
2. A
3. B

page 37:

1. B
2. C
3. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact

page 38:

1. C
2. A
3. B

page 39:

1. A. Opinion
B. Fact
C. Opinion
2. Answers will vary.
3. C

page 40:

1. A
2. C
3. C

page 41:

1. C
2. B
3. Answers will vary.

page 42:

1. B
2. B
3. B

page 43:

1. A
2. C
3. A

page 44:

1. B
2. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact
3. C

page 45:

1. A. Fact
B. Opinion
C. Fact
2. A
3. C

page 46:

1. C
2. A
3. C

