

2

The Mighty Migrator's Meal

The hungry leatherback sea turtle leaves her warm tropic home each year. She catches a swift current to the cold sea in the distant north. / Still the fat thousand-pound reptile stays warm. Her thick rubbery skin brushes against translucent stinging jellyfish that fill the waters. / The tiny food tries to fight against her tough hide, but her flippers just wave the floating snacks toward her chomping pointy beak. / Then after months of feasting on jellies, she glides into a new current and is swept away for the long journey to her southern home.



Multiple Sentence

Date: _____

Vocabulary to Visualize:

tropic: the hot region of the Earth south of the equator

current: the flow of water in a definite direction

reptile: a cold-blooded, air-breathing animal that usually has scales

translucent: allowing light, but not detailed images, to pass through

1 First and Second Sentences: The hungry leatherback sea turtle leaves her warm tropic home each year. She catches a swift current to the cold sea in the distant north.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the turtle? _____

2. her tropic home? _____

3. her catching a current? _____

4. the sea in the north? _____

2 Third and Fourth Sentences: Still the fat thousand-pound reptile stays warm. Her thick rubbery skin brushes against translucent stinging jellyfish that fill the waters.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. how fat the reptile is? _____

2. her skin? _____

3. the jellyfish? _____

4. how many jellyfish? _____

17

Surviving the Seasons



Paragraph by Paragraph

Date: _____

During the summer months, blistering heat spreads across the barren Gobi Desert. The two-humped Bactrian camel sports a thin brown coat as she scours the land for food. She lowers her long neck and munches on a scarce patch of dry withered grass. Then she scans the desert for a puddle of water but when there's none, she stays calm. The camel's humps store thick nutrient-rich fat, and she can go without water and little food for months!

A few months later, ice and snow cover wide swaths of the desert. The camel grows thick fur all over her body and faces the biting winter winds. She gobbles any hardy plant that pokes up through the frost. Then she chews tons of crunchy snow and licks solid ice sheets for hours. But these tough times don't seem to bother the thriving camel as she readies for the coming heat.



Vocabulary to Visualize:

Gobi Desert: a vast desert between China and Mongolia

scours: searches a place thoroughly

scarce: not available or plentiful

swath: a broad strip or area

thriving: growing strong and healthy

1 **First Paragraph:** During the summer months, blistering heat spreads across the barren Gobi Desert. The two-humped Bactrian camel sports a thin brown coat as she scours the land for food. She lowers her long neck and munches on a scarce patch of dry withered grass. Then she scans the desert for a puddle of water but when there's none, she stays calm. The camel's humps store thick nutrient-rich fat, and she can go without water and little food for months!

Write a Word Summary for this Paragraph: _____

What are you picturing for...

1. the camel? _____

2. the Gobi Desert in summer? _____

3. the camel scouring? _____

19

The Giving Tree



Paragraph by Paragraph

Date: _____

In spring, a large palo verde tree shades a young stubby saguaro cactus from the hot desert sun. The tree's tiny leaves and yellow flowers cover its green branches to form a wide canopy. Summer monsoon rains pummel the scrubby desert. But the tree takes the brunt of the storm, and water pools around its thick trunk. The thirsty saguaro sucks up the puddle through its roots. The stumpy cactus stores the water through the dry fall and crisp winter.

By the next spring, a wild pig roots around the desert for a water-filled treat. The young saguaro's poky spines are no match for the pig's tusks and thick snout. But the near-blind forager passes the plump cactus camouflaged by the tree's dappled shade and green bark. For the next hundred years, the palo verde tree nurses the saguaro until the cactus stands over fifteen-feet tall! The now tough saguaro sucks up the scant water of the desert while brown scars twist around the tree's trunk and branches. One day, the drooping tree topples while the cactus buds its first spiky arm.



Vocabulary to Visualize:

pummel: hit rapidly and repeatedly

brunt: the main part of something, usually unpleasant

forager: someone or something who searches for food

camouflaged: hidden by looking like something nearby

dappled: spotty

1 First Paragraph: In spring, a large palo verde tree shades a young stubby saguaro cactus from the hot desert sun. The tree's tiny leaves and yellow flowers cover its green branches to form a wide canopy. Summer monsoon rains pummel the scrubby desert. But the tree takes the brunt of the storm, and water pools around its thick trunk. The thirsty saguaro sucks up the puddle through its roots. The stumpy cactus stores the water through the dry fall and crisp winter.

Write a Word Summary for this Paragraph: _____

What are you picturing for...

1. the palo verde tree? _____

2. the saguaro cactus? _____

3. the tree in the rains? _____