

1

Woolly Worm Festival

Each fall, “worm trainers” bring fuzzy striped caterpillars—called woolly worms—to the small town of Banner Elk for a racing tournament. The trainers place their worms on the bottoms of hanging strings of equal length, and watch them race to the top. There are many races throughout the day, with eight woolly worms in each race. The losers of each race are set free in bushes nearby, and the winning woolly worms race each other. At the end of the day, a man lifts the winner of the last race and counts its few stripes, and then tells the cheering crowd there will be a short winter.



Sentence by Sentence

Date: _____

Vocabulary to Visualize:

woolly: covered in thick hair or wool
trainer: a person who helps another person or animal do something better
tournament: a set of many contests to determine one winner

1 **First Sentence:** Each fall, “worm trainers” bring fuzzy striped caterpillars—called woolly worms—to the small town of Banner Elk for a racing tournament.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the “worm trainers”? _____

2. the caterpillars? _____

3. the town? _____

4. it being fall? _____

2 **Second Sentence:** The trainers place their worms on the bottoms of hanging strings of equal length, and watch them race to the top.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the trainers placing the woolly worms? _____

2. the woolly worms on the strings? _____

3. the strings? _____

4. the woolly worms racing? _____

3

Third Sentence: There are many races throughout the day, with eight woolly worms in each race.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the races? _____

2. the number of woolly worms in each race? _____

3. how many races there are? _____

4. it being day? _____

5

Fifth Sentence: At the end of the day, a man lifts the winner of the last race and counts its few stripes, and then tells the cheering crowd there will be a short winter.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the man lifting the woolly worm? _____

2. the stripes on the winning woolly worm? _____

3. the crowd cheering? _____

4

Fourth Sentence: The losers of each race are set free in bushes nearby, and the winning woolly worms race each other.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. a woolly worm losing a race? _____

2. a woolly worm being set free? _____

3. the bushes? _____

4. the winning woolly worms racing each other? _____

Picture Summary:

Number your images in order. Here I saw...



people gathering in a small town for a "woolly worm" racing tournament.



a man counting the stripes of the winning woolly worm, and telling a crowd winter will be short.



slow woolly worms being put on bushes and fast ones racing again.



trainers putting the woolly worms on strings and the worms climbing.



lots of woolly worms racing up the strings all day long.

Critical Thinking

Write a Word Summary:

Main Idea:

Check the box that best describes all your images—the main idea.

- People gather in the small city of Banner Elk to race small earthworms to find out how hot the summer will be.
- People gather in the small town of Banner Elk to race fuzzy caterpillars, called woolly worms, for fun, and to find out how long the winter will be.
- Fuzzy caterpillars, called woolly worms, race up pieces of string in the small town of Banner Elk each fall.

HOTS Questions:

1. From what you pictured, why are the caterpillars called “woolly worms”?

2. From what you pictured, do the “worm trainers” really train the woolly worms?

3. From what you pictured, why are the pieces of string of equal length?

4. What would you picture happening if a woolly worm climbed down the string instead of up?

5. What would you picture the man telling the crowd if the winning caterpillar had had many stripes, instead of few stripes? Explain.

6. From what you pictured, do the people in Banner Elk believe that the caterpillar stripes really predict how long the winter will be? Why or why not?

Write a Story

Make up a silly story about what the woolly worms do after they race.

Did you use all of the Structure Words? Check each one you used.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What | <input type="checkbox"/> Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Color | <input type="checkbox"/> Mood | <input type="checkbox"/> Background | <input type="checkbox"/> Perspective |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size | <input type="checkbox"/> Shape | <input type="checkbox"/> Movement | <input type="checkbox"/> Where | <input type="checkbox"/> When | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound |