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15 Catching a Breath

A big green turtle glides in the sea. She swims close to the bottom and chomps on sea grass. Then she heads up to the surface. She pokes just her nose out of the waves. Then she dives back down.

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think the turtle swims close to the bottom?
- 3. Why do you think she heads up to the surface?
- 4. Why do you think she pokes just her nose out of the waves? Explain.
- 5. Do you think she goes to the surface a lot or a little? Explain.



33 Watchdog

A black dog sleeps on the porch of a farmhouse. One night she wakes to loud clucking. She sniffs the air and jumps up. A fox! The dog barks and growls as she bolts to the henhouse. The fox runs away into the dark. Then the dog lies down to sleep next to the henhouse.

From what you pictured...

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think the dog jumps up?
- 3. Why do you think the fox runs away?
- 4. Why do you think the dog doesn't go back to sleep on the porch?

34 Volcano Goes Boom!

Five girls hiked up a tall, snowy mountain. When they were halfway up, the ground shook and cracked. Boom! The girls ran back down the trail. They ran until they were far away. They looked back up at the peak. Hot red lava shot up into the sky.

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think the ground shook and cracked?
- 3. Why do you think the girls ran? Why not hike to the top?
- 4. Do you think the girls knew the mountain was a volcano when they went for the hike? Explain.

46 Growing Pains

Bob's pet hermit crab has a small brown shell. Bob sees the red crab grow bigger each day. Bob puts a big new shell in its tank. The next day, the brown shell is empty.

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think Bob puts a new shell in the tank?
- 3. Why do you think the new shell is *big*? Why not the same size as the brown shell?
- 4. Why do you think the brown shell is empty?



47 Storing Snacks

The black crow flies close to the forest floor. She finds tasty seeds on the ground. She picks one up and drops it in a hole. She kicks brown dirt over it. She places a leaf on the mound with her beak. The crow flies off.

Winter brings snow to the crow's forest home. All the trees and ground is white. The black crow doesn't see any seeds on the snow. But a leaf pokes out. The crow lands and digs with her beak to get her seed.

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think the crow flies close to the forest floor?
- 3. Why do you think the crow drops the seed in the hole?
- 4. Do you think she buried other seeds? Why or why not?
- 5. How do you think the crow finds the seeds she buried?

49 First Day on the Job

A young man grabs a rope that hangs off the side of a fishing boat. He pulls the long wet rope up. The end is tied to a small wire cage. He lifts the cage and sees three brown lobsters. He grins.

The man opens the cage door and puts his hand in. Suddenly one of the lobsters grabs his hand with its big strong claw. The man yelps. He drops the cage. Under the water, the lobsters swim out of the open door. Free!

- 1. What is the main idea of this story?
- 2. Why do you think the rope is hanging off the boat?
- 3. Why do you think the man pulls the rope up?
- 4. Do you think the man expects to see lobsters? Why or why not?
- 5. Do you think it hurts when the lobster grabs the man's hand? Why or why not?
- 6. Why do you think the title of this story is "First Day on the Job?"

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