

Leah's Pony

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

- Leah's pony was **sturdy**. If something is **sturdy**, it is _____.
 A. scared
 B. weak
 C. rugged
 D. broken
- Leah brushed the pony's coat until it **glistened**. **Glistened** means _____.
 A. looked soft or polished
 B. looked tangled
 C. reflected like a mirror
 D. looked sticky
- The narrator refers to an old truck **overflowing** with household goods. If the truck is **overflowing**, it means _____.
 A. the truck is full of water
 B. the truck is packed full
 C. the truck is going to crash
 D. the truck is going the speed limit
- Why is there an auction?
 A. The seeds dried up and blew away.
 B. The bank wants to sell cattle and chickens.
 C. Leah's father borrowed money and can't pay back the bank.
 D. Leah's family wants to move.
- What happens at the auction?
 A. Leah's family loses all their possessions.
 B. The neighbors buy everything and then give it back to Leah's family.
 C. The man in the big hat rides Leah's pony.
 D. Leah buys her father's tractor for five hundred dollars.
- What caused the hard times?
 A. too many rainy days
 B. strange voices at the farm
 C. hot, dry, dusty weather
 D. the big auction

Grade 4 - Unit 6, Week 1

7. During the hard times, Mama did nice things for the family. What does that show about what people often do during difficult times?

- A. They forget about what is important.
- B. They try to create happy moments.
- C. They grow angry at each other.
- D. They learn to work together.

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. How does Leah feel about her pony? Use details from the story to support your answer.

9. What lessons about problem-solving does this story teach? Explain.

10. How might this story be different if it were taking place in your town and in the present day?

The Gold Rush Game

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Eric gets **annoyed** when Matt dares him to press the button on the computer.
To be **annoyed** is to be _____.

- A. scared
- B. excited
- C. angry
- D. silly

2. Eric's dad finds a **reference** to an 1849 land claim filed by his ancestor.
A **reference** is a _____.

- A. clue to a riddle
- B. mention in a source of information
- C. piece of paper
- D. statement that says one thing but means another

3. The two boys find themselves standing near miners and **prospectors**.
Prospectors are people who are _____.

- A. searching for gold
- B. from another time
- C. from another country
- D. from the same family

4. Eric's parents want him to learn more about the Gold Rush
because _____.

- A. gold makes people rich
- B. there might be another one some day
- C. it is part of his family history
- D. parents want their children to know about historical events

5. The reader knows this story is science fiction because it _____.

- A. is about science
- B. allows characters to go back in time
- C. is about two kids who play a science game
- D. allows characters to go forward into the future

6. What happens after the earthquake?

- A. The boys fall into the river and Mr. Wong saves them.
- B. Eric falls into the river and Matt saves him.
- C. Mr. Wong falls into the river and the boys save him.
- D. Matt falls into the river and Eric saves him.

Grade 4 - Unit 6, Week 2

7. How would you describe Eric's character development through the course of this story?

- A. At first he is interested in his family history, but then he gets bored.
- B. He is very silly and then gets serious.
- C. He is disobedient and then obedient.
- D. At first he is not interested in his family history, but then he is excited by it.

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. How might the boys appear out of place to the prospector?

9. How would this story be different if it were written from Eric's parents' point of view?

10. If you had to write a different ending to this story what would it be? Why?

Taking the Lead

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

- Dolores Huerta spent **decades** helping people. A **decade** means _____.
 A. a period of twenty years
 B. winter
 C. a period of ten years
 D. months
- In 1955, Dolores Huerta became **active** in community service. People who are **active** _____.
 A. become involved
 B. think about something
 C. set up equipment
 D. do not take part
- Dolores Huerta and César Chávez helped **transform** the lives of farmworkers. In this story, **transform** means Huerta and Chávez _____.
 A. encouraged farmworkers to accept things as they are
 B. organized meetings
 C. taught them to read and understand English
 D. changed the lives of farmworkers
- Huerta pushed for a law to allow voting in Spanish because _____.
 A. without a law like this, people's rights would be violated
 B. many farmworkers couldn't read or understand English
 C. the farmworkers were going to lose their jobs
 D. the laws were fair for everyone
- Dolores Huerta says the secret of change is _____.
 A. getting an education
 B. standing up for your rights
 C. organizing meetings
 D. taking responsibility
- Which statement is a generalization that is supported by this selection?
 A. Many of Huerta's students came to school hungry and needing new shoes.
 B. Huerta is the mother of 11 children.
 C. Huerta and César Chávez rarely worked together.
 D. The National Farm Workers Association was started in 1962.

Grade 4 - Unit 6, Week 3

7. Because many farmworkers did not know English, Huerta _____.
- A. worked as an official translator
 - B. taught English classes in the evening
 - C. decided to learn Spanish herself
 - D. supported changing requirements for driver's license exams

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. What did Dolores Huerta have in common with César Chávez?

9. What were the biggest problems that California farmworkers faced when Huerta helped form the Community Service Organization in 1955?

10. Why did the National Farm Workers Service Center start building homes and apartments?

Snowflake Bentley

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

- Willie Bentley used a microscope to **magnify** snow crystals. **Magnify** means _____.
 A. freeze
 B. make something look larger
 C. take pictures of
 D. study for many years
- Willie had to walk fast or the snowflake would **evaporate** before he could take its picture. To **evaporate** is to _____.
 A. disappear
 B. crystallize
 C. get dirty
 D. stop doing
- Many artists use Willie’s photographs to **inspire** their own work. To **inspire** artists means to _____.
 A. discourage them
 B. encourage them
 C. give them materials
 D. pay them
- Where did Willie grow up?
 A. Wisconsin
 B. Rhode Island
 C. South Dakota
 D. Vermont
- How can you tell that Willie would grow up to be a scientist?
 A. From a very early age, he has read encyclopedias and studied snowflakes.
 B. He loves the cold weather.
 C. He likes to build snow forts and throw snowballs.
 D. His first camera was as expensive as his father’s herd of ten cows.
- Willie makes a scientific discovery early on that _____.
 A. all snowflakes are alike
 B. snowflakes have ice in them
 C. no two snowflakes are the same
 D. snowflakes melt easily

Grade 4 - Unit 6, Week 4

7. His town honored Willie with a _____.

- A. fountain
- B. flagpole
- C. monument
- D. park bench

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. How would you describe Willie's method of photographing snowflakes?

9. What are the two main things Willie finds out about snowflakes?

10. Why is the microscope important to many branches of science?

How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Ben Franklin wrote **hilarious** stories that made his readers laugh. If a story is **hilarious**, it is _____.
 A. not true
 B. airy and short
 C. funny
 D. nonfiction
2. After the American colonies won **independence** from Great Britain, Ben Franklin helped create a new government. **Independence** means _____.
 A. freedom
 B. tax money
 C. an invention
 D. an award
3. Ben Franklin’s inventions often **came in handy**, meaning that they were _____.
 A. surprising
 B. based on other people’s work
 C. failures at first
 D. useful
4. One of Ben Franklin’s famous inventions is the _____.
 A. light bulb
 B. kite
 C. lightning rod
 D. electricity
5. Ben Franklin invented bifocals so that people could see _____.
 A. in bright sunlight
 B. up close and far away
 C. while swimming underwater
 D. in dark rooms
6. When Ben Franklin said, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away,” he meant _____.
 A. eat healthful food such as fruit
 B. get checkups at the doctor
 C. don’t pay a doctor’s bill with an apple
 D. exercise daily

Grade 4 - Unit 6, Week 5

7. Ben Franklin spent time in _____.

- A. Japan
- B. Australia
- C. France
- D. India

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Name the Ben Franklin invention that you think was the most important.
Support your answer.

9. If Ben Franklin were alive today, what problem do you think he would be interested in solving? How do you think he would go about it?

10. The French honored Ben Franklin with a medallion reading, "He snatched the lightning from heaven and the scepter from tyrants." If you created an honor for Benjamin Franklin, what would it be? What would it read?
