

Interpreting character behaviour, feelings and motivation

Look for clues in a text to interpret a character's feelings and what motivates them to behave in a certain way. The clues are usually in the author's choice of words and punctuation.

Read the passage.

Put a **box** around how Mia and Flynn felt with Sipu around.

Underline a sentence that demonstrates Sipu's survival skills.

On the Trail of the Golden Man

Sipu made walking through the jungle look easy. It wasn't scary with Sipu around. This was his home. He had grown up here. Sipu thought nothing of climbing over tree roots double his height, breaking vines for a quick drink and climbing up a tree for a bite to eat. He walked so lightly through the forest his feet barely marked the ground. He showed Mia and Flynn how to walk through the rainforest without being seen or heard.

Colour how Sipu moved through the jungle.

Highlight what Mia and Flynn learnt from Sipu.

Circle the correct answers.

- Based on evidence in the passage, which sentence best describes Sipu? Sipu ...
 - has excellent survival skills.
 - has good time management skills.
 - is very competitive.
 - has extraordinary strength.
- What is the clue to question 1's answer? Sipu is able to ...
 - walk lightly through the jungle.
 - stay warm in the jungle.
 - find food and water in the jungle.
 - identify plants and animals in the jungle.
- Which sentence best sums up Sipu's attitude towards Mia and Flynn? Sipu ...
 - thinks he's smarter than Mia and Flynn.
 - wants to share his knowledge.
 - wants to learn from Mia and Flynn.
 - thinks Mia and Flynn are a nuisance.
- Which word is the best clue to question 3's answer?
 - easy
 - showed
 - nothing
 - scary
- How did Mia and Flynn feel with Sipu as their guide?
 - scared
 - disappointed
 - relaxed
 - confused

Read the passage.

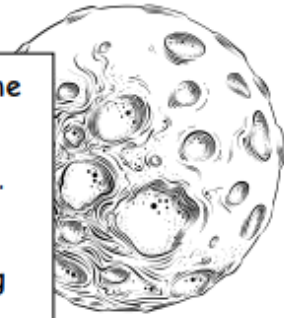
Circle the word Flynn uses to describe the moon.

Highlight Sipu's gift to Mia and Flynn.



"Hey, look guys!" cried Flynn, pointing to the sky. It was dark now and the moon sat full in the night sky. It looked strangely golden. "Doesn't that look awesome?"

The strange coloured moonlight was making them all look golden. El Dorado was with them. Flynn and Mia thought about Sipu and his secret tribe and the great gift that he had given them. He had shown them some of the real treasures of the rainforest, and they would keep their word and do whatever they could to protect it. Their visit to El Dorado would remain a treasured secret forever.



Underline how Flynn and Mia intend to repay Sipu.

Colour the words that help us to understand how Flynn and Mia feel about El Dorado.

6 How does Flynn react to the sight of the moon?

7 How do Flynn and Mia feel about the rainforest? Support your answer with a quote from the passage.

8 What does the passage suggest about Flynn and Mia's attitude towards El Dorado?

Drawing conclusions

FICTION

Make your own judgements to draw conclusions from a text. Clues in the text will help you.

Read the passage.



Highlight the reason Dad is not at work.

Underline the event the residents of Sunset Heights will be celebrating.

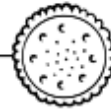
In the Clear

When Nick gets home from school, Dad and Mum are sitting chatting at the kitchen table. "Not working, Dad?" he asks, noticing the mugs of tea and packet of biscuits.

"I knocked off early to give Mum a hand moving furniture at Sunset Heights. It's Mrs Blessop's ninetieth birthday party tomorrow," Dad explains.

"Will you lend a hand too, Nick? There are a dozen trestle tables to be shifted," Mum asks when he sits down at the table.

Nick sighs, "Yeah, I'll help."



Colour the question Mum asks Nick.

Put a **box** around Nick's reply.

In the final sentence, **circle** the word that can be replaced with *said*.



Circle the correct answers.

- Which is the best conclusion? Sunset Heights is ...
a a hotel. **b** a retirement home. **c** an apartment block. **d** a hospital.
- Which phrase is the clue to question 1's answer?
a knocked off early **b** a dozen trestle tables
c at the table **d** ninetieth birthday party
- Which is the best conclusion? Nick ...
a is excited about helping Mum. **b** is unenthusiastic about helping Mum.
c refuses to help Mum. **d** does not think he can help Mum.
- Which word is the best clue to question 3's answer?
a sighs **b** Yeah **c** help **d** I'll
- What can we conclude about Mum's connection to Sunset Heights?
a Mum's parents live there. **b** Mrs Blessop is Mum's best friend.
c Mum helps out there. **d** Mum has known Mrs Blessop all her life.

Read the passage.



Highlight the sentence that suggests Nick meant to take the long way.

Underline the description of the Flemings' garden.

Nick walks to Sunset Heights the long way. His feet are in charge and just happen to be taking him this way.

When he gets to Laura Fleming's house, Nick scans the large garden with its manicured lawns, tall trees and rose beds. There's a Saab parked on the gravel drive and also a new, red SUV. Nick notices a couple of builders mixing concrete near the front steps.

Nick thinks of his dad, who works hard every day, but doesn't seem to get very much—just a boring little house and not much else.

Circle the words that describe the SUV.

Colour Nick's description of his house.



- 6 We can conclude that Nick chooses the long route to Sunset Heights on purpose. What are the clues?

- 7 From the description of their house, what conclusions can we draw about the Flemings?

- 8 We can conclude that Nick is envious of what the Flemings have. What are the clues?

Making inferences

FICTION

Make inferences about a text by drawing on your own experiences, and looking for information in the text that is implied, not directly stated.

Read the passage.



Put a **box** around the words that show that Flynn was experiencing pain.

Colour the words that suggest that Flynn and Mia had landed right next to each other.

Digging for Buried Treasure

They were spinning out of the marketplace and out of control.

"Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!" yelled Flynn, peeling Curiosity off his head. "Watch your claws, you dumb cat. Let go! Mia, move your elbow—it's breaking my ribs." Mia struggled to her feet. They had landed in bushes, on a dune behind a beach.

Hearing voices, they fell silent. They crawled to the top of the dune and peered over.

Underline where Flynn and Mia landed.

Highlight the sentence that helps us work out where the voices were coming from.



Circle the correct answers.

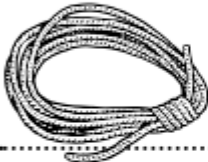
- What do the words "Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!" suggest? Flynn ...
a had landed safely. **b** was spinning uncontrollably.
c had broken his ribs. **d** was experiencing pain.
- Which is the best inference? Flynn and Mia landed ...
a far apart. **b** opposite each other. **c** close together. **d** upside down.
- Which group of words is the clue to question 2's answer?
a off his head **b** landed in bushes **c** out of control **d** move your elbow
- Which is the best inference? The voices were coming from ...
a the beach. **b** the top of the dune. **c** the marketplace. **d** the bushes.
- What is the clue to question 4's answer? To see where the voices were coming from, Mia and Flynn had to ...
a search in the bushes. **b** crawl around the dune.
c peer over the dune. **d** go back to the marketplace.

Read the passage.

Highlight the words that indicate the location of Oak Island.

Circle the name of the person who uncovered the site in 1795.

Colour the items that have been uncovered so far.



Oak Island is a small island off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada. Legend says that treasure is buried in a pit on the island. In 1795, a teenager called Daniel McGinnis uncovered what he believed to be a site for buried treasure. With the help of friends he began to dig. They were forced to abandon their search, however, because the hole kept filling with water.

Over the next 200 years many different groups tried to find what was hidden in the pit. All the things uncovered so far are thought to be clues to bigger treasure — coins, gold chains, parchment and a stone with strange writing.



Underline the reason McGinnis and his friends were forced to abandon their search.

Colour the sentence that shows that people have continued to search for treasure on Oak Island.

- 6 What can we infer about the existence of buried treasure on Oak Island? Support your answer with quotes from the passage.

- 7 What do the items uncovered so far suggest about the kind of treasure that might be buried on Oak Island?

Audience and purpose

FICTION

To help identify an author's purpose, work out who the text was written for. The author's choice of words can also reveal what their purpose is — to inform, persuade, instruct or entertain.

Read the passage.



Circle an example of an informal expression.

Underline an example of a rhetorical question.

Station Kuku

Now folksies, tonight we are giving you a new feature—an extra service. Ladies and gentlemen of our vast unconscious audience, you have heard of jokes funny enough to make a horse laugh—well, that's the kind of jokes we want on this programme, jokes funny enough to make a horse laugh, and in carrying out our policy of service to the people, beginning tonight we are bringing a horse into the studio to try our jokes out on. What other radio station would go to such lengths for its public?

Colour the words that help us work out what the purpose of the text is.

Highlight what the new feature on the programme will be.



Circle the correct answers.

- Who is the person making the announcement addressing? He is addressing people ...
 - watching television.
 - in a theatre audience.
 - listening to the radio.
 - at a music festival.
- What is the main purpose of the announcement? The purpose of the announcement is to ...
 - persuade people to listen to the programme.
 - inform people about a new feature on the programme.
 - warn people that there will be a horse on the programme.
 - entertain people with a joke about a horse.
- Which word best describes the kind of language the announcer uses?
 - persuasive
 - emotive
 - formal
 - informal
- Which word the announcer uses is the best clue to question 3's answer?
 - folksies
 - funny
 - jokes
 - laugh

Read the passage.



Circle an example of informal language.

Highlight how the sound of a horse entering and running away is recreated.

[Hoofs fade in. Note, use wooden hoofs.]

Come here, Molasses — whoa — whoa — all ready for work?

[Snort]

Good! Now, Molasses, I am going to tell you a joke.

[Snort and run away.]

Hey, bring that horse back here!

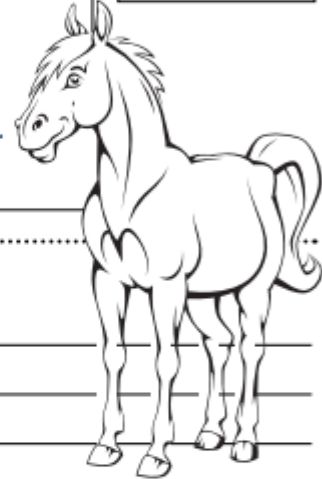
[Hoof in.]

Whoa! Molasses, you misunderstood me.

[Snort]

Put a **box** around the sound Molasses makes when the actor talks to him.

Underline an example of a script direction.



5 Why do you think the horse ran away?

6 How can we tell that this text is part of a play?

7 How can we tell that the play was written for a radio audience?

Summarising

FICTION

A summary is a shortened version of the original text. To summarise a text, look for the key points and details that contain the most important information.

Read the passage.



Highlight when Kangaroo did not have a tail.

Circle the relationship between Kangaroo and Wombat.

How the Kangaroo Got Its Tail

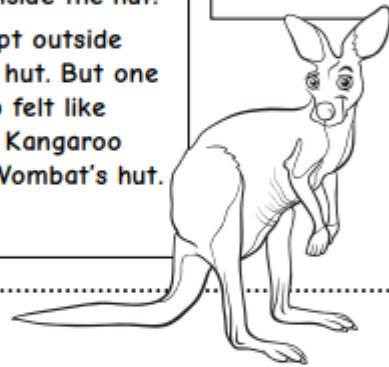
Long ago in the Dreaming, Kangaroo did not have a tail. He was good friends with Wombat and they both lived in huts built from tree bark.

At night, Kangaroo liked to sleep outside where he could look up at the stars. He made fun of Wombat for always wanting to sleep inside the hut.

When winter came, Kangaroo still slept outside and teased Wombat about his smelly hut. But one night, rain fell so hard that each drop felt like a jab by a spear on Kangaroo's back. Kangaroo struggled against the wind to reach Wombat's hut. "Let me in!" he cried.

Colour where Kangaroo and Wombat slept at night.

Underline why Kangaroo asked Wombat to let him into his hut.



Circle the correct answers.

- Which sentence summarises the relationship between Kangaroo and Wombat?
 - Long ago, Kangaroo did not have a tail.
 - Long ago, Kangaroo and Wombat lived in huts.
 - Long ago, Kangaroo and Wombat were good friends.
 - Long ago, Kangaroo and Wombat built huts from wood bark.
- Which sentence summarises the most important information in paragraph 2?
 - Kangaroo liked to make fun of Wombat.
 - Kangaroo liked to sleep outside, and Wombat liked to sleep in his hut.
 - Kangaroo liked to look at the stars at night.
 - Wombat liked to sleep in his hut at night.
- Which sentence provides the best summary of the final paragraphs?
 - Kangaroo continued to sleep outside even when the weather got colder.
 - One night the rain fell so hard that it felt like a spear jabbing into Kangaroo's back.
 - Kangaroo had to struggle against the wind to reach Wombat's hut.
 - One winter's night it rained so hard that Kangaroo asked Wombat to let him into his hut.



Read the passage.

Underline why Kangaroo could not get dry or warm.

Highlight what Kangaroo did to Wombat in the morning.

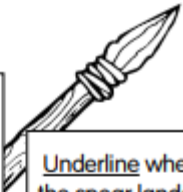
Colour when Wombat threw the spear at Kangaroo.

Kangaroo lay in the corner. There was a hole in the wall, where wind and rain came in. He couldn't get dry or warm, and he grew angry as he watched Wombat enjoying a dream.

In the morning, Kangaroo was stiff and sore. He hobbled outside and picked up a large rock. He dropped the rock on Wombat's head, flattening his forehead and making his nose curl around.

Wombat planned his revenge. He waited until Kangaroo was busy washing and then he threw a spear at him. The spear landed at the base of Kangaroo's spine. Kangaroo tried to pull the spear out, but it was stuck.

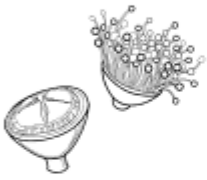
"From now on, that will be your tail," yelled Wombat.



Underline where the spear landed.

Put a **box** around why Kangaroo could not remove the spear.

Circle what the spear turned into.



- 4 Complete the following summary by filling in important information from the passage.
- a Kangaroo was cold and wet all night because _____

 - b Kangaroo was cross with Wombat, so in the morning _____

 - c Wombat got his revenge by _____

 - d Kangaroo could not remove the spear, and _____

