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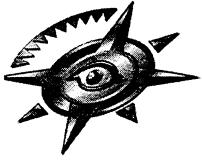
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## CHECKING COMPREHENSION

### DIRECTIONS

Test your understanding of what you have read by writing *T* next to the statements that are true and *F* next to the statements that are false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ric Salas is a devoted football player.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mr. Salas inherited money from his father.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Eva Salas finds a medallion engraved with the initials T. R.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Tony Robles was a great football player.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Ric Salas believes in ghosts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mr. Pike passes all the athletes in his class, no matter how poorly they are doing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mr. Pike tells Ric that he can do extra credit to bring up his grade in history class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Eva warns Ric that Rafe Thompson and Stan Scott will get him into trouble.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. One night Ric sees Mr. Robles crying in his yard by his rosebush.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mrs. Sanchez claims that Mr. Robles shot his son, Tony Robles.





## WRITING OBJECTIVELY

An objective writer deals only with facts and doesn't let personal feelings enter into his or her writing. Objective writing forces the writer to be fair and accurate. Advice columnists such as Ann Landers offer objective advice to people with problems.

### DIRECTIONS

Below is a letter Ric might have written to an advice columnist. Being as objective as possible, create a response for Ric as an advice columnist might write it.

Dear Advice Columnist,

My dad is driving me crazy. Just because I'm close to flunking one class, he's on my case all the time. He's always lecturing me about how important schoolwork is. And when I don't get A's, he bores me with these stories about how he and his brothers had to study one-half hour for every question they missed. But things are different today. There are other things in life besides school. The most important thing in my life right now is football. I've had a really great season so far, and I hope to keep it up. If I do, I might even get a football scholarship to the state university. But do you know what my dad told me? He said that he hopes I lose my eligibility so I can't play football anymore. Can you believe that? He said that if that's what it takes to make me serious about school, he'll do it. I think I'm as serious about school as I need to be. After all, I'm only flunking one class, and I'm sure I'll bring my grade up soon. What can I do to get him off my case and just let me play football?

Signed,

Football Crazy

*continued*





## DETERMINING INFERENCES

Authors expect readers to make inferences as they read. An *inference* is a logical conclusion a reader reaches through reasoning. For example, in chapter 1 when Peter and Eva become uneasy about Ric's keeping the medallion Peter found, the reader can infer that the two children believe in Tony's ghost.

### DIRECTIONS

Read the excerpts from the story below. Decide what is being inferred by each excerpt. Write your conclusion on the lines provided.

#### Excerpt 1

Ric shook his head and considered Mr. Robles. That old man is so weird, he thought. He goes off every day and fishes. Then he sells his fish somewhere, comes home late in that rusty old truck, and hides out in the house. He never speaks to anyone—just yells at the kids in the neighborhood if they step one foot in his yard. And he always wears that straw hat pulled down over half his face. Looks like he hasn't cut his hair in years.

Inference \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Excerpt 2

Ric stood in the darkness and listened. Whatever he heard had stopped. Must have been Tony, he said to himself, shaking his head. In his mind he pictured a white-sheeted ghost floating around the neighborhood moaning. No doubt carrying a football, he chuckled.

Inference \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Excerpt 3

"[Rafe's] got a cousin over at Lincoln," Stan said, "and they had a teacher like Pike last year. The kids got rid of him."

"Got rid of him?" Ric asked. "How?"

"The guys over there told the principal stuff about the teacher. Like how he let kids get away with cheating on tests," Stan said.

Ric frowned. "I've never seen cheating in Pike's class."

"It doesn't have to be *true*, stupid!" Stan cried.

Inference \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*continued*

