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For the Student

Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies (CARS Plus Series) is a reading program that gives you practice with 12 reading strategies.

In *Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies, Book F*, you will complete 15 reading tests. Each test contains a reading passage and questions about the passage. After you read each passage, you will answer 12 questions. Each question helps you practise a particular reading strategy.

Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies, Book F, will help you get the most from your reading. You will understand what important information to look for as you read. You will also learn to judge your own work and set reading goals. By the time you finish working with this book, you will be a better reader.

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Pretest 5

Read this letter to the editor that appeared in a local newspaper. Then answer questions about the letter. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Letter to the Editor

In an effort to save money, Dr Samuel Baker, the State Minister for Education, has suggested that Evatt Primary School be closed. Dr Baker says that the state government will save 2 million dollars by closing the school. His plan, however, is poorly thought out at best.

First, the population in the Evatt Primary School neighbourhood is rising. Currently, there are 320 students enrolled at Evatt. Recent estimates show that in just 6 years, however, the number of students in the area could be triple that amount. Why close a school in an area that is growing rapidly?

Second, does anyone remember what happened 10 years ago when Calwell Primary was closed? That school closing was supposed to save the state government millions. Plus, the government was to benefit from the sale of the school to a private developer. The developer turned Calwell Primary into apartments. And what happened just 5 years after Calwell Primary closed? A new school had to be constructed because there were too many students and too few schools. Taxpayers in that urban community are still paying for the mistake. In the end, the government lost money on that deal.

Third, what does Dr Baker think is going to happen to the students currently at Evatt when it's closed? Where will these students go? Existing schools are already crowded. There is no extra classroom space. Does Dr Baker plan on renovating these schools? Dr Baker's plan does not take the cost of construction into account.

Fourth, since existing schools are already crowded, the students at Evatt will still need teachers. The salaries for at least 13 classroom teachers and 7 aides will still need to be paid. Add in the cost of business, supplies, textbooks and so forth, and you see my point. Dr Baker's projected savings estimates are completely off the mark.

Dr Baker and his advisors are clearly not thinking ahead. All parents, students and concerned citizens should consider the consequences of Dr Baker's proposal. Insist that this issue be looked at again from a more informed position.

Ms Enid Gupta
President, Evatt Primary School Parent
Teacher Association

<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>1. Which of these best expresses the main idea of the letter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ School closings often result in enormous savings to a state government. Ⓑ A minister has decided to close a local school. Ⓒ School closings always result in costs to the taxpayer. Ⓓ A school-closing plan may not be as prudent as some people believe. 	<p>Recognising Cause and Effect</p> <p>4. According to the letter, which of these would be a result of the school closing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Hundreds of families would leave the Evatt Primary neighbourhood. Ⓑ Present classrooms would quickly become overcrowded. Ⓒ School populations would decrease dramatically. Ⓓ Existing schools would need to be expanded.
<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>2. Who is the writer of the letter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ a distressed state government official Ⓑ an angry taxpayer Ⓒ a concerned member of a school organisation Ⓓ a worried advisor to the minister 	<p>Comparing and Contrasting</p> <p>5. In the letter, the current school-closing issue is compared to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ a steady rise in taxes due to building expenses. Ⓑ a school closing that occurred ten years ago. Ⓒ the construction of a new school five years ago. Ⓓ a poor decision recently made in another area.
<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>3. Which of these happened first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Enid Gupta wrote a letter to protest the closing of a school. Ⓑ Calwell Primary was closed. Ⓒ A new school was constructed in an urban neighbourhood. Ⓓ Dr Baker made a proposal to close Evatt Primary School. 	<p>Making Predictions</p> <p>6. Predict what will probably occur if enough citizens oppose Dr Baker's plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Dr Baker will follow through with his current plan. Ⓑ The President of the Evatt Primary School Parent Teacher Association will replace the minister. Ⓒ Dr Baker will develop a new plan, but will not share it with the public. Ⓓ Dr Baker will be forced to review the plan with a new set of advisors.

Benchmark 5

Read this article about Australian Prime Ministers. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Leaving Office

As of 2012, Australia has had twenty-seven Prime Ministers. This seems like a lot when you think that we've only had Prime Ministers for just over one hundred and ten years. This means on average we've had a new Prime Minister every four years! Of course this isn't true in reality. Australia has had Prime Ministers that were in office for a very short time, like Frank Forde and Earle Page, who were PM for only eight days and twenty days each. We've also had Prime Ministers who were around for a long time, like Robert Menzies and John Howard, PM for 16 years and 11 years straight, respectively.

The conventional way for a person to stop being Prime Minister is to lose an election. Australia's Prime Minister is the leader of the party that gets the most seats at an election. If they go to an election and another party wins more seats, the leader of that party becomes Prime Minister. So you would think that most people who stopped being Prime Minister probably lost an election, right? Wrong!

Since 1901, only ten Prime Ministers have been defeated at a general election. They are Alfred Deakin (the third time he was Prime Minister), Andrew Fisher (the second time he was Prime Minister), Joseph Cook, Stanley Bruce, James Scullin, Ben Chifley, William McMahon, Malcolm Fraser, Paul Keating and John Howard. Deakin and Fisher were both Prime Minister at other times, and left office at those times after resigning for different reasons. Bruce and Howard both lost not only elections but also their own seats. This means that even if their governments had won they would have been unable to still be Prime Minister, as

they'd been personally voted out of Parliament. But what about the others?

Three Prime Ministers died while they were in office. The first one was Joseph Lyons. He was Prime Minister from 1932 to 1939. On 7 April 1939 Joseph Lyons drove from The Lodge, the Prime Minister's official house in Canberra, to Sydney. Lyons was heading to his family home in Tasmania for Easter. Lyons had a massive heart attack and died in hospital in Sydney.

The second Prime Minister to die in office was John Curtin. Curtin was Prime Minister through most of World War Two. He had made sure that Australia was safe from invasion. This meant many hard decisions, like forming a new alliance with the United States. It also meant that he brought in conscription. This is where people are called up to fight rather than volunteering. This last one was very hard on Curtin. It almost split his party. It was especially difficult for Curtin because, as a young man, he had even gone to jail for opposing conscription during the First World War. Curtin made hard decisions that saved Australia, but they took a toll on his health. He died just before the war ended.

The third and most mysterious Prime Ministerial death was that of Harold Holt. Holt decided to go swimming at one of his favourite spots, Cheviot Beach in Victoria. The surf was heavy and Cheviot Beach was known for having strong rip tides. But Harold Holt was a strong swimmer and had been there many times. His friends tried to tell him not to go in, but Holt ignored them.



Soon he disappeared from view. A massive search was undertaken. But Harold Holt, the seventeenth Prime Minister of Australia, was never seen again!

Six Prime Ministers chose to resign. Edmund Barton, Australia's very first Prime Minister, was only PM for two years before he decided to leave and become the first Justice of the High Court. Andrew Fisher, the third time he was PM, resigned to become High Commissioner to London. Earle Page, Frank Forde and John McEwen were only temporary Prime Ministers while their parties voted in new leaders who then became Prime Minister. They all resigned when this happened. Finally, Robert Menzies retired after being Prime Minister twice, the second time for more than sixteen years straight. He never lost an election.

Five Prime Ministers lost office not after being beaten in an election but after being forced out by their own party. This happened to Billy Hughes, Robert Menzies (the first time he was Prime Minister), Bob Hawke, John Gorton and Kevin Rudd. Bob Hawke and Billy Hughes had been Prime Minister for a long time beforehand. Menzies, Gorton and Rudd had only been Prime Minister for a short time and had not gone to elections as Prime Ministers. Alfred Deakin, Chris Watson, George Reid, Andrew Fisher and Arthur Fadden all lost office after being defeated in parliament. This means that they lost the ability to hold government without an election taking place, and were replaced by someone else.

But, apart from Harold Holt's disappearance, the award for the most memorable departure from the office of Prime Minister goes to Gough Whitlam. Whitlam was the twenty-first Prime Minister of Australia, in office from 1972 to 1975. When he won the 1972 election Whitlam ended twenty-three straight years of

Liberal Coalition government. This was a big achievement and Whitlam quickly set about trying to start up many new programs and ideas. Many of the programs Whitlam started still endure today, such as Medicare.

What didn't endure was the Whitlam government. Despite winning a second election in 1974, Whitlam's government never had control over both houses of Parliament. When the opposition, led by Malcolm Fraser, worked to block the money the government needed to work, it brought on a crisis. This was ended by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, stepping in and dismissing – or firing – the government.

This was a very controversial moment in Australian history. For one thing, no one really thought the Governor-General would do this to an elected government. It happened like a bolt out of the blue. People were divided on whether he should be able to. For a while it seemed like people might not accept the move. But at the next election the new government, led by Fraser, won comfortably. Fraser would be PM from 1975 to 1983, when he lost an election to Bob Hawke.

Gough Whitlam was only Prime Minister for two years. But he remains one of the most remembered figures in Australian history. Even today, the words of the speech he gave on the steps of Old Parliament House after the Dismissal are as iconic as anything any Australian has ever said: "Well may we say 'God save the Queen', because nothing will save the Governor-General!"

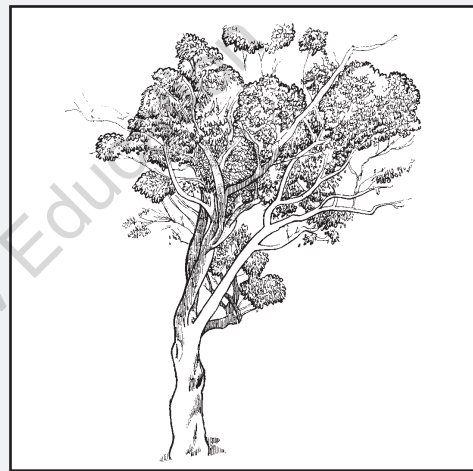
<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>1. The article tells mainly about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) how Australian Prime Ministers have left office. (B) what the job of being Prime Minister involves. (C) Prime Ministers that died. (D) how people become Prime Minister. 	<p>Recognising Cause and Effect</p> <p>4. The Governor-General sacked the Whitlam government when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) its leader lost an election. (B) it was unable to find the money it needed to work. (C) it was defeated at an election by Bob Hawke. (D) its leader lost both his seat and an election.
<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>2. Which of these Prime Ministers died while in office?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Billy Hughes (B) John Curtin (C) Robert Menzies (D) Paul Keating 	<p>Comparing and Contrasting</p> <p>5. How were Stanley Bruce and John Howard alike?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) They both died while Prime Minister. (B) They both never lost an election. (C) They both lost an election and their own seat in Parliament. (D) They both disappeared while Prime Minister.
<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>3. The boxes tell about some of the things described in the article.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 150px;"> Joseph Lyons is Prime Minister and dies in office. </div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">→</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> © Hawker Brownlow Education </div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">→</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 150px;"> Gough Whitlam is dismissed by the Governor-General. </div> </div> <p>What belongs in the empty box?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Edmund Barton resigns to become Justice of the High Court. (B) Harold Holt goes for a swim and doesn't come back. (C) Malcolm Fraser becomes Prime Minister. (D) Bob Hawke becomes Prime Minister. 	<p>Making Predictions</p> <p>6. Predict what might have happened if Robert Menzies had not chosen to retire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) He would have won yet another election. (B) He would have gone on to drown while being Prime Minister. (C) He would have been controversially dismissed by the Governor-General. (D) He would have been forced out by his own party for not being a success.

Post Test 4

Read this narrative about a type of tree known as the eucalypt. Then answer questions about the narrative. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

When I was a child, I observed the huge native trees that lined many of the streets in our small city. There was one particular street, however, that stood out among the others. This was Gum Street. It was named for a special reason. Large canopies of weeping limbs interlocked high above the street and formed a wonderful cover, breaking up the sunlight that reached the ground. The magnificent trees were gum trees, or eucalypts, and they seemed like they had been around forever.

The eucalypt dominates the Australian landscape. It makes up 95% of the forest and woodland trees in Australia. It thrives in any environment. There are eucalypts everywhere from the hot, dry interior to the temperate and sub-tropical coastal regions. The eucalypt gets its name from a Greek word meaning “well covered”. This name probably comes from the fruit of the tree. We usually call them “gum nuts”. There are hundreds of different types of eucalypt. They range from the tall, thin ironbark to the short and twisted mallee and coolabah. The eucalypt species known as *eucalyptus regnans* is the tallest hardwood tree in the world. One was measured at 132 metres in 1872 at Watts River, Victoria. If this measurement was right then this one was the largest tree ever seen!



the eucalypt

The eucalypt has always been an important part of Australian life. The Aborigines crafted spears and shields from its wood. They built canoes from its bark. Eucalyptus oil was one of the earliest major export items from Australia after Europeans arrived. It is used to make medicines, disinfectants and perfumes. But most importantly, the koala relies on the eucalypt. In fact the leaves of the eucalypt, and only some types of eucalypt, are the only things koalas can eat.

The eucalypt is only native to Australia and a few Pacific Islands. But recently the eucalypt has spread its roots to places as far away as America, Ukraine and southwestern Russia, as well as parts of Africa and Europe. It is picked for timber plantations. This is because it grows quickly and can get by with very little water.

But despite its prosperity life is not all roses for the eucalypt. Since Europeans arrived in Australia it has been logged and cleared for farming across a lot of the country. This may not seem to be a threat given how many of these trees there are in Australia. But some types of the tree need exactly the right kind of soil or weather to grow. Sixteen species of eucalypt are currently listed as endangered. The fact that there are fewer koalas in Australia today is a sad reflection of this. There were several million koalas in Australia in the 1920s. Today we think there are probably only between forty and eighty thousand koalas left in the wild.