Reading for Understanding – Level 5

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About the Book

The *Reading for Understanding* books have been designed to improve students' skills in the areas of sequencing, recognising details, main idea, character analysis, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, similarities and differences, cause and effect, evaluation, inference and following directions. Each page features 'real' kids facing 'real' situations, making learning easy and fun for students. This book is a valuable tool for any reading program.

Grade Five Excursion

Miss Freed's grade five class can't make up their minds about where they want to go on their excursion this spring. They can either go to the new Dukwilma Science Centre, to the amusement park, to the Zoo and Sealife Centre or to the Wild Animal Safari.

   Some students really want to go to the Science Centre because there is a fantastic space show there. A few kids want to go to the amusement park, but that means the class would have to earn money to help pay for the expensive tickets. The Zoo and Sealife Centre would be fun, but a lot of kids have already been there. Maybe they should go to the Wild Animal Safari. It's brand new and no one has been there yet, but what if it isn't any fun? Then they will have wasted their precious excursion.

   After voting, the students narrowed it down to either the Science Centre or the Wild Animal Safari. The class is deadlocked on these two choices. What will they do? Where will they go?

Circle

The main point of the story is…

the students can't decide where to go on their excursion.

the students are arguing about their excursion.

the students don't want to go on an excursion at all.

the students don't like any of their choices for an excursion.

Underline

The students tried talking / voting to narrow / brainstorm their list of choices.

Tick

The following are drawbacks to some of the excursions:

☐ People have already been there.   ☐ Tickets are expensive.

☐ The place is dumb.   ☐ The students don't know if it is a fun place.

Write

Where do you think they should go on their excursion? Why?_____

_____

•SOMETHING EXTRA•   Write where you would love to go on an excursion and why.
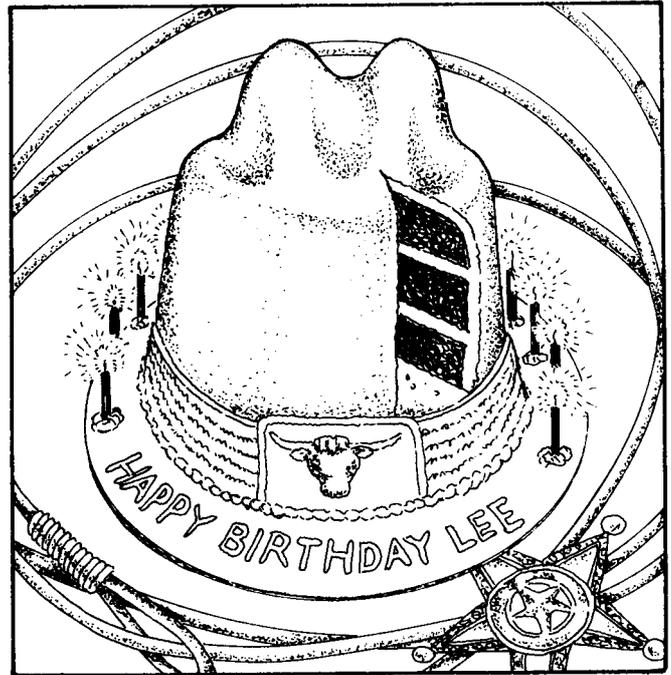
The Surprise Party

For Lee's 11th birthday, his family is throwing him a surprise party. The whole grade five class is invited, and they are all so excited! Lee's parents are excited too, but they are worried that Lee will find out about the party. He is so hard to surprise!

The party is going to have a country & western theme and will be held on Lee's cousin's farm. The farm has four big horses and two ponies for the kids to ride. There is also a lake with canoes and paddle boats and a swimming pool with a giant slide. Lee's parents hired a country & western band for dancing. Hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and, of course, cake and ice cream will be served after all of the entertainment.

It ought to be a great party – if only no one blows the surprise. Only three more days to go…

Circle

Lee's parents are _____ about the party, but _____ that Lee will not be surprised.

    happy/excited   worried/scared   scared/happy   excited/worried

Unscramble and write

Lee and his friends will be able to do these things at the party:

_____   _____   _____   _____
   erid roshse   iwms   cande   tae bahmurrges

Tick

Lee's friends will probably wear the following to the party:

☐ baseball hats   ☐ cowboy hats   ☐ western accessories

☐ swim suits   ☐ plaid shirts   ☐ snow suits

Write

What leads you to believe that Lee's parents have gone to a lot of trouble for this party?

_____

_____

What are some ways Lee might find out about the party? _____

_____

•SOMETHING EXTRA• Make a list of all the people you would invite and the things you would do at your ideal surprise party.

Mixed-Up Information

Miss Freed decided to play a trick on her students. She wrote a bunch of information on the board about dinosaurs, and then started asking the students questions about the information. None of them could answer because the information was all mixed up.

Help Miss Freed's students sort out the information on dinosaurs. See if you can put the sentences below in order so that they make sense.

It included a period called the Ice Age. The giant ground sloth was as big as an elephant and used long, hooklike claws to pull down tree branches. The Pleistocene Epoch is the geologic time beginning about 1 3/4 million years ago and ending about 10 000 years ago. It was during the Ice Age that the last of the prehistoric animals, like the giant ground sloth, the woolly rhinoceros and the mastodon, died out. The mastodon was also an elephant-like creature with a thick coat of reddish-brown hair and 3-metre long tusks. The woolly rhinoceros, or 'hollow-tooth', ate small bushes and poor grass and looked much like the rhinoceros that live in Africa today.

_____

_____

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_____

•SOMETHING EXTRA•

What do you think our world would be like today if these creatures were still around?

Foreign Friends

Jackie's family invited a foreign exchange student from France to stay with them for the summer. Jackie was excited when Isabelle arrived! Isabelle was dressed very chic in bright pants, pointed shoes, one long earring and neon pink lipstick. Jackie couldn't wait to introduce Isabelle to her friends, Cassie and Maria.

When Jackie and Isabelle went to the park to meet Cassie and Maria, they could see people pointing and laughing at Isabelle. Then when Cassie and Maria showed up, they laughed at Isabelle too. Jackie got very mad and Isabelle cried. Jackie told her friends that just because Isabelle dressed differently than they, she shouldn't be laughed at. The way she dressed was one of the things that made her special. Cassie and Maria felt terrible about their behaviour and apologised to Isabelle.

Isabelle gave each girl a long earring and some bright pink lipstick. The girls were soon having a great time!

Circle

Chic means…

     really funky.   like a chicken.   freakish.   very stylish.

Underline

Jackie _____when it comes to people from other countries.

  has a closed mind   has negative feelings   has an open mind   is prejudiced

Tick

Words that describe Jackie are:

☐ inconsiderate   ☐ understanding   ☐ accepting

☐ kind   ☐ intelligent   ☐ judgmental

Write

Why do you think Jackie was mad when people laughed at Isabelle? _____

_____

What made Isabelle different? _____

Why do you think Jackie has such an open mind? _____

_____

•SOMETHING EXTRA•

Write about what a day in your life as a foreign exchange student in another country might be like.