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National Curriculum Standards

The activities in *Paired Passages: Year 2* correlate to the following elements of the Year 2 Achievement Standard for English in the Australian National Curriculum, which state that by the end of the year students should be able to:

- compare the content and purposes of different texts on similar topics
- locate literal information in written texts
- refer to features of language and images to make inferences about characters' actions and motivations
- discuss possible meanings in narratives and predict likely future events
- sustain interest in characters and events in imaginative texts

Activities also correlate with the following specific Year 2 Content Descriptions:

- *Understand that different types of texts have identifiable text structures and language features that help the text serve its purpose (ACELA1463)*
- *Recognise that capital letters signal proper nouns and commas are used to separate items in lists (ACELA1465)*
- *Understand that nouns represent people, places, things and ideas and can be, for example, common, proper, concrete and abstract, and that noun groups can be expanded using articles and adjectives (ACELA1468)*
- *Identify visual representations of characters' actions, reactions, speech and thought processes in narratives (ACELA1469)*
- *Discuss different texts on a similar topic, identifying similarities and differences between the texts (ACELY1665)*
- *Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning and begin to analyse texts by drawing on growing knowledge of context, language and visual features and print and multimodal text structures (ACELY1670)*

For more information on the National Curriculum visit the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) website at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>

The Rescue Dogs

A man was lost. The man was in the mountains. It was very cold in the mountains. Snow was all around. The snow was deep. The snow was blowing. The man could not see. He could not find his way. The man became too cold to move. He sat down in the snow. The snow began to cover the man. Could the man be found? Could the man be saved?

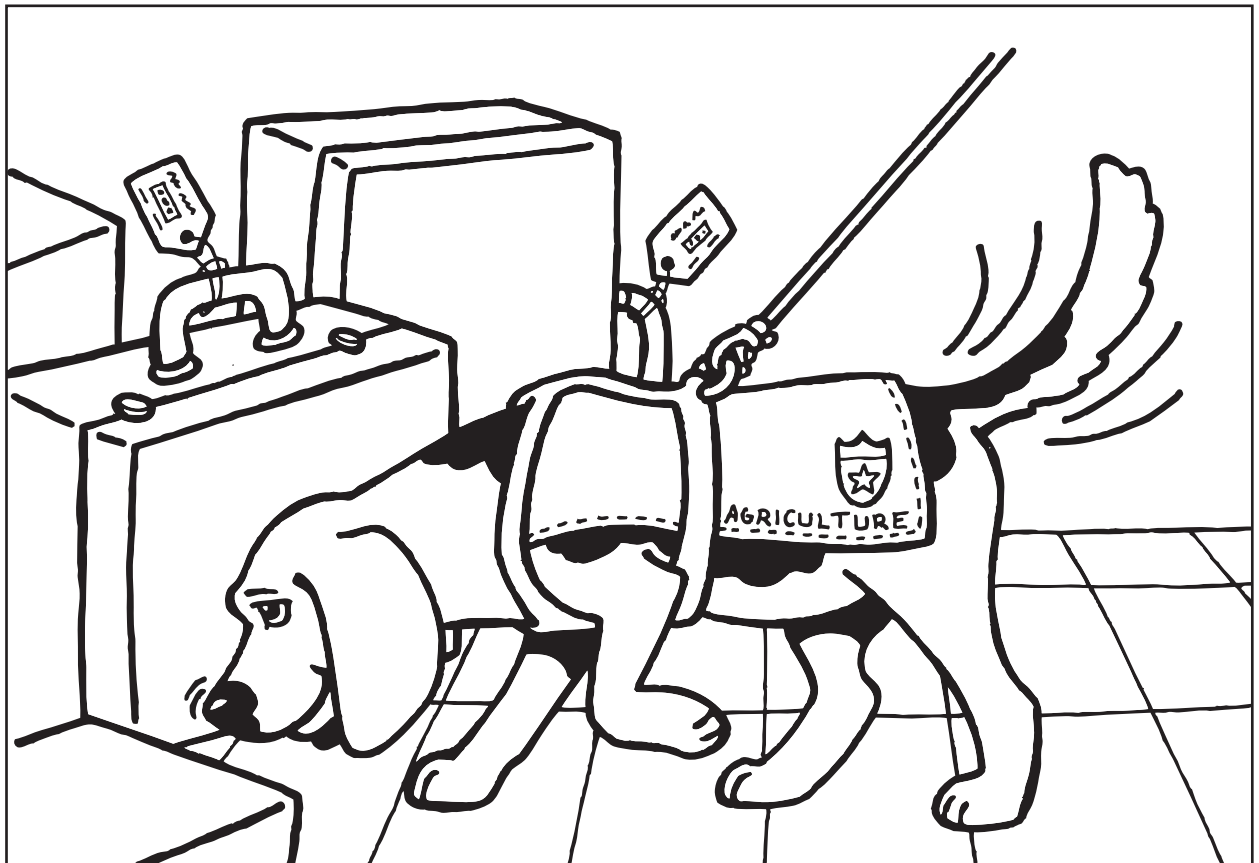
Two big dogs found the man. The dogs were a special kind of dog. They were Saint Bernard dogs. The two Saint Bernard dogs had been trained. They had been trained to work as a pair. One Saint Bernard licked the man's face. Then it laid down next to the man. The dog laid down next to the man to keep him warm. The other dog ran for help. This dog led rescue workers to the man. The Saint Bernard dogs helped rescue the man. The dogs helped save the man's life.



Why I Don't Like Chocolate Cake

"My name is Max. I am a beagle. Beagles are small dogs. I work at the airport. At the airport, I do not look for people. I do not look for drugs. What do I do if I do not look for people? What do I do if I do not look for drugs? I look for food! Some foods should not be taken into a country. The food might carry insects. It might carry germs. The insects could spread. The germs could spread."

"I was trained to detect foods. The foods that should not be taken into a country. I am rewarded when I detect oranges. I am rewarded when I detect apples. I am rewarded when I detect beef. I am rewarded when I detect pork. I do not like chocolate cake. Why don't I like chocolate cake? There is no reward for finding chocolate cake!"



Show What You Know

Answer the questions based on “The Rescue Dogs” and “Why I Don’t Like Chocolate Cake”. You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

1. Why did one dog lie down next to the man?

- (A) It wanted to work as a pair.
- (B) It wanted to keep the man warm.
- (C) It wanted to lick the man’s face.
- (D) It wanted to lead rescue workers to the man.

2. Max is not rewarded when he detects

- (A) beef.
- (B) apples.
- (C) oranges.
- (D) chocolate cake.

3. Both stories are about

- (A) dogs.
- (B) food.
- (C) finding people.
- (D) Saint Bernard dogs.

4. A fiction story is made up. It is not a true story. “Why I Don’t Like Chocolate Cake” is fiction. You can tell the story is fiction because

- (A) dogs like chocolate cake.
- (B) dogs cannot tell stories.
- (C) a dog would not lie down in the snow.
- (D) a dog cannot be trained to detect apples or oranges.

5. A Saint Bernard is most likely a better rescue dog in the snow because

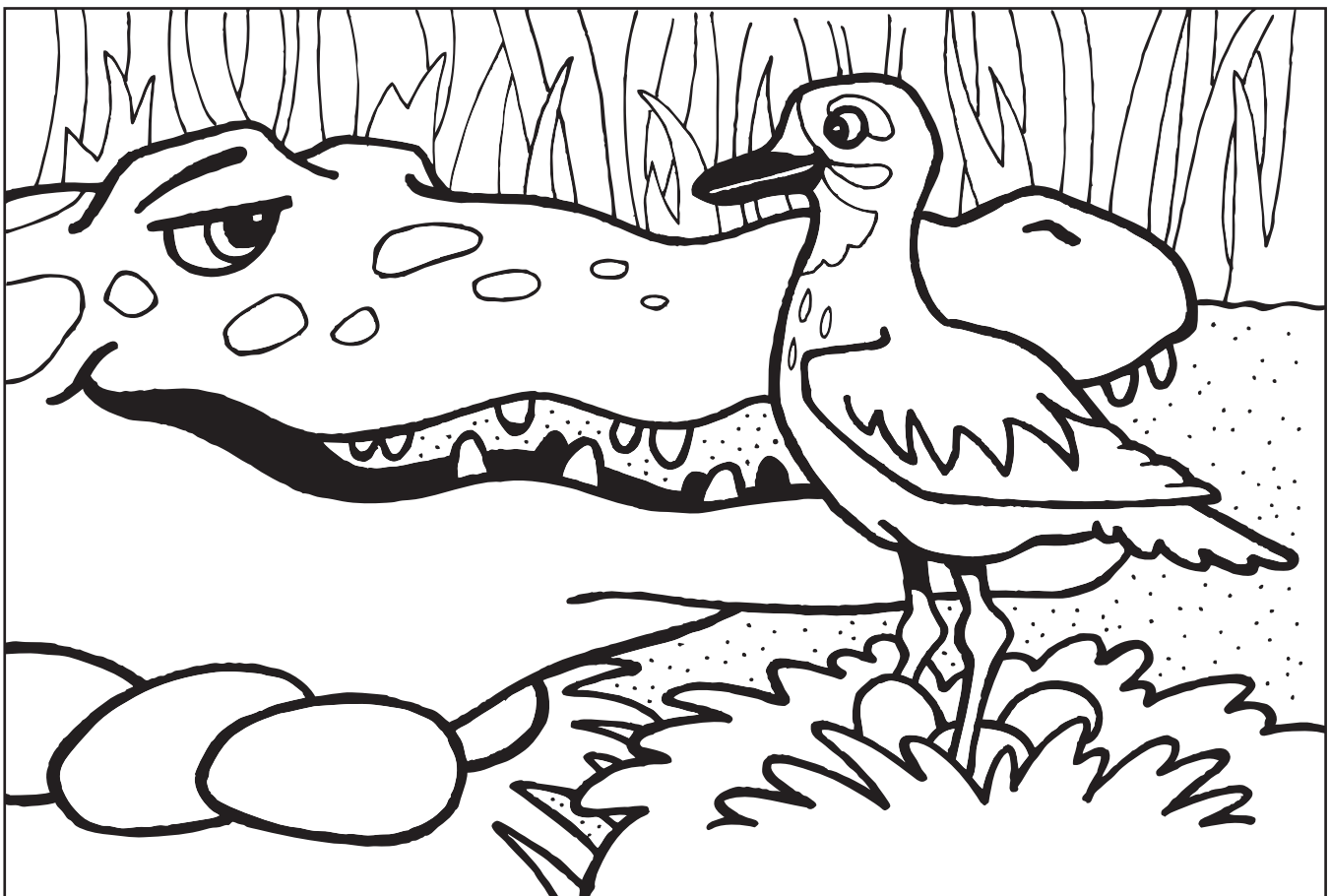
- (A) it is bigger than a beagle.
- (B) it is smaller than a beagle.
- (C) a Saint Bernard cannot smell food.
- (D) a beagle can only be trained to smell food.

The Crocodile's Baby-sitter

The water thick-knee is a bird. It lives in Africa. It makes its nest by rivers. It puts its nest very close to another nest. The other nest does not belong to a bird. It belongs to an animal that eats birds! It belongs to a crocodile! What is going on?

The water thick-knee and the crocodile are partners. They help each other. The crocodile can leave its nest. It can leave its eggs. It can swim. It can hunt. It can find food. It can go away because the bird is there. The water thick-knee stays close to the nests. It stays close to the eggs. It baby-sits the eggs.

The bird stands still. It looks all around. If it spots danger, it cries out. It screeches loudly. The crocodile hears the screeching. It comes charging back. It charges back to protect the eggs. It drives off any animal that would harm the eggs. The bird and the crocodile are good partners. The bird needs the crocodile to protect its eggs. The crocodile needs a baby-sitter while it hunts.



The Cat that Hissed and Scratched

No one but Lee liked the cat. Lee's father said, "The cat is mean. It looks ugly. It is missing part of its tail. You can't pat it. If you pat it, it hisses. It tries to scratch. Lee, that cat is bad. Why do you like that bad cat?"

Lee knew the cat was ugly. She knew part of its tail was missing. Still, there was something about the cat that Lee liked. Every day Lee would put out food and water for the cat. She tried to show the cat it did not have to hiss and scratch.

Then, one night, something happened. The cat jumped on Lee's father and woke him up. Lee's dad was mad. He got even madder when the cat hissed and scratched. Then Lee's dad smelled something. It was smoke! Quickly, Lee's dad got everyone up. He got everyone out of the house. After the firefighters came, Lee's dad said, "Lee, your cat smelled the smoke. It saved us. I guess I like a cat that hisses and scratches once in a while!"

