MAY

Differentiated Passages

LEXILE®

May Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. List the four prizes for winning the Annual Birdhouse Building Competition.

Prize List

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

2. How did Megan choo

3. How do you think this competition?

4. Which is the co
   a. Desig
   b. Desig
   c. Meas
   d. Paint

5. What allowe fancier hou

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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ence of steps Megan went

780L

May Passages

Name: _____ te: _____

Best Birdhouse Builder

Megan pulled the flyer she'd gotten at school out of her backpack. She set it on her lap as she wheeled her wheelchair over to the kitchen table. "Mom, can I enter this competition?"

Her mother put down the wooden spoon she'd been using to stir chili on the stovetop and walked over to Megan. "Annual Birdhouse Building Competition," she read from the top of the flyer.

"You get to research a bird that is found locally." Megan pointed at the directions on the flyer. "Then you design and actually build a birdhouse for that kind of bird. Our town's nature organization will put the birdhouses on their nature trails or other natural areas where that kind of bird is known to hang out. The best birdhouse wins a free birding trip with a real ornithologist from the nature organization. You also get a pair of high-powered binoculars and a bookstore gift card."

"It's okay with me if you enter," her mother said. "I'll help you build the birdhouse in my shop if you do all the research and design. I've got some nice red cedar left over from some outdoor chairs I built last week. It will be perfect for a birdhouse."

Megan clapped, then wheeled down the hallway to her bedroom. She parked herself at her desk and opened her laptop. "Which bird should I choose?" She did a search on birds local to her area. She found a huge list online. She narrowed down the list to ten different birds. Next, Megan wrote the names of those birds on little slips of paper. After folding the papers, she dropped them all in an empty shoebox. She shook the box, then stuck her hand in. Her fingers closed around one of the papers.



"Black-capped chickadee," she read after unfolding the paper. "Guess it's now time all there is to know about these birds."

4th & 5th Grade

Mag CORE

MAY PASSAGES

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. Best Birdhouse Builder - *Focus on Sequence* (780L, 970L)
2. Just Add Color - *Focus on Identifying Problem and Solution* (760L, 960L)
3. Missing Cherry Blossoms - *Focus on Drawing Conclusions* (760L, 960L)
4. Anna May Wong - *Focus on Biography Genre* (760L, 960L)
5. Lyme Disease Prevention - *Focus on Cause and Effect* (750L, 930L)
6. Memorial Day - *Focus on the Five Ws and H Questions* (740L, 960L)

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

760L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Just Add Color

Mary carefully hung the flower garland she'd made for May Day above the front door of their home. She'd done her best with the flowers she could find. Truthfully, however, there weren't many flowers available. Her small town of Greenwood had been hit with the worst drought in years. Everyone's plants – food and flowers included – were dying of thirst. They looked half dead with their wilted leaves, sagging stems, and dulled petal colors.

"Those look wretched," Mary's brother, Thomas, said.

"Did you find anything better for us to use?" Mary asked hopefully.

Thomas held out his empty hands. "There isn't a decent flower for miles around here." He shrugged. "At least everyone's May Day display will look just as ugly as ours.

Mary didn't like that any of the displays would look ugly. May Day was supposed to be a time to celebrate the return of spring. It was about life and growth and green things. Not death and drought and sad, brown flowers.

Then Mary got an idea.

She hopped into the house, Thomas trailing after her.

"What are you doing?" Thomas asked. "We need to go down to the town square for the May Day festivities."



"And we will," Mary said. "First we're going to add some color to this dull landscape."

She searched in her closet and pulled out some old dresses that she'd grown too tall to wear anymore. Carrying them into her mother's sewing room, Mary spread the dresses out and grabbed two pairs of scissors.

"Start cutting out some circles of fabric." She handed one pair of scissors to Thomas.

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Thomas did as he was told because he'd learned a long time ago that Mary always had wonderful ideas.

The two of them cut for several quiet moments until they had a stack of colorful fabric circles. Mary ran back outside and collected an armful of sticks. She brought them back to the sewing room and found a spool of thin wire. She picked up one of the fabric circles and twisted it so it looked like a flower. Then she wrapped some wire at the base of it. She attached it to one of the sticks. Mary cut out a few leaf shapes from a green dress and attached those to the stick as well.

Thomas soon caught on. He helped her make more fabric flowers until they had two lovely bouquets full of bright colors.

"They may not be real or smell nice," Mary said, "but they sure are prettier than the dead flowers I hung above the door."

Thomas agreed, and when their parents saw the beautiful fabric bouquets, they each made one too. Mary's family carried their creations as they walked to the town square. They passed many of their neighbors whose houses were similarly decorated with wilted flowers. When the neighbors saw their creative and bright fabric bouquets, however, they rushed into their houses to make some of their own.

By the time the entire town assembled in the square, people's hands were full of fake flowers made of old clothes and linens. The drought had caused the townspeople to be unhappy. They were a little scared about their food supplies. They were all desperate to have some rainfall again. Seeing the colorful fabric flowers, however, lifted people's spirits. There was much conversation and laughing and singing.



"What a wonderful idea you had, Mary," Thomas said. "You saved May Day for Greenwood!"

And then... it began to rain.

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940L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Just Add Color

Mary carefully hung the flower garland she'd made for May Day above the front door of their cottage home. She'd done her best with the flowers she could find, but there honestly weren't many flowers available. Her small town of Greenwood had been struck with the worst drought in decades, and everyone's plants – food and flowers included – were dying of thirst. Without enough water, they looked half dead with their wilted leaves, sagging stems, and dulled petal colors.

"Those look positively wretched," Mary's brother, Thomas, said as he shook his head at her garland.

"Did you find anything better for us to use?" Mary asked, her hands pressed together hopefully after she'd descended the ladder.

Thomas held out his empty hands and then shrugged. "There isn't a decent flower for miles around here. At least everyone's May Day display will look just as hideous as ours because no one can get flowers.

Mary didn't like that any of the displays would look ugly. May Day was supposed to be a time to celebrate the return of spring's beauty. It was about life and growth and green things. Not death and drought and sad, brown flowers.

Then Mary got an idea.

Snapping her fingers, she hopped into the house, Thomas trailing after her.

"What are you doing?" Thomas asked as he followed her through the house to her bedroom. "We need to go down to the town square for the May Day festivities."

"And we will," Mary said, "but first we're going to add some color to this dull, boring landscape."



She rummaged around in her wardrobe and pulled out some old dresses that she'd grown too tall to wear anymore. Carrying them into her mother's sewing room, she spread the dresses out and grabbed two pairs of scissors.

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"Start cutting out some circles of fabric." She handed one pair of scissors to Thomas.

Thomas did as he'd been instructed. He'd learned a long time ago that Mary always had wonderful ideas.

The two of them cut for several quiet moments until they had a stack of colorful fabric circles. Mary rushed back outside and collected an armful of sticks. She carried them back to the sewing room and located a spool of thin, metal wire in her mother's sewing supplies. She picked up one of the fabric circles and twisted it so it resembled a flower. Then she wrapped some wire at the base of it and attached it to one of the sticks. She cut out a few leaf shapes from a green dress and attached those to the stick as well.

Thomas soon caught on to Mary's plan and helped her make more fabric flowers until they had two lovely bouquets full of bright colors. Mary tied them up with fabric strips to look like ribbons.

"They may not be real or fragrant," Mary said, surveying their work, "but they are certainly prettier than the dead flowers I hung above the door."

Thomas agreed, and when their parents saw the beautiful fabric bouquets, they each created one for themselves too. Mary's family proudly carried their creations as they walked to the town square. They passed many of their neighbors whose houses were similarly decorated with wilted, saggy, dull flowers. When the neighbors saw their creative and vibrant fabric bouquets, however, they rushed into their houses to make some of their own. Some people even made fabric flower crowns to wear.



By the time the entire town assembled in the square, people's arms were loaded with fake flowers made of old clothes, linens, and sticks.

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The drought had caused the townspeople to be unhappy and a little frightened about their food supplies for the year. They were all desperate to have some rainfall again so everything could grow properly. Seeing all the colorful fabric flowers, however, lifted people's spirits and brightened the dark day. There was much conversation and laughing and singing. The merriment was enjoyed by all, and Mary loved seeing her family and neighbors smiling again.

"What a wonderful idea you had, Mary," Thomas said. "You saved May Day for Greenwood!"

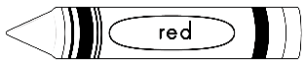
And then... it began to rain.

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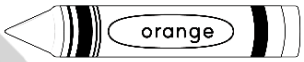
May Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

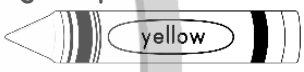
1. Why aren't there any flowers available for May Day decorations?



2. How does Thomas try to comfort Mary about the ugly decorations?

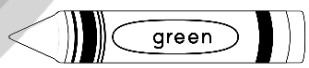


3. What is Mary's plan for adding some color to the dull landscape? Why is it a good plan?





4. What lifted the townspeople's spirits at the May Day celebration?



   a. Eating delicious food at the celebration
   b. Singing and dancing
   c. Seeing all the colorful fabric flowers
   d. Worrying about the drought

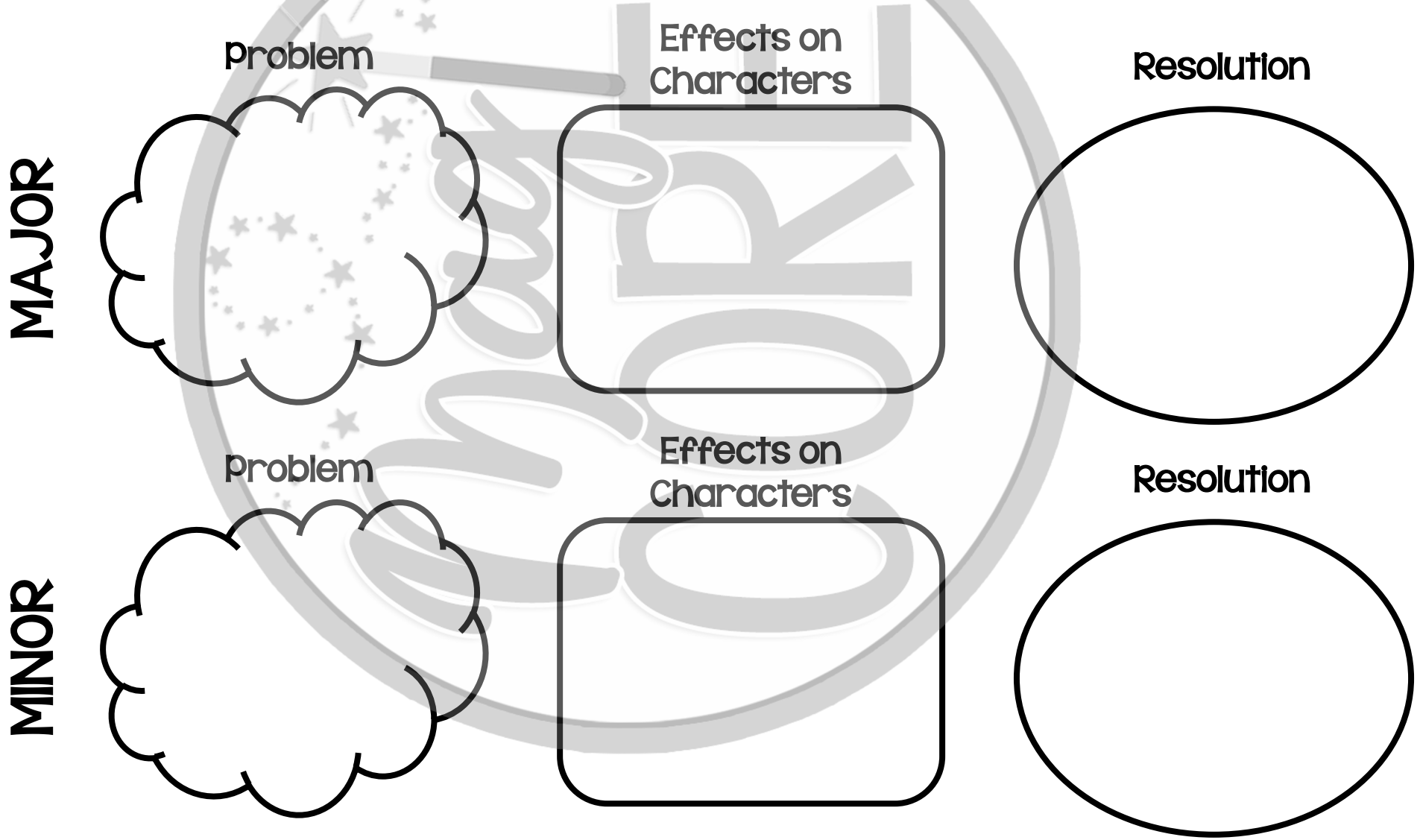
5. How would you describe Mary and Thomas's relationship as brother and sister? What clues from the text make you think this?



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IDENTIFYING PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

The story "Just Add Color" has both a major and a minor problem that each get solved by the end. Fill in the chart below by identifying the major and minor problems the characters face, what effects they have on the characters, and how they are resolved by the end of the story.



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JUST ADD COLOR RESPONSE

Mary solved a problem in "Just Add Color." Most problems have more than one solution. Write a short scene in which Mary or Thomas solves the May Day decoration problem in a different way.

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760L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Anna May Wong

Anna May Wong was a Chinese-American actress and fashion icon born on January 3rd, 1905, in Los Angeles, California. She was the first Asian-American movie star to be popular internationally. Anna May became a trailblazer.

At the age of 15, Anna May began appearing in bit parts in silent films. Her passion for acting was strong. She would sneak onto film sets to watch movies being made. She received her very first credited role in *The Red Lantern* in 1919. She was the first Chinese-American movie star.



Anna May Wong

Anna May went on to be cast in a variety of roles. They ranged from melodrama films such as *Daughter of Shanghai* (1937) to romantic comedies such as *The Toll of the Sea* (1922).

Though she was successful, she had many struggles. Hollywood had few opportunities for Asian Americans at the time. Discrimination and racism were common. Anna May was cast in limited roles. She could not break out of Asian-American stereotypes. Anna May, however, stayed committed to her craft. She pushed against the boundaries set before her.

Anna May wanted to challenge stereotypes about Asians on screen. She moved to Europe. She found success in Germany's film industry. Her determination and courage earned her the respect of celebrities around the world. Queen Elizabeth II of England knighted her with an honorary Order of the British Empire award in 1956.

Anna May Wong died on February 2nd, 1961. She was 55 years old. She was able to make a lasting impact on Hollywood by challenging discrimination. She inspired generations of young Asian Americans. They followed in her footsteps. There are tribute festivals dedicated in honor of her work. Anna May's legacy continues to live on today.

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960L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Anna May Wong

Anna May Wong was a Chinese-American actress and fashion icon born on January 3rd, 1905, in Los Angeles, California. She was the first Asian-American movie star to be popular internationally. Anna May became a trailblazer.

At the age of 15, Anna May began appearing in bit parts in silent films. Her passion for acting was strong. She would sneak onto film sets to watch movies being made which led to her receiving her very first credited role in *The Red Lantern* in 1919. She was the first Chinese-American movie star.

Anna May went on to be cast in a variety of roles. They ranged from melodrama films such as *Daughter of Shanghai* (1937) to romantic comedies such as *The Toll of the Sea* (1922).



Anna May Wong

Despite her success, she had many struggles because Hollywood had few opportunities for Asian Americans at the time. Discrimination and racism were common. Anna May was cast in limited roles, and she could not break out of Asian-American stereotypes. Nevertheless, Anna May stayed committed to her craft and continuously pushed against the boundaries set before her.

Anna May wanted to challenge stereotypes about Asians on screen. She moved abroad and found success in Germany's film industry. Her determination and courage earned her the respect of celebrities around the world. Queen Elizabeth II of England knighted her with an honorary Order of the British Empire award in 1956.

Anna May Wong died on February 2nd, 1961, at the age of 55. She was able to make a lasting impact on Hollywood by challenging discrimination. She inspired generations of young Asian Americans who followed in her footsteps. There are tribute festivals dedicated in honor of her work. Anna May's legacy continues to live on today.

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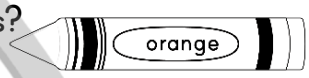
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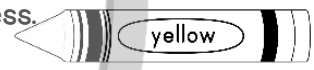
1. What genres of movies was Anna May Wang cast in?



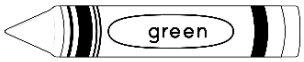
2. How did Anna May Wong inspire future generations of Asian American actors?



3. In paragraph 3, the reader learns that Anna May was considered a movie star and cast in many roles. Using text evidence, explain why she wasn't fully satisfied with her success.

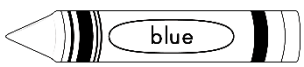


4. What can the reader infer about Germany's film industry?



   a. Germany had more opportunities in silent films than Hollywood.
   b. Germany had fewer opportunities for Asian Americans.
   c. Germany had fewer opportunities in silent films than Hollywood.
   d. Germany had fewer racial stereotypes than Hollywood.

5. What personality trait made Anna May Wong successful despite the limitations of Hollywood? Use text evidence to support your answer.



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BIOGRAPHY GENRE

A biography is an account of someone's life written by someone else. They are about real people and are true stories. Use the biography of Anna May Wong to fill in the important information about her life on the star.



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ANNA MAY WONG RESPONSE

Anna May Wong was a role model for other Asian-American actors. What three qualities do you think a good role model should have? Explain why you think each of those qualities is important in being a good role model.

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750L

May Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lyme Disease Prevention

Lyme Disease is an infection caused by bacteria. It spreads through the bite of an infected tick. It can cause a wide range of symptoms. These symptoms vary depending on how long you have been infected. Early signs include fever, chills, skin rash, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue. As the infection progresses, symptoms may worsen.

If left untreated, Lyme Disease can lead to serious health complications. It can also lead to nervous system problems and irregular heartbeat.

The best way to prevent Lyme Disease is to reduce your risk of tick bites. You can do this by using insect repellent when outdoors. You can also wear long pants and sleeves when walking through wooded areas. Check for ticks regularly. Remove any attached ticks from the body immediately. Apply tick spray where possible.



Lyme Disease spreads through infected tick bites

Treatment for Lyme Disease takes a long time. It involves several weeks of antibiotics. Early diagnosis is important. This is to avoid chronic symptoms. If you suspect that you have been bitten by a tick, you should seek medical help. You should also seek medical attention if you experience any of the symptoms mentioned above.

When treated quickly, most people make a full recovery. Some may experience long-term effects. Ongoing monitoring should be done following treatment. This is to ensure that no complications come up. Prevention is always better than having to get treatment. Taking steps to reduce your risk of tick bites is crucial. You want to avoid Lyme Disease if you can.

©Julie Bochoso

940L May Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Lyme Disease Prevention

Lyme Disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It spreads through the bite of an infected tick. It can cause a wide range of symptoms. These symptoms vary depending on how long you have been infected. Early signs include fever, chills, skin rash, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue. As the infection progresses, symptoms may worsen. This might include headaches, difficulty concentrating, facial paralysis, arthritis with joint pain, and swelling.

If left untreated, Lyme Disease can lead to serious health complications. This includes chronic joint inflammation. It can also lead to nervous system problems and irregular heartbeat.

The best way to prevent Lyme Disease is to reduce your risk of tick bites. You can do this by using insect repellent when outdoors. You can also wear long pants and sleeves when walking through wooded areas. Check for ticks regularly on clothing and skin after spending time outdoors. Promptly remove any attached ticks from the body with tweezers without crushing them. Apply pesticides where possible in yards or other outdoor areas. Reducing tick habitats can also help to reduce the risk of Lyme Disease.



Lyme Disease spreads through infected tick bites

Treatment for Lyme Disease usually involves several weeks of antibiotic therapy. Early diagnosis is important. This is to avoid chronic symptoms. If you suspect that you have been bitten by a tick, you should seek medical help. You should also seek medical attention if you experience any of the symptoms mentioned above.

When treated quickly, most people make a full recovery from Lyme Disease. However, some may experience long-term physical and psychological effects. For this reason, ongoing monitoring should be done following treatment. This is to ensure that no complications arise. Prevention is always better than having to get treatment, so taking steps to reduce your risk of tick bites is crucial in avoiding this debilitating disease.

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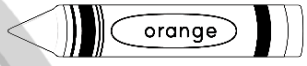
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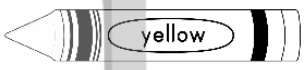
1. What causes Lyme Disease?



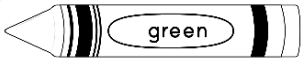
2. What is the best way to prevent Lyme Disease?



3. What should you do to avoid ticks if you go hiking in a heavily wooded area?



4. What is **most important** when it comes to treatment for Lyme Disease?



   a. Spraying pesticides in wooded areas
   b. Analyzing the tick that caused Lyme Disease
   c. Early diagnosis of Lyme Disease
   d. Monitoring chronic symptoms of Lyme Disease

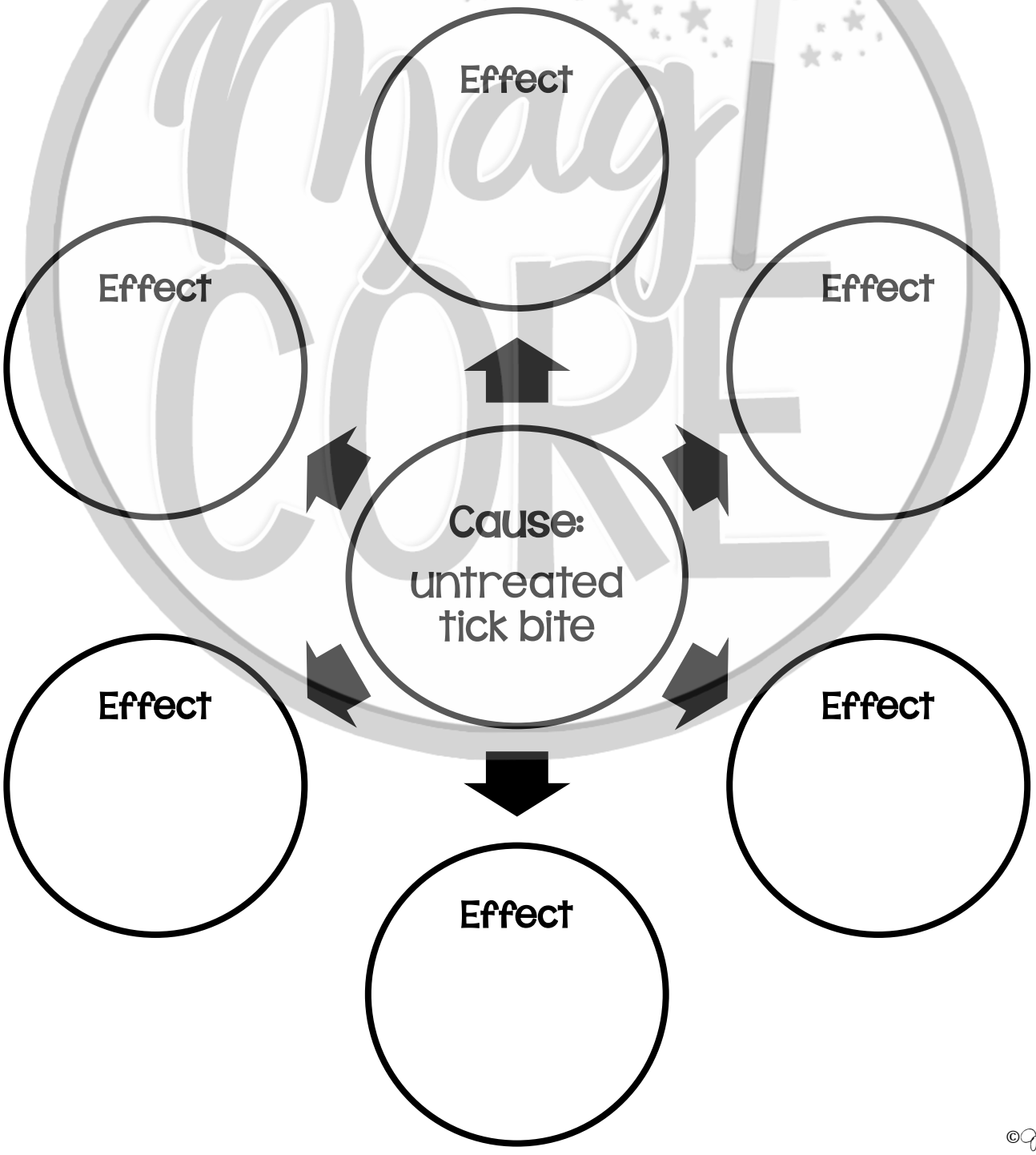
5. What clues in the text tell you the author used a cause-and-effect nonfiction text structure to write about Lyme Disease?



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CAUSE AND EFFECT

The cause-and-effect nonfiction text structure explains why something happens and what the results are. This text structure shows the connections between details about a topic. Sometimes, a cause can have multiple effects. Lyme Disease, for example, has more than one possible symptom that can happen as a result of an untreated tick bite. Using the information in "Lyme Disease Prevention," fill in the web with some of the possible symptoms of Lyme Disease that an untreated tick bite can cause.



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LYME DISEASE PREVENTION RESPONSE

A local radio station wants to do a commercial to educate people about Lyme Disease and how to prevent it. Using information from the text, write a short commercial that states what Lyme Disease is and how to reduce the risks of getting it. Remember, radio commercials are quick and to the point, but they also have to grab people's attention.

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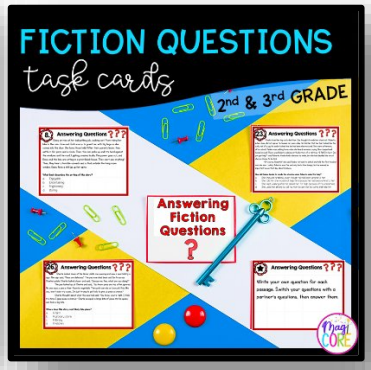
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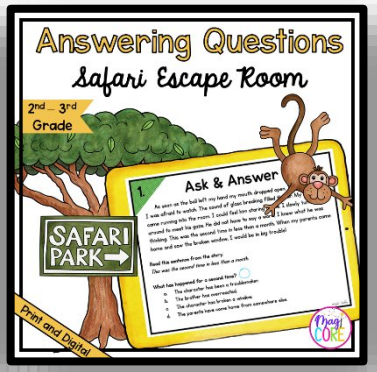
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