

Title: **Blizzard Bag #3 Inferencing**

1. Heather put away her homework in the biggest slot in her bag. She placed the pens on the desk in order from the one with the most ink to the one with the least ink. Later, she ordered the shoes in her closet by the day in which she first bought them. When her room was cleaned, she took a shower and brushed her teeth for exactly five minutes. Then, she laid out her clothes for school the next day. Finally, she said good night to her parents.

What can the reader tell about Heather?

- A. She loves to buy new shoes.
- B. She hates to go to school.
- C. She ignores her parents.
- D. She is very organized.

Riding her bike up the street toward her house, Shelly noticed that most of the lawns were very green. The grass was lush and looked soft. In front of Shelly's house, however, the grass was yellow and stiff. She would never want to sit in grass that looked that uncomfortable. In different parts of the yard, Shelly's parents had brought in soil to make flower beds where grass used to be. In these beds, several nice looking plants and flowers were growing. Still, Shelly thought the dead grass made the whole yard ugly.

"Dad!" she yelled as she walked in the front door. "Why do we have the ugliest yard on the block? Why isn't our grass green?"

Her dad was at the kitchen table making notes about something. "Our city is in a drought, Shelly, which means we have not had enough rain. To save water, we don't water the lawn."

Shelly had heard about the drought in school and knew it was important to save water. "It's so ugly," she said less harshly. "Isn't there anything we can do?"

"We're working on it," her father replied. "Those beds your mother and I are putting in use much less water than grass and are still very attractive. But it's hard work, and we can't do it all at once. If you want it to go faster, get out of bed earlier and help us out."

2. Which sentence from the passage supports the idea that regular people can do things to help during a drought?

- A. "In different parts of the yard, Shelly's parents had brought in soil to make flower beds where grass used to be."
- B. "Riding her bike up the street toward her house, Shelly noticed that most of the lawns were very green."
- C. "'Those beds your mother and I are putting in use much less water than grass and are still very attractive.'"
- D. "'Our city is in a drought, Shelly, which means we have not had enough rain.'"

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

3. Based on information in the passage, the reader can guess that

- A. Shelly's neighbors do not know that there is a drought.
 - B. Shelly's father is embarrassed to have such an ugly yard.
 - C. Shelly's parents care about the environment.
 - D. Shelly's neighbors do not water their front lawns often.
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Bangladesh Flooding

In 1998, Bangladesh was affected by heavy floods. There were several reasons for the severe flooding. First, there were unusually heavy monsoon rains. That year, the Himalayas also shed a lot of water. The heavy flow of water could not be blocked because of fewer trees. In the past, the trees kept the water from flooding. Many of these trees had been cut for firewood or to make space for animals. Such floods have now become a regular part of Bangladesh's climate. This has also raised questions about Bangladesh's future.

Some believe that Bangladesh could be severely affected by climate change. Rainfall has been increasing in the country. With climate change, the sea level is rising. Tropical cyclones are also expected to increase. These dramatic changes will harm agriculture, safety of water and food, people's health, and shelter. To make things worse, most parts of Bangladesh are less than 12 meters above sea level. If the sea level were to rise by a meter, half of the land would be flooded.

4. Which idea can be supported with the information from the passage?

- A. Trees can help minimize damage from floods.
 - B. Floods help with irrigation for agriculture.
 - C. Flooding provides people more water to drink.
 - D. Cyclones are more dangerous than floods.
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5. Which idea can be supported from the passage?

- A. Climate is not changing in most Asian countries.
 - B. Countries near the sea face numerous dangers.
 - C. Scientists have not studied flooding enough.
 - D. The world started changing rapidly since 1998.
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Lost and Found

Kim and Chieko walked home from school together each day. One afternoon as they walked through the park, Chieko saw something shiny lying on the ground. She pointed it out to Kim.

"It's a watch," Kim said, bending down to pick it up. She ran her fingers across the diamonds surrounding the watch face.

"Let me see," Chieko said. "Is it broken?"

"No, the watch is fine, but look. The clasp on the strap is broken. I bet the person who lost it doesn't even know it fell off."

"What should I do?" Chieko asked.

"You should keep it," Kim said. "It's beautiful—finders-keepers you know."

"One time I lost my necklace," Chieko said, putting her hand up to touch the blue stone that hung from a silver chain around her neck. "The clasp broke, and my necklace fell onto the school parking lot. When I realized it was gone, I rushed to the office to ask if anyone had turned it in. I didn't think that anyone had. If someone had found it, I was afraid they would keep it. I was so sad."

"So, what happened?" Kim asked.

"Someone did turn it in," Chieko said. "That was one of my happiest days."

"So, what are you going to do?" Kim asked.

"I plan on putting up flyers to see if someone has lost it," Chieko replied.

6. How does the reader know that the watch is expensive?

- A. It has a broken clasp.
 - B. It is on a silver chain.
 - C. It is lying on the ground.
 - D. It has diamonds on the face.
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7. Which detail in the story shows that Chieko is an honest girl?

- A. She gives Kim her blue stone necklace.
 - B. She sees something shiny on the ground.
 - C. She will turn in the watch at the office.
 - D. She will put up flyers about the watch.
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8. At the end of the story, the reader can tell that Chieko

- A. knows the watch's owner.
 - B. does not trust her friend.
 - C. cares about other people.
 - D. feels sad all the time.
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What is Sleep Talking?

Sleep talking is a common activity people do while sleeping. People make sounds or speak during sleep without being aware of it. Sleep talking can happen at any stage of sleep. People with anxiety disorders or fever are known to talk in their sleep. Sometimes, people with other sleep disorders like sleep walking or shortness of breath while sleeping also talk in their sleep.

More children are known to sleep talk compared to adults. Usually, sleep talking goes away in children when they hit puberty. Children who sleep walk may continue to sleep talk as well. While some sleep talkers carry on conversations, others only moan or make sounds.

Lack of sleep is known to increase sleep talking. Other factors that increase sleep talking are stress and anxiety. People with irregular sleep habits might talk in their sleep. Researchers say eating a heavy meal before bedtime creates discomfort that might cause sleep talking.

9. What can the reader tell about people who sleep talk?

- A. They do not know that they are talking in their sleep.
 - B. They feel least stressed or anxious while sleep talking.
 - C. They are most talkative when they are in deep sleep.
 - D. They will remember everything they said while sleeping.
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The Guitar Lesson

Micah sat in the waiting room with his guitar, listening to the student before him play a song for Mr. Vance. The song was not very good, as Micah could hear many places where the song stopped or where a wrong note rang. Micah smiled, remembering how poorly he played when he started taking lessons with Mr. Vance.

Finally, the other student was finished, and she walked out of the practice room, through the waiting room where she waved at Micah, and out to the parking lot. Micah carried his guitar into the practice room, and Mr. Vance called out, "There's my star pupil!" Micah sat in the chair facing Mr. Vance, and the lesson began. Mr. Vance played a rhythm part on his guitar, and Micah played the lead. It was a difficult song, with many changes, but Micah played it perfectly from start to finish without looking at any sheet music.

When the lesson was over, Mr. Vance held his hand out for Micah to shake. "It's been a pleasure," Mr. Vance said. "Why don't you look me up when you're in town. We can jam."

Micah nodded, smiled, and said, "Thanks, Mr. Vance. I will."

10. Which idea can be supported from information in the passage?

- A. This is Micah's last guitar lesson with Mr. Vance.
- B. Micah has been having trouble with his lessons.
- C. Micah has not been practicing his guitar enough.
- D. Micah does not get along well with Mr. Vance.

11. Which sentence from the passage shows the reader that Mr. Vance likes having Micah as a student?

- A. " 'It's been a pleasure,' Mr. Vance said. "
 - B. "Mr. Vance played a rhythm part on his guitar, and Micah played the lead."
 - C. "Micah nodded, smiled, and said, 'Thanks, Mr. Vance. I will.' "
 - D. "Micah sat in the chair facing Mr. Vance, and the lesson began."
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12. Based on the passage, the reader can tell that

- A. Micah is not a very good guitar player.
 - B. Micah does not get along well with Mr. Vance.
 - C. Micah has been taking lessons for a while.
 - D. Micah is just taking his first guitar lesson.
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Somewhere Far

by A. Gautam

As I watched my parents disappear from the parking lot, I stared at the empty ground for a long time. My life was about to change forever at the age of fourteen. I had never thought I would be studying and living away from my family for four years. It was a family tradition my parents had followed while growing up in Europe.

I stood alone and searched for the mountains. The wind was chilly and bits of snow were piling on my shoes. Things were certainly not the same in this town. The situation seemed even worse when I noticed how different I looked from everyone else. Everywhere I looked around everyone looked happy to be there except for me. None of them had the look of homesickness in their faces.

I slowly moved toward the yellow building—my new home—and decided to get my meal card from my room before looking for the cafeteria. That was when I spotted the girl who looked more out of place than me. She could not have been more than twelve. She was carrying a big backpack, wearing a thick jacket, and holding onto two suitcases sitting on the floor. I could see white airport tags still attached to her luggage.

"Hi, I am Shree," I told the girl, deciding to introduce myself. "Can I help you find anything?"

"I am Mongoo," she spoke softly. "Yes, where is the girls' building?" She gave me a little smile as I offered to carry one of her suitcases to our new home.

13. Read the first paragraph again. Shree and Mongoo are

- A. in a summer camp.
 - B. in a boarding school.
 - C. near the airport lobby.
 - D. near a college dorm.
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14. Based on this passage, can the reader infer that Shree is a helpful person?

- A. No, because she does not see if other kids need help, too.
 - B. No, because she only carries one suitcase for Mongoo.
 - C. Yes, because she offers to assist Mongoo with her luggage.
 - D. Yes, because she talks to the people she does not know.
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