

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile Non-Prose

1. B *fireflies*
2. A *stars*
3. A *The fireflies cannot act like they are stars for very long.*
4. D *to show that the poet is not surprised that fireflies cannot sustain the part*
5. C *Fireflies can seem very star-like, but only for a short time.*
6. D *to make it seem like fireflies are trying and succeeding at looking like stars*
7. B *flies*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary slightly but should include two of the following. The poet says that flies and stars are not the same size, that flies were "never really stars at heart," and that flies cannot sustain the part (of a star).*
9. **Suggested answer:** *The poem says that flies can achieve a "very star-like start" at times, referring to the momentary light that a firefly gives off.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Students should recognize that the poet is trying to point out the way that fireflies sometimes look like stars in this poem; by calling fireflies "emulating flies" right after mentioning the "real stars," the poet indicates that fireflies look like stars. Some students may go further, noting that the poet is going beyond the basic comparison and wants to imply that fireflies are actively trying to look like stars. The poet's use of the phrase "emulating flies" instead of the word "fireflies" supports this intention. This intention is also supported with the word "achieve" and the phrase "the part." All of these words ascribe a sense of purpose to fireflies - they are trying to look like (or emulate) stars.*

## Teacher Guide & Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 840

1. **Suggested answer:** *Eliza is hiking with her dad and brother, Kenyon.*
2. **Suggested answer:** *The story takes place at Taughannock Falls State Park.*
3. **Suggested answer:** *The waterfall is very big.*
4. **Suggested answer:** *She most likely enjoys exploring new trails, looking for frogs and lizards, and finding stones for her collection.*
5. **Suggested answer:** *Eliza enjoys a trip to the Taughannock Falls State Park with her dad and brother.*
6. **Suggested answer:** *The author means that Eliza's dad and brother appeared very small to Eliza since they were at the bottom of the hill.*
7. **Suggested answer:** *so (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary.*

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 490

1. What keeps falling off Ariel's bicycle?

- A the front wheel
- B the back wheel
- C the reflector**
- D the seat

2. The narrator is the person who is telling the story. In this story, the narrator is Ariel's sibling. How does the narrator finally solve the problem of the reflector falling off Ariel's bike?

- A by taking Ariel's bike to a repair shop
- B by tying the reflector on with some rope from a closet
- C by asking their dad to fix the reflector by himself
- D by gluing the reflector on with help from their dad**

3. Rope does not keep the reflector on the bike as well as glue does.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Ariel's father helps to glue the reflector onto the bike after the reflector falls off a second time.
- B After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides down the sidewalk.
- C After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides over a bump.
- D The reflector falls off after being tied onto the bike, but it does not fall off after being glued on.**

4. Why does Ariel give the narrator a hug at the end of the story?

- A Ariel is upset about how long it has taken to fix the bike.
- B Ariel is happy that the narrator has fixed the bike.**
- C Ariel is excited to take her bike to a repair shop.
- D Ariel is confused because she does not understand how the narrator fixed the bike.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A two siblings who do not get along until their dad makes them be nice to each other
- B a bike that is unsafe to ride because it is falling apart
- C a problem with a bike and what the narrator does to solve it**
- D a girl whose bike breaks and what happens when she takes it to a repair shop

6. Read the following sentence: "Last week, the red, shiny **reflector** came off my sister's bicycle seat."

What does the word "**reflector**" mean?

- A a wheel that turns very slowly
- B something that shines when light hits it**
- C a type of metal that is worth a lot of money
- D a safety pad that someone riding a bicycle wears

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The narrator tries fixing the reflector with glue \_\_\_\_\_ rope does not work.

- A after**
- B although
- C before
- D so

8. What causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope?

**Suggested answer:** A tree branch causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope.

9. What are the three bike riding conditions that the narrator has Ariel recreate after gluing the reflector on Ariel's bike?

**Suggested answer:** The three conditions are (1) riding her bike down the sidewalk, (2) riding over a bump, and (3) riding under a tree.

10. Why is recreating these conditions important to the narrator's experiment?

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary in phrasing, but students should recognize that recreating the conditions enables the narrator to compare how effective the rope is at keeping the reflector on with how effective the glue is.

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 780

1. Where do Kurt and Roscoe go on their adventure?

- A inside a movie theater
- B a planet in outer space
- C the emergency room of a hospital
- D **a hill with lots of bees**

2. What is the plot of this story?

- A An alien comes to earth, hides on the top of a hill, and kidnaps a boy.
- B **A boy goes on an adventure to Hilltop Hives and meets the bees there.**
- C A dog gets lost, a boy goes looking for it, and he finds it in a Mexican restaurant.
- D A woman puts on a bee-suit, decides to take off the helmet, and gets stung.

3. Read this sentence from the story: "For bees, every day is an adventure."

What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A The hives that Kurt sees are taller than he is.
- B The honey that Kurt's family eats comes from Hilltop Hives.
- C Kurt sees a creature with a wheezing brown weapon that sprays smoke.
- D **Bees fly up to five miles every day to find new flowers.**

4. Why does Kurt think Brenda is an alien when he first sees her?

- A Brenda has short brown hair and crinkles around her smile.
- B As Kurt is about to turn around and run away after climbing the hill, Roscoe barks.
- C **Brenda is wearing something that looks like a white space suit with a helmet hiding her face.**
- D Brenda explains to Kurt how bees work, how they live and die, and how they spend their lives making honey.

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A the dangers of talking to people you do not know
- B the harmful effects that pollution has on animals
- C **the excitement of having an adventure**
- D the fun of growing up and becoming an adult

6. Read the following sentence: "Kurt **swallowed his fear**, and a little more juice, as he approached the creature."

What does it mean that Kurt **swallowed his fear**?

- A **Kurt kept his fear under control**
- B Kurt touched his throat with one hand
- C Kurt was too afraid to keep going
- D Kurt screamed for help

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Kurt wants to find the bees; \_\_\_\_\_, he does.

- A however
- B particularly
- C initially
- D **ultimately**

8. According to the story, what do you need to have an adventure?

**Suggested answer:** According to the story, you need a dog, a small backpack, some juice, and a sandwich to have an adventure. A goal is optional.

9. What is an example of an adventure that Kurt went on before his adventure at Hilltop Hives?

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should come from the story. Students may cite such examples as playing on an empty playground and finding out which Mexican restaurant sells the best taco in town.

10. Based on the story, what does it mean to have an adventure? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the story. Students may define having an adventure as undergoing a new experience. Most, if not all, of Kurt's adventures involve having a new experience or learning something new. Every day is an "adventure" for bees because they fly up to five miles to find new flowers.

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 780

1. **B** before he could walk
2. **A** a fishing trip when Morgan caught a fish AND a fishing trip when he caught a fish and then lost it
3. **B** Being good at fishing takes a lot of practice.
4. **A** determined
5. **D** Fishing is like life, with some days that are a success and other days that are not.
6. **B** to swim faster than
7. **D** even though
8. **Suggested answer:** Students may note any of the following details to communicate that Morgan struggled to catch the fish before he finally caught it: Morgan felt his fishing pole bend forward all of a sudden and the reel started spinning, Morgan held on tight to the fish as it kept trying to get away, and he struggled with the fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it.
9. **Suggested answer:** Answers will vary as long as they are supported by the text: Students can explain that Morgan enjoys the activity of fishing as he has been fishing his entire life, including at 4:45 am or in very cold temperatures with great pleasure. Students may also reason that it is an activity that he enjoys with his entire family. Students may also point out that being a fisherman has taught Morgan important lessons about life, created the person he is today, and brings out the better in him.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but should be supported by the text. Students may explain that Morgan may have learned to be determined and patient, no matter how difficult a situation may be, in order to achieve a certain goal. For example, he struggled with a fish for 45 minutes before he finally caught it when he was ten years old. Students may also reason that Morgan may have learned that no matter how much effort you put into something, things don't always go as planned. They may cite the example of Morgan jumping into the cold water to catch the fish, which finally escaped.

## Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 850

1. **C** *a fruit-and-vegetable farmer*
2. **B** *Luke helps his father grow tomatoes.*
3. **D** *Luke's father listens to his son's questions and answers them.*
4. **A** *Luke thinks his father's work is special and interesting.*
5. **C** *giving care and attention to worthwhile things*
6. **D** *to let readers know that more detail is coming*
7. **B** *then*
8. **Suggested answer:** *Luke would describe a fruit-and-vegetable farm as magical.*
9. **Suggested answer:** *Luke is certain that "a little bit of family magic and a lot of attention" will result in the most beautiful tomatoes he has ever seen once August arrives.*
10. **Suggested answer:** *Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. Students may respond that farming is not really magical. Farmers do not cast spells to make their plants grow; they plant seeds and care for them. On the other hand, students may respond that farming does require a certain kind of magic. This magic is the "family magic" Luke refers to, a special kind of attention given to what a person cares a lot about.*



**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 760

1. **C** a pig and a dog
2. **A** friendly, cheerful, and excited
3. **C** because Pug and Dot were not the same kind of animal, but they still played with each other
4. **A** "Pug would snort in delight when Dot wagged her big, fluffy tail. Dot would jump up and down when Pug wiggled his curly tail."
5. **B** You don't need to be very alike to be great friends.
6. **D** to show that Pug and Dot thought differently about friendship than the other animals
7. **C** Even though Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, they could understand each other just fine.
8. **Suggested answer:** Dot makes sure to stay near the mud so that she and Pug can talk as they bathe.
9. **Suggested answer:** Pug is a pig who talks in oinks, has a curly tail, and cools down by taking mud baths. Dot, on the other hand, is a dog; unlike Pug, she talks in barks, has a big fluffy tail, and cools down by sweating.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, but should be supported by the text. Students may note that communication is important in a friendship, as indicated by Pug and Dot's understanding each other and talking every day. Looking out for each other and being considerate is also important, as demonstrated by Dot's helping to think of a way to keep Pug cool and then making sure she stayed near Pug as they bathed. Pug and Dot also show that it is important to have fun together in a friendship, regardless of any differences.

**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 800

1. **A** ants
2. **D** the jobs done by ants in a colony
3. **A** Ants move quickly from one place to another.
4. **C** The ecosystem of an ant is in the soil.
5. **B** Ants are important parts of their ecosystem.
6. **D** Ants are creatures that live together in groups.
7. **A** There are lots of different kinds of ants, including carpenter ants, leaf-cutter ants, sweet ants, fire ants, and many more.
8. **Suggested answer:** Worker ants take care of babies, look for food, and build ant homes.
9. **Suggested answer:** Answers should resemble the following. Ants bring food particles to their nests. Because ants don't eat all the particles, leftovers stay in the soil. The leftovers then break down and add nutrients to the soil.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. For example: Worker ants help their ecosystem by gathering food. One of their jobs for the colony is to look for food. When they find food, they bring it back to the nest. The ants do not eat it all, so there are leftovers. The leftovers break down and add nutrients to the soil. Other creatures living in the soil then feed on these nutrients. By providing nutrients for other creatures in the soil, the worker ants are helping their ecosystem.

**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 760

1. **A** a big, circular, yellow flower
2. **B** different ways people use sunflowers
3. **D** "People, birds, and animals, including squirrels and chipmunks, love to eat sunflower seeds."
4. **D** because sunflowers are bright and pretty
5. **C** Sunflowers are pretty flowers that give people and animals food.
6. **B** to call attention to the amount of flowers that make up sunflowers
7. **D** sunflower seeds
8. **Suggested answer:** Sunflower seeds have oil inside them.
9. **Suggested answer:** People use sunflower oil for cooking.
10. **Suggested answer:** Answers may vary. However, most of the evidence in the text points to the seeds. Sunflower seeds are a source of protein and food for people. The seeds also have a lot of oil in them. People use that oil for cooking.

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 810

1. At the beginning of the story, where is Maria about to go?

- A a sleepover
- B Camp Kanawa**
- C Aunt Jolie and Uncle Ed's
- D school

2. How do Maria's feelings about camp change in the story?

- A At first Maria is nervous, but then she is excited.**
- B At first Maria is excited, but then she is nervous.
- C At first Maria is excited, but then she is bored.
- D At first Maria is nervous, but then she is sad.

3. Maria is anxious and nervous about going to camp. What evidence from the story best supports this statement?

- A Maria decides to eat French toast for breakfast before going to camp.
- B Maria's parents give her advice about making friends at camp.
- C Maria and her mom joke with her dad about being hip and cool.
- D The morning she leaves for camp, Maria wakes up with a stomach ache.**

4. Read the following sentences: "*Just be yourself. Just be yourself.* Maria repeated the words like a mantra as she sat with her new cabin mates in a circle on the grass."

Based on this information, what conclusion can you make?

- A Maria is confident that she will make friends.
- B Maria is not sure if she will like her cabin mates.
- C Maria is nervous about making friends.**
- D Maria has already made some new friends.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A Maria goes to camp for the first time.**
- B Maria really loves to eat French toast.
- C Maria discovers her love for dragonflies.
- D Maria jokes with her parents over breakfast.

6. Read the following sentences:

She walked briskly to the stove, placed two pieces of French toast on a plate and tapped a canister above them, powdered sugar **snowing down**.

"Just like you like it: super fluffy, slightly crispy..."

"...and lightly dusted," said Maria, already in position, armed with knife, fork, napkin and full glass of milk.

What does the author mean when she describes the powdered sugar as "**snowing down**"?

- A The powdered sugar was cold like falling snow.
- B The powdered sugar was wet like falling snow.
- C The powdered sugar smelled like falling snow.
- D **The powdered sugar looked like snow as it fell.**

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_, Maria is nervous about camp, but soon after she arrives, she becomes excited instead.

- A Finally
- B **Initially**
- C Especially
- D Although

8. What advice does Maria's mom give her before going to camp?

**Suggested answer:** Maria's mom tells her that popularity is not important, but that finding people who like her for who she is is important.

9. Maria is nervous about going to camp, but after she arrives at camp she becomes more excited than nervous. What causes Maria's feelings to change?

**Suggested answer:** After arriving at camp, Maria talks with one of her cabin mates and meets her counselors. Her cabin mate is friendly, and the counselors sound ready to have a good time. Meeting these people causes Maria's feelings to change; while she was initially nervous about meeting new people, she now looks forward to spending time with them.

10. Based on the information in the story, will Maria likely have a good time at camp? Support your answer using details from the story.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the story. Students should indicate that Maria will likely have a good time at camp, because she has already started to make friends with one of her cabin mates, the redheaded girl. At the end of the story, Maria is excited and no longer nervous ("The ache in Maria's stomach had officially turned into butterflies—the excited kind"), which indicates that she will likely have a good time.