

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Thief

Lucy and Kate had a very thoughtful Aunt Millie, and on one very chilly day in the middle of winter, when the snow was still on the ground, she brought them a New Year's gift. Father and Mother thanked Millie, while Kate opened the gift. Lucy let her younger sibling open the gift, while she observed from the chair. Lucy was just as thoughtful as their aunt. It was a little house for dolls to live in, and there were four rooms in it, with tables and chairs. In each of the two rooms, there was a little wooden frame for a bed to lie on, but there was no bed on it, and no pillow, and there were no sheets, nor anything else of the sort. Their aunt informed the youngsters that they must make the bedding for their dolls, for it would help them learn to sew.

Their aunt had soon returned to her home, but she left two little wax dolls for the house. One of the dolls wore a pink silk frock, and the other had on a blue frock. Accordingly, their mother gave them some linen to make the sheets, and to make a case for each of the beds, and for the pillows. Lucy and Kate said to each other, "What shall we stow into the beds to make them as velvety as ours?" Lucy replied, "Mother keeps some bran in a container; I will ask her to lend us some to put into the beds." However, Mother thought it would be better to stuff the beds with wool instead. The little girls told their mother that they'd rather have the bran. As soon as they finished with the beds, they frolicked about in their room, imagining what it would be like to live in the handsome dollhouse.

On the subsequent day, when playtime occurred, the little girls scurried into the room where all their toys were safely kept. Kate went up to the corner where the dolls' house stood, for they had a place for everything, and tried to keep everything in its place. On the contrary, the door of the house stood open, unlike they left it. As soon as Kate looked in, she cried out for Lucy in great haste. "O Lucy! Come, quick! Quick! There has been a thief in our dolls' house, and here are our poor dolls lying on the floor!"

Faster than anyone could believe, Lucy scampered to look at the thing that caused her sibling such alarm. She saw the two dolls, each lying on the floor in its own room, and the rooms all trashed with bits of bran. Lucy and Kate lifted up the dolls with great care, but they were not hurt, for the beds were not far from the floor, and so they had not had a very bad fall. It was evident that some thief had been in the house, for the chairs and tables were not in their right places, and nearly all the bran that had been in the beds had disappeared. Then Lucy asked, "Who could the thief have been? And how did he get in?" They called for their mother and cried, "There has been a thief in our dolls' house!"

When Mother looked inside and saw the bran lying about on the floor, she laughed hysterically. She said, "Yes, there has been a thief. I can see that some poor little hungry mouse has been in your house, and has eaten up the bran that was in the beds. My silly little girls."

So their mother gave them some more linen to make new cases for the beds, and they set to work again that same day. However, they took care this time to stow the beds and the pillows with pleasantly smooth wool that the hungry mouse might not eat up when he desired to eat his supper.



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Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Thief".

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which choice *best* completes the partial summary of the text provided below?

Two girls named Lucy and Kate receive a dollhouse as a gift. The girls create their own bedding, and use bran as stuffing.

- A. The girls' mother tries to convince the girls to use wool instead of bran, but the girls will not listen. They soon learn that their mother was right. They get some more material and work on creating new bedding.
- B. While getting ready to play with their dollhouse, the girls call to their mother to come help them. Their mother suggests they create new bedding. She laughs at the girls and tells them they are silly.
- C. When the girls return to their dollhouse to play, they discover that a thief has been there. All of the bran that was in the bedding is gone. The thief also threw the dolls on the floor and moved the chairs and tables.
- D. The girls discover that someone has entered their dollhouse. The items are scattered around, and the bran is gone. Their mother informs them the thief is a mouse. They create new bedding with wool, not bran.

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Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have identified that all of the points in this summary are factually accurate. Student(s) may not have identified that this option is not the best one since it does not indicate what led to the girls' realization that their mother was right: a mouse entered the dollhouse and ate the bran.
- B. Student(s) may have selected this option because it provides a good summary of some of the events described in paragraphs 3 and 4. Student(s) may not have recognized that this is not the best summary since the specific discovery made by the girls when they approached their dollhouse is not mentioned.
- C. Student(s) may have chosen this option because it accurately describes what the girls saw when they looked inside their dollhouse. Student(s) may not have recognized that this choice leaves out a number of key details, including the discovery of the identity of the thief and what the girls plan to do to make sure the thief does not return.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RL.6.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Thief".

2 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read this sentence from "Thief."

Lucy was just as thoughtful as their aunt.

Which text from the passage provides evidence that supports this statement?

- A. Lucy and Kate had a very thoughtful Aunt Millie; and on one very chilly day in the middle of winter, when the snow was still on the ground, she brought them a New Year's gift.
- B. Father and Mother thanked Millie, while Kate opened the gift.
- C. Lucy let her younger sibling open the gift, while she observed from the chair.
- D. Their aunt had soon returned to her home, but she left two little wax dolls for the house.

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Correct: C

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have chosen this sentence because, like the sentence in the stem, it contains the word "thoughtful" and mentions Lucy. Student(s) may not have read the sentence closely enough to determine that it focuses solely on the character traits and actions of Lucy's aunt.
- B. Student(s) may have reasoned that thoughtful people buy gifts for others, and also express their gratitude when they receive gifts. Student(s) may not have identified that this sentence does not provide any information about Lucy, and therefore does not contain supporting evidence for the statement presented in the stem.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have labeled this action as kind or thoughtful. Student(s) may not have comprehended that the sentence presented in the stem is about Lucy's personality, not that of her Aunt Millie.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RL.6.1

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

3 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

Write a three paragraph essay on the following topic: how to make and keep friends. Ensure your essay includes an introduction, a body containing relevant details and examples that help to develop your ideas, and a conclusion.

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Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.W.6.2.a

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Emperor's New Clothes

Adapted from *The Emperors New Clothes* by Hans Christian Anderson, public domain.

Scene I

Narrator: A long time ago there lived an Emperor, who was so excessively fond of new garments, that he spent a fortune on them. He did not care about his soldiers, or anything else. The only care in the world he had was showing off his new clothes. Ludicrous and ridiculous was the vain Emperor. He had a costume for every hour in the day. When nobles and knights sought out the Emperor, his maids would say, "The Emperor is in the changing room" instead of saying, "The Emperor is speaking with his council."

Emperor: (looking in a mirror admiringly) Hmmm. This crimson robe is handsome, but I would still like another.

(Enter two swindlers)

Swindler #1: (in a flattering tone) Emperor may I suggest that your robe is exquisite?

Swindler #2: I do agree with my fellow weaver. However, we can construct a garment so great, that none other can compare. You see, the unique clothes we make are of the finest quality that actually makes one invisible.

Emperor: Those must be splendid clothes. Yes, I would like some of your fabric to be woven for me.

(Hand the swindlers a bag of gold.)

Scene II

Narrator: The Emperor became curious and wanted to see the weavers' progress on his invisible garments so he sent his minister to find what was done.

(Minister enters the swindlers' house.)

Minister: Why I can't see a thing!

Swindler #1: (speaking in a conniving tone) Come a little closer and you will see the exquisite pattern and beautiful coloring. You must tell the Emperor you saw this remarkable garment, or he may not see you fit to serve. For a minister cannot serve if he is half blind.

Minister: Am I too blind? I must be unfit to serve the Emperor. He mustn't know that I cannot see his garment, for I don't want to be removed from my post.

Narrator: So the Minister returned to the Emperor and told him of the magical garment.

Scene III

Emperor: Come weavers, come! Now bring me my garment.

Swindler #2: (raising his arm in the air as if he's holding the clothes) See, these are the trousers, this is the coat, here is the mantle! It is as light as a spider's web. One might think one had nothing on, but that is the very beauty of it!

Emperor: (looking shocked but not wanting to look foolish) How becoming they are! What a design, and what colors! They are the most gorgeous robes!

Scene IV

Narrator: The Emperor believed the two swindlers and wore his "garment" out to the procession. His chamberlains stooped down and pretended to hold the train. Nobody would let it appear that he could see nothing, for then he would not be fit for his post, or else he would pay.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

People in the streets: (shouting) How beautiful the Emperor's new clothes are! What a splendid train! And they fit to perfection!

Emperor: (full of pride) Thank you! Thank you!

Small Child: But he has nothing on!

(Emperor writhed in humiliation.)

Narrator: The Emperor agonized, for he knew it was true, but he thought the procession must go on. So he held stiffer than ever, and the chamberlains held up the invisible train.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Emperor's New Clothes".

4 **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which choice is the *best* summary of the text?

- A. A vain Emperor loves clothing. Two crooks trick the Emperor into paying them to make clothes nobody else can see. The Emperor eventually realizes he has been tricked, but does not let on that he knows this.
- B. An Emperor loves to get new clothing. He cares about clothes more than he cares about his kingdom. Two crooks approach the Emperor and offer to create a unique garment made of fine fabric for him.
- C. An Emperor hires two weavers to make some clothes for him. He sends his minister to check on the progress being made. The minister admits that he is unable to see the clothes being made for the Emperor.
- D. A trusting Emperor hires weavers to create some fine clothing for him. He decides to wear it out to a procession. A little boy in the crowd believes the Emperor is naked, which embarrasses the Emperor.

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Correct: A

Rationale:

- A. Correct answer
- B. Student(s) may have selected this option because it is a good summary of the events that occur during the opening scene of the passage. Student(s) may not have recognized that this choice leaves out the events that occur in the other three scenes.
- C. Student(s) may have realized that this summary is accurate in that all of the events described do actually occur in the passage. Student(s) may not have recognized that this option focuses on the action that occurs in the first two scenes only.
- D. Student(s) may have identified that this option provides a general overview of what occurs in the passage, but may not have recognized that this option does not point out the crucial fact that the weavers tricked the Emperor. Student(s) may not have identified that this option also leaves out the fact that the Emperor realizes he has been tricked.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RL.6.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Emperor's New Clothes".

5 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which sentence from "The Emperor's New Clothes" best supports the statement that the Emperor was overly fond of buying new clothing?

- A. He did not care about his soldiers, or anything else.
- B. Ludicrous and ridiculous was the vain Emperor.
- C. He had a costume for every hour in the day.
- D. This crimson robe is handsome, but I would still like another.

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Correct: C

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have recognized that this sentence supports the idea that the Emperor had just one interest. Student(s) may not have recognized that this choice does not support the statement outlined in the stem since it does not identify the Emperor's singular interest.
- B. Student(s) may have associated the practice of buying excessive amounts of new clothing with vanity. Student(s) may not have recognized that this sentence on its own does not provide any specific information about the Emperor's purchasing habits or his fondness for new clothing.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have identified that this sentence suggests the Emperor has an interest in clothing. Student(s) may not have recognized that the desire for a second robe does not indicate an excessive fondness for clothing in the same way that having a different outfit for each hour of the day does. Student(s) may not have distinguished between merely wanting another piece of clothing and actually owning many pieces of clothing.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RL.6.1