

Vocabulary

Complete each sentence using the correct vocabulary word.

unbearable peculiar unpleasant stunned tortillas nestled

- When she dines in a Mexican restaurant, Kate usually orders _____ wrapped around cheese with sour cream.
- The house was _____ between a stone ledge and a hill covered with apple trees.
- After cleaning the barn and working in the fields, Lucas thought his clothing smelled _____.
- When Dawn was accidentally hit hard by the ball, she was so _____ that it took her some time to realize what had happened.
- Samir felt sick. His homework had mistakes, and he forgot his lunch. All in all, it was turning out to be a very _____ day.
- Jaime never went anywhere without his guitar. He played constantly. So everyone thought it was _____ when he stopped playing.

**Story Comprehension**

Read each sentence about “Carlos and the Skunk.” Write T if the sentence is true and F if it is false.

- Carlos didn’t want to touch the skunk. _____
- Carlos avoided Gloria for a while. _____
- The church service ended earlier than usual. _____
- Carlos didn’t know where the terrible smell was coming from. _____
- Carlos asked his father for a new pair of shoes. _____

At Home: Have students tell what clues helped them realize why Carlos was avoiding Gloria.

Judgments and Decisions

Making a **judgment** means deciding whether something or someone is right or wrong. It can also mean determining if you would behave as story characters do and if their **decisions** make story situations better or worse.

Read the story. Then make judgments and decisions about the characters' actions. Answer the questions below.

It was a chilly September day, but Jill planned to go swimming. She grabbed her swimsuit and towel and rushed down the stairs. When she reached the back door, she heard her mom shouting, "Jill, what about some breakfast? Isn't it a little cold to go swimming?"

"No thanks, Mom. I can't stop to eat. I'll never win that swim meet if I don't practice every day," replied Jill as she hopped on her bike.

Jill pedaled furiously to the pool. At the pool, the gusty wind created little waves. Jill liked the waves because they made her swim harder.

1. Do you think Jill's choice to go swimming is wise? Explain. _____

2. Do you agree with Jill's decision not to have breakfast? Why or why not? _____

3. If you were Jill's mother, would you let her go swimming on such a day? _____

4. Would you welcome a gusty wind if you were going swimming? Explain. _____

Judgments and Decisions

You make **judgments** about how characters act in a story. Using these judgements can help you make **decisions** about the story and its characters. You should be able to give reasons for the judgments and decisions you make.

Here are some decisions Carlos and Gloria made in “Carlos and the Skunk.” For each decision, write YES or NO to tell whether or not you agree with it.

1. Gloria warns Carlos not to believe everything that he hears. _____
2. Carlos decides that he will impress Gloria if he can catch the skunk. _____
3. Carlos washes out his clothing in the river to try and get rid of the odor. _____
4. When he gets home, Carlos leaves his shoes outside of the house. _____
5. Carlos forgets to clean his shoes and wears them to church. _____
6. Gloria calls to him as he leaves the church. _____

Share your judgments about each story character by answering the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

7. Would you like to have Carlos as a friend? _____

8. Would you ask Gloria for advice or Carlos? Why? _____

9. Would you ask Carlos for help if you wanted to catch a skunk? _____

Draw Conclusions

Sometimes stories don't tell you all information directly. You have to **draw conclusions** about characters or situations from clues given in the story. You can also use experiences from your own life to help you draw conclusions.

Read each of the stories. Then circle the letter next to the conclusion you can draw from the information provided. Remember to think about your own experience as you read the stories.

1. Susanna has read six books written about time travel. She's also written a story for a magazine called "Imaginary Journeys."
 - a. Susanna enjoys fantasy stories.
 - b. Susanna is ten years old.
2. Cameron wants to go to swimming camp next summer. He signed up for an extra day of newspaper delivery to make more money to pay for camp. Also, he's working for the neighbors doing odd jobs.
 - a. Cameron is a good swimmer.
 - b. Cameron wants to go to swimming camp very badly.
3. In Meghan's classroom, the walls are covered with green stripes. The paintings are framed with green paper. The teacher gave each student a green pencil at the beginning of the year.
 - a. There are a lot of paintings in Meghan's classroom.
 - b. Meghan's teacher likes the color green.
4. Zach described the giant mouse. He said it could talk and was dressed in fancy velvet clothes. Zach explained that the mouse could play the violin.
 - a. Zach has probably made up the giant mouse.
 - b. Zach knows something about mice that the rest of us don't.