Name_____ Date_____ **Reteach** 120

Vocabulary

Read each clue. Then circle the vocabulary word in the row of letters.

automatically	**carelessly**	**assignments**
normally	**observations**	**swerved**

1. turned quickly	u	b	o	s	w	e	r	v	e	d	i	p	e	r	d	v	c
2. tasks	t	a	y	i	n	w	a	s	s	i	g	n	m	e	n	t	s
3. not carefully	m	i	l	g	g	y	c	a	r	e	l	e	s	s	l	y	o
4. as usual	a	n	o	r	m	a	l	l	y	s	s	g	n	l	l	m	t
5. things noticed	c	a	u	o	u	o	b	s	e	r	v	a	t	i	o	n	s
6. without thinking	s	a	u	t	o	m	a	t	i	c	a	l	l	y	p	w	z

6

Story Comprehension

Reteach 121

Read each of the two answers below the questions about "How to Think Like a Scientist." Then underline the answer to each question.

1. What reason did Jim's grandfather give for people throwing dead snakes over tree branches in the past?

They wanted to make it rain. They wanted to scare away other snakes.

2. What did Ralphie's sister do that led to her mistake about the events at the Murphys' house?

She believed an expert. She used the information from her observation incorrectly.

3. What key information did Ralphie provide that should have helped his sister see the situation more clearly?

The men drove a van. The men didn't take a television set with them.

4. What mistake did the zookeeper make before his school visit?

He took the wrong fish. He tried to trick the students.

5. Why did the girl decide she was wrong about the kind of fish the zookeeper brought?

She didn't trust her own eyes. She didn't want to question an expert.

At Home: Have students make their own hidden-word grids for the vocabulary and give them to classmates to solve.

Important and Unimportant Information

Not all the **information** in your reading is equally **important**. Information that helps you understand the main idea is most important. Facts and information that just add detail to the main idea can be **unimportant**.

Read this story. Then write a ✔ next to each sentence below the story that gives important information about the story.

Ernesto was making a model of a school locker with a roll-up door similar to the kind you see on a garage. He planned to paint it red like his real school locker. But Ernesto had a problem. His invention was due in school Wednesday morning at exactly 8:00 A.M. The material he needed to make the sliding door had arrived this morning and today was already Monday! If that wasn't bad enough, the sliding door company hadn't sent enough plastic parts for the sliding door, so now it closed only halfway. What could he do? Suddenly Ernesto had a flash of brilliance. He cut a piece of wood to cover the lower part of the locker's opening. Now the sliding door had to come only partway down the opening, and people could still see how the idea worked. Ernesto just might win the Fifth Annual Invention Contest after all!

1. _____ The invention was due at school at exactly 8:00 A.M.

2. _____ Ernesto had just two days to finish his invention.

3. _____ Ernesto was missing key material to build his invention.

4. _____ The invention was a locker with a roll-up sliding door.

5. _____ Ernesto planned to paint his model locker red.

6. _____ By covering part of the opening, Ernesto completed the locker.

7. _____ Ernesto was able to compete in the Invention Contest after all.

8. _____ This is the fifth year of the Invention Contest.

Important and Unimportant Information

Important information helps you understand a selection's main idea.
Unimportant information usually just adds detail to the main idea.

Read the selection. Find the main idea for each paragraph. Then decide if each underlined phrase contains important information or unimportant information. Write important information on lines 1 to 4. Write unimportant information on lines 5 to 8.

There is incredible variety among fish. Some are tiny while others are enormous. Some are brightly colored, and some are very plain. Some live in salt water; some need fresh water.

In spite of these differences, fish share many common features. For example, all fish breathe through gills. These flaps on the side of the fish's head absorb oxygen from the water. Most fish have scales covering their bodies. The scales help fish slide through the water. A few fish have no scales. Catfish are examples of fish without scales. Most fish lay eggs from which baby fish are hatched. Some sharks give birth to fully formed young fish instead.

Important Information that supports that main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Unimportant Information that only adds detail to the main idea.

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

At Home: Have students give three important facts that describe a prized possession to someone who's never seen it.

Draw Conclusions

Drawing conclusions means making decisions based on information. The information can come from clues in your reading or from your own experience.

Read each story. Then circle YES or NO after each sentence to tell whether or not it contains a conclusion that can be drawn from the story. Give at least one clue for each *Yes* answer. Remember to use clues from your own experience.

Tomás couldn't reach the light switch. He began to cry. Stomping his feet, he tugged furiously on his mother's pant leg until she noticed him. Smiling, his mother scooped Tomás up in her arms. She saw him point at the light switch, so she quickly turned it on.

1. Tomás is a very young child. **Yes No**

Clues: _____

_____

2. Tomás's mother is impatient with him. **Yes No**

Clues: _____

_____

Sweat poured down Shasta's back as she ran across the pavement rippling with heat. It was only 6:00 A.M. Shasta paused briefly. She always took a short break during her workout to help herself regain her strength. Still, she had to get going. She had another 10 miles to run that morning.

3. The story is set in a very cold place. **Yes No**

Clues: _____

_____

4. Shasta is a serious long-distance runner. **Yes No**

Clues: _____

_____