Name _____ Date _____

The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter

4th Grade reading passage 1 · story

Every night, Nell's father climbed the 112 steps of the lighthouse to light the great lamp. Ships far out at sea watched for its beam to stay away from the rocks.

One stormy evening, her father came down with a terrible fever. "The lamp," he whispered. "It has to be lit." Nell had never done it alone, and the wind howled against the tower.

She grabbed the lantern and started up the stairs. Her legs ached and the old windows rattled, but she counted every step out loud to keep going. At the top, her hands shook as she struck the match. On the third try, the wick caught, and the beam swept out across the black water.

In the morning, a fishing boat pulled into the harbor. The captain climbed the hill and knocked on their door. "Whoever lit that lamp last night," he said, "saved my crew."

Questions

1. What problem does Nell face?

2. Describe Nell using a trait. Give two pieces of evidence.

3. What can you infer about the fishing boat?

4. What is a theme of the story?

5. Summarize the story in two sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The Water Cycle

4th Grade reading passage 2 · nonfiction

The water you drink today may once have been part of a dinosaur's lake. That's because Earth's water moves in a never-ending loop called the water cycle.

It begins with evaporation. The sun heats water in oceans, lakes and puddles, turning it into an invisible gas called water vapor that rises into the air.

High in the sky, the air is cold. The vapor cools and turns back into tiny droplets, which gather to form clouds. This is called condensation.

When the droplets grow heavy, they fall as rain, snow, sleet or hail. This is precipitation. The water flows into rivers, soaks into the ground or collects in oceans, and the cycle starts again.

Questions

1. What is the text structure? How do you know?

2. What causes evaporation?

3. What is condensation?

4. What is the main idea?

5. Why does the author mention dinosaurs?

Name _____ Date _____

Two Views of the Snow Day

4th Grade reading passage 3 · story

MAYA: I woke up and the whole world was white! School was closed. I built a fort, had a snowball fight with my brother and drank three cups of cocoa. Best. Day. Ever.

MR. LEE (Maya's neighbor): I woke up at five to shovel the driveway. By the time I finished, the snowplow had buried it again. My car wouldn't start, and I missed an important meeting. I'll be glad when this snow melts.

Questions

1. What point of view is each part written in?

2. How do Maya and Mr. Lee feel about the snow?

3. Why do they feel differently?

4. Which words show Mr. Lee's mood?

5. Write one sentence that compares and one that contrasts the two views.

Answer Key

1. The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter

1. Her father is sick, and she has to light the lamp alone in a storm.
2. Brave or determined: she climbed alone in the storm and kept trying the match.
3. It was at sea in the storm and used the light to avoid the rocks.
4. Courage means doing what's needed even when you're afraid.
5. When her father got sick during a storm, Nell climbed the lighthouse alone and lit the lamp. The next morning, a captain thanked them for saving his crew.

2. The Water Cycle

1. Sequence: it explains steps in order (begins, then, when).
2. The sun heating water.
3. Water vapor cooling into droplets that form clouds.
4. Earth's water moves in a never-ending cycle.
5. To show that water has been recycled for a very long time, and to hook the reader.

3. Two Views of the Snow Day

1. First person (I).
2. Maya loves it; Mr. Lee is frustrated.
3. Maya gets a day off to play; Mr. Lee has work and chores made harder by snow.
4. Answers will vary: buried it again, wouldn't start, glad when this snow melts.
5. Both woke up to snow. Maya was excited, but Mr. Lee was frustrated.