SORO ENGLISH

READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

10 Short Stories with Questions

THE STORY DETECTIVE WORKBOOK

Find It / Think About It / Prove It / Tell It / Make It Yours

Name: _____

Read the words. Find the clues. Build the meaning.

Small Steps. Strong Readers.

00 Your Detective Toolkit

READING SKILL: Five steps to better reading

FIND IT

Look for an answer stated in the story.

THINK ABOUT IT

Use clues to figure something out.

PROVE IT

Underline the words that support your idea.

TELL IT

Retell the important events in your own words.

MAKE IT YOURS

Share your own thoughts and explain why.

My detective promise

I will read carefully, look for clues, and remember that a thoughtful answer matters more than a fast answer.

01 The Red Boot

READING SKILL: Finding details

Ella is getting ready for school.

She puts on one red boot.

Then she looks for the other one.

It isn’t by the door.

It isn’t under her bed.

Ella looks beside the sofa.

There it is!

Her little dog is sleeping next to the red boot.

“You found my boot first!” Ella says.

The dog wags its tail.

FIND IT

Where is Ella going? [ ] Park [ ] School [ ] Shop

FIND IT

Where does Ella find the other boot?

THINK

Who might have moved the boot?

PROVE IT

Underline one clue in the story. Write why it helps.

MAKE IT YOURS

Where is a funny place you have found something?

02 Too Quiet

READING SKILL: Making an inference

Mom is making dinner.

Leo is playing in the living room.

His little sister, Mia, is playing too.

Then the house becomes very quiet.

Mom stops chopping the carrots.

“Why is it so quiet?” she asks.

She walks into the living room.

No Leo. No Mia.

Mom looks behind the sofa.

Leo and Mia are sitting on the floor.

A box of crayons is open.

The wall behind them is covered in colorful lines.

Mom closes her eyes for a moment.

“Oh, dear.”

FIND IT

What is Mom making?

THINK

What did Leo and Mia probably do?

THINK

How does Mom probably feel?

PROVE IT

Find TWO clues in the story.

03 The Last Strawberry

READING SKILL: Character feelings

There is one strawberry left on the plate.

Nora reaches for it.

Her brother, Sam, reaches for it too.

They stop and look at each other.

“You can have it,” says Sam.

Nora thinks for a moment.

She picks up the strawberry.

Then she cuts it in half.

“One for you and one for me.”

Sam smiles.

FIND IT

How many strawberries are left?

THINK

Why does Sam smile at the end?

PROVE IT

Which action shows Nora is kind?

MAKE IT YOURS

What would you do with the last strawberry?

04 A Wet Surprise

READING SKILL: Cause and effect

Owen wants to play outside.

He looks through the window.

The sun is shining.

Owen runs into the garden.

His ball is beside the tree.

He kicks it. SPLASH!

Water flies everywhere.

Owen looks down. His shoes are wet.

He didn’t see the big puddle hiding in the grass.

Owen starts to laugh.

FIND IT

What does Owen kick?

CAUSE + EFFECT

Why do Owen’s shoes get wet?

THINK

Why might Owen laugh?

TELL IT

Retell what happened in two sentences.

05 The Empty Bird Feeder

READING SKILL: Predicting

Every morning, Ava puts seeds in the bird feeder.

Then she sits by the window.

Sparrows come. A little blue bird comes too.

One morning, Ava looks outside. No birds.

She checks the feeder. It is empty.

Ava gets the bag of seeds.

READ ON

Ava fills the feeder with fresh seeds. Then she waits. Soon, one sparrow lands on it. Then another. “Welcome back,” Ava whispers.

CHECK YOUR PREDICTION: [ ] Yes [ ] Almost [ ] Different idea

STOP + PREDICT

What will Ava do next?

PROVE IT

Which clue helped you predict?

06 The Mystery Footprints

READING SKILL: Text evidence

It snowed during the night.

In the morning, Jack opens the back door.

He sees tiny footprints in the snow.

They start near the tree.

They cross the garden.

Then they stop beside the bird feeder.

Jack looks up.

A little bird is eating seeds.

“I know who made those tracks!” he says.

FIND IT

Where do the footprints stop?

THINK

What probably made the footprints?

PROVE IT

Write TWO clues that support your idea.

DETECTIVE VERDICT

I think _____ made the footprints because _____.

07 The Library Book

READING SKILL: Problem and solution

Maya loves her library book.

She reads it after breakfast and in the car.

She even reads it under her blanket with a flashlight.

On Saturday morning, Dad asks,

“Isn’t your library book due today?”

Maya freezes.

The library closes in thirty minutes.

She puts on her shoes. Dad grabs the car keys.

“Let’s go!”

They reach the library just before it closes.

Maya puts the book in the return box.

“Phew!”

PROBLEM

What is Maya’s problem?

SOLUTION

How does she solve it?

THINK

How does Maya feel when she remembers?

PROVE IT

Which word shows how she feels at the end?

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08 The Smallest Cake

READING SKILL: Main idea

Dad makes three little cakes.

One is pink. One is yellow. One is chocolate.

Lily wants the chocolate cake.

Her little brother wants it too.

Lily looks at him. He looks at the cake.

Then Lily gives him the chocolate one.

She takes the smallest yellow cake.

“Thank you!” her brother says.

Lily smiles.

MAIN IDEA

Circle: [ ] Baking tips [ ] Kindness [ ] Cake flavors

FIND IT

Which cake does Lily give her brother?

THINK

Why does the title The Smallest Cake matter?

MAKE IT YOURS

Would you make the same choice? Why?

09 The Picnic Mystery

READING SKILL: Inference and evidence

Dad puts a sandwich on the picnic blanket.

“Don’t touch it yet,” he says.

The family goes to play with a ball.

Their dog, Coco, stays near the blanket.

Ten minutes later, everyone comes back.

The sandwich is gone.

“That’s strange,” says Dad.

Coco is sitting under a tree.

There are crumbs beside his paws.

He licks his mouth.

Everyone looks at Coco. Coco wags his tail.

MYSTERY

What probably happened to the sandwich?

THREE CLUES

Write three clues from the story.

DETECTIVE VERDICT

I think _____ because _____.

MAKE IT YOURS

What should Dad do next?

10 The Note in the Lunch Box

READING SKILL: Feelings and meaning

Ruby has a spelling test today.

At breakfast, she barely eats.

In the car, she is very quiet.

At school, Ruby opens her lunch box.

There is a small yellow note inside.

It says: “You’ve practised hard. Just do your best. Love, Dad.”

Ruby reads it twice.

She folds the note and puts it in her pocket.

Then she takes a deep breath.

“I can do this,” she whispers.

FIND IT

What does Ruby have today?

THINK

How does she probably feel at breakfast?

PROVE IT

Find two clues about her feelings.

THINK

How does the note change her feelings?

MAKE IT YOURS

Write a short note to encourage Ruby.

11 Story Detective Drawing Lab

READING SKILL: Visualizing details

Read the clues. Draw what you understand.

A little yellow bird sits on a branch. A red kite is caught above the bird. Under the tree, a brown dog looks up. Two blue flowers grow beside the trunk.

DRAW YOUR SCENE HERE

CHECK: [ ] bird [ ] red kite [ ] brown dog [ ] two blue flowers

12 Five-Finger Retell

READING SKILL: Retelling

Choose any story from this pack. Fill in the clues, then close the page and retell it.

STORY CLUE

WHO was in the story?

STORY CLUE

WHERE did it happen?

STORY CLUE

BEGINNING: What happened first?

STORY CLUE

MIDDLE: What happened next?

STORY CLUE

END: How did it finish?

13 My Story Detective Passport

READING SKILL: Reading progress

[ ] Find the facts

[ ] Make an inference

[ ] Find text evidence

[ ] Explain character feelings

[ ] Predict what happens

[ ] Find cause and effect

[ ] Identify a problem and solution

[ ] Find the main idea

[ ] Solve a mystery

[ ] Retell a story

My proudest detective moment:

14 Parent and Teacher Guide

READING SKILL: Support without over-testing

Before reading

Choose one passage. Explain any unfamiliar vocabulary briefly. Let the child read at a comfortable pace.

After reading

First ask, “What happened?” Then use one literal question and one thinking question.

When an answer is uncertain

Ask, “Which words helped you?” Go back to the text together. Accept different inferences when evidence supports them.

When decoding is difficult

Help with the word or choose easier text. Reading comprehension practice should not become a guessing exercise.

A ten-minute routine

Read (3 min) / Retell (2 min) / Find a fact (2 min) / Find a clue (2 min) / Celebrate (1 min).

15 Answer Key

READING SKILL: Suggested answers; reasonable alternatives welcome

1 The Red Boot

School; beside the sofa; possibly the dog; dog is next to the boot.

2 Too Quiet

Dinner; they probably drew on the wall; surprised or upset; crayons open and colorful lines on wall.

3 The Last Strawberry

One; Sam is pleased they share; Nora cuts it in half; opinions vary.

4 A Wet Surprise

Ball; he kicks it into a puddle; he may find the surprise funny.

5 Empty Bird Feeder

Ava will refill it; the feeder is empty and she gets seeds.

6 Mystery Footprints

Beside the bird feeder; a bird; tracks lead to feeder and bird is there.

7 Library Book

Book is due and library closes soon; Maya returns it in time; worried, then relieved; “Phew!”

8 Smallest Cake

Kindness; chocolate cake; Lily chooses the smaller cake so her brother can have chocolate.

9 Picnic Mystery

Coco probably ate the sandwich; he stayed near it, crumbs by paws, licks mouth.

10 Lunch Box Note

Spelling test; nervous; barely eats and is quiet; Dad’s note helps her feel encouraged.

OFFICIAL STORY DETECTIVE

CERTIFICATE OF READING

Awarded to

_____

_____

For finding clues, thinking carefully, and explaining ideas with evidence.

Date: _____ Teacher/Parent: _____

CASE CLOSED!

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