



Reading



Comprehension

25 Texts

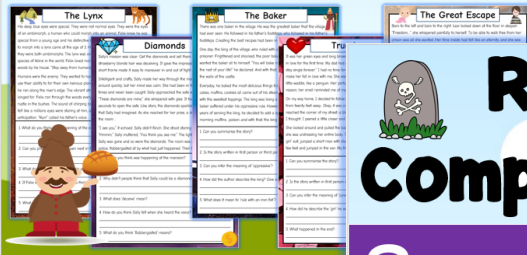
Reading Comprehension

Making Inferences



Reading Comprehension

5 Stories



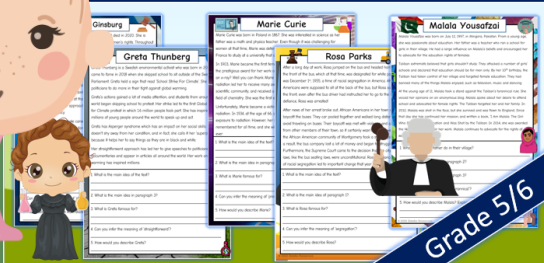
Reading Comprehension

Adaptations



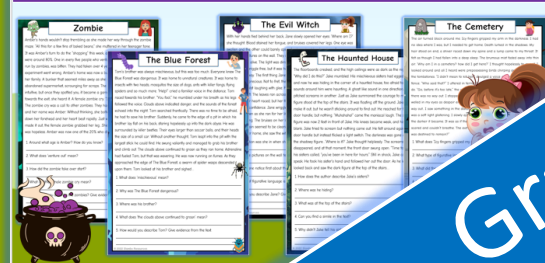
Reading Comprehension

Main Idea



Reading Comprehension

Scary Stories



Grade 5/6



Reading



Comprehension

Making Inferences

The Magic Book

The book just hovered above the desk. Jess hadn't seen anything like it. Her grandfather told her not to enter the attic, but she didn't listen, she never did. A gust of wind blew under the door, and the windows went dark. The atmosphere in the room was unusual, and the hovering book had a glowing blue eyes lit up as she glared upon the magical book. It was dangerous.

"Help," came a whisper from the book. Jess followed the book as it sucked into the pages within seconds. Laying flat on her back in the night sky, she heard the voice again. "Help!" it cried. Her grandfather. She followed the cries until she came to the side of a cliff. Her grandfather was sitting on a ledge, trapped to the side of a cliff by a rope and pulled him to safety. Jess treated his cuts and bandaged his wounds. "What on earth is going on?" she asked. "What if someone can turn the page of the book..." he replied.

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.
 - a. Atmosphere _____
 - b. Mindlessly _____
 - c. Wounds _____
 - d. Pessimistic _____
2. What type of person is Jess? Give evidence from the text.
3. What does "the book" mean?
4. Can you infer how the story ends? Explain.

The Money Tree

There is a money tree in my garden. It's short and wide with many leaves. It blossoms in the spring and dries up in the winter because it's a deciduous tree. Every spring, I cheerily pick money off the tree and my grandfather says I can buy whatever I like!

My mother and father can't see the money tree. They think I'm a liar. "Money doesn't grow on trees," my dad always says. I look out the window and smile. My little brother, Tony, can see it too. His eyes light up at it. "I don't think he knows what money is... he's always eating the notes," my mother says. "How's the tree?" my grandfather asks with a mischievous grin. He knows the tree was there when I was a boy," he tells me. "Adults can't see it. They lost their imagination," he whispers with a wink. My grandfather pretends to be a child, so dad doesn't get suspicious. I love my grandfather and my money tree.

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.
 - a. Deciduous _____
 - b. Cheerily _____
 - c. Delusional _____
 - d. Flourish _____
2. What do her parents think of her money tree?
3. Why is Tony attracted to the money tree?
4. How would you describe her grandfather? Give evidence from the text.

Dog Mafia

Peter's suspicions had been confirmed. The pack of dogs on his street were a secret mafia. He put his eye to the hole in the fence and watched carefully. "You got the money?" said the small, scruffy one. The larger dog nodded and said, "I've got the goods." The two dogs exchanged briefcases. As they walked away from each, they were on their way. Peter was baffled. That night, he decided to record the video to the NEWS. Again, he put his eye to the fence. A circle, in some type of meeting. Peter surreptitiously put his eye to the fence, ensuring they wouldn't hear a thing. He tried to listen but only heard a faint sound. Once they had dispersed, he raced home to watch the footage. He was speaking English, just as he had previously heard. Peter was shocked when he saw a small figure walking around the dogs. "Jack, my little brother was holding a large tray with drinks on it. 'Jack drinks...' Peter gasped as his knees dropped to the floor.

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.

- a. Baffled _____
- b. Cunning _____
- c. Surreptitious _____
- d. Dispersed _____

2. How did Peter feel when he heard the dogs talking? How do you know?
3. Why did Peter want to send the video to the NEWS?
4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.

My Alien Teacher

The melodious chirping of birds was replaced with an airy silence. That was the atmosphere when my new teacher, Mrs. Alison, walked in. Her eyes were dark green, and her hair was orange. She was not normal. "Good morning, everyone," she said as she smiled. Her front teeth were straight, but her back teeth were jagged and grotesque. I looked around and to my surprise, no one had looked twice. Was I the only one who could see the obvious? My teacher was an alien! Her alien smell was masked by a strong perfume, but her stench permeated my nose. "You're the best, Mrs. Alison!" one child exclaimed. Are these kids blind, or am I going crazy? There was a mischievous look in her eye when she glared upon me, looking down from her crooked nose. It was like she could read my mind. She continued to stare at me with a loathing look in her eye. Mrs. Alison didn't like me because she knew that I knew. "Time for recess," she called, "except you," she uttered whilst pointing a finger at me. A lump formed in my throat as students left the room. I knew what was about to happen next.

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.
 - a. Melodious _____
 - b. Grotesque _____
 - c. Masked _____
 - d. Mischievous _____
2. What inferences did the main character make to determine she was an alien?
3. Can you infer the meaning of 'no one looked twice'?
4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.

The Plane Crash

The nights were the worst. Treacherous creatures of the night made themselves heard and the wind roared in every direction. It had been 2 months since our plane crashed on this dreadful island, and we were no closer to escaping. Where was the plane? Dad continued to echo. The other families were still alive. We were trapped on a deadly island with no way out.

They died in their effort to search the island. Their deaths were a tragedy. 72 hours of absence, we had no option but to assume the plane seemed to be our leader but was often absent. He told us to move to the other side of the island and many of the families moved with him which was a mistake. The other side of the island was a deadly trap. We could sense it.

1. Highlight the following words in the text and infer their meaning.
 - a. Treacherous _____
 - b. Echo _____
 - c. Deadly _____
 - d. Escape _____
2. What inferences did the main character make to determine she was an alien?
3. Can you infer the meaning of 'no one looked twice'?
4. Make an inference on what you think will happen next in the story.

Grade 5/6



Reading Comprehension

Adaptations

Types of Adaptations

There are three types of adaptations: structural, behavioral and physiological. Structural adaptations relate to the physical nature of organisms do in order to enhance their body processes that occur on the inside.

It is easy to name structural adaptations. Claws that can kill their prey within seconds, access to the tops of trees. Humans are able to hold weapons, cook food etc.

Behavioral adaptations are also easy to name. Bears hibernate in winter to conserve energy. Wolves hunt in packs to give themselves a better chance of survival.

Physiological adaptations can be challenging to name. Spiders make webs to catch food. Spiders make webs to survive in colder climates. Camels can survive in harsh desert environments.

1. What are the three types of adaptations?
2. Give one example of each type of adaptation.
3. What is a structural adaptation?
4. Name one structural adaptation.
5. Name one behavioral adaptation.

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin is known as the father of evolution. He was an English scientist who studied nature in the 1800s. Charles is known for his theory of evolution by natural selection. His research found that organisms which have the most helpful traits for their environments were most likely to survive. These traits would then be passed onto their offspring who would also have a good chance of survival. This would continue for thousands of years. Organisms with strong genetics (traits) would survive, and those with inferior features would die young and therefore wouldn't pass their (weak) genes onto offspring. In this way, only the strongest genes would get passed on to the next generations. This is called 'survival of the fittest'.

Charles' research had some fascinating findings. In one study of mice, he compared black mice to white mice. These particular mice lived in an area with very dark rocks. At one point, half of the mice were black, and half were white. The white mice were more visible to birds than the black mice. This meant white mice were eaten more often than black mice, and only the surviving mice could produce offspring. As black mice had a greater chance of having offspring, the next generation of mice contained more black mice than white mice. This would continue for thousands of years.

It clearly showed that organisms who adapt to their environment have a greater chance of surviving. Charles wrote and presented his theory in 1858 and published 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859. He is one of the greatest scientists of all time.

1. What was Charles Darwin's theory?
2. Give one example of a structural adaptation.
3. What is a behavioral adaptation?
4. Name one behavioral adaptation.
5. Name one physiological adaptation.

Adaptations

Adaptation is the process in which an organism (living thing) adapts to its environment for a chance of survival. All living things that live in the same environment have adaptations. For example, the giraffe. This species, over hundreds of years, has a long neck. That long neck gives them a better chance of survival in the savannah, thus giving them a reliable way to reach food.

Adaptations occur because of genetic mutations. A mutation is a change in an organism's DNA. A mutation can be a good thing, a bad thing, or a neutral feature, such as a longer neck, that helps an organism survive. The offspring of that animal will likely be born with the same feature. This is called a trait. Traits are passed on to offspring. Organisms that don't have strong genes, such as a weak neck, won't be able to survive.

That an organism lives in determines the adaptations it needs. For example, animals that live in colder climates have adaptations to keep them warm. Animals that live in the wide-open savannahs have adaptations to keep them cool. Adaptations help organisms survive in their environment.

1. What is an adaptation?
2. Give one example of an adaptation.
3. What are three types of adaptations?
4. What are three adaptations that occur?
5. What does the last line in the text mean?

Giraffe Adaptations

Giraffes are fascinating animals. They have been evolving for millions of years. They have many interesting adaptations that help them survive in their environment. Giraffes live in the savannah in the sub-Saharan region of Africa.

Their structural adaptations allow them to feed easily and avoid predators. Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world at one time. Their height and long neck allows them to eat leaves that other animals can't reach. This is a significant advantage. Imagine having a built-in ladder. A giraffe's long tongue can pull leaves from trees and eat them. Giraffes have strong legs that help them run fast in the savannah.

Behaviorally, giraffes like to gulp water. This adaptation means they can drink a lot of water quickly without choking. Giraffes can drink up to 45 liters of water in a few minutes! Furthermore, they are an intelligent species. They have many adaptations as their environment changes. They produce thick saliva that forms a protective coat around their mouth. Giraffes have truly adapted to their environment and are well-suited to survive.

1. Where do giraffes predominantly live?
2. Name three structural adaptations of giraffes.
3. What does the author mean when they say giraffes have a built-in ladder?
4. Why do giraffes gulp water?
5. Why do they produce thick saliva?

Emperor Penguins

Antarctic animals are exposed to some of the coldest environments on earth. Emperor penguins have many adaptations that ensure they survive in these harsh conditions.

They have a thick, windproof coat. Many Antarctic animals have either a windproof or waterproof coat. Emperor penguins are a very good example of this. These birds have four layers of scale-like feathers. These layers overlap each other, forming a good protection from the wind, even in blizzard conditions. They also have a layer of thick blubber to keep them warm. These fat layers act like insulation, trapping body heat in. This is a little like wrapping yourself in a blanket, but on the inside. Blubber layers can also be used as an energy reserve.

Physiologically, emperor penguins can dive to a depth of 1,800 feet (550 meters) and hold their breath for up to 2 hours. They are able to reach and exploit food resources that other birds can't reach.

Emperor penguins have many adaptations that enable them to survive the harsh winter. They have a thick, windproof coat. This coat traps body warmth, but it also shelters them from the wind. By alternating which penguins are exposed to the wind, they can keep the whole group warm. Huddling can reduce heat loss by up to 50%.

1. How many layers of feathers do emperor penguins have?
2. What does blubber do?
3. Why is it important for emperor penguins to hold their breath?
4. Why do penguins huddle?
5. Write down three penguin adaptations.

Grade 5/6




Reading



Comprehension


Main Idea





Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn in 1933 and died in 2020. She is famous for her work as a lawyer/judge in fighting for women's rights. Throughout her life, Ruth faced a lot of adversity. at a time when schools, such as Harvard, were not open to women. She was even criticized for taking a job at the Virginia Military Institute, which at the time was only for men. Furthermore, after graduating law school, she was the only female in the class. Despite her many obstacles, "RBG" remained committed to equality. In 1996, she argued that quotas were unconstitutional. In 2015, she was the only female justice on the Supreme Court. Ruth worked hard to make sure that women were treated equally.



Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist who was born in 2003. She came to fame in 2018 when she skipped school to sit outside of the Swedish Parliament. Greta held a sign that read 'School Strike For Climate'. She inspired millions of young people around the world to speak up and act. Greta's actions gained a lot of media attention, and students from around the world began skipping school to protest. Her strike led to the first Global Climate Strike in which 16 million people took part. She has inspired millions of young people around the world to speak up and act. Greta has Asperger syndrome which has an impact on her social skills. She doesn't shy away from her condition, and in fact, she calls it her 'superpower' because it helps her to say things as they are in black and white. Her straightforward approach has led her to give speeches to politicians, appear in documentaries and appear in articles all around the world. Her work on climate change has inspired millions.


1. What is the main idea of the text?


2. What is the main idea in paragraph 3?

3. What is Greta famous for?

4. Can you infer the meaning of 'straightforward'?

5. How would you describe Greta?





Marie Curie

Marie Curie was born in Poland in 1867. She was interested in science as her father was a math and physics teacher. Even though it was challenging for women at that time, Marie was determined to study at a university that was in France. In 1903, Marie became the first woman to win the prestigious award for her work on radioactivity. She was also the first woman to be elected to the French Academy of Sciences. Marie's work on radioactivity led her to receive many awards and scientific community, and received a Nobel Prize in 1911. Unfortunately, Marie became a victim of radiation. In 1934, at the age of 66, she died from exposure to radiation. However, her work is remembered for all time, and she was the first woman to be elected to the French Academy of Sciences.


1. What is the main idea of the text?

2. What is the main idea in paragraph 2?

3. What is Marie famous for?

4. Can you infer the meaning of 'prestigious'?

5. How would you describe Marie?



Rosa Parks

After a long day at work, Rosa jumped on the bus and headed home. The bus was the front of the bus, which at that time, was designated for white people only. On December 1st, 1955, a time of racial segregation in America. African Americans were supposed to sit at the back of the bus, but Rosa sat at the front, even after the bus driver had instructed her to go to the back. As a result of her defiance, Rosa was arrested. After news of her arrest broke out, African Americans in her town boycotted the buses. They car pooled together and walked long distances to work. Their boycott was met with violence and fear. As a result, the bus company lost a lot of money and began to change its policies. Furthermore, the Supreme Court came to the decision that the city laws, like the bus seating laws, were unconstitutional. Rosa's act of defiance led to an important change that year.


1. What is the main idea of the text?

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

3. What is Rosa famous for?

4. Can you infer the meaning of 'segregation'?

5. How would you describe Rosa?



Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. From a young age, she was passionate about education. Her father was a teacher who ran a school for girls in their village. He had a large influence on Malala's beliefs and encouraged her to advocate for the education rights of females. Taliban extremists believed that girls shouldn't study. They attacked a number of girls' schools and declared that education should be for men only. By her 10th birthday, the Taliban had taken control of her village and targeted female education. They had banned many of the things Malala enjoyed, such as television, music and dancing. At the young age of 11, Malala took a stand against the Taliban's tyrannical rule. She voiced her opinions on an anonymous blog. Malala spoke about her desire to attend school and advocated for female rights. The Taliban targeted her and her family. In 2012, Malala was shot in the face, but she survived and was flown to England. Since that day she has continued her mission, and written a book, 'I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up to Education and Was Shot by the Taliban'. In 2014, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work. Malala continues to advocate for the rights of girls around the world.


1. What does Malala's father do in their village?

2. What is the main idea in paragraph 2?

3. What is the main idea in paragraph 3?

4. What is the meaning of 'tyrannical'?

5. How would you describe Malala? Explain.



Grade 5/6



Reading



Comprehension

5 Stories

The Lynx

His deep blue eyes were special. They were not normal eyes. They were the eyes of an ambimorph, a human who could morph into an animal. Felix knew he was special from a young age and his distinctive ability to morph into a lynx came at the age of 3. He and his father were both ambimorphs. The lynx was one of the species of feline in the world. Felix loved the woods by his house. "Stay away from humans," his father would warn him. "Humans were the enemy. They wanted to harm us. They used their ability to morph into animals for their own heinous plans. They ran along the river's edge. The vibrant autumn leaves rustled in the bushes. The sound of chirping birds felt like a million eyes were staring at him, and his anticipation. "Run!" called his father's voice...

Diamonds

Sally's mission was clear. Get the diamonds and sell them. Her strawberry blonde hair was deceiving. It gave the impression of a short frame made it easy to maneuver in and out of tight spaces.

Intelligent and crafty, Sally made her way through the mansion. She moved around quickly, but her mind was calm. She had been in the mansion many times and never been caught. Sally approached the safe with a key. "These diamonds are mine," she whispered with glee. It took her a few seconds to open the safe. Like stars, the diamonds sparkled. Sally had imagined. As she reached for her prize, a door opened behind her. "Run!" called his father's voice...

"I see you," it echoed. Sally didn't flinch. She stood staring at the diamonds. "Hmmm," Sally muttered. "You think you see me." The light dimmed. Sally was gone and so were the diamonds. The room was empty. Sally was flabbergasted at what had just happened. Their father was right. You think you're safe.

What do you think was happening at the mansion?

2. Why didn't people think that Sally could be a diamond?

3. What does 'deceive' mean?

4. How do you think Sally felt when she heard the voice?

5. What do you think 'flabbergasted' means?

The Baker

There was one baker in the village. He was the greatest baker that the village had ever seen. He followed in his father's footsteps, who followed in his father's footsteps. Creating the best recipes had been in the family for generations.

One day, the king of the village, who ruled with an iron fist, wanted the baker all to himself. "You will bake for me the rest of your life!" he declared. And with that, he took the baker to the walls of the castle.

Everyday, he baked the most delicious things for the king. Cakes, muffins, cookies all came out of his steaming oven. With the sweetest toppings. The king was living a life of luxury. However, the baker suffered under his oppressive rule. However, after years of serving the king, he decided to add a special ingredient to his morning muffins... poison... and with that, the king died.

1. Can you summarise the story?

2. Is the story written in first person or third person?

3. Can you infer the meaning of 'oppressive'?

4. How did the author describe the king? Give evidence.

5. What does it mean to 'rule with an iron fist'?

True Love

It was her green eyes and long brown hair that got me. At the time, I was in love for the first time. My dad had always cautioned, "don't fall in love with a girl. You'll be single forever." I had no time for cynical opinions. I was determined to make her fall in love with me. She was short and had the cutest little waddle, like a penguin. Her perfume was strong but not overpowering. Her smell reminded me of my grandfather. It was strange.

On my way home, I decided to follow her. Not in a creepy way, but from twenty feet away. Okay, it was creepy, but I didn't care. I reached the corner of my street, a black van pulled up in front of me. I thought, I peered a little closer and saw the strangest thing.

She looked around and pulled the back of her hair over her head. She was undressing her entire body. She was wearing a suit. A girl's suit, jumped a short man with black hair. He scratched his head and jumped in the van. My first love was a smelly, old man.

1. Can you summarise the story?

2. Is the story written in first person or third person?

3. Can you infer the meaning of 'cynical'?

4. How did he describe the 'girl' he was in love with?

5. What happened in the end?

The Great Escape

Bars to the left and bars to the right. Lexi looked down at the floor in despair. "Freedom..." she whispered painfully to herself. To be able to walk free from her prison was all she wanted. Her time inside had felt like an eternity, and she was sick of it. Lexi began scribbling plans on a ripped piece of paper. She was planning a great escape. It included a makeshift lock pick, a sprint across the lawn and a mighty jump across the wall.

Her eyes scanned the outside area. The area was clear. The sun beamed inside of the bars. It was time. Her heart raced at a million miles an hour. She picked the lock but sweat ran across her forehead. She managed to get the pick into the lock. In a few seconds, the door flung open, and gust of wind hit her. She sprinted across the lawn and began sprinting across the field. "Lexi... where are you going? Clean up your toys."

1. Who was Lexi and what was she doing?

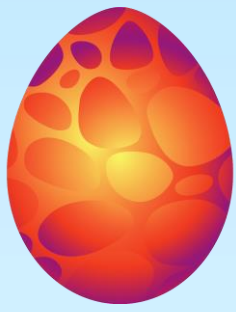
2. What was her 'prison'?

3. Can you infer the meaning of 'despair'?

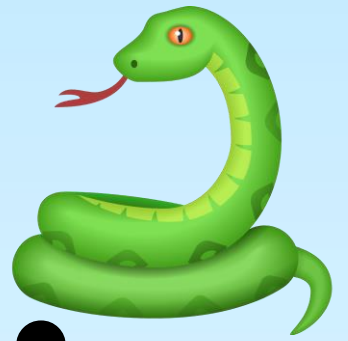
4. How did the author give the impression that she was in a hurry?

5. What type of figurative language is 'eternity'?

Grade 5/6




Reading




Comprehension

3 Texts



The Dragon's Egg



With the dragon egg tucked under his arm, Artemis ran for his life. Was he a fool for stealing the egg? Perhaps, but that didn't stop him. Artemis' sharp blue eyes narrowed in on the closest cave. Selling the dragon's egg would bring so much gold to his family. They would never have to worry about a thing. He lurked in the corner of the cave as the dragon flew above, screeching in pain. His racing mind began to calm, and he lay the egg down. The harrowing cries of the dragon could be heard for miles. "I'll wait for the morning," he whispered to himself. All had gone quiet, and Artemis thought of his family. The egg would mean so much to them. They had always struggled in the village. His father was a farmer, and his mother looked after their large family. Just as his eyes began to close, he saw it. The dark winged figure standing at the edge of the cave.


1. What does 'harrowing' mean?


2. How did Artemis feel about stealing the egg?

3. How did Artemis use the egg?


4. How did the dragon react?

5. What do you think happens next?





Super Undies



Jack had a secret...His undies gave him super powers! The red pair of undies fit like a glove, and had a golden star on the back of them. Jack posed in front of the mirror every day, admiring his shiny red treasure. The undies gave Jack the ability to fly. He had a matching red mask and a blue cape. Jack chose to use his powers to help others.

His chubby little figure could be seen flying over the city, looking for people or animals to help. Jack saved cats in trees, helped lost little boys, stopped kids being bullied and so much more. He was proud of what he was doing, and felt a sense of purpose. As he gazed proudly into the mirror, turning side to side, he heard a voice from downstairs..."Jack! Get down here right now, and take those dirty undies off. You've been wearing them for days."

"Yes, mummy," replied Jack in a sulky tone as he put his toys away.


1. What does 'admire' mean?

2. How does the author describe his body?

3. What did Jack do with his powers?

4. Do you think Jack could really fly? Explain your answer in detail.

5. If you could have super undies, what would your power be? Why?





The Pit



Sam's heart raced as the sun began to set. His brother was always mischievous, but this was too much. He searched frantically for his lost brother, but the dim light and rugged terrain made it difficult. "Help!" cried a faint voice in the distance. Sam ran like the wind, and came to the edge of a pit. His brother was lying flat on his back, surrounded by snakes. "A pit of snakes...great," he mumbled to himself. Without even thinking, Sam jumped into the pit and swung a stick, causing the snakes to scatter. His brother sobbed uncontrollably, but Sam was focused. He threw his brother onto his shoulder and looked for a way out of the pit. Clouds above roared in anger, and the ground around the pit was filling with water, and time was running out. Sam saw a loose vine and threw it over the top of the pit. His brother grabbed it and pulled himself up. Sam breathed a sigh of relief.


1. What does 'frantically' mean?

2. How does the author describe the scene?

3. What does the phrase 'Sam ran like the wind' mean?

4. How does Sam help his brother? Explain your answer.

5. Would you jump into a pit? Why or why not?



Grade 5