



Will Rogers

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.

Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

To Will, riding a horse is as easy as walking. Will always rides with a lasso. From his horse, Will ropes cattle. In fact, Will ropes anything that moves. Off his horse, Will does rope tricks with his lasso.

Stop and think: Think of something that you can do that is “as easy as walking.”

Will drops out of school in 1898. He is 18 years old. Free at last, Will travels the world. He works as a cowboy in Texas and South America. He works as a trick roper in Australia. Will works for a circus in South Africa.

Stop and think: Think of a word that describes Will’s life.



Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Check the details
that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Good readers can find
the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea.
The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand
and remember the main idea.

Main idea	Details
Will travels the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Will works as a cowboy in Texas. Will drops out of school. ✓ Will takes his vaudeville act to Europe.
1. Will is a good father.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ___ Will has three children. (b) ___ Will spends a lot of time with his children. (c) ___ Will's children miss their father.
2. Will likes to talk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ___ Will tells stories. (b) ___ Will writes for newspapers. (c) ___ Will makes jokes.

Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Read the writer's words.
Figure out the invisible message.

Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read
between the lines. Writers expect readers
to figure out the invisible messages.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Will's family live on a large ranch.	Will's family is rich. Will's family raise cattle.
1. Will and school never get along.	
2. Will feels homesick.	

Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Will stars in 68 movies. ____
Will is the best actor ever. ____
2. Will travels too much. ____
Will wants to see Alaska by airplane. ____
3. Will dies on August 15, 1935. ____
Will lives a full life. ____

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are personal beliefs.

Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
How many brothers and sisters does Will have?	Early Years	Will has seven older brothers and sisters.
1. Where does Will travel?		
2. When does Will get married?		
3. What does Will tell jokes about?		

Activity 6 Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas
to their lives.

Idea

Will has common sense.



Your life

Common sense helps people cope with challenges and opportunities.
People with common sense make good decisions.
They see things in a clear way.
They judge things in a clear way.

Most people have common sense.
But sometimes, people do not use their common sense.
What do you think gets in the way of using common sense?

Describe a challenge in your life. What decisions did you have to make?
Think about the decisions you made.
Do you think you used common sense?
Or, did something get in the way of using common sense?



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• Writing •

Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about common sense.
Use your ideas from Activity 6.

Your teacher will help you with spelling.

Good writers know that
writing is a process.

Good writers think of ideas
before they write.

Good writers check their writing.

Paragraph 1

People with common sense _____
_____. They also _____.
Sometimes _____
_____ gets in the way of common sense.

Paragraph 2

One time, I decided to _____
_____. I decided to do this because _____
_____. This decision makes me feel _____
because _____.

Read each paragraph out loud.

Which paragraph do you like better?

Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

Activity 2 Organize Ideas



Look at the idea map.

What is the topic of the idea map?

What are the 3 main ideas?

Add these details to the idea map.

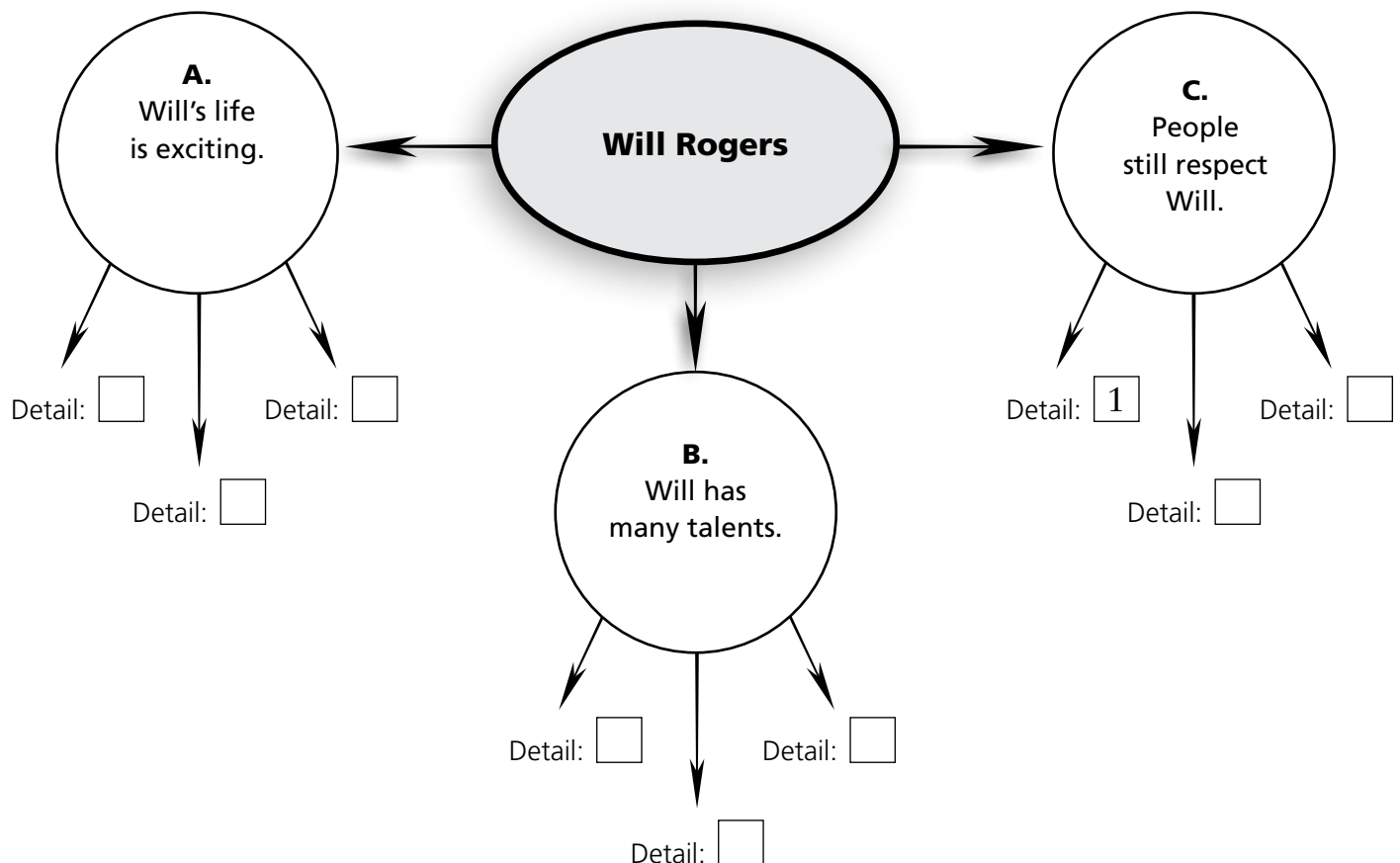
Put the number in the correct box.

Good writers know
that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas
before they write.

One way to organize ideas
is to use a main idea and details.

- ✓ 1. Streets are named after Will.
2. Will meets famous people.
3. People visit statues of Will.
4. Will can do rope tricks.
5. Will can act.
6. Will sees the world.
7. People still quote Will.
8. Will can write.
9. Will works for a circus.



Choose details from the idea map to complete the paragraphs.
Copy the details into the paragraphs.

Paragraph A

Will's life is exciting. Will meets _____ .
He sees _____ . He works _____ .
_____ .

Paragraph B

Will has a lot of talents. He can _____ . He
_____ . He can _____ .
_____ .

Paragraph C

People still respect Will. Streets are named _____ .
_____ . People visit _____ .
People still _____ .

Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation



Read these sentences.

Add capital letters and end punctuation.

1. will rogers is born in 1879
2. will's parents are part cherokee
3. when does will go to texas
4. he marries betty
5. why do people respect will
6. he wants to see Alaska
7. will dies on august 15, 1935

In this activity...

use capital letters

at the beginning of a sentence,
with the names of groups of people,
with names of people and places, and
with dates.

use punctuation

at the end of a sentence.

• Word Attack Skills •

Activity

1

Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



© Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Paragraph 1

Will spends a lot of time
with his _____ .



© Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Paragraph 2

A _____
rests on a gravestone.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

3. Will has seven older brothers and _____ .

4. People _____ Will's movies.

5. Will dies in a _____ crash.

Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

<i>pose</i> ✓	<i>mind</i>	<i>rose</i>	<i>nest</i>
<i>find</i>	<i>hose</i>	<i>test</i>	<i>wind</i>
<i>rest</i>	<i>best</i>	<i>kind</i>	<i>nose</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

ose

ind

est

pose

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

ose ind est

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

Find the Common Patterns



1. Will is in a funny pose.
2. His nose is itchy.
3. Will is a kind man.
4. He needs to find work.
5. Will cannot rest.
6. He is the best newspaper writer.

Activity

3

Divide and Conquer



Read these words.

Look for common endings.

Write the base word on the line.

parents parent

freely free

1. horses _____

2. practises _____

3. walking _____

4. tricks _____

5. talking _____

6. singer _____

7. asks _____

Many words have a base word with a common ending.

Good readers look for base words and common endings

This is another way to decode words.

8. oldest _____

9. youngest _____

10. spends _____

11. misses _____

12. travels _____

13. watches _____

14. crashes _____

Read each sentence out loud.

Circle the words with common endings.

15. Will practises to use a lasso on horses.

16. This is as easy as walking for him.

17. Will is good at rope tricks and talking.

18. The vaudeville show has a singer.

19. Will asks Betty to marry him.

20. Bill is the oldest child.

21. The youngest child does not live long.

22. Will spends a lot of time with his family.

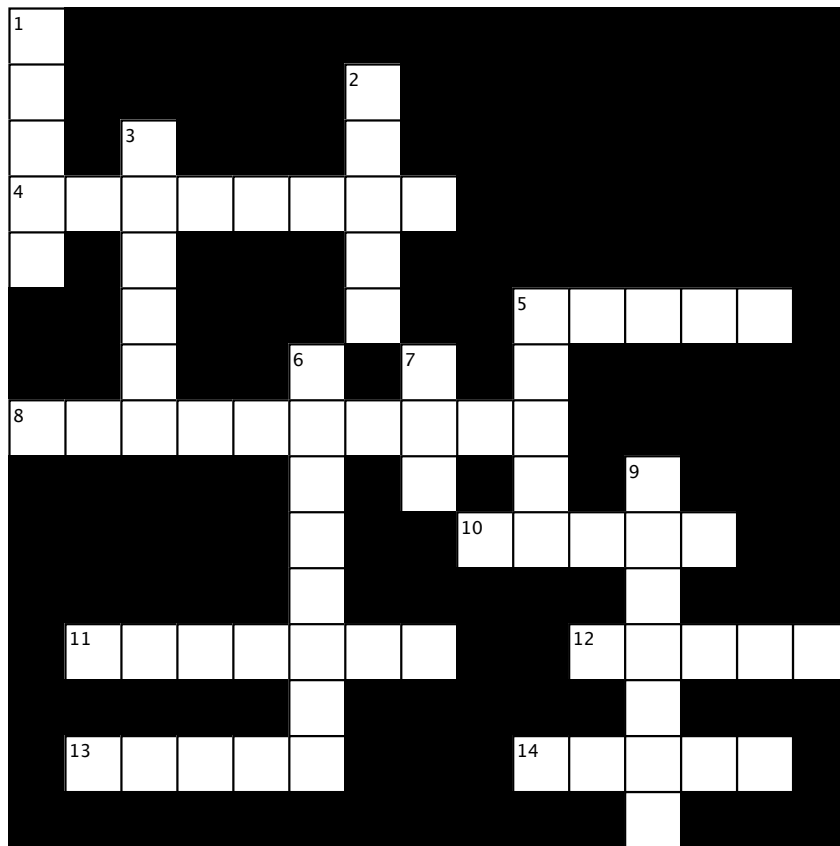
23. He also travels a lot.

24. Betty watches Will in the plane.

25. The plane crashes.

• Crossword •

Will Rogers



Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Will Rogers' biography.

ACROSS

4. opposite of boring
5. cars drive on these
8. a person who is in politics
10. we use our brain to do this
11. opposite of wife
12. we do this when we are happy
13. having no money
14. this person flies a plane

DOWN

1. we tell these to make people laugh
2. we use this to buy things
3. we go here to learn things
5. a big farm that has cattle
6. we use this to travel in the sky
7. another word for large
9. horses, dogs, cats

Will Rogers



1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) b, c (2) a, c
2. **Invisible Messages*:** (1) Will does not like school. Will finds school hard. In school, Will does not have a chance to do the things he likes.
(2) Will misses his family. Will loves his family. Will wants to go home.
3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) F/O (2) O/F (3) F/O
4. **Table of Contents:** (1) Will Sees the World / Texas, South America, Australia, South Africa, Europe
(2) Will's Family / 1908 (3) Will's Jokes / politics, presidents, his friends
5. **Organize Ideas:** Circle A: Details 2, 6, 9 Circle B: Details 4, 5, 8 Circle C: Details 1, 3, 7
6. **Use Capital Letters and Punctuation:** (1) Will Rogers is born in 1879. (2) Will's parents are part Cherokee.
(3) When does Will go to Texas? (4) He marries Betty. (5) Why do people respect Will? (6) He wants to see Alaska. (7) Will dies on August 15, 1935.
7. **Predict the Word*:** (1) family; children (2) lily; flower (3) sisters (4) watch; see; like (5) plane
8. **Find Common Patterns:** (1) pose (2) nose (3) kind (4) find (5) rest (6) best
9. **Divide and Conquer:** (1) horse (2) practise (3) walk (4) trick (5) talk (6) sing (7) ask (8) old (9) young
(10) spend (11) miss (12) travel (13) watch (14) crash (15) practises / horses (16) walking (17) tricks / talking (18) singer (19) asks (20) oldest (21) youngest (22) spends (23) travels (24) watches (25) crashes

*Accept any answer that makes sense.

Crossword Solution

