



# Why Reading Comprehension?

**T**he key to reading is understanding what is being read. By reading, a child can become a better reader, but he or she does not necessarily improve his or her reading comprehension. The ability to comprehend what is read is critical to understanding textbooks in later grades, which is why you will find this book has a majority of nonfiction passages. The book repeats important strategies necessary for strengthening reading comprehension skills. By completing the book in order, your child will revisit the strategies.

Upon your child's completion of each activity, use the provided incentive chart and stickers to track progress and celebrate your child's success.

## SKILLS

- Author's purpose
- Cause and effect
- Fact vs. opinion
- Nonfiction features
- Sequencing
- Using context clues
- Identifying character traits
- Identifying main ideas and details

## STRATEGIES

- Questioning
- Using background knowledge
- Making connections
- Determining importance
- Rereading

## HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT LEARNING

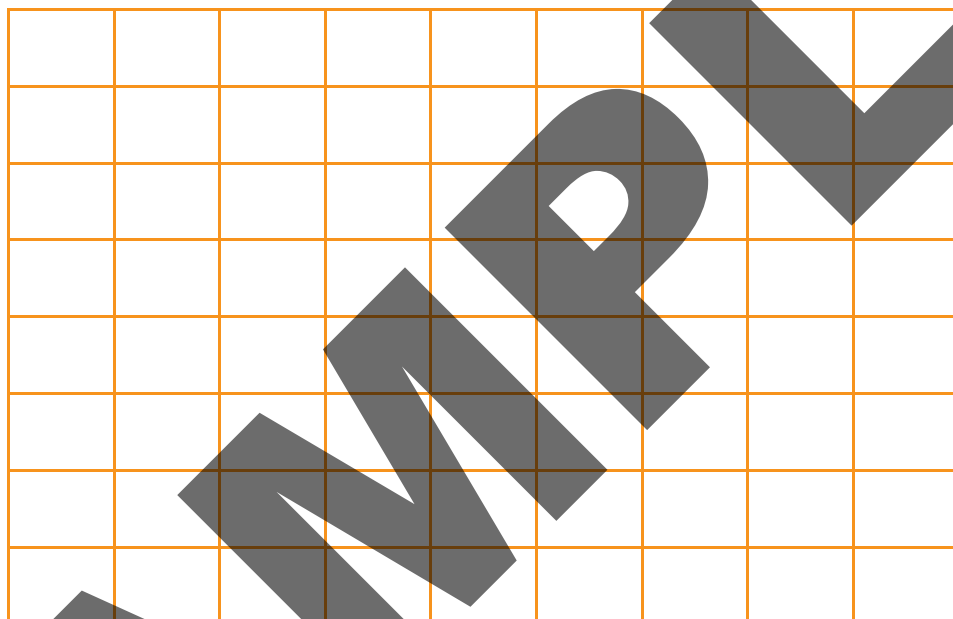
- Encourage your child to read every day and use the *What Genre Am I Reading?* recording sheet on page 2 to keep track of the books he or she reads each month.
- Create a clear space, free of distractions, for your child to read and answer the questions.
- Remind your child to read each passage at least twice before answering the questions.
- As your child reads a passage, ask questions related to the text. Ask about the characters or people and the passage's theme. Discuss the main ideas and details.
- Have your child summarize each passage before answering the questions.
- Ask your child, "What did you do that helped you understand this passage?"
- After answering the questions, help your child use the answer key to check his or her work.
- Work with your child to locate the correct answers for any incorrect responses.



# What Genre Am I Reading?

Record the genre for each book you read within the next month by coloring that section of the bar graph.

Genres I Read in the Month of \_\_\_\_\_



autobiography

biography

fantasy

historical fiction

informational text

mystery

poetry

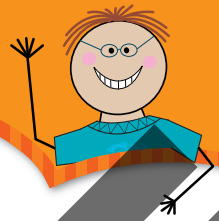
realistic fiction

science fiction

Which genre did you read most often? \_\_\_\_\_

Which genre did you read least often? \_\_\_\_\_

Which genre is your favorite? \_\_\_\_\_



# Name That Genre

Read each definition. Then fill in the bubble beside the correct answer.

- 1** A suspenseful story about a puzzling event that involves gathering clues or evidence to a solution, which is usually revealed at the end.
- ☐ (a) historical fiction
  - ☐ (b) science fiction
  - ☐ (c) realistic fiction
  - ☐ (d) mystery
- 2** A nonfiction text written about a person by another person.
- ☐ (a) historical fiction
  - ☐ (b) biography
  - ☐ (c) autobiography
  - ☐ (d) science fiction
- 3** A fictional story that takes place during a particular time period in the past. It often involves a real setting with characters or events that include fictional elements.
- ☐ (a) historical fiction
  - ☐ (b) fantasy
  - ☐ (c) realistic fiction
  - ☐ (d) mystery
- 4** A story of a person's life written by that person.
- ☐ (a) autobiography
  - ☐ (b) biography
  - ☐ (c) fantasy
  - ☐ (d) realistic fiction
- 5** A story using imaginary characters with events that could happen in real life.
- ☐ (a) historical fiction
  - ☐ (b) realistic fiction
  - ☐ (c) science fiction
  - ☐ (d) fantasy
- 6** A nonfiction text that provides facts about a topic.
- ☐ (a) realistic fiction
  - ☐ (b) mystery
  - ☐ (c) informational
  - ☐ (d) science fiction



# Author's Purpose in a Genre

Read each description of a text. Write the genre.  
Then circle the author's purpose.

- 1** A cookbook with 101 recipes for making cake pops

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 2** A five-paragraph essay, written by a third-grade student, explaining why people should recycle and not litter

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 3** A book about the president, written by the vice president

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 4** A story about robots from Mars taking over the school

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 5** A story involving three friends who find an old key in an antique box and try to find what it might open

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 6** A book written by Jane Goodall describing how she began her efforts to help the chimpanzees at Gombe Stream National Park

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe

- 7** A list of reasons why a student should be able to switch seats in the class

**genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**author's purpose:** entertain persuade inform describe



# Honey

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Do you know which is the only insect that produces food eaten by humans? That's right! It's the honeybee. Honey is the only food that includes all of the substances necessary to live, including vitamins, minerals, and water. Did you know that honey comes in different shades and flavors? Darker honeys have more nutrients than lighter ones. There are over 300 unique flavors of honey in the United States, including maple, raspberry, and blackberry. The most common honey found in stores is called clover honey. In addition to being used with food, honey can also be used for medicinal purposes. Honey can help people suffering from allergies, heal cuts, and soothe a sore throat. The next time you see honey, take a closer look!



**1** Based on the context clues, what are the nutrients found in honey?

- ☐ a flavors
- ☐ b vitamins, minerals, and water
- ☐ c darker and lighter
- ☐ d maple, raspberry, and blackberry

**2** Based on the context clues, what does it mean to "use honey for its medicinal purposes"?

- ☐ a how it makes food taste better
- ☐ b how honey makes medicine
- ☐ c how honey can help people in ways similar to medicine
- ☐ d how honey can be sold to buy medicine

**3** If you see two bottles of honey, one with darker honey and one lighter in color, what will you know?

- ☐ a the darker honey is rotten
- ☐ b the darker honey is hotter
- ☐ c the lighter honey is not as heavy
- ☐ d the darker honey has more vitamins and minerals

**4** Write a fact about honey.



# The Beekeeper's Day

Read the To-Do List and Daily Log. Then answer the questions.

## To-Do List for Today:

- Check the hives for insects, birds, and other intruders.
- Watch spy cam for skunk visit last night.
- Collect honey from the hives.

## Daily Log

- 1:00** Speak at the Beekeepers Association Lunch about bee behavior when visited at night by skunks. Warn them of signs such as aggressive behavior the next day.
- 2:30** Check the bee swarms at Zydez Farm.
- 4:00** Make honey ice cream for the birthday party.
- 5:00** Bee Club meeting. Discuss how to keep intruders out of the hives.
- 6:30** Beatrice's birthday party.

**1** What dessert will be served at Beatrice's birthday party?

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**2** Using context clues, do you think that insects and birds are good or bad for a beehive? Why or why not?

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**3** Using context clues, do you think that skunks are good or bad for a beehive? Why or why not?

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**4** Use a dictionary to find the meaning of *aggressive*. What would aggressive behavior in bees most likely include?

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# Welcome to My Backyard

Read the passage. Then answer the questions on page 21.

Have you ever heard someone use the saying, “Lay out the welcome mat?” It means to do something that invites someone or something. Did you know that there are things that can be added to a garden or around a home to welcome certain living things?

If you want to lay out the welcome mat for hummingbirds, then you should plant some red flowers. Would you enjoy seeing more butterflies in your backyard? If so, then you can add a flowering plant called *Buddleia*, or butterfly bush. Watch out! The butterfly bush will also attract bees. If you really want more bees in your yard, you could also plant some lavender. A bonus of planting lavender is that it will keep fleas and moths away. Perhaps you love watching or holding ladybugs. To attract more ladybugs, you might want to plant some yarrow. The leaves of the yarrow plant can also be made into a tea that can help with a stomachache.

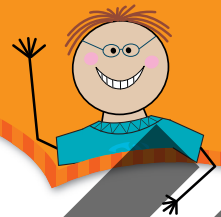
If the idea of any of these creatures leaves you with a stomachache, then you now know which plants to keep out of your garden!







# Welcome to My Backyard



Use the passage on page 20 to write the missing cause or effect.

1



red flowers



attract

\_\_\_\_\_

2

or



attract bees

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3



attracts ladybugs

\_\_\_\_\_

4



Buddleia attracts



and

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5



tea for  
stomachache

\_\_\_\_\_

6



moth



flea

\_\_\_\_\_

7

What is the common name for *Buddleia*?

\_\_\_\_\_

8

What saying means to invite someone or something in?

\_\_\_\_\_

9

What does *attract* mean?

\_\_\_\_\_