

At the Amusement Park

Justin and his little brother, Lucas, were waiting in line to ride the roller coaster at the amusement park. Justin was in charge since he was older, and so far things had gone pretty well. They had ridden the bumper cars, the Ferris wheel, and the tea cups. The line was long and Justin was restless. He decided to check his phone to see if he had any texts. Soon he was texting with his best friend Carlos.

When he was done texting, Justin started to say something to Lucas, but Lucas wasn't there! Justin looked all around, but Lucas was no where to be seen. Justin left the line and started searching for his brother. He looked around the other lines and at the snack bar. Where had he gone?

There were so many people! It was hard to see. Justin was starting to get really scared when he suddenly spotted Lucas wandering around by the roller coaster line. He ran to Lucas and hugged him hard. "Where were you?" he asked.

"I told you, I was going to the bathroom," Lucas replied. "You must not have heard me because you were busy texting, and now we've lost our place in line." The boys made their way to the end of the line and this time Justin kept his cell phone in his pocket!

◆◆ L: inference, sequence, summary, theme

Name _____ Date _____

TEXT
TIME 2

Show What You Know

1. What are two things you can infer about Justin?
1) _____
because _____
2) _____
because _____
2. Number the events in the order that they happened.
____ Justin leaves the roller coaster line.
____ Justin and Lucas go to the end of the line.
____ Justin and Lucas ride the bumper cars.
____ Justin texts his friend Carlos
____ Justin hugs Lucas.
3. Write a one-sentence summary of this story:

4. Which of these is the theme of the story?
a) You should not text at an amusement park.
b) Justin is not very responsible.
c) Getting lost is no fun.
d) It is important to take responsibilities seriously

California Bound!

Clara pulled her bonnet up further over her head to shade her eyes from the sun. It was so hot and the trail was so dusty. As she and her two younger brothers trudged behind their wagon, Clara wondered what life would be like in California.

Her family had left Missouri nearly two months ago with 26 other wagons. Unfortunately, their wagon train had been delayed by heavy rain. The rain had made the trail muddy and the wheels kept getting stuck. Then they'd had to ford a river, swollen over its banks from all the rain. It was cold and scary, and it took some prodding to get the horses to cross, but they'd all made it.

Pa said they were making good time now. Still, Clara knew Pa was worried. She'd heard him talking to Ma when they thought she was asleep. If their wagon train didn't reach the mountains by late fall, it would be too dangerous to cross.

The wagons all stopped. It was time for the mid-day meal. Clara was glad for the rest. She would help Ma prepare the food and maybe when they got going again, Pa would let her ride with him on the wagon for awhile.

◆◆ L: genre, cause and effect, making connections

Name _____ Date _____

TEXT
TIME 4

Show What You Know

1. What genre is this passage?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| a) biography | b) historical fiction |
| c) fantasy | d) contemporary fiction |

How do you know? _____

2. What are two effects the rain had on the wagon train?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

3. Why is Pa worried? _____

4. Make a connection between this passage and another text. _____ How are they similar?

Answer Keys

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TT 2

1. 1) Justin is not very responsible because he lost track of his brother.
2) Justin is probably a teenager because he is in charge of his brother and he has a texting phone.
2. 3, 5, 1, 2, 4
3. Justin lost his little brother at the amusement park, but then he found him again.
4. d – It is important to take responsibilities seriously.

California Bound!

TT 4

1. c - Historical fiction because it is about a girl on a wagon train and people really did travel that way to California before there were cars and trains.
2. 1) The rain made the wheels stick. 2) The rain made the river swell, which made it dangerous to cross.
3. Pa is worried they will not make it to the mountains by late fall.
4. *Little House on the Prairie* - Laura wore a bonnet and called her parents Ma and Pa.