



Ask and Answer Questions

- 3.2(B)** Ask relevant questions, seek clarification, and locate facts and details about stories and other texts and support answers with evidence from text.

Understand the TEKS

Ask and Answer Questions

To better understand a text, ask yourself questions about it as you read. Then, as you continue to read, find answers to these questions.

The questions you ask should be **relevant**, which means they should be related to the text you are reading. They should involve things that are important to the text. The answers you look for should give **clarification**. In other words, they should make the text easier to understand. Look for facts and details in the text that support the answers you find.

When you ask questions, you can use the text to find answers by:

- rereading important parts of the text;
- reading further in the text;
- looking for pictures that show information.

For example, read the passage below:

Trees' leaves do not all turn the same colors in the fall. The leaves of the poplar tree turn bright yellow, while the hickory's leaves are a calmer yellow-gold. Oak leaves turn reddish-brown, and dogwood leaves turn scarlet-purple. Cedars, pines, and firs do not change colors at all. If you live in New England, trees may change colors early in the season. But it may happen later if you live somewhere warmer, like Florida or Texas.

As you read the information in this passage, do you find information that you do not understand? You might ask: *Why do trees' leaves change colors in the first place?* You may find it helpful to read further in the passage to find the answer. Or, a picture in the passage may answer this question. If you do not find an answer in the text, you may wish to look for an answer in an encyclopedia or by using an Internet search engine.



Did You Know?

Comprehension
Pay attention to the details of a story. Decide how the details support the main idea.

★ Practice

Read the selection below. Then answer the questions that follow it.

Mr. Big

by Lucy Clark Owens

- 1 It was late afternoon in early October. The sun was shining, and the sky was a bright blue, but it was colder than usual. Jackson was worried. "It's not supposed to be this cold," he thought. "It's only October." Last night the temperature had dropped to the low twenties. There'd been a very heavy frost. That hadn't happened in fifty years, Miss Ortiz told him this morning at school.
- 2 All day Jackson worried. He hadn't had time this morning to check the pumpkins. Just for fun, he'd grown pumpkins this summer. He hadn't expected much to happen. He'd never grown pumpkins before. Well, he had beginner's luck! One of the pumpkins just kept growing and growing. It was huge now and still growing. He called it "Mr. Big." His mom thought that it might weigh over 400 pounds!
- 3 Jackson didn't tell anyone at school except Miss Ortiz. She suggested that they have a field trip to the farm so all his classmates could see the pumpkin. She also arranged for Mr. Dillard to weigh the pumpkin. Mr. Dillard is an official with the Finger Lakes Pumpkin Weigh-Off. Now there were only two more days left before the field trip. He really hoped that Mr. Big would make it. Just then the bell rang and Jackson hurried outside to catch the bus home.
- 4 When he got home, he changed his clothes. He rushed to feed his pet rabbit, Whiskers. Then he ran over to the barn and hopped on his bike.
- 5 He rode quickly between the rows of apple trees. Usually, he rode slowly through the orchard. He liked to see how many fallen apples he could dodge. But not today. He pedaled faster and faster. Quite a few apples got squished under his wheels.



- 6 Up ahead, he could see a few bright orange pumpkins. Mr. Big was out of sight. He was at the far end of the patch and shaded by a lightweight piece of cloth called burlap. This protected Mr. Big from the direct sunlight. Jackson had read that the cloth also helped pumpkins grow large. He was convinced that the burlap cloth was the reason that he had a prize pumpkin!
- 7 He jumped off his bike and ran over to the pumpkin. He knocked on Mr. Big in several places. "Good," thought Jackson. "The rind was not soft." Then he walked around Mr. Big a few times. He knocked in other places. He checked the color. Mr. Big was still a beautiful bright orange. He looked for mold. He didn't see any. He looked for bruises. There weren't any. Jackson smiled. "Mr. Big is NOT going to let me down for a second," he thought.
- 8 He walked over to the supply shed and got another piece of burlap. He covered Mr. Big very carefully with it. Then he stuffed straw all around him. He wanted to make sure that he'd be warm for the next few nights.
- 9 Jackson stood with his classmates and watched Mr. Dillard use the forklift to hoist Mr. Big onto the scale.
- 10 "Okay, kids, here we go!" Mr. Dillard said with a chuckle. "It's time to see how much Mr. Big weighs!"
- 11 Everyone was excited and crowded around the scale.
- 12 "Wow!" screamed Mr. Dillard. "Who would have guessed? Five hundred and two pounds! That's the biggest pumpkin in these parts in a long time."
- 13 Miss Ortiz smiled and gave Jackson a high five.
- 14 "Well done, Jackson, you just broke the old town record," said Mr. Dillard. "I think that Mr. Big is a prize winner! We'd better get you registered for the Pumpkin Championship next week."
- 15 Everyone started to scream and yell and hoot! "Jackson broke the record. Jackson broke the record," the kids chanted.
- 16 Jackson just stood there. He stared at Mr. Big. All he could think about was this: What was he going to do with a five-hundred-pound pumpkin? Then he smiled to himself!

- 1** Read paragraph 1. Which question about the paragraph is most relevant?
- A** How many days are in October?
 - B** Why is Jackson so worried about the weather?
 - C** Where is the school located?
 - D** What does Miss Ortiz do in the summer?

- 2** Read these sentences from paragraph 3.

Jackson didn't tell anyone at school except Miss Ortiz. She suggested that they have a field trip to the farm so all his classmates could see the pumpkin.

Which fact do these sentences most support?

- F** Jackson lives on a farm.
- G** Jackson has never been late for school.
- H** Jackson's classmates love field trips.
- J** Jackson has never grown pumpkins before.

- 3** Based on the evidence in the passage, why does Jackson believe Mr. Big has grown so large?
- A** The pumpkin has been kept warm with straw.
 - B** The weather has gotten colder earlier in the year.
 - C** The pumpkin has been protected from direct sunlight.
 - D** The apple orchard and pumpkin patch are close to each other.

- 4** A good question to ask about paragraph 5 is "Why is Jackson in a hurry?" Which sentence from the passage best helps to answer this question?
- F** *One of the pumpkins just kept growing and growing.*
 - G** *He really hoped that Mr. Big would make it.*
 - H** *Up ahead, he could see a few bright orange pumpkins.*
 - J** *Mr. Big was still a beautiful bright orange.*

- 5** Which illustration would best answer the question "How big is Mr. Big?"
- A** Mr. Big covered with burlap
 - B** Mr. Big colored bright orange
 - C** Mr. Big next to other pumpkins
 - D** Mr. Big being knocked on