

CONTEXT CLUES

6th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile[®] leveled stories in the 6th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 6th grade is 925L-1185L).

1. Word Meaning Journal Page/Anchor Chart
2. Elizabeth's Bloomers- 940L
3. The Lesson of Monopoly- 950L
4. Coke Wins the Cola Wars- 1000L
5. A "Fair" Tax?- 1020L
6. Home Runs and Strikeouts Are Ruining Baseball- 1040L
7. Ham in Space- 1060L
8. Leaves of Three (or More?)- 1080L
9. The Invention of the Muppet- 1100L
10. Last of the June Hog- 1170L
11. Gun Control: Is It a Long Shot?- 1180L
12. Test
 - The Ugly Angler- 960L
 - Voyager in Deep Space- 1180L



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



Determining Word Meaning

Writers use words in different ways for different purposes. Writers sometimes use words to evoke certain feelings. Word choice sometimes helps the reader visualize. Other times, the words explain particular topics.

TYPE OF VOCABULARY	MEANING	EXAMPLE
figurative language	These are words that have meanings beyond the literal meanings. Figurative language includes idioms, similes, metaphors, and hyperboles.	Andy is as busy as a bee .
connotative meaning	Words can have positive, negative, or neutral connotations. Authors sometimes choose words that have connotations to show how they feel.	Rebecca acts immature when she hangs out with her friends.
technical meaning	Technical terms are used when authors write about specific subject areas.	The Great Basin is the largest area of contiguous endorheic watersheds in North America.

Knowing the literal definitions of words is not always enough to comprehend texts. Words or phrases may be used for their figurative, connotative, or technical meanings. It is important to look at context clues to verify the authors' intended meanings.

Read the text below, and then fill out the chart.

Hurricanes can be dangerous and powerful storms. With winds up to 185 miles per hour, they can hit coastline communities **like a steam locomotive** and tear houses right off their foundations. No building is hurricane proof, but scientists and engineers continue to discover new ways to build more resilient structures. As they do, **building codes** evolve to ensure the safety of anyone **looking down the barrel** of a strong storm.

High winds create negative pressures that can produce lifting forces strong enough to suck roofs right off buildings. Broken windows or doors can also cause high pressure to build from inside. Once a roof is blown off, there is little to hold the building together, and the **studs** in the walls turn into **wet noodles**. Builders now use metal brackets called **hurricane ties** to anchor roofs directly to foundations, thereby strengthening bonds between roofs and the rest of the structures.

PHRASE	MEANING	PHRASE	MEANING
like a steam locomotive	With a lot of force	studs	Boards inside walls
building codes	Rules for home construction	wet noodles	They bend and break
looking down the barrel	In the path of danger	hurricane ties	Metal brackets

940L

Context Clues

Name: _____

TEST: T

1. Anglerfish are species of alien-like fish found across the world. They are particularly gnarled in appearance, with pointy teeth and antlers.

1060L

Context Clues

Name: _____

Ham in Space

1. On January 31, 1961, Ham became the first animal to travel in space as part of the United States space program. Ham was unable to feel any pride in his mission, which was only a small part of Ham's difficult life as a primate.

2. Ham was kidnapped on a farm in Miami until he was forced to participate in the Holloman Air Force Program. Ham and other chimpanzees were used as one of the other chimpanzees were used to score well on the other chimpanzees were used to succeed.

940L

Context Clues

Name: _____

Elizabeth's Bloomer

1. Depending on the season, people of all ages wear bloomers. Bloomers are pants that are loose-fitting at the top and narrow at the bottom. They are all the way down to the ankles. However, this wasn't always the case. Elizabeth Smith Miller, a woman named Elizabeth Smith Miller, was one of the first women to have not changed without effort, sacrifice, and hard work. Elizabeth was born in 1822. Her parents were abolitionists who opened their home to people who were fleeing the Underground Railroad. As a child, Elizabeth spent time with the people who were fleeing the Underground Railroad. Elizabeth's parents sacrificed from her childhood experience.



Elizabeth's Bloomers

1. Depending on the season, people of both genders wearing pants is ubiquitous. However, this wasn't always the case. It's hard to imagine, but in the 1850s, women didn't wear pants at all. When men wore pants, we are used to them. As times have changed, but they have, and a little help from a

parents were both able to escape slavery by the time Elizabeth became an adult, her father encouraged her to work at home as a seamstress. Elizabeth had a lot about inequality in the 1850s.

In Elizabeth's case, the change didn't fall far from the tree. Like her parents before her, Elizabeth became an adult seamstress. She routinely opened her home to other women for fundraisers for the women's suffrage campaign. Her father's support for equality in the 1800s didn't fall far from the tree. Elizabeth didn't even have the right to vote, but that didn't stop her from making a difference. Little things couldn't make a difference.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

...women's rights. Elizabeth was as determined as her mother and father to see that women wore pants and whale

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

bones under their dresses. The corsets were pulled tight with a lace, pushing a woman's section until her back bowed into her ribs. Women were expected to do all the day tasks wearing these corsets.

Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does "ubiquitous" mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

- universal
- global
- abundant
- ever-present

2. What does the author mean when he or she says that "the apple didn't fall far from the tree" in paragraph 3?

- Elizabeth was similar to her parents.
- Elizabeth was different from her parents.
- Elizabeth learned a lot from her parents.
- Elizabeth meant a lot to her parents.

3. Explain how bloomers were different from traditional women's clothing that was worn in the 1850s.

Bloomers were shorter than women's dresses and had pants underneath them. They were more functional, but looked very different.

Context Clues

4. What is the connotation of the word "shackle" as used by Elizabeth Smith Miller to describe dresses of the period (paragraph 5)?

- It is a positive connotation that shows Elizabeth's dislike for the clothing.
- It is a negative connotation that highlights the inequality women endured by wearing the clothing.
- It is a positive connotation that supports the relationship between societal norms and the clothing.
- It is a negative connotation that shows Elizabeth's dislike for the clothing.

5. The author says that women today are "standing on the shoulders of giants" (paragraph 1). What does this statement mean in your own words? Give two examples of how it is relevant to the author's point in the article.

The standing on the shoulders of giants" as used in the passage means that people today enjoy the rights and freedoms that were fought for by those who came before them. People are wearing pants now, but it was a difficult fight for the right for women to wear pants. For instance, women were expected to be "as heavy as iron" and many women who wore corsets had

Elizabeth's Bloomers

- Depending on the season, people of both genders wearing pants is ubiquitous. However, this wasn't always the case. It's hard to imagine, but there was a time when women didn't wear pants at all. We don't realize that when we see women wearing pants, we are standing on the shoulders of giants. Times have changed, but they have not changed without effort, sacrifice, and a little help from a woman named Elizabeth Smith Miller.
- Elizabeth was born in 1822. Her parents were both abolitionists who opened their home to people escaping slavery by way of the Underground Railroad. As a child, her father encouraged her to spend time with the people who used her home as a safehouse along the route. Elizabeth learned a lot about inequality and sacrifice from her childhood experiences.



Woman in Bloomers

- In Elizabeth's case, the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Like her parents before her, Elizabeth became an activist. Elizabeth became an advocate for women's rights. She routinely opened her home to host fundraisers for the women's suffrage campaign. Gender equality in the 1800s seemed like a nearly impossible goal. Women didn't even have the right to vote, but that didn't mean that little things couldn't make a big impact.
- In the 1800s, women's clothing was downright excruciating. Dresses were as heavy as armor. Women wore corsets made of steel and whale

helped make a political statement; however, many women were not happy with the overall style. Even Elizabeth herself preferred longer skirts and eventually forewent the pants undergarment. Regardless, women had broken the barrier to wearing pants, which was one small step toward equality.

Date: _____



the text evidence in the

Context Clues

4. What is the connotation of the word "shackle" as used by Elizabeth Smith Miller to describe dresses of the period (paragraph 5)?

- It is a positive connotation that shows Elizabeth's support for the clothing.
- It is a negative connotation that shows Elizabeth's dislike for the clothing.
- It is a negative connotation that highlights the inequality women endured by wearing the clothing.
- It is a positive connotation that supports the relationship between societal norms and the clothing.

5. The author says that women today are "standing on the shoulders of giants" (paragraph 1). What does this statement mean in your own words? Give two examples of how it is relevant to the author's point in the article.

"The standing on the shoulders of giants" as used in the passage means that people today enjoy the privileges and rights that were fought for by those before us. The passage opens with a statement about how ubiquitous females wearing pants have become. People don't even think about it anymore, but it was a difficult challenge for many to fight for the right for women to wear them. For instance, women were expected to wear dresses "as heavy as armor" and many people had a negative reaction to women who wore bloomers.

Determining Word Meanings

Writers use words in different ways for different purposes. Writers sometimes use words to evoke certain feelings. Word choice sometimes helps the reader visualize. Other times, the words explain particular topics.

TYPE OF VOCABULARY

Figurative language
connotative meaning
technical meaning

MEANING

These are words that have meanings beyond the word's literal meaning. Figurative language includes metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole.

Words that have a positive or negative emotional response or connotation. Some words with positive connotations are good for the health.

Technical terms are used when someone wants to describe a subject in a precise way.

EXAMPLE

Have a ball at the game.
The concert was an amazing experience.
The concert was the most amazing of all time.
The concert was an amazing experience.

Knowing the literal definitions of words is not always enough to understand their meaning. You may be used for their figurative, connotative, or technical meanings. Read the text below, and then fill out the chart.

Humans can be aggressive and violent. Some people are more aggressive than others. You may be used for their figurative, connotative, or technical meanings. Read the text below, and then fill out the chart.

MEANING

With a lot of force.
In the form of anger.

With a lot of force.
In the form of anger.

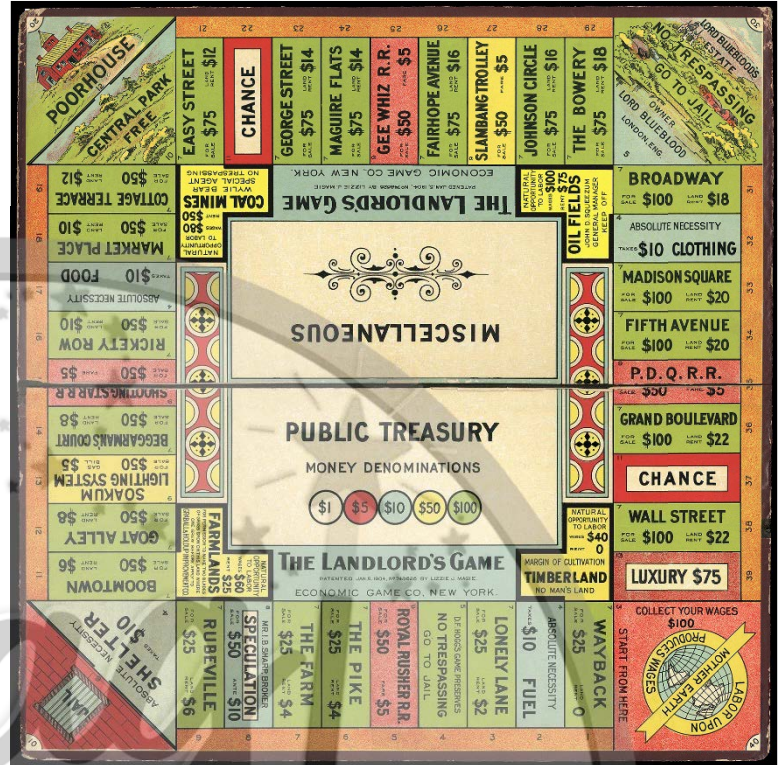
3. She called her creation "The Landlord's Game". The board looked much like the square Monopoly board we know today. It had nine rectangular spaces on each side that represented properties and railroads. In the corners were four large square spaces with labels like "Go to Jail" and "Public Park". She created two sets of rules by which the game could be played. The "monopolist" rules are the ones that have survived to the present day. They

encouraged players to try to build monopolies, meaning that one person eventually owned everything on the board. The "anti-monopolist" rules required wealthy players to pass their winnings on to the other players.

4. It wasn't until 1935 that the game itself began to produce wealth. An unemployed man named Charles Darrow was introduced to the game by friends. Darrow changed the name of the game to Monopoly and made some changes to the rules and the board. He sold it to a company called Parker Brothers. For the rest of his life, Darrow made money for every one of the hundreds of millions of copies sold by Parker Brothers. Almost overnight, Darrow went from a poor man to a fabulously rich man.

5. In contrast, Magie was paid a lump sum of just \$500. She spent more money creating the game than she made from its extraordinary success. Government records from 1940 indicate that her occupation was "maker of games" and that her income was \$0 per year.

6. If you fail to think about the evils of economic injustice when you play Monopoly, you're not alone. The men who made their fortunes on Monopoly at Lizzie Magie's expense apparently missed the point of the game, as well.



Ham in Space

1. On January 31, 1961, Ham became the first chimpanzee in space as part of the United States space program. The US launched its own race for space after the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite, in 1957. Despite Ham's historic flight, Ham was unable to feel any pride in his accomplishment. In fact, the flight was only a small part of Ham's difficult life – a common story for captured primates.

2. Ham was kidnapped from Cameroon in 1957 and held captive on a farm in Miami until the Air Force later purchased him. He was sent to Holloman Air Force Base, where he and 40 other chimpanzees were forced to participate in grueling tests to determine which of the chimpanzees were best-suited for being propelled into space. Ham became one of six chimpanzees to be considered for the mission. He scored well on his tests, and his reaction times were faster than those of the other chimpanzees. Ham was a quick learner and knew that succeeding at a task would earn him a banana treat. The tests consisted of measuring the chimpanzees' endurance to being confined for long periods in chairs and training to operate levers in response to light cues.



Ham the Chimp

3. Ham, although still only known as No. 65, was hurled into sub-orbital space in 1961. The flight experienced some issues, such as loss of pressure and a rough splashdown. The capsule landed 130 miles from the target and began taking on water. It took the recovery ship several hours to reach No. 65. Amazingly, Ham survived with only a bruised nose. Photos of the recovery show No. 65 with an enormous grin, which the Air Force inaccurately interpreted as happiness. Chimps only bare their teeth due to extreme fear and anxiety. When back on land, photographers asked for another photo of No. 65 in his "couch", the seat he was strapped into during the flight. Ham refused to sit in the couch, even when several men tried to force him.

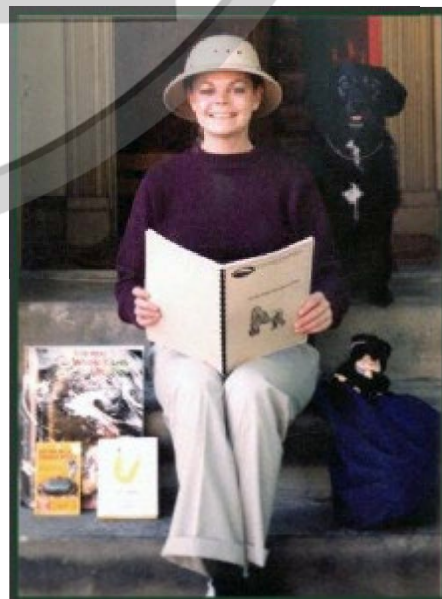
4. After No. 65 completed the flight, NASA decided to give him a name. In an unsurprising lack of creativity, they named him as an acronym for where he was imprisoned, Holloman Aerospace Medical (HAM).

5. After his extraterrestrial adventure, Ham was sent to be exploited at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. for 17 years. There, he lived alone before being transferred to the North Carolina Zoo. At least he was able to live with other chimpanzees at the North Carolina Zoo. Chimpanzees crave family structure and live with extended families in the wild. Ham died on January 18, 1983 at the age of 26.

6. Ham's story is a dime a dozen. Space programs had been sending animals into space throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Beginning in 1948, the U.S. military launched V-2 rockets with rhesus monkeys as test subjects. Over three test flights, all three monkeys died. The first monkey suffocated in space, and two subsequent monkeys died on impact. For the next 40 years, the Air Force chimpanzees and their descendants were used as biomedical research test subjects for space-related experimentation, disease research, toxicology experiments, experimental surgeries, and breeding.

7. When the Air Force was done experimenting with chimps, they were stuck between a rock and a hard place about what to do with their test subjects. Dr. Carole Noon had a vision of creating a sanctuary for the chimps that had been mistreated by the Air Force. Initially, the Air Force refused Dr. Noon's offer to provide a home for the Air Force chimps until a lawsuit awarded custody to her. Jon Stryker of the Arcus Foundation shared Dr. Noon's vision and purchased 150 acres in Florida for a chimp sanctuary. The Air Force chimps arrived in 2001 and were able to live out the rest of their lives in peace and tranquility, without fear of being exploited or used as test subjects.

8. Save the Chimps has rescued chimpanzees from many dire circumstances. Today, over 250 chimpanzees live on 12 manmade islands in chimpanzee family groups. They receive three meals a day, enrichment, and medical care, and they celebrate every holiday with parties on their islands. The chimpanzees also enjoy the love and affection of a dedicated staff of caregivers and volunteers.

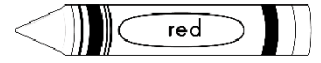


Dr Carole Noon

Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Compare and contrast the meaning of "launched" as it is used each time in this sentence from paragraph 1.



"The US **launched** its own race for space after the Soviet Union successfully **launched** Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite, in 1957."

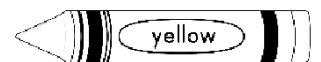
Handwriting practice lines with a large, faint watermark in the background that reads "Magi CORE". The watermark features a starburst graphic above the word "Magi".

2. As it is used in paragraph 6, what option most closely reflects the figurative meaning of the phrase "a dime a dozen"?



- a. common
- b. interesting
- c. sad
- d. historic

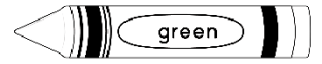
3. What is the figurative meaning of "stuck between a rock and a hard place" as used in paragraph 7?



- a. They wanted to use the chimps to move heavy rocks.
- b. The chimps were stuck and could not be removed.
- c. They were faced with difficult choices, and none were satisfactory.
- d. They shouldn't worry about the options if there wasn't a good option available.

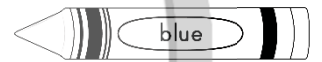
Context Clues

4. How does the connotation of “propelled into space” from paragraph 2 help show the author’s dissatisfaction with Ham being sent to space?



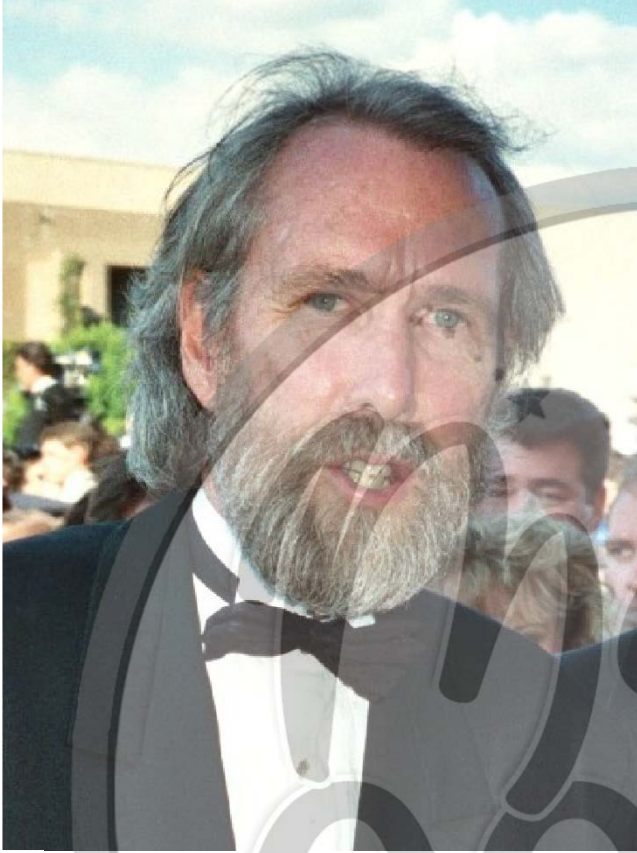
- a. “Propelled” suggests that Ham was being sent to space in an irresponsible manner.
- b. “Propelled” hints that the chimps weren’t being trained correctly.
- c. “Propelled” shows that the chimps could not survive the flight.
- d. “Propelled” indicates the high speeds that Ham would be subjected to during testing.

5. The author uses connotations throughout the passage that hint to his or her dissatisfaction with the treatment of Ham and other test animals. List two instances of the author using connotations to develop emotions in the text, and describe how each help develop the author’s point.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.

The Invention of the Muppet



Jim Henson in 1989

1. To most people, an old coat is simply something to throw away. Jim Henson, just a youthful college student at the time, looked at his mother's fuzzy green jacket with childlike imagination and saw a loveable talking frog. All he needed to bring Kermit the Frog into the world was a pair of scissors, a needle and thread, and two halves of a ping pong ball for eyes. With this playful act, Henson invented "Muppets". These were puppets that were more expressive and lifelike than any the world had seen before.

2. Muppets were designed to take to television like fish take to water. This was the early 1960s, and TV was pretty new. Puppets had appeared on the screen before, but they had often seemed stiff and dull when the camera zoomed in on them. Many were made of wood, and many had mouths that did not move. In contrast, the Muppets were made with soft materials like fabric and foam that allowed them to make believable facial expressions. Despite the fact that his ping pong ball eyes never moved, Kermit could form a delighted smile one moment and a disgusted frown the next.

3. Over many years, Henson developed a seemingly bottomless bag of tricks for making lifelike creatures. For example, there were hand-and-rod Muppets, like Kermit and his girlfriend Miss Piggy. These puppets had moveable mouths and hands that could be controlled by a single puppeteer. The performer put his or her right hand inside the puppet's body in order to control its

mouth, while his or her left hand operated a pair of rods attached to the puppet's hands. Other characters, such as the childish jokester Fozzie Bear and the mellow pianist Rowlf the Dog, were live-hand Muppets. In this model, the Muppet's mouth and left hand were controlled by one performer, while a second puppeteer controlled its right hand.

4. Even more groundbreaking was the invention of the full-bodied Muppet, which was a cross between a costume and a puppet. To make *Sesame Street's* Big Bird walk and talk, a puppeteer climbed inside him while wearing very tall shoes. The performer moved Big Bird's

beak with one hand and both of his arms with the other. The puppeteer's head only came up to Big Bird's neck, where there was a mesh screen that allowed him to see.

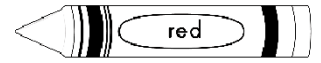
5. Although Jim Henson died suddenly in 1990, his creations are still extremely popular with puppet fans today. Muppets have appeared in numerous television programs and movies over more than 60 years, including *Sam and Friends*, *Sesame Street*, *The Muppet Show*, *Fraggle Rock*, and *The Muppets*. Think twice the next time you think about throwing out an old coat. You never know what may come of it.



Context Clues

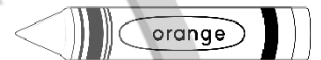
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. In paragraph 2, what does "Muppets were designed to take to television like fish take to water" mean?



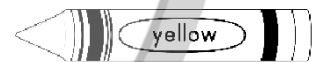
- a. They were fond of watching television.
- b. They were unable to breathe on television.
- c. They were perfectly suited to television.
- d. They were stiff and dull on television.

2. As used in paragraph 2, what does "zoomed in on" most nearly mean?



- a. got bored by
- b. moved close to
- c. focused on
- d. moved across

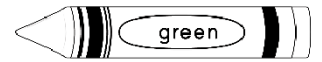
3. As used in paragraph 3, what does the phrase "bag of tricks" mean?



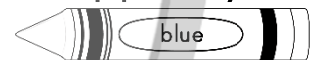
- a. a group of talented puppeteers
- b. a sack of magical illusions
- c. a container of foam materials
- d. a collection of useful techniques

Context Clues

4. According to the article, what is the difference between a hand-and-rod Muppet and a live-hand Muppet?



5. What are the differences in connotative meanings between the words "youthful" (paragraph 1), "childlike" (paragraph 1), and "childish" (paragraph 3)? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.



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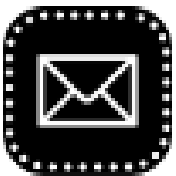
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