

JULY

Differentiated Passages



July Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What did Rayna and Haitao discover when they were digging in the sand?
 - a. something hard underneath the surface
 - b. a message in a bottle
 - c. a nest of sea turtles
 - d. a large seashell
2. How do you think Rayna and Haitao felt when they discovered some...



PLOT

Retell the story using events from the beginning, middle, and end. Outline the main events of the story and the important details, then practice your retelling skills with a partner.

420L July

Buried Treasure

"This is the perfect spot." Rayna set down her pail and shovel.

Haitao came to stand next to her with his own pail and shovel. "It's close to the ocean. It will be easy to get water when we need it."

The two children knelt on the warm beach sand and started digging. They had a huge hole in no time. Rayna put her shovel into the hole to scoop out more sand, but it scraped against something.

"What was that?" Haitao asked.

"I don't know." Rayna peered into the hole. "I think there's something in there."

Haitao put his shovel down and jumped into the hole. He pushed more dirt out of the way with his hands. Dark, worn wood was revealed. "It's a box. Help me get it out."

Rayna dug around the sides of the box. Haitao tried to wiggle it free. The sand shifted and sifted around it. Suddenly, the box was in Haitao's hands. He set the box on the rim of the hole and climbed out.

"What are all those markings?" Rayna pointed to the lid. It was designed with strange carvings. They weren't like anything she'd ever seen before.

"They look very old," Haitao said. "So does this box. Look, the lock is even rusty." He gave the lock a hard yank, and it opened immediately. "Let's see what's inside." He lifted the lid. A piece of yellowed parchment tied with a red silk ribbon was inside.

Rayna took the parchment. She untied the ribbon. The parchment unrolled. A map was on it. Dotted black lines looped toward a big red X.

"Is that a treasure map?" Haitao asked. His voice rose in disbelief.



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Finding a box buried in the sand

led to

5. What happened at the end of the story?

2nd & 3rd Grade



Magi CORE

JULY PASSAGES

2nd & 3rd grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 2nd-3rd grade is 420-820). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. Fourth of July - *Focus on main idea* (490L, 710L)
2. How to Make a S'more - *Focus on sequencing* (480L, 740L)
3. The History of Ice Cream - *Focus on timeline* (490L, 730L)
4. Fourth of July Fun - *Focus on structure* (Drama)
5. Buried Treasure - *Focus on retell and plot* (410L, 700L)
6. Camping in July - *Focus on sensory details* (Poem)



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore 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 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-1385L |

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."



Fourth of July

Independence Day is also called the Fourth of July. It celebrates America's independence from Great Britain. On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to separate from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is a document that said America was no longer under British rule. This was the birth of America.

The 4th of July evolved during WWII. It took on a new meaning. It became a way for Americans to show their support. They offered support for the troops. Many patriotic songs were written. The flag became a symbol of national pride.

The 1960s and 1970s changed how the 4th of July is celebrated. The holiday became a time for protest. Some Americans saw the holiday as a reminder of past injustices. They used it as a platform to speak out. Many people spoke out against war and racism.

Americans celebrate Independence Day each year. It is a federal holiday. Most people have the day off from work. There are parades. Families have cookouts. People go to fairs. There are fireworks. People wear red, white, and blue. American flags are placed outside. This week is the busiest vacation time in the United States. Many people travel.



There are historic events on the 4th of July. Bristol, Rhode Island has the oldest **Pawtuxet Rangers Marching in a Fourth of July Parade** parade. Their parade has been happening since 1785. Seward, Nebraska also has a big celebration. The celebration has happened since 1868. New York City has a fireworks show each year. It is on television. A 4th of July concert in Washington, D.C. is also on television.

The 4th of July has evolved over time. It began as a local celebration of independence. Now it is a national holiday. The holiday is a time for Americans to come together. They can celebrate their shared history and values.

Fourth of July

Independence Day is also known as the Fourth of July. This is a national holiday. Independence Day celebrates America's independence from Great Britain. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to separate from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is a document that stated America was no longer under British rule. This was the birth of America.

During World War II, the 4th of July took on a new meaning. It became a way for Americans to show their support for the troops and the war effort. Many patriotic songs were written during this time. The flag became a symbol of national pride.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the 4th of July became a time for protest and dissent. Some Americans saw the holiday as a reminder of the country's past injustices. They used it as a platform to speak out against war, racism, and other social issues.

Americans celebrate Independence Day each year. It is a federal holiday. Most people have the day off from work. There are parades, cookouts, and fairs. People wear red, white, and blue. American flags are placed outside of houses. The week of July 4th is the busiest vacation time in the United States. Many people travel.



Pawtuxet Rangers Marching in s Fourth of July Parade

Many towns and cities across America hold historic events on the 4th of July. Bristol, Rhode Island has the oldest parade. Their parade has been happening every year since 1785. Seward, Nebraska has held a celebration in its town square since 1868. They are known as "America's Official Fourth of July City-Small Town." New York City has a fireworks show each year that is shown on television. After the fireworks, the 4th of July concert in Washington, D.C. is shown.

July Passages

The 4th of July has evolved over time. It has evolved to reflect the changing values and priorities of the United States. It began as a local celebration of independence. It has since transformed into a national holiday. The holiday has grown to become a time for Americans to come together and celebrate their shared history and values.



Fireworks

July Comprehension Questions

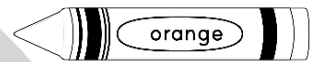
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What is the main reason Americans celebrate the Fourth of July?

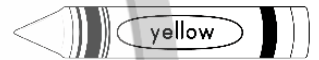
- a. To honor and support troops
- b. To honor the independence of America from British rule
- c. To speak out against injustices and inequalities
- d. To enjoy cookouts, parades, and parties



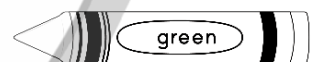
2. How did the Fourth of July take on a new meaning as mentioned in paragraph 2?



3. Describe how the Fourth of July was celebrated in the 1960s and 1970s.



4. List three ways Americans choose to celebrate the Fourth of July.

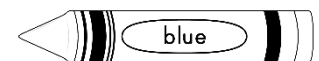


#1

#2

#3

5. Why is the Fourth of July an important holiday to Americans? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Analyze the key facts and details in the passage to help you discover the main idea.

Topic:

Fact #1

Fact #2

Fact #3

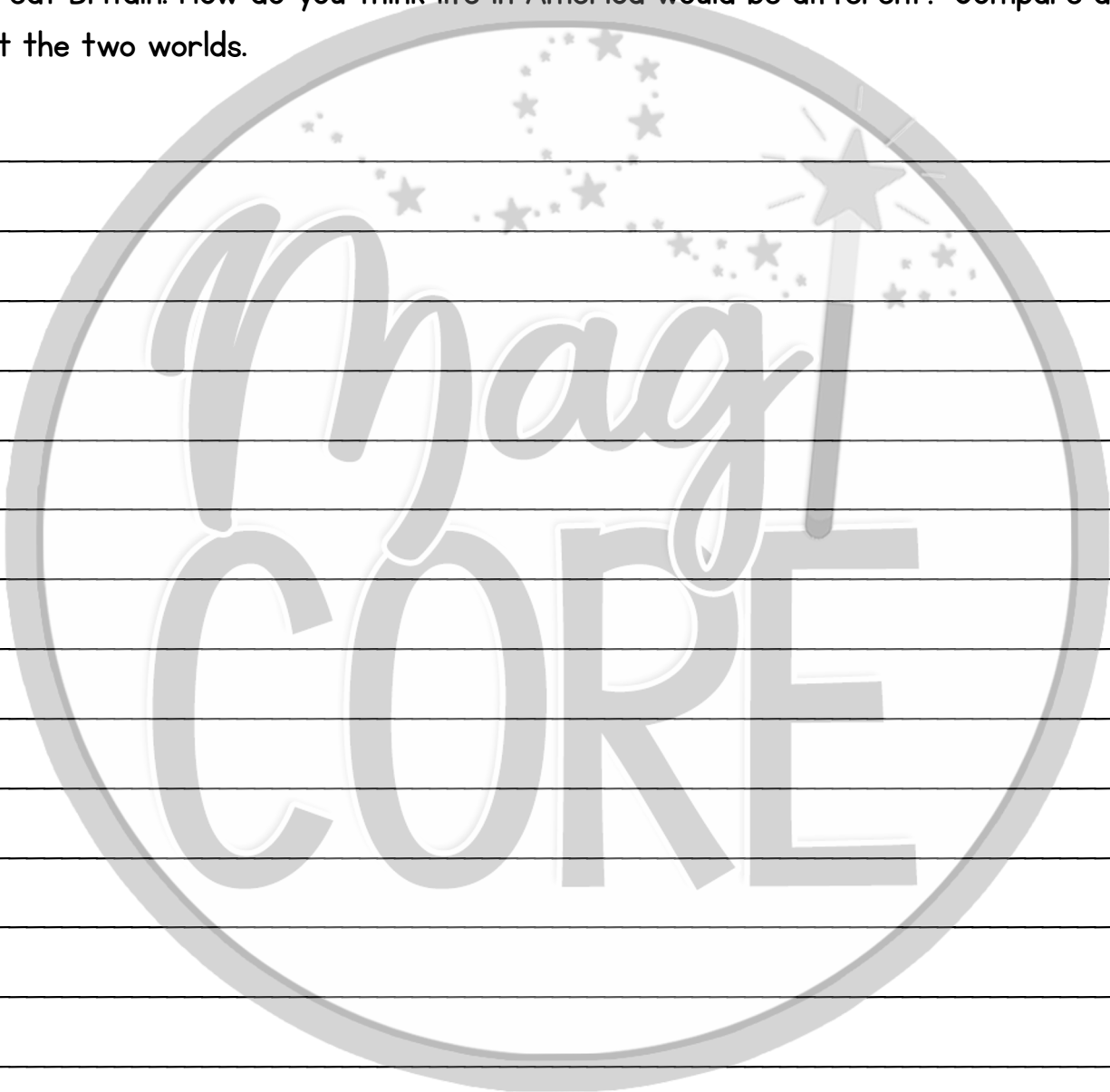
Main idea:



FOURTH OF JULY RESPONSE

As you read in the passage, the Fourth of July is a national holiday celebrated all over America each year. Pretend you live in a world where America never gained its independence from Great Britain. How do you think life in America would be different? Compare and contrast the two worlds.

Lined writing area for student response.



Fourth of July Fun

Cast: Narrator, Mayor Higgins, Amelia, Javier, Mr. Marquez, Mr. Stevens, a high school band, townspeople

ACT ONE:

Scene 1:

Setting: A small town named Willow Creek, present day, July 4th

Narrator: Willow Creek was known for its huge Fourth of July celebration. Everyone did their part to make it a success every summer.

Mayor Higgins: *(stands at a podium set up in the town green)* Welcome to our Fourth of July celebration! Amelia and Javier Marquez will sing the national anthem for us.

Amelia: *(whispers to Javier)* Good luck. *(smooths a hand over her stomach)*

Javier: *(whispers back)* Relax, Amelia. We've been practicing for weeks. We got this.

(Amelia and Javier walk onto a little stage. They each step up to a microphone. The Willow Creek High School's jazz band plays the national anthem.)

Amelia and Javier: *(sing)* O, say can you see by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming.

(The children sing. The people listening applaud.)

Mayor Higgins: Lovely job, Amelia and Javier! Please, everyone, enjoy the activities today. Don't forget to grab a burger. Get your face painted in red, white, and blue. Get Coach Williams from the high school soaked by taking your shots at the dunk tank. It's for charity. Make your own ice cream at Scooperos Creamery. I'll see you all at the lake at sunset. That's where we'll have our summer concert. The fireworks display will be there too.

The townspeople cheer. They set off with their families. Javier and Amelia find their dad. He is over by the burger station.)



July Passages

Mr. Marquez: *(grins proudly at his children)* That was some fine singing, kids. I'll bet you are hungry. How about some cheeseburgers?

Amelia and Javier: Yes, please!

Scene 2:

Setting: By the lake in Willow Creek, present day, July 4th

Narrator: Amelia and Javier are on a blanket by the lake. They look up at the dark sky. Music plays from the high school's band. They have done so many activities today.

Amelia: Fourth of July is my favorite holiday.

Javier: Mine too. Today was extra special because we got to sing!

Amelia: *(nods and sits up)* Hey, isn't that Mr. Stevens? He's sitting all by himself.

Javier: *(sits up too)* Looks like it. He usually comes to this with his grandkids. They moved away this spring.

Amelia: *(stands and drags Javier to his feet)* Well, c'mon then. We can't let him be alone. He can't look sad at this happy celebration.

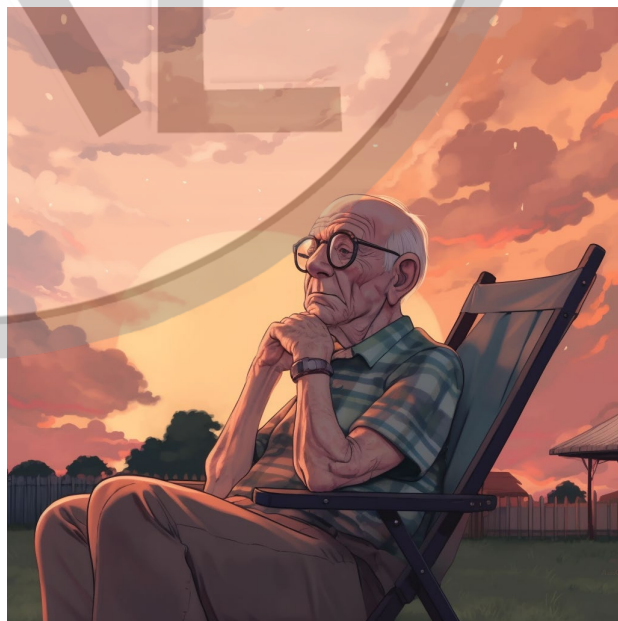
(Amelia and Javier run over to Mr. Stevens. He is hunched in his lawn chair. His chin is leaning against his fist. He sighs deeply.)

Amelia: Hi, Mr. Stevens. Would you like to join us over at our blanket? We can watch the fireworks together. Dad is bringing over some ice cream sandwiches.

Javier: They're the ice cream sandwiches made with giant chocolate chip cookies. Those are my favorite.

Mr. Stevens: *(a slow smile spreads on his face as he looks at the children)* Those are my favorite, too, Javier. I would love to join you.

Thanks for inviting an old man like me.

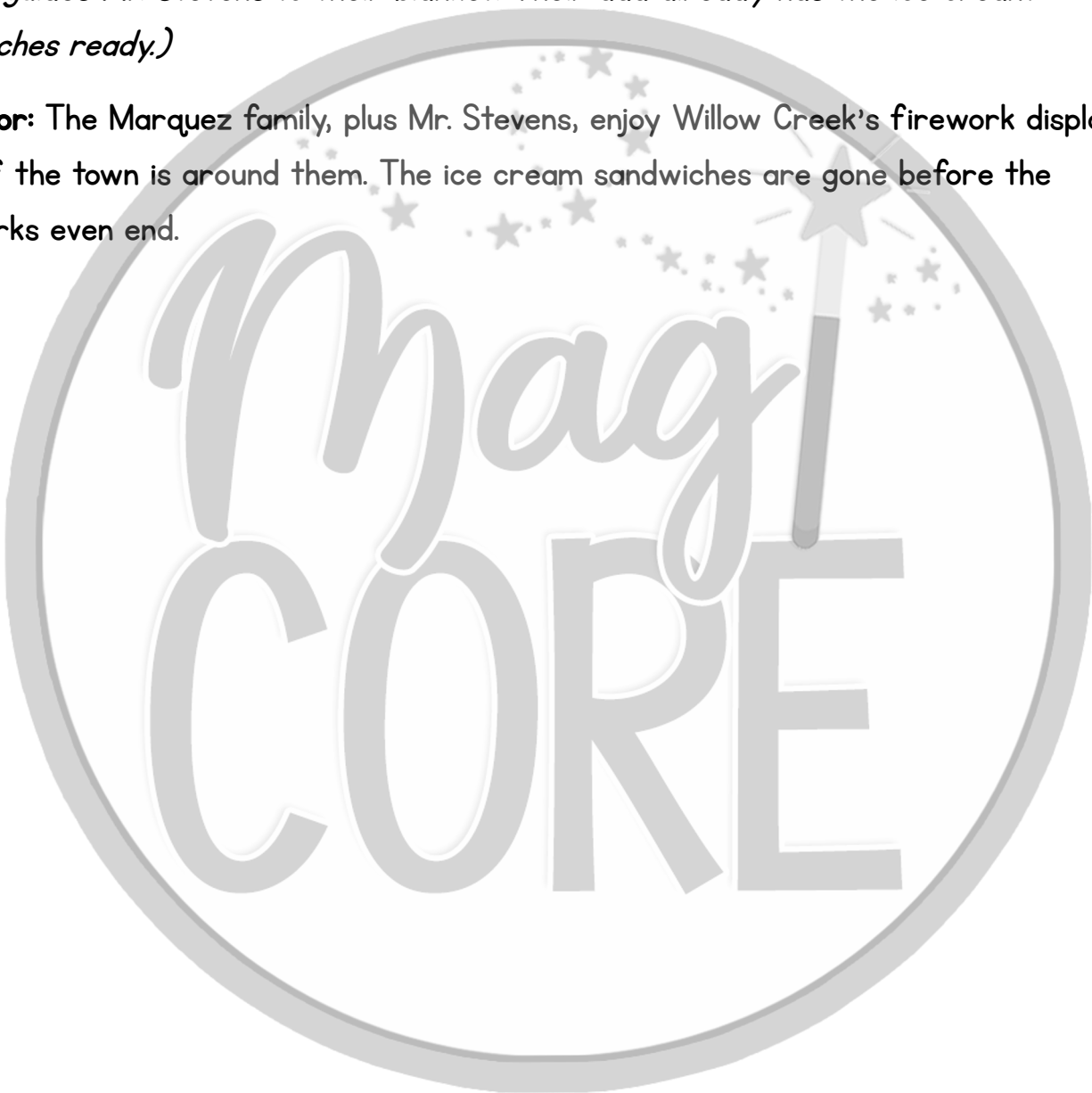




Amelia: Well, at least you're not as old as the United States is today. It is the country's birthday.

(The three of them share a laugh. They help Mr. Stevens up. Javier carries his lawn chair. Amelia guides Mr. Stevens to their blanket. Their dad already has the ice cream sandwiches ready.)

Narrator: The Marquez family, plus Mr. Stevens, enjoy Willow Creek's firework display. The rest of the town is around them. The ice cream sandwiches are gone before the fireworks even end.



Fourth of July Fun

Cast: Narrator, Mayor Higgins, Amelia, Javier, Mr. Marquez, Mr. Stevens, a high school band, townspeople

ACT ONE:

Scene 1:

Setting: A small town named Willow Creek, present day, July 4th

Narrator: Willow Creek was known for its huge Fourth of July celebration. Everyone did their part to make it a success every summer.

Mayor Higgins: *(stands at a podium set up in the town green)* My fellow residents of Willow Creek, welcome to our annual Fourth of July celebration! It is with great pleasure that I kick off this year's festivities by introducing Amelia and Javier Marquez. They will sing the national anthem for us.

Amelia: *(whispers to Javier)* Good luck. *(smooths a hand over her stomach)*

Javier: *(whispers back)* Relax, Amelia. We've been practicing nonstop for weeks. We got this.

(Together, Amelia and Javier walk onto a little stage that has been set up near the podium. They each step up to a microphone. The Willow Creek High School's jazz band starts playing the national anthem.)

Amelia and Javier: *(sing)* O, say can you see
by the dawn's early light, what so proudly
we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming.

(The children sing the entire national anthem, and the people listening applaud when they finish.)



July Passages

Mayor Higgins: Lovely job, Amelia and Javier! You've started our celebration off on just the right note. Please, everyone, enjoy the many activities we have planned for you today. Don't forget to grab a burger. Get your face painted in red, white, and blue. Try to get Coach Williams from the high school soaked by taking your shots at the dunk tank for charity. Make your own ice cream at Scooperoos Creamery. Ah, the list is so long, folks. I'll see you all at the lake at sunset for our summer concert and fireworks display.

(The townspeople cheer and set off to do the various activities with their families. Javier and Amelia find their dad over by the burger station.)

Mr. Marquez: *(grins proudly at his children)* That was some fine singing, kids. I'll bet you both worked up an appetite. How about some cheeseburgers?

Amelia and Javier: Yes, please!

Scene 2:

Setting: By the lake in Willow Creek, present day, July 4th

Narrator: After a day of doing every single activity in town, Amelia and Javier are stretched out on a blanket by the lake, looking up at the darkening sky. Patriotic music plays from the high school's jazz band.

Amelia: Fourth of July is my favorite holiday.

Javier: Mine, too, and today was extra special because we got to sing.

Amelia: *(nods and sits up)* Hey, isn't that Mr. Stevens sitting all by himself over there?

Javier: *(sits up too)* Looks like it. He usually comes to this with his grandkids, but they moved away this spring.

Amelia: *(stands and drags Javier to his feet)* Well, c'mon then. We can't let him be alone and looking sad at this happy celebration.

(Amelia and Javier run over to Mr. Stevens, who is hunched in his lawn chair. His chin is leaning against his fist, and he sighs deeply.)

July Passages

Amelia: Hi, Mr. Stevens. Would you like to join us over at our blanket to watch the fireworks? Dad is bringing over some ice cream sandwiches in a few minutes.

Javier: They're the ice cream sandwiches made with giant chocolate chip cookies. Those are my favorite.

Mr. Stevens: *(a slow smile spreads on his face as he looks at the children)* Those are my favorite, too, Javier. I would love to join you. Thanks for inviting an old man like me.

Amelia: Well, at least you're not as old as the United States is today on its birthday.

(The three of them share a laugh as they help Mr. Stevens up. Javier carries his lawn chair while Amelia guides Mr. Stevens to their blanket where their dad already has the ice cream sandwiches ready.)

Narrator: The Marquez family, plus Mr. Stevens, enjoy Willow Creek's firework display along with the rest of the town. The ice cream sandwiches are gone before the fireworks even end.



July Comprehension Questions

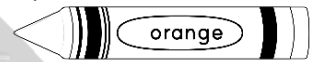
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What was the town of Willow Creek known for?

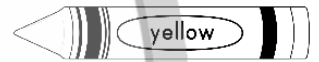


- a. Its Fourth of July celebration
- b. The food on the Fourth of July
- c. Its Memorial Day celebration
- d. The fireworks on the Fourth of July

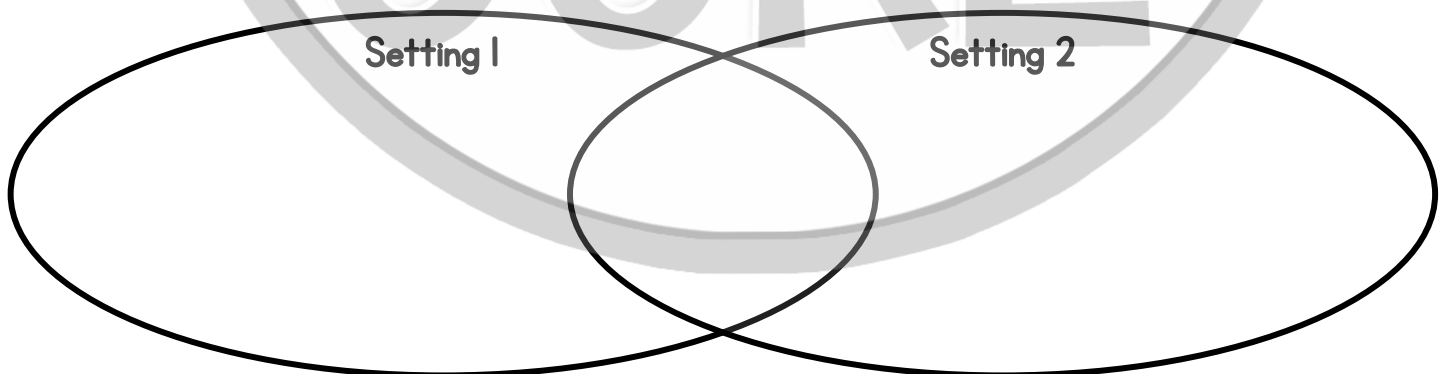
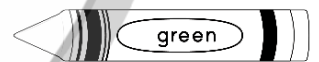
2. In scene 1, how was Amelia feeling about singing the national anthem? How do you know?



3. Why is this drama titled "Fourth of July Fun?"



4. Compare and contrast setting 1 and setting 2.



5. Why did Javier and Amelia ask Mr. Stevens to sit with them?



STRUCTURE

TITLE OF THE PLAY

CHARACTERS

-
-
-
-

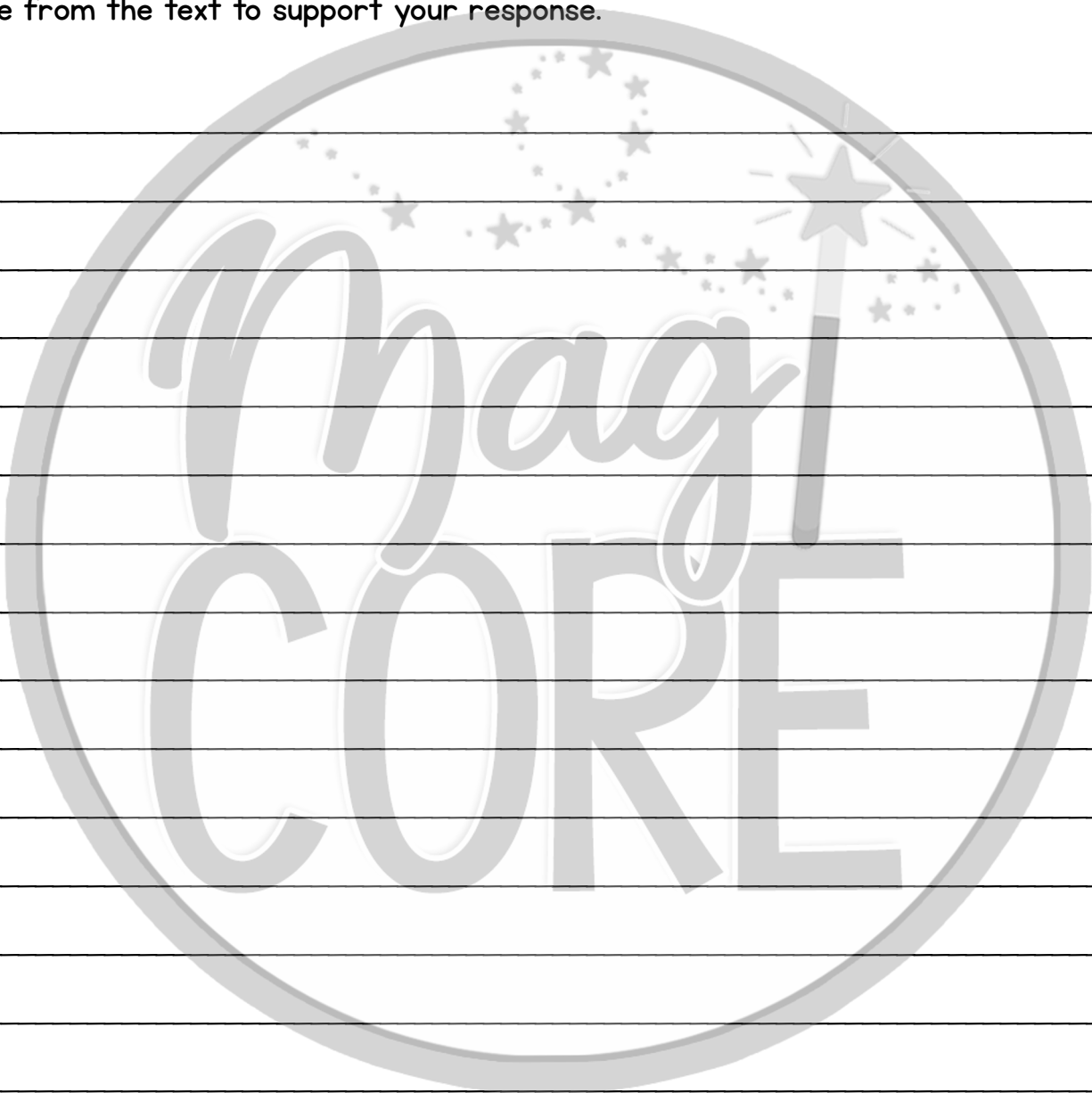
SETTING

PLOT

-
-
-
-
-

FOURTH OF JULY FUN RESPONSE

The characters in this drama are asked to sing the national anthem at a Fourth of July celebration. Describe why you think singing the national anthem is such an important role during this holiday. How do you think that contributed to how the characters felt? Use evidence from the text to support your response.



Buried Treasure

"This is the perfect spot." Rayna set down her pail and shovel.

Haitao came to stand next to her with his own pail and shovel. "It's close to the ocean. It will be easy to get water when we need it."

The two children kneeled on the warm beach sand and started digging. They had a huge hole in no time. Rayna put her shovel into the hole to scoop out more sand, but it scraped against something.

"What was that?" Haitao asked.

"I don't know." Rayna peered into the hole. "I think there's something in there."

Haitao put his shovel down and jumped into the hole. He pushed more dirt out of the way with his hands. Dark, worn wood was revealed. "It's a box. Help me get it out."

Rayna dug around the sides of the box. Haitao tried to wiggle it free. The sand shifted and sifted around it. Suddenly, the box was in Haitao's hands. He set the box on the rim of the hole and climbed out.

"What are all those markings?" Rayna pointed to the lid. It was designed with strange carvings. They weren't like anything she'd ever seen before.

"They look very old," Haitao said. "So does this box. Look, the lock is even rusty." He gave the lock a hard yank, and it opened immediately. "Let's see what's inside." He lifted the lid. A piece of yellowed parchment tied with a red silk ribbon was inside.

Rayna took the parchment. She untied the ribbon. The parchment unrolled. A map was on it. Dotted black lines looped toward a big red X.

"Is that a treasure map?" Haitao asked.

His voice rose in disbelief.



July Passages

"It seems to be." Rayna looked at the map. She then scanned the beach around them. "And I think it's a map of this area." She pointed over Haitao's shoulder. "Those hills over there are right here." She tapped the map. There was a series of wavy lines that looked like hills on it. "And here's the rocks that jut out into the water."

"And this is Sundance Island!" Haitao picked up the box. "Let's hide this under our beach towels. We can follow the map. Maybe we'll find a treasure."

Rayna followed Haitao to where her mom had set up a beach umbrella and blanket. Luckily, her mom was in a loud conversation with some other moms. She didn't notice Haitao hiding the box.

"Let's start at the rocks since they're closest to us." Rayna led Haitao to the rocks. She held the map out in front of her. "Each one of these little dashes must be a footstep. We need to take thirty-six steps that way." She gestured in front of them.

Haitao took the first step. "One, two . . ."

They stepped along until they reached thirty-six steps. That took them right behind the beach's snack bar.

"Now it's fifty-two steps that way." Rayna pointed to her left. The children counted out their steps again.

They reached the one shady spot on the beach. It was at the base of a thick palm tree. Haitao jumped up and down. He sent a spray of sand out in all directions.

"There's a palm tree drawn on the map too. We're in the right place!" he said.

"The red X is located at the back of the tree between two thick roots." Rayna circled to the back of the tree. She dropped to her knees. She handed the map to Haitao. Rayna brushed away the sand to reveal the roots. "Here we go."



Haitao gave back the map. "I'll be right back." He jogged off to a bunch of kids who were building a huge sandcastle. He talked to them for a few moments. He ran back to Rayna with a big shovel he'd borrowed. "I'll dig while you're on the lookout. We don't want everyone rushing over here if we actually find something."

July Passages

Rayna leaned casually against the palm tree's trunk. She kept an eye on the other beachgoers. Haitao dug like a burrowing animal. He let out an excited gasp after a few minutes.

"Did you find it?" Rayna was by his side in an instant.

Haitao lifted a red, velvet pouch from the sand. He shook it a bit to clean it off. "It's not very heavy, but there's definitely something inside."

"Open it, open it!" It was Rayna's turn to jump up and down. She sent sand flying out in all directions.

Carefully, Haitao untied the string on the bag and pulled it open. He dumped out the contents of the bag.

"Two twenty-dollar bills?" Rayna picked one up and turned it around in her hands. "It looks real to me."

"A bag of gold-wrapped candies?" Haitao rested the bag on his thigh. He reached for the final item from the bag. "A note?" He unfolded the note and read it aloud. "Dear Rayna and Haitao, I thought you might have fun going on a treasure hunt at the beach today. You can each have twenty dollars. Buy whatever you want at the snack bar. You can keep the change if there is any. Split the bag of candies, but don't forget to toss a few candies to me. Love, Mom."

Rayna swiped the note from Haitao. "That's my mom's handwriting."

"Snack bar, here we come!" Haitao picked up one of the twenty-dollar bills. He grabbed the velvet bag and the candies. "Let's return this shovel and then get some tasty treats!"

"I was hoping for rubies, diamonds, and gold," Rayna said as they headed for the snack bar. "But this was still fun. Snack bar treats are a treasure too."

They both bought enough treats that they had trouble bringing them all back to their beach blanket. They thanked Rayna's mom for setting up the hunt. Rayna and Haitao munched and crunched on their snacks. It was a fine ending to a fun day at the beach.

Buried Treasure

"This is the perfect spot." Rayna set down her pail and shovel and looked at the waves rolling onto the shore.

Haitao came to stand next to her with his own pail and shovel. "It's close to the ocean so it will be easy to get water when we need it for the epic sandcastle we're going to build today."

The two children kneeled on the warm beach sand and started digging. They had an enormous hole stretching between them in no time. When Rayna put her shovel into the hole to scoop out more sand, it scraped against something hard.

"What was that?" Haitao asked.

"I don't know." Rayna peered into the hole. "I think there's something in there."

Haitao put his shovel down and jumped into the hole. Using his hands, he pushed more dirt out of the way to reveal dark, worn wood. "It's a box. Help me get it out."

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Rayna leaned casually against the palm tree's trunk to keep an eye on the other beachgoers. Haitao dug like a burrowing animal, and after a few minutes, he let out an excited gasp.

"Did you find it?" Rayna was by his side in an instant.

Haitao lifted a red, velvet pouch from the sand, shaking it a bit to clean it off. "It's not very heavy, but there's definitely something inside."

"Open it, open it!" It was Rayna's turn to jump up and down and send a spray of sand out in all directions.

Carefully, Haitao untied the string on the bag, pulled it open, and dumped out the contents of the bag.

"Two twenty-dollar bills?" Rayna picked one up and turned it around in her hands. "It looks real to me."

"A bag of gold-wrapped candies?" Haitao rested the bag on his thigh while he reached for the final item from the bag. "A note?" He unfolded the note and read it aloud. "Dear Rayna and Haitao, I thought you might have fun going on a treasure hunt at the beach today. You can each take twenty dollars and buy whatever you want at the snack bar. You can keep the change you receive if there is any. Split the bag of candies, but don't forget to toss a few candies to me. Love, Mom."

Rayna swiped the note from Haitao. "That's my mom's handwriting."

"Snack bar, here we come!" Haitao picked up one of the twenty-dollar bills. He grabbed the velvet bag and the candies. "Let's return this shovel then get some tasty treats!"

"I was hoping for rubies, diamonds, and gold," Rayna said as they headed for the snack bar, "but this was still fun, and snack bar treats are a treasure too."

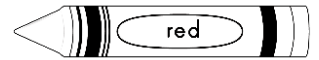
They both bought enough treats that they had trouble bringing them all back to their beach blanket. After thanking Rayna's mom for setting up the hunt, Rayna and Haitao munched and crunched on their snacks. It was a fine ending to a fun day at the beach.

July Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What did Rayna and Haitao discover when they were digging in the sand?

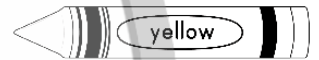
- a. something hard underneath the surface
- b. a message in a bottle
- c. a nest of sea turtles
- d. a large seashell



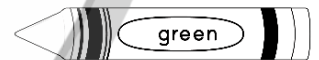
2. How do you think Rayna and Haitao felt when they discovered something underneath the sand?



3. What happened after Rayna and Haitao untied the yellow parchment?



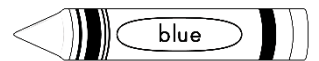
4. What events were a result of finding a box buried in the sand?



Finding a box buried
in the sand

led to

5. What happened at the end of the story?



PLOT

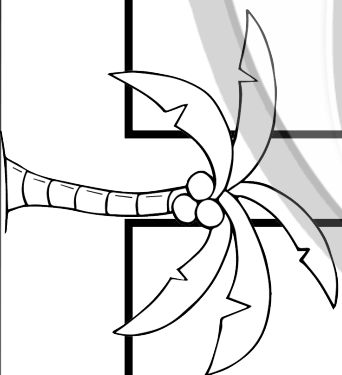
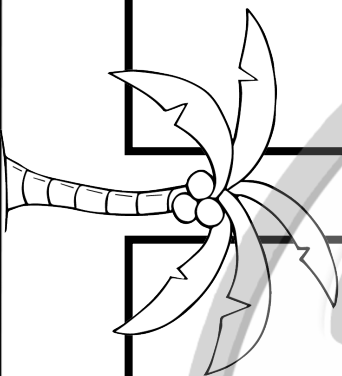
Retell the story using events from the beginning, middle, and end. Outline the main events throughout the story and the important details, then practice your retelling skills with a partner.

Title:

Beginning

Middle

End



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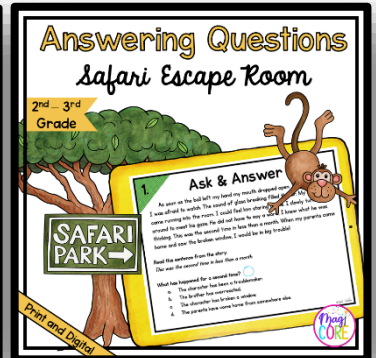
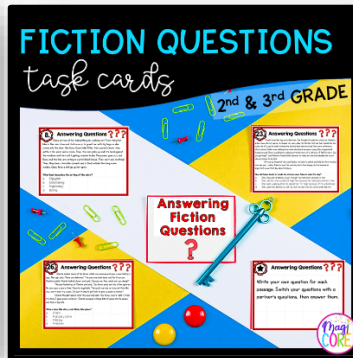


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