

Ball / Green

7th/8th
Study
Skills

Week 4

Day 1: Identifying Theme

Day 2: Summary and Main Idea

Day 3: Adjectives
Words with meanings

Day 4: Words with meanings
Parts of Speech

Day 5: Words and their meanings
Addition and subtraction word problems

Week 4
Day 1

Name: _____

Identifying Theme

Directions: Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. **Write in complete sentences.**

1. Katie Clean invited Messy Missy to her house to work on their biology project, but Katie Clean had no idea what a visit from Messy Missy entailed. First of all, it was raining and Messy Missy neither bothered to take her boots off nor thoroughly wiped them on the doormat. Then Messy Missy ate a bag of hot chips on Katie Clean's white bedspread without asking, and Messy Missy is a sloppy eater, so hot chip powder got all over the bedspread. Katie Clean tried to be polite and ignore Messy Missy's sloppy behavior, but then Messy Missy threw her chip wrapper on the floor. Offended, Katie Clean pretended that she was sick and asked Messy Missy to leave. The next day Katie Clean asked the teacher if she could work by herself. After explaining her situation, the teacher allowed Katie to work alone. Messy Missy would have finished the assignment by herself, but she spilled grape soda all over her assignment.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

2. Money Mark was born rich. He never had to work a day in his life and he got everything handed to him on a silver platter. When he was six, Money Mark wanted to go to a basketball game. His father paid the starting five of the Bulls and Celtics to play a private game of Nerf-ball in Money Mark's bedroom. When Money Mark turned thirteen, he wanted to start a band. His father hired the Rolling Stones to play with him every Saturday at the family's private concert hall, though his family was never there. By the time he was twenty-one, Money Mark was bored with life. He was surrounded by a bunch of possessions that he didn't appreciate and Money Mark could find nothing new or exciting in his life. Despite his vast wealth, Money Mark never found happiness. Penny Petal was born poor. Her family hardly had anything to eat, but they loved each other. Penny Petal appreciated every thing she got. When she was six, her father walked her around the United Center before the Bulls played the Celtics. She was excited by the crazy fans and feeling in the air. She looked forward to the day that she could see a real game. When she was thirteen, she learned to play the buckets. She was an extremely talented musician, a natural percussionist, and everyone on the block loved the rhythms that poured from her palms. By the time she was twenty-one, Penny was a successful businesswoman. Now she had everything that she had ever dreamed of and she truly loved to share her wealth and happiness with her family who supported her through all of the hard times.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

3. Tammy and Sammy were both students in Mr. Morton's reading class. Mr. Morton wasn't too strict about deadlines, and Sammy took advantage of that. He did all of his homework in his other classes but never bothered to complete Mr. Morton's reading assignments, figuring that he could complete them later. Tammy, on the other hand, completed each assignment Mr. Morton assigned the night that he assigned it. She had to stay up a little later, but she didn't want to get a penalty for turning in her reading work late. Tammy knew reading was a core subject and that she had to keep "C" average for the entire year or she would have to go to summer school. When the end of the quarter came, Tammy and Sammy had both planned on going to the Enchanted Castle amusement park, but Mr. Morton called Sammy's mother, and she grounded Sammy until he turned in all of his work. That weekend was horrible for Sammy. He stayed up until 2:00 AM each night and still couldn't complete all of the assignments. The whole while, Tammy had a great time eating pizza at Enchanted Castle, watching movies late at night, and enjoying her weekend free of stress and pressure. At the end of the quarter, Sammy was lucky to squeak by with a "C" minus in reading while Tammy earned an "A." Sammy still hasn't learned his lesson and probably won't complete this activity either.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

4. Mr. Pig and Mr. Dog were hanging out at the food court of the animal shopping mall. Mr. Pig was eating a huge feast of pizza and drinking a large jug of fruit punch and Mr. Dog was watching him eat. "Hey, Mr. Pig. If you give me a slice of your pizza, I'll let you have the next bone I find." Mr. Pig declined, even though it hurt his stomach to eat the last three slices of pizza. "I'm sorry, Mr. Dog," Mr. Pig said, "but I paid for this pizza and it's all mine." Mr. Dog sighed and waited for Mr. Pig to finish, and then they left the animal mall together. On the way out, a hunter spotted them and gave chase. Mr. Pig normally could have escaped the hunter but since he was weighed down by such a large meal, Mr. Pig collapsed and the hunter killed him. Mr. Dog easily escaped. Later that night while returning to the scene, Mr. Dog caught the scent of something delicious and began digging around a trash can. He found a large ham bone with lots of meat and marrow still stuck to the bone. Mr. Dog happily ate.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

5. In his sophomore year of high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. When he finally made the varsity squad, Jordan averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

What is the theme of the story? _____

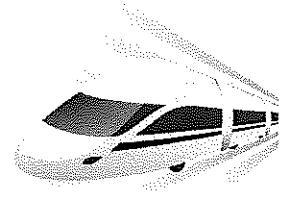
What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

Name: _____

Summary and Main Idea Worksheet 1

Directions: Read each passage and...

1. Create a title for the passage related to the main idea.
2. Accurately summarize the text.
3. Your summary must describe all key ideas from the text.
4. Do **not** include opinions or personal info in your summary.
5. Highlight or underline key ideas in each passage.



Picture this: a herd of elephants flies past you at sixty miles per hour, followed by a streak of tigers, a pride of lions, and a bunch of clowns. What do you see? It must be a circus train! One of the first uses of the circus train is credited to W.C. Coup. He partnered with P.T. Barnum in 1871 to expand the reach of their newly combined shows using locomotives. Before circus trains, these operators had to lug around all of their animals, performers, and equipment with a team of more than 600 horses. Since there were no highways, these voyages were rough and took a long time. Circuses would stop at many small towns between the large venues. Performing at many of these small towns was not very profitable. Because of these limitations, circuses could not grow as large as the imaginations of the operators. After they began using circus trains, Barnum and Coup only brought their show to large cities. These performances were much more profitable and the profits went toward creating an even bigger and better circus. Multiple rings were added and the show went on. Today, Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus still rely on the circus train to transport their astounding show, but now they use two.

1. Main idea related title for the passage:

2. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

How do you say “Holy cow” in French? The fastest thing in France may just be the fastest ground transportation in the world. The TGV (*Train à Grande Vitesse*: French for very high speed) is France’s national high speed rail service. On April 3rd, 2007, a TGV test train set a record for the fastest wheeled train, reaching 357.2 miles per hour. In mid 2011, TGV trains operated at the highest speed in passenger train service in the world, regularly reaching 200 miles per hour. But what you may find most shocking is that TGV trains run on electric power not petrol. Now if you’ll excuse me; I have a record to catch.

3. Main idea related title for the passage:

4. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Giddy-up, cowboys and girls! In the Southwest during early half of the 1800s, cows were only worth 2 or 3 dollars a piece. They roamed wild, grazed off of the open range, and were abundant. Midway through the century though, railroads were built and the nation was connected. People could suddenly ship cows in freight trains to the Northeast, where the Yankees had a growing taste for beef. Out of the blue, the same cows that were once worth a couple of bucks were now worth between twenty and forty dollars each, if you could get them to the train station. It became pretty lucrative to wrangle up a drove of cattle and herd them to the nearest train town, but it was at least as dangerous as it was profitable. Cowboys were threatened at every turn. They faced cattle rustlers, stampedes and extreme weather, but kept pushing those steers to the train station. By the turn of the century, barbed wire killed the open range and some may say the cowboy too, but it was the train that birthed him.

5. Main idea related title for the passage:

6. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Electric trolley cars or trams were once the chief mode of public transportation in the United States. Though they required tracks and electric cables to run, these trolley cars were clean and comfortable. In 1922, auto manufacturer General Motors created a special unit to replace electric trolleys with cars, trucks, and buses. Over the next decade, this group successfully lobbied for laws and regulations that made operating trams more difficult and less profitable. In 1936 General Motors created several front companies for the purpose of purchasing and dismantling the trolley car system. They received substantial investments from Firestone Tire, Standard Oil of California, Phillips Petroleum, and other parties invested in the automotive industry. Some people suspect that these parties wanted to replace trolley cars with buses to make public transportation less desirable, which would then increase automobile sales. The decline of the tram system in North America could be attributed to many things—labor strikes, the Great Depression, regulations that were unfavorable to operators—but perhaps the primary cause was having a group of powerful men from rival sectors of the auto industry working together to ensure its destruction. Fill it up, please.

7. Main idea related title for the passage:

8. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Week 4
Day 3

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

ADJECTIVES (Describing People)



ADJECTIVE	OPPOSITE	ADJECTIVE	OPPOSITE	ADJECTIVE	OPPOSITE
careful	careless	healthy	sick	shy	outgoing
fat	thin	lazy	hard-working	smart	stupid
friendly	unfriendly	old	young	special	ordinary
funny	serious	polite	impolite	strong	weak
happy	sad	rich	poor	tall	short

● *Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences. Use the words in the box above.*

1. My friend likes to exercise and eat fruits and vegetable, so he's healthy.
2. A: Are you a lazy person? B: No, in fact, I'm very _____.
3. My son Thomas is very _____. He's only five years old.
4. He should play basketball because he is _____. He's not short.
5. My sister isn't very _____. She's shy and doesn't like to meet new people.
6. He worked very hard his whole life and saved lots of money. He's _____.
7. I went on a diet last year and lost five kilograms, so now I'm _____.
8. Sarah always says, "Thank you". She's a _____ person.
9. Of course, I'm very _____! I got an A+ on all of my exams!
10. My uncle loves to tell jokes to make us laugh. He's _____.
11. My friend can lift 200 kilograms, so he's really quite _____!
12. Jennifer and Kelly always look left and right before they cross a busy street. They are _____ when they cross a busy street.
13. My classmate always smiles and has many friends. She's _____.
14. Nothing seems to make my grandfather sad. He's a _____ person.
15. Khaled can make many different animal sounds. Most people can't do that. He's _____.

Words and their Meanings

Circle the word that has the same meaning.

1. correct in all details; exact

careless

accurate

mistaken

general

2. personal belongings packed in suitcases for traveling; luggage

bill

check

note

baggage

3. prevent someone from giving full attention to something

distract

anger

upset

calm

4. unable to rest or relax as a result of anxiety or boredom

collected

composed

restless

quiet

5. very fine in texture or structure; of intricate workmanship or quality

firm

strong

delicate

healthy

6. strange or odd; unusual

peculiar

normal

vague

ordinary

7. cause a person or animal to feel sudden shock or alarm

calm

reassure

composed

startle

8. a short journey undertaken in order to deliver or collect something

errand

charge

visit

role

Words and their Meanings

Circle the word that has the same meaning.

1. easily perceived or understood; clear, self-evident, or apparent

obvious

disputable

mistaken

unclear

2. the quality of being kind and generous

greed

spirited

good

generosity

3. an act of asking politely or formally for something

answer

request

reply

comment

4. suppose to be the case, without proof

disbelieve

assume

prove

doubt

5. the outside part or uppermost layer of something

central

deep

surface

inside

6. be suspicious of; have no confidence in

mistrust

belief

certainty

confidence

7. lasting for only a limited period of time; not permanent

long

permanent

enduring

temporary

8. absolutely necessary; extremely important

essential

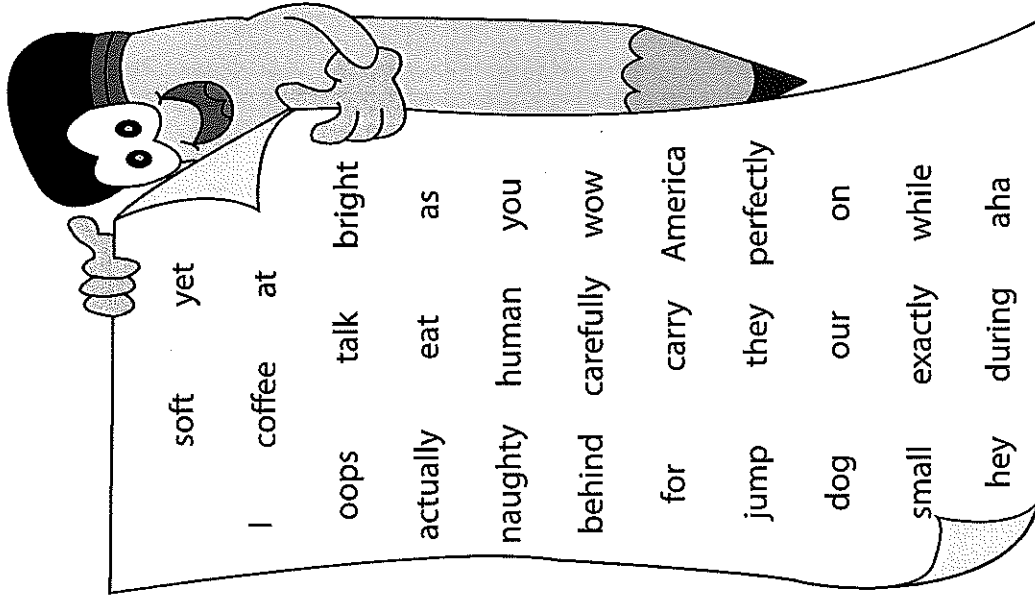
extra

trivial

voluntary

Parts of Speech - Sorting

Sort the words and write them under the appropriate categories.



Nouns

Pronouns

Verbs

Adjectives

Adverbs

Prepositions

Conjunctions

Interjections

Name : _____

Words and their Meanings

Circle the word that has the same meaning.

1. average in amount, intensity, quality, or degree

loud

moderate

bright

significant

2. make secret or new information known

disclose

conceal

cover

keep

3. capable of bending easily without breaking

firm

stern

resistant

flexible

4. point out; show

conceal

deny

mislead

indicate

5. notably large in size, amount, or extent

minute

considerable

slight

average

6. a solemn promise or undertaking

pledge

breach

hint

break

7. wild or distraught with fear, anxiety, or other emotion

balanced

excited

frantic

tranquil

8. feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep

energetic

satisfied

weary

pleased

Addition and subtraction word problems

Grade 4 Word Problems Worksheet

Read and answer each question:

The table shows the number of people visiting an art museum over 3 months.

	January	February	March
Child	28	34	56
Adult	59	?	55
Senior	15	22	?
Total	?	139	?

1. What is the total number of people that visited the art museum in January?
2. Compared to January, how many more children go to the museum in February?
3. How many adults visited the museum in February?
4. 16 more seniors visited in March than the number that visited in January and February combined. How many seniors visited the museum in March?
5. Which month had the highest number of visitors?
6. Write an equation using "x" and then solve the equation.
"In February, there were x museum pass holders admitted to the museum. 68 of the visitors did not have a museum pass."

