

Reading COMPREHENSION



POETRY: Identifying Synonyms

You now have learned enough to see
 That Cats are much like you and me
 And other people who we find
Possessed of various types of mind.
 For some are sane and some are mad
 And some are good and some are bad
 And some are better, some are worse—
 But all may be described in verse.

– From *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, by T.S. Eliot



1. The word box contains a synonym for each word that is underlined in the selection. Write the synonym in the blank where it fits best.

having	mentality	discover	reasonable
crazy	felines	tell	portrayed
poetry	virtuous	superior	diverse
humans	naughty	plenty	apprehended

You now have _____ to _____
 That _____ are much like you and me
 And other _____ who we _____
 _____ types of _____.
 For some are _____ and some are _____
 And some are _____ and some are _____
 And some are _____, some are worse –
 But all may be _____ in _____.

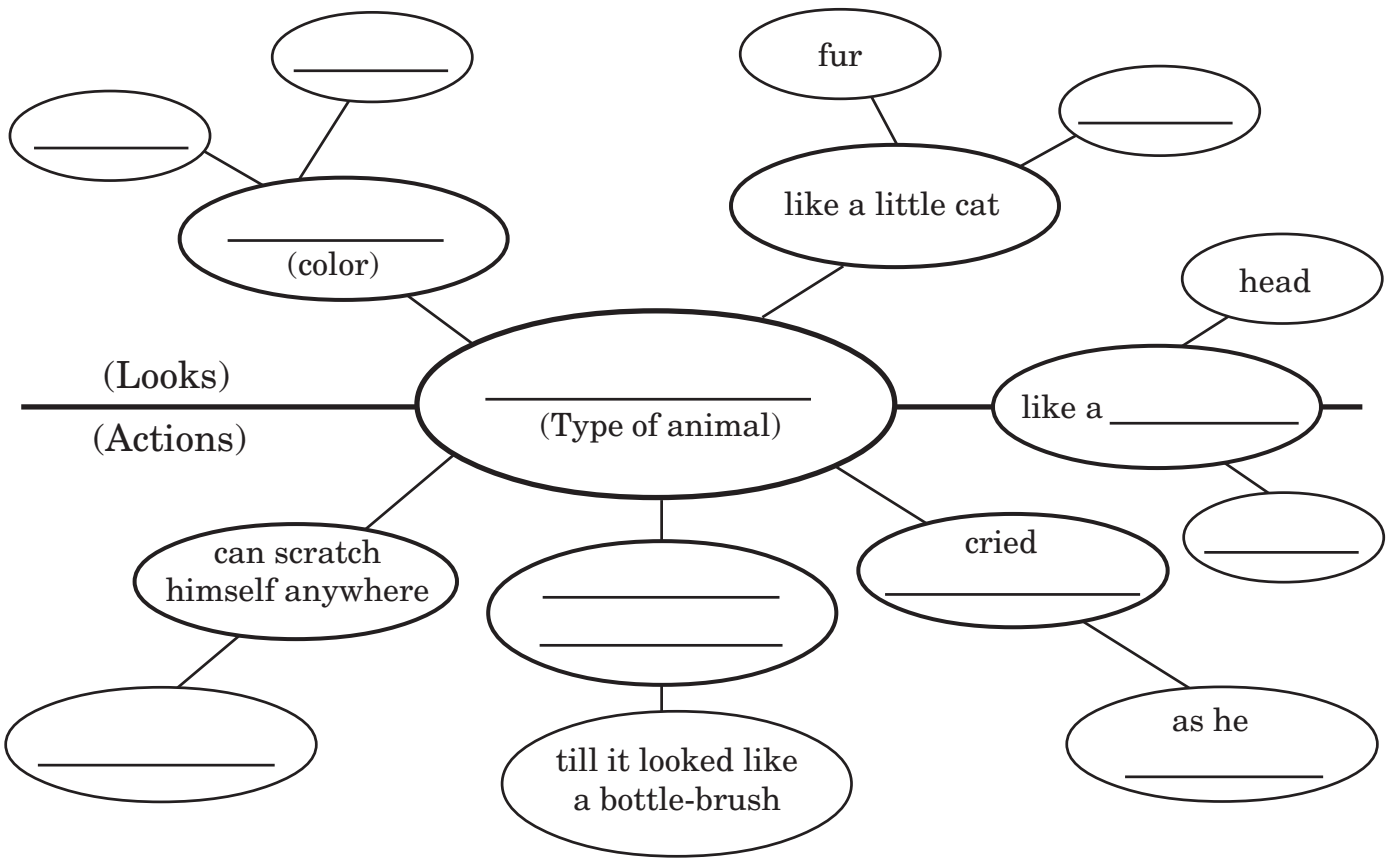
2. On the back of this sheet, draw illustrations for two of the synonyms. Then write a one or two sentence caption for your drawings. For example, to illustrate plenty you could draw a table full of food and write the caption, "Look at all that food! These people will have plenty to eat tonight."

FICTION: Graphic Organizer

He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. His eyes and the rest of his restless nose were pink; he could scratch himself anywhere he pleased with any leg, front or back, that he chose to use; he could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle-brush, and his war-cry as he scuttled through the long grass was : *Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!* – From “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi,” by Rudyard Kipling



1. Reread the selection above. Then fill in the blanks in this graphic organizer to describe the animal’s looks and actions. Some of the answers have been done for you.



2. On the back of this sheet, make a graphic organizer for an animal that lives in your area. Include at least two main descriptions of the animal’s looks and two main descriptions of its actions.

NONFICTION: Reading a Label



Here is a label you might see on the side of a box of crackers.

Brand name

What you (your body) will get out of this product
(g = grams; mg = milligrams)

The things that were put together to make this product

Manufacturer's name, address, and website



1. Scan (glance over quickly) this label to get an idea of what types of information are given. Reread it as needed to answer these questions.

1. The _____ of this product is Krispy Krackers.
2. How many crackers are in each serving? _____
There are 120 _____ in each serving.
3. Compare the fat _____g, total carbohydrate _____g, and protein _____g.
Which of these is the most? _____ Which two are equal in amount? _____
4. Read the ingredients that make up Krispy Krackers. Does this product sound good to you? Why or why not?

5. If you wanted to contact the manufacturer, would you write or e-mail? Why?

2. On the back of this sheet make and design your own label for a food product. You may use made up information. Include the five types of information shown on the label above.

NONFICTION: Reading & Comparing Labels

Lucky Stars

Nutrition Facts
 Serving size 1 cup (30g)
 Servings per container 19

Calories 120

Total Fat 1g
 Cholesterol 0 mg
 Sodium 210mg
 Carbohydrates 25g
 Dietary Fiber 1g
 Potassium 60mg
 Protein 2g

Vitamin A 15%
 Vitamin C 25%
 Vitamin B6 30%
 Iron 25%
 Zinc 20%

INGREDIENTS: OAT FLOUR, MARSHMALLOWS, SUGAR, CORN SYRUP, WHEAT STARCH, SALT, TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE, CALCIUM CARBONATE, VITAMIN C, ZINC, IRON, ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR, VITAMIN E, ARTIFICIAL COLOR

Amish Mills®
 East Hanover, NJ 07936
 MADE IN THE USA

CORN SNAPS

Nutrition Facts
 Serving size 1 cup (30g)
 Servings per container 18

Calories 220

Total Fat 1g
 Cholesterol 0 mg
 Sodium 300mg
 Carbohydrates 48g
 Dietary Fiber 7g
 Potassium 200mg
 Protein 5g

Vitamin A 0%
 Vitamin C 10%
 Vitamin B6 25%
 Iron 90%
 Zinc 25%

INGREDIENTS: MILLED YELLOW CORN, SUGAR, RICE BRAN, CORN BRAN, BROWN SUGAR, WHEAT, CITRIC ACID, BHT (A PRESERVATIVE), SALT, VANILLIN (AN ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR), MALT SYRUP, FOLIC ACID, IRON, ARTIFICIAL COLOR

Schillings Grain Co.
 General Offices
 Minneapolis, MN 55440

Happy-O's

Nutrition Facts
 Serving size 1 cup (34g)
 Servings per container 16

Calories 130

Total Fat 1.5g
 Cholesterol 0 mg
 Sodium 250mg
 Carbohydrates 28g
 Dietary Fiber 1g
 Potassium 0mg
 Protein 3g

Vitamin A 25%
 Vitamin C 25%
 Vitamin B6 25%
 Iron 25%
 Zinc 15%

INGREDIENTS: OAT FLOUR, MALT, SUGAR, WHEAT STARCH, HONEY, BROWN SUGAR, ALMONDS, SALT, CALCIUM CARBONATE, TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE, REDUCED IRON, SODIUM ASCORBATE, FOLIC ACID, THIAMIN MONONITRATE

Judy Leigh Products™
 Boise, ID 83726
 1-(800)-555-OATS

1. Compare these cereals by filling in the chart below. Refer back to the labels as you work.

	cereal name	calories	serving size	carbo- hydrates	protein	fat
1.						
2.						
3.						

2. Answer the following questions to compare the three cereals. Write your answers on the back of this sheet. (You may refer to the labels and the chart for your answers).

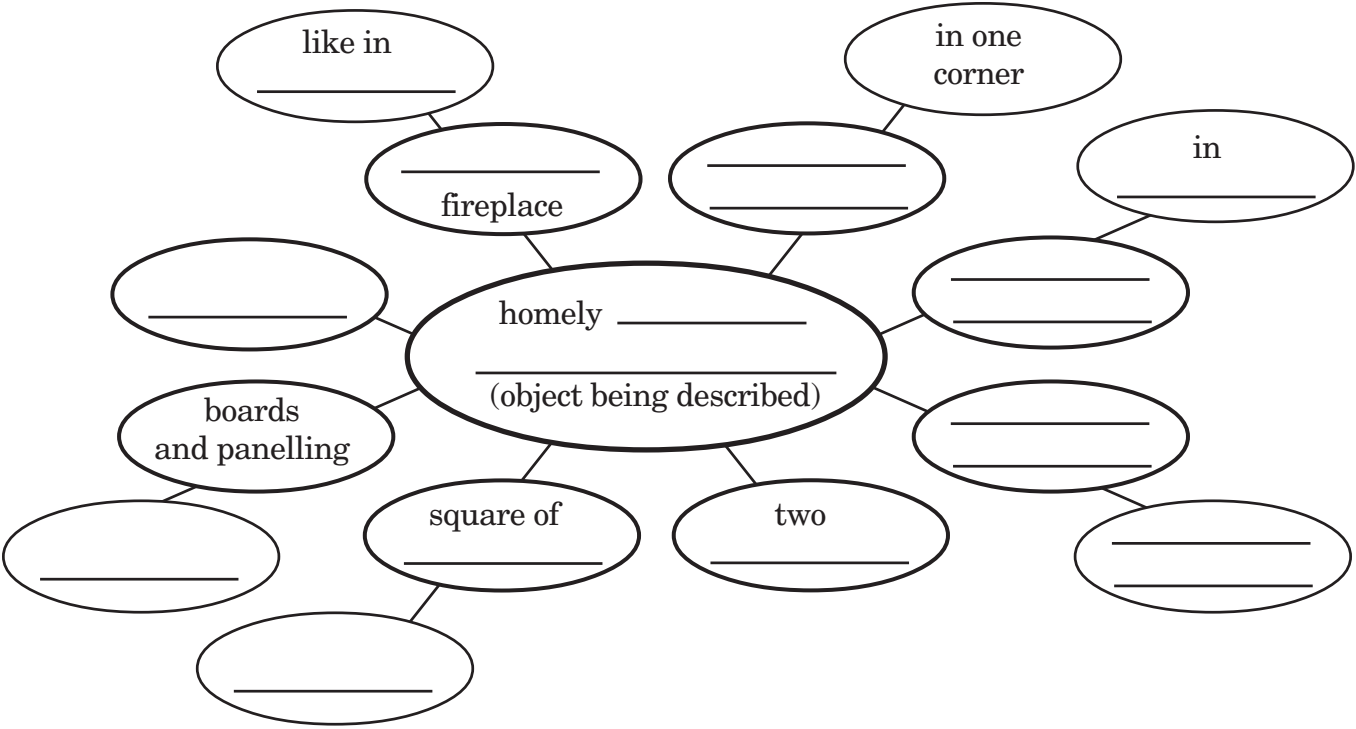
1. Which cereal do you think is most nutritious? Why?
2. If you were on a diet to lose weight, which would you choose? Why?
3. What else would you want to know before you would try one of these? Why?

FICTION: Graphic Organizer

It was a homely little room, with a low ceiling and a gaping fireplace, after the fashion of old country-houses. A brown chest of drawers stood in one corner, a narrow white-counterpaned bed in another, and a dressing table on the left-hand side of the window. These articles, with two small wicker-work chairs, made up all the furniture in the room save for a square of Wilton carpet in the centre. The boards round and the panelling of the walls were of brown, worm-eaten oak, so old and discoloured that it may have dated from the original building of the house. Holmes drew one of the chairs into a corner and sat silent, while his eyes travelled round and round and up and down, taking in every detail of the apartment. – From *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



1. Reread the selection above. Fill in the graphic organizer to describe the object Mr. Holmes is studying. Some of the answers have been done for you.



2. On the back of this sheet, list the good and bad features of the room. Briefly explain why you feel each is good or bad.

NONFICTION: Comprehension

(Maya Angelou’s 3-year-old brother, Bailey, was watching 2-year-old Maya learn to walk.)

Displeased at my stumbling motions, he was supposed to have said, “This is my sister. I have to teach her to walk.” They also told me how I got the name “My.” After Bailey learned definitely that I was his sister, he refused to call me Marguerite, but rather addressed me each time as “Mya sister,” and in later more articulate years, after the need for brevity had shortened the appellation to “My,” it was elaborated into “Maya.” – From *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou



1. Reread carefully to fill in the names that she has used. Next to each nickname tell the reason for it. The first one has been done for you.

- 1. Marguerite is her given name
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

2. Based on the selection, answer these questions using complete sentences.

- 1. How do you think Bailey feels about his sister?

- 2. Why do you think Bailey refused to call her Marguerite?

- 3. Give two or three reasons Ms. Angelou might go by Maya rather than Marguerite.

- 4. Which one do you think is most likely to be correct? Why?

NONFICTION: Noting Detail

Have you heard the expression, “It’s the real McCoy?” It means “it’s genuine” or “it’s the best.” The expression comes from the pioneering work of an African-American engineer, Elijah McCoy.

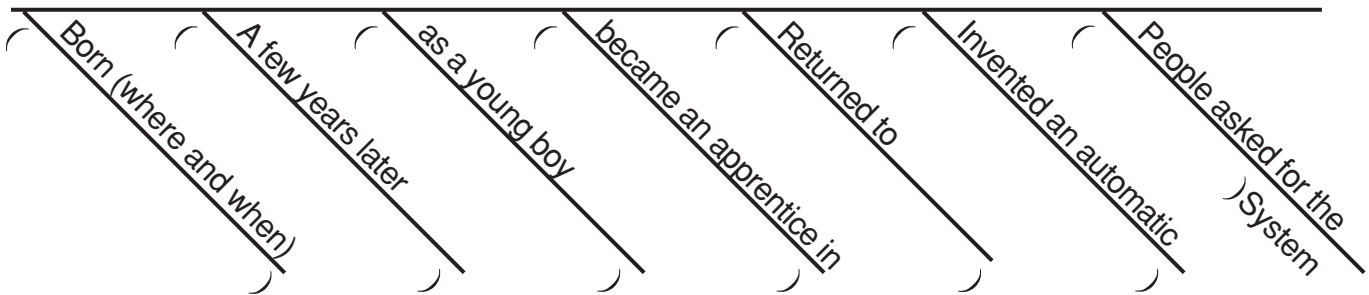
Born to fugitive slaves on May 2, 1844, McCoy was always interested in machinery. Though he was born in Canada, his family returned to the U.S. a few years later. As a boy, he decided to go to Scotland and serve as an apprentice in mechanical engineering.

When he returned to America to work, he invented a “lubricating cup” for machines that would drip automatically. This meant that businesses like factories and trains didn’t have to shut down for lubrication (oiling) as they had before. This invention was so valuable that people started demanding the “McCoy system” for all heavy-duty machinery. They insisted on the real McCoy!



1. Give an example of how you might use the expression, “It’s the real McCoy.”

2. Fill in the timeline for Elijah McCoy’s life.



3. Reread the selection to tell the following information about Elijah McCoy.
His interest was: _____

The three countries he lived in were: _____

His parents were: _____

POETRY: Vocabulary

Let music swell the breeze
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let all that breathe partake
Let all the mortal tongues awake
Let rocks their silence break
The sound prolong.
– From "America," by Samuel Smith



1. Match the words from this song to their definitions. To check your matches refer to the selection.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ___ 1. swell | a. extend in time |
| ___ 2. ring | b. participate in |
| ___ 3. partake | c. to fill (as to be filled with pride, etc.) |
| ___ 4. mortal | d. to be full of sound |
| ___ 5. prolong | e. human |

2. Each line of this song rhymes with at least one other line. Number the lines from 1 to 7. Then list the lines and words that go together. Check your answers by reading them aloud. Listen to see if they rhyme.

Lines	Rhyming Words
<u>1 & 2</u>	<u>breeze and</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Reread the selection and underline the word you think is the most important. Tell why you chose that word.

NONFICTION: Colloquialisms

We were alert to the gap separating the written word from the colloquial. We learned to slide out of one language and into another without being conscious of the effort. At school, in a given situation, we might respond with “That’s not unusual.” But in the street meeting with the same situation we easily said, “It be’s like that sometimes.” – From *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou



1. In a small group, read the following quotes from the same book. Think about what the author said in the selection above to help you figure out the meaning of each. Rewrite the quotes using standard English.

1. “What you looking at me for?”

2. “I’m gonna work so fast today I’m gonna make you look like you standing still.”

3. “Just gimme a coupla them.”

4. “I’m on duty. Gotta be getting back.”

5. “What you reckon it mean?”

6. “I done tole you.”

7. “If you sure you wasn’t dreaming...”

8. “I ain’t got much...but I give that child all I have.”

9. “Don’t pay her no mind...”

10. “Naw, Helen, you ain’t standing like her. This here’s it.”

2. Look up “colloquial.” On the back, write its meaning in your own words.