

Grade Four

Show Me What You Know

Directions: Read the *excerpt* from The Fire Cat below. Then answer the questions that follow. Draw a heart above your last name.

Berger, Melvin. *Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet*. New York: Scholastic, 1992. (1992)

Mars is very cold and very dry. Scattered across the surface are many giant volcanoes. Lava covers much of the land.

In Mars' northern half, or hemisphere, is a huge raised area. It is about 2,500 miles wide. Astronomers call this the Great Tharsis Bulge. There are four mammoth volcanoes on the Great Tharsis Bulge. The largest one is Mount Olympus, or Olympus Mons. It is the biggest mountain on Mars. Some think it may be the largest mountain in the entire solar system.

Mount Olympus is 15 miles high. At its peak is a 50 mile wide basin. Its base is 375 miles across. That's nearly as big as the state of Texas!

Mauna Loa, in Hawaii, is the largest volcano on earth. Yet, compared to Mount Olympus, Mauna Loa looks like a little hill. The Hawaiian volcano is only 5. miles high. Its base, on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, is just 124 miles wide.

Each of the three other volcanoes in the Great Tharsis Bulge are over 10 miles high. They are named Arsia Mons, Pavonis Mons, and Ascraeus Mons.

From: NASA's illustrated fact sheet on Mars:

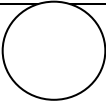
http://www.nasa.gov/worldbook/mars_worldbook.html

1. If you could rename the text, what would you call it? (Monday's lesson)

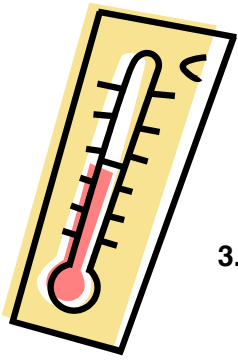
_____ /2

- Title connects to the main idea
- Most paragraphs are connected to the title

2. If you could write one word (and it can't be MARS) that would summarize the above selection, what would it be? In your explanation, cite at least three examples from the text. (Tuesday's lesson)

- The one word summary represents a main idea
- Three pieces of textual reference cited (can be paraphrased)



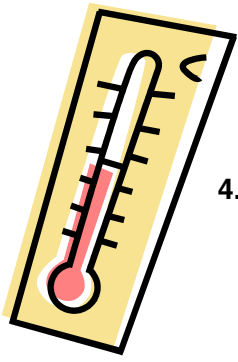
3. Why is the following not a good summary of the above text? (Wednesday's lesson)

Mars is amazing. It is known as the Red Planet. There are many holes on Mars. Mars is a planet near Earth. Mars is 124 miles wide.

- Gave at least two reasons why the above summary is not effective
- Referenced the text

/3



4. Create a four sentence summary of the excerpt on page one. Be sure to include a topic sentence.

○	

- Topic sentence is the main idea of the passage
- Summarizes key points from the article
- Avoids fun facts

/3

May I Have Some More Cake, Please?

Directions: Read the following *excerpt from Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber*.

Great whirling storms roar out of the oceans in many parts of the world. They are called by several names—hurricane, typhoon, and cyclone are the three most familiar ones. But no matter what they are called, they are all the same sort of storm. They are born in the same way, in tropical waters. They develop the same way, feeding on warm, moist air.

And they do the same kind of damage, both ashore and at sea. Other storms may cover a bigger area or have higher winds, but none can match both the size and the fury of hurricanes. They are earth's mightiest storms.

Like all storms, they take place in the atmosphere, the envelope of air that surrounds the earth and presses on its surface. The pressure at any one place is always changing. There are days when air is sinking and the atmosphere presses harder on the surface. These are the times of high pressure. There are days when a lot of air is rising and the atmosphere does not press down as hard. These are times of low pressure. Low-pressure areas over warm oceans give birth to hurricanes.

From: HURRICANES: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST STORMS by Patricia Lauber. Copyright © 1996 by Patricia Lauber.

6. If you could rename the text, what would you call it? (Monday's lesson)

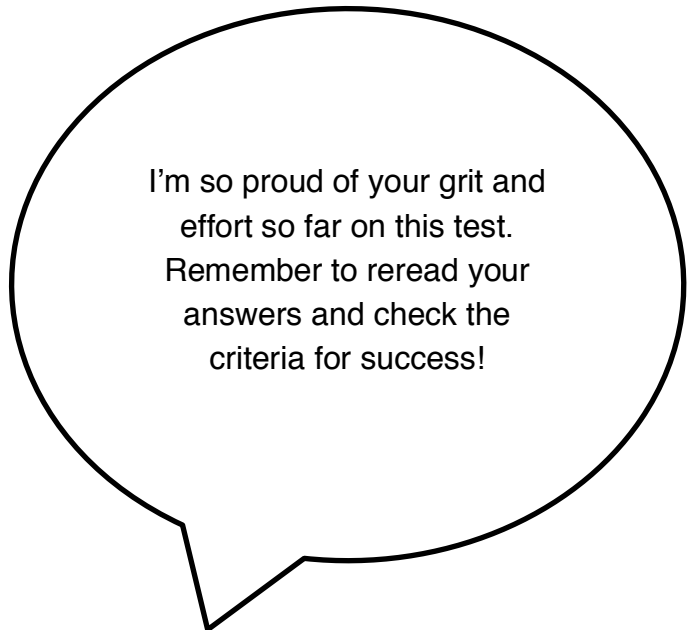
_____ /2

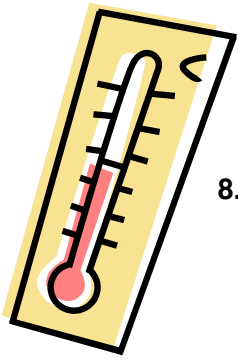
- Title connects to the main idea
- Most paragraphs are connected to the title

7. If you could write one word that would summarize the above selection, what would it be? In your explanation, cite at least three examples from the text. (Tuesday's lesson)

○	

- The one word summary represents a main idea
- Three pieces of textual reference cited (can be paraphrased)





8. Create a four sentence summary of the excerpt on page five. Be sure to include a topic sentence.

○	

- Topic sentence is the main idea of the passage
- Summarizes key points from the article
- Avoids fun facts

/3

7. Draw a picture of what you think the text looks like in the blank space near the poem. You may use color. After drawing a picture, write a question that you now have about the text here:

What is confusing about the text?

- Picture shows details from the poem
- Question is relevant to the text
- Question shares a confusion

/3



Review a Few

9. Draw a picture of your favorite animal and write a caption beneath.

/1

10. Write a sentence personifying a hammer.

/2

Take That and Rewind it Back

From the *Unicorn Chronicles* by Bruce Coville. Read the following question.

Start patting your head. Then answer the questions that follow.

"Take it," said her grandmother sternly. "Put it on. You may need it before this is over."

"Before what is over?"

"No time to talk," hissed her grandmother. "Take it!"

Trying not to make a sound, Cara placed her books on the pew. Then, reluctantly, she closed her hand over the bauble. Her fingers began to tingle.

Beneath the amulet's crystal lid lay a tightly coiled strand of white hair. "It came from a unicorn's mane," her grandmother had told her when she was little, and Cara had believed it until sometime around second grade, when she finally understood that unicorns were imaginary.

"What will I need it for?" she asked as she slipped the chain over her head. Grandmother Morris leaned forward and rubbed her brow with her fingertips. "Do you think I'm crazy?" she whispered.

Cara felt another twinge of fear. What kind of question is that? She wondered. Before she could decide how to answer, they heard a step in the hall, followed by the creak - ever so slight - of a door swinging open. It was the same door, Cara was sure, that they themselves had come through when they entered the sanctuary.

Silence.

Was their hunter standing there, waiting for them?

11. Which example of author's craft does Coville use?

- a. humor
- b. suspense
- c. red herring

/2

Underline the example/s on the previous page

12. What is the most likely genre of the above excerpt?

- a. historical fiction
- b. science fiction
- c. realistic fiction
- d. nonfiction

/2

How do you know? **Circle** the word that gave you your biggest clue.

Soar to a Four

Read the following flyer then answer the questions that follow. For each question, underline where you found the proof in the passage.

School Bake Sale

Friday, March 10

We are raising money for the seventh grade's field trip to Philadelphia in April. If you want to help, please read the directions.

1. At the basketball game this Friday against the Richmond Raiders, there will be a bake sale to benefit the seventh grade.
2. At a table outside of the gym, members of the student council will sell the baked goods that you make. They will also be recruiting students to help with a bottle drive in late March.
3. The sale begins at 6:00 PM and the game starts at 7:00 PM. Bring your baked goods to Mr. Dunbar by 5:00 PM on Friday.
4. Please bring: cookies, cakes, fudge, hard candy, chocolate, or anything else that can be separated easily and sold for twenty-five or fifty cents. No whole pies!
5. Write your name on a piece of masking tape and attach it to the bottom of your container.

6. If you bring your baked goods in a container that you want to bring back home, please pick the container up at the end of the game Friday. If you do not get the container that night, we will throw it away.

7. Encourage your friends and family to attend the game and support the school!

8. See Mr. Dunbar if you have any questions.

13. If you don't pick up or label your container, it might be-

- e. thrown away
- f. sold
- g. stolen
- h. given away

14. Where should you bring your baked goods?

- a. to the auditorium
- b. to Mr. Dunbar
- c. to the basketball team
- d. to the gym

15. The guidelines for being a part of the school bake sale also promote

- e. being on the student council
- f. working on the bottle drive
- g. playing sports
- h. student involvement

16. If you are interested in being a part of the bottle drive you should-

- a. go to the game on Friday
- b. see a member of the student council
- c. donate baked goods to sell
- d. join the basketball team

17. This article is organized by

- a. most important to least important
- b. step by step instructions
- c. order of events
- d. a question followed by an answer

18. What are two positive effects of having a school bake sale?

Survey Says

1. How has your reading improved this past year?

<input type="radio"/>	

2. How can you improve your reading next week?

3. What book are you dying to read next?

4. On a scale of 1-5, rank how you are doing on your current grow goal _____. Why?