

Saving the Elephants

By ReadWorks

The country of Thailand is known for many things: its beaches, its food, its happy people (it's sometimes called "The Land of Smiles"), and of course, its elephants. The northern part of Thailand is famous for numerous camps, which tourists can visit to interact with the animals. However, there are two drastically different types of camps in the country: those built for entertaining tourists, and those built for saving elephants. The latter are typically called sanctuaries, as they usually rehabilitate animals that have been beaten and tortured at tourist camps.

Even before these tourist camps became popular, elephants suffered at the hands of humans in Thailand and all over Asia. According to the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, elephants were often used for logging prior to 1989, when the government banned the practice. Local farmers would force elephants to haul heavy logs long distances, resulting in many animal injuries and sometimes even deaths. When it became illegal for Thais to use elephants for logging, some turned to other industries to exploit these animals. Elephants became extremely popular in tourism, as visitors from around the world are often enthralled by animals they normally do not get to see.

Mahouts, or elephant trainers, can make relatively large sums of money by offering elephant rides or teaching their elephants to do complex tricks. Paintings by elephants became very popular around 2008, when a video was posted online of a baby elephant using its trunk to hold a paintbrush and paint strokes across a blank canvas. Camps around Thailand began to train their own elephants to do the same, resulting in the increased exploitation of the gentle animal. The Conservation Center says that more than half of Thailand's 3,000 or so elephants likely work in the tourism industry.

Not all tourist camps mistreat their elephants. Most tourist camps offer elephant rides to visitors, but those that care for the animals properly do not put a seat on the elephant's

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are elephant sanctuaries?

- A camps built for entertaining tourists
- B camps built for saving elephants
- C places where elephants are beaten
- D places where elephants are trained to do tricks

2. In this text, the author draws a contrast. What does the author contrast with the treatment of elephants in Thai sanctuaries?

- A the treatment of elephants in other countries
- B the treatment of humans by elephants
- C the treatment of elephants at some tourist camps
- D the treatment of elephants by visitors from foreign countries

3. Elephant trainers at tourist camps have a convincing reason to take advantage of elephants. What evidence from the text best supports this conclusion?

- A Mahouts can make a lot of money by offering elephant rides or teaching their elephants to do tricks.
- B Harnesses made from wood can severely hurt an elephant's back if they are not fitted and worn properly.
- C The Conservation Center says that more than half of Thailand's 3,000 or so elephants likely work in the tourism industry.
- D One elephant at Boon Lott sanctuary used to wear a harness for twenty hours a day for tourist rides.

4. How does the author of this text most likely feel about the treatment of many elephants in the tourism industry?

- A The author most likely disapproves of it, and thinks it is often cruel and unfair to elephants.
- B The author most likely approves of it because of its importance to the Thai economy.
- C The author most likely cannot decide whether to support or oppose the tourism industry's treatment of elephants.
- D The author most likely feels that the treatment of elephants by the tourism industry is bad, but necessary.

8. Some mahouts practice "phajaan" to domesticate elephants for camps. What does "phajaan" mean?

9. Why can "taxi seats" be a problem for elephants? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Explain how the tourism industry in Thailand created a need for elephant sanctuaries. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Inferences Worksheet 4

Directions: Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. **Explain your answer by referencing the text.**

Mr. Thomas sat on the front porch of his house in a bathrobe and bunny slippers with his head in his hands. He was holding the daily newspaper. The sun shined brightly in the sky. His neighbors were coming out of their houses and getting in their cars. Mr. Thomas sighed. His neighbor Mr. Rosencrantz stepped out on his porch and saw Mr. Thomas. "Did it again, huh?" said Mr. Rosencrantz. Mr. Thomas replied, "Yep." Mr. Rosencrantz chuckled and said, "Here, Mr. Thomas, you can use my cell phone. I could even keep a key over here if you wanted." Tom thankfully grabbed the cell phone and called his wife. "Honey, I did it again." Mr. Rosencrantz heard Mrs. Thomas yelling at Mr. Thomas in a distorted high-pitched squeal. "Yes, dear. I'm so sorry. I'll see you soon," Mr. Thomas returned the phone, sighed deeply, and ran his fingers through his hair.

1. What is the thing that Mr. Thomas "did again"? _____

How do you know this?

2. Why will Mr. Thomas see Mrs. Thomas soon? _____

How do you know this?

Mr. Ericson was a manager at a small insurance company in Minnesota. One cold winter day, April McKenzie, one of his employees, approached him about some time off from work. "This job is very important to me, Mr. Ericson, but I've been called into jury duty. When my government asks for my help, I have to answer the call." Mr. Ericson rubbed his forehead. "We really need you here, April, but the government needs you more. Take the time. We'll be alright." Mr. Ericson had thought that they needed her there at the office, but they managed fine without her. When April returned a week later, Mr. Ericson noticed that most of her skin was bright shade of red except for around her eyes. Pale white circles ran from the top of her eyebrows to the bottom of her cheeks. These pale circles were surrounded by sunburned flesh. That's when Mr. Ericson knew. "April, step into my office. There are some things we need to discuss," Mr. Ericson said ominously.

3. Where was April? _____

How do you know this?

4. What does Mr. Ericson want to talk about with April? _____

How do you know this?

5. Why does April have white circles around her eyes? _____

How do you know this?

Name: _____

Inferences Worksheet 3

Directions: Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. **Explain your answer by referencing the text.**

Ryan was looking forward to sleeping over at his friend Robert's house. Though they had been classmates for a while, the two had only recently become good friends. Ryan packed up his sleeping bag, a pillow, and a few of his favorite toys and games, and then his mom dropped him off at Robert's. Robert met Ryan on the porch and the two did their secret handshake and started playing right away. First they played pirates in Robert's tree fort. Next they played ninjas in the driveway. Then it started getting dark and they went inside of Robert's house. As soon as they walked in the house, Ryan's eyes starting getting red and itchy. He saw a big orange cat sitting on the couch. Then he started sneezing uncontrollably. "I'm sorry, Robert. It's been a lot of fun, but I have to call my mom."

1. Why do Ryan's eyes get red and itchy when he walks into Robert's house? _____

How do you know this?

2. Why does Ryan want to call his mother? _____

How do you know this?

"William, don't forget your towel!" Mom shouted as she applied sunblock on the baby. William threw the folding chairs in the back of the minivan and shouted through the garage door, "OK Mom!" He then ran up and grabbed his towel. "Georgie!" William shouted. There was no response. Mom packed the baby up into the car seat. "William, can you help me with his umbrella?" William ran down the stairs, almost tripping over a chew toy, and then he helped his mother load the large umbrella in the minivan. "Mom, I can't find Georgie," William said. His mother shrugged and replied, "That's OK, William. He probably shouldn't come with us anyway."

3. Where are Mom and William going? _____

How do you know this?

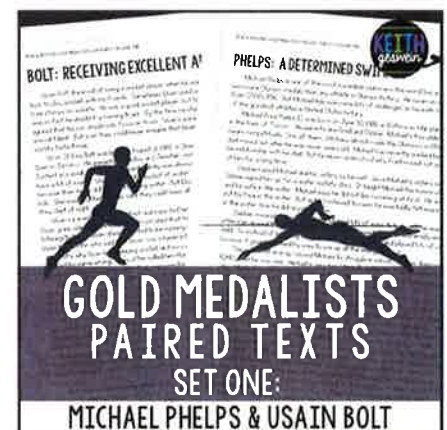
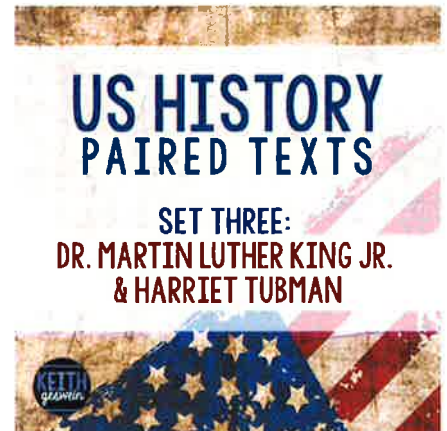
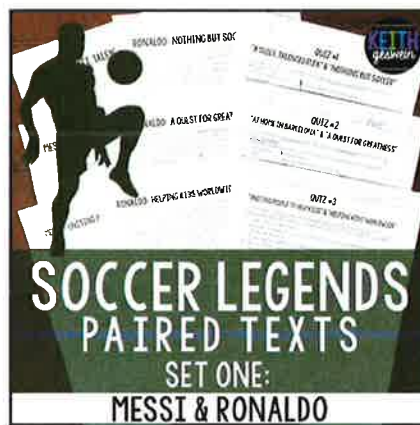
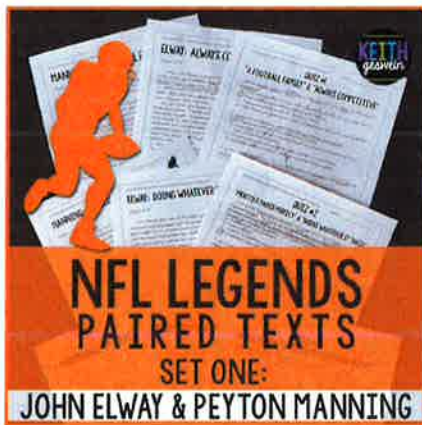
4. Who is Georgie? _____

How do you know this?

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DOUGLAS: GOLDEN PERFORMANCES



beam at nationals, Gabby performed flawlessly during the 2012 Olympic Trials. She finished first in the all-around competition and in the uneven bars. After the Olympic Trials, Karolyi admitted that she has never seen someone improve as quickly as Gabby, who easily earned a spot on the 2012 US Olympic team. Gabby became the first African American to compete with the US Olympic gymnastics team since Dominique Dawes in 2000.

Gabby was thrilled to fulfill her dream of competing in the Olympics. But it wasn't enough for her just to get there. She wanted to win a gold medal. Gabby was part of an amazing US team nicknamed "The Fierce Five." Gabby said the team bonded extremely well, which helped them win gold medal in the team competition for the first time since 1996. Everyone on the team performed flawlessly, as the US was comfortably ahead during the entire competition. They finished over five points ahead of Russia, which is a huge margin in Olympic gymnastics. US coach John Geddart said "The Fierce Five" was the best gymnastics team of all time.

Gabby's incredible Olympic performance continued during the individual all-around competition. This involves gymnasts competing in all four events, which makes it one of the most coveted medals to win. Gabby was outstanding in every event. She started by nailing her routine on the vault, which was a complex one that only a few gymnasts in the world could do. Then she earned a good score on the uneven bars. All of her tumbling moves on the four-inch wide balance beam were solid. Finally, she dazzled the crowd with a lively floor routine to win the gold medal in the all-around competition. It was the first time an African American won gold in the all-around.

Liang did not want Gabby to look at the scoreboard during the all-around competition. Even though she took a quick peek near the end, Gabby understood Liang's message of staying focused on her routines and not the other competitors. Gabby said her attitude was to believe that she could dominate every event she competed in. As a result, Gabby won two gold medals at the Olympics.

It's very difficult for gymnasts to compete in two Olympics since they are four years apart. Only six American gymnasts have competed in more than one Olympics since 1980. But Gabby was able to earn a spot on the 2016 US Olympic team. Her leadership and skill on the uneven bars persuaded the coaches to select her. Gabby was solid during the team competition in Rio de Janeiro and helped the US win another gold medal in the team competition. They won in dominating fashion, finishing nearly ten points ahead of China.

While Gabby is working on perfecting some of her routines, she feels like she is stronger mentally and physically than she was in 2012. She sometimes FaceTimes her mom and jokes, "Mom, look at my arms!" because she is so strong. Gabby's determination and leadership helped keep the US as the world's best during the 2016 Olympics.

BILES: DOMINATING GYMNASTICS



Simone also dominated during the 2014 and 2015 World Championships. She led the US to gold medals in the team events both years, as the US established itself as the world's best team. But Simone was the star of the show both years.

She won gold in the all-around both times, making her the first female gymnast to win gold in the all-around at three straight World Championships. She also won gold on balance beam and floor exercise at the World Championships in 2014 and 2015.

She had a long layoff before her next competition, which was the Pacific Rim Championships in April 2016. But the long layoff did not affect Simone. Even though she tried a new routine on floor, she still won gold in the all-around. She also won gold on floor, vault, and balance beam. Even after such a dominating performance, Simone said she was eager to watch the video of her routines because she knew there were things she could improve.

Anyone who watches Simone is amazed at her ability. Crowds love how insanely high she jumps during her floor routines. During the Pacific Rim in 2016, the television announcer said, "She could do her floor routine to 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' and still win."

Simone proved she was the world's best gymnast at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. She became the first American gymnast to win four gold medals at one Olympics. She won the all-around by over two points, which is a huge margin in gymnastics. She also won a bronze, which means she won medals in all five events she competed in. She was selected to carry the US flag into the closing ceremony. Simone was so famous by the end of the Olympics that everyone wanted to take a selfie with her. So many athletes kept stopping Simone to take a selfie with her while she was going into the stadium that they had to delay the closing ceremony!

Former gymnasts are stunned at how good Simone is. Shannon Miller won five medals at the 1992 Olympics, then two more in 1996. Even she can't believe that Simone is so good in every event. Shannon said, "Simone is the one everyone is trying to catch up with. She takes these very intricate, demanding skills and makes them look so incredibly easy."

She also has a good sense of humor. During the medal ceremony at the 2013 World Championships, all three of the medal winners were given a bouquet of flowers to hold while they received their medals. Another girl told Simone that there was a bee on her bouquet of flowers. Even though the ceremony was about to start, Simone frantically tried to shake the bee off. She threw her bouquet on the ground and ran around the medal stand trying to escape the bee. The other girls were laughing at Simone, who also had a good laugh about it once the bee flew away.

But no one is going to be laughing at Simone any longer after she completed one of the most incredible performances by any gymnast in Olympic history.

Name _____

Period _____

Figurative Language Review Worksheet

Directions: Read each sentence below. Each item contains a figure of speech with an accompanying question. Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

_____ 1. Colin's drinking straw bent like a tiny elbow, causing the last of the orange juice to gurgle as it slipped past.

The comparison of Collin's drinking straw to an elbow is an example of (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) an idiom.

_____ 2. Arable's desk is covered with about a million old papers and magazines.

The figure of speech in the above sentence is (A) a simile, (B) a hyperbole, (C) personification, (D) an idiom.

_____ 3. Falling snow slowly wrapped the whole neighborhood in a blanket of white.

This sentence contains an example of (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) an idiom, (D) personification.

_____ 4. It was so cold that if you spit, the slob would be an ice cube before it hit the ground. It was about a zillion degrees below zero. (*The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis)

Which of the following phrases from the passage is a hyperbole? (A) a zillion degrees below zero, (B) if you spit, (C) hit the ground, (D) It was so cold.

_____ 5. The wind was as loud as a freight train roaring past the windows.

Which phrase, if substituted for the underlined simile in the sentence, would change it to a metaphor? (A) quickly, (B) a loud freight train, (C) blowing like a freight train, (D) like a monster.

_____ 6. Hazardous driving conditions threw cold water on our week-end plans.

Threw cold water on is (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) an idiom

_____ 7. A pot of soup sat on the stove top bubbling and steaming _____.

Which of the following phrases can be placed in the blank above so that the sentence illustrates the use of a *simile*? (A) loudly, (B) like a small volcano, (C) out of the pot and down the sides, (D) for several hours.

_____ 8. Uncle Otis is a Scrooge about sharing his stash of chocolate covered cherries.

According to the *metaphor* above, Uncle Otis (A) doesn't like candy, (B) gives most of his candy away, (C) will share with a few chosen people, (D) is stingy about sharing his supply of candy.

_____ 9. Smiling politely and introducing yourself is a good way to break the ice in a room full of strangers.

Which phrase could be substituted for the idiom *break the ice* in the above sentence without changing its meaning?

(A) get attention, (B) get over being shy, (C) make a lot of new friends, (D) fool people.

_____ 10. Five hundred jigsaw puzzle pieces fell to the floor like a blizzard.

The figure of speech in the above sentence is (A) an idiom, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) personification.

_____ 11. All bundled up in his ski gear, Mason was _____.



Name _____

Figurative Language Mystery Picture

Directions: Read each sentence below. In the blank provided, name the type of figurative language. Then color in the graph according to the key.

S - simile **M** - metaphor **H** - hyperbole
P - personification **I** - idiom

- A. _____ My mom told me that this video game costs an arm and a leg.
- B. _____ The leaves danced around the yard.
- C. _____ His eyes were as blue as the ocean.
- D. _____ The ground was so hot that it melted the soles of my shoes.
- E. _____ The stars were sparkly jewels.
- F. _____ The new carpet was as soft as a pillow.
- G. _____ Susie said that the test was a piece of cake.
- H. _____ The ribbons on the gift are a rainbow.
- I. _____ The shark teeth are like daggers.
- J. _____ Mr. and Mrs. Jones were pleased that they saw eye to eye about replacing the old washing machine.
- K. _____ The flowers looked happily toward the sun.
- L. _____ The engine purred like a cat.
- M. _____ Uncle Dave ate a ton of potato chips.
- N. _____ The ocean wave was a ferocious monster.
- O. _____ The sun peeked through the window and demanded that I wake up.
- P. _____ There are toothpicks wider than my Aunt Ginny.
- Q. _____ The snow was a plush blanket spread over the ground.
- R. _____ The roller coaster shook me up so much that my stomach traded places with my throat.
- S. _____ The leaves shivered in the cold wind.
- T. _____ The clouds are cotton balls.
- U. _____ The aroma of fresh-baked apple pie invited me inside.
- V. _____ After raining all day, the road was like a pool.
- W. _____ The vacant lot was a barren desert.

X	Y	Z	Y	Z	X	E	X	Y	Z	Y	Z	X
Y	Z	X	Z	Y	H	Q	T	X	Z	X	Y	Z
Y	X	Z	C	I	T	W	N	L	C	Z	Y	Y
X	Z	Y	V	D	F	E	I	M	V	Y	X	Z
Z	Y	H	W	L	R	A	P	F	Q	T	Z	Y
Y	E	T	Q	T	G	P	G	E	W	E	Q	Z
Z	X	W	N	C	M	J	D	I	N	H	Z	X
Y	Z	Y	V	R	I	T	V	P	C	Y	Z	Y
Z	X	Y	L	C	N	E	Q	F	L	Z	Y	Z
Y	Y	Z	X	Z	T	W	H	Z	Y	Y	X	Y
Z	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Q	X	B	X	Z	Y	Z
X	Z	Z	Y	K	Z	O	S	Y	Z	Y	Z	X
Z	Y	X	Y	X	B	U	Y	X	Y	Y	X	Y
X	Z	Y	Z	Z	Y	S	Z	Y	Z	Y	Z	Z
O	B	S	K	U	B	S	O	K	U	S	B	K

KEY:

simile - pink

metaphor - purple

personification - green

hyperbole - yellow

idiom - orange

X, Y, Z - light blue

Name: _____

Theme Worksheet 3

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. Barry liked playing board games, but he hated losing. He hated losing so much that he would do whatever it took to win, even bending or breaking the rules. He'd steal money from the bank and hide it under the couch cushions. He'd skip spaces while he was moving around the board. He'd shortchange others money that they were owed and argue with them about it. Barry's techniques were effective. He did win most of the games that he played, but the people whom he played with were his friends and family, and it didn't take too long until they caught on to Barry's tricks. They tried to tell Barry to stop cheating. They said that the game wasn't any fun when he cheated, but he didn't listen. He continued with his treacherous style of gameplay, until nobody would play with him anymore. Barry may have won a lot of games, but at what cost?

What is the theme of the story? _____

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

2. It was Sean's first day at a new high school. Most of the students had been nice to him, until he got into gym class. The coach had assigned two captains, Mike and Malik, and they were picking teams from the boys in Sean's class. As Mike and Malik made their picks, it became pretty clear to Sean who was popular and who was not. Since Sean was short for his age, Mike and Malik just assumed that Sean could not play basketball. As Mike and Malik's choices dwindled, Sean still remained amongst an ever-slimming pool of struggling athletes. Now there were only two students left: Sean and another kid who seemed nice but was reading a book. Mike and Malik joked about who was going to get stuck with whom, and then Mike made his last pick. It was not Sean. Sean sighed and reluctantly joined Malik's team. As soon as the game began, Mike became aware of the error that he had made. Sean quickly stole the ball from him and ran it back for a layup. "The new kid got lucky," Mike remarked, but it soon became clear that Sean had more going for him than luck. What Sean lacked in height, he made up for in speed, and he continued to dominate the action on the court for the remainder of the game. With Sean's blazing speed and crazy crossovers, Malik's team devastated Mike's, and that was the only time that Sean would be last pick at that high school.

What is the theme of the story? _____

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

3. Blaine opened up the present and began pouting. He screamed in a high-pitched voice, "This is Captain Thunder! I wanted Captain Lightning!" His mother looked at him with dismay and handed him another present, which he greedily opened. "Why did you get me a red hat? You know I like blue more," Blaine whined as he threw the hat across the room. His mother straightened her expression and squinted at him. Earlier she had hoped to take some pictures of this moment, but by now she had put away her camera. She sighed and handed him one more present in hopes that this year wouldn't be a total bust. Blaine huffed and opened it. "A Game Box 4000... wow. Where's the Game Box 5000 that I asked for?" His mother could bear his ingratitude no longer. The next time that Blaine returned from his father's house, he was shocked to find that all of these toys and gifts, along with many other of his things, had been generously donated to needy children.

Name: _____

Identifying Theme 2

Directions: read each short story and determine the theme or message in the story. Remember that a good answer will focus on big world lessons, not small world details of the story.

Even though they were sisters, Suzie and June were nothing alike. If Suzie wanted to jump rope, June wanted to play hopscotch. If June wanted to watch soap operas, Suzie wanted to watch talk shows. Tensions rose to the point that the girls could no longer stand one another's company. It seemed that they had nothing in common, until the day that progress reports came out. While riding the bus home from school, the girls—startled by how upset the other looked—realized that they were both failing a subject. Suzie was failing math and June was failing reading. Since both girls wanted to pass their classes, they got to talking and agreed to help one another. So everyday after school for the next few weeks, Suzie tutored June in reading and then June tutored Suzie in math. By the time report cards came were distributed, Suzie and June were passing all of their classes. The girls were delighted, but their mother was happiest of all. Not just because her daughters passed their classes, but because they had learned to be good sisters.

1. What is the theme of this story? _____

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

All Victor ever wanted to do with his life was be a singer. He didn't pay attention in school and he spent all of his time at home watching music videos online and impersonating his idols. His mother tried to teach him the value of getting an education and having a backup plan, but Victor would respond the same way every time, "Mom, I won't need to know any of that boring old stuff when I'm famous. You'll see." But there was one major problem with Victor's plan: he wasn't any good at singing. Victor wanted to be a singer so badly, that he didn't notice the pained look on the faces of those who endured his singing. Because he wanted to be a singer so badly, when honest people told him to find something else to do with his life, he accused them of being "jealous haters" and ignored their advice. After Victor dropped out of high school to focus on his music career, the years passed and the doors never opened.

3. What is the theme of this story? _____

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