



Imagine That! Stories

Visualizing
and
Verbalizing®
For Language Comprehension and Thinking

FASCINATING
PEOPLE

3

GRADE

A Nanci Bell Book

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23 Astronaut Exercise

An astronaut in space exercises so she stays strong. On board the space station, the astronaut can climb onto a treadmill. She must strap a harness around her shoulders and waist. The harness holds her down as she runs. When droplets of sweat form on her skin, they gather in blobs and float away.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of the story?

Why do you think it is important for the astronaut in space to stay strong?

Why do you think the astronaut wears a harness while on the treadmill?

Do you think it is more difficult to run on a treadmill in space or on Earth? Explain.

Do you think it would be uncomfortable to run while wearing a harness? Why or why not?

What might happen if her sweat never floated away?

24 Helicopter Tows Surfer

A man surfs huge ocean waves with the help of a helicopter. He stands on a small surfboard with his feet strapped to the top and holds a long rope attached to the helicopter. The helicopter pulls him in front of a fifty-foot wave far out in the ocean. The man lets go of the rope and surfs the tall wave as it crashes down. Then the helicopter drops the rope back down and tows the surfer to safety.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the man had the helicopter pull him out in front of the wave? Why not just paddle out?

Why do you think the man straps his feet to the surfboard?

Why do you think the helicopter tows the man to safety?

Do you think surfing fifty-foot waves is dangerous? Why or why not?

31 Frog Wedding

When the land in India is too dry, a farmer hosts a frog wedding. The farmer catches two frogs from a nearby pond and wraps them in yellow cloths. He sprinkles red and yellow powders on the frogs. Then the farmer takes the frogs to a Hindu priest to have the frogs married. After the ritual, the farmer releases the frogs back into the pond. The farmer believes this wedding will bring rain for his crops.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the farmer hosts a *frog* wedding? Why not an elephant wedding?

Why do you think the farmer wraps the frogs in yellow cloths?

What might happen to the crops if the rain doesn't come?

Do you think the farmer has a frog wedding when it is raining?

Why or why not?

32 God of Thunder and War

People in Norway tell a story about Thor, the god of thunder and war. They say he was a huge man with a red beard who wore iron gloves. He held a magic hammer that he used to battle giants. When Thor threw his hammer, it could strike a giant and then fly back to Thor. He also drove a golden chariot pulled by goats through the clouds. Thunder rumbled as his chariot rolled across the clouds. He also threw lightning bolts that lit up the sky at night.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think Thor wore iron gloves?

What do you think was magical about Thor's hammer?

What do you think Thor would do if his hammer didn't fly back to him?

Do you think thunder and lightning are really caused by Thor?

Why or why not?

47 Dogs for Defense

During World War II, the U.S. Army trained dogs to help the soldiers. Many people gave their pet dogs to the army for this cause. A soldier taught a dog commands at a training camp. The dog learned to wear a gas mask and ride in a tank. The dog also got used to the sound of gunfire. The dog trained for about ten weeks before going to work.

Many dogs worked as guards for army bases. At night, a soldier walked a dog on a leash and patrolled a base. If the dog heard a strange noise or saw an enemy soldier, he barked to alert the guard. Sometimes the dog patrolled the base in silence. If danger was near, the dog perked up his ears and stood very still. The dog could sense an enemy who was far off in the darkness.

Soldiers also trained dogs to search for buried bombs called mines. These dogs walked slowly through the fields and sniffed the ground. When a dog smelled a mine in the dirt, he barked. Soldiers cleared the area and safely blew up the bomb. Many army dogs got Medals of Honor after the war, for saving soldiers' lives.

From what you pictured...

What is the main idea of this story?

Why do you think the army used dogs? Why not just have soldiers guard the bases?

Why do you think the dog had to train before going to work?

Why do you think the dog had to get used to hearing gunfire?

Do you think the dog scared away the enemy by barking?
Why or why not?

Why do you think the dog sometimes worked in silence?

Why do you think the dogs walked slowly through the fields as they sniffed for mines?