

Grade 6 PRETEST: Trusting Brian



How does Brian show that he cares about Megan and her property?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

E.1.3.2
*Plot, setting,
character, con-
flict, resolution*

Answer: Responses will vary, but should be supported by details from the story. Support may include the fact that Brian shows respect for Megan's neatness when he sits carefully on her bed so as not to disturb her pillows. Students may also point out that although he loses or damages her things when he borrows them, he replaces them as soon as he can.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, focus on character development as students read "Joshua," SE 51–54 and use TG 100 and 104 for instruction and practice.



Think about the theme of the story. Is "Trusting Brian" a good title? Why or why not?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

E.1.3.1
*Universal
themes*

Answer: Responses should reflect an understanding that the theme of the passage is that trust and respect are key to family harmony. Students should note that "Trusting Brian" is an appropriate title because it reflects the theme as well as the major conflict of the passage. Megan has good reason not to loan her CD player to her brother, based on what has happened to her things when Brian used them in the past. The fact that she decides that her relationship with her brother is more important than her possessions demonstrates that she understands the need for trust in the family.

E.1.3.5
*Common
themes*

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, focus on discussion of theme for "Family Matters" on TG 60–61. Additional discussion of themes can be found for "Father," on TG 62 and for "Mother," on TG 70.



Use information from the passage to explain why there is an effort to keep dunes from drifting inland.

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A1.3.2
Use strategies to read words, make inferences

Answer: Responses should reflect an understanding that because wind and water keep sand moving constantly, protecting the dunes also prevents the sand from burying forests and buildings that are further inland.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, guide students to draw conclusions using the Stop and Think questions provided in "Egyptian Mummies," SE 85–88.



How does the author present the protection of the dunes as an important thing to maintain?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A.2.3.3
Logical, ethical, and emotional appeals (propaganda)

Answer: Responses should include the idea that the author presents factual information about the effects of wind and water on the movement of sand before bringing up the role dunes play in keeping sand from moving further inland. By presenting facts first, the author is able to present the protection of dunes as a logical step in preventing sand from moving inland where it could eventually bury buildings and forests.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, after reading "Summer Berries," focus on instruction and practice with persuasive techniques on TG 163, 165, and 166.



What clues make Reggie wonder if Al is trying to sell stolen bikes?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A.1.3.1
Use background knowledge and text structure to predict

Answer: Responses should include clues such as the fact that the ad was posted on a telephone pole, that only Al's first name is used, and that Al is hesitant to give information when he first answers Reggie's call. Students may also mention that the fact that Al doesn't have a store where Reggie can go to see the bike as evidence that the bikes may be stolen.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark focus on predicting events and effects as students read "Sangre de Cristo Mountains" on SE 171–176.



How do Reggie's actions show that he is an honest and caring person?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

E.1.3.2
Plot, setting, character, conflict, resolution

Answer: Responses should note the fact that Reggie is trying to find an inexpensive bike that wouldn't cost more than his sister could afford. As soon as he suspects that the bike he is talking about buying might be stolen, he ends the conversation. He is relieved that he has not made a big mistake by buying stolen property.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, focus on instruction and practice with character development on TG 181, 183, and 184.

Grade 6 INTERIM TEST 3: Frida Kahlo, a Woman with a Will



Why do you think many of Kahlo's paintings are filled with fantasy?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A.1.3.2
Use strategies to read words, make inferences

Answer: Responses should note that Kahlo began painting while she was bed-ridden after a traffic accident. The only subjects she could paint were things she could imagine.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, use instruction and practice with making inferences as students read "Buffalo Hunt," SE 203–209.



How does the author convince readers that Frida Kahlo was a special person as well as a gifted artist?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A.2.3.3
Logical, ethical, and emotional appeals (propaganda)

Answer: Responses should note that the author provides background information about Kahlo's early life and the various health problems she had to overcome. By explaining the struggles Kahlo faced to survive, the author helps readers to see that she used the difficulties she faced to inspire her art rather than giving in to them.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, focus on instruction and practice with persuasive techniques on TG 227 and 230.

Grade 6 POSTTEST: Walking the Dog



Why does Jenna write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

A.2.3.1
*Main idea,
details, organi-
zational pat-
terns*

Answer: Students should note that after trying to take her dog on a walk through the park, Jenna writes a letter to the editor to explain why she feels that keeping dogs out of a local park is unfair.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, review instruction and practice with organizational patterns. Guide students to recognize sequential and cause-effect organizations as they read new stories.



Jenna's parents suggested that she "do something with her anger." What does "do something with her anger" mean?

Benchmark Answer and Reteaching

E.1.3.3
*Author's craft
(literary tech-
niques)*

Answer: Responses should note that Jenna is upset by the unfairness of a sign that claims that everyone is welcome in the park. It bothers her that people who have dogs are not allowed in the park. The idea of "doing something with her anger" is to use her energy to bring about a change, rather than merely complaining about it.

Reteaching: To address this benchmark, review instructions and practice with author's style and sensory language on TG 216 and 219. Guide students to recognize the author's tone and style as they read new stories.
