



Reading Comprehension

1. In her column, teen author Olivia Amiri talks about the lack of a dress code at her school. She asks if a casual culture affects academic performance when present in excess? Define “dress code” and discuss this topic with students, then have them write a few sentences giving their thoughts about a school dress code.
 2. In Conrad’s Classroom, we learn many interesting facts about opossums, such as they have more than 50 sharp little teeth, the most of any land mammal in North America. They keep neighborhoods clean by eating garden pests. Ask kids to write a few other fascinating facts about this big, fuzzy rodent with a long rat-like tail.
 3. The author of *Samara Rubin and the Utility Belt*, a story about a girl who wants to stand up to the meanest boy in school, wants kids to realize that they have a “utility belt” with all the tools they need to overcome challenges. Discuss this idea with students and ask them to write about their own “utility belt.”
 4. The story *Métis Like Me* is filled with children comparing their family traditions, as the reader learns about the Métis people. The message is that we can all get along even if we do things differently than our neighbors. Ask students to write about what they eat and what kinds of entertainment they like. Have them write about someone they know who has different tastes and interests from them.
 5. The author of *Zandi’s Song* says that the amount of plastic in our oceans is a bigger problem than we think, and explains that we have the power to write a different story for our oceans and for our planet by educating ourselves. Discuss ocean conservation with students and ask them to write some ways that they can do their part to protect the sea.
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True or False

1. *This Is a Story* is about the power of story, as the author wants to empower children to transform their world. (True or False)
2. In the story *The Concrete Garden*, there is a big grassy area where Amanda and all her friends can play. (True or False)
3. *I Am NOT the Easter Bunny!* is about a regular 'ol bunny ... with a vest, bow tie, and basket with eggs and candy. (True or False)
4. In *Desert Friends: Travels with the Pack*, a roadrunner and a camel travel through the Sonoran Desert. (True or False)
5. Children's author and zoologist Alison Pearce Stevens tells us that forest elephants weed out small trees to make room for big ones ... without these elephants, the West African tropical forests would be very different. (True or False)
6. The *GIFTS Friends Give Us* is a story about a little puppy with a stuttering problem and how he overcomes it. (True or False)
7. In *Jenni Rivera*, we learn about a talented Mexican American singer who rose to fame in a male-dominated industry. (True or False)

Fill in the Blanks

1. A raccoon named _____ searches for treasures left by students in *The Schoolyard Raccoon*.
2. In the newest installment of *Kung Fu Panda*, Po is informed by Master Shifu that he must locate the next Dragon _____.
3. *At the Poles* includes descriptive poems about animals at the North and South Poles, such as polar bears, orcas, squid, and _____.
4. In the interactive book *Kami Visits Connecticut, Georgia, and Idaho*, Kami is a _____.
5. The name of the nongender main character in the book *Ready to Soar!* is _____.
6. In the story *Welcome to Our Farm*, Emma is the pig and Billie and _____ are the goats.
7. The Gigantopithecus was an _____ that roamed the earth during the Stone Age and would've towered over a human.

Fill in the Blanks: 1. Victor 2. Warrior 3. penguins 4. flamingo 5. Riley 6. Millie 7. ape

True/False: 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True 6. False 7. True

Answers

