DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

THE MONSTER

Jared read every book there was about Gila monsters. The black and orange lizards intrigued him. He had even visited desert museums to see live specimens.

Imagine Jared's surprise when he happened upon a live Gila monster by accident. Jared had been traveling with a group of scouts in southern Arizona. He had wandered off the path to get a closer look at a cactus, when he looked down to see the lizard lurking.

Jared froze. He didn't dare move his body an inch. He knew that a Gila monster would take a bite and not let go. If the Gila monster didn't notice him, then maybe he could sneak away.

However, the Gila monster was staring right at Jared. It was frozen in mid-step, as if challenging Jared to make the first move. A drop of sweat dropped from Jared's forehead.

"What am I going to do?" thought Jared. His muscles were getting tired of standing still.

Just then, Mr. Carpenter, Jared's scout leader, grabbed Jared's arm and yanked him as hard as he could. They ran as fast as they could without stopping. Jared knew that his leader had saved him. He smiled when he thought of it. He turned to see if the Gila monster was following. There was no sign of it. That was the first time Jared could remember that he had distanced himself from a Gila monster on purpose.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement shows the climax of the story?
   a. "What am I going to do?"
   b. He knew that a Gila monster would take a bite and not let go.
   c. He looked down to see the lizard lurking.
   d. There was no sign of it.
2. What does the word *lurking* mean?
   a. projecting
   b. opening up
   c. observing
   d. creeping around
3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
   a. Jared is trying to get a better look at the snake.
   b. Jared encounters the Gila monster.
   c. Jared realizes he is in danger.
   d. none of the above

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

A STROKE

Whitney lunged forward, reaching out as far as she could. She gasped for air and pushed forward again. Every breath felt like a stab in the heart. She had been practicing for weeks for this race. Every mind-numbing lap in the pool had been in preparation for this moment.

Whitney wondered where Lexie was in the race. Lexie had been Whitney's competitor for as long as she could remember. Lexie was an excellent swimmer. She had broken most of the school records—and she had only been swimming for three years!

Just over her shoulder, Whitney caught a glimpse of a red swimming cap. It was Lexie alright, and Whitney realized that she was just a stroke ahead of her. Was that really possible? Whitney's hopes soared. She poured her strength into her next stroke.

"Where is the end of the pool?" wondered Whitney. She could feel the intensity of the water being pushed back and forth by the swimmers. She slapped her hand on the wall and jumped out the water gasping for air.

Whitney kept her eyes glued to the scoreboard, waiting for the times. Yes! She had done it! By a mere second she had done it—but it was enough. She climbed out of the pool and looked over at Lexie.

For the first time, Lexie had the kindest look on her face as she said, "Good job, Whitney!" All of a sudden, winning no longer mattered. "Great race," replied Whitney, and she held out her hand.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which words describe Whitney in the story?
   a. new, outgoing, confident
   b. timid, shy, new
   c. determined, hard-working, anxious
   d. stuck up, timid, excited
2. Which information below is <u>not</u> shared in the story?
   a. Lexie and Whitney are not really friends.
   b. Whitney has been practicing very hard for the race.
   c. Lexie is new to swimming but doing very well.
   d. Whitney has doubts that she will be able to win.
3. What is the problem in the story?
   a. Whitney is feeling sorry for herself.
   b. Whitney felt like Lexie might win the race.
   c. Whitney has to really push hard to win the swim race.
   d. Whitney is nervous about beating Lexie.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

RIM TO RIM

"I can't go on. Just leave me here," panted Branson. His legs felt as though they were no longer part of his body. He sat on the ground and stretched out his body.

"We can't leave you here," said Wendy. "Besides, we could all use a break right now."

The group of youngsters all found a spot to rest on the side of the mountain. The group had begun planning their journey many months before. Branson, Wendy, Chris, and Megan had all discussed the exciting possibility of hiking from rim to rim of the Grand Canyon. They had convinced Megan's dad to accompany them as their adult chaperone. Mr. Carter had hiked this very hike previously, and they were hoping to tap into his experience.

The group had taken many practice hikes to prepare themselves both physically and mentally. On the morning of the trip, Branson had awakened feeling sick. It was hard to tell whether it was fear or the flu. His body was not up to its typical strength, and he was suffering.

Wendy sat down by Branson and said, "Didn't we want to do this hike because we knew it would be hard? If it was easy, everyone would do it."

"Yeah," said Chris. "Besides, aren't we getting close to the halfway mark?"

"Okay, okay," said Branson. "I'm ready to go again."

The group rose to their feet, and Mr. Carter led the way. "Drink lots of water," he called out. Branson smiled and took a sip.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the problem in the story?
   a. The group is not getting along very well.
   b. The group is trying to decide whether or not to continue the hike.
   c. The group is deciding whether or not to trust Mr. Carter.
   d. Branson is realizing the difficulty of the trip and fighting the urge to quit.
2. What would make another good title for this story?
   a. "The Dangerous Situation"
   b. "Branson vs. the Group"
   c. "A Call for Help"
   d. "Perseverance Pays"
3. What does the word *tap* mean as used in the passage?
   a. draw on
   b. fresh water
   c. depressed
   d. dank

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

UNEXPECTED DELAY

It was not unusual for the Judd family to take a drive on Sunday afternoons. This was a way for them to get Kendra, the youngest of them all, to take a nap. Maren was the oldest, and it was her job to sit next to Kendra in the car and rub her back so that she would get tired and drift off. It was a hard endeavor, but a plan worth pursuing.

Today's drive was one of the more beautiful excursions. The leaves were changing colors, and the sight was beautiful at every turn. Maren breathed in the crisp air and made a face at Kendra. Kendra barely noticed. She was starting to doze off.

As they rounded the next curve, the car gave a lurch and stopped.

"What?" asked Dad. He tried to start the engine again, but had no such luck. He glanced down at the gas gauge and let out a moan.

"Oh, no," he whispered.

"What's wrong?" asked Maren.

"We are out of gas," answered her dad.

"What are we going to do?" asked Maren's mom.

"I'm going to have to walk to town and get help," responded Maren's dad.

"That has to be miles from here!" said Maren in a concerned voice.

"We have no choice," answered Dad.

"No problem, Dad. I think your plan worked," answered Maren.

"It doesn't look like any plan is working," hesitated Dad.

"Oh, yes, sir. Kendra's asleep!" said Maren, and she put her own head back on the seat.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is this passage mainly about?
   a. how a family got lost
   b. the process a driver takes to get gas
   c. the different types of families
   d. how a family handles a crisis

2. In the second paragraph, what does the word *excursion* mean?
   a. intake of air
   b. documentation
   c. trip
   d. measurement

3. What type of word could be used to describe Maren in this passage?
   a. lazy
   b. responsible
   c. silly
   d. annoyed

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 15

Name _____ Date _____

FIGHTING WORDS

"Are you going to fight him?" asked Jason. "He's telling everyone that you two are going to fight after school."

Matt didn't say anything. Ever since Craig had moved to their school, he had taunted and teased Matt. Matt didn't know what he had ever done to provoke Craig, but he wished he could change it.

Both boys were on the same Little League team, and they were on the same all-star team. They both competed for the position of pitcher, and the position was given to Matt. Matt wondered if that was just too much for Craig, because since then, Craig had tried to fight him.

At 11 years old, Matt had never encountered anyone who wanted to fight him. He occasionally got into a scuffle with his brothers, but that was to be expected. Fighting a total stranger? What did that mean?

Matt closed his locker and headed off to class. His stomach was churning with anxiety. From out of nowhere, Matt felt a punch to his stomach. He lurched and let out a gasp. He looked up in time to see Craig pushing him against the lockers.

"Craig," he whispered.

"Yeah, what?" asked Craig. "I heard you've been telling people that you play better baseball than me. Is that true?"

"No," groaned Matt, "But I have been telling people that I better start practicing pitching so I can stay as pitcher."

"Really?" asked Craig.

"Oh, yeah," said Matt. "With a punch like that, you're sure to take my spot."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of *lurched* as used in the passage?
   a. fell
   b. aligned
   c. staggered
   d. upset

2. What can you learn about Matt from reading this passage?
   a. He lives in a city.
   b. He loves to play all sports.
   c. He is creative.
   d. He is unfriendly.

3. Which of the following statements is accurate?
   a. Craig punched Matt in the nose.
   b. Matt was able to pin Craig and get him to stop fighting.
   c. Craig was upset with Matt for calling him names.
   d. none of the above

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 16

Name _____ Date _____

THE FOOTHOLD

Kirk reached up with his foot in search of another good foothold. He was surprised. He never dreamed he would be able to climb this high.

"Look at me, guys. Can you believe it?" called Kirk.

"Easy does it," called Kirk's dad. He was belaying Kirk, holding tightly to the rope. Kirk loved rock climbing. It was hard for Kirk to stay on the ground.

"Try to get up to the next level on the rock," encouraged Dad.

"I'm having a hard time finding a hold for my left hand," said Kirk.

"Go up a little further," said Dad. "There's a great hold just above you."

Kirk slid his hand into position and put his weight on the hold to pull himself up. Just as he did, his right foot slipped and he fell off the rock. He was dangling in the air with one hand still on the rock.

"Hold on!" called his dad. "I've got you."

"Ahhhh!" hollered Kirk.

Kirk continued to spin away from the rock, and he wondered if he was going to smash his head on the rock. He was glad he had his helmet on, but he wished he could do something for his stomach. It was spinning in circles.

Kirk's dad cranked on the rope, and Kirk came to a sudden stop. "Now, grab hold of the rock again," called his dad.

"I can't. I can't find a hold, and my head is spinning," called Kirk.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Kirk has to have a great amount of _____ in his father.
   a. similar interests
   b. sacrifice
   c. trust
   d. understanding

2. According to the passage, what advice did Kirk's dad give him?
   a. Hang on tight to the rope.
   b. Let go and let the rope lower him.
   c. He wants him to climb higher to a ledge.
   d. He wants him to grab hold of the rock again.

3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. reread the last two paragraphs.
   d. skim the passage and look for clues.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

THE WAND

Tina was angry! She had tried to cast a spell at the king's ball but had been denied. "Can you imagine?" she thought, "Me! Just imagine that the most adorable fairy in the countryside is not allowed to cast her spell."

Just the thought of it made Tina's blood boil. Was it truly her fault that her wand had been bent and wouldn't work? King Trenton had grown tired, so when it came time for Tina, she had been dismissed after just five minutes. King Trenton wouldn't wait another second.

"Oh, what am I going to do? The humiliation of it all!" thought Tina.

Tina began trying to straighten her wand, hoping that it would help. She thought smugly to herself that the spell she was planning to cast was "prosperity." No other fairy had remembered to use that one.

"I bet the King will wish for that in a few years," thought Tina.

She pulled harder on her wand, when all of a sudden it snapped in two. Tina sat staring at what she had done. Did this mean she would never cast a spell again? Did that mean that she wasn't a fairy anymore? Why was she always in a mess?

Tina went straight to the head fairy's house and pounded on the door. She glanced at her watch to see that it was very late in the evening. Was it too late to call on the head fairy now? Tina cringed when she thought of creating another mishap this evening.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the spell "*prosperity*" that Tina was trying to cast?
   a. secrecy
   b. success
   c. humor
   d. peace
2. According to the passage, how did Tina's wand get bent?
   a. Tina broke it when she was trying to straighten it.
   b. Someone had sat on Tina's wand.
   c. Tina's sister bent the wand while she was playing with it.
   d. You can't tell by reading the passage.
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. skim the entire passage and determine the main idea.
   c. reread the second paragraph and search for clues.
   d. use context clues to determine the meaning.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2 Name _____ Date _____

ALIEN INVASION

Bounce! Bounce! Bounce! Ethan slowly opened one of his eyes. Who was bouncing on his bed? Between the crack of his eyelids, Ethan saw a little green figure jumping on his bed. Ethan closed his eye. There is no way a green figure could be jumping on his bed. Ethan opened both of his eyes this time and saw a green figure smiling at him.

"Onal;xnc," said the green creature.

Oh, wow! This is going to be a tough one to believe, thought Ethan to himself. He smiled and closed his eyes again. He needed time to think about this. Just then, he heard footsteps coming down the hall. It sounded like his mom.

"Ethan? What are you doing? Settle down in there," called his mom as she passed.

"Mom, it's not me!" yelled Ethan.

"Right, Ethan," answered Mom.

"I knew it," said Ethan. "Mom, come here!"

"Just a minute!" called Mom.

There was a look of panic on the face of the green creature. It seemed to sense something bad was going to happen. It hopped off the bed and scurried over to the closet door.

A few moments later, Ethan's mom came through the door.

"Okay, Ethan, let's hear your story," said Mom.

"Alright, here's my story: I woke up and there was a little green creature, sort of like an alien, sitting right on my bed," explained Ethan.

"Right," said Mom.

"You think I'm crazy, but look inside the closet and you will see proof!" said Ethan. Ethan's mom walked over to the closet and opened the door.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A theme to this story could be . . .
   a. "There he goes again."
   b. "Make a wish, and it will come true."
   c. "If there's a will, there's a way."
   d. "Seeing is believing."
2. According to the passage, how did Ethan's mother feel about Ethan's story?
   a. She believed him.
   b. She made plans to see if he was right.
   c. She grounded Ethan for telling tall tales.
   d. none of the above
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
   a. try to remember.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. reread the entire passage.
   d. skim the passage searching for clues about the mother's reaction.

LIVEWORKSHEETS