

# READING COMPREHENSION

## BUSH MEDICINE



Bahamians have used native plants for medicine for hundred of years. This practice, called "bush medicine," was brought to the Bahamas by African slaves. Over 100 plants in The Bahamas are used to cure ailments such as colds, diarrhea, flu and headaches. There are even bush medicine treatments for diseases such as leukemia and cancer! The use of bush medicine became important in the family islands where doctors were rarely available. Cat Islanders believe that bush medicine gives them long life and keeps them healthy.

In the preparation of bush medicine various parts of the plants are utilized. Sometimes, the entire plant is put into the mixture. It is believed that dried leaves are more effective than freshly picked ones and that when using the leaves, odd numbers should always be used. Some of the most popular bush medicines include Aloe, Love Vine, and Cerasee.

When preparing, wash the parts of the plants properly before brewing. Cover leaves or plant parts with water and simmer in an uncovered cast iron pot, so if toxins are present they will escape. When the desired strength is reached remove from the heat. Let stand for a minute or two. Strain to remove any residue. Your tea or medicine is now ready to be enjoyed!

1. According to the passage what is used by Bahamians to make medicine?

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2. Why was it necessary for Family Islanders to use bush medicine when they became sick?

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3. What illnesses are mentioned in the passage? Write THREE.

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4. What evidence in paragraph TWO suggests that plants are kept for a number of days before being used as medicine?

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5. What special benefits do Cat Islanders believe they have gotten from the use of bush medicine?

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6. Using the numbers 1-4 order the steps to show how bush medicine is made.

A. Filter to get rid of any plants bits.

B. Let plant boil slowly.

C. Allow mixture to cool for a short while.

D. Clean plants carefully.

#### Passage 2 : Food Fight

We'd never seen the teachers  
in a state of such distress...

The principal was yelling  
that the classroom was a mess.

It started off so innocent  
when someone threw a bun,  
but all the other kids decided  
they should join the fun.

It instantly turned into  
an enormous classroom feud,  
as students started hurling  
all their half eaten food.

The food was splattered everywhere-  
the ceiling, walls and doors.

A sloppy, gloppy mess was on  
the tables and the floors.  
And so our good janitor  
Ran out to grab his mop.  
It took him half the afternoon  
To clean up all the slop.

By Ken Nesbitt

7. Select the sentence from verse ONE which suggests that the principal was angry.

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8. Quote the line from the poem that tells how the food fight got started.

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9. Name TWO areas in the classroom where the evidence of the food fight could be seen.

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10. Using the numbers 1-4, order the events to show when they happened in the poem.

A. The room was cleaned. \_\_\_\_\_

B. The principal saw the mess. \_\_\_\_\_

C. A bun was thrown. \_\_\_\_\_

D. The food feud worsened \_\_\_\_\_

11. Which word from verse ONE best completes the analogy  
'Innocent is to guilty as calm is to \_\_\_\_\_'.

12. Which comparison below best describes the classroom immediately after the food fight?

A. As clean as a whistle

B. As filthy as a pigsty

C. As pretty as a picture

D. As black as tar