Part 1—Preview

Look at the picture. Write 3 details that you notice. Write sentences.

1)
2)
3)



Now write 2 questions you have about the picture.

1)
2)

Part 2—Vocabulary

Read the article. Infer the meaning of each key (important) word.
Do **NOT** copy a dictionary definition!
Infer = use context clues to guess the meaning

supreme	court case	support	chance	public

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Part 3—Read and identify main ideas.

In 1974, something important happened for kids who didn't speak English very well. It was a court case called Lau v. Nichols. This case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which is the highest court in the United States.

A boy named Kinney Kinmon Lau and other students said that their school in San Francisco was not helping them learn because they didn't speak English. There were about 2,800 students of Chinese background who had trouble with English. But the school didn't give special classes to about 1,800 of these students.

The students said that the school was not giving them a fair chance to learn. They said it was against the rules in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which says you can't treat people differently because of their race or where they come from. The students felt like they were not really learning anything. One court even said they were just "bodies in the classroom".

The school said they were giving all the students the same classes, so it was fair. But the Supreme Court said that wasn't good enough. The court said that if kids don't understand English, giving them the same classes as everyone else doesn't help them learn. It makes the idea of public education a joke.

The Supreme Court said the school had to do something to help these students learn English. They had to take action to help kids who didn't speak English well. This was a big win for students who needed help with English.

This case means that schools have to help students who don't speak English. They need to give them the support they need to learn. This helps make sure everyone has a chance to do well in school.

The Lau v. Nichols case was very important. It helped make sure that schools give all kids a fair chance to learn, no matter what language they speak at home. It showed that schools need to change to help kids, not the other way around.

Underline the topic sentence of the paragraph.
In a few words, tell the **main idea**.

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Part 4— Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions. Tell in which paragraph you found the answers.

Question	Answer	Where?
What did the students (Lau) want?		
What did the 1964 Civil Rights Act say?		
How were the kids "bodies in the classroom?"		
What did the court order the schools to do?		
What does the last sentence in paragr7 mean?		

Part 5—Reflection

Write a topic sentence and at least 5 detail sentences about the question.

This court battle was really about equity vs. equality. Explain.

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