

5.5j Drawing Conclusions/Inferences Graded Classwork**Directions:** Read the story and answer the questions that follow.**Walk the Plank**

Adapted by Readworks.org

- 1 Walking the plank is not a fun thing to do. Here's how it works. A pirate sticks a long piece of wood off the side of his ship and makes you stand at one end. He puts his sword at your back and bellow, "Wallllk the plank!" You walk across the plank toward the water. When you run out of plank, you fall in the water. Probably there are sharks down there. The ship sails away, and that's the end of you.
- 2 The thing is, pirates never really made anyone walk the plank. This may surprise you, since it's in a lot of movies and TV shows. It's a nasty thing to do, and pirates were pretty nasty, so it seems like something they would do. But in fact walking the plank was imagined by Robert Louis Stevenson, a 19th-century novelist, whose most famous book is *Treasure Island*. A fictional pirate like Long John Silver might make you walk the plank, but a real-life pirate never would.
- 3 That is what was going through Tommy's mind as he stood on the end of the plank staring out at his doom. His best friend Jack stood behind him. Tommy felt the point of Jack's wooden sword digging into his back.
- 4 "I said, wallllk the plank!" shouted Jack.
- 5 "The thing is," said Tommy, "pirates never really made people walk the plank. That was invented by Robert Louis Stevenson, who—"
- 6 "I'm a pirate! Do you think I care about books?"
- 7 They were standing on the edge of Jack's tree house, which had a lot of uses. Sometimes it was a submarine. Sometimes it was a spaceship. Sometimes it was just a tree house. That afternoon, it was serving as a pirate ship. They had been pirates all afternoon, and everything was going fine until Tommy made the mistake of criticizing his captain. Jack was always the captain, since this was his tree house. And Captain Jack's number one rule was that the crew must never question his orders.
- 8 So when the Captain ordered his first mate to hand over three chocolate chip cookies, Tommy was supposed to do so without complaint. But chocolate chip cookies were his favorite. He'd suffered through a whole boring bologna sandwich to get to them, and now that he was finished, Jack wanted to take them away. Tommy didn't care who was the captain. He stuffed all three cookies into his mouth and chewed as fast as he could. And so Captain Jack sentenced him to walk the plank.
- 9 "I'm getting tired of waiting, Mister Tommy. Wallllk the plank!"
- 10 Tommy looked at the ground. They had jumped out of the tree house tons of times,

but it was easy when you had a running start. It would be harder to just walk into thin air. He could see why Robert Louis Stevenson thought this would be a scary thing. There was no way out. Unless...what would a pirate do?

11 Tommy didn't hesitate. He spun around as fast as he could and kicked his leg into the air. Jack's sword went flying, and before Jack knew what had happened, Tommy leapt onto the sword. He popped up and pointed it at Jack's back.

12 "Yaaargh!"

13 "What are you doing?" whined Jack.

14 "This is a mutiny! I'm the captain now. And I say that you have to wallllk the plank!"

1. **After reading paragraph 8, the reader can best infer that -**

- A. Tommy felt a little sad, but thought Captain Jack was being fair.
- B. Tommy felt annoyed and thought Captain Jack's order was unfair.
- C. Tommy felt calm, but thought Captain Jack's order was unfair.
- D. Tommy felt neutral and did not mind that Captain Jack wanted the cookies.

2. **Based on this information, what can the reader conclude about Tommy?**

"Tommy could see why Robert Louis Stevenson thought walking the plank would be a scary thing."

- A. Tommy is getting angry with Jack.
- B. Tommy likes to play pirates.
- C. Tommy likes to read.
- D. Tommy is scared.

3. **Based on paragraph 7, which sentence is probably true about Tommy and Jack?**

- A. They don't get along very much.
- B. They don't like the tree house.
- C. They are very imaginative
- D. They are mean to each other.

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

No Way Out
Adapted by Readworks.org

- 1** The homework was easy enough—write a report about a human rights leader. Jack decided on Gandhi. He headed to the library after school. The library was new. It was full of stacks of books, like the old library. It also had rows and rows of workstations. The steps were stainless steel. The windows had blinds that opened and closed with the sun. Plants were in every corner. Dozens were carefully placed along the tops of the shelves, like an overhead garden.
- 2** In the center was a glass elevator. It was shaped like a spaceship. It reminded Jack of old episodes of *Star Trek*.
- 3** "Beam me up, Scotty," he said to himself as he pushed a button. He rode to the top floor. There was a video room, with viewing stations. There was even a cafeteria.
- 4** Jack didn't really like to read. It surprised him that the library felt like a cool place to be. He walked through the stacks. He took a few books from the shelves. They weren't about Gandhi. Those were probably in another section. These were about aircraft. He read captions under pictures of bi-planes. He learned about the early fliers, called barnstormers. He read whole chapters about how planes lifted off.
- 5** He didn't notice the growing quiet. The noise in his stomach interrupted his concentration. He was hungry. He realized that dinnertime had passed. He headed toward the elevator. It was shut off for the night. The only light was coming from the street lamps outside the window. It cast a silver glow on the place. He was there alone. And there seemed to be no way to get out.

4. After reading paragraphs 2 and 3, the reader can best infer that the library sounds like

a -

- A. strange foreign hotel.
- B. vehicle in outer space.
- C. torture chamber.
- D. comfortable living room.

5. Read the following paragraph.

Ranchers in Texas had a problem. Coyotes and other wild animals were killing their sheep and goats. The ranchers were losing money and worried about their herds. Some ranchers began using donkeys to protect herds. The donkeys do a good job. They have sharp teeth and sharp hooves. The coyotes stay away.

The reader can infer that -

- A. Coyotes are afraid of donkeys.
- B. Donkeys make loud noises to scare coyotes.
- C. Ranchers should raise donkeys instead.
- D. Ranchers have a hard job.

6. Read the following paragraph.

Military ants live in the jungles of South America. They may be small, but people run when they see them. Thousands of these ants travel together through the thick jungles. The ants swarm over any animal in their path. The unlucky animal becomes their meal. They can eat birds, animals, snakes, and even humans. The ants are always on the move and they are always hungry.

The reader can conclude that military ants -

- A. military ants are hard to kill
- B. military ants are very dangerous
- C. military ants are endangered
- D. military ants are the smallest ant in the jungle

7. Read the following paragraph.

Mary Bethune had a dream. She wanted to start a school for African American children. She had a teaching degree, but she had no building. Still Mary had hope. She received donations. At last her school opened in 1904. Through her hard work, the school was a big success. It became known as Bethune-Cookman College. The school, located in Florida, is still open today.

Based on the passage, the reader can tell that -

- A. Mary Bethune had a lot of money.
- B. Mary Bethune was a determined woman.
- C. Mary Bethune's dream did not come true.
- D. Mary Bethune's school has many students.

