Comprehension – Main Idea

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade: ___

English Language

Instructions: Read the passage twice. Then answer all questions that follow in complete sentences.

Then he handed me my fishing line. Mandy, Jenny and Simon had already picked their part of the bank. Cathy was just sitting, watching...
"You want a worm," Simon said. And he pointed to an old sweet tin on the bank. I opened it, and found a **disgusting** mass of worms of all sizes, all **squirming** round each other. They gave off a funny smell. Simon could see I didn't like to touch them. "All right, I'll get one for you, "he said. And he took the wriggling mass and separated one worm. Then he promptly broke it in halves, and gave me a half. It squirmed and twisted violently in my fingers. I felt like dropping it, but I realized I'd have to put it on the hook.
Fortunately no one was watching me. They had all gone back to their places.
I thought the sharp point of the hook would easily go through the worm. It was still wriggling and now long and thin. I pressed the point against its skin. It twitched **violently** but the hook didn't go though.
I gave the hook an extra sharp jab, and it went straight through the worm and into my finger.
I couldn't help letting out a little cry at the sharp pain.
Roger came up. "What's up?" he asked.
I showed him my finger, from which **a big dew-drop of blood fell**.
"Well, I warned you," he said. "Hooks have to be sharp. Have you got a handkerchief?"
He bound it tightly round my finger.
Then he noticed my worm, still wriggling on my hook.
"That won't do," he said. "The fish will just bite off the two ends and not get hooked. You have to do it like this. Watch." He'd done it in about two seconds.
"Now let's see you do it," he said, giving me the other half of the worm. Cathy, Mandy, Jenny and Simon had all come up to watch.
"I hate doing that," Mandy said, "even though my dad says worms don't feel pain."
So I realised I would have to thread my half worm (which was still very much alive) over my hook.
I tried to hold the worm steady between my finger and thumb, but it kept on twitching. But I managed to press the point of the hook into the broken part of the worm.
Then I had to force the point, and the barb, right up into the worm's body. The point kept coming out. **I felt as if I had arrow stuck in my stomach**. I was afraid I was going to faint.
They were all looking at me. Roger had a strange grin on his face. He knew I hated doing this but that I had to do it.
"That's far enough," he said at last. About half my piece of worm was threaded on the hook. "You can try the river just by that tree."
I hardly knew how I got to the river bank. Everything was swimming before my eyes. But I sat down and let my hook down into the water.
The others had gone back to their places. But as I sat and watched the river swirling by, I realised I'd passed my test. I was now one of the gang.
Just then my rod began to jerk. I gave it a sharp tug and **felt a weight on the end**. "I've caught one! I've caught one! " I shouted.

From the New House by Leonard Smith

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. Content Questions

1. Who were the members of the gang?

_____(2pts)

2. How do you know that this was the narrator's first fishing trip?

_____(2pts)

3. What happened when the narrator tried to put the worm on the hook?

_____(2pts)

4. How did the other members of the gang react to her difficulties?

_____(2pts)

5. What part did Simon play in this incident?

_____(2pts)

6. Was Roger a good teacher? Give reasons to support your answer.

_____(2pts)

7. What was the narrator's feelings when she reached the river bank?

_____(2pts)

8. "I realized that I had passed my test." To what test does the narrator refer?

_____(2pts)

9. How would you describe her feelings at the end of the passage? ___

(a) disappointed (b) surprised
© elated (d) afraid

B. Sequencing

Instructions: Place the following events in the order in which they occurred using the letters 1-5.

____ Simon gives the narrator a worm
____ The narrator receives her first fishing line.
____ The narrator cries as the hook punctures her finger.
____ Everyone continued fishing.+
____ The narrator threaded the worm on the hook/

LIVEWORKSHEETS