



## NEED TO KNOW definitions:

**central idea:** the who/what of a passage; the most important thing the author wants the reader to know

**opinion:** a belief or view based on personal knowledge

**objective summary:** unbiased (not forming an opinion) ideas and details from a passage; the facts

**Inference:** drawing a conclusion based on evidence and reasoning

**direct quote:** word for word restatement of another's work

**theme:** the lesson or moral the author wants the reader to take away from the story

**Read the following passage from Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day." With a highlighter, find the passage that you believe supports the central idea.**

"... [the children] had been on Venus all their lives, and they had been only two years old when last the sun came out seven years ago and had long since forgotten the color and heat of it and the way it really was. But Margot remembered. "It's like a penny," she said once, eyes closed.

"No it's not!" the children cried.

"It's like a fire," she said, "in the stove."

"You're lying, you don't remember !" cried the children.

But she remembered and stood quietly apart from all of them and watched the patterning windows. And once, a month ago, she had refused to shower in the school shower rooms, had clutched her hands to her ears and over her head, screaming the water mustn't touch her head. So after that, dimly, dimly, she sensed it, she was different and they knew her difference and kept away.

There was talk that her father and mother were taking her back to Earth next year; it seemed vital to her that they do so, though it would mean the loss of thousands of dollars to her family. And so, the children hated her for all these reasons of big and little consequence. They hated her pale snow face, her waiting silence, her thinness, and her possible future.

"Get away !" The boy gave her another push. "What're you waiting for?" Then, for the first time, she turned and looked at him. And what she was waiting for was in her eyes. "Well, don't wait around here !" cried the boy savagely. "You won't see nothing!" Her lips moved. "Nothing !" he cried. "It was all a joke, wasn't it?" He turned to the other children. "Nothing's happening today. Is it ?"

They all blinked at him and then, understanding, laughed and shook their heads. "Nothing, nothing !"

"Oh, but," Margot whispered, her eyes helpless. "But this is the day... It's been seven years... the scientists predict.... they say... they know... the sun..."

"All a joke !" said the boy, and seized her roughly. "Hey, everyone, let's put her in a closet before the teacher comes !"

"No," said Margot, falling back.

They surged about her, caught her up and bore her, protesting, and then pleading, and then crying, back into a tunnel, a room, a closet, where they slammed and locked the door. They stood looking at the door and saw it tremble from her beating and throwing herself against it.

They heard her muffled cries. Then, smiling, they turned and went out and back down the tunnel, just as the teacher arrived.

- 1) A **central idea** is\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The life lesson that can apply to everyone
  - b. An argument the author is making
  - c. Different for every reader
  - d. The factual who and what of the passage
  
- 2) What is the **central idea** of this passage?
  - a. Margot has lived on earth and seen the sun and the other children have not.
  - b. Children do mean things to others when they are jealous
  - c. The children did not understand what Margot was trying to say
  - d. It's hard to get along with your peers when you're different.
  
- 3) Why is the following statement **NOT** a central idea of the passage?  
**The children on Venus are jealous that Margot has actually seen the sun.**
  - a. It is a theme from the passage
  - b. It is a direct quote from the passage.
  - c. It requires an inference based on the passage.
  - d. It states the author, Ray Bradbury's, opinion about the passage.
  
- 4) What is the best theme of this passage?
  - a. Bullying Margo is dangerous because she could suffer side effects.
  - b. Margot moved to Venus and is treated unkindly by classmates.
  - c. Jealousy often leads people to treat others unfairly.
  - d. Groups of people are more likely to bully others than individuals who act alone.
  
- 5) How does the answer for **question 4** demonstrate the theme of the passage?
  - a. It is the central idea of the passage
  - b. It is a paraphrased section of the passage
  - c. It is a life lesson that can apply to anyone
  - d. It is a direct quotation of the passage
  
- 6) Which statement from the text **DOES NOT** support the theme?
  - a. "They surged about her, caught her up and bore her, protesting, and then pleading, and then crying, back into a tunnel, a room, a closet, where they slammed and locked the door."
  - b. "Get away !" The boy gave her another push. "What're you waiting for?" Then, for the first time, she turned and looked at him. And what she was waiting for was in her eyes. "Well, don't wait around here !" cried the boy savagely. "You won't see nothing!"
  - c. "They heard her muffled cries. Then, smiling, they turned and went out and back down the tunnel, just as the teacher arrived."
  - d. "...they had been only two years old when last the sun came out and had long since forgotten the color"

7) Why is the following statement **NOT** a theme of the passage?

**Margot is misunderstood by her peers.**

- a. It is the central idea of the entire passage
- b. The statement is a direct quotation from the passage
- c. The idea is not supported throughout the entire passage.
- d. It is an opinion about the passage.

8) Why is the following statement **NOT** a theme of the passage?

**The children are cruel to Margot because she has experienced things that they haven't.**

- a. It is the central idea of the entire passage
- b. The statement is a direct quotation from the passage
- c. The idea is not supported throughout the entire passage.
- d. It is an opinion about the passage.

9) Central idea and theme \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Are always the same
- b. Are usually the same but can be different.
- c. Can be the same or can be different
- d. Are never the same

10) An objective summary is: \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. The reader's opinion and thoughts about a passage
- b. Unbiased ideas and important details from a passage
- c. Minor details and direct quotations from a passage
- d. The life lesson found in the passage

11) Which sentence should **NOT be included** in an **objective** summary of the text?

- a. The children don't believe that Margot has seen the sun.
- b. The planet bloomed when the rain stopped.
- c. The sun only comes out for an hour every seven years on Venus.
- d. The constant rain was depressing and gloomy.

12) What would you change about this objective summary?

The story takes place on the planet Venus. Today, scientists predict the sun will make a brief appearance. Unlike most of the children in this story, Margot lived on Earth until five years ago, and she has not adjusted well to her new home on Venus. The children had fun in the sun while she remained inside.

- a. Nothing. No change is necessary.
- b. Remove the author's opinion.
- c. Add more minor details.
- d. Support summary with direct quotes.

13-14) Some of the themes in “All Summer in a Day” include: **1)** treating others kindly **2)** jealousy causes people to be cruel to others **3)** people are willing to follow others without thinking about the consequences. When writing about a theme in a text, it is important to provide **textual evidence** that supports the development of the theme.

**Directions:** Write a short paragraph on theme. Begin with a statement of the theme and then use one or two direct quotes (**textual evidence**) to show how this was developed in the text. Conclude your paragraph with a couple elaborations that explain the evidence chosen.

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One of the themes in “\_\_\_\_\_” by \_\_\_\_\_  
 is \_\_\_\_\_. This is the theme because \_\_\_\_\_

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Score	#13: Statement of purpose	#14: Evidence and Elaboration
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim is clear</li> <li>Includes hook and background information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convincing and relevant evidence</li> <li>Thorough elaboration</li> <li>Use of evidence is cited</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim is clearly stated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate support of evidence</li> <li>Evidence citations are general</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim is unclear</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Claim is too general</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence is weak or not relevant</li> <li>Evidence is not cited</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim strays from the actual topic</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Claim is confusing to understand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence is missing</li> <li>No elaboration if evidence is provided</li> </ul>
0	Response does not relate to the prompt	Evidence is inappropriate for the prompt