

Reading Comprehension



Read through each text and answer the questions that follow it. If the text has words that are too challenging for you to read, you can get some help from your parents, but try to be independent when possible. Happy reading!

Reading Comprehension: Pinocchio

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the passage from Carlo Collodi's book, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. Then answer the questions that follow.

Chapter 3

Little as Geppetto's house was, it was neat and comfortable. It was a small room on the ground floor, with a tiny window under the stairway. The furniture could not have been much simpler: a very old chair, a rickety old bed, and a tumble-down table. A fireplace full of burning logs was painted on the wall opposite the door. Over the fire, there was painted a pot full of something which kept boiling happily away and sending up clouds of what looked like real steam.

As soon as he reached home, Geppetto took his tools and began to cut and shape the wood into a Marionette.

"What shall I call him?" he said to himself. "I think I'll call him PINOCCHIO."

After choosing the name for his Marionette, Geppetto set seriously to work to make the hair, the forehead, the eyes. After the eyes, Geppetto made the nose, which began to stretch as soon as finished. It stretched and stretched and stretched till it became so long, it seemed endless.

Poor Geppetto kept cutting it and cutting it, but the more he cut, the longer grew that impertinent nose. In despair he let it alone.

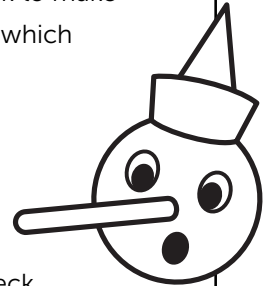
Next he made the mouth. After the mouth, he made the chin, then the neck, the shoulders, the stomach, the arms, and the hands.

The legs and feet still had to be made. As soon as they were done, Geppetto felt a sharp kick on the top of his nose.

He took hold of the Marionette under the arms and put him on the floor to teach him to walk.

Pinocchio's legs were so stiff that he could not move them, and Geppetto held his hand and showed him how to put out one foot after the other.

When his legs were limbered up, Pinocchio started walking by himself and ran all around the room. He came to the open door, and with one leap he was out into the street. Away he flew!



Reading Comprehension: Pinocchio

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does the picture show?

2. Why did Geppetto keep cutting Pinocchio's nose?

3. How did Pinocchio learn to walk?

4. Describe Geppetto's house, then in the box below, draw a picture of Geppetto's house.

Cause & Effect Reading Comprehension: Home Sick



Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read the passage, then complete the prompts that follow.



At school last week, I sat next to a friend who was sniffing. Since it's cold outside, a lot of people have the sniffles. We use tissues and hand sanitizer to help us avoid spreading germs. However, the moment I got home, I knew those germs had gotten to me. I was tired and just wanted to rest.

Since I was showing signs of having a cold, my dad declared that I would be staying home from school until I got better. I was disappointed because I had a science test the next day, and I didn't want to miss it. I went to bed early that night, which was fine with me. This sickness made me feel extra sleepy.

I stayed home from school the next day. Since I couldn't stay home alone, my dad stayed with me. He took me to the doctor. The doctor directed me to get a lot of rest, drink fluids, and take some medicine.

While I napped, my dad worked from home. I slept for most of the day because my body was tired. When I woke up, I tried to study for my science test. I knew my teacher would want me to take the test as soon as I returned to school. However, my eyes felt drowsy and I decided to take another nap.



After a few days home from school, I finally felt better and my parents let me return to my classroom. My friends smiled as they saw me walk in the door. My teacher asked how I was feeling. I told them I was feeling much better, and that I was glad to be back!

During science class, my teacher, Mrs. Jenkins, gave me the science test I had missed earlier in the week. She sent me into another classroom to complete it while my class went over the answers together. I knew I was going to have a lot of makeup work from being absent for a few days, but at least I had energy to complete it!

Identify three cause and effect relationships in the text. Record them in the chart below.

CAUSE	→	EFFECT
1. _____	→	_____
2. _____	→	_____
3. _____	→	_____

What decision did the narrator have to make when studying for the science test while home from school?

Reading Comprehension: Problem and Solution 1



Problem	Solution
<p>A conflict between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two or more characters • a character and nature • a character and him/herself <p>* Usually found at the beginning of a story</p>	<p>The way in which a problem is solved</p> <p>* Usually found at the end of a story</p>

Directions: Read the passages and complete the chart.

	<p style="text-align: center;">A Package at the Door</p> <p>On Friday afternoon, the doorbell rang. Ekon ran to the front door to see if his package arrived. He was so excited that he threw open the door. He didn't even think about his dog, Rex. Rex darted out the door. He was down the street in a blink of the eye. Luckily, the mailman noticed the pup as he sprinted past him. The mailman chased after Rex, grabbed his collar, and walked him back to Ekon. Phew, that was close!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Basketball Blues</p> <p>Daichi and Marley took turns at the hoop practicing their free throws. Usually Daichi sunk his free throw shots with no trouble, but something was off today. He had not made a single shot. Marley was on fire, though! He made every single free throw shot from the line. Coach Yang noticed and came to talk to Daichi. "If you adjust your feet," he said, "your shot will go straight." To Daichi's surprise, he made the rest of his free throws!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Card Time</p> <p>Luli's report card had some good grades and some bad grades. Even though she knew her parents would be disappointed, Luli would show it to them when she got home. Yet when she got off the bus, she realized that the report card was not in her binder. She must have lost it! Instead of panicking, Luli decided to talk to her teacher about it the next day. Her teacher printed a new report card, and even put it in a special envelope for Luli to take home to her parents.</p>
Passage			
Problem			
Solution			

Reading Comprehension: Problem and Solution 2



A story can have more than one problem and solution!

Problem	Solution
<p>A conflict between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two or more characters • a character and nature • a character and him/herself <p>* Usually found at the beginning of a story</p>	<p>The way in which a problem is solved</p> <p>* Usually found at the end of a story</p>
<p>Signal Words: problem, issue, conflict</p>	<p>Signal Words: answer, solve, solution, resolution</p>

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

A Mess With the Car	Questions
<p>Eli's mom drove a vintage car. She took care of it, but it always seemed to have issues. One day, Eli was in the car with his mom and sister on their way to visit their cousins.</p> <p>To get there, they had to cross a bridge. The bridge always had traffic, but that day was worse than normal. It seemed that there was an accident that was causing traffic. Eli was concerned about the people in the accident. He hoped they were okay!</p> <p>Suddenly, Eli's mom said, "Oh no!" Eli and his sister looked out the front window to see smoke rising from the hood of the car. Eli's mom quickly turned the car off and jumped out. She opened the hood, and the children watched more smoke rise into the air. Eli's sister began to cry.</p> <p>Eli's mom called family members for help. She then called for a tow truck. She assured her children that they were safe and help was on the way. When the accident was cleared off the bridge, traffic began moving again. Eli, his sister, and his mom waited in the car for family to arrive.</p> <p>Thankfully, the family members arrived with their minivan. Eli's family car had to be towed to the shop so a mechanic could fix it. The family still enjoyed their visit, and they were thankful for so many helping hands!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Underline the main problem in red. 2. Underline the main solution in green. 3. Circle the statement that is true. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eli was embarrassed about the car breaking down in traffic. b. Eli's sister helped her mom solve the problem while on the bridge. c. Eli's mom does not take care of her car. d. Eli cares about other people. 4. Find the part of the story that shows that Eli's mom knows how to take care of her family. Circle the sentences. 5. What other problems existed in the story, "A Mess with the Car"? List 3. _____ _____ _____ 6. What problem did the family members solve at the end of the story? _____ _____

The Nightingale

BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

VOCABULARY

Porcelain - a strong, glossy, ceramic material made by heating clay in a high temperature oven

Lush - thriving, luxurious vegetation

Nightingale - a small bird, found in Europe and south-west Asia, known for its melodious song

Accustomed - being used to something; normal

Artificial - not natural; made by humans

COMPREHENSION

What country did this story take place in?

Why did the Emperor want the nightingale all for himself?

What happened after the nightingale flew out the window?

CRITICAL THINKING

THEME

What was the *moral* of this story? In other words, is there a general life lesson that can be learned from reading this story?

SYMBOLISM

All stories have *symbols* - an object that represents an idea or another thing. The nightingale is the main symbol of this story. What idea or thing does she symbolize?

HOW THE WHALE GOT HIS THROAT

by Rudyard Kipling

Once upon a time there was a giant Whale who lived deep in the sea. He was always hungry, and more than anything he loved to eat fish of all different kinds: mackerel, salmon, tuna, crab, octopus, squid, eel and more. He ate and ate, until there was only one fish left in the whole sea!

Luckily, the Last Fish in the sea was a clever one. Before the hungry Whale could chase him, the Last Fish took a bow and asked, "Oh, mighty Whale, have you ever tasted man?"

"No," said the Whale, who was a bit confused, "What is it like?"

"Oh, it's delicious," said the clever Last Fish, "And it will really fill you up. I saw one just the other day sitting on a raft in the middle of the sea. He is a shipwrecked sailor. Go and find him!"

So the Whale swam and swam, until he came upon a raggedy sailor, alone on a wooden raft. The hungry Whale crept up, opened his mouth wide and swallowed the sailor, raft and all. But it was not as the clever Last Fish had said—this man was not delicious at all! He kicked and danced, pranced and punched at the inside of the Whale's belly.

Annoyed, the Whale swam around trying to find that clever Last Fish, but he'd already made his escape. "This man is making me hiccup," the Whale said to himself, "What should I do?" Suddenly, from inside his belly the Whale heard a man's yell: "Take me home, to Albion, or I'll kick as hard as ever!"

The poor, hiccupping Whale had no choice but to swim the man home. After he escaped, the man lived happily ever after. And so did the Whale, but he had forgotten about the raft that was lodged in his throat. It was like a permanent silt! From then on, it prevented the Whale from eating anything except tiny fish.

And that was how the Whale got his throat.

Activities

Put the events in the order in which they happened.

- | | # | Order |
|--|-------|-------|
| A. The Whale met the Last Fish. | _____ | |
| B. The Whale spit out the man. | _____ | |
| C. The man's raft was stuck in the Whale's throat. | _____ | |
| D. The Whale ate almost all the fish in the sea. | _____ | |
| E. The Whale swallowed the sailor. | _____ | |

Who asked the Whale if he had tasted a man? _____

Who danced and kicked in the Whale's stomach? _____

Who swam the sailor home? _____

At the end of the story, who could eat only small fish? _____

WORD SEARCH

D T Y Z J U Z Q U V N M E D I
E F V D B B B N O A A J E U E
Y G Y O E J E R J O G P W O X
O U O T T G Z Z S I A F V A C
N X Q D G S G G C C S D P L E
N C L E V E R A S D J R W B D
A O H L K U I E R D E H U I Z
A O R I E I D P Q V A Q U O K
E G E C R I X D E L I U M N R
E J R I H Q Z N E D H H O U H
S K I O S I T D E S U F N O C
M F Y U D E C U X D B T W B C
T I I S D L K C E R Y K U H D
Y G D G A X N H U N Y D J W M
B G O Q F F O A Z P D D N E U

WORD LIST
Albion
Annoyed
Clever
Confused
Delicious
Escaped
Hiccup
Prevented
Raggedy
Whale

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Understanding the Character

Great readers can focus on the story elements in a text to have a deeper understanding of the story. The characters, setting, problem, and solution, are story **elements**. They make the story interesting!

Characters: The people or creatures in a story, movie, or play.

Setting: The time and place in which something happens.

Problem: A question or situation that is difficult to deal with.

Solution: The way to solve a problem.

Directions: Read the story. Then, answer questions about the characters in the story.

Today was the day, and I couldn't ignore the butterflies in my stomach. I had waited and studied for this day for months, after all, and I felt on edge. I was on my way to the most-watched game show on television: "Will You Win?" It's a staple at our house. We watch it every day right after I get off the bus.

On the show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. The boo from the audience is legendary on this show. It is especially entertaining when someone famous is the cause of the booing. It's not a complicated show, but you have to be smart and quick with your answer. I can't believe they finally chose me to be a contestant! I can't believe I have a chance to win the prize money!

As my mother drove me to the airport, I focused on the "Will You Win?" show. Facts raced through my head and I skimmed all the pocket factbooks I'd brought with me. The speed limit decreased and the car slowed as we approached the airport. My mother parked in the long-term parking garage. We headed towards the terminal. My pace slowed. I thought, "Can I do this?"

"Alexis, are you ready?" Mom asked.

The airport loomed before us. This is my chance to win money for our after-school program. This is what I worked so hard for. "I can do this," I told myself. I stood taller and said, "Ready or not, here I come!" Then, I smiled for the first time that day.

Directions: Answer the questions about using information from the story.

1. Who is the main character in the story?

2. What is the setting in the story?

3. How does the character feel in the story?

4. How has Alexis prepared for the game show?

5. What do the words "on edge" tell you about Alexis?

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Order of Events

The **sequence of events**, or the order of the story, is the order in which events happen in the story. One event typically leads to another. Paying attention to the sequence of events in the story can help readers understand challenges and victories characters encounter in a story.

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The hot air whipped in my face as I got out of the taxi in front of Studio B. The sun was shining and I regretted wearing the sweater I had packed. The flight across the country to Los Angeles had been long and nerve-wracking, and I could not study a minute longer about American presidents or the names of states. The game show, "Will You Win?", was in 2 hours, and I felt ready. At least, I hoped I was ready.

"Alexis, don't forget your pocket factbook. Did you finish studying the water cycle on the plane?" Mom asked.

I groaned. "No, I forgot that one on the bus yesterday. But, I feel ready. I can do this!" I tried to talk myself into it. The funding for our after-school program hung in the balance. "I'll read a bit more when I get to the green room," I assured her.

We walked into Studio B. I'd never been to a studio before and couldn't help staring at everything in the room. I didn't even notice my pocket factbook fall to the ground until a friendly face stood in front of me, holding it out to me.

"Hi! I'm Angie. Are you here for the game show?" she asked

"Uh, yeah. Yes." I stammered.

"Great! Come check out their library of facts! I'm sure the books will prepare us even more for the contest," she said as she pivoted quickly on her heels and walked down the hall.

I nodded at her gratefully. "Do you think they have any information on the water cycle?" I asked as I hurried behind her.

1. How did Alexis get to Los Angeles?

2. Where did the taxi take Alexis and his mother?

3. How much longer until the game show starts?

4. Put these events in the order they occurred in the story. Number the events 1-8.

_____ Alexis met Angie.

_____ The heat made Alexis regret wearing his sweater.

_____ Mom asked Alexis if he'd studied on the plane.

_____ Alexis groaned.

_____ Alexis walked towards the library.

_____ The pocket factbook falls to the floor.

_____ Alexis and his mother arrived in Los Angeles.

_____ The taxi pulled in front of Studio B.

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Remember Details

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Alexis and Angie stood with all the other contestants of the “Who Will Win?” game show. They thought about what was at stake. They thought about the prize money and about all the people that would be watching them on the television. There was excitement in the air, but a nervous energy as well. They still had to deal with the pesky dance or acting challenge if they answered a question incorrectly.

In the “Who Will Win?” game show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. All the contestants dread hearing a boo from the audience.

The first round began and Angie faced off with another contestant, Harvey. The crowd cheered as Angie answered question after question correctly. Harvey didn’t even get a chance to answer any questions before Angie got 3 correct answers and eliminated him. He practically ran off the set with a relieved look on his face.

Alexis anxiously stepped up to the contestant table during the third round. Angie had dominated the competition in round one and two. Now it was his turn to face off with her. Everyone in the room could see his smile when the host announced the last category would be about the water cycle. Alexis grabbed the buzzer. He was ready to answer the first question.

1. Who won the first round of the competition?

2. What was the topic of the third round?

3. In what round did the contestants answer all the questions correctly?

4. What do contestants need to do when they answer a question incorrectly?

5. How many total rounds did they have to play?

6. How did Harvey feel when he was eliminated?



Reading Corner

Main Idea & Details Part 1

What is a main idea?

A main idea is what the text is mostly about.

What are details?

Details are sentences that tell more about, describe, or explain the main idea.

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then, use the graphic organizer to record the main idea and three supporting details.

You probably know sharks have very sharp teeth, but did you know they never run out of them? If a shark loses a tooth, another moves forward from within the shark's jaw, where it keeps a nearly unlimited supply of replacement teeth. This way, it's almost impossible for a shark to end up without a full set of teeth. This is a phenomenon unique to the shark. No other animal in the world has teeth quite like the shark's. A shark can go through as many as 20,000 teeth in its lifetime!

Detail

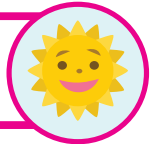
Detail

Detail

Main Idea



Reading for Comprehension: More Cause and Effect



Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

School ended last week and tomorrow we're buying our season tickets to the local amusement park! I told my brother that I was going to go every day this summer. I wanted to beat my record from last summer when I went every weekday. Every time I entered the park, I took a picture with a different costumed character. My camera was a little clunky, but entirely reliable. It worked every time!

I kept the portraits in my online summer journal. I couldn't keep my mind from racing about all the new memories I was going to make with a trusted companion. All I needed to do was find my digital camera that my grandfather bought for me two years ago. When I found it, I couldn't believe my eyes.

The lens looked crusted over in dust and the camera case looked like it had water damage! The buttons couldn't be pushed down and nothing would turn on. The memory card compartment felt like it had been sealed by dried saltwater, and I couldn't even open it! I suspected that one of my brothers must have used my camera, damaged it, put it back and thought I might not have noticed. How could I not?! But I thought about something my grandfather used to say: "There's no need crying over spilled milk." Maybe it was time I ditched the idea of taking a camera with me. Nowadays my phone takes better pictures than that old camera ever did and it's more compact!

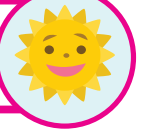
1. What was the trusted companion the narrator spoke of?

2. What new memories did the main character have in mind?

3. What made the 'companion' so reliable?

4. Who did the main character suspect was involved in the mishap?

5. What do you think happened to the camera?



Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo by Rudyard Kipling

Directions: Read the following passage and choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

A long time ago, the Kangaroo looked very different than he does now. He was grey and woolly, with four short legs. He was very boastful, and wanted nothing more than to be the most important and well-loved animal in Australia.

One day, his pride really got the better of him. The old Kangaroo went to the Little God Nia, who was known for granting wishes.

“Make me different from all the other animals,” demanded the old Kangaroo, “it must be done by 5 o’clock this afternoon.”

Up jumped Nia from his seat on the rocks and he shouted, “Go away!”

So the old Kangaroo went to the Middle God Nialu, and commanded, “Make me different from all the other animals, and make me very popular too! It must be done by 5 o’clock this afternoon.” Up jumped Nialu from his seat in the bushes and he shouted, “Go away!”

So the old Kangaroo went to the Big God Nialuwa and stated, “You must make me different from all the other animals, and very popular, and very wonderfully run-after. It must be done by 5 o’clock this afternoon.”

Nialuwa was tired of the old Kangaroo’s shenanigans, and so he proceeded to grant his wishes. Nialuwa called the yellow dog Dingo and said, “See that Kangaroo?” The Dingo nodded. “Well, he wishes to be different from all the other animals, and very wonderfully run-after. Make him so! You have until 5 o’clock this afternoon.”



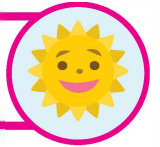
And with that, the Dingo began to chase the grey and woolly Kangaroo for miles and miles. The old Kangaroo ran and ran on his four legs, through the desert, through the mountains, through the salt-pans, the reed-beds and the blue gums... he had to! Soon they came

to a river, and the Kangaroo didn’t know how to cross. He began to hop through the river. Then he hopped through the forest, and soon his back legs began to get stronger. He tucked up his front legs, hopped on his hind legs and stuck out his tail for balance as he hopped away from the Dingo.

Eventually the sun began to set. The tired old Kangaroo hopped and hopped, and suddenly realized that the Dingo was no longer chasing him. It was 5 o’clock in the afternoon! And low and behold, the old Kangaroo was now different from all the other animals, not to mention, he’d been run-after all day.

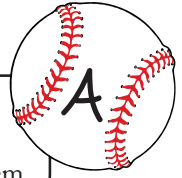


The Sing Song of Old Man Kangaroo Comprehension



1. In what order did Kangaroo visit the three gods?
 - A. Nialuwa, Nia, Nialu
 - B. Nia, Nialu, Nialuwa
 - D. Nialuwa, Nialu, Nia
 - C. Kangaroo hadn't visited any gods.
2. Why had Nialuwa grown tired of Kangaroo's shenanigans?
 - A. Kangaroo didn't know how to cross the river on four legs.
 - B. Kangaroo had demanded to be different by 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
 - C. Kangaroo came to Nialuwa after making demands of Nia and Nialu.
 - D. Nialuwa had just woken up from a year-long nap.
3. Why had Nailu jumped up from his seat?
 - A. He was finished granting wishes.
 - B. The bushes were crawling with ants.
 - C. Nialu realized he had someplace else to go.
 - D. Nialu was upset with Kangaroo and his bad attitude.
4. How had Kangaroo's legs begun to get stronger?
 - A. Nilalu sent him on an errand.
 - B. Dingo had chased him all day.
 - D. Kangaroo went for a swim in a magic lake.
 - C. Dingo cast a spell on Kangaroo.
5. Why had Nialuwa asked Dingo to look at Kangaroo?
 - A. Nialuwa was about to assign him a task.
 - B. Kangaroo was holding Dingo's lunch.
 - C. Nialuwa wanted him to see what a kangaroo looked like.
 - D. Kangaroo was holding up a sign for Dingo to read.
6. Why had Kangaroo stuck out his tail?
 - A. For good luck
 - B. To smack Dingo as he ran
 - C. For balance
 - D. To trip Nia

Reading Comprehension: Lulu's Grades



A **problem** is something the character wants to figure out, change, or fix.

A **solution** is the way a problem is solved.

Characters must actively work to solve problems. Sometimes they try several ways to solve a problem.

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

Lulu sighed as she received her progress report. She had a feeling that it wasn't going to be good, but when she opened it, her heart sank. She was failing math. How would she explain this to her dad?

Lulu's dad was very strict. He expected her to do well in school, as well as on the softball field. He would be disappointed in her, and Lulu dreaded going home to tell him.

"Dad, I'm really sorry," Lulu said. "I promise I will bring these grades up."

"Well, honey," her dad replied. "If the grades don't come up, there will be no softball team for the rest of the season. It's up to you."

Lulu understood. Right then, she made a promise to herself that she would fix this. She spent the evening in her bedroom thinking about all the things she could do to get her math grade above the failing mark.

On Monday morning, Lulu approached her math teacher. She asked if she could come to the classroom before school in the morning to get extra help. Her teacher agreed, and Lulu already felt a sense of accomplishment. This was the first step to bringing up her grades.

That same day, Lulu asked Jaime, another girl in her math class, for help. Jaime agreed to help her and they set up a plan to get together three days a week after school.

After school, Lulu asked her dad for permission to use the computer instead of watching television.

"My teacher told me about this online program I can use to practice my math skills," Lulu explained to her dad. "There is no way I'm missing a day of softball! I'm going to get these grades up, Dad!"

Through the week, Lulu practiced and studied. Then, she practiced and studied some more. On Friday after school, Lulu's dad received a phone call from the teacher. She asked if she could speak to Lulu.

"Lulu, sweet girl," the teacher said excitedly. "You made an A on the test! That brings your overall grade up, and you are no longer failing. Great job! Keep up this hard work because it is paying off."

Lulu grinned, looked at her dad, and gave him a thumbs up. They picked up their bags and headed to the softball field. Lulu was on cloud nine.

Reading Comprehension	Figurative Language
1. Underline the problem. 2. Circle the solution. 3. Why was Lulu motivated to solve her problem? 4. List three ways in which the character tries to solve the problem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	In the text, the last sentence states, "Lulu was on cloud nine." What does it mean?