Making Predictions

Cross-Curricular Focus: Language Arts

Name: _____

   You can improve your reading comprehension skills if you prepare your brain for reading before you begin. Read the title and help your mind make connections to things you already know.

   Highlight important words in the title. If you are reading from a source that you can't write on, such as a textbook or library book, use a piece of paper. If you are reading on a worksheet or printed page on which you are permitted to take notes, use it. Consider each of the words one at a time. Write down what you think of when you read or hear that word. Then consider them collectively.They have been placed together to form the title. Make a prediction about what you will read. Remember that a prediction in language arts is what a hypothesis is in a science experiment. You are not making a wild guess. You are using all the available information to make a knowledgeable guess. What can you reasonably predict at this point? Write your prediction down so you can watch for it to be resolved one way or another as you read.

   Look at any photos, illustrations, graphs or other visual aids that have been included with the story. Read any captions or informational notes to make sure you understand what has been included. Note any important statistics, dates or people. Pay attention to the colors used in the pictures and the mood that the pictures create. Write down any additional observations or predictions that come to mind. Remember that good predictions are based on evidence. Think about why you think as you do.

   Read over your notes and predictions as you prepare to begin reading the passage. Keep your notes out in front of you while you read. As your predictions are either confirmed or proven to be incorrect, jot down little notes about what happened. If you do not understand something that you read, go back a few sentences and read again. If a specific word is giving you trouble, see if the words around that word can help you determine its meaning. If not, use a dictionary if one is available. Do not be content to read on without understanding. When you have finished reading, see if you can mentally summarize what you have read.

   Whenever possible, discuss the reading with someone else who has also read it. This will allow you to share your predictions and thoughts about what you have read. Exchanging ideas sharpens your understanding. Then you will both be on your way to improving your reading comprehension.

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) Name at least two techniques you can use to prepare your brain before you begin reading.

_____

_____

2) Why should you keep your notes nearby as you read?

_____

_____

3) How is a prediction like a hypothesis in science?

_____

_____

4) What can you do if you don't understand a specific word?

_____

_____

5) What is a benefit of discussing the reading with someone else?

_____

_____

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Name: **Key**

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Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) Name at least two techniques you can use to prepare your brain before you begin reading.

Example of correct answer: Read the title and look at the visual aids.

2) Why should you keep your notes nearby as you read?

so you can write whether your predictions were correct or incorrect

3) How is a prediction like a hypothesis in science?

both are knowledgeable guesses

4) What can you do if you don't understand a specific word?

See if the words around it can help you determine the meaning.

5) What is a benefit of discussing the reading with someone else?

Example of correct answer: You can exchange ideas about the reading.