

Strategies
To
Achieve
Reading
Success

Name _____



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesson 1	Finding Main Idea	4
Lesson 2	Recalling Facts and Details	14
Lesson 3	Understanding Sequence	24
Lessons 1-3	REVIEW	34
<hr/>		
Lesson 4	Recognizing Cause and Effect	38
Lesson 5	Comparing and Contrasting	48
Lesson 6	Making Predictions	58
Lessons 4-6	REVIEW	68
<hr/>		
Lesson 7	Finding Word Meaning in Context	72
Lesson 8	Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences	82
Lesson 9	Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion	92
Lessons 7-9	REVIEW	102
<hr/>		
Lesson 10	Identifying Author’s Purpose	106
Lesson 11	Interpreting Figurative Language	116
Lesson 12	Summarizing	126
Lessons 10-12	REVIEW	136
Lessons 1-12	FINAL REVIEW	140

Lesson 4

RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

PART ONE: Think About the Strategy



What Is Cause and Effect?

There is a reason for everything that happens. What happens is called the *effect*. Why it happens is called the *cause*.

1 Write what happens if you oversleep on a school day.

2 Write why this happens.



Work with a Partner

- Take turns giving each other examples of cause and effect. You might say, “I watered the plant because its leaves were drooping.”
- In each example, tell which part is the cause and which part is the effect.

How Do You Find Cause and Effect?

Many reading passages include examples of cause and effect. You can find causes and effects by thinking about what happens in a passage and why.

Read this passage about Marcus and Jake. Think about the things that happen and why they happen.

Marcus and Jake were hiking along a mountain path. They came to a fork in the trail, and they didn't know which way to go.

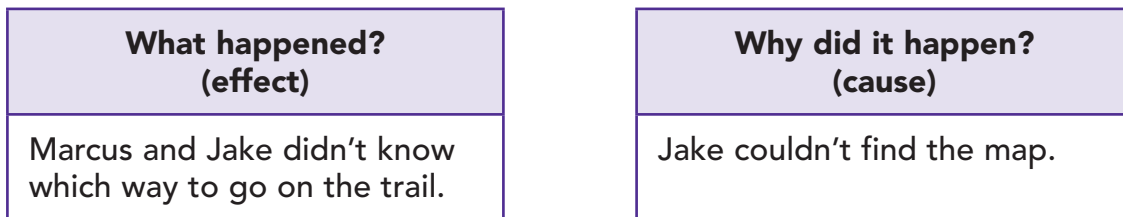
"Look at the map," said Marcus to Jake. Jake checked his pockets and his backpack, but he couldn't find the map.

"I left it at the last place we stopped to rest. We'll have to go back to find it," said Jake.

1. Let's find an example of cause and effect in the passage.
2. Look at the two boxes below.

The first box tells what happened. This is the *effect*.

The second box tells why it happened. This is the *cause*.

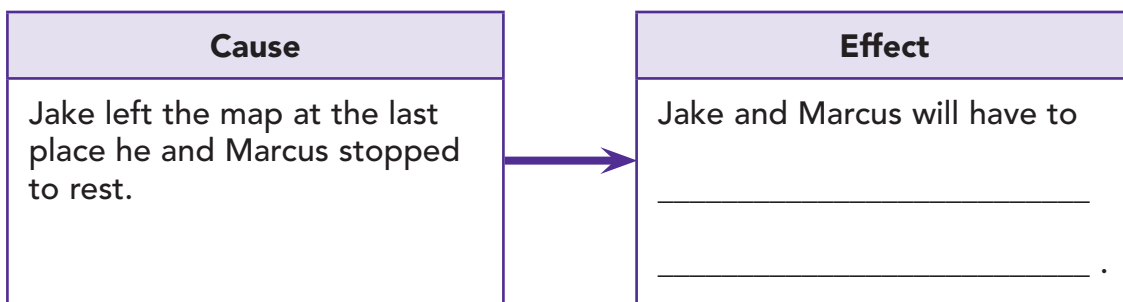


3. Let's find another example of cause and effect in the passage.

Look at the two boxes below.

The first box tells the cause for why something happened.

4. Fill in the effect in the second box. Tell what happened because Jake left the map behind.




**WHAT
TO
KNOW**

What happens and why is called **cause and effect**.

Why something happens is the **cause**.

What happens because of the cause is the **effect**.

- A cause is the reason that something happens.
- An effect is what happens as a result of the cause.
- Clue words such as *so*, *so that*, *since*, *because*, and *if* often signal cause and effect. Other clue words are *reason* and *as a result*.

Read this article about birds that don't fly. As you read, think about one thing that happened to some types of birds and why.



All birds have wings, but not all birds fly. Scientists believe that there once was a time when all birds could fly. In time, however, some types of birds no longer needed to fly in order to survive. So these birds became flightless. The two most common types of flightless birds are penguins and ostriches.

Penguins have flippers instead of wings. They use their flippers to help them swim underwater at fast speeds.

Ostriches also move quickly, even though they are the largest birds on Earth. Their wings help them balance as they run.

These birds can run at speeds up to 35 miles per hour.



One thing that happened to some types of birds and why is:

What happened: **They became flightless.**

Why it happened: **They no longer needed to fly in order to survive.**

Read this journal entry written by a girl named Hannah. As you read, look for clue words to help you understand what happens and why it happens. Then answer the questions.

January 15

Today my parents took me to an art museum. The museum was exhibiting the paintings of Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch painter of the late 1800s. Because I like to paint, my parents thought I would enjoy seeing van Gogh's work. I just thought I'd be bored.

Boy, was I ever surprised! The minute I walked into the van Gogh gallery, I was fascinated. Van Gogh used bold, bright colors to express his feelings about what he saw. I spent hours looking at van Gogh's vivid paintings. When it was finally time to leave, I was disappointed. My parents had to drag me away because I was having such a good time.

1. Hannah's parents thought she would enjoy seeing van Gogh's work because she
 - (A) likes art museums.
 - (B) has always enjoyed van Gogh's work.
 - (C) likes to paint.
 - (D) had nothing else to do.
2. Which clue word or words in the journal entry signals the reason that Hannah's parents had to drag her away?
 - (A) so that
 - (B) because
 - (C) since
 - (D) if



Work with a Partner

- Talk about your answers to the questions.
- Tell why you chose your answers.
- Then talk about what you have learned so far about recognizing cause and effect.



REVIEW

What happens and why is called cause and effect.

- To find a cause, look for a reason that something happened. Ask yourself, “*Why* did it happen?”
- To find an effect, look for a result, or something that happened. Ask yourself, “*What* happened?”
- Look for clue words that signal cause and effect, such as *so, so that, since, because, if, reason, and as a result.*

Read this silly poem. As you read, ask yourself, “What are some things that happen in the poem? Why do these things happen?” Then answer the questions.

A silly young girl had a dream in her head,
 Her dream was to sleep on a big feather bed.
 She thought, “Feathers are light and soft as a breeze.
 I’d sure like to sleep on a bed made of these!”
 So she spread some goose feathers on a flat rock.
 She had happened to find them on a boat dock.
 She lay down on the feathers and tried to sleep.
 But the bed was so hard she wanted to weep!
 Soon she felt pains in her knees, neck, and head.
 “Feather beds are hard! I don’t want one!” she said.



3. Why did the silly girl want to sleep on a feather bed?

- Ⓐ She knew that feathers were soft.
- Ⓑ She had a dream about feathers.
- Ⓒ Her friend had a feather bed.
- Ⓓ She had pains in her knees.

4. The silly girl wanted to sleep on a bed of feathers, so she

- Ⓐ bought a mattress made of feathers.
- Ⓑ plucked feathers off a goose.
- Ⓒ slept on a dock covered with feathers.
- Ⓓ spread feathers on a flat rock.

Which Answer Is Correct and Why?

Look at the answer choices for each question.

Read why each answer choice is **correct** or **not correct**.

3. Why did the silly girl want to sleep on a feather bed?

- A She knew that feathers were soft.**

This answer is correct because the girl thinks to herself, *“Feathers are light and soft as a breeze. I’d sure like to sleep on a bed made of these!”*

- B She had a dream about feathers.**

This answer is not correct because the girl had a dream of sleeping on a big feather bed, not a dream about feathers.

- C Her friend had a feather bed.**

This answer is not correct because nothing is said in the poem about a friend with a feather bed.

- D She had pains in her knees.**

This answer is not correct because the pains in the girl’s knees are caused by lying on the hard rock. Having pains in her knees was not the reason for her wanting to sleep on a feather bed.

4. The silly girl wanted to sleep on a bed of feathers, so she

- A bought a mattress made of feathers.**

This answer is not correct because the girl does not buy a mattress of any kind.

- B plucked feathers off a goose.**

This answer is not correct because the girl does not pluck feathers off a goose. The poem says that she had found goose feathers on a dock.

- C slept on a dock covered with feathers.**

This answer is not correct because the girl does not sleep on a dock. She finds feathers on a dock and spreads them on a flat rock.

- D spread feathers on a flat rock.**

This answer is correct because the effect is stated directly in the poem (she spread feathers on a flat rock) after the cause (she wanted to sleep on a bed made of feathers). The clue word *So* in the poem signals this cause-and-effect relationship.


**MORE
TO
KNOW**

Sometimes, there are no clue words to signal cause and effect in a reading passage. When there are no clue words, do the following:

- To find an effect, think about *what* happened.
- To find a cause, think about *how* or *why* it happened.
- Think about what you already know about how one thing might cause another thing to happen.

Read this article about a spring holiday. Then answer the questions.

April Fool's Day

On April 1, people like to play jokes on one another. This day is called April Fools' Day. No one is sure how this custom to fool people began. Some people think the tradition began in France. Until the mid-1500s there, April 1 had been the first day of the new year. The calendar was changed in 1564. The first day of the new year was moved to January 1. Some people, though, still celebrated New Year's Day on April 1. Others made fun of them for celebrating the new year on the wrong day. They called these people "April fools."

When the new year had begun on April 1, people gave gifts to one another. After the new calendar changed New Year's Day to January 1, some people still gave presents on April 1. But they chose joke gifts. As a result, people came to play jokes on one another on April Fools' Day.

5. How did people come to play jokes on one another on April Fools' Day?
 - Ⓐ They were not allowed to give gifts on this day.
 - Ⓑ They once gave joke gifts to one another on this day.
 - Ⓒ It was a French custom to play jokes on this day.
 - Ⓓ They wanted to act like fools.
6. Which clue word or phrase in the article signals the reason that people play jokes on April 1?

Ⓐ since	Ⓒ as a result
Ⓑ so	Ⓓ because
7. When the calendar was changed in 1564,
 - Ⓐ January 1 became New Year's Day.
 - Ⓑ April 1 became New Year's Day.
 - Ⓒ the month of January was dropped from the calendar.
 - Ⓓ people began acting like fools.
8. Why were people called "April fools"?
 - Ⓐ Before 1564, they celebrated the new year on April 1.
 - Ⓑ They liked to give joke gifts in April.
 - Ⓒ They thought that January 1 began the new year.
 - Ⓓ After 1564, they continued to celebrate April 1 as New Year's Day.



Read this brochure for a unique tourist attraction. Then answer the questions.



Looking for things to do in San Jose, California? Why not visit the city's largest house? The Winchester House is fun to visit because of its unusual history and uncommon style.

The Winchester House was once an eight-room farmhouse. It was built by Oliver Winchester, the inventor of the Winchester rifle. Oliver died in 1886. His widow, Sarah, felt great sorrow. She went to see a woman who claimed she could speak with the dead. She told Sarah that spirits of people killed by her husband's rifles were angry. The spirits were a danger to Sarah. There was only one way for Sarah to avoid danger. She must keep adding on to her house.



Over the next 36 years, the Winchester House grew and changed. Carpenters worked 24 hours a day. To keep them busy, Sarah often ordered them to build useless features. Many doors opened to blank walls. Some staircases led nowhere.

Building didn't stop on the Winchester House until Sarah's death in 1922. By then, the house had become a mansion seven stories high with 160 rooms.

9. What happened as a result of Sarah's visit to the woman who claimed she could speak with the dead?
- (A) Sarah talked to her dead husband.
 - (B) Sarah began adding on to her house.
 - (C) Sarah ignored the woman's advice.
 - (D) Winchester rifles were no longer made.
10. Why did Sarah add useless features to her house?
- (A) to keep the carpenters busy
 - (B) to anger the spirits of the dead
 - (C) to make the house more mysterious
 - (D) to please tourists
11. Construction on the Winchester House stopped because
- (A) the carpenters had finished the job.
 - (B) Sarah could no longer afford to keep adding on.
 - (C) the house had become a popular tourist attraction.
 - (D) Sarah had died.
12. One reason the Winchester House is a fun place to visit is that
- (A) it is haunted.
 - (B) it is unusually small.
 - (C) it has an unusual history.
 - (D) it is the largest house in California.


**TEST
TIPS**

- A test question about cause and effect may ask you *what* happened in a reading passage (the effect).
- A test question about cause and effect may ask you *why* something happened (the cause).
- A test question about cause and effect often contains words such as *because, why, reason, or what happened*.

**Read this story from Mexico. Then answer questions about the story.
Choose the best answer for Numbers 13 and 14.**

Twelve on a Bench

One day, the people of Lagos got into a great argument. Finally, they asked the twelve oldest and wisest men of Lagos for their help. The men decided to meet on the bench in the town square to discuss the matter.

Six of the men arrived first. Each man wore a big, wide sombrero. It was a hot day, so the six men took off their straw hats. As they sat down, they put the hats right next to them. The hats took up more space than the men did, so the bench was full.

Soon, the other six men came. They tried to sit down, but there wasn't any space.

"There is no room on the bench for us," said one of the men standing.

"I think the bench has shrunk," answered one of those sitting.

"Why don't we try to stretch the bench?" suggested the oldest man.

So the six sitting on the bench arose, put their sombreros on their heads, and got hold of one end of the bench. Then the six standing got hold of the other end of the bench, and each group began pulling the wood as hard as they could. After some time, they put the bench down.

All twelve men sat down, each with his sombrero on his head. Of course, now the hats took up no space, and there was plenty of room for all.

"Now that we have done a fine job of stretching that bench, we can discuss our problem," spoke the oldest. So the men of Lagos, feeling very pleased with themselves, went on with their discussion.

- 13.** Why did the first six men take off their hats?
- (A) They were being polite.
 - (B) Their straw hats were itchy.
 - (C) It was too hot to wear the hats.
 - (D) The other six men asked them to.

- 14.** What happened to the bench as a result of being pulled?
- (A) The bench became longer.
 - (B) The bench stayed the same size.
 - (C) The bench became shorter.
 - (D) The bench broke in half.



Read this article about the human body. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16.

The Wonders of the Human Body

How the human body works is a mystery to most people. For example, do you know why you blink? Or blush? Or sneeze? For every bodily mystery, there is a scientific answer.

Everyone blinks—thousands of times a day. Blinking is important because it washes tears over the eyeballs. These tears clean away dirt and dust. If you stopped blinking, the outer covering of your eyeballs would dry out and get infected. You might even go blind.

Blushing can be embarrassing, but there's nothing you can do to stop it. People usually blush when someone teases or threatens them. One part of the brain sends out a message, and the body is told to get ready to defend itself. So extra blood flows to the muscles. When blood rushes to your arms and legs, no one notices it. But there's no hiding the redness in your face.

Sneezing is the way your body protects your lungs. If dust sneaks past your nose to the throat, the brain sends out an alarm. This warning causes the tubes in the throat to tighten so that the dust can't get through to the lungs. But when you try to breathe, pressure builds up in the narrow tubes. When the pressure becomes too great, the tubes are forced open with a quick blast of air. Achooo!



15. Blinking is important because it
- Ⓐ prevents pressure from building up behind the eyes.
 - Ⓑ tells the body to get ready to defend itself.
 - Ⓒ helps the body protect the lungs.
 - Ⓓ cleans away dirt and dust from the eyes.
16. What usually happens when people are teased or threatened?
- Ⓐ They blink.
 - Ⓑ They blush.
 - Ⓒ They sneeze.
 - Ⓓ They hiccup.