Author's Purpose and Text Structure

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Frogs and Toads

Frogs and toads look a lot alike. Both are amphibians. That means they begin life in water and later live on land. Still, these two animals have some important differences.

Let's start with how they are the same. Frogs and toads both hatch from eggs laid in water. Both start out as tadpoles with tails. Both eat insects, and both catch them with long, sticky tongues.

Now let's look at how they are different. A frog's skin is smooth and wet. A toad's skin is dry and bumpy. Frogs have long, strong back legs for jumping. Toads have shorter legs, so they usually take small hops or walk.

Where they live is different, too. Most frogs stay close to ponds and streams. Toads can live farther from water, such as in gardens and fields.

Their eggs are also different. Frogs lay eggs in round clumps. Toads lay eggs in long strings, like beads on a necklace.

In my opinion, toads are the more interesting animal. One toad can eat many insects in a single night. Gardeners are lucky to have them. Next time you see a small brown hopper, look closely. You will know whether it is a frog or a toad.

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?
   - to explain to readers how to catch tadpoles in a pond
   - to persuade readers to keep a toad as a pet at home
   - to inform readers how frogs and toads are alike and different
   - to entertain readers with a story about a frog and a toad

2. Which text structure does the author use?
   problem and solution cause and effect sequence compare and contrast

3. Which sentence tells readers that differences come next?
   - Both are amphibians.
   - Let's start with how they are the same.
   - Most frogs stay close to ponds and streams.
   - Now let's look at how they are different.

4. How are frogs and toads alike?
   - Both have smooth, wet skin.
   - Both catch insects with sticky tongues.
   - Both lay eggs in long strings.
   - Both live far from water.

5. How are frog eggs and toad eggs different?
   - Frog eggs are much bigger than toad eggs.
   - Frogs lay strings, and toads lay clumps.
   - Frogs lay clumps, and toads lay strings.
   - Frogs lay eggs on land, but toads do not.

6. What does the word amphibians mean in this text?
   animals that start in water and later live on land
   animals that spend their whole lives in the ocean
   animals that hatch from eggs in nests up in trees
   animals with soft fur that eat only green plants

7. Which paragraph tells where each animal lives?
   the second paragraph the last paragraph the third paragraph the fourth paragraph

8. What is the author's opinion in the last paragraph?
   Frogs jump farther than toads do.
   Toads should live near ponds.
   Frogs are more fun to watch.
   Toads are more interesting than frogs.

9. A reader says, 'Frogs are more interesting because they jump so far.' How does that compare with the author's view?
   The reader disagrees with the author.
   The author says frogs cannot jump.
   The author never shares a view.
   The reader agrees with the author.

10. Why does the author end by asking readers to look closely at a hopper?
   so readers stay away from ponds
   so readers use what they learned
   so readers catch it and keep it
   so readers learn a frog story

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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