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 entertain readers with a story about a frog and a toad
   - to inform readers how frogs and toads are alike and different
   - to explain to readers how to catch tadpoles in a pond
   - to persuade readers to keep a toad as a pet at home

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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