Informational Main Idea

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Libraries on Wheels

Not everyone lives close to a library. Some families live far out in the country. Some people cannot easily leave their homes. For more than one hundred years, bookmobiles have brought the library to them.

A bookmobile is a library inside a vehicle. Its walls are lined with shelves full of books. Many bookmobiles also carry magazines, movies, and audiobooks. Some even have computers so visitors can get online. The bookmobile parks in the same spots on a regular schedule. People know when it will come, just like a bus.

The idea started long ago. In the early 1900s, a librarian named Mary Titcomb wanted to reach farm families in Maryland. At first, she sent boxes of books to stores and post offices. Then, in 1905, she started a book wagon pulled by two horses. It traveled country roads and stopped at farmhouses. Families were thrilled to borrow books they had never seen before.

Over time, bookmobiles changed. Horses were replaced by trucks and then by buses. In some places, books traveled in other ways. Libraries have used boats on rivers, camels in deserts, and even mules on mountain trails.

Today, bookmobiles serve many different readers. They stop at schools that do not have their own library. They visit homes for older adults who find it hard to travel. In summer, they park at playgrounds and pools so children can keep reading during the break.

For many people, the bookmobile is more than a place to borrow books. The driver is often also a librarian who knows each visitor by name. Children may wait at the stop for it to arrive. A bookmobile helps people feel connected to their town.

Bookmobiles show that a library is not only a building. A library is any place that shares books and helps people learn.

1. What is the main idea of this text?
   - Libraries work best when they are inside large buildings.
   - Mary Titcomb started a book wagon pulled by two horses in 1905.
   - Bookmobiles bring library books to people who cannot easily reach a library.
   - Some bookmobiles carry computers so visitors can get online.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
   - A bookmobile is a library that travels on a schedule.
   - Bookmobiles carry magazines and movies.
   - People ride the bookmobile like a bus.
   - Bookmobiles have computers for visitors.

3. Which detail supports the idea that bookmobiles changed over time?
   - Horses were replaced by trucks and buses.
   - Families were thrilled to borrow books.
   - Bookmobiles park at pools in summer.
   - The driver knows each visitor by name.

4. Which sentence is true but too narrow to be the main idea of the whole text?
   - The first bookmobiles were pulled by camels.
   - Bookmobiles help many people get books.
   - Some libraries used mules on mountain trails.
   - Bookmobiles only visit large, busy cities.

5. Which is the best summary of this text?
   - Bookmobiles replaced library buildings, so most towns today no longer need a library at all.
   - Mary Titcomb sent boxes of books to stores, and then she started a wagon pulled by two horses.
   - Bookmobiles stop at schools, at homes for older adults, and at playgrounds and pools all summer.
   - Bookmobiles began with a horse wagon, changed over time, and still bring books to many readers.

6. Which is the best title for this text?
   - Mary Titcomb's Two Horses
   - How to Drive a Big Bus
   - Summer Fun at the Pool
   - Taking the Library on the Road

7. What is paragraph 5 mostly about?
   - how children keep reading in summer
   - the different readers bookmobiles serve today
   - how the first book wagon traveled
   - why schools need their own libraries

8. Which detail supports the idea that a bookmobile helps people feel connected?
   - Mary Titcomb sent boxes to post offices.
   - The driver often knows each visitor by name.
   - Its walls are lined with shelves of books.
   - Books once traveled by boat on rivers.

9. What is paragraph 3 mostly about?
   - how librarians drove trucks on country roads
   - how the first book wagon reached farm families
   - why post offices sold boxes of books
   - how farm families in Maryland grew crops

10. How does the last paragraph connect to the main idea?
    - It lists the stops a bookmobile makes each week.
    - It tells the exact date the first bookmobile began.
    - It explains that a library can be anywhere books are shared.
    - It describes the shelves inside a bookmobile.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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