



UNIT 1



Reading Skills

1-1

Main Ideas / Supporting Details

1-2

Author's Purpose and Tone / Making Inferences

1-3

Cause and Effect / Clarifying Devices

1-4

Review: Reading Skills





This unit covers six key elements you will need to focus on in order to properly understand an article: main idea(s), supporting details, author's purpose and tone, making inferences, cause and effect, and clarifying devices.

In this unit, you will learn how to understand what a text is mainly about, observe how details support main ideas, pinpoint the reason behind an author's writing, make assumptions based on information in the text, recognize connections between events, and identify the way a writer makes their work interesting.



01 The Woman in the Famous Painting

- 1 *At first I could only catch glimpses
of you through the museum crowd.
You were smaller than I expected,
and darker—all greens, yellows and browns.
Nothing special, I thought.*
- 2 *But then I got closer, and I could see your eyes.
They seemed to follow me from side to side,
as if you were alive and interested in me!
My heart began to beat.*
- 3 *And then I was in front of you, and there it was—
your famous smile! But were you smiling?
I wasn't sure. I looked away, and back again,
And now you seemed to look a little sad,
like you were forcing that smile, for us.
Day after day after day after day.*
- 4 *And then, I knew.
That look in your eyes—it wasn't interest.
It was boredom. It was the desire to slip into a dream.
And in that world of dreams you might be free—
no frame, no millions of staring eyes.
And there, perhaps, you'd smile for real.*
- 5 *I could only imagine how beautiful that smile would be.*



▲ Mona Lisa





QUESTIONS

📍 The Louvre Museum

1-1

Main Ideas / Supporting Details

01

The Woman in the Famous Painting

1. What is the main idea of the poem?
 - (A) The writer visited a museum and saw a famous painting for the first time.
 - (B) The writer understood something special about a famous painting.
 - (C) Many people come to the museum to see the painting in the poem.
 - (D) The painting in the poem was smaller than the writer expected.
2. What is the main point of the third verse/paragraph?
 - (A) The painting hangs in the museum every day.
 - (B) The writer noticed the smile of the person in the painting.
 - (C) The person in the painting is smiling but doesn't seem happy.
 - (D) The writer finally got to stand in front of the famous painting.
3. What is special about the eyes of the person in the painting?
 - (A) They are large and beautiful.
 - (B) They are closed.
 - (C) They are bright blue.
 - (D) They seem to move.
4. What is TRUE about the painting?
 - (A) It shows a person that is crying.
 - (B) It is famous for its smiling subject.
 - (C) It is not popular among museum visitors.
 - (D) The painting is black and white.
5. On the wall next to the painting, the author found the information on the right. Which of the following is NOT true about the painting?
 - (A) The painting is less than 100 years old.
 - (B) A man named Leonardo da Vinci painted it.
 - (C) The painter used oil paints to create the painting.
 - (D) The painting is less than one meter tall.

Title:

Mona Lisa

Painter:

Leonardo da Vinci

Year:

1503–1506

Size:

77 cm × 53 cm

Type of paint:

Oil

Flour Power

» dough figurines

Mei is interviewing Mr. Lin for the school newspaper.

Mei: Mr. Lin, you are a folk artist—is that right?

Mr. Lin: Yes, that's right. I make dough figurines.

Mei: What are dough figurines?

» Sun Wu Kong,
the Monkey King

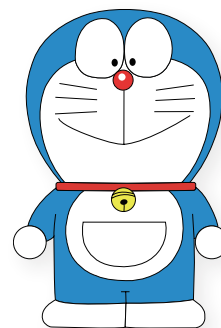


Mr. Lin: They are toys, but I make them using sticky rice flour.

Mei: How interesting! How do you make them?

Mr. Lin: I roll and press the dough with my hands. I also use this bamboo tool to shape the figurine's body parts.

Mei: I can see it takes a lot of skill. What are some of your most popular figurines?



» Doraemon

Mr. Lin: A lot of the figurines I make are characters from old stories.

Sun Wu Kong, the Monkey King, is probably the most popular of those.

But I also make some modern cartoon characters, like Doraemon and Pikachu. They're very popular, too.

Mei: I don't see many artists like you these days. Are you the last one?

Mr. Lin: I'm not the last one, but you're right—there aren't many left. Thirty years ago there were so many of us, but now making dough figurines is a dying art.

Mei: Mr. Lin, thank you for speaking with me.



» Pikachu

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main point of the interview?
(A) Mr. Lin makes dough figurines with sticky rice flour.
(B) Sun Wu Kong is one of Mr. Lin's most popular figurines.
(C) The interviewer thinks Mr. Lin's figurines are highly interesting.
(D) Making dough figurines is a dying art.
2. Which of the following does Mr. Lin use to make his dough figurines?
(A) A bamboo tool. (B) A toy. (C) Noodles. (D) Scissors.
3. Which of the following is NOT true about Mr. Lin's figurines?
(A) Many of them are from old stories.
(B) Pikachu is a popular character.
(C) Some are from modern-day cartoons.
(D) Some look like modern-day pop stars.
4. What is TRUE about artists like Mr. Lin?
(A) Thirty years ago there weren't many of them around.
(B) Thirty years ago there were fewer than there are today.
(C) There are much fewer now than there were thirty years ago.
(D) There were none thirty years ago, but now there are many.
5. The announcement below appeared in the school newspaper after an article about Mr. Lin.

Learn to Make Dough Figurines!

With Mr. Lin

Friday, March 10, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. in Art Room B

Learn a cool Taiwanese folk art!

You'll learn to make all kinds of cool characters, from Sun Wu Kong to Pikachu!

Class size: Maximum 20 people.

Sign up at the reception desk.

For students of Jinshan Junior High School only.

What is the main message of the ad?

- (A) Mr. Lin will hold a special class to teach students how to make dough figurines.
- (B) Only students of Jinshan Junior High School can attend Mr. Lin's class.
- (C) No more than 20 students can attend Mr. Lin's class.
- (D) The class will take place in Art Room B on the evening of Friday,

March 10.

03 A Mosque Like No Other

1 The town of Djenné in Mali is home to one of the most unique religious buildings in the world. Its name is the Great Mosque of Djenné. What makes the building so unique? While most mosques are wood or stone, the builders of this mosque used dried mud.

2 Two things stand out about the mosque. The first is the way it looks. The mosque's brown color makes it seem like the building just rose up from the earth around it. The second thing is the mosque's mud walls. People need to fix them very often. This makes it so the mosque's shape is always changing little by little. In fact, these repairs are a big event for the people of Djenné. Every year, people come out and help repair the mosque during the Crépissage de la Grand Mosquée festival.

3 The Great Mosque of Djenné isn't just unique; it is also very beautiful. Tourists arrive in Djenné from around the world just to see it. Some come to worship at the mosque. Others come to view a piece of art. Others yet just want to see what the largest mud building in the world looks like.

» People are repairing the Great Mosque of Djenné. (cc by Ralf Steinberger)





▲ The Great Mosque of Djenné

QUESTIONS

- _____ 1. How often does the Crépissage de la Grand Mosquée take place?

(A) Once a week.	(B) Once every 10 years.
(C) Once a month.	(D) Once a year.
- _____ 2. What is the first paragraph mainly about?

(A) The Great Mosque of Djenné is unlike other mosques.	(B) The Great Mosque of Djenné is made from wood and stone.
(C) The Great Mosque of Djenné isn't unique.	(D) The Great Mosque of Djenné was hard to build.
- _____ 3. What is the main point of the second paragraph?

(A) People don't like the mosque's color.	(B) The mosque is special because of its looks.
(C) The mosque was built using earth.	(D) People think the mosque won't stand for long.
- _____ 4. What is the main point of the final paragraph?

(A) The mosque is very beautiful.	(B) The mosque is popular with tourists.
(C) Many people worship at the mosque.	(D) Some people think the mosque is a piece of art.
- _____ 5. What is the second thing that stands out about the Great Mosque of Djenné?

(A) The mosque's color.	(B) The mosque's shape.
(C) The mosque's size.	(D) The mosque's mud walls.



04 Vote for Me!



1 This school year, Annie is running for class president. A class president represents all the students in his or her grade (or “class”) in a school. It is a very important job. The class president helps students with any problems and passes on their ideas to the school’s leaders. The class president also helps organize events and projects for the students in his or her grade. He or she might also need to help raise money for these events and projects.



running for class president

2 Every year, the students in each grade vote for their class president. If you want to run for class president, you should make a poster about yourself and your promises. This way, students can see why they should vote for you. Here is the poster Annie made. Good luck in the election, Annie!



raising money



Vote for *Annie Wang* for 8th Grade Class President!

As your president I promise to:

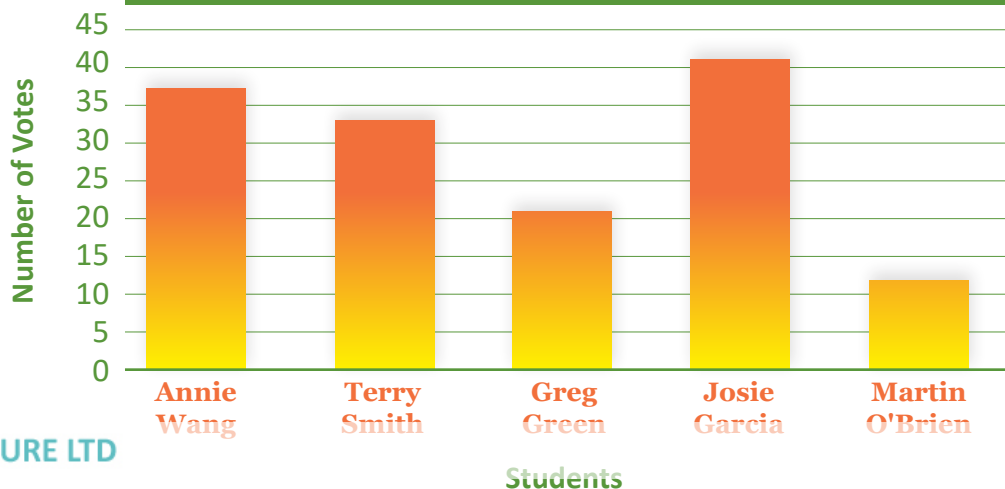
1. Ask for no-uniform Fridays!
2. Start an after-school program to help students with difficult subjects!
3. Organize more school dances!
4. Listen to everyone’s problems and treat everyone with respect!

Thank you for voting!

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main point of the reading?
 - (A) A class president helps organize events for the students in his or her grade.
 - (B) Class president is an important role with many duties.
 - (C) To be class president, you need to make a poster about yourself.
 - (D) Students in each grade vote for a class president every year.
2. What is the main message of the poster?
 - (A) Annie Wang wants to run for eighth grade class president this year.
 - (B) If you vote for Annie, she will start a special after-school program.
 - (C) Annie Wang treats everyone she meets with respect.
 - (D) Annie would be a great class president, so vote for her.
3. Which of the following is NOT something a class president has to do?
 - (A) Correct students' test papers.
 - (B) Listen to students' problems.
 - (C) Pass on students' ideas to the school's leaders.
 - (D) Help raise money for student events.
4. What grade is Annie in?
 - (A) Seventh grade.
 - (B) Ninth grade.
 - (C) Eighth grade.
 - (D) Sixth grade.
5. Here are the results of the class president election for Annie's grade. Which of the following is TRUE?
 - (A) Six students ran for class president this year in Annie's grade.
 - (B) Annie got the most votes.
 - (C) Annie got more votes than Terry Smith.
 - (D) Greg Green got the fewest votes.

Class President Election Result



05 Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body



1 Not cleaning your teeth can lead to toothaches.

But it doesn't end there. Bad oral health can also cause serious problems for your whole body!

2 When bacteria get into the tiny cracks in your teeth, they begin to grow in number. Soon, they start to eat away at your teeth. This makes bigger cracks where even more bacteria can grow. Before long, your teeth begin to go bad.

3 This puts the rest of your body in danger. These bad bacteria from your mouth can get into your blood. From there they travel to different parts of the body. They can get to your heart and brain and cause damage there. They can also lead to several different types of cancers.

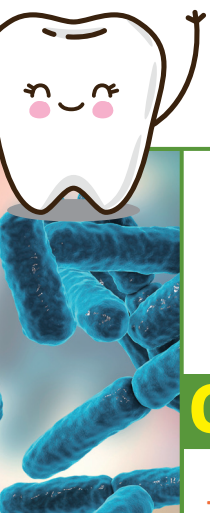
4 Between 60 and 90 percent of school-age children have some kind of oral health problem. By ignoring this, many young people are at risk of serious health problems later in life. So brush your teeth regularly and correctly, cut down on sweet foods, and go to the dentist. These simple actions will help keep not just your mouth but also your whole body in good health!



» brushing one's teeth

» toothache





QUESTIONS

- _____ 1. What is the main point of the article? ⚡ a visit to the dentist
 - (A) Not cleaning your teeth can lead to toothaches.
 - (B) Three simple actions can help keep your whole body in good health.
 - (C) Keeping your mouth healthy is important because it affects your whole body.
 - (D) It is important for young people not to ignore their oral health.
- _____ 2. Which of these sentences is the main message of the third paragraph?
 - (A) Bacteria from your mouth can travel and damage important parts of your body.
 - (B) Young people shouldn't ignore their oral health problems if they want to be healthy in later life.
 - (C) If you don't brush after eating, bacteria can grow in your mouth and eat away at your teeth.
 - (D) Bacteria are dangerous because they can cause several types of cancers.
- _____ 3. How many school-age children have some kind of oral health problem?
 - (A) Between 60 and 90 percent. (B) Almost 100 percent.
 - (C) Below 50 percent. (D) Between 50 and 60 percent.
- _____ 4. Which of the following can be damaged by bacteria from the mouth?
 - (A) Heart. (B) Eyes. (C) Feet. (D) Fingers.
- _____ 5. Which of the following does the writer NOT suggest as a way to keep the whole body healthy?
 - (A) Brush your teeth. (B) Eat fewer sweet foods.
 - (C) Visit the dentist. (D) Eat more salty foods.