

Authors



Print Partner Title / First Line	Skill
Avi, an Author of Children's Books	Identifying Main idea, Supporting Details, and Correct Sequence
Paine's Powerful Book	Drawing Conclusions
The Curious Story of Curious George	Retelling Explicit and Implicit Main Ideas
Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket	Drawing Valid Conclusions

- Print Partners are bundled by theme only. Grade level bundles are available.
- Each Print Partner is a stand-alone worksheet. Pagination on the bottom of each page denotes numbering designed for individual worksheets.



Identifying Main idea, Supporting Details, and Correct Sequence

Directions: Read the biography. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

Avi, an Author of Children's Books

Avi is a popular author of books for young people. He has received many awards and honors for his writings. Three of his books are *The Barn*, *Devil's Race*, and *Nothing but the Truth*. Avi is careful to write stories that will interest all young readers. He likes to write stories of adventure, mystery, and suspense to keep his readers interested. He is happy when children who do not usually like to read enjoy his books.

Avi and his twin sister, Emily, were born in New York City. He is five minutes older than his twin. It was Emily, around age one, who named her brother Avi, and it is the only name he uses. Avi was raised with books all around him. Every Friday he and Emily were taken to the library, and every night someone would read to them. Avi always received a book for his birthday. He learned to love reading, and that love continues to this day.

Growing up in Brooklyn, Avi went to a public school. He was in the same class with his sister until eighth grade. Emily did well in school, and their older brother did too. Their older brother went to college when he was 15 years old. Avi did not do as well in school. He had a disorder that kept him from writing like other children his age, but he didn't know that growing up.

When Avi started high school, he still was not a very good student. He got very poor grades his first year. Then he was sent to a private school where he did not do much better. He finally got some extra help and he

started to work on his writing. When he was 17 years old he decided to become a writer. But first he went to college and became a librarian. He was a librarian for 25 years.

It took Avi a long time to become an author whose books would sell. He began by writing plays, but none were successful. When Avi had children of his own, he started writing stories for children. Since then, he has only written stories for young readers. His first book was published in 1970. He has written over 30 books since then. He tells people that his life has always been with, around, and for books. His love for books has been important to his writing success.

As an award-winning author, Avi enjoys visiting schools. He especially wants to encourage children who feel different, left out, or lonely, because he once felt that way too. He shows the children the mistakes he makes as a writer, so they know he is not perfect.

1. Which of the following most helped Avi become an author?
 - A. The grades he received in school.
 - B. The amount of time he spent reading books.
 - C. The school where he learned to become a librarian.
 - D. The children he talked to when he visited schools.

2. How did the success of his sister and brother affect Avi?
 - A. He started getting good grades also.
 - B. He dropped out of high school,
 - C. He decided it was too hard to compete.
 - D. He decided to become a writer.

3. Which of the following is true based on evidence from the biography?
- A. Avi learned from an early age that he was a good writer.
 - B. Avi failed many times before he became a successful writer.
 - C. Avi did not know until he was a librarian that he could write.
 - D. Avi most wants children who love to read to read his books.
4. Who does Avi most want to enjoy his books?
- A. his own children
 - B. unexcited readers
 - C. high school students
 - D. good readers in school

Directions: Number the following events from Avi's life in the order in which they happened.

- _____ Avi had his first book published.
- _____ Avi's children were born.
- _____ Avi decided he would be a writer.
- _____ Avi became a librarian.



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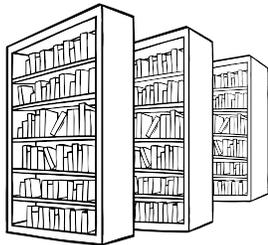
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- 2 Avi became a librarian.



Assessment for Grade 5, Benchmark 1: Drawing Conclusions

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Paine's Powerful Book

Thomas Paine was born in England and grew up in a poor family. He tried many different jobs, including teaching and tax collecting. However, Paine was very unhappy. When he was thirty-seven years old, Paine decided to seek his fortune in the British colonies, and he sailed to America.

Paine blamed many of his problems on the unfair division of wealth and power. He felt it was wrong for some people to have more power than others. In January, 1776, Paine wrote a booklet called *Common Sense* that explained his ideas. He began the booklet by attacking the idea that some people are born to become kings and queens. He believed it was unfair that they ruled over people who were born poor.

When Paine wrote his small book, people had been living in the British colonies for a long time. The colonies were under the rule of the king of England. For some of the colonists, it did not make sense that the king controlled their laws. It did not make sense to them that the king could decide what was right and wrong in America. The king lived in England, and England was across an ocean and 3,000 miles away.

But many colonists were not ready to separate themselves from England. They still admired the king. Yet, when they read *Common Sense*, many of them changed their minds. Many were convinced that being ruled by a king or queen was no longer a good idea. A lot of them came to believe Paine's ideas.

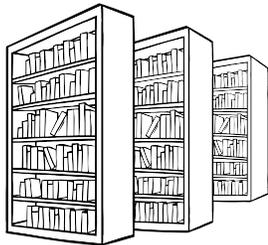
Before *Common Sense* was written, many colonists did not believe that independence was a good idea. After they read it, however, many changed their minds. They decided that independence was important for the colonies. Six months after Paine wrote *Common Sense*, the Declaration of Independence was signed.

1. Why did Thomas Paine write *Common Sense*?
 - A. He felt it was wrong for some people to have more power than others.
 - B. He believed the king and queen of England should rule the colonies.
 - C. He believed it was fair for kings to rule over people who were born poor.

2. What did the colonists realize after reading *Common Sense*?
 - A. They believed being ruled by the king was good.
 - B. They decided they liked the idea of becoming king.
 - C. They thought England was too far away to help them.

3. With which statement would Paine most likely agree?
 - A. Rich countries should rule poor ones.
 - B. People should be able to rule themselves.
 - C. Only certain people are born to lead.

4. Explain the effect *Common Sense* had on the colonists. Use your own words.



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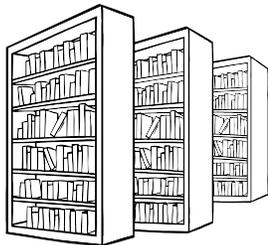
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4. Explain the effect *Common Sense* had on the colonists. Use your own words.

Possible response: In *Common Sense*, Paine convinced the colonists that England and the king should not make their laws. He helped convince the people that the colonies should be independent from England.



Assessment for Grade 5, Benchmark 2: Retelling Explicit and Implicit Main Ideas

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Curious Story of Curious George

- 1 For over 60 years, children around the world have loved books about Curious George, the monkey who always gets into trouble and who lives with the man with the yellow hat. Curious George was created by Hans and Margret Rey, a husband and wife team who wrote and illustrated books.
- 2 Hans grew up in Germany where as a young boy he enjoyed visiting the nearby zoo. He was curious about everything and always wanted to know more about things like stars, languages, animals, and rivers. He also loved to draw and paint. Plus Hans loved circuses. One of his first jobs was making circus posters. When he grew up, he moved to Brazil. While boating on the Amazon River, he saw many monkeys which he enjoyed drawing.
- 3 Margret also grew up in Germany and studied art as a young girl. When she became an adult, she moved to Brazil. That is where she and Hans met. They had many common interests; they both liked writing, drawing, animals, and circuses. Soon after they were married, they acquired two pet monkeys, and the monkeys were always getting into trouble. Later the Reys moved to Paris, France, and began working on children's books together. Hans was often in charge of drawing the pictures, and Margret wrote the words. Their first book was called *Raffy and the Nine Monkeys*. Hans began drawing pictures for another story about another monkey named Fifi.

- 4 About this time, World War II was taking place. The war made France a dangerous place to live. The Reys decided to move to New York City. Many people were trying to leave Paris at this time, so they could not take a train. Since they did not own a car, the Reys rode out of the city on bicycles. They had to leave many of their belongings behind. But they made sure they packed the pages of their book about Fifi. They biked for four long days. Finally, they were able to catch a train leaving France.
- 5 During their train journey, an official started questioning Hans. He might have thought the Reys were spies. However, when Hans showed him his drawings, the official smiled and left them alone. Their drawings of the little monkey helped the Reys reach safety. In October 1940, four months after leaving Paris, the Reys finally arrived in New York City on a big ship.
- 6 One year later, they published a book about a curious monkey that would make them famous. However, it was not called Curious Fifi; the Reys changed Fifi's name to George. Since then, the story of Curious George has sold more than 27 million copies and has been printed in more than 14 languages. Together the Reys wrote six more books about Curious George, the now famous little monkey.

1. Which sentence states the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
- A. The drawings of the monkeys helped the Reys reach safety.
 - B. The Reys finally arrived in New York City on a big ship.
 - C. The train official might have thought the Reys were spies.

2. Read the sentence below.

Curious George was created by Hans and Margret Rey.

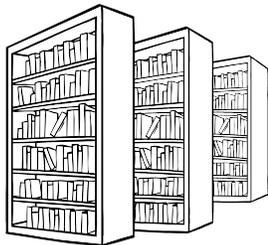
This sentence is the main idea of which paragraph?

- A. paragraph 1
- B. paragraph 5
- C. paragraph 3

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. Hans created circus posters and moved to Brazil.
- B. Hans met his wife in Brazil and they wrote a book.
- C. Hans was interested in many things and liked to draw.

4. Restate the main idea of the passage in your own words.



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1. Which sentence states the main idea of the fifth paragraph?

- A. **The drawings of the monkeys helped the Reys reach safety.**
- B. The Reys finally arrived in New York City on a big ship.
- C. The train official might have thought the Reys were spies.

2. Read the sentence below.

Curious George was created by Hans and Margret Rey.

This sentence is the main idea of which paragraph?

- A. **paragraph 1**
- B. paragraph 5
- C. paragraph 3

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. Hans created circus posters and moved to Brazil.
- B. Hans met his wife in Brazil and they wrote a book.
- C. **Hans was interested in many things and liked to draw.**

4. Restate the main idea of the passage in your own words. **Possible Response:**

The famous monkey named Curious George was created by Hans and Margret Rey. Hans and Margret were married. They escaped the war in France with very little. But they did bring pages of their book with them. The monkey on the pages later became Curious George.

Drawing Valid Conclusions

Directions: Read the passage. Then complete the activity that follows.

**Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket**

Lemony Snicket has a fondness for writing about unfortunate events. However, Lemony Snicket is just the pen name for Daniel Handler, a comical guy with an obvious zest for life.

Handler was born and raised in San Francisco. As a child, he says that he took up the accordion “just to drive his parents crazy.” His early musical talents also included a good singing voice. In fact, he sang opera with the San Francisco Boys Chorus in the early 1980s.

In 1988, the future “Unfortunate” author tied for “Best Personality” of his high school class. After graduation, Handler attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut where he earned two degrees, in English and American Studies. While a student, he received a Poets Prize from the Academy of American Poets.

It was during his college years that Daniel Handler began using the pseudonym, or penname, Lemony Snicket to write editorial letters to the local newspaper. He also employed the name as a way to keep himself off unwanted mailing lists.

After college, Daniel received an Olin Fellowship to work on his first novel. During those years he also wrote comedy sketches for a nationally syndicated radio show as well as book and movie critiques.

Upon completion, Handler’s first novel was rejected by 37 publishers before being accepted. However, during this process a fortunate error occurred; this adult novel was mistakenly sent to a few children’s book publishers. One children’s editor, Susan Rich, liked Handler’s creative “voice” so much that she asked if he would consider writing for kids. He thought about it; then pitched his dark tale about three orphans, fully expecting it to be rejected. However, Rich loved it. Handler says, “I thought she was crazy, but now it seems that everyone is crazy!” In fact, the *Series of Unfortunate Events* has sold well over 50 million copies to date.

In addition to his *Unfortunate* series, Handler has authored *The Basic Eight* (1999), *Watch Your Mouth* (2000), and *Adverbs* (2006). He was also included in the *Best American Mystery Stories of 2005*, and wrote the screenplay for the film *Rick*. He plays accordion for the critically acclaimed musical group The Magnetic Fields, and recently he was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony to write a symphony. Always a comic, Handler titled it, *The Composer is Dead*.

Currently, David Handler lives in San Francisco with his wife and young son in a house overlooking the sea, where he enjoys cooking and playing the accordion. Just as the old adage advises that you cannot tell a book by its cover, surely David Handler’s life proves that you cannot tell an author by his pen name!

Directions: Circle the correct answer for each question. Then write a response to the last question.

- Based on the passage, what can one conclude about Daniel Handler?
 - He cannot ever be serious.
 - He has many talents.**
 - He has a very serious personality.
 - He does not enjoy writing.
- Based on the passage, which of the following is Daniel Handler most likely to do in a conversation?
 - say very little
 - make a joke**
 - be very serious
 - sing opera
- Which sentence from the passage is not relevant to Handler's accomplishments?
 - After college, Daniel received an Olin Fellowship to work on his first novel.
 - While a student he received a Poets Prize from the Academy of American Poets.
 - In fact, he sang opera with the San Francisco Boys Chorus in the early 1980's.
 - He also employed the name as a way to keep himself off unwanted mailing lists.**
- How did Daniel Handler finally become a published novelist?
 - His editor sent the novel to several book publishers she knew.
 - His first novel was accidentally sent to a children's book publisher.**
 - He wrote letters to the newspaper that included his writing samples.
 - He promoted his first novel during radio shows and in newspapers.
- Which details about Daniel Handler support the idea that "you cannot tell an author by his pen name"?

Answers will vary. The name Lemony Snicket implies a personality that is crabby and easily annoyed. Even though Daniel Handler has the pen name of Lemony Snicket, he has an outgoing personality. In fact, Daniel tied for "Best Personality" of his high school class. He also wrote comedy sketches for a radio show. His true personality does not match his pen name at all.