# Contents

Using This Book ................................................................. 4  
Comprehension Skills At-a-Glance ........................................... 4  
Meeting the Common Core State Standards ............................... 6  

## Passages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Crazy Records</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Buying Eggs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Curiosities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Strange and Stinky</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Friend of the Everglades</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Presenting Palladio</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Daniel Webster’s Program</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Clues for a Hobby</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Big Business</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Long-Ago Lighthouse</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Island Homes</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Capturing Harlem</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Running With Haruurara</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Up the Amazon</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Hurray for Hubcaps!</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Ancient Egyptian Celebrations</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Traveler of the Past</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Skip, Skip</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>A Great Writer</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Dolphin Stories</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Thunderhead Memorial</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Ancient Trade Center</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Elegant Elephants</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Matzeliger’s Machine</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Fort Christina</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Bridge Signs</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>A President Preserves</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Snowy Ride</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Pets for People</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Ikebana</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Ears at Work</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Over They Go</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Oil History</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Home Styles</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>It’s the Law</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Patterns in Nature</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>A Hot Topic</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Check the Calendar</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Pay Attention to Prices</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Funny Phrase</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers ................................................................. 47
Using This Book

Reading comprehension in nonfiction involves numerous thinking skills. Students require these skills to make sense of a text and become successful readers. This book offers practice in key skills needed to meet the Common Core State Standards in Reading/Language Arts for grade six. (See page 6 for more.) Each student page includes a short passage focusing on four of these essential comprehension skills.

Comprehension Skills At-a-Glance

Use the information that follows to introduce the reading comprehension skills covered in this book.

Main Idea & Details

Understanding the main or key idea of a paragraph is crucial for a reader. The main idea is what the paragraph is about. The other parts of the paragraph help to explain more about this key idea. The main idea is sometimes in the first or last sentence of a paragraph. Students should be aware that some main ideas are stated explicitly and others are implicit requiring readers to put together details to determine the main idea.

The information that supports the main idea is usually referred to as the details. Details—facts, examples, definitions, etc.—help a reader gain a fuller understanding of a paragraph.

Summarize

Readers should be able to use main ideas to summarize a text. By summarizing, students are better able to recall important points. This is an important skill for taking notes and studying for exams.

Context Clues

Using context clues means determining an unfamiliar word’s meaning by studying the phrases, sentences, and overall text with which the word appears. Context clues help readers comprehend and enjoy a text and also read more smoothly and efficiently.
**Figurative Language**
Beyond using context clues to derive meaning is the ability to differentiate between literal and figurative language. Readers who can recognize figures of speech and determine their meanings are well on their way to fluency.

**Inference**
Although some students don’t know what an inference is, many are most likely making inferences—both in their daily lives and when reading—without being aware of it. Students should understand that writers don’t include every detail in their writing; it is up to readers to supply some information. A reader makes a guess or inference by putting together what is in a text with what he or she already knows. Inferring makes a significant difference in how much a reader gains from a text.

**Draw Conclusions**
After thinking about information in a text, a reader makes a decision or conclusion by examining evidence rooted in the text. Students should know that writers don’t always state all of their ideas, so readers have to look for clues to understand what is meant.

**Fact & Opinion**
Readers who can identify and differentiate between statements of fact and opinion are better able to analyze and assess a text. Students should learn to recognize phrases, such as I think, you should, and it’s the best/most, that signal opinions.

**Point of View**
While distinguishing fact from opinion is one step in the reading process, it is important for students to go further. They should be able to sort facts, opinions, and feelings to help determine a writer’s point of view and compare it to what they themselves think. Students should learn that good readers consult several sources on subjects of interest to gain different points of view.

**Hurray for Hubcaps!**
Today, many hubcaps are made of plastic, but not so long ago, they were made from stamped metal. These earlier hubcaps were usually round, with a small lip. Today, hubcaps are made of a variety of materials, but most are still round. Some are metal, some are plastic, and some are made of rubber. They come in an almost endless variety of colors and shapes. Hubcaps are often found on city buses and trucks, and are often an integral part of the appearance of these vehicles.

**Passage 20**
Comprehension. From the passage, you can conclude that ________.

1. __________ The main idea of this paragraph is ________.
   A. Gowonda the Helpful Dolphin.
   B. They were really special.
   C. Bonds between People and Dolphins.
   D. Dolphins like to guide ships.

2. __________ Which of these sentences is most likely true?
   A. Some hubcap designers became quite well known.
   B. Most early hubcaps are now in California.
   C. All hubcap designers were part of the hubcap collectors' circuit.
   D. Hubcap museums are often located near hubcap designers.

3. __________ Write an opinion sentence that reflects the writer's point of view.
   A. Some people are attracted to dolphins.  
   B. Dolphins are smarter than people.
   C. They are a source of inspiration.
   D. They are an incredible creature.

4. __________ The comprehension skills targeted in the questions accompanying each passage are labeled at the bottom of the page.
   A. Read and comprehend. From the passage, you can conclude that ________.
   B. Main Idea. From this passage, you can conclude that ________.
   C. Fact & Opinion. Write an opinion sentence that reflects the writer's point of view.
   D. Inference. Write an inference sentence that reflects the writer's point of view.

**Tips**
- Tell students to first read the passage and then answer the questions. Show them how to fill in the circles for bubble-test questions.
- The comprehension skills targeted in the questions accompanying each passage are labeled at the bottom of the page.
- Review the completed pages with students on a regular basis. Encourage them to explain their thinking for each correct answer.

**Dolphin Stories**
The Dolphin is a very special creature! They are very intelligent and can be trained to perform various tasks. They are also known for their ability to communicate with each other. The dolphin's blowhole is their main respiratory organ, allowing them to breathe both air and water. Dolphins are known to travel in pods and communicate using a variety of sounds and signals.

To appreciate this text, the reader should understand that the writer has inserted commentary or opinion into the paragraph. For example, the sentence, They are incredible creatures, is the author's opinion.
Crazy Records

Ashrita Furman likes to break records. In fact, over the years Furman has set or broken more than 79 records listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. Two of his feats include race-walking the fastest mile while twirling a hula hoop, and walking 81 miles with a milk bottle on top of his head. He has also held records for balancing 75 glasses on his chin and for going up and down Mt. Fuji in Japan on a pogo stick. Why? Mr. Furman feels these activities bring him inner peace.

1. The main idea of this paragraph is
   O A. The Guinness Book of World Records.
   O B. Climbing Japan’s Mt. Fuji.
   O C. How to walk with a bottle on your head.
   O D. Ashrita Furman likes to break records.

2. Reread the paragraph. Write a supporting detail for the main idea.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

3. Which sentence is most likely not true?
   O A. Mr. Furman has good balance.
   O B. Mr. Furman enjoys his fame.
   O C. Mr. Furman is in poor health.
   O D. Mr. Furman works hard at his records.

4. In this paragraph, the word feats means
   O A. what you walk on.
   O B. broken records.
   O C. accomplishments.
   O D. balancing acts.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Buying Eggs

Consumers often spend a few puzzled moments looking at egg cartons in supermarkets. That’s because there are six official egg sizes. The sizes are determined by weight. A jumbo, the largest-size egg, weighs 30 ounces, while a peewee egg, the smallest size, weighs only 15 ounces. In between are extra-large, large, medium, and small eggs. Most markets only stock the four largest sizes; small and peewee eggs are usually sold to bakers and companies in the food processing business.

1. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is

2. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. the largest eggs are the best ones.
   ○ B. hens try to lay heavy eggs.
   ○ C. consumers don’t know how eggs are sized.
   ○ D. egg cartons hold different size eggs.

3. The main idea of this paragraph is
   ○ A. how small eggs are used.
   ○ B. how egg sizes are determined.
   ○ C. why eggs are different sizes.
   ○ D. why there are only six egg sizes.

4. Which word best describes the writer’s point of view?
   ○ A. absorbed
   ○ B. argumentative
   ○ C. informed
The earliest museums were really cabinets of “curiosities.” They contained various things assembled by people of wealth. The first of these museums opened to the public in 1683 in Oxford, England. It was called the Ashmolean Museum. Its collection included such curiosities as a stuffed dodo bird and a set of medieval armor. Visitors paid a fee upon leaving the museum. This fee was determined by the duration of the visitor’s stay in the museum admiring the exhibits.

1. In this paragraph, the word **duration** must mean
   - A. other guests.
   - B. length of time.
   - C. amount of fun.
   - D. Kind of place.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - A. a stuffed dodo bird.
   - B. fees visitors paid to first museum.
   - C. collections of wealthy people.
   - D. the first museum open to the public.

3. Which sentence is most likely true?
   - A. Some visitors didn’t stay long.
   - B. Everyone could afford to collect.
   - C. The visitor fees were very high.
   - D. Visitors tried on the armor.

4. Reread the paragraph. Write an opinion that a visitor who stayed a long time might have about the Ashmolean Museum.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Strange and Stinky

Most flowers are sweet-smelling. In fact, perfumes are made from many flowers. But the rafflesia is such a stinky flower that it makes people regret having a nose! This strange flower grows in the forests of Southeast Asia. Not only is the rafflesia smelly, but one blossom can be as large as a truck tire. Because these flowers are so unusual, many scientists and tourists travel to see them. However, scientists are worried that rafflesias may be in danger of dying out. The forests in which they grow are being cut down.

1. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called

2. Which word best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   ○ A. enchanted  ○ B. baffled  ○ C. engrossed

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
   ○ A. other plants in Southeast Asian forests might be in danger.
   ○ B. the rafflesia is an important source of perfume.
   ○ C. scientists and tourists like the odor of the rafflesia.
   ○ D. the blossom of the rafflesia is very beautiful.

4. Reread the paragraph. Write the main idea.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Friend of the Everglades

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was the heroine of the Everglades, a unique environment in Florida. Many animals make their home in this wetland region. Nevertheless, for years the Everglades were being drained off for buildings and roads. The water was polluted. So Douglas wrote a book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*. In it she explained why the Everglades were important and should be protected. In 1969, Douglas started an organization called Friends of the Everglades. The Friends kept an airport from being built there!

1. Which phrase best reflects the writer’s point of view?
   A. annoyed by the work of Douglas  
   B. uninterested in the fate of the Everglades  
   C. impressed by the efforts of Douglas

2. In this paragraph, the word *unique* means
   A. unexceptional.  
   B. valuable.  
   C. one of a kind.  
   D. unfamiliar.

3. Which word would most likely *not* describe Marjory Stoneman Douglas?
   A. determined  
   B. involved  
   C. careless  
   D. concerned

4. The main idea of this paragraph is
   A. the work of Marjory Stoneman Douglas.  
   B. the animals in the Everglades.  
   C. how building polluted the Everglades.  
   D. a special environment in Florida.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**Presenting Palladio**

A feature of many modern houses is the Palladian window. This window, with its three panels and curved top, takes its name from the architect Andrea Palladio. He lived in the sixteenth century in Italy. That was an excellent time for talented people. Palladio studied the architecture of the ancient Romans. No one could build like the Romans. During his lifetime, Palladio designed villas, churches, and other public buildings. Visitors to Italy can still see many of these buildings today.

1. Write fact or opinion next to each sentence.
   
   __________ A. A feature of many modern houses is the Palladian window.
   __________ B. No one could build like the Romans.
   __________ C. Visitors to Italy can still see many of these buildings today.

2. Reread the paragraph. Find and write another opinion.

   __________________________________________________________________________

3. The title that best summarizes this paragraph is

   - A. Remembering the Romans.
   - B. The Work of Andrea Palladio.
   - C. A Visit to Italy.
   - D. Sixteenth Century Architecture.

4. Which sentence is most likely not true?

   - A. Palladio was successful in his time.
   - B. Other architects were at work in the sixteenth century.
   - C. The Romans designed handsome buildings.
   - D. Palladio’s work is forgotten today.
Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

Daniel Webster’s Program

In 1829, Daniel Webster started a page program in the United States Senate. The pages are young people who work for the senators. For example, pages run errands and deliver messages. Pages are chosen by the senators of their home states. They must be 16 years old, have good grades, and show leadership qualities. Pages live near the Capitol Building and attend school. They are **exempted** from homework when the senators work overtime. Pages get paid, but the biggest reward is the experience of working in the Senate.

1. Fill in the correct circle to show whether each statement is a fact or an inference.

   **Fact**  **Inference**
   - ○ ○ A. Pages run errands for senators.
   - ○ ○ B. Pages are interested in government.
   - ○ ○ C. Pages go to school.
   - ○ ○ D. It is an honor to be a Senate page.

2. The main idea of this paragraph is
   - ○ A. pages run errands and deliver messages.
   - ○ B. pages must be 16 years of age.
   - ○ C. the U.S. Senate page program.
   - ○ D. pay for Senate pages.

3. From this paragraph, you can conclude that Webster’s program
   - ○ A. is a good way to get out of doing homework.
   - ○ B. benefits both senators and pages.
   - ○ C. pays pages high salaries.
   - ○ D. offers a lot of sports activities to pages.

4. In this paragraph, the word **exempted** means
   - ○ A. excited.
   - ○ B. excused.
   - ○ C. charged.
   - ○ D. overworked.