

Reading for Meaning

Read the passages. What activity does each describe? Compare your responses with the answers provided.

Reading 1

The procedure is actually quite simple. First, you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient depending on how much there is to do. If you have to go somewhere else due to lack of facilities that is the next step; otherwise, you are pretty well set. It is important not to overdo things. That is, it is better to do too few things at once than too many. In the short run, this may not seem important but complications can easily arise. A mistake can be expensive as well. At first, the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just another fact of life. It is difficult to foresee any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but then one can never tell. After the procedure is completed one arranges the materials into different groups again. Then they can be put into their appropriate places. Eventually, they will be used once more, and the whole cycle will then have to be repeated. However, that is part of life.

Reading 2

A newspaper is better than a magazine, and on a seashore is a better place than a street. At first, it is better to run than walk. Also, you may have to try several times. It takes some skill but it's easy to learn. Even young children can enjoy it. Once successful, complications are minimal. Birds seldom get too close. One needs lots of room. Rain soaks in very fast. Too many people doing the same thing can also cause problems. If there are no complications, it can be very peaceful. A rock will serve as an anchor. If things break loose from it, however, you will not get a second chance.

Reading 3

Poised between going on and back, pulled
Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker.
Fingertips pointing the opposites,
Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball
Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on,
Running a scattering of steps sidewise,
How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,
Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird,
He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him
Delicate, delicate, delicate--now!

Your Answers

Reading 1

Reading 2

Reading 3

Compare your responses with the answers provided.

Reading 1 – Answer

This passage describes doing the laundry.

Reading 2 – Answer

This passage describes flying a kite.

Reading 3 – Answer

This poem describes a baseball game.

The poem is called "The BaseStealer."

Readings 1 and 2:

Bransford, J. D., and M. K. Johnson. "Contextual Prerequisites for Understanding Some Investigations of Comprehension and Recall." *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior* 11, no. 6 (1972): 717-726. Used with permission.

Reading 3:

"The Base Stealer" from *The Orb Weaver: Poems by Robert Francis*, Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1960. Used with permission.