

# Read Naturally Encore II

Level 60

## Paired Story Comparison Questions

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### Stories 1 & 3

#### Breakout! & Heroism in a Dark Time

1. How was life in the Warsaw Ghetto similar to and different from life in Alcatraz?
2. Do you think it would have been easier to escape from the Warsaw Ghetto or Alcatraz and why?
3. Irena Sendler and others worked to help children escape from the Warsaw Ghetto and the Nazis. The story about prisoners escaping from Alcatraz doesn't mention helpers. Do you think there are as many people who would have wanted to help prisoners escape Alcatraz? Why or why not?

### Stories 2 & 4

#### Changes in Chocolate & Capital Confectioner

1. In your opinion, what person or group of people was most important in making chocolate such a popular treat? Why?
2. What changes in chocolate production took place in the 1800s and 1900s that helped make Hershey's chocolate business such a success?
3. Using facts from both stories, tell how chocolate changed during Milton Hershey's lifetime.

### Stories 5 & 7

#### Math Meets Art & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

1. How was Escher's work like the work of scientists who study optical illusions?
2. How are M. C. Escher's optical illusions similar to the types of illusions that exist in the natural world? How are they different?
3. Do you think that M. C. Escher would have been successful studying optical illusions as a scientist? Why or why not?

### Stories 6 & 8

#### Lake Monster Mystery & Strange Sights

1. Do you think that Sandra Mansi's photograph of the Lake Champlain Monster was most likely a hoax, a mistake, or a real sighting? Explain your answer.
2. What part of the "Strange Sights" story suggests that people might someday be able to prove the existence of Champ?

3. Why might Sandra Mansi have been interested in becoming a cryptozoologist?

### Stories 9 & 11

#### Snake Show & Tricky Tail

1. What are some differences in the way the skink and the hognose trick predators?
2. In your opinion, which animal has a more effective defense against predators? Why?
3. Would the skink or the hognose be more threatening to a potential predator? Explain your answer.

### Stories 10 & 12

#### Controversial Custer & A Battle Won—A War Lost

1. What led each side into the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?
2. How do you think fighters on each side reacted to the outcome of the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?
3. Do you think that Custer or Sitting Bull was a better leader? Why?

### Stories 13 & 15

#### Mine Mystery & Enormous Explosion

1. How did the terrain of both Tunguska and the Superstition Mountains confuse people who were trying to solve the mysteries in those places?
2. Which mystery do you think is more important to solve? Explain your answer.
3. How did an earthquake affect each mystery?

### Stories 14 & 16

#### The Z-Boys & Surfing on the Snow

1. How did the sport of surfing inspire both Sherman Poppen's development of the Snurfer and the Z-Boys' new style of skateboarding?
2. The Z-Boys did not set out to please other people. Sherman Poppen, on the other hand, did try to please other people. Explain how Sherman's attitude helped him, and how the Z-Boys' attitudes helped them.
3. Which do you think was more important: Sherman Poppen's contribution to snowboarding or the Z-Boys' contribution to skateboarding? Why?

**Stories 17 & 19****Writing Out Slavery & A Poet for Life**

1. How were the writings of Gwendolyn Brooks and Harriet Beecher Stowe alike? How were they different?
2. How did the writing of each woman reflect what mattered to her?
3. How was writing an important form of expression for both Harriet Beecher Stowe and Gwendolyn Brooks?

**Stories 18 & 20****Watch Your Step! & The Sea Lamprey**

1. What problems could the sea lamprey and the stonefish cause?
2. How is the function of the sea lamprey's suction-cup-like mouth different from the function of the stonefish's venom spines?
3. In your opinion, is the sea lamprey or the stonefish better adapted to its environment? Explain your answer.

**Stories 21 & 23****Día de los Muertos & History of a Holiday**

1. How are the roles of food similar in the celebrations of Día de los Muertos and the traditions that became Halloween? How are they different?
2. How are traditional Halloween celebrations different from Día de Los Muertos celebrations? How are they similar?
3. Do people celebrating Día de los Muertos and people celebrating the holidays that later became Halloween seem to have the same attitude toward spirits? Why or why not?

**Stories 22 & 24****Tragedy at Mount Tambora & The Year Without a Summer**

1. What have scientists learned by studying both the eruption of Mount Tambora and the summer of 1816?
2. How did the eruption of Mount Tambora affect the area nearby? How were its effects different in faraway areas?
3. Today, scientists have lots of information about volcanic eruptions and their effect on the climate. How might people in both Indonesia and the United States have acted differently if they had known this information in 1815 and 1816?

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## Additional Comparison Questions

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### Stories 1, 5, 7 & 8

#### **Breakout!, Math Meets Art, Do My Eyes Deceive Me?, & Strange Sights**

People in these stories all tried to trick other people about what they were seeing. Did they all have the same reasons for these tricks? Explain your answer.

### Stories 4 & 16

#### **Capital Confectioner & Surfing on the Snow**

Both Milton Hershey and Sherman Poppen were innovators in their fields. Tell at least one way their innovations were alike. Tell at least one way they were different.

### Stories 5 & 19

#### **Math Meets Art & A Poet for Life**

Gwendolyn Brooks's poetry and M. C. Escher's art inspired other people. How did the subjects of their work differ?

### Stories 6 & 7

#### **Lake Monster Mystery & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?**

How could scientists use their knowledge of optical illusions to explain the sightings of creatures like Champ?

### Stories 6, 13, & 15

#### **Lake Monster Mystery, Mine Mystery, & Enormous Explosion**

These stories all describe mysteries. How are the three mysteries alike? How are they different?

### Stories 7 & 18

#### **Do My Eyes Deceive Me? & Watch Your Step!**

Is the stonefish's appearance an optical illusion? If so, how could scientists explain the illusion?

### Stories 10 & 14

#### **Controversial Custer & The Z-Boys**

What are some common traits that made both the Z-Boys and George Custer controversial during their own eras?

### Stories 12 & 17

#### **A Battle Won—A War Lost & Writing Out Slavery**

Both Sitting Bull and Harriet Beecher Stowe stood up for causes they felt strongly about. How were their struggles for justice alike? How were they different?

### Stories 12 & 20

#### **A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Sea Lamprey**

Settlers moved into American Indian territory and decimated the buffalo herds that had lived there. What behavior by the sea lamprey is similar to this series of events?

### Stories 12 & 24

#### **A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Year Without a Summer**

How was Sitting Bull's time in Canada similar to the New England farmers' summer in 1816?

### Stories 15 & 22

#### **Enormous Explosion & Tragedy at Mount Tambora**

Both the Tunguska explosion and the eruption of Mount Tambora were huge and could be felt a long distance away. Why was the Mount Tambora eruption so much more devastating?

# Read Naturally Encore II

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## Answer Key for Paired Story Comparison Questions

*Note: The Answer Key may not include all possible answers.*

### Stories 1 & 3

#### Breakout! & Heroism in a Dark Time

1. *How was life in the Warsaw Ghetto similar to and different from life in Alcatraz?*

People were forced to remain in the Warsaw Ghetto and in Alcatraz against their will. Both of these places had armed guards ready to shoot anyone who tried to escape. People tried to escape from both the prison and the ghetto, and some were successful.

Alcatraz was on an island, and the Warsaw Ghetto was a section of a city. People held at Alcatraz had been convicted of crime, while people were forced to live in the ghettos just because they were Jewish. Whole families were imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto, but only male criminals were confined in Alcatraz. Inmates in Alcatraz were locked in cells behind bars. The families in the ghetto lived in houses or other buildings that were in the poorest part of the city. People often died of starvation and disease in the ghetto while these dangers were not as likely in prison. Those trying to escape Alcatraz would have been less likely to die if they had stayed in Alcatraz while simply staying in the ghetto was life-threatening.

2. *Do you think it would have been easier to escape from the Warsaw Ghetto or Alcatraz and why?*

Answers will vary. It seems that it may have been easier to escape from the Warsaw Ghetto because we know that more people escaped from it. The ghetto was part of a big city, had people coming in and out, and was connected to sewers all of which created opportunities for escape. Some people outside the ghetto wanted to help any of the Jews escape, but few people would be willing to help a criminal escape from Alcatraz. The prison was on an island and made of concrete. The cells in Alcatraz had bars that were resistant to cutting so the prisoners could only dig through the concrete to leave the cell once they were locked in.

3. *Irena Sendler and others worked to help children escape from the Warsaw Ghetto and the Nazis. The story about prisoners escaping from Alcatraz doesn't mention helpers. Do you think there were as many people who would have wanted to help prisoners escape Alcatraz? Why or why not?*

Answers will vary.

It seems likely that less people would be willing to help prisoners escape from Alcatraz because these men were being held as a result of committing a crime. Even so, their family members, close friends, or partners in crime might have considered helping them. Someone willing to help the prisoners escape would likely know one or more of the prisoners personally.

More people might be willing to help the Jewish children in the Warsaw Ghetto escape because they were children, they had not committed a crime, they were being unfairly held, and they might be sent to concentration or death camps.

### Stories 2 & 4

#### Changes in Chocolate & Capital Confectioner

1. *In your opinion, what person or group of people was most important in making chocolate such a popular treat? Why?*

Answers will vary.

The ancient Maya were the most important group, because they were some of the first people to eat or drink chocolate.

The Spanish conquistadors were the most important group, because they brought chocolate to Europe.

People in Spain were the most important group, because they mixed sugar with chocolate, which made it taste better.

Milton Hershey was the most important person, because he figured out how to make good milk chocolate at a low cost that people could afford.

Confectioners were the most important group, because they made up new recipes and mixed chocolate into lots of other foods (e.g., ice cream, baked goods).

2. *What changes in chocolate production took place in the 1800s and 1900s that helped make Hershey's chocolate business such a success?*

By the 1800s, people had invented machines to grind large quantities of cacao seeds, and then new machines in the 1900s enabled chocolate to become a solid food for the first time.

3. *Using facts from both stories, tell how chocolate changed during Milton Hershey's lifetime.*

Chocolate became available in solid form rather than just as a drink. Chocolate became more affordable and less of a luxury. Good-tasting milk chocolate had been uncommon before Hershey opened his factory. Chocolate became available to more people because of mass production. Confectioners created new ways of using chocolate.

### Stories 5 & 7

#### Math Meets Art & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

1. *How was Escher's work like the work of scientists who study optical illusions?*

Escher designed optical illusions for his work, and so do these scientists. Like these scientists, Escher understood how we perceive the world around us, used his work to gain new insights into nature and math, and designed pictures to confuse viewers.

2. *How are M. C. Escher's optical illusions similar to the types of illusions that exist in the natural world? How are they different?*

Both kinds of illusions rely on tricking the eye and fooling the mind. Both confuse you about what you are seeing. However, Escher's illusions depict things that are truly not possible, such as defying gravity. The illusions in nature are often possible but just appear different than what they actually are.

3. *Do you think that M. C. Escher would have been successful studying optical illusions as a scientist? Why or why not?*

Answers will vary.

Yes, he would have been a successful scientist. He was a creative thinker and had a sense of wonder about the world. He understood the laws of nature and mathematics. He was an astute student of life. He was interested in learning about how to fool the eye and the mind.

No, he would not have been successful. He was more interested in his imagination than in drawing real things.

### Stories 6 & 8

#### Lake Monster Mystery & Strange Sights

1. *Do you think that Sandra Mansi's photograph of the Lake Champlain Monster was most likely a hoax, a mistake, or a real sighting? Explain your answer.*

Answers will vary.

The photograph was part of a hoax. Mansi took a picture of a monster model.

The interpretation of the photo was a mistake. It might have been a picture of a fish or drifting log, or it might have been affected by lighting or angles.

The photo was a real sighting of a creature that science hasn't yet documented.

2. *What part of the "Strange Sights" story suggests that people might someday be able to prove the existence of Champ?*

Other creatures once thought to be imaginary have been shown to exist, like the gorilla and the giant squid, so maybe people will be able to prove the existence of Champ.

3. *Why might Sandra Mansi have been interested in becoming a cryptozoologist?*

Answers will vary. Sandra could have wanted to know for herself what it was she saw. She probably got a lot of attention after her photo became public, and she might have wanted to bring forth even more information about Champ.

### Stories 9 & 11

#### Snake Show & Tricky Tail

1. *What are some differences in the way the skink and the hognose trick predators?*

The skink deceives the predator by making the predator think it has caught prey when it has only caught a detached tail. The skink gets the predator to focus on the skink's tail rather than on the skink itself. The hognose tries to deceive the predator into leaving it alone—first by acting scary, then by acting unappetizing.

2. *In your opinion, which animal has a more effective defense against predators? Why?*

Answers will vary.

A skink has a more effective defense because it doesn't have to count on the predator being fooled. Even if a predator knows the skink's tail comes off, it could still fail to catch the skink. The skink and its tail both move quickly, so the predator only has a brief moment to choose the right moving object before it has lost its chance. A hognose, on the other hand, has a weaker defense in that if a predator recognizes the hognose (as the hiker did), the predator could just ignore the snake's whole act and eat the snake. Also, a predator may decide to eat the snake even if it thinks the snake is dead.

A hognose has a more effective defense because it can use its defense again and again, as long as the predator isn't familiar with the ruse. A skink, on the other hand, has a weaker defense in that it loses a lot of energy when its tail falls off, and it can use that defense only a few times.

3. *Would the skink or the hognose be more threatening to a potential predator? Explain your answer.*

The hognose would probably be more threatening to most predators. It is much bigger than the skink, and it behaves aggressively when it feels threatened: coiling, hissing, and striking like more dangerous snakes. The skink does not try to scare predators. It just tries to escape from them.

### Stories 10 & 12

#### Controversial Custer & A Battle Won—A War Lost

1. *What led each side into the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?*

The United States wanted to open the Black Hills to people searching for gold, but the American Indians claimed this land as their own, according to a treaty made with the U.S. government. Custer was an aggressive fighter but may also have been reckless, pressing his men to attack without knowing what they faced. He may also have been confident because his side had superior weapons.

Sitting Bull's side acted out of frustration with the U.S. government and the desire to preserve American Indians' treaty rights.

2. *How do you think fighters on each side reacted to the outcome of the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?*

Answers will vary.

People fighting on Custer's side would have been scared, upset, disappointed, and maybe angry at Custer for leading them into a battle where they were outnumbered.

People fighting on Sitting Bull's side would have been happy to win and glad that Sitting Bull's vision had come true. But they might have still been concerned about their treaty rights and possibly afraid that the United States would try to punish them.

3. *Do you think that Custer or Sitting Bull was a better leader? Why?*

Answers will vary.

Custer was a better leader in that many troops respected him. He was brave. He helped the North win many important battles during the Civil War. Sitting Bull, on the other hand, was ultimately not able to lead his people to safety.

Sitting Bull was a better leader in that his vision was prophetic. His warriors believed in him. He stood up for his tribe's rights. His side won the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass even though the U.S. side had better weapons.

Custer, on the other hand, could be mean to his troops and sometimes took unnecessary risks.

### Stories 13 & 15

#### Mine Mystery & Enormous Explosion

1. *How did the terrain of both Tunguska and the Superstition Mountains confuse people who were trying to solve the mysteries in those places?*

In Tunguska, a scientist thought he would find proof of a meteorite crash. Instead of an impact crater or pieces of the meteorite, though, he found a confusing pattern of fallen trees. In the Superstitions, an earthquake may have changed the landmarks leading to the supposed location of Jacob's gold, making it harder to find the mine.

2. *Which mystery do you think is more important to solve? Explain your answer.*

Answers will vary.

Solving the mystery of the Tunguska event is more important, because it could mean that people would be able to guard against the same thing happening over a populated area. Also, understanding the Tunguska event might teach us more about nature, which would be useful for many other things.

Finding Jacob's gold is more important, because it could end risky searches, since many people have died in the quest for Jacob's gold, and it could make someone rich.

3. *How did an earthquake affect each mystery?*

In the Tunguska event, the earthquake was part of the event (either a cause or a direct effect), so it is useful evidence that might help lead to an explanation. In the mystery of Jacob's gold, the earthquake confused things in that it may have changed the landscape, making clues less reliable.

### Stories 14 & 16

#### The Z-Boys & Surfing on the Snow

1. *How did the sport of surfing inspire both Sherman Poppen's development of the Snurfer and the Z-Boys' new style of skateboarding?*

Sherman thought of his invention as "a surfboard for the snow" and named it the Snurfer by combining the words snow and surfer. The Z-Boys lived in California and were actual surfers. While they were skateboarding, they copied the styles of surfers they admired.

2. *The Z-Boys did not set out to please other people. Sherman Poppen, on the other hand, did try to please other people. Explain how Sherman's attitude helped him, and how the Z-Boys' attitudes helped them.*

By trying to please his daughter and children in the neighborhood, Sherman came up with the idea for a fun toy that he was able to turn into a popular product. By not trying to please other people, the Z-Boys focused on their love of skateboarding. In this way, they came up with a new style of skateboarding that people liked. Instead of trying to be like other people, the Z-Boys made other people want to skate like they did.

3. *Which do you think was more important: Sherman Poppen's contribution to snowboarding, or the Z-Boys' contribution to skateboarding? Why?*

Answers will vary.

Sherman's contribution was more important because Sherman put one of the first snowboards on the market, which gave people a chance to discover the new sport.

The Z-Boys contribution was more important because the Z-Boys came up with new styles of riding that brought new interest to the sport of skateboarding.

### Stories 17 & 19

#### Writing Out Slavery & A Poet for Life

1. *How were the writings of Gwendolyn Brooks and Harriet Beecher Stowe alike? How were they different?*

Both writers wrote about hardships people experienced and about the lives of black people and their struggles against racism.

The two women wrote during two different periods in history. Harriet wrote about slavery but Gwendolyn wrote about poverty. Harriet's writing encouraged people to fight for the end of slavery. Much of Gwendolyn's poetry was about "just being me."

2. *How did the writing of each woman reflect what mattered to her?*

Gwendolyn Brooks said that, in her poetry, she was "just being me." She depicted the beauty of ordinary dreams and troubles through her writing. Harriet's writing showed that she was concerned about slavery. She wanted people to know what slaves' lives were like, and she wanted people to join the fight against slavery.

3. *How was writing an important form of expression for both Harriet Beecher Stowe and Gwendolyn Brooks?*

Gwendolyn Brooks was shy and solitary, so writing gave her a way to share her thoughts and ideas with other people. Harriet Beecher Stowe could not vote, so writing gave her a way to share her ideas and take action against slavery.

**Stories 18 & 20****Watch Your Step! & The Sea Lamprey**

1. *What problems could the sea lamprey and the stonefish cause?*

The sea lamprey could cause fish to become extinct and could change the balance of species that live in the water. The stonefish could trick people and other animals with its camouflage, and its venom could harm or even kill.

2. *How is the function of the sea lamprey's suction-cup-like mouth different from the function of the stonefish's venom spines?*

The sea lamprey's mouth helps it as a predator. It allows the sea lamprey to be a parasite, latching onto other fish and draining their fluids. The stonefish's spines are a defense. When the stonefish is threatened, the spines can injure predators and keep them away.

3. *In your opinion, is the sea lamprey or the stonefish better adapted to its environment? Explain your answer.*

Answers will vary.

The sea lamprey can move to and thrive in new areas. It doesn't have trouble finding food in new areas. It can live in both salt and fresh water, so it has a lot of freedom to move about.

The stonefish blends in with its surroundings so that predators can't see it. Camouflage hides it from prey, so it has an advantage when hunting. It has very dangerous venom to keep it safe from anything that might come near it.

**Stories 21 & 23****Día de los Muertos & History of a Holiday**

1. *How are the roles of food similar in the celebrations of Día de los Muertos and the traditions that became Halloween? How are they different?*

Both holidays have important traditions connected to food. People bake special bread and have special meals for Día de Los Muertos. Halloween has a history of soul cakes and other food offerings. But the reasons for offering the food are different. In Halloween's history, people used food as a gift to spirits to try to ward off evil, and as payment to people praying for the souls of their neighbors' dead relatives. On Día de los Muertos, people make special food to welcome and honor the dead.

2. *How are traditional Halloween celebrations different from Día de Los Muertos celebrations? How are they similar?*

For Halloween, people dress in costumes, leave treats on doorsteps, carve pumpkins, and tell ghost stories for fun. For Día de Los Muertos, people build altars, offer food, visit cemeteries, reminisce, and watch parades. Both holidays revolve around the spirit world and the dead. Both evolved over many centuries.

3. *Do people celebrating Día de los Muertos and people celebrating the holidays that later became Halloween seem to have the same attitude toward spirits? Why or why not?*

Both holidays happen during a time of the year when some people believe the spirit world is in closer contact with the living world. But Día de Los Muertos welcomes the holiday as a time of feeling connected to those who have passed on. Halloween traditions are more concerned with keeping evil spirits away.

**Stories 22 & 24****Tragedy at Mount Tambora & The Year Without a Summer**

1. *What have scientists learned by studying both the eruption of Mount Tambora and the summer of 1816?*

Scientists have learned more about eruptions and their effects. They have learned that dust and ash from volcanoes in one part of the world can lower temperatures in another part. They have also learned about the community living around Tambora in 1815 from the buried artifacts.

2. *How did the eruption of Mount Tambora affect the area nearby? How were its effects different in faraway areas?*

At the base of the volcano, people, animals, and plants were buried in an avalanche of ash. Close to the base, streams and rivers were contaminated, there were food shortages, and people were dying from starvation, poisoning, and disease. Farther away, the eruption caused tsunamis. Even farther away than that, particles of ash decreased sunlight and caused colder weather, leading to crop failures, which caused famine, food riots, and relocation.



3. *Today, scientists have lots of information about volcanic eruptions and their effect on the climate. How might people in both Indonesia and the United States have acted differently if they had known this information in 1815 and 1816?*

If people at the time had been able to predict the eruption, they might have been able to warn the residents of Indonesia so that they could escape. In the United States, farmers would have understood why the weather was so cool and would not have been confused. If they had known the weather would probably improve again, they might have been more likely to stay in New England instead of moving west.

# Read Naturally Encore II

## Level 60

### Answer Key for Additional Comparison Questions

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*Note: The Answer Key may not include all possible answers.*

#### **Stories 1, 5, 7, & 8**

##### **Breakout!, Math Meets Art, Do My Eyes Deceive Me?, & Strange Sights**

*People in these stories all tried to trick other people about what they were seeing. Did they all have the same reasons for these tricks? Explain your answer.*

No, these people all had different reasons for trying to trick other people. The prisoners were trying to make sure they would have time to escape, so they wanted the guards to think they were still in their beds. Those who play hoaxes may be trying to make money, play a joke, or get others to believe what they themselves believe. Scientists who make optical illusions are tricking viewers to understand how the eyes and mind work together to help people see. M. C. Escher used illusions to challenge people to think about reality.

#### **Stories 4 & 16**

##### **Capital Confectioner & Surfing on the Snow**

*Both Milton Hershey and Sherman Poppen were innovators in their fields. Tell at least one way their innovations were alike. Tell at least one way they were different.*

Both men made important contributions to their fields by improving an existing product rather than by inventing something new. Hershey found a better way to make chocolate at a cheaper price, and Sherman modified skis to let people use them in a new way. Both of their products were mass-produced. However, Hershey worked on his product for most of his life and had a great deal of success. Sherman's product came about just because he had an idea, not because he worked on it for a long time or planned for it. It also didn't last as long as Hershey's product. Snurfers were manufactured for fewer than 20 years, whereas Hershey's chocolate is still around.

#### **Stories 5 & 19**

##### **Math Meets Art & A Poet for Life**

*Gwendolyn Brooks's poetry and M. C. Escher's art inspired other people. How did the subjects of their work differ?*

Gwendolyn Brooks became famous for writing poetry about the things she saw around her. Her poetry dealt with human struggles, the city around her, and the real lives of ordinary people. M. C. Escher thought it was most important to draw what he imagined. His best-known illustrations are of things that could not possibly exist in the real world.

#### **Stories 6 & 7**

##### **Lake Monster Mystery & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?**

*How could scientists use their knowledge of optical illusions to explain the sightings of creatures like Champ?*

Sometimes the eye detects a real object, but without past experience to relate the image to, the brain can't perceive it. So people could see a creature like Champ and not understand what it really is. Scientists know that sometimes our eyes see one thing, and our brains interpret it as something else—for example, we may see light, but our brains may tell us we see a puddle of water. People who think they saw Champ may have been tricked by the way the eye and the brain work together.

**Stories 6, 13, & 15****Lake Monster Mystery, Mine Mystery, & Enormous Explosion**

*These stories all describe mysteries. How are the three mysteries alike? How are they different?*

All three stories talk about people trying to come up with theories and solve the mysteries. However, people have not been able to solve them. No one has determined what happened at Tunguska, what appeared in Sandra Mansi's photo, or where Jacob's mine was.

The difference in the three mysteries is the amount of proof we have that the mystery is real. The Tunguska mystery deals with something that definitely happened. In contrast, there is no definite proof that Jacob's mine or the Lake Champlain Monster ever existed at all.

**Stories 7 & 18****Do My Eyes Deceive Me? & Watch Your Step!**

*Is the stonefish's appearance an optical illusion? If so, how could scientists explain the illusion?*

The stonefish's appearance is an optical illusion. The stonefish looks similar to the rocks around it. A person's brain may interpret the stonefish as a rock because the brain doesn't have enough information to see the fish. Even when the eyes are seeing the fish, the brain may not be aware that the stonefish can look like a rock, so the brain may just perceive the fish as being a rock.

**Stories 10 & 14****Controversial Custer & The Z-Boys**

*What are some common traits that made both the Z-Boys and George Custer controversial during their own eras?*

Although their lives and the things they achieved were very different, both Custer and the Z-Boys were bold and took risks. They achieved success at young ages by doing things differently than the people around them. They sometimes got into trouble. Many people did not like their attitudes or agree with the way they did things.

**Stories 12 & 17****A Battle Won—A War Lost & Writing Out Slavery**

*Both Sitting Bull and Harriet Beecher Stowe stood up for causes they felt strongly about. How were their struggles for justice alike? How were they different?*

Sitting Bull and Harriet Beecher Stowe both stood up for the rights of groups of people they thought were being treated unfairly. Neither of them had a voice in the way the U.S. government was treating these groups.

On the other hand, their involvement with the groups they supported was different. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about slavery, but she was not a slave. Sitting Bull was fighting for his own tribe's rights, and he was affected directly by the outcome of the fight. The outcomes of their struggles for justice were also different. Harriet eventually saw slavery abolished, but Sitting Bull was forced to surrender and did not get what he had wanted.

**Stories 12 & 20****A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Sea Lamprey**

*Settlers moved into American Indian territory and decimated the buffalo herds that had lived there. What behavior by the sea lamprey is similar to this series of events?*

Like the settlers, the sea lamprey left its native habitat, the Atlantic, and moved into a new area, the upper Great Lakes. Once it was there, it decimated several of the fish species that had already lived in that area.

**Stories 12 & 24****A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Year Without a Summer**

*How was Sitting Bull's time in Canada similar to the New England farmers' summer in 1816?*

Both groups had a shortage of food. They were both very dependent upon their environments and the weather for food. The New England farmers needed crops that were plentiful and affordable, and Sitting Bull and the Lakota needed to have buffalo that were plentiful enough to hunt.

**Stories 15 & 22****Enormous Explosion & Tragedy at Mount Tambora**

*Both the Tunguska explosion and the eruption of Mount Tambora were huge and could be felt a long distance away. Why was the Mount Tambora eruption so much more devastating?*

The Mount Tambora eruption was more devastating because it happened in a populated area, and the Tunguska event happened in a remote forest. Tambora also threw dust and ash up in the air, which made it have even more far-reaching effects. The Tunguska event doesn't seem to have sent up any dust or ash. The Tambora eruption also caused tsunamis hundreds of miles away.