

English Reading Lesson

Level: Advance

Total time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Goal

After the lesson, students will be able to skim and scan reading materials successfully.

Objectives

After the lesson, students will be able to:

- i. extract relevant information from a text
- ii. scan for information using cueing prompts from questions
- iii. scan extended texts for key factual information
- iv. understand limitations of scanning
- v. use a range of reading strategies
- vi. identify question words
- vii. understand point of view

Intended Learning Outcomes:

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- a) scan for key information
- b) skim for general meaning of a text
- c) understand a text and make sense of it by recognizing familiar words
- d) use question words to scan for information
- e) use scanning to quickly find surface information
- f) understand point of view
- g) produce cohesive written discourse

Passage 1

Pre-reading Activity

(Time: 5 minutes)

Have the students discuss the following questions before reading the passage:

1. What is your favorite meal/dish?
2. Can you associate this dish to a fond/bitter memory from your childhood?

While Reading Activity

(Time: 10 minutes)

Have the students discuss the following questions as they read the passage:

1. How many characters are there in this passage? Figure out who is narrating.
2. What is the relevance of xôi to the scene of the passage?

Read the following passage and complete all the post reading activities.

Xôi and Jennifer

[Xôi is a sweet or savory Vietnamese dish made from sticky rice and other ingredients.]

A young couple entered the restaurant in Andy's view. They were holding hands. Andy sat back down in his chair. He felt sick. He turned and faced his father, who was eating xôi.

"What's the matter, son?" asked his father. "I thought you were going to the birthday party."

"It's too late."

"Are you sure?"

Andy nodded. He looked at the plate of xôi. He wanted to bury his face in it.

"Hi, Andy." A voice came from behind.

Andy looked up. He recognized the beautiful face, and he refused to meet her eyes. "Hi, Jennifer," muttered Andy, looking at the floor.



“You didn’t miss much, Andy. The party was dead. I was looking for you, hoping you could give me a ride home. Then I met Tim, and he was bored like me. And he said he’d take me home.... Andy, do you want to eat with us? I’ll introduce you to Tim.”

Andy said, “No, I’m eating xôi with my father.”

“Well, I’ll see you in school then, okay?”

“Yeah.” And Andy watched her socks move away from his view.

Andy grabbed a chunk of xôi. The glutinous rice and beans stuck to his fingernails. He placed the chunk in his mouth and pulled it away from his fingers with his teeth. There was a dry bitter taste. But nothing could be as bitter as he was, so he gnawed some more. The bitterness faded as the xôi became softer in his mouth, but it was still tasteless. He could hear the young couple talk and giggle. Their words and laughter and the sounds of his own chewing mixed into a sticky mess. The words were bitter and the laughter was tasteless, and once he began to apprehend this, he tasted the sweetness of xôi. Andy enjoyed swallowing the sticky mess down. Andy swallowed everything down— sweetness and bitterness and nothingness and what he thought was love.

Adapted from Nguyen Duc Minh, “Fortune Tellers.” in the collection American Eyes. ©1994 by H. Holt

Post Reading Activity

(Time: 30 minutes)

Word Meaning

There are underlined words in the passage. Write the corresponding underlined word next to its meaning provided below.

- a. _____ - understand or perceive
- b. _____ - gradually grow faint and disappear
- c. _____ - bite at or nibble something persistently
- d. _____ - like glue in texture; sticky
- e. _____ - say something in a low or barely audible voice, especially in dissatisfaction or irritation

One Word Answers

Answer each question in one word in the space provided.

1. Who felt sick?

2. Where did Andy want to bury his face in?

3. Who was looking for Andy at the party?

4. Who took Jennifer home?

5. Which part of Andy's body did the rice and beans stick to?

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer from the options provided following each question.

1. Who is telling this story?
 - A. Jennifer
 - B. Andy
 - C. Tim
 - D. Andy's father
 - E. An unnamed narrator
2. What is the most reasonable conclusion to make from the statement in the first paragraph, "He felt sick."?
 - A. Eating xoi with his father gave Andy a stomachache.
 - B. Andy was upset when he saw Jennifer holding hands with Tim.
 - C. Andy was unhappy about the restaurant his father had selected.
 - D. Andy was upset with Jennifer for making him miss the party.
 - E. Andy mistakenly thought that Tim was his best friend.

3. According to the passage, Tim would most likely describe the party as:

- A. mysterious.
- B. lively.
- C. dull.
- D. upsetting.
- E. remarkable.

4. Based on the last paragraph, it can be most reasonably inferred that Andy's increasing enjoyment of eating xôi was related to:

- A. hearing Tim and Jennifer laughing and talking.
- B. the fact that it stuck to his fingernails.
- C. sitting at a table with Tim and Jennifer while he ate.
- D. the fact that his father made the xôi.
- E. seeing Tim and Jennifer eating xôi.

5. This passage is mainly about the relationship between:

- A. Andy and his father.
- B. Andy and Tim.
- C. Andy's father and Tim.
- D. Jennifer and Tim.
- E. Jennifer and Andy.

True or False

Write "True" or "False" next to each statement based on the information provided in the passage.

- 1. Xôi is a sweet or savory Vietnamese dish made from sticky rice and other ingredients. _____
- 2. Andy went to dinner with his mother. _____
- 3. Andy heard Jennifer's voice from the table in front of him. _____
- 4. Andy gave Jennifer a ride back home. _____
- 5. Andy liked Jennifer very much but could not express his feelings for her. _____

Passage 2

Pre-reading Activity

(Time: 7 minutes)

Have the students discuss the following questions before reading the passage:

1. Have you read or heard the story, or seen the movie of Frankenstein?
2. Can you name some other imaginary characters like Frankenstein's monster?

While Reading Activity

(Time: 13 minutes)

Have the students discuss the following questions as they read the passage:

1. How many characters are there in this passage? Figure out who is narrating.
2. How does the author change the mood of the passage using different words?

Read the following passage of "Frankenstein's monster" and complete all the activities.

"If any person showed me kindness or friendship, I would be a hundred times kinder in return. For that one person's sake I would make peace with all people. But that is a hopeless dream. No human will ever befriend me. But you, Victor Frankenstein, my creator, can make another creature as ugly as myself, who will accept me and be my companion. You owe me that much."

The small hut that I was staying in was situated on one of the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland. It was perfect for my work. I sat one evening on my laboratory thinking. Three years ago I had tried to create a human being. Instead, I had made a monster which murdered my brother and an innocent servant had been **blamed**. Since then I had felt only guilt. Now I was making a companion for him, but what would she be like? What if she was worse than the first? Suppose the two had children and created a whole race of monsters? How future generations would **curse** me!

As these thoughts went through my mind, I noticed something at the window. I **trembled from head to foot**; but though I wanted to run, I could not move. It was the monster I had made. He had been watching me. **Disgusted** with myself, I destroyed the creature on which I was working. Filled with anger, the monster ran away. I went to my room and locked the door.

A few hours later I heard footsteps outside. Then, the door opened and the thing that I feared most entered. How can I describe how I felt at the sight of him? I had wanted my creation to be beautiful. Beautiful! But he wasn't.

"You destroyed her! You broke your promise to me! You forget that I have power over you. You are my creator but I am your master! Since you deny me love, only revenge remains – revenge, from now on, will be my light and food! I may die, but at first I will hurt you like you hurt me."

"Go away! I do break my promise; never will I create another like yourself, **equal** in ugliness and **wickedness**," I shouted.

The monster ran away and a few minutes later I saw him in his boat, which disappeared into the darkness.

Post Reading Activity:

(Time: 25 minutes)

Put the events of the text in the correct order. Write 1-7 in the boxes.

- _____ - Frankenstein saw the monster at the window.
- _____ - Frankenstein created a monster.
- _____ - The monster saw Frankenstein destroy his companion.
- _____ - Frankenstein's brother was murdered.
- _____ - The monster left the island.
- _____ - Frankenstein started making a companion for the monster.
- _____ - Frankenstein argued with the monster.

In the text there are some underlined words and phrases. Match them with their definitions and synonyms below.

- wish that bad things happen to somebody: _____
- feared: _____
- wrongdoing: _____
- disliking myself: _____
- same: _____
- accused: _____
- sickened/repulsed: _____

The following sentences have been chosen from the passage but some of the words have been changed. Find these sentences and correct them according to the passage.

- All humans will always be friends with me. - _____

- Filled with joy, the monster ran away. - _____

- You are my master but I am your creator. - _____

- I had made a monster which married my brother and an innocent servant had been blamed. - _____
