

Gulshan Senior School
English Language, Class VIII

Worksheet 1
Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

In the Neighborhood

Ahn vigorously scrubbed windows, a tedious necessity for her family's new Vietnamese restaurant. They had turned the building from homely to gorgeous, but everything had to be absolutely perfect: unique decorations, skillful employees, and fabulous traditional food. Then customers would adore the place, making the business a success.

Ahn shifted her vision to look outside the restaurant as a girl about her age, with abundant red hair, strolled up the street. Ahn's family had recently moved to this neighborhood, so she had few friends.

The girl paused to study the sign announcing their opening and then looked directly at Ahn with a friendly smile. Ahn smiled back shyly and lifted a hand, accidentally waving with the cleaning cloth. The girl laughed at her amusement and waved back in acknowledgment.

Ahn hesitated, not accustomed to initiating friendship, but she felt courageous, so on a whim she opened the door. "Hello," she said, adding the first thing that entered her head, "do you like Vietnamese food?"

"I don't know, but I like to try new things," the girl remarked, and then she introduced herself as Gabriela.

Ahn could not think of additional conversation until she had a sudden idea. "Please wait here," she requested, "and I'll be right back." She ran into the adjoining kitchen and explained her idea to her father. He was sympathetic, so seconds later Ahn presented a small package to Gabriela. "Some Vietnamese candy for you to try," she explained. "If you enjoy it, I hope you'll return to the restaurant sometime, or even visit after school when I'll be here preparing for the dinner service."

"Excellent, I'll see you around soon." Gabriela headed down the street, glancing back with a cheerful wave. Ahn spent the remainder of the afternoon hoping Gabriela really would return and not think Ahn's gift was weird.

The following day, Ahn assembled bouquets of artificial flowers, orchids that would never wilt. She was admiring her accomplishment when she heard unexpected tapping and turned to see Gabriela beckoning to her with a plate covered with transparent plastic wrap. Ahn grinned with enthusiasm and opened the door with a cordial greeting.

Gabriela presented the plate and said, "I brought biscuits made from my grandmother's recipe to thank you for the delicious candy."

"Come in, and we can have some biscuits right now," Ahn stammered, happy inside.

Gabriela entered and rotated to scan the room with its picturesque landscape mural. "Thanks, they really are wonderful, and I'm fascinated to see your restaurant."

As they snacked on the treats, Ahn fumbled for conversation and considered an offer. "Are you good with vocabulary?" she inquired. "I intend to design a publicity pamphlet for the restaurant, and I could use some assistance."

"Certainly!" Gabriela said, adding, "I'm delighted you moved into the neighborhood and thrilled I have a new friend."

Ahn grinned, now positive that the restaurant would make a wondrous impression on the community, that customers would be plentiful, and that she was going to enjoy life here immensely.

1. Gabriela says she does not know if she likes Vietnamese food. What is the most likely reason she doesn't know the answer to this question? What clues in the text suggest the reason?

2. What point of view is used to tell the story, and how can you tell?

3. Ahn chooses to greet a girl she does not know. What results from this decision?

4. This story is about two girls beginning a friendship. What do they do to become friends? Include several examples from the text.

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Worksheet 2
Grammar and Language

Write down the definition of the following **including examples**:

1. Adverbial Clause:

2. Adjectival Clause:

3. Noun Clause:

Find out what are wrong with the sentences and rewrite them correctly:

1. My mother told me: You are going to have to wash your hands for 20 seconds.

2. Walking through the kitchen, the smoke alarm was going off.

3. Susana said told her mother that she was going to meet his friends and return before midnight.

4. Thor Ragnarok is a good movie when it came out.

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Worksheet 3
Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Carving Mount Rushmore

The granite faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln tower amidst southwestern South Dakota's pine-covered mountains. Sometimes called the Shrine of Democracy, Mt. Rushmore National Monument is one of the most recognized monuments or memorials in the United States. The story behind this beloved monument is complicated and fascinating.

A South Dakotan named Doane Robinson hatched a plan to attract visitors to the lightly populated state. He proposed giant mountain carvings of explorers and notable Native Americans. Lewis and Clark, Sacajawea, and Red Cloud topped his list. However, Mt. Rushmore's sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, disagreed. He decided that only presidents would do. Borglum chose four. They represent the birth of the United States and its growth and development.

Some people objected, arguing that any mountain carving was wrong. Others rejected the idea because the Black Hills are sacred to Native Americans. In fact, at one time, the United States government had agreed that the land belonged only to Native Americans. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 barred all white people from Paha Sapa, the Native American name for the Black Hills. The treaty came about after the Lakota leader Red Cloud and other Native Americans warred against the United States. However, the treaty was broken after less than a decade when people swarmed the Black Hills to search for gold.

Despite objections to carving Mt. Rushmore, the U.S. Congress and the South Dakota Legislature gave their approval. Work began in October 1927. Borglum was an experienced mountain carver. He had worked on the Confederate Memorial Carving at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Borglum had left Stone Mountain long before it was finished due to many conflicts. He often proved difficult to work with at Mt. Rushmore, too. He demanded his own way and had a strong personality. Moreover, he was a perfectionist known for firing excellent workmen. Lincoln Borglum, Gutzon's son, would then hire the workers back.

Although Borglum was often tough, he was able to push the 14-year project to success. The project took so long not only due to its size, but also because money was often in short supply. Borglum often lobbied, or asked, Congress for further funding. In the end, Mt. Rushmore cost slightly under \$1 billion dollars. Most of the money came from the U.S. government.

When Mt. Rushmore was finally finished, each president's face measured about 60 feet tall. Their eyes are each 11 feet across!

About 400 people helped chisel Mt. Rushmore. Workers climbed 700 stairs up the mountain and then were lowered over the mountain in special chairs hanging by cables. They worked during blazing hot summers, frigid winters, and in windy conditions. They set off small charges of dynamite to complete about 90 percent of the carvings. Workers used 75-pound jackhammers or hand tools for the remainder of the work. Despite many dangers, not one person was killed during the carving of Mt. Rushmore.

1. Why was Gutzon Borglum difficult to work with?

2. Once work started on Mt. Rushmore, what challenges did Borglum and the workers face?

3. Read this sentence from the passage: About 400 people helped chisel Mt. Rushmore.

4. What does the word chisel mean?

5. Why do you think the government agreed to the building of Mount Rushmore?

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Worksheet 4
Directed Writing

Write a formal letter to your employer, asking for an increase in remuneration, due to your improved performances and prolificity. You should use a separate page for this assignment and use a proper formal letter format.

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Worksheet 5
Creative Writing/Composition

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of Nuclear Power and present a verdict on its sustainable use in Bangladesh. You should write 350 words on this.

OR

Do a research on Spanish Flu of 1918 and write 350 words, narrating the progress and devastation of the epidemic. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu

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Worksheet 6
Vocabulary

Write the meanings of the following words and create sentences with them. You are to create sentences on your own and not copy/paste examples from online. Your sentences will be run through a plagiarism checker for their originality.

1. Vivacious:

2. Contemporary:

3. Abnegation:

4. Alacrity:

5. Ostracize:

6. Ubiquitous:

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Worksheet 7
Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Mountain Gorillas

“Girls!” Rose heard her father calling.

She raced to her big sister’s room. “Gina, Dad’s calling us.”

The girls ran downstairs. “What is it, Dad?” said Rose.

Dad put his arm around Mom. “We’re going on a safari to the Virunga Mountains of Africa. There are three national parks there that we’ll visit.”

Rose and Gina looked at each other. “What?” they said in unison.

“We’re going on a safari,” said Mom. “Isn’t it exciting!”

At 12 years old, Rose would prefer going to an amusement park or a beach. She didn’t want to go on a safari, and she thought it important to let her parents know. “I don’t want to go on a safari. Who goes on safaris? Let’s go to the beach for a week or two.”

“Well,” said Dad, “I have to go for an assignment for the paper. We’re covering the mountain gorillas. They’re critically endangered. So, I thought it’d be a great place to take a vacation. It’ll be very educational for you girls.”

Rose watched Gina shake her head and go back up to her room. “But--” said Rose.

Mom interrupted her, “There are no ‘buts.’ We’re going. It’s set for next week.”

“Great.” said Rose. “Some summer vacation.”

“Gina!” yelled Dad. “Come down here.”

Gina lumbered down the stairs. “Yeah.”

“Sit down, both of you.” Dad had on his stern look. “It’s important for you to know about the world around you. This is a wonderful chance for you to experience an amazing place. Do you know anything about the mountain gorillas?”

The sisters shook their heads.

“Well,” said Dad, “get your laptop, Rose. I want you to look them up right now.”

Rose searched for mountain gorillas. “Aw, look how cute they are. The newborn gorilla only weighs around 4 pounds at birth. They’re a lot like human babies; they’re weak and uncoordinated.”

“Scroll down, Rose,” said Gina. “Wow. The males can weight up to 400 pounds. And . . . you’re right, Dad, they’re critically endangered.”

Rose took over the reading. “It’s that their habitat is being disturbed by civil wars and conflicts. Mountain gorillas are also killed or captured by poachers.”

Gina pulled the laptop toward her. “Thieves steal them to sell illegally. It says that baby gorillas are sold as pets, to private zoos, or as research animals. How horrible!”

“That’s right,” said Dad. Did you know that they’re social animals and much more passive than aggressive? They truly are a magnificent animal. It’s important for us to see for ourselves and help spread the word about what we can do to help save them.”

Rose and Gina looked at each other again.

“So, a safari,” said Gina.

“Yeah,” said Rose. “I’m going to take a mega amount of pictures. Can’t wait!”

1. What does passive mean here: “Did you know that they’re social animals and much more passive than aggressive”?

2. What is one reason that mountain gorillas are endangered?

3. Why do you think Rose and Gina changed their minds about their vacation?

4. Which vacation would you rather have: a safari or the beach? Why?