

# Making Connections

## Reading Comprehension Skills and Strategies


### Book 3

### Unit 4 Skill Focus: Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

### Unit 4 Theme: Fables

Text 1

**Unit 4** Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes Combine information from a text with what is already known to build additional meaning.



### Who Was Aesop?

Aesop's fables are known and loved around the world. Yet very little is known about the man who told these stories. Aesop is thought to have been a slave in ancient Greece. He was born more than 2,500 years ago, in about 620 BCE. Aesop was a wise man. His master admired him for his wisdom. At that time, a master could free a slave whom he admired.

Aesop told stories because, in those days, very few people could read or write. When stories were good and well told, people would remember them and retell them. This is how they were passed along.

**How do you know Aesop was free?**

Text 2

### The Lion and the Mouse

The lion is a wild animal who roars through the night. One day, the lion caught a mouse. He was making the lion laugh his side.

The mouse had quickly agreed to help the lion. The mouse said, "I will help you when you are in trouble." The lion said, "I will never forget it. One day, I might be able to help you."

The lion was very angry by what the little mouse had said. "You are too small to help me with the ring of the lion!" the lion said, laughing.

The mouse said, "I will never forget it. One day, I might be able to help you."

**How do you know the lion and the mouse got along?**

Text 3

### The Tortoise and the Hare

Tortoise and Hare were friends who lived near a very big hill. Hare, with his long, strong legs, could run up the hill and then down again in very seconds. Tortoise, with his short, stubby legs, could not move very fast. It took him a very long time to get anywhere.

Hare always teased Tortoise about how slowly he walked. Tortoise was sick and tired of Hare's teasing, so one day he challenged Hare to a race.

"This is a joke! You're not to be kidding!" Hare said with a laugh. "I can run circles around you. You'll never beat me!"

"We'll see," said Tortoise.

**Which animal should win the race?**

Scaffolding Level:

MODELING

GUIDED

COACHING/INDEPENDENT

Text 4

### The Ant and the Grasshopper

The summer day, a grasshopper was hopping around, chirping and singing to his heart's content. An ant passed by carrying a long kernel of wheat to his nest.

"Why not come and play with me instead of working so hard?" asked the grasshopper. "I'm collecting food now," said the ant. "I recommend that you do the same."

"Why bother?" asked the grasshopper. "We have plenty of food at the moment!"

"Suit yourself," replied the ant. The ant continued his work and the grasshopper hopped merrily away.

When winter came, the grasshopper had no food and was very hungry. I think I'll pay a visit to that little ant, he thought. He probably has plenty of food.

When the ant saw the starving grasshopper, he felt sorry for him. "I will help you this time," he said. "But next summer, you had better chirp, sing, and work!"

**How do you know the ant was preparing for winter?**

Text 5

**Unit 4** Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text and answer the questions below.

### The Sick Lion

There was a very old lion who lived in a cave. He was so old, he could no longer go out to hunt for his prey. The lion thought very hard about his problem. He knew he must eat, and he was getting very hungry. He came up with a plan.

Many animals passed by the lion's cave every day. "Oh, I am so sick and lonely," the lion would say, loud enough for the other animals to hear. "Won't someone come in and talk to me?"

One day, a fox came along. The lion asked her to enter. "Please, clever fox, come entertain me with your stories," the lion said. "I am all alone in my cave and am very lonely."

The fox was too clever to fall for the lion's trick. "I am not coming any closer," she said. "I see many footprints going into your cave. However, I do not see any footprints coming out. I will stay right here."

**All in the circle next to each correct answer.**

1. When the fox came by the cave, the lion thought he would

(A) go out and visit some animals.

(B) have a party.

(C) get something to eat for lunch.

(D) get a friend to share his cave.

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Text 6



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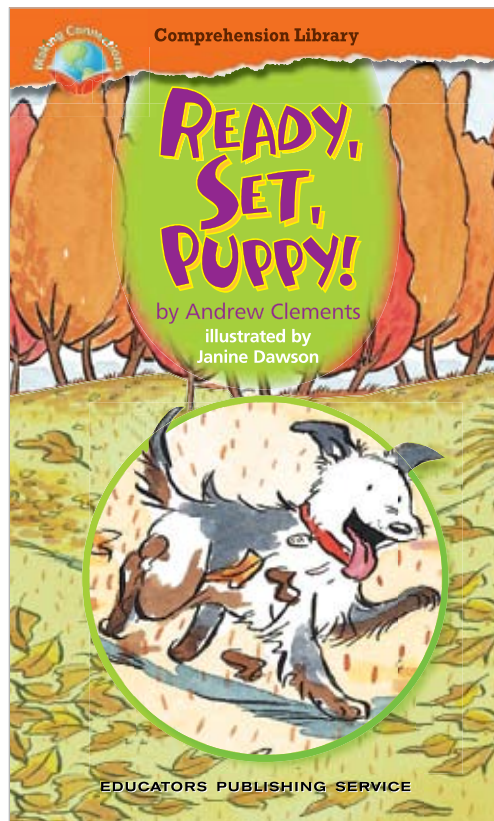
Scaffolding Level:

INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT





**Skill Focus — Drawing Conclusions/  
Predicting Outcomes**

Will Tim and Juliana change their minds about wanting a puppy?


READY,  
SET,  
PUPPY!



by Andrew Clements  
illustrated by Janine Dawson

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 Series Authors: Kay Kovalevs and Alison Dewsbury  
 Series Consultant: Melinda Rice  
 Commissioning Editors: Sarah Russell, Bonnie Lass, and  
 Sethany Rancier Alongi  
 Senior Editorial Manager: Sheila Neylon  
 Text by Andrew Clements  
 Illustrated by Janine Dawson  
 Edited by Sally Paxton  
 Designed by Jennifer Johnston

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**YOU COULD SAY** Aunt Gwen  
 started it all.

At our annual family picnic, she  
 announced that Daisy was going to  
 have puppies.

She said, “If I can find some  
 nice families, Daisy’s puppies will  
 make perfect holiday presents.”

3 🦴



🦴 4

Tim and I looked at each other,  
 and we both thought the same thing.  
 Could there possibly be a nicer  
 family than ours?

So Tim and I decided *we* would  
 get a puppy. But there was a  
 problem—two problems, really.

Mom and Dad.


🦴

We told Aunt Gwen to pick out  
 the best puppy and save it for us.

She said, “Is this all right with  
 your parents?”

I said, “We haven’t asked yet,  
 but I know they’ll say yes.”

Aunt Gwen raised  
 one eyebrow. “Well,”  
 she said, “I’ll pick you  
 out a puppy. And I’ll  
 hold it for you. But  
 your mom and dad  
 must say it’s all right.”



5 🦴

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First we tried begging. “Can we pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeease have one of Daisy’s puppies? PLEEEEEEEEEE-EEEEASE??”

We did that for about three days.



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Then we tried crying. “We just (*sniff*) really (*sniff*), really (*sniff*), really want a puppy (*sniff, sniff*).”

With the help of cut-up onions, Tim and I cried real tears.

Onions are awful, so we only did that a few times.



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Then we decided to show Mom and Dad that we could take care of our new dog.

Tim played the part of the puppy, and I played the part of the new dog owner.

I took the puppy for a walk, and I fed the puppy in the kitchen.



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I even taught the puppy to bring Mom the newspaper, and to sit up and beg Dad for a treat.

And after a good laugh, Mom and Dad finally said . . . YES!

Our own puppy!

We called Aunt Gwen to tell her the good news, and she was excited, too.



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About two weeks later, a huge box arrived at our house. Inside were forty-eight rolls of paper towels and a note.

May 3 2005



Dear Tim and Juliana,

Soon you will learn why they say that a dog is man's best friend. You will also learn why these paper towels are man's second-best friend. You will find them useful for cleaning up things like mud, slobber, and food drips—and that's the pleasant stuff.

This little box will last you a few weeks. Probably.

With love,  
Aunt Gwen



Tim laughed and laughed. So did I. But then I looked over at Mom and Dad.

They weren't laughing. Not even a little bit.



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**Graphic Organizer and Questions**

1. How do you know that Aunt Gwen has taken care of dogs before?
2. Do you think Tim and Juliana realize how hard it will be to take care of the puppy? Find details in the text to support your answer.
3. What if Tim and Juliana were about to get a kitten? Rewrite one of Aunt Gwen's letters so it describes how to prepare for a new kitten.
4. Copy the chart below. Fill in the possible problems with caring for each pet.

Pet	Possible Problems
bird	
horse	
rabbit	
turtle	



**Reading Comprehension Skills**

- Sequencing
- Main Idea
- Compare and Contrast
- Drawing Conclusions/  
Predicting Outcomes
- Fact and Opinion
- Cause and Effect

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