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Reading Games That Beat the Traps

25 interactive games for Grades 6, 7, and 8

How wrong answers are built, why they are wrong, and the most-tested reading skills

SAMPLE

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Every game includes teacher instructions, an example round, printable cards, boards, and recording sheets, and a complete answer key. Passages are original.

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Distractor Bingo Card E

true but not the question	the opposite	not in the text	wrong meaning	the opposite
not in the text	true but not the question	only part of the text	true but not the question	true but not the question
only part of the text	not in the text	**FREE SPACE**	only part of the text	only part of the text
not in the text	wrong meaning	wrong meaning	true but not the question	wrong meaning
not in the text	only part of the text	the opposite	the opposite	wrong meaning

Distractor Bingo Card F

not in the text	true but not the question	wrong meaning	only part of the text	the opposite
wrong meaning	only part of the text	the opposite	only part of the text	only part of the text
not in the text	wrong meaning	**FREE SPACE**	wrong meaning	only part of the text
the opposite	true but not the question	not in the text	true but not the question	true but not the question
not in the text	the opposite	not in the text	wrong meaning	true but not the question

Distractor Bingo Card G

true but not the question	the opposite	wrong meaning	only part of the text	only part of the text
not in the text	wrong meaning	true but not the question	the opposite	the opposite
true but not the question	the opposite	**FREE SPACE**	not in the text	not in the text
only part of the text	wrong meaning	wrong meaning	true but not the question	not in the text
not in the text	true but not the question	only part of the text	wrong meaning	only part of the text

Distractor Bingo Card H

not in the text	wrong meaning	true but not the question	true but not the question	only part of the text
the opposite	true but not the question	not in the text	not in the text	only part of the text
only part of the text	true but not the question	**FREE SPACE**	wrong meaning	the opposite
true but not the question	wrong meaning	only part of the text	the opposite	only part of the text
not in the text	wrong meaning	the opposite	wrong meaning	not in the text

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Printable: Question Cards (sheet 1 of 2, cut apart)

CARD 1
Both texts are about the same natural feature, a creek.

CARD 2
Text X tells about one class's cleanup while Text Y explains what makes a creek healthy.

CARD 3
Text X argues and asks readers to help while Text Y gives facts without asking for action.

CARD 4
Both texts mention plants along the creek bank.

CARD 5
Text X describes a creek that turned green and smelly while Text Y describes a healthy creek as clear.

CARD 6
Both texts show that a creek can improve when people help.

CARD 7
Text X is about one creek behind a school while Text Y describes creeks in general.

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Answer Key

Card	Sort	Paragraph(s)	Why
A-1	UMBRELLA	(1), (2), (3), (5)	Whole text. Every paragraph is about the humpback song and what it does.
A-2	RAINDROP	(1) only	Only paragraph (1) says only males sing. True, but only part of the text.
A-3	RAINDROP	(4) only	Only paragraph (4) mentions grunts and squeaks, and it says they are not part of the song.
A-4	UMBRELLA	(1), (5)	Whole text. The song links whales far apart, which is the big idea the text builds to.
A-5	RAINDROP	(1) only	Only paragraph (1) gives the half hour detail. A small fact, not the whole idea.
A-6	UMBRELLA	(3), (5)	Whole text. The text keeps returning to why whales sing and what the song does.
A-7	RAINDROP	(2) only	Only paragraph (2) says all males learn the new version. True, but only one part.
A-8	UMBRELLA	(2), (5)	Whole text. The song changing is a main thread that paragraph (2) and (5) both carry.
B-1	UMBRELLA	(4), (5)	Whole text. The lesson of the story is that simple can be best.
B-2	RAINDROP	(1) only	Only paragraph (1) tells what Priya used to bake. A detail, not the whole story.
B-3	UMBRELLA	(3), (4), (5)	Whole text. The plain loaf beating the fancy cake is the key idea of the story.
B-4	RAINDROP	(3) only	Only paragraph (3) reports the judges' choice. One event, not the whole story.
B-5	RAINDROP	(2) only	Only paragraph (2) describes the loaf as a yellow brick. A small detail.
B-6	UMBRELLA	(3), (4), (5)	Whole text. Priya's surprise and her new understanding is what the story is really about.
B-7	RAINDROP	(4) only	Only paragraph (4) has the judge's words about summer. True, but only one part.
B-8	UMBRELLA	(4), (5)	Whole text. Priya changing her mind about good cake is the heart of the story.

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Sample whole text statements

- **Text A:** Humpback whales share a long, changing song that connects them across the ocean, and scientists are still learning why they sing.
- **Text B:** When a plain lemon loaf beats Priya's fancy cake, Priya learns that simple food can be best.

Common trap: cards A-2, A-5, A-7, B-2, B-4, B-5, and B-7 are true but only part of the text, which is the shape of many wrong answers on the state test.

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PART 4 · STUDENT RECORDING SHEET

Hot Seat Evidence Sheet

Name: _____ Team: _____ Date: _____

For each card, write the best evidence letter, the paragraph number that holds it, and a label for one wrong choice you rejected.

Card	Best letter	Paragraph #	One wrong choice I rejected	Its label and why it fails
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

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My total points this game: _____

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