

Shooting Fish

1

The salmon could go no farther. A dam had been built. The dam was a barrier the salmon could not get past. It was too high to jump over. The salmon needed to go up the river. The fish had to return to the place where it had been born. Something had to happen if the salmon was going to complete its migration.

2

Not all fish migrate, but salmon do. Salmon hatch out of eggs. Next, they migrate down to the ocean. They get big and strong. When they are adults, they complete their migration. They swim back to their spawning grounds. Somehow they know exactly where their spawning grounds are. They know what river they need to go up. They lay their eggs close to where they once hatched out.

3

Dams are important. They help farmers have water for their crops. They are used to make electricity. They help stop flooding. They are important, but fish are important, too. People tried to help salmon by building fish ladders. Instead of one big leap, the salmon had to make lots of little leaps. People also tried catching salmon and taking them past the dams.

4

Then someone thought of a salmon cannon. It cost less than making a fish ladder. It also meant that the salmon weren't exhausted. They didn't have to use up all their energy leaping up steps. They spent less time out of the water than when they were trapped and carried.

5

Using water flow, the fish are sucked into a transport tube. The fish are in the tube for only five to ten seconds. During that time, they are misted so they don't dry out. The tube bends. It is long enough to go over a dam. The fish come shooting out the end! They can safely land in water just a few feet deep. The salmon cannon idea came from picking fruit! The cannon was first made to transport ripe fruit without bruising it!

Your Name: _____ Partner: _____

Shooting Fish (cont.)

First Silently read "Shooting Fish." You might see words you do not know. There might be parts you do not understand. Keep reading! Try to find out what the story is mainly about.

Then Sum up the story. Write the main actions and most important information. If someone reads your summary, that person should know it is this story you are writing about.

After That Read the story again. Use a pencil to circle or mark words you don't know. Note places that confuse you. Underline the main action or idea of each paragraph.

Next Meet with your partner. Help each other find these words and terms in the text.

barrier spawning ground exhausted transport

Read the sentences around the words. Think about how they fit in the whole story. Write what the words mean. Which information in the text helps you figure out the meaning of the new words? The first row of the chart is done for you.

Word(s)	What It Means	Information That Helps
barrier	something that blocks your way	A dam was a barrier that stopped the salmon.
spawning ground		
exhausted		
transport		

Your Name: _____

Shooting Fish (cont.)

Now Answer the story questions below.

- Why are dams important? Using information from the story, give three reasons.

- Fill in the stages of a salmon’s migration.

Stage 1: Eggs hatch from the spawning ground.

Stage 2: _____

Stage 3: _____

Stage 4: _____

- If a salmon is shot out of a salmon cannon and lands in water 10 feet deep, is the water deep enough for it to land safely? Use evidence from the story to defend your answer.

- One could trap the salmon and carry them over the dam. Or, one could use a salmon cannon. Which one is better for the salmon? In your answer, quote the amount of time salmon spend out of the water when a salmon cannon is used.

Your Name: _____

Shooting Fish *(cont.)*

Then

Reread the entire story one last time. As you read, think about how the story has a problem and a solution.

5. The first paragraph describes a problem. What is the problem?

6. Three solutions are given. What are the three solutions?

Of these three solutions, which one does the author seem to think is the best? What makes you think so?

7. Reread the last two sentences of the story. When you were reading this story for the first time, did you ever think you would read about picking fruit? Explain.

What big lesson do you think the author was trying to teach you about ideas and inventions when she included the last two lines?

**Learn
More**

Use books or the Internet to find out more about salmon and their migration. On the back of this paper, write three sentences about what you learn. If you want, you can find pictures of the salmon cannon, fish ladders, and bears catching salmon as they return to their spawning grounds.

- The crocodile should be circled for all three. The story tells us that crocodiles “have the strongest bite of any animal.”
- It is nonfiction, because it gives facts about crocodiles. “People can cry crocodile tears”; if one didn’t know about the expression, it sounds impossible.

“Magic Trick” (pages 40–43)

Summary: Ravi wants some of Brandon’s cookies, so he tricks Brandon by saying he will do a magic trick. The trick works, and Ravi eats all the cookies.

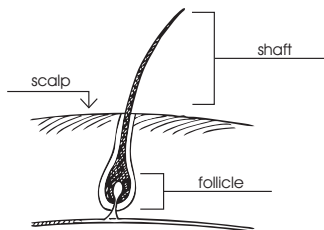
Vocabulary: *entire* = “whole, all”; *mystified* = “puzzled”; *perform* = “do something, act”; *vanished* = “disappeared”

- Brandon had to take the hat off the plate.
- a. “19” and “one less than twenty”; b. Answers will vary.
- a. He is boasting and showing off; b. He is showing off that he made the cookies disappear and that he didn’t touch the hat.
- No, because all he did was trick Brandon into taking the hat off the plate.
- Step 2. Put cookies on plate; Step 3. Cover cookies with hat; Step 4. Say you will eat all the cookies without touching the hat; Step 5. Say “Ta-Da!” and that all the cookies are gone; Step 6. When someone takes off the hat to check, you eat the cookies!
- You would think Brandon will eat them, because it says he isn’t going to share.

“Alive and Dead” (pages 44–47)

Summary: This story is all about hair. It tells about hair parts, hair color, and why our hair turns gray as we age.

Vocabulary:



- The story says hair *cannot* grow on lips, palms of hands, or soles of feet.
- The shaft has no living part.
- The cells that make melanin had begun to die.
- The hair should be colored red. Hair color determines the number of hair follicles. Redheads have about 90,000.
- In paragraphs 1 and 2, the questions are at the end. In 3 and 5, they are at the beginning.

“A Bare Escape” (pages 48–51)

Summary: Everyone thinks Andrea and Danielle will win the race, but Ann wins. She ran fast because she saw a bear and was running for her life.

Vocabulary: *course* = “path, track”; *loop* = “circle”; *stunned* = “amazed, speechless, in disbelief”; *vicinity* = “area close by”

- They were surprised and assumed she had cheated. She usually came in last.
- She bent over, panting. Phrases like “streaks of sweat ran down her face” and “gasping for breath” tell you that she was running fast.
- They were very close. The width of a hair is very small.
- Accept responses that follow the directions given.
- Everyone has to go inside. A bear has escaped from the zoo and is in the vicinity.
- There are not usually wild bears in parks, and Ann usually lost races.
- Adrenaline helped Ann go faster than Andrea and Danielle.

“The Ins and Outs of Doors” (pages 52–55)

Summary: The writer thinks learning how to read is a waste of time. After she has trouble with doors because she can’t read the words on them, she changes her mind.

Vocabulary: Students should shade in the set of doors on the left.

- It said the doors were right next to each other.
 - The writer was looking for a different door. The story says that the door she found wasn’t close to any other door.
- She tried to go out the door that said ENTER.
 - Her opinion is that reading is a waste of time. “Then two things happened that caused me to alter my opinion.”
 - The person feels the opposite. The writer’s opinion about reading is the opposite from what it was at the beginning.
 - If you can read, you will know which doors to enter and exit.
 - The author would tell you that learning how to read is very important.

“Shooting Fish” (pages 56–59)

Summary: Migrating salmon are blocked by dams. Fish cannons can help them get to their spawning grounds.

Vocabulary: *spawning ground* = “where eggs are laid”; *exhausted* = “tired, all your energy is used up”; *transport* = “carry, send, bring to another place”

- They provide water for crops, help make electricity, and help stop flooding.
- Stage 2: Young salmon swim to ocean; Stage 3: Salmon return to spawning ground; Stage 4: Adult salmon lay eggs.
- Yes, because 10 feet is deeper than a few feet of water, and it can land safely in a few feet of water. “A few” means two or three, which is less than 10.
- The salmon cannon is better, because then the salmon are only out of the water “five to ten seconds.” This keeps them safe.
- Salmon need to get past dams and barriers in order to complete their migration.
- The three solutions given are fish ladders, trapping and carrying, and using a fish cannon. The author thinks the fish cannon is best.

“Carrie the Carrier” (pages 60–63)

Summary: Carrie is a dog that picks up everything and carries it away. Trang likes her because Carrie picks up dolls. No one else does because of what else she picks up.

- They thought she didn’t know the difference between a doll, a slipper, a phone, and a backpack.
- She does not want to give two cents to Mr. Dang. She wants to add to what he said about Carrie picking up anything. You know this because Mrs. Dang never gives Mr. Dang any money; instead, she tells how Carrie picked up her phone.
- She grabbed the wrong basket and didn’t get the kittens. It is difficult to think clearly when there is lots of noise, you’re in a rush, and you’re feeling scared.
- Ellen’s three kittens are in the basket. We know this because we are told that “three little whiskered faces” are poking out of the basket.
- Carrie saves some kittens by carrying their basket out of a neighbor’s smoke-filled apartment.
- Most likely not. By saving the kittens, Carrie showed she could be very useful.
- Mr. Dang: “She’s as useful as a barrel with a hole in it”; Mrs. Dang: “She’s a real menace.”; Viet: “I think we should find her a new home.”