

New Flag Needed!

1 In 1936 Liechtenstein competed at the Summer Olympics for the first time. Immediately afterward, Liechtenstein decided to change its national flag. This was done because of what was seen at the Opening Ceremony. In 1936, 50 nations took part in this event. One of those was Haiti. During the Opening Ceremony, everyone could see that Haiti's flag was evenly divided into two horizontal stripes. The top half of Haiti's flag was blue, and the bottom half was red. It looked exactly like Liechtenstein's flag. The two flags were identical! In 1937, Liechtenstein changed its flag by adding a gold crown in the top left corner. Haiti chose to retain its design until 1964.

2 National flags are used to identify a country. Some stand out. For example, Switzerland's flag stands out because it is one of only two square flags. (The Vatican has the only other square flag.) It also stands out because it is not always square! Confused? When the Swiss flag is displayed on ships and at sea, it cannot be square. It must be wider than it is tall. When it is displayed on land, it is almost always square. No matter its shape, the Swiss flag is always red with a white cross in the center.

3 While only two countries have square flags, only one country has a flag that isn't a rectangle. (Did you know that all squares are rectangles, but not all rectangles are squares?) Only Nepal's flag is not rectangular. Nepal is home to eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, and its flag consists of two triangles. These triangles represent the peaks of the Himalayan Mountains.

4 A quick glance seems to show that the flags of Monaco and Indonesia are as alike as two peas in a pod. They both have two equal horizontal bands. The top stripe is red, and the bottom stripe is white. Yet, a close examination shows that the flags are a tad different. Monaco's is slightly narrower.

5 One may also be tricked by the flags of Republic of Ireland and Ivory Coast. These are identical tricolor flags, except the order of colors is reversed. From the left to right, the bars for Ireland are green, white, and orange. From the left to right, Ivory Coast's three bars are orange, white, and green.

Your Name: _____ Partner: _____

New Flag Needed! *(cont.)***First**

Silently read "New Flag Needed!" You might see words you do not know and read parts you do not understand. Keep reading! Determine what the story is mainly about.

Then

Sum up the story. Write down the main idea and most important information. If someone reads your summary, that person should know it is this story that you are writing about, not a different story!

**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 new words in the text.

horizontal represent displayed retained tricolor

Read the sentences around the words. Think about how they fit in the whole story. Define the words. Which information from the text helped you figure out the meaning of the words? An example is given for you.

Word	Definition	Information That Helps
horizontal		
represent	to stand for something	The triangles stand for the peaks of the mountains.
displayed		
retain		
tricolor		

Your Name: _____

New Flag Needed! (cont.)

Now

Answer the story questions below.

1. Why did Liechtenstein add a gold crown to its flag after the 1936 Olympic Games?

On what color was the gold crown added? Check the correct box. ☐ blue ☐ red

Explain how the story helped you know this answer.

2. In the box below, draw a ship that is flying a Swiss flag. On the lines to the right, explain why you drew the flag the way you did. Explain both its shape and its design.



3. In paragraph 4, the phrase “as alike as two peas in a pod” is used in the first sentence. What does this saying mean in the way it is used here?

How did the story help you know? _____

4. Use the spaces below to draw two flags. Look at the labels to see which flags to draw. For each flag, write in words to show which colors go where.

**Republic of Ireland****Ivory Coast**

Your Name: _____

New Flag Needed! (cont.)

Then

Reread the entire story one last time. As you read, think about the main idea of each paragraph.

5. The title of the story fits best with the main idea of paragraph 1. Write a title for each of the other paragraphs. Each title should sum up the main idea of just that paragraph.

Paragraph 1: New Flag Needed!

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____

Paragraph 5: _____

6. Go back and read the descriptions of the flags. As you read, use the words to make a picture in your head of each flag. Close your eyes for a second and visualize the flags.

a. Which flag was the easiest to picture? _____

Why? _____

b. Which flag was the most difficult to picture? _____

Why? _____

7. Imagine you go to a party and find that someone is dressed the same as you. Do you think you would feel the same as the people from Liechtenstein felt when they found out Haiti had the same flag? Tell why or why not. (You cannot be wrong because it's your opinion, but you must defend your answer.)

**Learn
More**

You may have never heard of some of the countries mentioned in the story. Pick one country, and learn about it. Describe in complete sentences where the country is located and what language most of its citizens speak.

“Flashlights Skyward” (pages 8–11)

Summary: The Leadville 100 is a grueling endurance race. Tarahumara runners from Mexico came to race three times. The first time they lost because they didn’t even know what a flashlight was. They easily won the second and third times.

Vocabulary: a. False; b. True; c. False; d. False; e. True

1. They dropped out before the halfway point. They suffered from culture shock.
2. The race is 100 miles, so it’s 50 miles in and 50 miles out.
3. It takes place deep in the middle of the mountains. It has high mountains, rugged trails, ice and snow, etc.
4. 1st picture: brand-name running shoes; 2nd picture: sandals; They “tore the shoes off their feet and threw them away” at the first check-in station.
5. Information is given about the Leadville Trail 100 Run; information is given about the Tarahumara racing in the Leadville Trail 100 Run.
6. She wanted you to understand what a hard race it was and to picture the Tarahumara failing but then winning so easily.

“Mystery Solved” (pages 12–15)

Summary: Ada and Ethan want to be detectives, and their father advises that they read a lot. They solve two mysteries because of what they learned while reading.

Vocabulary: b. Summer firmly, or insists that the bill is hers; c. The docent is a volunteer guide, and volunteers aren’t paid; d. Ada claims the picture is fake; e. Ada says that a food’s origins are where it came from.

1. The painting was said to be from 14th century France. Potatoes and tomatoes were not brought to Europe until the late 15th century.
2. even; “I know because all books have odd-numbered pages on the right.”
4. The docent says that the painting depicts a typical scene from a 14th-century country kitchen in France, and the woman is kneading bread.
5. Reading is very important, because it provides a foundation for any kind of work; the characters use information learned from books to solve two mysteries.

“New Flag Needed!” (pages 16–19)

Summary: National flags identify countries. Almost all countries have rectangular flags. The flags of some countries are very similar to the flags of others.

Vocabulary: *horizontal* = “going across, from side to side”; *displayed* = “shown”; *retain* = “keep”; *tricolor* = “made of three colors”

1. They discovered that Haiti had the same flag, and they needed to make theirs different. The crown was added onto the blue; the story tells us that the crown was added in the top left corner, and the top half of the flag is blue.
2. Per the information given in the story, students should draw a ship with a rectangular flag (not square) featuring a cross in the center.
3. It means that something really looks identical or alike; if you just looked quickly at the flags from Monaco and Indonesia, you would think they were the same.
4. from left to right: Republic of Ireland = green, white, orange; Ivory Coast = orange, white, green.

“Garrulous Gabby” (pages 20–23)

Summary: A girl hates her nickname — Garrulous Gabby — which she has been given because she talks so much. She wins a story contest when she writes about a lonely girl who learns to listen. She is so surprised, she is speechless.

Vocabulary: a. False; b. True; c. False; d. True

1. Gabby; she feels it had a wonderful and happy ring to it.
2. At first, the advice seems to have fallen on deaf ears because Gabriela keeps talking. The story Gabriela writes seems to show that she finally understands her mom’s advice.

3. It means that she got really hot and angry; she says it when she is complaining angrily about how she despises being called “garrulous.”
4. An elephant’s ears are big and thin with lots of veins. When an elephant flaps them, this action can cool a lot of blood.
5. a. It’s an adjective, because it describes something (a person); b. no; c. The author shows you its meaning by having the character of Gabriela talk so much while saying so little.
6. The big lesson is that conversations can’t be one-sided. As Gabriela’s mother says, “You need to learn to listen.”

“Knocked Flat” (pages 24–27)

Summary: One is asked if children should be shielded before being introduced to an author’s cautionary poems. Details are given about the author and his poems.

Vocabulary: *deeds* = “things one does”; *dire* = “terrible or horrible”; *consequences* = “results”; *abhors* = “hates”; *prolific* = “productive, creative”

1. She is knocked flat and killed when a marble statue falls on her that was above the door she slammed.
2. Yes, because one of his cautionary tales is about “Sarah Byng, who could not read and was tossed into a thorny hedge by a bull.”
3. It means that everything is rosy and good, and nothing bad is happening.
4. *Quote:* “because my children are howling for pearls and caviar”; *Meaning:* I need money to raise my children, and they ask for a lot of expensive things; *Examples:* Pearls and caviars are luxury items that are very expensive.
6. No, because she says “the jury is still out.” It is still being decided.

“Hard to Believe” (pages 28–31)

Summary: Parents want grown-up time, but they keep hearing wild laughing from their children’s room. The children keep claiming it is a hyena under the bed. The parents get angry and don’t believe the children, and then they meet a talking crocodile.

Vocabulary: a. innocent; b. ridiculous; d. wearily; e. irate

1. They heard wild laughter, and they wanted the children to go to sleep.
2. They thought the children were lying. They thought it was a ridiculous story.
3. It means they came in angrily, quickly, and with unstoppable force; the parents say they are getting madder, and they want the laughter to stop.
4. Students should draw a crocodile on a couch and use words like *surprised*. Mrs. Martinez stopped suddenly, made funny sounds, and had a shaky hand.
5. Accept appropriate responses. Before paragraph 5, there was no reason to think the children were telling the truth.

“Movie-Watching Locusts” (pages 32–35)

Summary: A scientist studied locusts’ brains while they watched *Star Wars* to learn why they don’t crash into each other. Her goal is to make cars that avoid accidents.

Vocabulary: *solitary* = “only one, alone”; *swarm* = “a large group moving together”; *consume* = “eat”; *collision* = “crash”; *obstacle* = “something in your way”

1. Rind wants to design a collision-avoidance system for cars; she wants to make cars that won’t crash into each other.
2. Locusts are small animals, and a roar is a really loud noise. For small wings to make a roaring sound, there has got to be a whole lot of them!
3. *Star Wars*; It has lots of spaceships coming at the viewer from all directions. This helped show how locusts’ special neurons reacted to the movement of the ships.
4. No, because it is still only successful nine out of ten times. There would still be too many accidents.
5. Paragraph 1 is mainly about how destructive the locust can be when it swarms. Huge swarms can leave nothing but bare ground.