SAMPLE LESSON

Reading Comprehension
in Varied Subject Matter

Building Comprehension Skills Across the Content Areas
Grades 2–11

Reading Comprehension Book 2
Answer Key
Selection 29—Subject: Literature
Theme: Different Literary Styles and Forms—Personification

SUMMER SUN

ABOUT THE PASSAGE
People have often told stories and written poems in which nonhuman things act like human beings. We call this personification. Poets do this to give us a new way of seeing the thing they are describing.

REASON FOR READING
To notice in what ways the poet makes the sun like a person.

READ THE POEM

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through the empty heaven without repose,
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlor cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hayloft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy’s inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World he goes.

—Robert Louis Stevenson
THINKING IT OVER

(1) Give three words or phrases from the poem that make you feel the sun is a person.

(a) Any three of the following:

(b) fingers, smiles, face, look, footing, paint, he (referring to the sun).

(c) ________________________________________________________________

STUDYING THE PASSAGE

(1) Find the Main Idea: Choose one.

(a) The sun gives warmth.
(b) The sun is not enjoyable when it is too hot.
(c) The sun shining on the earth is like a gardener caring for his garden.
(d) The sun is really a large ball of fire.

C

(2) Find the Facts: Mark each one true or false.

(a) The sun shines over a large area. (a) T
(b) We can keep the sun out by closing the blinds. (b) F
(c) The sun brightens the dusty attic. (c) T
(d) The sun makes the ivy shine. (d) T
(e) The sun makes the hills look blue. (e) F
(f) The sun paints the roses with a brush. (f) F

(3) Find the Order: Number the following in the order in which they appear in the poem.

(a) Into the laddered hayloft smiles. 3
(b) He bares his face to all the garden ground. 4
(c) More thick than rain he showers his rays. 1
(d) The gardener of the World he goes. 5
(e) He slips his golden fingers through. 2
(4) Go beyond the Facts: Which one of the following is the best summary of this poem?

(a) The sun is the great gardener.
(b) The sun brings beauty in different ways to different places.
(c) The sun is better than the rain.
(d) The sun is a nuisance.  

B

USING THE WORDS

(1) Words and Their Meanings: Write the letter of the correct definition beside the word. The third word has two meanings.

<table>
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<th>J</th>
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<th>B, G</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>personification</td>
<td>repose</td>
<td>showers</td>
<td></td>
<td>parlor</td>
<td>chink</td>
<td>clad</td>
<td>laddered</td>
<td>nook</td>
<td>footing</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) a sheltered corner</td>
<td>(b) rains</td>
<td>(c) dressed in, wearing</td>
<td>(d) a firm placing of the feet</td>
<td>(e) a small crack</td>
<td>(f) sleep, rest</td>
<td>(g) gives generously</td>
<td>(h) having a ladder</td>
<td>(i) a formal living room</td>
<td>(j) writing about a nonhuman thing as though it were human</td>
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(2) Write a paragraph using two of the words from the list above. Use a separate piece of paper.

WRITING ABOUT IT

Use a separate piece of paper.

(1) Rewrite the poem telling the facts in a straightforward way. (This kind of writing is called prose.)

(2) Write a poem using personification.