

Reading Comprehension Through Novel Studies

OVERVIEW

A series of seven exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) **Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones**
- 2) **Karen's Christmas Tree**
- 3) **The Mystery of the Missing Cat**
- 4) **Night of the Ninjas**
- 5) **Someone Is Following Pip Ramsey**
- 6) **Dragons Don't Cook Pizza**
- 7) **Werewolves Don't Go To Summer Camp**

The high interest - low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) **Whole Class Instruction**
- 2) **Individualized Approach**
- 3) **Small Group Instruction**
- 4) **Listening Skills Test**

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

STORY SUMMARIES

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

ANSWER KEY

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

CAM JANSEN AND THE MYSTERY OF THE DINOSAUR BONES

Bibliographic Information

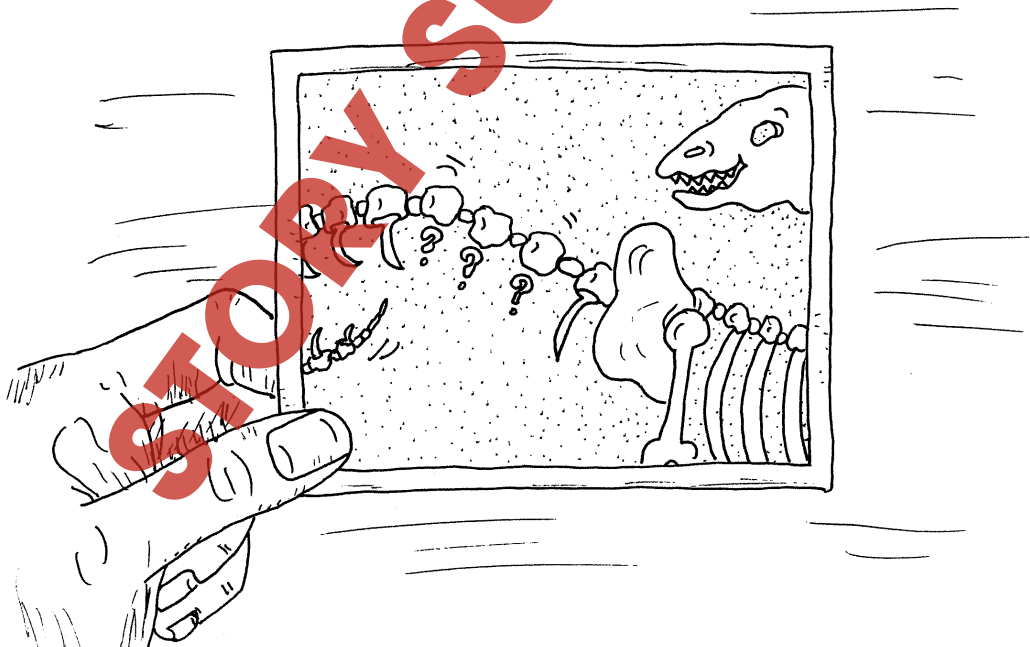
David Adler, Scholastic, 1981

Story Synopsis

Cam Jansen is a grade five girl with a photographic memory. She notices that the skeleton of the Coelophysis dinosaur is missing three bones. A milk truck arouses her suspicions so she and her friend, Eric, follow it. They see the missing dinosaur bones but are caught by the thieves. They escape and contact the museum director, who thanks them for their help.

Suggested Grade Levels

The book is suitable for children in grades two to four and also for students in grade five who have difficulty reading.



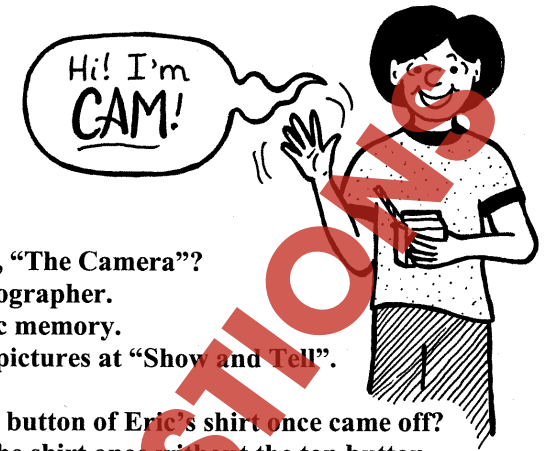
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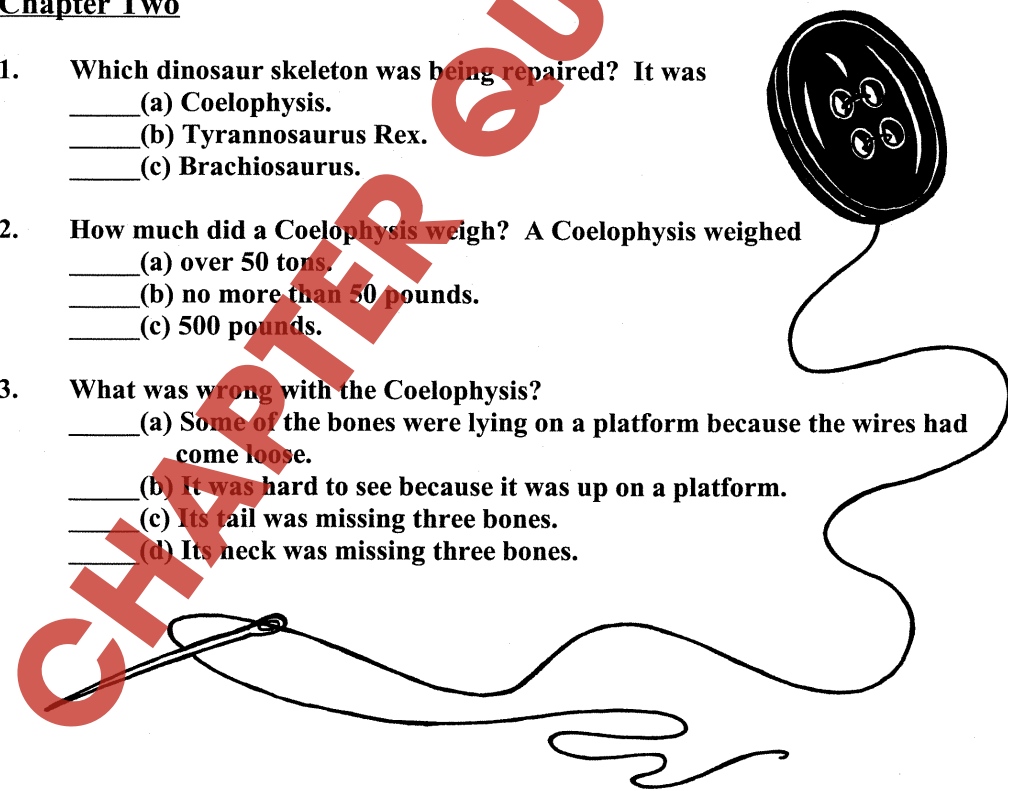
Chapter One

1. What is Cam's real name? It is
 (a) Janet.
 (b) Edna.
 (c) Jennifer.
2. How did Cam get her nickname, "The Camera"?
 (a) She wants to be a photographer.
 (b) She has a photographic memory.
 (c) She is always showing pictures at "Show and Tell".
3. How did Cam know that the top button of Eric's shirt once came off?
 (a) She saw him wearing the shirt once without the top button.
 (b) She sewed the button back on for Eric.
 (c) She noticed that the thread was different.



Chapter Two

1. Which dinosaur skeleton was being repaired? It was
 (a) Coelophysis.
 (b) Tyrannosaurus Rex.
 (c) Brachiosaurus.
2. How much did a Coelophysis weigh? A Coelophysis weighed
 (a) over 50 tons.
 (b) no more than 50 pounds.
 (c) 500 pounds.
3. What was wrong with the Coelophysis?
 (a) Some of the bones were lying on a platform because the wires had come loose.
 (b) It was hard to see because it was up on a platform.
 (c) Its tail was missing three bones.
 (d) Its neck was missing three bones.



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KAREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE



Name: _____

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Chapter 20 - "Trimming the Tree"

1. What happened in this chapter?
 (a) Andrew made a Santa Claus for the tree.
 (b) Andrew begged to be able to hang his ornament up first, so Karen let him.
 (c) Karen asked to go last because she thinks going last is fun sometimes.



PERSONAL RESPONSE



1. Did you like this book? _____ Why or why not?

2. If you had two friends and you could ask only one of them to go somewhere with you, what would you do?



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Chapter 3 - "A Trip to the Animal Shelter"

1. Why did Jessie take a different way to Dr. Scott's office?
 (a) She wanted to ask the people on that street if they had seen a lost cat.
 (b) A man was following them.
 (c) She was in a hurry.

Chapter 4

1. Why did Jessie's face turn red when she was talking to Whitney?
 (a) Whitney asked if the mysterious stranger was Jessie's boyfriend.
 (b) Whitney treated them as if they were babies.
 (c) Whitney kept staring at the mole on Jessie's face.

Chapter 5 - "Is This Spotzie?"

1. Why did Mr. Woods think Spotzie was a smart cat?
 (a) She could open any door and any latch.
 (b) She always knew when Mr. Woods was going for a walk.
 (c) She always knew when Mr. Woods was feeling sad.

Chapter 6 - "The Wrong Cat?"

1. What happened when Benny asked Whitney if she would help them?
 (a) Whitney said she would ask her detective friend to help them.
 (b) Whitney said she would talk to Professor Madison.
 (c) Whitney said she had to keep jogging.



Chapter 12 - "Found at Last"

1. Who is Mr. Woods' new friend? It is
 (a) Whitney.
 (b) Mr. Jones.
 (c) Watch.
 (d) Professor Madison.
 (e) Grandfather Alden.



PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. Did you like this book? _____ Why or why not?

2. Did you like Whitney? _____ Why or why not?

Chapter 4

1. What disappeared in this chapter? It was
 (a) a backpack.
 (b) a ring.
 (c) a treasure map.
2. Mike said Pip was "paranoid". He meant that Pip was
 (a) always forgetful.
 (b) always hungry.
 (c) always thinking someone was bothering him or was "out to get him".

Chapter 5

1. What happened in this chapter?
 (a) A woman was outside the house spying on them.
 (b) Matt's mother wanted to buy the doll back.
 (c) More jewelry is missing. This time it's an antique necklace.

Chapter 6

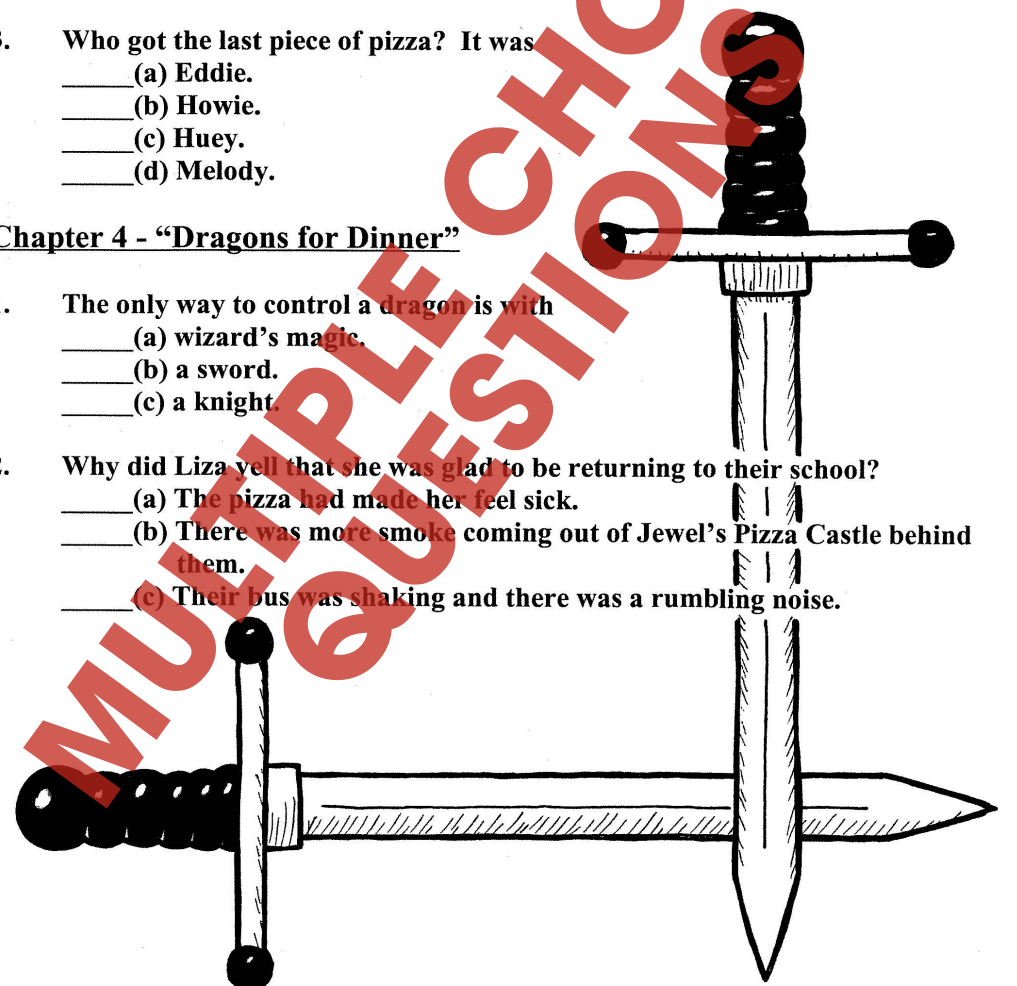
1. Pip put something in the doll so that he wouldn't lose it, but now it's gone. What was it? It was
 (a) twenty dollars.
 (b) a ring.
 (c) a watch.
 (d) a shell.

Chapter 3 - "The Dungeon"

1. George went pale when
 (a) Eddie said he hadn't had enough pizza.
 (b) Melody said another pizza place made better pizza.
 (c) Liza asked George if she could have the recipe for the pizza.
2. What did Melody think was odd?
 (a) The sword was missing.
 (b) George said the special pizza chef was cranky.
 (c) Mrs. Jeepers said they could leave and come again on another day.
3. Who got the last piece of pizza? It was
 (a) Eddie.
 (b) Howie.
 (c) Huey.
 (d) Melody.

Chapter 4 - "Dragons for Dinner"

1. The only way to control a dragon is with
 (a) wizard's magic.
 (b) a sword.
 (c) a knight.
2. Why did Liza yell that she was glad to be returning to their school?
 (a) The pizza had made her feel sick.
 (b) There was more smoke coming out of Jewel's Pizza Castle behind them.
 (c) Their bus was shaking and there was a rumbling noise.



Chapter 11 - "Pussycat"

1. What are the other camp counselors going to do when the children go on the night hike?
- _____ (a) Each camp counselor is leading a small group on the hike.
 - _____ (b) Only a few kids go each night for a hike while the other camp counselors play games with the kids who stay at the camp.
 - _____ (c) The other camp counselors are staying behind to clean out the cabins.

Chapter 12 - "Almost Midnight"

1. What was unusual about Mr. Jenkins on the night hike?
- _____ (a) He left his shoes by the trail.
 - _____ (b) Eddie saw that Mr. Jenkins was carrying mistletoe in his backpack.
 - _____ (c) Mr. Jenkins kept smiling, even when the kids said they were scared and that they wanted to go back to the camp.

Chapter 13 - "The Lone Wolf"

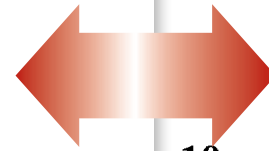
1. Why did Mr. Jenkins leave the children alone during the night hike?
- _____ (a) They all heard growling so he was making a lot of noise to make the bear go away.
 - _____ (b) It was a survival hike and he was checking whether they had learned how to look after themselves.
 - _____ (c) He said he was going to check out the trail ahead.



WEREWOLVES DON'T GO TO SUMMER CAMP

Answer Key

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Question 1 | (1) a | (2) c | | |
| Question 2 | (1) c | (2) b | (3) b | (4) a |
| Question 3 | (1) b | (2) b | | |
| Question 4 | (1) a | (2) b | | |
| Question 5 | (1) c | | | |
| Question 6 | (1) c | | | |
| Question 7 | (1) b | (2) a | | |
| Question 8 | (1) c | (2) a | | |
| Question 9 | (1) b | | | |
| Question 10 | (1) b | | | |
| Question 11 | (1) c | | | |
| Question 12 | (1) a | | | |
| Question 13 | (1) c | | | |



ANSWER KEY

Number of Questions = 21