

Use the passage below and answer questions 1-6.

The Summer Search

Mason and his mom went to the park every day in the summer. It was right across from their house. The park was never crowded, and there were plenty of things to do.

He walked along trails and ran through fields. He soared on swings and played on benches. He climbed on slides and slid down poles. For Mason, the park was a home away from home.

One very humid summer day, Mason noticed a woman looking under one of the benches. Mulch and bark chips covered the ground, and it looked as if she had lost something.

'What are you looking for?' he asked. The woman replied that she had dropped her bracelet while she was jogging. She thought it might have disappeared under the mulch.

'It's not expensive,' the woman explained, 'but it is very special because it belonged to my grandmother.'

Mason understood how she felt. Once he had lost an unusual coin that his dad had given him. It was what coin collectors called a wheat penny because of the design on the 'tails' side. Luckily, he found the penny behind his dresser.

'I'll help you look,' he said. Together they searched and searched. Mason's mom even joined in the search. Finally, it began to get dark. Mason and his mom had to go home to make dinner.

'I play here every day,' Mason explained. 'I'll keep looking and contact you if I find it.' He was sad that they had not been able to locate the special keepsake.

'I should never have worn it jogging,' she said unhappily. 'Thank you for helping, anyway.' She gave Mason her phone number 'just in case,' but said that she did not have much hope. Mason watched the woman slowly walk away.

That night Mason kept thinking about the missing bracelet. He was determined to find it and arrived at the park extra early in the morning. He looked high and low, up and down. He searched through the trees, in the fields, in the mulch, and even on the play equipment. No bracelet.

Mason was exhausted after all that searching. As he rested on a bench, he saw something on the ground. The sun was shining at just the right angle. Mason ran to that spot and was pleasantly surprised. He reached down and picked up a shiny silver bracelet. Overjoyed, he raced home to call the telephone number the woman had given him.

The woman, Ms. Holland, met Mason at the park. 'Thank you so much,' she said. 'You are very kind and thoughtful. I will always remember this.'

Several weeks later, Mason started a new school year. He wondered about what new friends he might make, and especially about his new teacher. He loved school but sat thinking about his summer days and the fun he had had at the park.

All of a sudden, he couldn't believe his eyes. In walked Ms. Holland. She was going to be his new teacher. She gave him a big smile, and Mason knew instantly that this was going to be the best school year ever!

For numbers 1 -5, fill out the plot boxes below.

1. Somebody

2. Wanted

3. But

4. So Then

5. Then

6. Here is the first sentence of a summary of the passage.

Mason saw a woman looking for something in the park and stopped to help her find her bracelet.

Choose **three statements** that best complete the summary of the passage. (Underline or circle the three)

The woman thought the bracelet could be buried underneath the mulch.

Mason and the woman could not find the bracelet.

Mason went back to the park the next day and found the bracelet.

Mason returned the bracelet to the woman, who ended up being his teacher.

Mason has always loved school.

Use the passage below and answer questions 1-6.

A First Sign of Spring

- (1) The skunk cabbage is a strange plant. It can grow in freezing weather. Its blooms do not look like flowers. And it stinks!
- (2) Most kinds of plants wait for the warm weather of spring before their flowers bloom. But the skunk cabbage does not seem to mind the winter's cold. As spring approaches, this plant begins growing underneath the snow. As the skunk cabbage grows, it makes its own heat to keep warm. The temperature of the plant may be as much as thirty degrees warmer than the outside air. The skunk cabbage uses the heat to melt its way through the snow's icy surface.
- (3) The skunk cabbage is one of the first signs of spring. This hardy plant can be found in moist places throughout North America. Its pointed blossoms look like tiny purple pitchers. Skunk cabbage grows in swampy ground and in low places where water gathers.
- (4) A skunk cabbage is often first noticed because of its smell. This plant got its name because of the strong, skunk-like scent that makes it so easily detected. Many people think that the smell of the skunk cabbage is unpleasant, but many insects find it inviting. Flies and beetles visit the flowers. They crawl down inside the pitchers to drink the nectar at the bottom. Their bodies brush against the inside of the plant and pick up grains of pollen.
- (5) Like other plants, skunk cabbages use pollen to make seeds. As insects move from plant to plant, they carry pollen from one skunk cabbage flower to another. By doing this, the insects help the skunk cabbage to reproduce or create new plants. In late summer, after seeds have formed and ripened, they fall from the plant and become buried in the earth. Over time they will grow into new plants. At the end of the next winter, new skunk cabbages will poke their heads through the snow. They will tell us that spring is coming soon.

Follow these steps to find the correct summary:

1. Find the repeated words.
2. Write the main idea
3. Find the summary using your main ideas.

Question #	# of paragraph	What is the main idea of the paragraph? (Look at the repeated words for help.)
1.	Paragraph one	
2.	Paragraph two	
3.	Paragraph three	
4.	Paragraph four	
5.	Paragraph five	

6. Which of the following is the best summary of this passage? (The summary should match your main ideas.)

- A. The skunk cabbage has blossoms that are different from flowers. They look like tiny purple pitchers.
- B. The skunk cabbage grows in snow at the end of winter and smells like a skunk. When this unusual plant appears, spring is coming.
- C. Insects carry pollen to help the skunk cabbage create new plants. Seeds fall from the plant and are buried until spring.
- D. Most people do not like the skunk cabbage because it smells like a skunk and has strange blossoms. But it does show that spring is coming.