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# Understanding a Text

RL.2.1, RI.2.1

## Vocabulary

aardvark  
honest  
illustrator  
lawyer  
president

What do you like about reading? Maybe you like to read **details**. They give more information. They tell about characters. They tell about places. Details tell more about what is happening. In all, they make reading more fun. When you read, think about the details. If you do not understand them, you will probably miss a lot of what the author is telling you. Try to make sense of the details.

## Guided Practice

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### Marc Brown

You may know who Marc Brown is. He writes the *Arthur* books. Arthur is an aardvark. Marc also draws the pictures in his books. He is an illustrator.

Marc was born in 1946 in Pennsylvania. He had many jobs. These jobs included truck driver, cook, and teacher. Then he became a writer.

Marc told bedtime stories to his son. His son liked these stories. This is how he came up with the idea of Arthur. The first book he wrote was *Arthur's Nose*. It was published in 1976. He has created more than 30 books.

Marc knew he must be good at drawing. He knew this when he was only 6 years old. This was because his grandmother kept the drawings he made for her.



#### aardvark

*an animal with a long, pointed nose*



#### illustrator

*someone who creates the pictures in a book*

“I knew it must be special because she did not save many things,” Marc said.

His grandmother helped him in many ways. She helped him pay for art school. She also taught him how to tell good stories. Marc’s grandmother was a good storyteller, too.

Marc gets ideas from things that happened to his children. He also remembers what it was like to be a kid.

What job did Marc have before he wrote the *Arthur* books?

- A** painter
- B** truck driver
- C** principal
- D** salesman



This answer is in the text. Paragraph 2 tells what jobs Marc had. He was a cook, a truck driver, and a teacher. Choices A, C, and D are incorrect. The correct answer is choice B.

What is the character Arthur?

- A** a teacher
- B** an aardvark
- C** a boy
- D** a dog



Choice B is the correct answer. Paragraph 1 tells that Arthur is an aardvark. He is not a teacher, boy, or dog. Choices A, C, and D are incorrect.

Why did Marc think he must be good at drawing pictures?

- A** He won an art contest.
- B** His mother told him.
- C** His son liked his drawings.
- D** His grandmother kept his drawings.



This detail is in paragraph 4. The text says "Marc's grandmother kept his drawings." Choice D is the correct answer. The text does not say he won a contest. It does not mention his mother. Marc's son liked his stories. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect.

Where does Marc get the ideas for his stories?



Think about what you read. The last paragraph gives us this detail. Here is a sample answer:

Marc gets his ideas from his childhood. He gets them from the things that happened to his kids. The last paragraph says “Marc gets his ideas from things that happened to his children. He also remembers what it was like to be a kid.”

What type of books does Marc Brown write?

- A biography
- B fiction
- C poetry
- D history



You know the answer even though none of these words are in the passage. You must join details that you read with details that you already know. Then you can **infer** the answer. Marc Brown writes stories that are made up. You know they are fiction. Choice B is correct.

## Test Yourself

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### The 16th President: Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. He lived in a log cabin in Kentucky. His family moved to Indiana when he was 8 years old. He lived there with his mother, father, and sister.

His mother, Nancy, died when he was only 10 years old. His father married again. His new wife, Sarah, had three children. She was a good and kind mother.

Abe worked with his father when he was young. He did not go to school very much. However, he did like to read books. He could also do math.

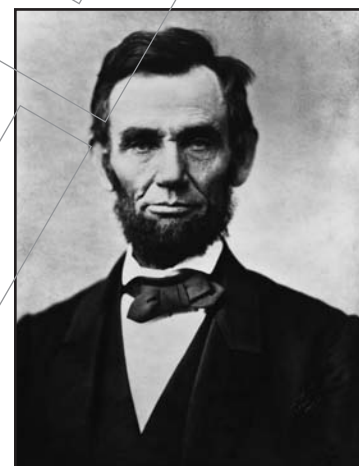
His family moved to Illinois when he was 21 years old. He wanted to start his own life there. He worked on farms. Abe opened his own store. People thought he was honest. One day, he walked six miles to give six cents to a woman that had paid too much in his store.

Abe worked to become a lawyer. He was chosen by the people to help make laws for the state of Illinois. He married Mary Todd and they had four children.

Something great happened when he was 51 years old. He became the president of the United States! He led the country during the Civil War. Abe freed the slaves. He changed history! In 1865, Abe went to a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. While there, he was shot and killed.



**president**  
*head of the  
United States*



**honest**  
*tells the truth*



**lawyer**  
*a person who  
practices or  
studies law*

1 Abraham Lincoln was born in \_\_\_\_.

- A Illinois
- B Indiana
- C Kentucky
- D Washington, D.C.

2 Abe was born in \_\_\_\_.

- A 1806
- B 1809
- C 1851
- D 1865

3 Who was Mary Todd?

- A Abraham's wife
- B Abraham's sister
- C Abraham's mother
- D Abraham's stepmother

4 How did Abraham learn if he did not go to school?

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5 Why did people believe Abe was honest?

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6 What could you infer about how Abe changed history?

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SAMPLE