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## Identifying Connections

RI.4.8

● Lexile: 800L

● Letter

Student Book  
Page 167

## Test Yourself

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Dear Mr. Davis,

I am a fourth grader here at Washington Elementary School. I have a suggestion. I think that we should have a "Teacher of the Month" award. My teacher, Mrs. Johnson, should be the first one to receive this award.

Mrs. Johnson is a great teacher. She has a very special way of making everyone feel like her favorite. Whenever I have a problem, Mrs. Johnson is there for me. Sometimes, I think math is pretty hard, and Mrs. Johnson is never too busy to help me make sense of it. She also has a way of making it fun!

Last month, we got a new student in our classroom. His name is Toby. Toby moved here from out of town, and he did not know anyone. Mrs. Johnson welcomed him as if she had known him for a long time! She told us we would all have a new friend, and she helped us all get to know him better. I know Toby really felt better after the warm welcome he received.

Mrs. Johnson always seems to find a way to make things fun and educational. Sometimes, she has us play games, and at the end of the game, we realize we were learning things while we played. She helps us understand why it is important to get a good education, why it is important to pay attention in class, and why it is important to learn as much as we can.

When we're in Mrs. Johnson's classroom, we all feel very comfortable and safe. We know that she is looking out for all of us, and we know that she puts us first, always! She makes sure we understand everything she says, and she makes sure that everyone feels good about himself.

I know that we have a lot of good teachers here at Washington. I will probably have great teachers every year, which is why I think we should give this award every month! A lot of schools give awards like this. The students could vote for a different teacher every month. It would be nice for teachers to know that they are appreciated.

I hope you will consider letting us have this award. I know that Mrs. Johnson would be so happy. Other teachers would be happy to get the award, too.

Thank you for reading this, Mr. Davis. Maybe we could also have a principal's award!

Sincerely,

Becky Brown

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### ● Skill Strategy

Fact and Opinion—see pages 26–27 of the teacher’s edition

### ● Vocabulary

appreciated, consider, favorite, principal, suggestion

### ● Listening/Speaking

Read some letters to the editor to the class. Then have students discuss the facts and opinions given by the writer. Have students discuss whether the writer supported their position with facts or opinions.

Student Book  
Page 168

- 1 What is the *main* point of Becky’s letter?

There should be a teacher of the month award, because Mrs.

Johnson should win it. RI.4.8

- 2 What are three reasons Becky gives in support of her argument, and the evidence for each?

Reason a: Sometimes, I think math is pretty hard, and Mrs. Johnson is never too busy to help me make sense of it. She also has a way of making it fun!

Reason b: Mrs. Johnson welcomed Toby like she had known him for a long time. She told the students they would all have a new friend, and she helped them all get to know Toby better.

Reason c: Mrs. Johnson and other teachers would appreciate getting the award and they would know they were appreciated. RI.4.8

- 3 Which of these sentences states an opinion?

A Whenever I have a problem, Mrs. Johnson is there for me.

B Last month, we got a new student in our classroom.

C A lot of schools give awards like this.

**D She also has a way of making it fun!**

RI.4.8

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UNIT 4  
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### ELLs

Have students look at a photograph of a nature scene. Then ask students to describe the subject matter of the photograph. Invite the other students to identify the facts used to describe the photograph. Then have the students identify the opinions given to describe the photograph.

### Student Book Page 169

4 Which of these sentences states a fact?

- A** Last month, we got a new student in our classroom.
- B** We should have a "Teacher of the Month" award.
- C** It would be nice for teachers to know that they are appreciated.
- D** My teacher, Mrs. Johnson, should be the first one to receive that award.

RI.4.8

5 What is a point Becky makes that is *not* supported by reasons and evidence? Explain your answer.

*She says that Mrs. Johnson finds ways to make learning fun and educational. Fun is not something you can prove. Everyone has a different opinion of "fun." What Becky finds fun, some kids might not. Also, while some kids are having fun playing games, they might not be learning as much as Becky is. This is mostly an opinion.* RI.4.8