

### The Mystery of the Missing Field Trip

I was waiting for the school bus on a beautiful spring afternoon. I was completely distracted, thinking about the recycling flyers I wanted to put up in my neighborhood when I got home. Suddenly, someone thumped me so hard on the shoulder that I almost lost my balance. "Whoa!" I cried in surprise.

"Sorry," gasped my friend Ann, trying to catch her breath. "I have terrible news—our field trip has been canceled!" She had a frantic expression on her face.

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Every spring, the Earthsavers Club visits the Natural History Museum. We'd been raising money and looking forward to this trip for weeks, and we were scheduled to go next Monday.

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The word "spring" has more than one meaning: a wire coil; the season when plants begin to grow, and a source of water. Since spring describes a beautiful afternoon in this sentence, the meaning that fits best here is the season when plants begin to grow.

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## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

### UNIT 20: The Mystery of the Missing Field Trip

"Canceled?" I asked with a sense of impending doom. "How do you know?"

"I overheard Ms. Hernandez talking to Mr. Wong." Ms. Hernandez is our Assistant Principal, and Mr. Wong is in charge of the Earthsavers Club. "Ms. H. was showing him something in the newspaper, and then she told him he'd have to cancel the trip."

"But why?" I asked. "The club has always gone to the Natural History Museum. It's a tradition!"

"Don't ask me," Ann replied. "You're supposed to be the detective."

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It was true. Back in fourth grade, I figured out who broke into the school cafeteria. As a result, I've had a reputation for solving mysteries ever since. I don't like to brag, but I do seem to have a talent for investigation.



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▶ Club is a word that has more than one meaning. Which meaning for the word "club" is the best fit here?

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▶ What cause/effect signal words can you spot in this passage? Which causes and effects do they point to?

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▶ Think about the setting of this story. When does the story take place? What effects does this have on the schedule for the school day?

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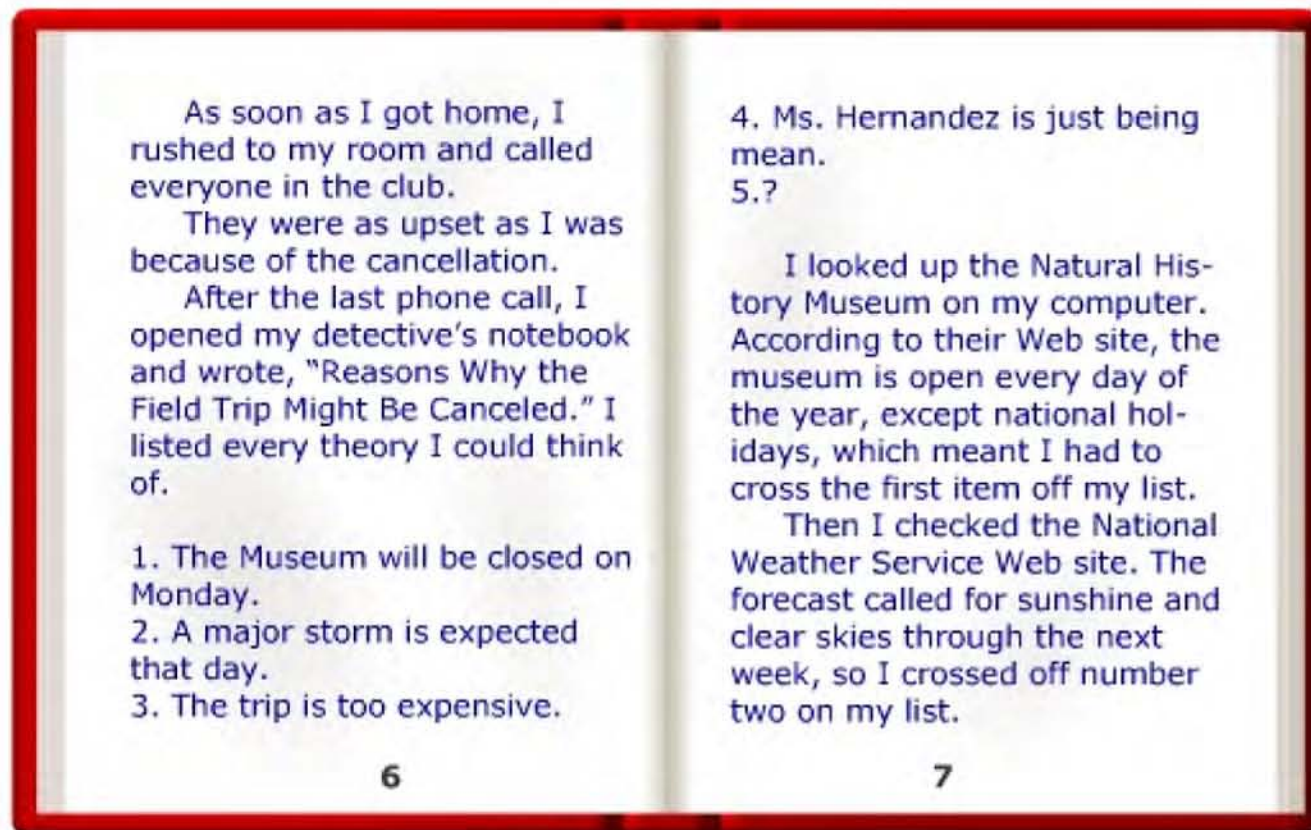
▶ If you were paraphrasing these sentences, or putting them into your own words, what would you say?

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## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

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▶ Can you think of a synonym for the word "content" to paraphrase this sentence? {Pronounce the word "content" as in the emotion. Eg, the cat sat in the sunny window and seemed content.}

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▶ What meaning for the word "checked" is the best fit here?

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▶ There are several words in this passage that are spelled with the letters "oo." Do you notice that the letters "oo" do not sound the same in "school" as they do in "looking?" Is the sound of the "oo" in "doom" like the sound in "school" or in "look?"

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This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines or other markings on the page.



## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

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This year's Environmental Merit Award will be presented by Mayor Rashad to a group of local students at a special Earth Day assembly. "The identity of the winners will not be revealed until the day of the ceremony," said the mayor. "But I will say that these young people have been very active in teaching our community the importance of recycling. They deserve recognition. I hope they'll be pleasantly surprised by the award."

So that explained why our field trip had been canceled! No wonder Mr. Wong was acting so suspiciously!

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Could that award be for us?

On Monday, we attended the assembly. Sure enough, we were presented with the Environmental Merit Award. But the best part was when the mayor shook each of our hands and gave us lifetime memberships to the Natural History Museum!

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How can you change word order and use synonyms to paraphrase parts of this passage?

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The narrator thought the best part of the assembly was when the mayor shook hands with the Earthsavers club members and gave them lifetime memberships to the Natural History Museum. Why do you think she thought that was the best part?

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Why do you think the identity of the winners of the Environmental Merit Award was kept secret?

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