

Comprehending "The New Street"

This worksheet supports the organizing idea that text comprehension improves through varied strategies applied to both specific details and bigger ideas in a text ([Topic](#)). You will practise predicting, inferring, summarizing, and considering perspective as you interpret a short story ([Outcome](#), [Guiding question](#)).

Read the passage below, then complete the exercises.

Priya stared out the moving truck's window at the rows of unfamiliar houses. Back home, she knew every crack in the sidewalk and every dog on her street. Here, everything looked the same: grey roofs, trimmed hedges, quiet driveways.

On her first afternoon, a boy about her age knocked on the door holding a soccer ball. "I'm Marcus," he said. "We're playing at the park if you want to come." Priya hesitated.

She surprised herself by grabbing her shoes.

By the time the sun dropped behind the rooftops, Priya had learned three new names, scored one goal, and laughed twice as hard as she had all week. Walking home, she noticed the hedges again. They did not look so plain anymore.

Exercises

1. Inferring meaning. Choose the best answer.

Why does Priya "surprise herself by grabbing her shoes"?

- A) She had forgotten she owned soccer shoes.
- B) She decided to join Marcus and try making new friends, even though she felt unsure at first.
- C) Marcus told her the game was starting immediately.
- D) She wanted to prove she was a good soccer player.

Answer: _____

2. Predicting. Based on how the passage ends, predict how Priya might feel about her new street one week later. Use a detail from the text to support your prediction.

Prediction: _____

Text evidence: _____

3. Summarizing. Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. Include the main idea and one piece of supporting evidence ([Details](#)).

4. Matching strategies. Match each comprehension strategy to what a reader does when using it ([Outcome](#), [Details](#)).

Strategy	Letter	What a reader does
Predicting	_____	A) Relating what happens in the text to something similar in your own life
Inferring	_____	B) Guessing what might happen next using clues
Summarizing	_____	C) Using clues to figure out something the text does not say directly

Making connections	_____	D) Retelling the main ideas in fewer words
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5. Context clues. The word "hesitated" appears in paragraph 2. Using the sentences around it, write what you think "hesitated" means, and underline or copy the words in the passage that helped you figure it out.

Meaning of "hesitated": _____

Context clue from the text: _____

6. Perspective. At the start of the passage, Priya sees her new street as plain and unfamiliar. By the end, she sees the hedges differently. Explain what caused her perspective to change, and describe one time your own perspective about a place or person changed after a new experience ([Details](#)).

What caused Priya's perspective to change: _____

My own experience: _____

Answer key

1. B) She decided to join Marcus and try making new friends, even though she felt unsure at first.
2. Predictions will vary; look for a reasonable feeling (more comfortable, less lonely) supported by evidence such as the hedges "not looking so plain anymore" or her making new friends.
3. Summaries will vary; should mention Priya feeling like an outsider at first and then enjoying herself after joining Marcus and the other kids, with supporting evidence from the text.
4. Predicting = B, Inferring = C, Summarizing = D, Making connections = A.
5. "Hesitated" means paused or was unsure before deciding; context clues are that after hesitating, "she surprised herself by grabbing her shoes," showing she paused before making up her mind about joining Marcus.
6. Priya's perspective changed because she spent time with Marcus and the other kids, made friends, and had fun, which made the neighbourhood feel less strange. Personal answers will vary.