

The Leaf Detective

mentor text unit

Mentor Sentence Lesson
Interactive Activity
Reading Activities
Writing Prompt
Vocabulary



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Digital Learning Links

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[Mentor Sentence Student Page](#)

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The Leaf Detective
By Heather Lang



Learning Objectives (Focus Standard: L.5 (figurative language))

Reading Comprehension:

R.1, R.3: Students identify/analyze how characters such as Meg use evidence from the book.

R.2: Students can summarize the book.

R.3: Students describe how Meg was able to make an impact on rainforest conservation.

R.4, L.5: Students identify personification from the book.

R.5: Students identify the problems and solutions presented in the book.

R.7: Students examine the graphic in the back called "Rainforest Magic" and explain how it contributes to the text.

R.8: Students explain why the author used real quotes from Meg throughout the book.

R.9, W.7: Students conduct research and present on a layer of the rainforest.

Writing Process: Ideas:

W.1: Students interpret the text from Meg's point of view in the book and use supporting reasons for their answer.

To birds and mammals,
a tree is a buffet—jelly
fruits and bumpy berries,
sunbaked, and frosty.
The Leaf Detective

Monday - possibilities of things to notice

*metaphor – a tree is a buffet

introductory element – set off with comma

plural nouns

simple prepositional

dependent clause explanation of the “buffet”

adjectives – sensory details

plump describes beetles, slimy describes salamanders and frogs, juicy is why the commas are between them and not also after fruits

Tuesday - label the sentence

to – preposition

birds, mammals, tree, buffet, fruits, beetles,

salamanders, frogs – nouns

and – conjunction

a – article

is – linking verb

juicy, plump – adjectives

To birds and mammals, a tree is a buffet. Juicy fruits and plump beetles, salamanders, and frogs.

complete subject

simple subject

complete predicate

simple predicate

Wednesday - possibility of revised sentence

To birds and mammals in the rainforest, a tree is a buffet – juicy fruits, plump beetles, slimy salamanders and juicy frogs

(adjective phrase through and adjectives – additional comma)

Thursday - possibility of variation sentence

To sharks and turtles, a reef is a buffet – crunchy crabs and plump jellyfish, clownfish, and pufferfish.

Name: Answer Key

Date: _____

Editing Assessment



To bird and mammals, a tree is an buffet—juicy fruits and plump beetles, salamanders, and frogs.

1. Circle 4 mistakes in the sentence. Rewrite the sentence correctly:

To birds and mammals, a tree is a buffet—juicy fruits and plump beetles, salamanders, and frogs.

Classify the figurative language in these sentences as metaphors (M) or similes (S):

S 2. Meg wrapped herself in nature like a soft blanket.

M 3. The girl was as young as a bird in a nest.

S 4. The stream like sap to her passion.

S 5. She dangled like a worm on a hook.

S 6. Leaves vanished quick as a snake's prey.

M 7. A tree is a sponge, soaking up water from the forest floor.

M 8. A tree is a soldier against climate change.

9. Write your own metaphor about trees. *Answer: A tree*

A tree is an umbrella in the rain.

SIMILES AND METAPHORS

Similes and metaphors compare two things to create an image in the reader's mind. Similes use the words "like" or "as" while metaphors say something "is" something else that it is not. Cut out the activity and glue it into your notebook, cutting across so there are four flaps. Under each flap, write a simile and a metaphor about the pictures on the front of the flap.

Similes and Metaphors



a tree
compared
to a tower



a bee
compared
to a needle



a parrot
compared
to a
rainbow



an ant
compared
to a
soldier



Name: _____ Date: _____

The Leaf Detective

Make inferences about Meg based on the text.

Evidence	+ what I know	= My Inference
<p>At first Meg tried Swinging and twisting, she dangled like a worm on a hook. "I was frozen with fear." Meg inched up the rope.</p>		
<p>She waited and tried again. She finally had to give the lived. For after hour, day after day, she worked alone in the treetops.</p>		
<p>She thought and imagined... <i>What if I fly...? What if I Or...? What if I edges of...? Or Or...?</i></p>		

Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

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Write examples of personification from the book and explain the meaning.

PREVIEW

The sun in the forest
painted her face
of sweat.

It was hot in the forest.

Noises swarmed
around her.

There were many
creatures making
sounds.

PREVIEW

Rainforest mysteries
called her to climb
and discover.

She was interested
in discovering
mysteries.

Then an idea
crawled into
Meg's thoughts.

PREVIEW

Meg suddenly
had an idea.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Leaf Detective Problem and Solution

Use _____ to _____ the _____ identify _____ in _____ solutions.

PROBLEM

They needed to get up
into the treetops.

SOLUTION

SOLUTION

SOLUTION

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

They had to
_____.
Covered _____
crops and plants.

SOLUTION

They convinced
the people of
Samoa to build
canopy walkway.

SOLUTION

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Leaf Detective



"We are *part* of our ecosystem, not outside it." ~Meg Lowman

What do you think Meg means by this statement?

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

launched

flailed

PREVIEW



© jivey

© jivey

monitored

sweltering

PREVIEW



© jivey

© jivey

conserve

timber

PREVIEW



© jivey

© jivey

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Use the text and picture clues to help you infer the meaning of these words.

WORD

PART OF SPEECH

BRIEF CLUES

YOUR DEFINITION

launched

flailed

monitored

sweltering

conserve

timber

Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: _____

WHAT DID THEY SAY?



Imagine these people are speaking using the vocabulary words. What could they say?



is a **meat to be wary** **open-ended!**

could say she **wacked out** the **sweltering gym**



could say he is **conserving** the bug



could say she uses **timber** for her job as a **carpenter**



could say he is **monitoring** the **condition** of a **test tube**

Name: _____ Date: _____

MULTIPLE MEANINGS



Some words have different meanings based on how they are used in a sentence.

Circle the number of the meaning of each sentence from the choices below.

launch

- (verb) to start something for the first time*
- (verb) set a new record or pace after a long period*
- (noun) an occasion when a new product is introduced*

monitor

- (noun) a device used to track a process*
- (noun) a screen that displays an image*
- (verb) observe the progress or quality of something*

conserve

- (verb) protect from harm or destruction*
- (verb) prevent waste or overuse of a resource*

The nurse monitored the heart monitor to the patient's chest. 1 2 3

The rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral. 1 2 3

Turn off the lights when you leave the room to conserve energy. 1 2

The author's book launch is next week. 1 2 3

Ashlyn monitored the baby's fever through the night. 1 2 3

Protect the land in Africa to conserve wild animals like the cheetahs. 1 2

Ila's brother launched about her from his room. 1 2

The computer monitor was flashing blue and white. 1 2 3

Name: _____ **ANSWER KEY** _____ Date: _____**SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW**1. Which word has the same meaning as limb?

- a. rest b. wood c. ...

2. Describe one way you can conserve water:

answers can vary - turn off water when brushing teeth

3. Someone working in a sweltering kitchen is likely:

- a. cold b. sick c. sweating

4. Write observe using the word prefix in two different ways:

- (noun) ...
- (noun) ...
- (verb) ...

accept reasonable answers: example-

Mom monitored the sleeping baby on the handheld monitor.

5. Which word is the ANTONYM of flailed?

- a. calmed b. flapped c. thrashed

6. Which word is the same function (part of speech) as launched?

- a. swiftness b. monitors c. ...



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