

A Guide to the ReadWorks Question Set (2nd-12th Grade)

A Dangerous Landslide by Susan LaBella

All of the questions in this question set focus on important information from the text. They will help you pay attention to the most important parts of the text. And they will show you the kinds of questions you should be asking yourself as you read a text!

1. The article describes an example of a real-life landslide. Where did this landslide happen?

- A. Washington, D.C.
- B. Seattle, Washington
- C. Oso, Washington**

1. Explicit Information
This question is an explicit question about something very important to the text. The answer should be right there in the text.

2. Text Structure

For nonfiction texts, this question asks about an important text structure. That means it focuses on the way information is organized in the text.

2. This article describes some damage that can be caused by landslides. What is one possible effect of a landslide?

- A. the mud on a hillside could dry up
- B. heavy rains could soak the ground
- C. a road or highway could collapse**

3. In Oso, a large amount of wet soil and mud broke loose from a tall hill and covered thirty near houses. This landslide happened when very heavy rains soaked the ground near Oso. What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Heavy rains may have been a cause of the landslide in Oso.**
- B. The houses in Oso covered by the landslide had already been flooded from the rains.
- C. Landslides only ever happen after heavy rains.

3. Conclusions and Evidence
For this question, you have to make a connection between a conclusion and the evidence or information that supports that conclusion.

4. Inference

This question is always an inferential question. To answer it, you need to make a connection on your own, based on the information in the text.

4. What kind of town would most likely be in danger of landslides?

- A. a town at the bottom of a muddy hill**
- B. a town surrounded by flat, muddy land
- C. a town at the top of a hill

5. Main Idea or Theme

This question almost always asks you to identify the main idea of the text.

For some literary texts, it may ask you to identify a main theme in the text.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Landslides are a dangerous kind of emergency that can cause a lot of damage.**
- B. Landslides can break water lines, gas lines, or electrical lines.
- C. A landslide in Oso, Washington, covered thirty nearby houses and hurt many people.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"One night in March 2014, mud broke loose from a tall hillside near the town of Oso, Washington. The giant mass of wet soil moved downhill quickly. It eventually covered thirty nearby houses with mud and dirt. Many people were hurt."

Why does the author begin the article with this paragraph?

- A. to show readers why landslides can be more dangerous than other kinds of emergencies
- B. to give readers a real-life example of a landslide and the damage it caused**
- C. to tell readers not to move to Oso because of the dangers of landslides there

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence. Experts say it's important for people to have a plan _____ they can stay safe if a landslide happens.

- A. so**
- B. because
- C. but

8. What moves downhill quickly during a landslide?

9. What are three examples from the text of how a landslide can cause serious damage?

10. Experts say that it is good to have a plan for what to do if a landslide happens. If a landslide happened, would driving to another area be a good plan? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. Syntax

This question always focuses on syntax, or the way a sentence is structured. In many cases, you have to fill in the sentence with a signal word or phase. A signal word or phase connects ideas in a meaningful way. You'll know you picked the right answer if the complete sentence makes sense and shares an idea supported by the text.

9. Explicit or Inferential

This question is always about something important in the text.

It is sometimes an explicit question, with an answer that is right there in the text.

Sometimes, this question is an inferential question. That means you have to make a connection or draw a conclusion on your own, based on information in the text.

This question should help you think about Question 10 in the question set, so pay close attention to your answer!

6. Vocabulary in Context or Author's Craft

Sometimes, this question asks about the definition of an important vocabulary word. To pick the right answer, you need to look closely at how the vocabulary word is used in the sentences provided.

Other times, this question asks about the author's craft, or the way an author chose to communicate something through writing.

8. Explicit Information

This question is almost always an explicit question. That means that the answer is right there in the text. It always asks about important information from the text.

10. Complex Inferential

This question is a complex inferential question. That means you'll have to make connections between information or evidence in the text on your own. Because it's complex, it may be a little harder than some of the other questions in the question set. But the other questions, and the information you had to focus on to answer those questions, may help you answer this one.