

Nilu (NEE-loo) looked out at the sun. He had the whole day to play in the forest! The forest was his favorite place. He jumped out of bed. After breakfast, Nilu walked quickly through his neighborhood. He hoped his little sister wouldn't follow him. Soon Nilu was at the forest. He looked for the drawings he had made in the dirt last week. They were gone. Then he heard a noise. Had Nilu's little sister come after him? She couldn't have. There was no place for her to hide. Then Nilu saw the big ditch nearby. Nilu walked to the side of the ditch. Suddenly he jumped back. There was an elephant in the ditch! The elephant was upside down! The elephant didn't look very happy. Now and then, it moved its big legs in the air. Nilu ran home to tell his parents.

What's the topic of the passage? _____

Find a supporting detail for the following sentence: "There was an elephant in the ditch!"

It came from outer space to have a look around and to meet the natives, who were not especially friendly. Really! Everyone seemed so uncooperative. The thing from outer space was beginning to lose heart. But at the corner of Maple and Elm some interesting folks appeared. "Wow!" said Buddy McGee. "Will you look at that!" "What a great costume!" said Lily. "It must be that new kid from down the block," said Mary Louise. "Come with us," said Buddy. "Trick or treat!" shouted Buddy. And a nice lady gave them all treats. Soon the thing was having a fine time. Trick-or-treat was lots of fun! When their bags were full of goodies, the kids stopped at the schoolyard to stuff themselves silly. "Trick or treat! beeped the thing. "There's something weird about that new kid," whispered Lily. Heading home, Buddy noticed he was being followed. For the first time he took a good look at the thing. "You're not the kid from down the block," said Buddy. "Trick of treat!" beeped the thing.

What would be a good title for the passage? _____

Find a supporting detail for: "The thing from outer space was beginning to lose heart."

Samuel's father was in America. Samuel has not seen Papa for three long years. Samuel remembered Papa's hugs and the soft feeling of his beard. Papa was working in America. He was saving money so that he could bring his family to the golden land. One day, a letter came. Papa had sent the tickets at last! Mama cried. Grandmother cried, Samuel cried. Even Samuel's older brother, Myer, wiped tears from his face. Trey were all happy. Yet there was an empty feeling too. Grandmother was not coming with them.

What is the main idea of the passage? _____

Find a supporting detail for the following sentence: "There was an elephant in the ditch!"

Sophie Skates

1 Sophie started skating when she was three years old, on the pond behind her house. Now Sophie is eight years old. She dreams of becoming a professional ice skater, but she knows there will be many years of hard work ahead. Sophie watches ice-skating on television, but most of all she likes going to ice skating shows. There she gets to see the skating up close. She claps hard for the performers and can't wait for the day when the applause is for her.

2 Sophie takes lessons five mornings before school, and three afternoons a week. Mr. Simon begins the morning class with the basics. Young skaters do these skills over and over again. Basics include different ways to stop as well as different ways to move. They also practice how to give right and left turns. Some basics are practiced both forward and backward, or just the right foot and just the left foot.

3 After basics, Sophie's class practices figures. Figures are difficult, but they help the students learn to glide with control. Everyone takes turns skating on the ice, using all four edges. Then they do basic eights, which are skated in two circles that make the shape of an eight. "It's good we skate eights, and not fours," Pamela says and they all laugh, even Mr. Simon.

4 After basics, comes free skating. Sophie does her jumps, spins, and footwork over and over again. As her muscles get stronger, she will jump higher, spin faster, and move with more control. Sophie wants every move to be perfect. But she's been skating long enough to know that sometimes she will fall. When it happens, she tries not to be hard on herself.

5 Competing is Sophie's favorite part of ice-skating. A big competition is coming up in three weeks. In her afternoon class, Sophie runs through her short program with Ms. Wilkin, the choreographer. She tries on her costumes and decides on the purple one. "This brought me good luck last competition," she says, and does a super jump. Sophie is excited to skate her long program. "I won't have to remember to smile," Sophie says. "This program is so much fun!"

6 As they drive home, Sophie sits with her little dog, Henry, and does her homework on the way home. It's nice to be home after a long day. "Get your skates, Sophie! Let's go out to the pond!" her brother calls. But Sophie has fallen asleep.

What's the main idea of paragraph 1? _____

What's the main idea of paragraph 2? _____

What's the main idea of paragraph 3? _____

What's the main idea of paragraph 4? _____

What's the main idea of paragraph 5? _____
