

Lesson 2 Name: _____ Date: _____

The Mystery Bell at Browns Lake

Read the story carefully. Then answer Questions 1-10.

Elliana and Ari were twins, but they did not always notice the same things. One bright Saturday morning, Elliana heard a soft ting-ting near the family's dock at Browns Lake, the private lake where they lived in Jackson, Michigan. Ari saw only sunlight sparkling on the water. Then the sound came again.

Their three dogs reacted in three different ways. Merlin, the family's youngest dog and a tiny Pomchi, raced to the end of the dock and barked. Emma, the middle-child puggle, tilted her head and sniffed the air. Hugo "Boss Man" Boss, the oldest puggle, sat beside Vanessa as calmly as if he already knew the answer.

"Let's collect clues before we guess," Mom said. Vanessa asked the twins where the sound seemed loudest. Elliana pointed toward the reeds beside the cove. Ari noticed that each ting came just after a small wave reached the reeds. Dad brought binoculars from the house. Through them, Josh spotted a flash of blue tied to something shiny.

The family put on life jackets before climbing into their small boat. The dogs stayed with Vanessa on the dock, where they could watch safely. Josh rowed while Elliana and Ari guided him toward the blue flash. As they drew closer, the ting-ting grew louder. A brass bell was tangled around a bent reed by a long blue ribbon.

Ari carefully lifted the bell into the boat. A waterproof card hung from its handle. It read: BROWNS LAKE NATURE CLUB SCAVENGER HUNT - RETURN THIS BELL TO THE CLUBHOUSE. The hunt was not supposed to begin until noon. The wind must have carried the bell away while volunteers were setting up.

Back at the dock, Emma sniffed the wet ribbon. Merlin danced in excited circles, and Boss Man gave one proud bark. The family returned the bell to the clubhouse before the scavenger hunt began. Elliana retied the ribbon with a double knot, and Ari tested the bell to be sure it still rang. Vanessa snapped a family picture while Josh wrote down how they had found it. The club leader thanked them and made Elliana and Ari honorary clue keepers. The twins agreed that the best mysteries are solved by listening, observing, and working together.

Reading focus: details, sequence, inference, vocabulary, and main idea

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Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer. Questions 1-10

1. Where does the story take place?

- A. At a public beach in Detroit
- B. At Browns Lake in Jackson, Michigan
- C. At a campground in Ohio
- D. At a river near school

2. What first made Elliana think something unusual was nearby?

- A. A blue light
- B. Merlin's paw prints
- C. A soft ting-ting sound
- D. A note on the dock

3. What did Ari notice about the sound?

- A. It followed each small wave
- B. It stopped when Merlin barked
- C. It came from the house
- D. It grew softer near the reeds

4. Why did Josh bring binoculars?

- A. To watch birds above the lake
- B. To read the clubhouse clock
- C. To look closely toward the reeds
- D. To find the dogs

5. What did the family do before entering the boat?

- A. They ate lunch
- B. They put on life jackets
- C. They called the nature club
- D. They tied the dogs to the boat

6. Why were the dogs left on the dock?

- A. So they could watch safely
- B. Because they were sleeping
- C. Because the boat was broken
- D. So they could find another bell

7. What was attached to the brass bell?

- A. A silver key
- B. A map of Michigan
- C. A waterproof card
- D. A dog collar

8. How did the bell probably reach the reeds?

- A. Merlin carried it there
- B. The wind carried it away
- C. Ari tossed it from the dock
- D. A fish pulled it underwater

9. What does the word observing mean in the last sentence?

- A. Looking and noticing carefully
- B. Moving as quickly as possible
- C. Making a loud sound
- D. Winning a prize

10. Which sentence best states the story's main lesson?

- A. Old dogs solve every mystery
- B. Boats should only be used at noon
- C. Teamwork and careful clues can solve problems
- D. Scavenger hunts are easy to organize

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Lesson 2 AnswersThe Mystery Bell at Browns Lake

Comprehension Questions

1. B - At Browns Lake in Jackson, Michigan

6. A - So they could watch safely

2. C - A soft ting-ting sound

7. C - A waterproof card

3. A - It followed each small wave

8. B - The wind carried it away

4. C - To look closely toward the reeds

9. A - Looking and noticing carefully

5. B - They put on life jackets

10. C - Teamwork and careful clues can solve problems

Strong readers return to the story to check their evidence.