



THE HARVEY SKIDOO TREE SERIES



LISTENING / READING COMPREHENSION TEACHING SUGGESTIONS & ANSWER KEYS

SUGGESTED APPROACH IN USING THE ACTIVITIES IN CLASS

The questions are written in a way to focus the students' attention to the developments in the story as well as on particular details. They are also sometimes used as a means of introducing or clarifying vocabulary that either appears in the story or is related to it and could be useful when later discussing it. The questions could be used either as a listening exercise (if the text is presented in an audio form) or as a reading exercise (if the text is presented in a written form).

One possible general approach to the readings or listenings:

- 1) Title Say or write the title on the board, say it is the title to a short story (an anecdote about an experience in a person's life) and elicit from the class what might happen in the story
- 2) Intro passage If you think it helpful or interesting, you could read aloud or project the introductory passage onto the class screen / board to give a further orientation to the text
- 3) Questions Do the activity (there are two suggested approaches below)
- 4) Language Look You may want to do the LANGUAGE LOOK exercises at this point, having a look at some of the vocabulary or structures that appeared in the text
- 5) Speaking End this set of activities with a discussion. You can offer a theme or two of your own or select one or more from the given suggestions. Usually there will be a few that are provided, either directly about the story or issues arising from it

Suggested approach to the exercises	If you're preparing students for exams you might want to have them
1) Read the title and think a moment what kind of story they might read or listen to	1) Read the title
2) Read the questions to become better orientated with the story, what to listen for and to become acquainted with some of the vocabulary	2) If it's a reading rather than a listening exercise, quickly go through the text (1 or 2 minutes only) to get a rough idea of the story and how (and where) the information is presented
3) Read or listen to the story once to get the general idea	3) Read the questions quickly (20-30 seconds) to get an idea of what information they have to look for
4) Re-read the questions and answer those that they can	4) Listen to the text twice and answer the best that they can OR Read the text more carefully the first time, answering as many questions as they can and then again, concentrating on the remaining questions
5) Read the questions they didn't answer to know what they have to look for	5) Check their answers
6) Read or listen to the story again to answer those remaining questions	6) Think about how well they did, what helped them answer correctly, what could help them answer the others better
7) Check their answers and read or listen to the story one last time, knowing the answers to the questions	7) -optional- Read or listen to the text one more time

ANSWER KEYS FOR THE READING / LISTENING COMPREHENSION OF THE STORIES

6 SMELTER: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

1)	What is the order of the tools mentioned?	4-pail (par 6 & 7) 3-shovel (par 6) 1-sledge hammer (par 2) 5- jack hammer (par 8) 2- iron bar (par 6)
2)	How big was the hook?	<i>Bigger than his head</i>
3)	What sometimes happened to people on their first day as slag launderman?	<i>They passed out from the heat and exertion. (paragraph 9)</i> Also acceptable: <i>they quit or they got hurt</i>
4)	What would the craneman do if someone below threw a shovel at him?	<i>He'd just lean back and watch the show. (Maybe later he'd bump the pot again or pour it too fast – not mentioned directly) (end par 9)</i>
5)	What did the man do after working hard?	<i>He sat down, leaned against a tall chimney, have a cold drink and a cigarette. (last paragraph)</i>

7 SMELTER: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

1)	Why did he move twice a year?	<i>Because he went to university in the south during the academic year and the rest of the time went up north to work in the smelter (to help him pay for the expenses at university). (Par 2)</i>
2)	What were the 3 things that motivated people to buy something?	<i>Need Greed & The Fear Of Loss (line 52)</i>
3)	How many people were working with the sergeant the evening he offered \$20?	<i>4 people (line 115)</i> <i>The sergeant would pay out \$80 if everyone accomplished the task.</i>
4)	Which would you NOT use to describe the sergeant?	a-direct b-GULLIBLE c-gruff d-likeable e-encouraging
5)	Which of the following describes the final potential customer the salesman spoke with?	d-His top had no sleeves. (177) <i>He was wearing a whitish (not patterned) sleeveless t-shirt, had a bulging paunch and was slightly shorter than the salesman. He didn't change his expression when the other was talking.</i>