

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The **Lesson Number** and **Reading Skill** are clearly identified.

Reading Passage

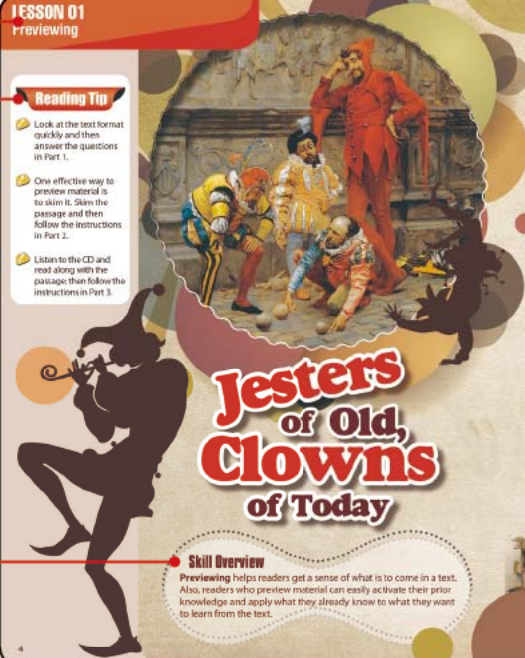
The **Reading Tip** provides guidance for reading each lesson.

The **Skill Overview** provides background information about the skill focus for the lesson.

LESSON 01
Previewing

Reading Tip

- Look at the text format quickly and then answer the questions in Part 1.
- One effective way to preview material is to skim it. Skim the passage and then follow the instructions in Part 2.
- Listen to the CD and read along with the passage; then follow the instructions in Part 3.



Jesters of Old, Clowns of Today

Skill Overview

Previewing helps readers get a sense of what is to come in a text. Also, readers who preview material can easily activate their prior knowledge and apply what they already know to what they want to learn from the text.

When we hear the word clown, we usually think of the circus. But clowns were around long before they became part of the circus.

The first clowns were called jesters. They were the "fools" in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. They had the job of amusing the king and his family. Jesters dressed in costumes. These included a cap and pointed shoes with bells. As they performed for the king, the bells moved and jingled. This added to the fun. Jesters were often very close to the royalty they served. They played with the children and took part in family events. Not only were they funny, but they were often very clever. Some may have given advice to the royalty they served, too.

In the early American circus, clowns were like comedians. They sang, danced, and told jokes in a single ring. The circus grew to include three rings. Then clowns started to do pantomime. This is when they perform their acts without using any words.

Today, clowns perform at the circus and the rodeo. At the circus, they provide comic relief. Usually they do this between tension-filled acts by other performers. Some clowns also perform funny versions of circus acts. They are usually very good at them, too. They do things like walk the tightrope, perform tricks in the air, and ride horses bareback. At the rodeo, clowns amuse the crowds. They may also be used to distract dangerous animals. While they do this, injured performers are rescued from the arena.

The clown's costume and makeup are unique. In fact, clowns are not allowed to wear their makeup in the same way. Most clowns are in whiteface. This means that they apply "clown white" grease paint all over their faces. Then they use other colors to create mouths and eyes. Noses are often made from a special kind of party.

There have been many famous clowns in the United States, as well as in other countries.

Vocabulary

circus
an arena often covered by a tent and used for variety shows

costume
a set of clothes worn in order to look like someone or something else

comedian
a person whose job is to make people laugh by telling jokes

perform
to entertain an audience

amuse
to cause others to laugh

distract
to take attention away from something else

makeup
colored substances used on the face to improve or change its appearance

unique
special; different from others

Critical Vocabulary words from the passage are listed.

Power Up summarizes the key terminology and ideas for each lesson.

Comprehension Review helps determine your level of mastery of these strategies and skills.

Word Power reinforces the importance of the critical vocabularies with pictures.

Reading Skill Comprehension Practice
LESSON 01

POWER UP

A **Title** is the name of a film, a book, a painting, a piece of music, etc.
A **heading** is a word or phrase that introduces a section.
Text is the written words in a book, magazine, etc.
Text features are parts of the book that have been created to provide additional information.
Text format is the pattern or arrangement of the text.

Part 1 Answer the questions below.

YES () NO () 1. Does the text include any pictures that give you information about the topic?
YES () NO () 2. Is the text written in paragraphs?
YES () NO () 3. Are there any headings, titles, or other text features that you notice?
4. What is the format of this passage? What does this text format tell you about the topic?

Part 2 Think about what you noticed as you skimmed the passage. Record your ideas below.

Part 3 Explain how previewing the passage helped you as a reader.

1. Previewing the title helped me _____
3. Previewing the passage helped me _____

Comprehension Review
LESSON 01

Fill in the best answer for each question.

1 The title tells you that this passage will be about _____

a) the circus.
b) dressing up like a clown.
c) where to find a rodeo.
d) jesters and clowns.

2 You can tell by previewing this passage that it is _____

a) a poem.
b) a list of instructions.
c) an informational text.
d) a science experiment.

3 What will you learn about in this passage?

a) clown costumes
b) the history of jesters and clowns
c) circus animals
d) why court jesters wore caps

4 Which one is *not* true of jesters?

a) They dressed in costumes.
b) They were close to the royalty they served.
c) They worked in royal courts during the Renaissance.
d) They were funny and clever.

5 People who like _____ would want to read this.


a) poetry
b) math
c) science
d) the circus


6 Which *best* describes clowns of the early American circus?


a) They were like comedians.
b) They were acrobats.
c) They did dangerous tricks.
d) They performed with animals.


Word Power

Choose the English word from the Vocabulary list that correctly matches the definition.

1  to cause others to laugh

2  special; different from others

3  to take attention away from something else

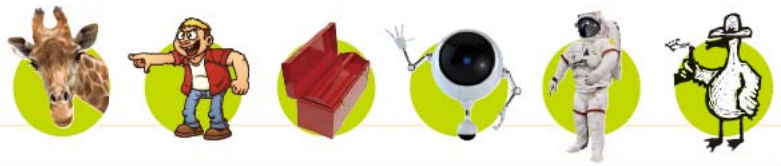
4  to entertain an audience

The interactive **Reading Skill Comprehension Practice** helps reinforce the strategy being taught.

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Reading Skill	Subject
Previewing	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Cause and Effect—Plot	Language and Literature
Headings to Determine Main Ideas	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Main Idea	Science
Compare and Contrast	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Topic to Predict	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Character	Language and Literature
Topic Sentences to Determine Main Ideas	Science
Prior Knowledge	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Sequential Order	Mathematics
Meaning Clues to Predict	Science
Problem and Solution—Plot	Language and Literature
Captions to Determine Main Ideas	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Graphic Features	Science
Chronological Order	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Structure to Predict	Visual Arts
Author's Purpose	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Chapter Titles to Determine Main Ideas	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Logical Order	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Fact and Opinion	Science
Monitoring Reading Strategies	Language and Literature
Purpose for Reading	Music
Cause and Effect	Science
Summary Sentences	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Retelling	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Selecting Reading Material	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Typeface	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Proposition and Support	Social Studies ★ History and Geography
Summarizing	Visual Arts
Questioning	Language and Literature

Reading Tip

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Jesters of Old, Clowns of Today

Skill Overview

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When we hear the word clown, we usually think of the **circus**. But clowns were around long before they became a part of the circus.

The first clowns were called *jesters*. They were the “fools” in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. They had the job of amusing the king and his family. Jesters dressed in costumes. These included a cap and pointed shoes with bells. As they performed for the king, the bells moved and jingled. This added to the fun. Jesters were often very close to the royalty they served. They played with the children and took part in family events. Not only were they funny, but they were often very clever. Some may have given advice to the royalty they served, too.

In the early American circus, clowns were like **comedians**. They sang, danced, and told jokes in a single ring. The circus grew to include three rings. Then clowns started to do *pantomime*. This is when they perform their acts without using any words.

Today, clowns **perform** at the circus and the rodeo. At the circus, they provide comic relief. Usually they do this between tension-filled acts by other performers. Some clowns also perform funny versions of circus acts. They are usually very good at them, too. They do things like walk the tightrope, perform tricks in the air, and ride horses bareback. At the rodeo, clowns **amuse** the crowds. They may also be used to **distract** dangerous animals. While they do this, injured performers are rescued from the arena.

The clown’s costume and **makeup** are **unique**. In fact, clowns are not allowed to wear their makeup in the same way. Most clowns are in *whiteface*. This means that they apply “clown white” grease paint all over their faces. Then they use other colors to create mouths and eyes. Noses are often made from a special kind of putty.

There have been many famous clowns in the United States, as well as in other countries.

▼ A rodeo clown



Vocabulary

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an arena often covered by a tent and used for variety shows

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Reading Skill Comprehension Practice



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Part 1

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4. What is the format of this passage? What does this text format tell you about the topic?

Part 2

Think about what you noticed as you skimmed the passage. Record your ideas below.

Part 3

Explain how previewing the passage helped you as a reader.

1. Previewing the title helped me _____

2. Previewing the photograph helped me _____

3. Previewing the passage helped me _____

Comprehension Review

Fill in the best answer for each question.

_____ **1** The title tells you that this passage will be about _____

- A the circus.
- B dressing up like a clown.
- C where to find a rodeo.
- D jesters and clowns.

_____ **2** You can tell by previewing this passage that it is _____

- A a poem.
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- C circus animals
- D why court jesters wore caps

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- C They worked in royal courts during the Renaissance.
- D They were funny and clever.

_____ **5** People who like _____ would want to read this.

- A poetry
- B math
- C science
- D the circus

_____ **6** Which *best* describes clowns of the early American circus?

- A They were like comedians.
- B They were acrobats.
- C They did dangerous tricks.
- D They performed with animals.

Word Power

Choose the English word from the Vocabulary list that correctly matches the definition.



1

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2

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3

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4

to entertain an audience
