

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Idea with Robots

**Directions:** Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. What do you get when you cross a robot and an astronaut? A Robonaut! Robonauts are robot helpers designed to work side-by-side with astronauts. Work on the first Robonaut began in 1997, and by 2002 Robonaut B was revealed to the public. Robonaut B featured interchangeable lower bodies, like four-wheel mode or hydraulic legs. Yet scientists and engineers continued to improve Robonaut. In February of 2010, Robonaut 2 was released to the public. Robonaut 2 moved four times faster than the first Robonaut. An advanced version of Robonaut 2 was finally tested in outer space in 2011. Robonaut 2 functioned exactly as designed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Automation* is the use of machines to reduce the need for human labor. In other words automation is when jobs done by people become jobs done by robots. Automation can be a good thing. Clothing, cars, and other manufactured products are available at good prices and in large supply because of automation. But automation can also be a bad thing. Because of automation there are over 700,000 robots in America that do jobs once performed by humans. The way of automation may not be best for humanity, but it is the course we are taking.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. My grandma may not look very strong, but with the help of hydraulic power, she can stop a car with her foot. How does hydraulic power work? First, fluid is rapidly released into a chamber through a valve. As the fluid collects, the valve is slammed shut. This causes a pressure spike, but since the chamber is sealed, the pressure has nowhere to go. The hydraulic mechanism channels the pressure and provides great power. And that's how, with the help of hydraulics, my grandma can stop a speeding car with one foot.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: \_\_\_\_\_

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yellow group

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## Identifying Theme 2

**Directions:** read each short story and determine the theme or message in the story. Remember that a good answer will focus on big world lessons, not small world details of the story.

Even though they were sisters, Suzie and June were nothing alike. If Suzie wanted to jump rope, June wanted to play hopscotch. If June wanted to watch soap operas, Suzie wanted to watch talk shows. Tensions rose to the point that the girls could no longer stand one another's company. It seemed that they had nothing in common, until the day that progress reports came out. While riding the bus home from school, the girls—startled by how upset the other looked—realized that they were both failing a subject. Suzie was failing math and June was failing reading. Since both girls wanted to pass their classes, they got to talking and agreed to help one another. So everyday after school for the next few weeks, Suzie tutored June in reading and then June tutored Suzie in math. By the time report cards came were distributed, Suzie and June were passing all of their classes. The girls were delighted, but their mother was happiest of all. Not just because her daughters passed their classes, but because they had learned to be good sisters.

1. What is the theme of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? \_\_\_\_\_

All Victor ever wanted to do with his life was be a singer. He didn't pay attention in school and he spent all of his time at home watching music videos online and impersonating his idols. His mother tried to teach him the value of getting an education and having a backup plan, but Victor would respond the same way every time, "Mom, I won't need to know any of that boring old stuff when I'm famous. You'll see." But there was one major problem with Victor's plan: he wasn't any good at singing. Victor wanted to be a singer so badly, that he didn't notice the pained look on the faces of those who endured his singing. Because he wanted to be a singer so badly, when honest people told him to find something else to do with his life, he accused them of being "jealous haters" and ignored their advice. After Victor dropped out of high school to focus on his music career, the years passed and the doors never opened.

3. What is the theme of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? \_\_\_\_\_



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### Context Clues 2.5

**Directions:** read each sentence and determine the meaning of the word using cross sentence clues or your prior knowledge. Then, explain what clues in the sentence helped you determine the word meaning.

1. **signify:** She considered that Byron's latest efforts in the classroom might **signify** his desire to make a positive change.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

2. **laborious:** Dexter wanted to take honors math, but the course load was too **laborious** alongside his football practices.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

3. **furtively:** After Mom found the devoured cake, the dog crouched **furtively** behind the couch..

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

4. **melodious:** The choir delighted the audience with their **melodious** tune.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

5. **smitten:** When I saw that she was making a special Valentine's Day card just for Kevin, I knew that she was **smitten** with him.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

6. **grotesque:** The giant garbage monster moved his **grotesque** head from side to side as he yelled at the children for stepping on his lawn.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?