**“Magic and the Brain”**

**CCQ Questions**

**Day 1: Lines 1-64**

1. A **title** is a type of text feature that helps to draw attention to **important information**. It can also be called a **heading**. How do the title and the visual illustrations near it help to introduce the text?
2. The authors use an **anecdote** (a brief account) to introduce this text. Review **lines 1-9** and identify which words make this **anecdote** especially vivid. What effect do these **word choices** have on the opening paragraph?
3. Words in **boldfaced type** also draw attention to important information. Review **lines 21-25** and identify all of the **boldfaced words** and their **definitions.** How does knowing the definitions of these words impact your understanding of the text?
4. **Footnotes**, or notes at the bottom of the page, often include definitions of words or extra information. Locate the word “intuitive” in **line 22**. Identify **at least two context clues** you can use to help figure out the meaning of the word. Then look at the **footnote** at the bottom of the page, read the definition, and then restate the ideas in the article in your own words.
5. **Sidebars** are boxes that often appear alongside or within a text to provide additional information. Sidebars often contain graphic aids, graphs, or illustrations. Read the sidebar on the **top of page 79** and explain how the information and graphic aid help to enhance the information in the main text.

**Day 2: Lines 65-105**

1. When you **summarize**, you retell a text’s **main ideas** in your own words. When you summarize, you should be **objective** and not include your personal opinions about the text. **Reread lines 85-94** and summarize the main ideas of the paragraph.
2. Reread lines **110-116** and identify **at least two context clues** that would help you figure out the meaning of the word “robust.” Then, consult a dictionary and write the definition. What is the effect of the use of this word on the text?
3. There is another **sidebar** on the bottom of page 81. How does this sidebar contribute to your understanding of this topic?
4. Reread **lines 127-134**. **Summarize** the **main idea** and **supporting details** of this paragraph.

**Day 3: Lines 166-199**

1. A **heading** is another **text feature** that helps to organize the text. **Headings** tell what a section of the text is about. Reread the heading on **page 83** and use it to explain what the section is about and how this section adds new information.
2. In a longer article, it is often more useful to summarize a **section** rather than a paragraph. Turn **the heading** on **page 83** into a question and then use the information in this section to answer the question you have developed.

**Word Choice Project**

As we will discuss in our reading, word choice is very important to make your writing more precise and interesting for your reader.

For your project, please choose five of the following words that are overused in most students’ writing. You will then create a chart providing at least five alternatives that are more precise for each word you have chosen. You will also then need to use three of the words in a sentence that provides context clues that help the reader to figure out the meaning of the word.

Steps for Completion:

1. Choose five words from the list provided.
2. Use a thesaurus to locate at least five synonyms for each of the words chosen.
3. Write a sentence which includes context clues for at least three of your synonyms.
4. Show me your draft, so I can check it for you.
5. I will then provide you with construction paper on which you will draw a chart with six boxes.
6. In the first five boxes, you will identify your “overused” words and their synonyms.
7. In the last box, you will write your three sentences, underlining the synonym used and the context clues you included.

Due no later than 3/15!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A lot | Lots | Also | Cool |
| Awesome | Awful | Fun | Funny |
| Got | Get | Good | Great |
| Like | Mad | Nice | Pretty |
| Scared  | Very | Happy | Bad |
| Sad | Happy | Laughed | Said |
| Big | Little | Ran | looked |