

Predictions:

1. What is the rest of the first paragraph about? _____
2. What is paragraph 2 about? _____
3. What is paragraph 3 about? _____
4. What is the rest of the last paragraph about? _____

Now read the whole passage. How good were your predictions?

Big Dreams for Blanca

Blanca Garcia lives and works in Oakland, California, but she was born in Ecuador. Her family came to the United States from Ecuador ten years ago. Blanca is now 19 years old. She has two sisters, Clara, 16, and Alba, 14, and a brother, Miguel, 10. Her father works in a restaurant and her mother works in a hospital.

Blanca finished high school last year, and now she works in a factory. The factory makes children's clothes. Blanca starts work early in the morning. Often she has to work extra hours in the afternoon. She doesn't really like the work, but she wants to save some money.

When she has enough money, she wants to go to college. She would like to be a nurse someday. She likes helping people, especially children. She hopes that she can work in a hospital for children.

Blanca also wants to have her own children. She has a boyfriend, but she doesn't want to get married now. She wants to go to college first. Then she would like to have a family. She wants just two children. She says having both a large family and a job would be too much work!



Guidelines for previewing short passages:

1. Read the title.
2. Look at the pictures (if there are any).
3. Read the first few sentences of the first paragraph.
4. Read the first line of the other paragraphs.
5. Read the last sentence of the last paragraph.
6. Watch for names, dates, and numbers.

Previewing

In this passage, read only the underlined parts. You have 30 seconds to do this! Then make predictions about the parts you did not read.

Do Pigeons Take the Train?

Pigeons are smart birds. They are good at finding places. They can find their way home from many miles away. Scientists are not sure how pigeons know their way, but they do. They almost never get lost.

Can pigeons find their way underground? Some passengers say that they see pigeons on the subway. Rachel Robson says she saw a pigeon at Grant Station. It got on the train and then got off again at the next stop.

Some train lines are especially popular with pigeons. They are often seen on the Lincoln and Finnall lines. Lorna Read also sees pigeons at Remington Station. Once, a passenger tried to get a pigeon off the train. The pigeon flew back in just before the doors closed. It seemed all upset – like a person who doesn't want to miss the train.

Why do pigeons get on the trains? Some people say that the pigeons are not looking for food. They say the pigeons want to save time. Trains and subways usually run in big cities. The pigeons get tired of flying and they do what people do. They take the train. What do scientists think of this? They say they must have some more information – but anything is possible with pigeons!



Talk about the passage with another student. Without looking back, can you say what it is about? When you agree, go back and read the passage again. How good were your predictions?

Previewing

In the next passage, you must decide what parts to preview. Read only those parts. Do not read the whole passage! You have 30 seconds. Then, make predictions about the parts you did not read.

Thomas and the Gorillas

It was a hot summer day in Chicago. The Kemper family decided it was a good day to go to the Brookfield Zoo. Janet and Kevin Kemper had two children: Thomas, 3, and Sally, 6 months. Thomas loved going to the zoo. He liked watching all the animals, but he especially loved the gorillas.

The Kempers went straight to the gorilla exhibit. There were six adult gorillas and a three-month-old baby gorilla. In the Brookfield Zoo, the animals are not in cages. They are in large areas dug out of the ground. These areas have fences around them so the animals cannot get out and people cannot fall in.

However, three-year-old boys are good climbers. While the Kempers were watching the gorillas, little Sally started to cry. Kevin took her from Janet, and Janet looked in her bag for a bottle of juice. In those few seconds, Thomas climbed up the fence.

A woman saw him and shouted, "Stop him!" A tall man reached up to get him, but it was too late. Thomas fell down the other side of the fence. He fell 18 feet onto the hard concrete floor. He lay very still, with blood on his head. Janet and Kevin shouted for help. People crowded around the fence, and someone ran to get a zoo worker.

However, before the zoo worker arrived, a gorilla went over to Thomas. It was Binti Jua, an eight-year-old another gorilla. She had her baby gorilla on her back. With one "arm" she picked up the little boy. She carried him carefully over to a door, walking on three legs. There she put Thomas down so a zoo worker could get him.

Janet and Kevin ran to the door, too. Thomas was badly hurt and had to go to the hospital, but after a few days he was better. The story was on the evening news in Chicago. Some people cheered and others cried when they heard it, but many of them thought about that mother gorilla and asked themselves, "What is she doing in a zoo? What is the difference between a gorilla and me?"

Predictions

Talk about the passage with another student. Can you say what it is about? When you agree, go back and read the passage again. How good were your predictions?

