

Interaction of Ideas

Predicting Outcomes

NAME: _____

CLASS: _____

When you read, sometimes authors give you clues. Clues can offer hints about something that might happen later in a story or a text. Clues can help you make a guess about what might happen next. When you make a guess about what might happen next, you predict an outcome. Clues in a text or story can be interesting. They make us want to keep reading to see if our own ideas about what might happen match what the author has written.

► Read this paragraph.



Proserpina was the sunniest, happiest young woman you could imagine. There was something so fair and tender about the young woman that she reminded you of springtime. Way down under the earth lived the fierce Pluto. The days were very lonely for him with only the shadows for conversation and companionship. He wanted a queen to make his dark home under the earth seem light and beautiful. One day Pluto came up to earth. He saw Proserpina standing in the center of a ring of laughing young girls.

What do you think will happen next? Look for the clues the author gives in the story. What are some things we know?

1. Proserpina was a sunny and happy young woman.
2. Pluto lived under the earth and was lonely.
3. Pluto wanted a queen to make his dark home light.
4. Pluto saw Proserpina among a laughing group of girls.

Did you predict that Proserpina would become Pluto's wife, and that her laughter would make their home happy and bright? Then you were right. These are the clues you can use to help you to predict the outcome.

► Read these paragraphs. As you read, think of the clues and try to predict the outcome.



John Rudolph was a very rude man. He was a businessman. He lived by himself. He had no known friends. He did not say please or thank you. If someone wished John a good day, he said nothing. He was disliked by almost everyone who met him.

One day, John was on a business trip far from home. He stopped at a hotel for the night. The owner of the hotel gave John a warm welcome. He gave John a fine dinner. He gave John the best room. He brought John a cup of tea and wished him a good night. John never said a word.

What are some clues that can help you predict what might happen the next morning?

1. John was a very rude man.
2. John was disliked by almost all who met him.
3. John was treated very well when he stayed at an inn.
4. John was rude to the owner the whole night.

These clues give ideas about a few things. First, you know John was a very rude man to everyone he met. Even when people were kind to him, he was mean to them. You can predict that John will most likely continue to be rude to the owner the next morning. And you would be right! In the rest of this story, John was rude to the owner of the inn, even after the owner worked hard to give John a pleasant stay.

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 Read these paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.

One day, Ben was working in the yard. Jack rode up on his bicycle. "I've got a job taking care of the Millers' yard," he called out to Ben. "I told them I would do a good job or they would not have to pay me. They will be back in six weeks."

"Gee, Jack, I'm glad," Ben said. "Well, I have to get back to work now."

"I'm going swimming. It's much too hot to work today," said Jack. Then, he was gone.

Weeks went by. One day, Ben passed the Millers' house. The grass was long and the garden was filled with weeds.

1. Based on what you read, what will most likely happen?



- A. Jack will help take care of Ben's yard.
- B. Jack will not get paid by the Millers.
- C. Jack will take a vacation for six weeks.
- D. Jack will buy a new bicycle with the money he earned.

2. Choose the clues in the text that helped you predict the outcome you chose in question 1.





The poor shoemaker had enough leather left to make only one pair of shoes. In the evening, he cut out the leather for the shoes. Then he went to bed. In the morning he sat down to work, but he found the pair of shoes on his table. They were already done! The shoes were so well-made that the shoemaker sold them for twice the usual price.

He was able to buy more leather. As before, he cut out the leather in the evening. Then he went to bed. The next morning he sat down to work. But again the shoes were done! And more buyers bought the fine shoes. This gave him enough money to buy leather for four more pairs. That evening, he cut the leather for four more pairs. Then he went to bed.

3. Based on what you read, what will most likely happen?



- A. The shoemaker will stop selling shoes.
- B. The shoemaker will cut the leather for shoes in the morning instead of at night.
- C. The shoes will already be made when the shoemaker wakes up the next morning.
- D. The shoes will be poorly made.

4. Choose the clues in the text that helped you predict the outcome you chose in question 3.


