

# *Blacker's Bulletin #21*

**Khan Academy:** This week in math we will be working on identifying, analyzing and classifying quadrilaterals. Let me know if you are having any trouble connecting with our classroom on Khan Academy.

**Distance Learning Packets:** Our packets this week include a Reading Menu, cursive practice pages, a graphic organizer for practicing the reading focus skill, a leveled reader, a Daze passage and a spelling practice page. Again this week, we will use the leveled reader for fluency practice and skill practice.

**Fluency Practice:** This means repeated reading out loud of the first section of the text. Please read out loud with your student each day from the leveled reader, pages two through five. Repeated reading of the same passage builds reading fluency.

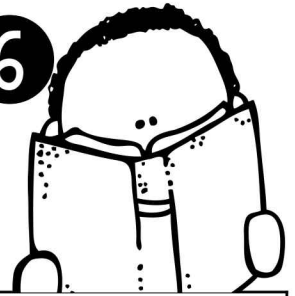
**Skill Practice:** This week we are practicing identifying the main idea and details about a topic. The main idea includes the topic and tells something about that topic. Details should be connected and give more information about the main idea. Please support your student with completing the idea support map identifying the main idea and supporting details you find in the leveled reader.

## Homework

1. Khan Academy math assignments
2. Read leveled reader pages 2-5 each day out loud
3. Finish leveled reader at least once
4. Complete graphic organizer "Idea Support Map: Main Idea and Details"
5. Reading Menu 26
6. Daze #14
7. Vocabulary Spelling City Lesson 20 assignments -or-  
Compound Words practice page
8. Cursive
9. Read at least 20 minutes each day



# READING MENU 26



After reading, choose 1 question and circle it. Questions 1-6 are best for fiction stories and questions 7-9 are best for nonfiction books. Record your answer to the question in complete sentences.

1. If you could interview the author, what questions would you ask? Why?	2. Compare and contrast this story to another story that you have read.	3. Who is telling the story? How can you tell?
4. Retell the funniest part of the story.	5. Which character from the story reminds you of someone you know? Why?	6. What is the problem in the story?
7. Do you agree with the author's point of view? Why or why not?	8. What types of people need to know the facts that are included in your text? Why?	9. What questions do you still have on the topic you are reading about?

## SELF CHECK

- I answered the entire question that I chose.
- I wrote in complete sentences.
- I used evidence and examples from the text to support my answer.
- I edited my work to make sure that it makes sense.

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

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Book Author: \_\_\_\_\_

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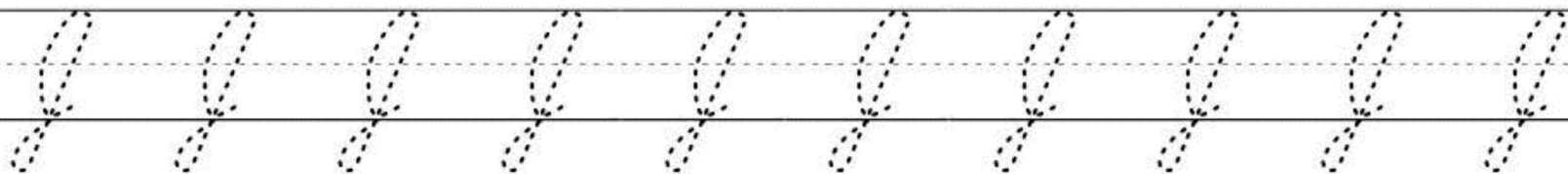
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	0	1	2
Completion	Question is not answered.	Question is partially answered.	Answer is complete.
Sentences	Answer is not in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences and part of the question is used in the answer.
Thoughtfulness	Answer shows little effort or thought.	Answer shows limited thought.	Answer is thoughtful.
Text Evidence	Answer does not include text evidence.	Answer has limited use of text evidence.	Answer is supported with significant text evidence.
Editing	Answer has many errors.	Answer has some errors.	Answer has very few errors.

J/j

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Trace the dashed letters.



Write the letters on the lines. Try to make your letters look like the models.

j

Write the connected words. Remember not to lift up your pencil until you get to a space!

just

jet

jam

got



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spring is a great  
time to plant  
flowers like tulips.

Letter formation

Spacing

Line use

Punctuation





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know what  
having a "green  
thumb" means?

Letter formation

Spacing

Line use

Punctuation





Name \_\_\_\_\_

A "green thumb"  
means you are  
good with plants.

Letter formation

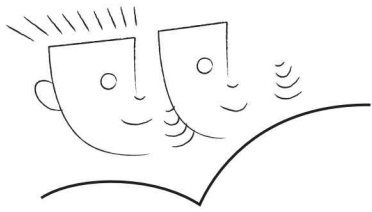
Spacing

Line use

Punctuation







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

Practice 1

After playing in the dirt, Sam went 

home
summer
was

 to wash her hands.

Practice 2

On her way home, she 

chair
sleep
saw

 an ice cream truck.

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C: \_\_\_\_\_

I: \_\_\_\_\_

AS: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Perfect Topping

On Thursday, everyone in class went around and named their favorite foods. Tonya said her

favorite food was the 

turned
water
pizza

 her family made. After school was over, she 

agreed
waited
tonight

 with Megan for the bus.

“Do you 

thing
really
got

 make your own pizza?” Megan asked. “I 

said
love
thought

 pizza, but I've never made it. 

Is
Perfectly
Waited

 it hard?”

“No, it's easy!” said Tonya. “

If
Grilled
Potato

 our parents let us, do you 

want
served
sprinkled

 to come over for dinner tomorrow? 

Eager
We're
Added

 making it then.”

Megan was eager to 

love
try
called

 it, and their parents agreed, so the 

discussed
hard
next

 day Megan went to Tonya's house. On the 

brought
whole
way

, they discussed what toppings to put on their 

spread
pizza
salt

.

“You'd be surprised by what you 

peppers
can
so

 put on a pizza,” Tonya said. “

Lots
Couldn't
Pan

 of things you'd never think of 

dinner
can
potatoes

 make really good toppings.”

Megan always 

suggested
ordered
mixed

 the same thing on her pizza: 

pantry
seen
mushrooms

 and green peppers. She

wondered what 

took
else
cook

 she could try.

As dinnertime approached, Tonya's 

cool
brother
slices

 started making the dough by mixing 

next
dinnertime,
flour

,

water, salt, and yeast. He let Tonya and Megan 

dough
taste
try

 it, and Megan thought it was 

delicious
you'd
family

.

Tonya's parents opened the pantry for 

choose
topping
excited

 ideas. "What shall we put on it 

tonight
flavors
bus

?" her

mom asked.

Tonya suggested an 

great
onion
we're

, and then Tonya's brother got out 

wondered
some
put

 potatoes. Megan had

never seen potatoes on a 

rolled
pizza
really

 before. She tried to think what she 

could
topping
hot

 choose that would be a

good, 

unusual
asked
want

 topping.

"What if we put apple 

brother
slices
too

 on the pizza?" Megan suggested. Everyone 

agreed
cheese
helped

 that was a

great idea. While Tonya's 

parents
come
ideas

 prepared the toppings, Megan grated cheese and Tonya and her

brother
do
tried

 rolled the dough flat and put it in the 

dad
table
pan

. They spread sauce on it and Megan 

things
sprinkled
some

on the cheese. Tonya's dad put on the 

set
oven
grilled

 onion and her mom added the 

food
sauce
potatoes

 and apple

slices. Then they put the 

careful
whole
onion

 thing in the oven to cook.

As Megan 

helped
good
made

 Tonya set the table, she was 

opened
bite
excited

 by the thought of their pizza. She

toppings
couldn't
prepared

 wait to taste it.

“Careful, it's 

house
easy
hot

,” called Tonya's father as he brought it out. He 

mushrooms
cut
class

 it into slices

and served everyone, and 

else
when
own

 it was cool enough, Megan took a 

bite
cut
foods

.

The sweet flavors of the apple 

never
slices
favorite

 mixed perfectly with the grilled onion and 

was
be
potato

.

Thrilled, Megan turned to Tonya. “Now your 

favorite
mixing
pizza

 food is my favorite food, too!” she 

make
taste
said

.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Idea-Support Map: Main Idea and Details

**Living in Trees**  
Graphic Organizer 7

Title Living in Trees

**Main Idea:**

The Kombai use local resources.

**Detail:**

**Detail:**

**Lesson 20**  
READER'S NOTEBOOK

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**Life on the Ice**  
Phonics:  
Compound Words

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Compound Words

**Write a word from the box to answer each clue. Then answer the question below by reading the word in the shaded boxes.**

chalkboard	flashlight	outside	toothbrush
cookbook	homework	snowshoes	underwater
fireplace	newspaper		

1.											
2.											
3.											
4.											
5.											
6.											
7.											
8.											
9.											
10.											

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. This helps you see in the dark.</p> <p>2. You wear these to walk in snow.</p> <p>3. You need this to brush your teeth.</p> <p>4. Look here to see fish in a lake.</p> <p>5. You do this work after school.</p> | <p>6. This is a book of recipes.</p> <p>7. You might play here after school.</p> <p>8. A fire in here will warm a room.</p> <p>9. A teacher may write on this in a classroom.</p> <p>10. You read this to learn the news.</p> |
|--|---|

What is the coldest place on Earth? \_\_\_\_\_




# Living in Trees


by Alexandra Behr




HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



 You walk through a city park. Above, in the trees, you see sunlight sifting through the leaves. Then you see a tree house that someone has made in one of the trees.

 You quickly climb the ladder. Standing on the tree house floor, you look down upon the whole park. You hear the **constant** singing of the birds in the branches around you. If only you could live in a tree house like this right now!

 Impossible? Well, maybe not. Some people actually do live and work in tree houses in **regions** all over the world.








## Life in a Tree House

Imagine that you are canoeing through a swampy **wilderness** in Papua New Guinea (PA poo ah noo GIN ee), a country near Australia. You are going to meet a group of native people called the Kombai. The Kombai live in small communities, far from the island's cities.

 The Kombai build their homes in trees in the forest. That's a cool idea, you think. But the Kombai don't build their tree houses because they think they're cool. Their tree houses protect them from floods and give them **shelter** from the heat and insects down below. Living above the ground also protects the Kombai from unwanted visitors—animal or human!



Kombai tree houses are built as high as 100 feet above the ground.



The Kambai use local resources in the forest for their homes, household items, and clothing. They cut down trees with stone axes and slice food with sharp pieces of bamboo. They weave palm leaves into skirts. Their lightweight clothing keeps them from getting **overheated**.



The **climate** in Papua New Guinea is very rainy. So don't be surprised if a thunderstorm dumps buckets of rain on you. Luckily, a tree house is nearby. You climb the ladder and join a family for their meal—wild boar and some of the starchy food the Kombai make from palm trees. Then you can munch on an **unexpected** Kombai treat—the worm-like larvae of Capricorn beetles.




One palm tree can supply a Kombai family with enough food for about 7 to 10 days. So what happens when all the palms are cut down and used for food? The Kombai family then has to move to a new part of the forest. Then it will be time to build another tree house high above the ground!





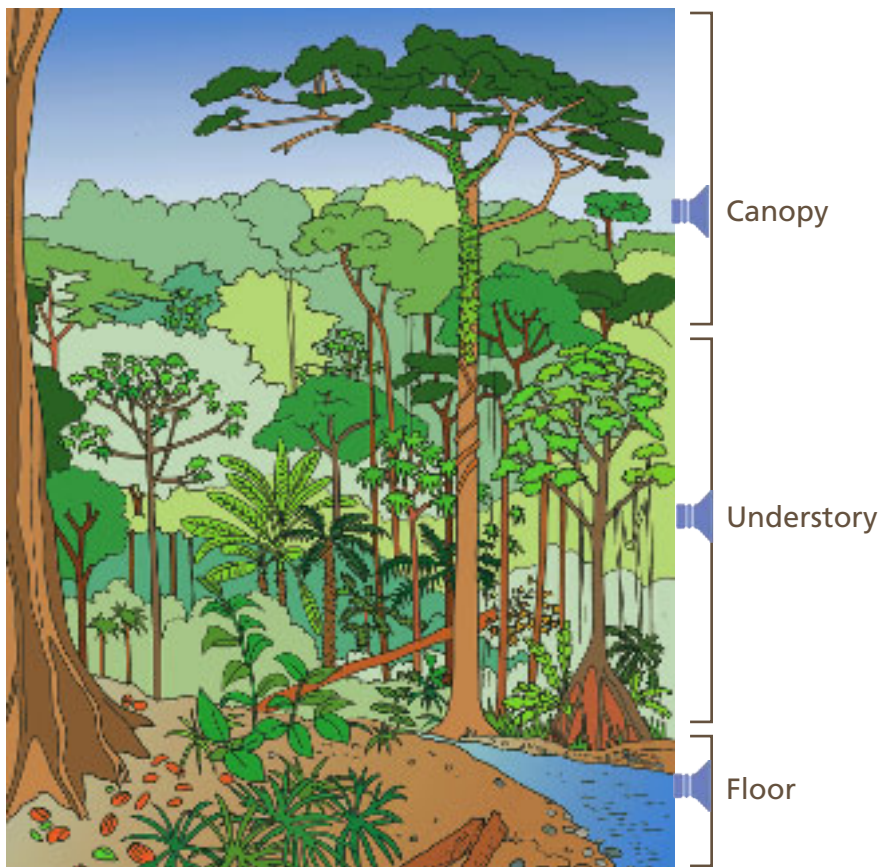
## **Work in a Tree House**

Now imagine that you are hiking through a tropical rainforest in Central America. The weather feels muggy. Bugs are bugging you! As you take photos of the lush green trees, you wonder, is someone watching you?

 You might guess it's a spider monkey... a tree frog... a parrot... a **colony** of ants... or perhaps a snake, quietly waiting.

Would you be surprised to find out that a scientist is looking down at you, too? In some rainforests, scientists work in special tree houses high above the rainforest floor. From there they study one of the most interesting habitats on Earth.





🔊 The **layers** of the rainforest

🔊 Rainforests have several layers. The bottom layer is the forest floor. It is covered with fallen leaves and small twigs. Little sunlight reaches this level. Down there, you might see a strange-looking tapir nibbling on plants.... Or a scary jaguar looking for a tasty tapir!

🔊 The next layer is called the understory. It contains young trees with thin trunks and large leaves. Snakes, frogs, butterflies, insects, and birds live in this layer.



Many scientists have wished for a bird's-eye view of the rainforest canopy.



The canopy is the layer that is formed by the leaves and branches of the rainforest's tallest trees. It is usually more than 80 feet above the forest floor. Sometimes it can be as high as 200 feet!



Because it's so high up, the canopy gets lots of sun and rain. That's how it produces so many seeds, fruits, leaves, flowers, and nuts. All this food makes it a place where many animals can live. In fact, most of the animals in the rainforest live in the canopy.



The canopy is the heart of the rainforest because it is home to so many kinds of animals and plants. In some rainforests, monkeys swing on branches and vines that form a sort of canopy highway. In others, you might find flying lemurs, flying squirrels, frogs, and other creatures leaping and **gliding** from one tree to another. Birds, bats, snakes, and bugs all keep the canopy buzzing with life.



Scientists have long wanted to study the canopy's rich life. But because the canopy is so high above the forest floor, they have not been able to figure out how to study it. In the past, scientists have cut down trees to study what lives in the treetops. They have used ropes to climb up the trees. One scientist even trained a monkey to bring him samples of plants from the canopy!





This canopy raft and hot air balloon were used to study the canopy of a rainforest in Africa.



Today, scientists have found new ways to study the canopy for long periods of time. They climb spiral staircases or use cranes to carry them to tree house camps high above the rainforest floor. They walk through the canopy on walkways that are tied from tree to tree. Some scientists even use hot air balloons to carry them to the treetops.





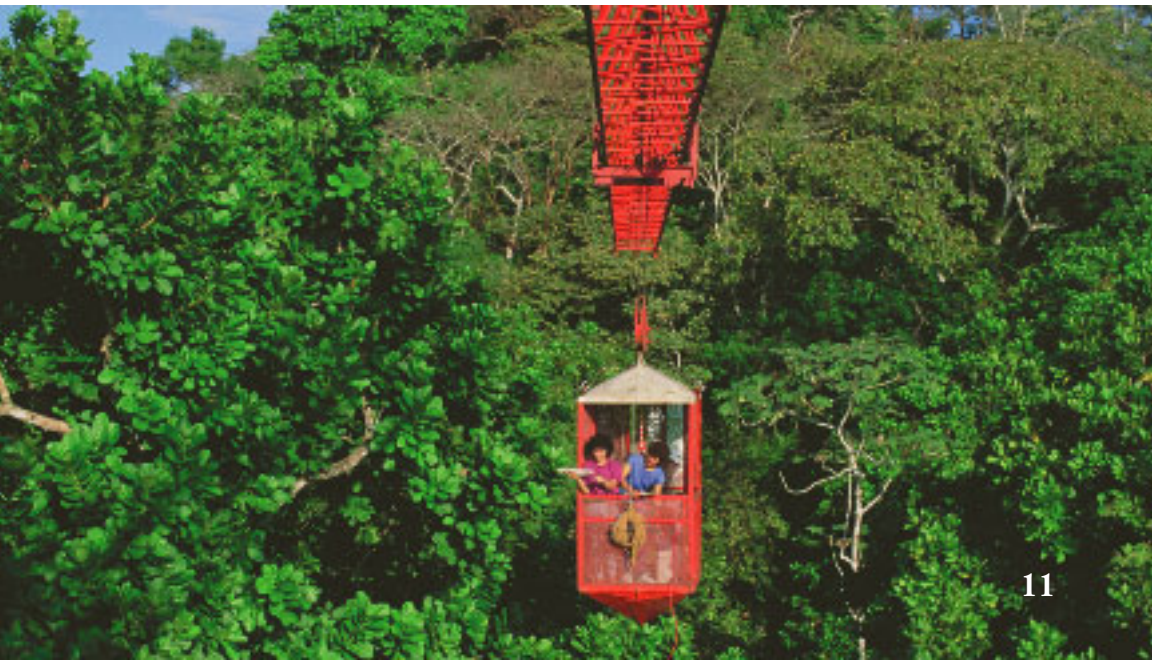
A canopy crane in an Australian rainforest rises almost 160 feet in the air. Its long arm reaches over the trees. The crane helps scientists observe the animals and plants in the hard-to-reach canopy.



Scientists in Panama use two tower cranes to study the rainforest there. You've probably seen tower cranes being used to build city skyscrapers and other tall buildings. Researchers are lifted from the ground in cars that swing out over the rainforest from the crane's arm. The researchers communicate with the crane operator using radios. The crane operator moves the researchers to different places in the canopy where they can study for hours.




Researchers study the Panama rainforest from a car held up by a tower crane.





## **Play in a Tree House**

Okay, you're tired of canoeing through swamps.... And studying the canopy of the rainforest has exhausted you. Now you just want to relax. What better place to do that than in one of these amazing tree house hotels?

 A tree house hotel in South Africa has a wonderful view of the forest and a nearby gorge. If you're more interested in seeing wild animals, there's a tree house hotel in Kenya near a wildlife reserve full of protected animals.





This tree house hotel in India lets visitors sleep close to nature.




At one tree house resort in India, you have to climb across rope bridges to get to your treetop hotel room. Stepping out on a balcony, you can see animals such as monkeys, birds, or even elephants.



But if India is too far from your home, you might want to visit the tree house hotel on Mount Rainier. It's in the state of Washington. Your room is 50 feet from the ground of the forest. A bridge connects the tree house to an observatory that's even higher. Imagine what you can see from there!

## **Tree Houses for Everyone**

You have seen that tree houses can be used for many reasons. But maybe the best reason to use a tree house is to have fun. That's what kids do if they have the good luck to live near a tree house.

 But tree houses are not just for kids who can easily climb. There's a company that builds tree houses for kids who are ill or have disabilities that make climbing difficult. These tree houses have ramps and walkways. Even kids who use wheelchairs and walkers can climb into these tree houses.

That way, everyone has fun.

 This tree house was built especially for children with special needs.

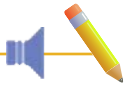
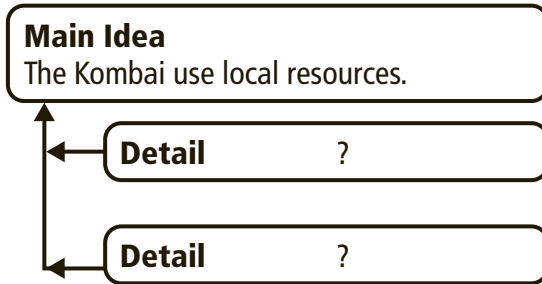


# Responding



## TARGET SKILL Main Idea and Details

The Kombai use local resources for many needs. What details support this main idea?  
Copy and complete the chart below.



## Write About It

**Text to World** Write a paragraph to persuade your community that your town needs a tree house in one of its parks. Include answers to objections that people might have, along with your reasons.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

climate

colony

constant

gliding

layer

overheated

regions

shelter

unexpected

wilderness

### EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

boar

canopy

lemurs

observatory

resort

starchy

tapir

understory



### TARGET SKILL

**Main Ideas and Details** Tell important ideas and details about a topic.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Infer/Predict** Use clues to figure out more about the selection.



**GENRE** **Informational text** gives factual information about a topic.