I created these stories to introduce the idea of making inferences and drawing conclusions. I was deliberately vague about information so that the student would look for clues to answer the questions. These stories also contain vocabulary that is present in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. I have underlined these words for review.

#### Story 1

Jon <u>arrived</u> early at the <u>entrance</u> of the school. He was excited and a bit nervous. He <u>wondered</u> if he would like his new teacher and know any of his classmates. It was much better this year because he knew what to expect and wasn't <u>frightened</u>. Last year, the building seemed so big and <u>crowded</u> with unfamiliar faces. He didn't know where to find his classroom or the office. At least this year he would be less <u>confused</u>. He hoped he would see some of his friends from last year in his new class.

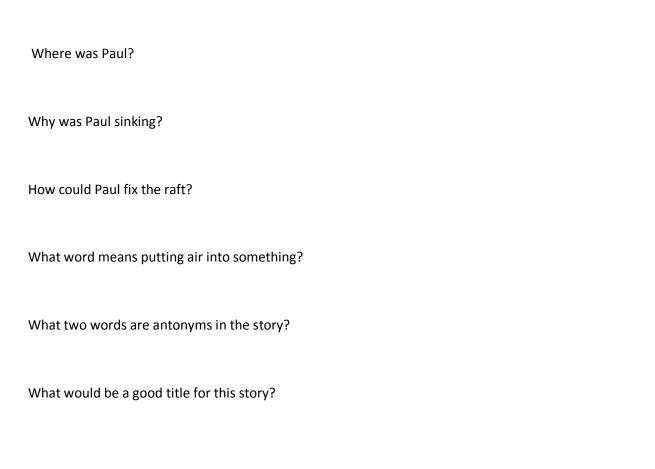
The new backpack he was wearing was rigid. He knew in a few weeks it would be <u>flexible</u> and mold better to his back. His <u>concerned</u> mother had attached a name tag with his name, address and phone number on it. He also had <u>essential</u> school supplies to start the new school year. This was the first year he needed to <u>pack</u> a lunch. Earlier this morning, he had packed his lunch bag with <u>considerable</u> care and put it in his backpack. He looked forward to eating the sandwich, chips, and apple at lunch time. His Mom told him he could buy his lunch tomorrow if he liked what was on the menu.

Where was Jon going?	
Why was Jon excited?	
What grade was Jon going into?	
What was in his backpack?	
What does rigid mean?	
f you had to give this story a title, what would you call it?	

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## Story 2

The sun was warm on Paul's face as he laid out flat on his back. He was enjoying the gentle rocking motion of the waves until he noticed his suit and feet were getting <u>damp</u>. He had managed to get onto the <u>center</u> of the raft without getting wet, but that didn't look like that was going to last much longer. He <u>noticed</u> he was slowly sinking into the water. He wished he had inspected the raft after he inflated it. He would have to make a decision soon about getting off and making a swim to the <u>beach</u>. He tried to remain <u>calm</u>. He <u>wondered</u> how <u>deep</u> the water was here. It might be nice to cool off a bit. He turned his head to the side to see how far out he had <u>floated</u> out. He felt a wave of relief. He was closer than he thought. The water would be <u>shallow</u>. He could paddle the raft back before it deflated.



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# Story 3

Paul loved to <u>explore</u> new places, but this had been a <u>struggle</u>. The path was <u>steep</u> and his legs were tired. He had to slap several <u>insects</u> off his neck. He had <u>finally</u> made it to the top. It had taken almost half a day. Thankfully the <u>descent</u> would be easier tomorrow.

Paul stepped up to the edge of the <u>cliff</u> and looked over the edge. There were several <u>jagged</u> rocks. He could also see the <u>distance</u> they had traveled. The trees looked like miniature versions of the trees beside him. He had been the <u>leader</u> and could <u>observe</u> other members of the caravan still walking below on the winding path. He realized he was very hungry and <u>thirsty</u>. He pulled out a canteen and a bag of trail mix from his <u>pack</u>. He <u>chewed</u> and drank while he waited for the others to catch up. After everyone made it to the top, they would pitch their tents for <u>shelter</u> and <u>collect</u> wood for a campfire. A campfire would <u>frighten</u> off any <u>dangerous</u> animals. He hoped the flint they brought would work. They had brought food to <u>share</u> so he knew they would not <u>starve</u>.

Where was Paul?
What is a caravan?
How do you know he was up high?
What did they need to do after they reached the top?
How were they starting the fire?
What is a good title for this story?

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## Story 4

John was glad Dusty was waiting for him at the paddock. He heard a soft whinny as he came closer. He had a carrot in his back pocket so he could <u>coax</u> Dusty to the entrance. Dusty would do anything for a carrot. He put the saddle blanket, saddle and saddle bags on Dusty's back. He fastened the bridle and reins at his head. He added a rope around the saddle horn. Today a rope would be <u>essential</u>. John and Dusty were not going for a joy ride this morning. A <u>calf</u> had left the <u>herd</u> during the night and was invisible in the <u>meadow</u> below. However, he could hear it bleating. He was afraid it was hurt or stuck in some <u>jagged</u> boulders. He would <u>attempt</u> to find and rescue it. It would not <u>survive</u> well without its mother. It was <u>dangerous</u> for a young animal to be away from the safety of the <u>herd</u>.

What animal was Dusty?
Who was John?
What is a herd? Can you think of any other herds?
What could happen to a calf away from the herd?
What would be a good title for this story?