



*BrainyCats Learning presents . .*



STAAR  
REVIEW

# 7th Grade Reading: PAIRED TEXTS

*Before you read, look at the title. What do you think this story is about? Then, skim through the passage. If there are any words in **bold**, highlight them and make sure you know the meanings. If you don't, take a moment to look them up in the dictionary and put the meanings in the margin.*

*As you read, think about how you can connect to the characters you are reading about. In this story, you might think about what it's like to have an older brother or sister, or what it was like when your mom had a new baby. You might also think about what you would do if you saw a younger child who was sad.*

## What Brothers Do

1 Ben Turner had been trying to ignore the snuffling and gasps of misery coming from the lower bunk for at least thirty minutes, but it refused to stop. He wished, for the thousandth time that night, that his neighbor's little boy had gone to the hospital with his parents. Ben sighed, tossed his cell phone aside and hung his head over the edge of the top bunk.

2 His seven-year-old neighbor Joey stared back, his eyes red and cheeks blotchy from crying.

3 "It's going to be okay," Ben said. "Your mom's just in the hospital. Your brother's ready to be born. She's not sick. And, it's not like you'll be here forever."

4 That only made Joey more sad. "She didn't even wave at me when she left. I don't want a little brother. My mom's going to forget all about me."

5 "My mom didn't forget about Christopher when she had me."

6 "All she ever talks about is the baby. She doesn't love me. She only  
loves the baby." Joey's voice quavered and he pulled the blanket up to dab  
at his watery eyes.

7 Ben grabbed his cell phone before he hopped down from the top bunk  
and crouched beside the younger boy. "She loves you. She just has to  
concentrate on having the baby. It's not going to be like that forever. And it's  
fun having a brother. I miss Chris now that he's at college."

8 Joey looked very doubtful about that.

9 "Come on. Let me show you something." Ben headed out of the  
bedroom, motioning Joey to follow.

10 Joey followed Ben through the house and out to the backyard. The  
March night was chilly and the grass damp against their bare feet, but the sky  
was clear and full of twinkling stars.

11 "Chris and I used to come out here all the time and look at the stars,"  
Ben said. "He had all sorts of stories about them."

12 Joey sniffed a little and wiped his nose on the back of his hand. "What  
kind of stories?"

13 Ben's eyes searched the sky. Then he pointed to a line of three stars  
punctuated by a fuzzy blob of light. "See that, Joey? That's Orion. And that  
big red-yellow star? That's Betelgeuse. It's part of Orion's shoulder.

14 Joey squinted in the direction that Ben was pointing. "Who's Orion?"

15 "Orion was a great hunter. He was the son of Neptune, god of the sea.  
He was brave and strong, but he was also very **boastful**. He bragged that  
he could defeat any animal."

16 "What happened to him?"

17 "A tiny little scorpion heard his bragging and decided to show Orion that he wasn't as **invincible** as he'd thought. The scorpion stung Orion and he died."

18 "Then he went to live in the stars?"

19 Ben nodded. "If we wait an hour or so, Orion will disappear from the sky. Then Scorpius, the scorpion, will rise in the southeast. They're never in the sky at the same time."

20 Joey's eyes were fixed on the belt of stars. "Christopher told you all that?"

21 "Yep."

22 "Did he tell you any other stories?"

23 "My favorite one was about the brothers. Castor and Pollux."

24 "Castor and Pollux." Joey repeated the names, struggling a little over the unfamiliar **syllables**.

25 "They were brothers who had the same mother, but two different fathers. Castor's father was a king. Pollux's father was **immortal**."

26 "What's that mean, immortal?"

27 "It means he couldn't die. Now, look. Go from the middle star on Orion's belt to Betelgeuse – the bright star– then keep going. See the two bright stars just above that?"

28 "I see them!"

29 "The one on the left is Pollux. The one on the right is Castor."

30 "How did they get into the sky?"

31 "The story is that they both fought in this huge war. It was called the Trojan War. Pollux liked to fight, because he knew he would never die. Castor knew that he might die, but he was very brave."

32 "What happened?"

33 “There was a great battle. The brothers fought together. Their side was winning. But then, suddenly, Castor was stuck by an arrow. He fell from his horse. Pollux rushed to help his brother, but it was too late.

34 “To honor his brother, Pollux asked his father, Zeus, to lift Castor into the night sky. Then, because he loved his brother so much, Pollux asked his father to let him give up his immortality and join his brother.”

35 “Pollux must have really loved his brother.”

36 “I told you. It’s great to have a brother. They always **have your back.**”

37 “I wish I had a big brother.”

38 “Tell you what, kid. I’ll be like your big brother. I’ll teach you everything that Chris taught me. And then, you can teach your little brother.”

39 Joey frowned. “What if I don’t remember everything?”

40 Ben pulled his phone out of his pocket and showed it to Joey. “Then, you’ll look up the answers. Or ask me. But I bet your little brother will think you know everything.. At least, all the important stuff.”

41 Joey began to smile. “Maybe having a little brother won’t be so bad.”

42 Ben laughed and threw his arms open wide. “Hey, look how great it turned out for Chris.”

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

# Four Square Follow-Up

<p>Who is the protagonist?</p> <p>What is the antagonist?</p> <p>What is the conflict?</p> <p>What is the resolution?</p>	<p>What is the theme?</p> <p>What is one sentence from the reading that tells you what the theme is?</p>
<p>What are the definitions of the following words:</p> <p>Boastful</p> <p>Invincible</p> <p>Syllables</p> <p>Immortal</p>	<p>Write the sentence that contains the idiom "have your back".</p> <p>What do you think "have your back" means?</p>

# Four Square Follow-Up

<p>Who is the protagonist?</p> <p><b>Ben</b></p> <p>What is the antagonist?</p> <p><b>Joey</b></p> <p>What is the conflict?</p> <p><b>Joey is sad about the pending birth of a baby brother. Ben wants to cheer Joey up.</b></p> <p>What is the resolution?</p> <p><b>Ben helps Joey see that his baby brother will look up to Joey, and this makes Joey feel better about having a younger brother.</b></p>	<p>What is the theme?</p> <p><b>It's good to have a brother.</b></p>          <p>What is one sentence from the reading that tells you what the theme is?</p> <p><b>Paragraph 36: It's great to have a brother. They always <b>have your back.</b></b></p>
<p>What are the definitions of the following words:</p> <p><b>Boastful</b> <b>Always telling people how great you are</b></p> <p><b>Invincible</b> <b>Not able to be defeated</b></p> <p><b>Syllables</b> <b>The parts that words are divided into when they are pronounced</b></p> <p><b>Immortal</b> <b>Living forever</b></p>	<p>Write the sentence that contains the idiom "have your back".</p> <p><b>They always <b>have your back.</b></b></p>          <p>What do you think "have your back" means?</p> <p><b>To have someone's back means that you are there to help when they have problems.</b></p>

# Comprehension Questions for "What Brothers Do"

1. Which sentence best states the main message of this story?
  - a. They always have your back.
  - b. Look how well it turned out for Chris.
  - c. It's great to have a brother.
  - d. I bet your little brother will think you know everything.

2. Read this information about the word "immortal".

The Latin root *mort* means "death"

This information helps the reader understand that the word "immortal" in paragraph means

- a. someone who will die
  - b. someone who will never die
  - c. someone who likes to do bad things
  - d. someone who cheers people up.
3. How does the setting influence the plot in the story?
  - a. Because it is night, the boys are able to see the stars.
  - b. Because it is March, the boys are not able to stay outside very long.
  - c. Because it is in the present, the boys know about Orion and the Gemini constellations.
  - d. Because it is in the city, the boys cannot see the evening sky.

4. Which of these is the best summary of the story?
  - a. Joey is sad about his mom having a new baby. He goes to hide at the neighbor's house.
  - b. Joey learns that it will be fun to have a little brother.
  - c. Joey is staying with the neighbors while his mom has a baby. The neighbor's son helps Joey feel better about becoming a big brother by showing him the stars and talking about how having a brother is special..
  - d. While looking at stars with his best friend, Joey decides that he will become an astronomer.

5. Which sentence best shows that Joey thinks his mother is more interested in the baby than in him?
  - a. She didn't wave at me when she left.
  - b. All she ever talks about is the baby.
  - c. I wish I had a big brother.
  - d. What if I don't remember everything?

3. Read these sentences from the story. Based on these sentences, the reader can infer that Ben thinks

Ben grabbed his cell phone before he hopped down from the top bunk and crouched beside the younger boy. "She loves you. She just has to concentrate on having the baby. It's not going to be like that forever."

- a. Joey's situation is temporary.
  - b. Joey's situation is permanent.
  - c. Joey is being a cry-baby.
  - d. Joey is going to be a terrible big brother.



# Comprehension Questions for "What Brothers Do"

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  - d. Joey is going to be a terrible big brother.

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

# Pre-reading for "Stories of the Stars"

What is the title?

Describe the illustration.

What do you think the story is about?

**Context clues:** Use context clues to predict the meaning of each word in bold print.

1. I like to look at the **constellations** at night and make up stories about the stars.

**Constellations** means \_\_\_\_\_

2. His voice is very **distinguishable**, and I know it's him without even looking.

**Distinguishable** means \_\_\_\_\_

3. I was surprised by his **presence** at a party that he hadn't been invited to.

**Presence** means \_\_\_\_\_

4. The police **pursued** the criminal for 15 miles on the interstate before catching him.

**Pursued** means \_\_\_\_\_

5. I love to get up early enough to watch the sun when it first peeks over the **horizon**.

**Horizon** means \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrate one of the words.

Match each word with the best definition.

1.	constellation	a. chased
2.	distinguishable	b. Being present; appearing
3.	presence	c. able to be recognized
4.	pursued	d. the line where the earth or sea meets the sky
5.	horizon	e. a group of stars that form a shape and have been given a name

# Pre-reading for "Stories of the Stars"

What is the title?

**Stories of the Stars**

Describe the illustration.

**The illustration is a picture of the constellation Orion.**

What do you think the story is about?

**I think it is a story about the constellation Orion.**

**Context clues:** Use context clues to predict the meaning of each word in bold print.

1. I like to look at the **constellations** at night and make up stories about the stars.

**Constellations** means stars.

2. His voice is very **distinguishable**, and I know it's him without even looking.

**Distinguishable** means recognizable

3. I was surprised by his **presence** at a party that he hadn't been invited to.

**Presence** means you are attending something.

4. The police **pursued** the criminal for 15 miles on the interstate before catching him.

**Pursued** means chased.

5. I love to get up early enough to watch the sun when it first peeks over the **horizon**.

**Horizon** means where the sky meets the land

Illustrate one of the words.

Match each word with the best definition.

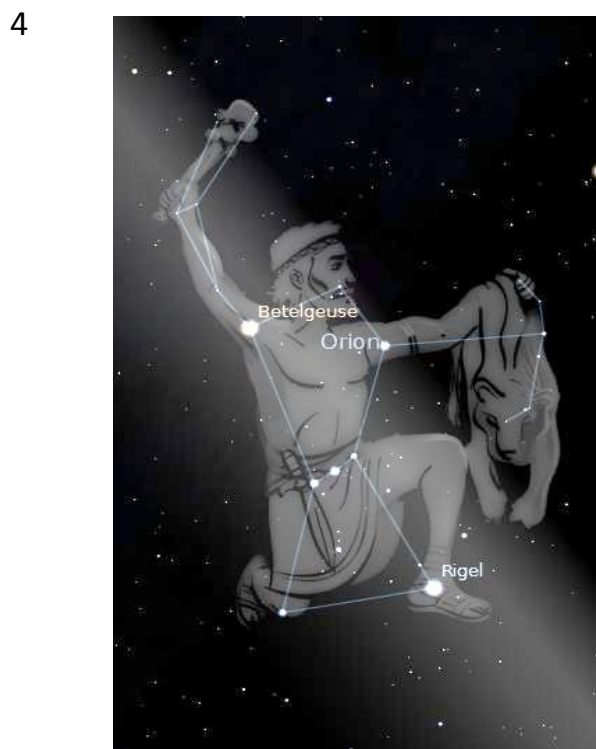
<b>E</b>	1. constellation	a. chased
<b>C</b>	2. distinguishable	b. Being present; appearing
<b>B</b>	3. presence	c. able to be recognized
<b>A</b>	4. pursued	d. the line where the earth or sea meets the sky
<b>D</b>	5. horizon	e. a group of stars that form a shape and have been given a name

# Stories of the Stars

1 People throughout history have always wondered about the stars. Where do they come from? What do they represent? Why do they appear, disappear, and then reappear throughout the year? When they couldn't find the answers, the people did the next best thing. They made up stories.

2 The **constellation** known as Orion is one of the most **distinguishable** and best known constellations. It is most apparent during the months of January, February, and March. It is recognizable by its line of three stars and the **presence** of Betelgeuse, the brightest red supergiant in our night sky.

3 The constellation is named after the mythological Greek hunter. Most stories say that he was placed in the sky after his death, but they don't agree on how he died. Some stories say that Orion was stung by a scorpion. Others say that he was killed by Artemis during target practice.



Other cultures use different stories and characters to explain the constellation, but many of them also involve hunting. The Inuit people, who live in the Far North of Canada, share a story about three men whose village was starving. They spotted a bear, and **pursued** it, chasing it toward the western **horizon**. They tracked the bear the entire day because they knew it could provide enough food for several weeks. When the sun set, the line between earth and sky disappeared, and the men followed the bear into the sky. They are still visible today, trying to catch that bear.

# Comprehension Questions for "Stories of the Stars"

- The Latin word **stella** means "star". This helps the reader understand that **constellation** means
  - a famous person
  - a group of stars that has been given a name
  - a way of making someone feel better
  - the universe
- Which phrase from paragraph 4 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word **pursued** from paragraph 4?
  - They spotted a bear.
  - They knew it could provide enough food for several weeks.
  - Chasing it toward the western horizon
  - The line between earth and sky disappeared.
- Read the dictionary entry below for the word **horizon**.

horizon /hə'raɪzən/ *noun* 1. the line where the earth or sea seems to meet the sky 2. the limit of a person's knowledge 3. the edge of the universe 4. the future

Which definition fits the word **horizon** as it's used in paragraph 4?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
- The author wrote this selection most likely to
  - persuade readers to learn more about the stars
  - provide information about the Milky Way galaxy
  - illustrate how different cultures explained certain constellations.
  - the universe
- What is the most likely reason that the author included paragraph 2 in the article?
  - To provide facts about the constellation Orion that would help the reader identify it in the sky.
  - To provide information about how the constellation Orion was formed.
  - To explain why Orion is not visible in the summer months.
  - To compare stories about Orion from different cultures.
- Which of these is the best summary of the article?
  - One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion. Many cultures, like the Inuit, have their own stories about the constellation.
  - One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion, which was named by the Greeks after a hunter.
  - The Greeks said Orion was placed in the heavens after his death. No one is sure how he died, but it may have been from a scorpion bite. Other cultures say he was killed by the goddess Artemis.
  - One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion, which was named by the Greeks after a hunter. The Greeks said he was placed in the heavens after his death. Other cultures, like the Inuit, have their own stories about the constellation.

# Comprehension Questions for "Stories of the Stars"

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3. Read the dictionary entry below for the word **horizon**.
 

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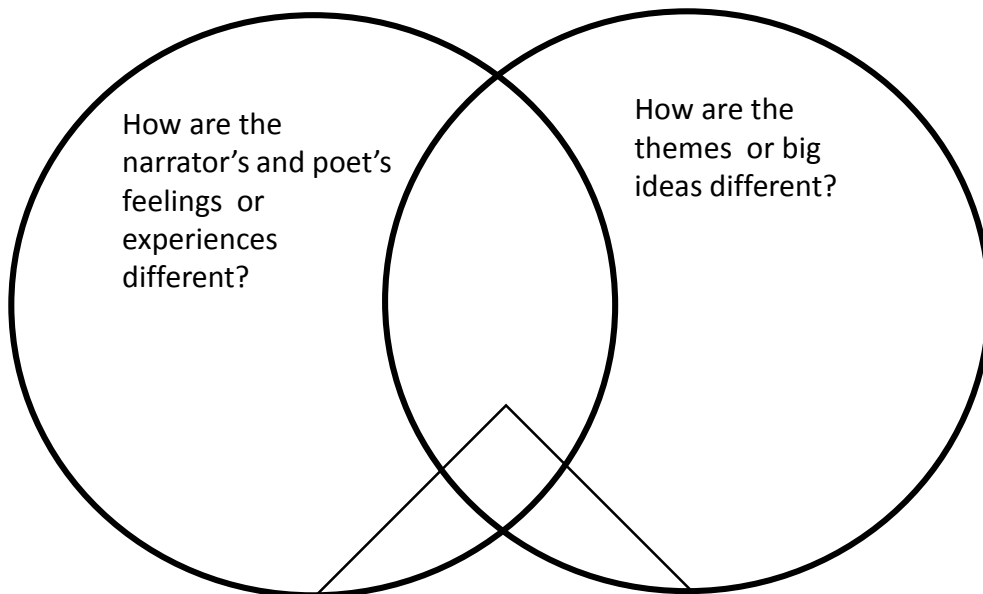
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  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4
  
4. The author wrote this selection most likely to
  - a. persuade readers to learn more about the stars
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6. Which of these is the best summary of the article?
  - a. One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion. Many cultures, like the Inuit, have their own stories about the constellation.
  - b. One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion, which was named by the Greeks after a hunter.
  - c. The Greeks said Orion was placed in the heavens after his death. No one is sure how he died, but it may have been from a scorpion bite. Other cultures say he was killed by the goddess Artemis.
  - d. One of the most recognizable constellations is Orion, which was named by the Greeks after a hunter. The Greeks said he was placed in the heavens after his death. Other cultures, like the Inuit, have their own stories about the constellation.

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

# Paired Texts Questions

(not all questions will apply to all pairs of text)



How are they the same?

Consider:

- ❖ Ideas that are explored
- ❖ Message
- ❖ How the narrator or poet would feel about certain events or ideas

Find sentences in both that describe the same event or feeling.

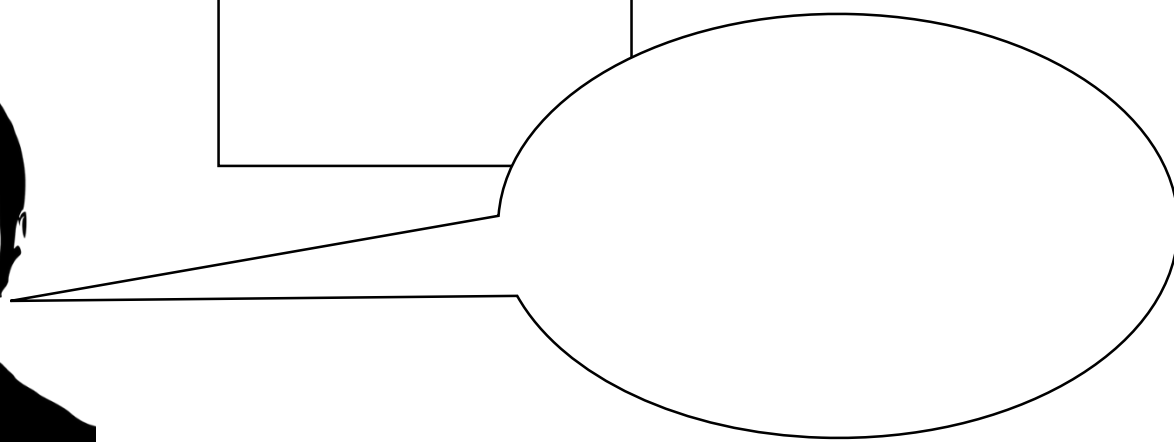
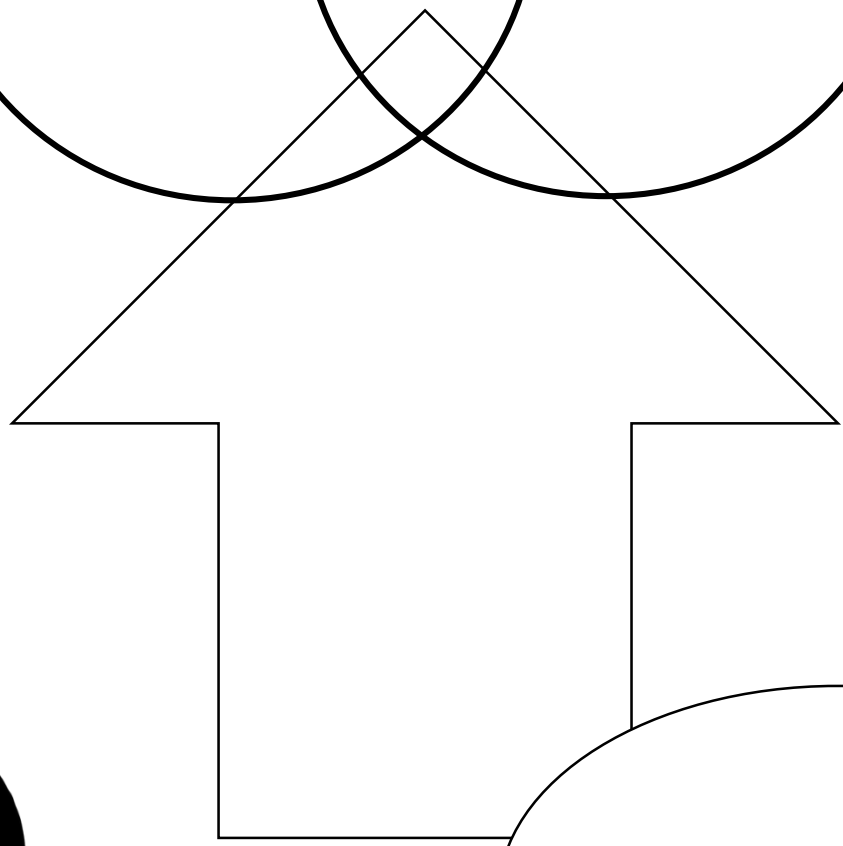
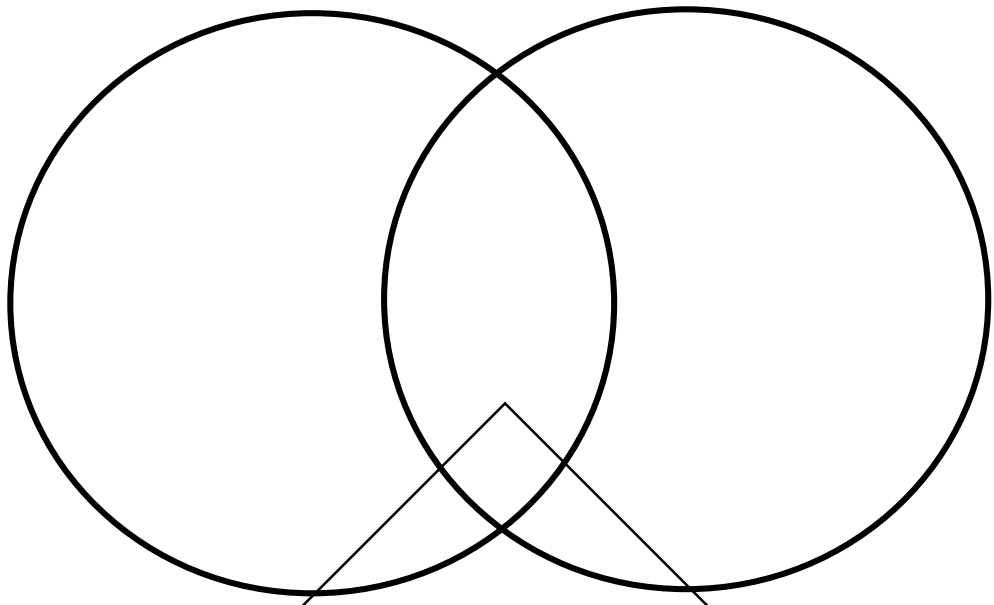
What sentence from selection 1 describes how the author (narrator/poet) of selection 2 feels?



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

# Paired Texts Questions

(not all questions will apply to all pairs of text)





## Paired Text Comprehension Questions for "What Brothers Do" and "Stories of the Stars"

1. One of the ideas explored in both the story and the informational text is that
  - a. brothers always protect you.
  - b. people explain what they see in nature through stories.
  - c. no one knows where the stars come from.
  - d. the universe is vast and inexplicable.
2. Read these sentences from the selections.
3. What is one difference between the selections?
  - a. Only "Stories of the Stars" tells when the constellation Orion is visible in the sky.
  - b. Only "What Brothers Do" explains that the star Betelgeuse is part of the constellation Orion.
  - c. "Stories of the Stars" includes information about other constellations.
  - d. "What Brothers Do" includes stories from other cultures.

Then he pointed to a line of three stars punctuated by a fuzzy blob of light.

It is recognizable by its line of three stars.

- Both these sentences describe
- a. the appearance of the constellation Orion
  - b. The major stars of the Orion constellation.
  - c. where Orion is located in the sky.
  - d. why the Greeks named the constellation Orion.

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