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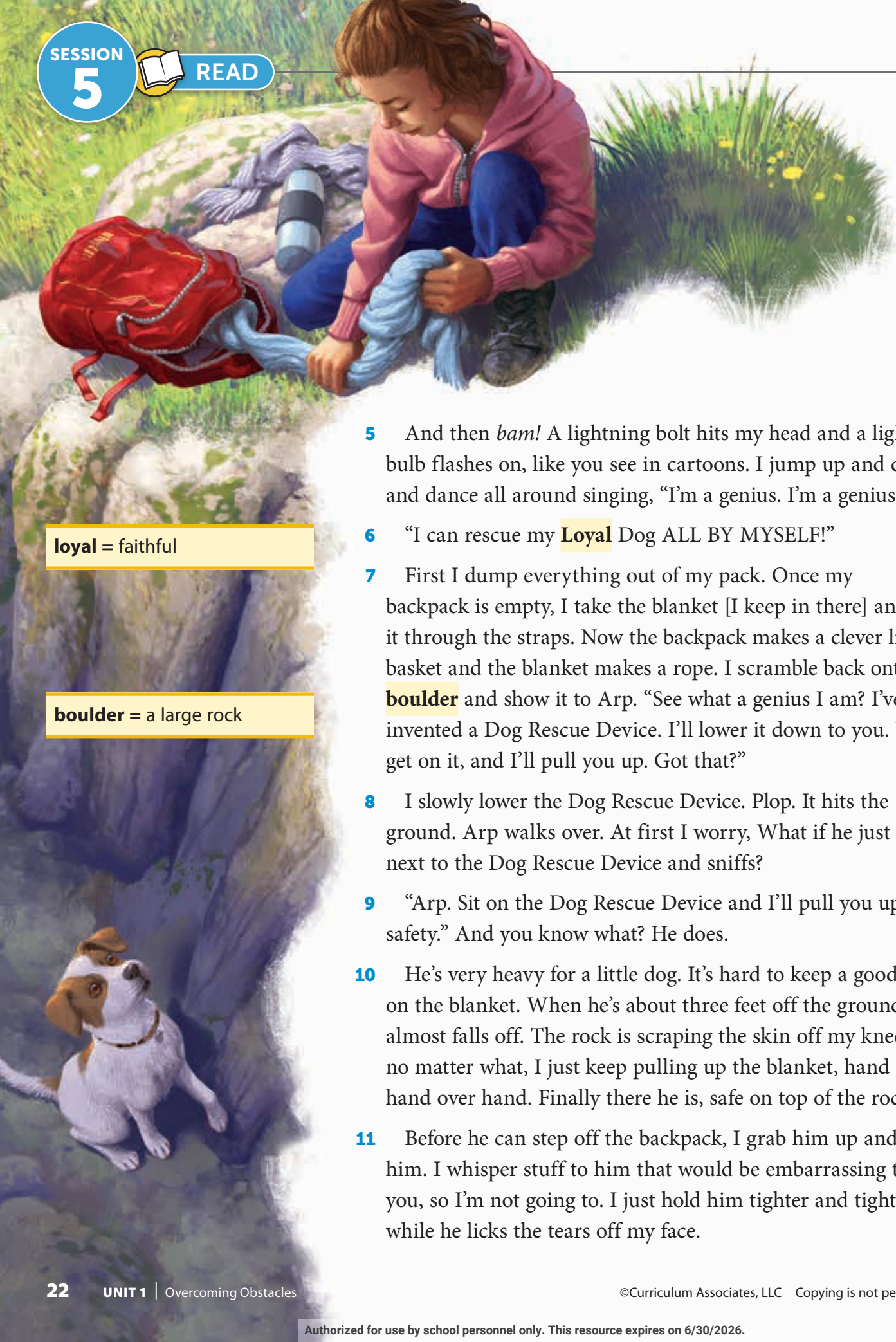
Nature Girl

by Jane Kelley

Megan's dog, Arp, becomes lost during a hike. When Megan finally finds him, she discovers that Arp has fallen into a gap between some huge rocks.

- 1 I lie down on a rock and reach toward him. I stretch my fingers as long as they will go, but it's no use. My hand is nowhere near him.
- 2 "Come on, jump up." If he jumps really high and I grab onto his collar, maybe I can pull him up to safety. But he doesn't jump. Of course, he doesn't know what I'm talking about.
- 3 He puts his head down on his paws and whines. I lie down on the rock so I can reach toward him again. I still don't know what to do, but I feel better lying there. The rock is warm. I know that's just because it sat in the sun all day, but it's comforting—like when you put your face against a little dog's furry body.
- 4 "Don't worry, Arp; I'll get you out of there." The only trouble is I don't know how.





loyal = faithful

boulder = a large rock

- 5 And then *bam!* A lightning bolt hits my head and a light bulb flashes on, like you see in cartoons. I jump up and down and dance all around singing, “I’m a genius. I’m a genius.”
- 6 “I can rescue my **Loyal** Dog ALL BY MYSELF!”
- 7 First I dump everything out of my pack. Once my backpack is empty, I take the blanket [I keep in there] and loop it through the straps. Now the backpack makes a clever little basket and the blanket makes a rope. I scramble back onto the **boulder** and show it to Arp. “See what a genius I am? I’ve invented a Dog Rescue Device. I’ll lower it down to you. You get on it, and I’ll pull you up. Got that?”
- 8 I slowly lower the Dog Rescue Device. Plop. It hits the ground. Arp walks over. At first I worry, What if he just stands next to the Dog Rescue Device and sniffs?
- 9 “Arp. Sit on the Dog Rescue Device and I’ll pull you up to safety.” And you know what? He does.
- 10 He’s very heavy for a little dog. It’s hard to keep a good grip on the blanket. When he’s about three feet off the ground, he almost falls off. The rock is scraping the skin off my knees. But no matter what, I just keep pulling up the blanket, hand over hand over hand. Finally there he is, safe on top of the rock.
- 11 Before he can step off the backpack, I grab him up and hug him. I whisper stuff to him that would be embarrassing to tell you, so I’m not going to. I just hold him tighter and tighter while he licks the tears off my face.



Respond to Text

Reread/Think

Reread *Nature Girl*. Choose the best response to each question about the text.

1. PART A

What problem is Megan trying to solve at the beginning of the story?

- A. Arp is trapped between some big rocks.
- B. Megan has become lost while on a hike.
- C. Megan needs to get down from a tall rock.
- D. Arp has gotten cold after being outside.

PART B

Which sentence from the text **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "I lie down on a rock and reach toward him." (paragraph 1)
- B. "The rock is warm." (paragraph 3)
- C. "'Don't worry, Arp; I'll get you out of there.'" (paragraph 4)
- D. "'I'm a genius.'" (paragraph 5)

2. What does Megan mean in paragraph 5 when she thinks, "A lightning bolt hits my head and a light bulb flashes on"?

- A. Megan has a great idea.
- B. Megan needs a flashlight.
- C. Megan sees a storm coming.
- D. Megan suddenly feels angry.



Reread/Think

3. What is the **most** important thing that happens in paragraph 7?
 - A. Megan climbs back up the boulder.
 - B. Megan tells Arp about her invention.
 - C. Megan dumps all of her supplies out.
 - D. Megan makes something to help Arp.
4. Which detail should be included in a summary of this story?
 - A. Megan holds onto Arp tightly while he licks the tears off her face.
 - B. Megan whispers embarrassing things to Arp after she rescues him.
 - C. Megan lowers the Dog Rescue Device down to Arp and then she pulls him up.
 - D. Megan worries Arp might just stand next to the Dog Rescue Device and sniff it.

Write

What happens to Megan and Arp in *Nature Girl*? Write a short summary of the story. Use the Writing Checklist to review your work.

[illegible]

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I included the story's main characters and setting.
- ☐ I described the most important events of the story's beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ I left out unimportant details.
- ☐ I used complete sentences.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.



Respond to the Focus Question

What are some ways people get through difficult situations?

Reread/Think

In your small group, reread each text and fill in the table. You may also refer back to the summaries you wrote about each story.

	Oren in "The Save"	Stef in "School Dance Disaster"	Megan in the excerpt from <i>Nature Girl</i>
Difficult Situation			
How the Character Solved It			

Talk

As a whole class, discuss the following question:

What did you learn from these texts about getting through a difficult situation?

The most important thing I learned was ____.

I had a similar experience when ____.

You can get through difficult situations by ____.

Write

What are some ways people get through difficult situations? Include an introductory sentence. Use examples from all three stories in your response. You may also include examples from your own life.