



Name: _____

Date: _____

CRACK THE TEST DETECTIVE METHOD

1 READ CLUES

Circle key words

2 ANNOTATE

Write what it asks

3 FIND EVIDENCE

Passage first

4 ANALYZE

Answer in your head

5 ELIMINATE

Use evidence only

Directions: Read independently. Return to the passage for proof. Underline the details that support your answer.

Cold Read 1: Tante Tortue and the Greedy Gator

Original folktale-style cold read

[1] Beside a quiet Louisiana bayou, Tante Tortue and her family crossed a shallow path each evening to eat tender plants on the far bank.

[2] One week, a large alligator settled in the crossing. "This is my place now," he bragged. The young turtles were frightened, but Tante Tortue did not argue. She sat still and watched the water.

[3] Behind a wall of reeds, she noticed a narrow channel curling around the cypress roots. It was too tight for the alligator, but wide enough for the turtles.

[4] That evening, the turtles slipped through the hidden channel one at a time. The alligator waited at the old crossing and saw no one. Tante Tortue smiled. "Big teeth can block one path, but careful eyes may find another."

1A. Which sentence BEST states the main idea, or central message, of the folktale?

- A. Strong animals should control the best path.
C. Turtles should only travel at night.

- B. Careful thinking can solve a difficult problem.
D. Cypress trees make the safest homes.

1B. Which detail BEST supports the answer to Part A?

- A. The turtles eat plants on the far bank.
C. Tante Tortue finds a hidden channel and leads her family through it.

- B. The alligator brags about the crossing.
D. The young turtles are frightened.

2. Choose TWO important details that explain HOW Tante Tortue solved the problem.

- A. She watches the water instead of arguing.
C. She notices the narrow channel behind the reeds.
E. The family lives near a cypress tree.

- B. The water is warm.
D. The alligator has big teeth.

3. Written Response: State the main idea. Use TWO details from the passage as text evidence.

The main idea is _____. One detail is _____. Another detail is _____.



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DETECTIVE REMINDER: Main idea = what the story is mostly teaching. Important details = the proof that helps show it.**Cold Read 2: Raccoon and the Crawfish Basket**

Original folktale-style cold read

[1] One spring morning, Raccoon and Pelican found a wooden basket of crawfish beside the bayou. A note on the handle asked them to carry it to a family picnic near the levee.

[2] "We can carry it together," Pelican said. Raccoon wanted all the praise, so he pushed Pelican away. Then he added several loose crawfish to the already full basket.

[3] Pelican warned him that the basket was too heavy. Raccoon would not listen. Halfway across a narrow board over a muddy ditch, the basket tipped. Crawfish tumbled into the water and disappeared under the grass.

[4] Pelican carried the few crawfish that had stayed near her and placed them on the picnic table. Raccoon arrived with an empty basket. He had wanted all the credit, but his greed left him with less than if he had shared the work.

4A. Which sentence BEST states the main idea, or central message, of the folktale?

- A.** Wanting too much can cause you to lose what was already enough. **B.** Working alone is always faster.
C. Crawfish are hard to carry. **D.** Pelicans are stronger than raccoons.

4B. Which detail BEST supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** The picnic is near the levee. **B.** Pelican lifts one side of the basket.
C. Raccoon adds more crawfish, refuses help, and loses the crawfish when the basket tips. **D.** The board crosses a muddy ditch.

5. Choose TWO important details that explain WHY Raccoon loses the crawfish.

- A.** He wants all the praise and refuses Pelican's help. **B.** The basket is made of wood.
C. He adds more crawfish after being warned it is too full. **D.** The family picnic is near the levee.
E. Pelican carries a few crawfish to the table.

6. Written Response: State the main idea. Use TWO details from the passage as text evidence.

The main idea is _____. One detail is _____, and the other detail is _____.

Use the written-response notes as acceptable examples, not required exact wording.

COLD READ 1 - TANTE TORTUE AND THE GREEDY GATOR

1A	B - Careful thinking can solve a difficult problem.
1	C - Tante Tortue finds a hidden channel and leads her family through it.
2	A and C - She watches instead of arguing; she notices the narrow channel behind the reeds.
3	Accept a response stating that careful thinking/observation can solve a difficult problem. Student must use TWO accurate text details, such as: she watches the water, notices the hidden channel, or leads the turtles through the channel to avoid the alligator.

COLD READ 2 - RACCOON AND THE CRAWFISH BASKET

4A	A - Wanting too much can cause you to lose what was already enough.
4B	C - Raccoon adds more crawfish, refuses help, and loses the crawfish when the basket tips.
5	A and C - He wants all the praise/refuses help; he adds more crawfish after being warned the basket is too full.
6	Accept a response stating that greed can cause a person to lose what they already have, or that sharing/help is wiser than taking all the credit. Student must use TWO accurate details, such as: Raccoon refuses help, adds more crawfish after a warning, or loses the crawfish when the basket tips.

QUICK SCORING FOR WRITTEN RESPONSES

2 points	States an accurate main idea/central message AND supports it with two accurate text details.
1 point	States an accurate main idea/central message but gives only one accurate detail, OR gives two relevant details with an unclear main idea.
0 points	Response is incorrect, off topic, or does not use text evidence.

Teacher note: These are original cold-read passages designed to follow a Cajun Folktales study that may include Tops & Bottoms and Lapin Plays Possum. No text from those copyrighted works is reproduced.