**[Task #1]**

**The Play**

“I don’t want to go out there,” Grace said as she wiped away a tear.

Grace’s mother stood behind the stage and looked at Grace. She knew that performing in front of many people could be scary but she knew that she needed to help Grace overcome her stage fright.

“I was afraid like you when I needed to perform. Instead of not doing it, I held a little hope in my pocket. You cannot see hope or feel hope, but it is the imaginary knowledge feeling that everything will be okay,” said Grace’s mother.

**Question: How and why does the conversation that Grace had with her mother change Grace? Use textual evidence & your background knowledge to explain your answer.**

**[Task #2]**

**In Search for Gold**

More than one hundred years ago, thousands of men, women, and children moved to the western portions of the United States. In the 1800s, gold was discovered in California. Anyone that found gold could instantly become rich. Rarely, did this happen. A few clever individuals noticed the true gold that was filling the state. It was in the form of human beings. These same individuals that had hoped to find riches needed clothing, food, and a place to rest their heads at night. At this time, the West was a combination of forest and desert sprinkled with a few Native American reservations. The newly created cities were fertile grounds for the businesses that the new citizens saw back at home. Anyone with foresight could see the possibilities that industry could bring.

**Question: It is said that some found wealth in the West although they never discovered gold. What does this mean? Use textual evidence & your background knowledge to defend your ideas.**

**[Task #3]**

Flooding is when too much rain falls to an area. This can change the lives of many people and accounts for destroyed property, mold, and weathering along coasts. Once an area becomes flooded, it could take several months before the area is restored.

Based on the text, the reader can infer…

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Text Clues  | Schema  | Inference  |
|  |  | 1. Flooding can be helpful
2. Too much rain is harmful
3. All places get the same rainfall
 |

**[Task #4]**

Asha fixed her saddle and looked at the Sahara Desert air. It was an orange melon in a burnt orange sky. She had to find water fast for her and her horse. The nearest river was miles away, but close by was a nomadic tribe of people that were sure to have buckets of water. Could she ask for help? Her hands began to sweat and she stammered as she spoke.

Asha most likely feels…

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Text Clues  | Schema  | Inference  |
|  |  | 1. Nervous
2. Proud
3. Surprised
 |

**[Task #5]**

Some animals such as the monarch butterfly, take flight as the temperatures drop. They fly to southern regions of the continent. Squirrels prepare for the cooler seasons by growing an undercoat. An undercoat is a second layer of fur that is closest to an animals skin. It provides added warmth when the climate drops to freezing temperatures.

What is the function of an undercoat?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Text Clues  | Schema  | Inference  |
|  |  | 1. It makes migration easier
2. It makes winter survivable
3. It makes food easier to find
 |

**[Task #6]**

How might things have been different for August if he had decided not to go to school? Do you think he would have grown as much as he did?

Use textual evidence & your background knowledge.

**[Above & Beyond: Task #7]**

Create your own scenario (imaginary or real-life). Ask your partner to make an inference about it. Then, switch roles.