

CISD Grade 6 ELAR Unit 02

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Seeing Things

1) Ten-year-old Lance Taggert, his little sister, and mother had just gotten home from the grocery store. After helping his mother put away the groceries, Lance wandered into the family room to turn on the television. But, he quickly ran back into the kitchen.

2) "Mom, come quick. There's a bird in the family room!" His mom quickly followed him into the other room, but there was no bird to be found. She asked Lance if he was sure he'd seen a bird.

3) "Yeah, Mom. It flew right over my head. I didn't see much of it, just a dark shape, but it was definitely a bird." Lance and his mother walked around the room carefully. They continued to search all through the downstairs of the house, but no bird was found.

4) That night at dinner, Lance told his dad what had happened. His dad listened politely, but nodded in a vague way that told Lance that his father seemed to think he was imagining things.

5) "If we had a bird in the house, we'd know it," he calmly explained.

6) "But, Dad, I'm telling you, it flew right over me," Lance answered.

7) "Well, maybe it flew out the door when you were bringing in groceries," his dad responded. Lance shook his head and muttered to himself. He knew that he had not opened the door to bring in groceries after the bird incident. It was pretty annoying to realize that neither of his parents believed him, but it seemed he was wasting his breath.

8) "I bet I know what happened!" his mom said suddenly. "I bet the bird flew into the fireplace and up the chimney. Remember that time a couple of years ago when we could hear birds chirping, and there was a nest in the chimney?"

9) Lance's face lit up. "Yeah, Mom, I bet that's it." That possibility seemed to satisfy everyone, and the topic was dropped.

10) Later that night, both kids had gone to bed. Mrs. Taggert went upstairs to her bedroom to read, leaving Mr. Taggert downstairs watching television. She read for a few minutes before turning off the light to go to sleep. Within about five minutes, she heard a strange noise and felt the air move over her head. She quickly sat up in bed and listened intently. There it was again, and this time something actually skimmed the top of her hair. She jumped up quickly and flipped on the light switch.

11) "I bet this is Lance's bird that he saw," she told herself. But once the lights were on, she could find nothing in the room. She grabbed her robe to go downstairs to get her husband, shutting the bedroom door behind her. When she told Mr. Taggert about the incident, he turned off the TV and immediately went upstairs with her. He opened the door to the lighted bedroom carefully and took a cautious look inside, seeing nothing. Mrs. Taggert was close behind, and they both entered the room and closed the door behind them. No bird was there!

12) "Look, you must have just been dreaming; Lance got you thinking about birds with that tale of his," Mr. Taggert said. "Let's just go to bed and forget all this nonsense." Now Mrs. Taggert knew how Lance must have felt earlier. She was sure she had seen or at least heard a bird, but with no evidence, it was hard to convince her husband. She sighed and went back to bed.

13) A few minutes after the Taggerts had turned off the light to go to sleep, it happened again. Both of them heard a rustling and flapping as something swooped over their bed actually fanning the air right over their heads. Mr. Taggert yelped and quickly sat upright as he reached to turn on the bedside lamp. This time both of them actually saw it. As the dark shape zoomed by, they realized it wasn't a bird after all. It was a bat, and it was flying around their room! Both adults jumped up and ran for the door, slamming it behind them.

14) Mr. Taggert looked rather pale and turned to his wife, "Okay, okay, you and Lance were right. Now we've got to figure out how to get it out of here." He then went downstairs to the coat closet and located a baseball cap and grabbed a golf club. Meanwhile, Mrs. Taggert had gone to get a broom to use.

15) "You'll need a hat to protect your head," Mr. Taggert told her. Looking around for something to put on, Mrs. Taggert spotted the toy chest and grabbed up her daughter's play fireman hat. The Taggerts looked pretty silly in their outfits, but, after all, they were going to battle a bat! They marched back upstairs and cautiously opened the bedroom door once again, letting their eyes dart around the room to locate the despised creature. Once again, however, nothing was to be seen.

16) "This is getting to be ridiculous," said Mr. Taggert. "One minute it's here, then it's gone." But, no bat. They searched the bedroom thoroughly and even carefully opened and examined their closet. "Well, I don't know where it's hiding," said Mr. Taggert.

17) "Come on, we need to get some sleep. Let's sleep in the guest room and figure out what to do tomorrow," said Mrs. Taggert. They closed the door behind them.

18) The next morning at breakfast the Taggerts explained to their children about their night's adventure. Lance was pretty excited to find out he had been right all along. And, he liked the idea of a bat, even better than a mere bird being in the house.

19) "What are we going to do now, Dad? Can I help catch it?" Lance asked.

20) "No, I think we had better get some expert help. Bats can carry rabies and can be pretty nasty, so I don't want to fool around with it." He then got the phone book to look up the number for Animal Control. When he called them, he was told that bats were not part of their regular animal service. They suggested he phone an exterminator.

21) Later that morning, the exterminator arrived. The Taggerts described what had occurred the night before. The exterminator said that there were lots of bats in the nearby woods by the creek. Probably, one of them had flown down the chimney and gotten trapped in the house. Each time the room was dark, the bat would begin to fly around, but when the light was turned on, it would hide. Bats are nocturnal animals, he explained, but he told the family he would take care of it.

22) Lance was amazed when he saw the equipment that a professional bat exterminator uses. The exterminator came back into the house wearing heavy mitts and carrying a tennis racket and a canvas bag. He asked to be taken to the bedroom. He entered and shut the door behind him. Less than ten minutes later, he came out grinning and clutching the top of the bag which had been tied shut.

23) "Well, I got it. It took a few minutes, but I finally located it. When I couldn't find it anywhere you had looked, I started taking pictures off the wall. Sure enough, the bat was hanging upside down from the wire behind the picture over the dresser. I used the tennis racket like a scoop to grab it, and now it's in this bag."

24) "What will you do with it?" Lance asked. The exterminator explained that he would release it in the woods where it probably lived. Chances of ever having another incident were pretty slim, he explained. But, he did recommend doing something to prevent a future occurrence.

25) Later that morning, Lance was telling his mom about his weekend homework. "Hey, Mom, I'm supposed to do the rough draft of a Halloween story for Monday. I bet I'll have the best story in the class now!"

- 1 What clue tells you that *Seeing Things* is written from the third person point-of-view?
- A The narrator stands inside the story.
 - B The main character is telling what happened.
 - C The story is told by someone not identified by name.
 - D The narrator tells what every character is thinking.
- 2 What is the main idea of Paragraph 7?
- F Lance's dad listens politely to the story of the bird incident.
 - G Lance's dad does not believe anything is flying around in the house.
 - H Lance's mom thinks a bird came down the chimney.
 - J Mrs. Taggert has her own weird experience with something flying in her bedroom.
- 3 What is a theme that is portrayed in this selection?
- A respecting and learning to love nature
 - B overcoming obstacles and continuing to try
 - C learning to believe those you trust
 - D believing in yourself

- 4 What type of conflict is found in *Seeing Things*?
- F man vs. self
 - G man vs. society
 - H man vs. machine
 - J man vs. nature
- 5 After examining the word **nocturnal** in Paragraph 21, and reading the exterminator's explanation of bat behavior, you can conclude that the Latin root **noct** means —
- A of the night
 - B of the earth
 - C of water
 - D of air
- 6 One sentence was removed from this story because it was written in **PASSIVE VOICE**. Which sentence below is written in passive voice?
- F Baby birds occupied the chimney.
 - G The chimney was occupied by baby birds.
 - H The exterminator acted swiftly and professionally.
 - J Being a professional, the exterminator acted swiftly.

- 7 Which of the following is the BEST summary of this story?
- A When a boy sees a bird in his house, no one believes him. It takes both of his parents having a scary experience to convince them that a bat, not a mere bird, has entered their home. An exterminator gets rid of it for them.
 - B A family calls for animal control, only to learn that they do not deal with bats. They then call an exterminator and are surprised by the equipment he uses. They learn the secrets of trapping a bat in their home.
 - C A family learns that bats can be both dangerous and frightening. Because bats can carry rabies, a professional exterminator is called in to locate the creature. He captures the bat in a canvas bag.
 - D An exterminator realizes that bats can find some very strange hiding places. After searching the bedroom and the closet, he removes pictures from the wall. The bat is discovered hanging from a wire on the back of a picture. It is released into the woods.

Scene adapted from *Picnic* by William Inge, 1951

Picnic

[Madge walks into the living room from the kitchen. Millie turns to see her sister, Madge.]

MADGE: [sitting on the sofa now] I don't know why you couldn't have helped us in the kitchen, as we had such tiresome, meticulous work to do. It took us hours with only the two of us.

MILLIE: (flipping her hair with her hand) I had to get dressed for the picnic. It's a monumental event in my life, you know. It's not only the crowning event of the year for our fair town, but it is my first time to go out on a date!

MADGE: Well, I had to make the potato salad and devil the eggs and make three dozen chocolate cookies, and, if I hadn't done that, the "crowning event" wouldn't be quite so crowning, I imagine.

MILLIE: I had to bathe and fix my hair and find just the right dress!

MADGE: Did you clean out the bathtub?

MILLIE: Yes, I cleaned out the bathtub! [She becomes very self-conscious.] Madge, do I look heavy in this? Now tell me the truth. (turning this way and that in front of Madge, holding her skirt out away from her hips)

MADGE: You look very lovely.

MILLIE: I feel nervous though. Madge, how do you talk to boys anyway?

MADGE: Well, you just talk, silly. It's not hard.

MILLIE: How do you think of the right things to say?

MADGE: I don't know. You just say whatever comes to your mind.

MILLIE: What if nothing ever comes into my head?

MADGE: You talked with him all right this morning, didn't you? If you hadn't, I doubt that he would have asked you out.

MILLIE: But now I've got to go to the picnic with him, and that's different!

MADGE: You're crazy.

(Millie shrugs her shoulders and looks dreamily out the window.)

I think he's a big showoff myself. You should have seen him this morning at the ballpark. He hit two home runs, and kids stood around awestruck. He just ate it up. You'd think he played for the Texas Rangers or something!

MILLIE: *[her mind elsewhere]* I think I'll paint my toenails and wear sandals tonight.

MADGE: And he was bragging all afternoon about how he used to travel around to all the biggest cities, and crowds would swarm in just to watch him. I don't believe a word of it, myself.

MILLIE: Honest? He was a Texas Ranger?

MADGE: And he says he used to make thousands of dollars doing "exhibitions." I guess that's just hitting balls out of the park with no game going on. What kind of profession is that? Do you believe any of that?

MILLIE: I don't see why not?

MADGE: You never hear my Alan bragging that way.

MILLIE: Alan never won a championship baseball game.

MADGE: Millie, I think he's bad news.

MILLIE: You think every boy I see has some fatal flaw – some ghastly character trait.

MADGE: Alan took us to the Dairy Park for Cokes, and there were a bunch of girls sitting outside — Janice Mallory and her friends. *[Millie groans at hearing this name.]* When they saw him, they started giggling and carrying on and just being juvenile. Then, Janice comes up to me and whispers, "He's the most adorable thing I ever saw."

MILLIE: Do you think he is handsome, Madge?

MADGE: I wouldn't say he was "the cutest thing I ever saw" — hardly extraordinary, in my book.

MILLIE: Well, he's so charming, I'm afraid he won't like me. Do you think he will?

MADGE: Why ask me all these questions? You've made your mind up what you want,

so just go ahead.

MILLIE: I don't really care what you think, anyway! (Millie flounces upstairs.)

8 **me-tic-u-lous**
adj \mə- 'ti-kyə-ləs\

: marked by **extreme** or excessive care
in the consideration or treatment of details <a *meticulous* researcher>

tire-some
adj \ ' tī(- ə)r-s ə m\

: wearisome, tedious
<a *tiresome* lecture>

In the first speech, Madge states that *kitchen work is tiresome and **meticulous***. Use the dictionary entries above to help you select the BEST paraphrase of this sentence.

- F** ...we had some tedious, detailed work to do
- G** ...we had some weary, extreme work to do
- H** ...we had some tired, considerate work to do
- J** ...we had some excessive research to do

9 In the play, Madge states, *You'd think he played for the Texas Rangers or something*. By using this phrase, Madge is trying to use which of the following to make her point?

- A** exaggeration
- B** personification
- C** idiom
- D** refrain

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10 Which character do you believe is sitting on the porch on the left. What elements of costuming, together with characterization found in the script, support your prediction?

Read the following paragraph. Look for any errors and answer the questions below.

(1) Marty wanted Jerri to go see *Picnic* over the weekend, but Jerri had already went with her

friend Juanita. (2) Marty had to find someone else to go with her, if she didn't want to go alone.

(3) She did not know her very well, Marty thought that maybe Annete might like to go.

(4) The next morning, Marty got to school early. (5) So she could make contact with Annette.

(6) Right before the bell rang, Marty found her talking to sgt Dugger, the security officer.

(7) She waited patiently, giving Annette a genuine smile. (8) Once Annette finished her conversation, she turned to Marty and said , "Hi!", sounding happy that Marty had sought her out.

(8) "I have some friends starring in *Picnic* this weekend, and I don't really want to go by myself.

(9) I know you are new here, so I thought you might want to go with me, and meet some more

people. (10) Would you like to go?" (11) "That sounds great," responded Annette. "Would you like

me to RSVP for us?" (12) Oddly, Annette's acceptance had an unexpected affect on Marty who

started out just wanting someone to go along with her, but ended up beginning a new friendship.

- 11** What change, if any, should be made in Sentence 1?
- A** Change *had* to *have*.
 - B** Change *went* to *gone*.
 - C** Change *had* to *have* and *went* to *gone*.
 - D** Make no change.
- 12** What is the **BEST** way to repair the sentence structure in Sentence 3?
- F** Add *While* to the beginning and remove the capital on *She*.
 - G** Add the word *although* after the comma.
 - H** Add the word *If* to the beginning and remove the capital on *She*.
 - J** Add the word *Because* to the beginning and remove the capital on *She*.
- 13** What is the **BEST** way to repair Sentence 5?
- A** Since it is a fragment, remove the word *so* and capitalize the word *she*.
 - B** Since it is a fragment, remove the period at the end of Sentence 4 and replace it with a comma. Then remove the capital letter on *So*.
 - C** Since it is a compound sentence, put a comma after the word *So*.
 - D** Since it is a complete simple sentence, it needs no change.

- 14** What change if any should be made to Sentence 6?
- F** Change *sgt* to *SGT* with no period.
 - G** Change *sgt* to *Sgt*.
 - H** Change *sgt* to *Sgt* with no period.
 - J** Make no change.
- 15** Which spelling change, if any, should be made in Sentence 12?
- A** Change *affect* to *effect*.
 - B** Change *acceptance* to *exceptance*.
 - C** Change *friendship* to *friendsship*.
 - D** Make no change.