

READING COMPREHENSION

GRADE 5

READ AND DISCOVER

Directions: Read "The Pony Express" and answer the questions.

1. What was the primary purpose of the Pony Express?
 A delivering gold to California
 B providing horses for cowboys
 C cutting travel time for mail delivery
 D building stagecoaches
2. In which year did the Pony Express start its mail service?
 A 1830
 B 1840
 C 1850
 D 1870
3. How long did the Pony Express take to deliver mail from Missouri to California?

THE PONY EXPRESS

Today, there are many ways to quickly send messages halfway across the world, whether it's a text, email, or even video chat. It is very easy for us to talk to people far away. That was not always the case. Long ago, people relied on the postal service to communicate with others.

In 1850, it took about 25 days to send a letter from one side of the United States to California. In those days, California was quickly growing. Thousands of people moved to California in hopes of finding gold. The problem was that because they moved so far away, it was hard to communicate with family and friends they had left behind on the other side of the country. It took a very long time to deliver messages, newspapers, and mail.

In 1850, three businessmen, William H. Russell, Alexander Majors, and William G. Waddell, made a solution. Together, they started the Pony Express. The Pony Express was a mail service that started in Joseph, Missouri. It stretched for 1,900 miles to Sacramento, California. Their goal was to cut the travel time in half, so they wanted to be able to get a letter from Missouri to California in only 10 days. Many people thought this was impossible.

The three men knew that having riders instead of stagecoaches would be much faster and easier. They hired 120 riders and bought 400 horses. They also built 154 stations. Riders had to be under 125 pounds so that the horses didn't have to carry a heavy load. The riders were only allowed to take a gun for protection, some food, and their mochila.

The mochila (Spanish for backpack) was a pouch that carried the letters. Each pouch could hold up to 20 pounds of mail. There was a station every ten miles along the 1,900-mile route. The riders would ride a horse of full speed from one station to the next. They would then switch to a fresh horse and ride the next leg. They would ride both day and night.

Even though it worked well, the Pony Express only lasted for 19 months. Part of the reason was that it was very expensive to send a letter through the Pony Express. At first, the price was \$5 per 1/2 ounce. That would be about \$130 in today's money. The price was lowered, but a lot of people still couldn't afford it. The invention of the telegraph also caused the Pony Express to end. The telegraph allowed instant communication across the country. The Pony Express couldn't compete with that. On October 26, 1861, the Pony Express closed. This was just two days after the announcement of the transcontinental telegraph.

The Pony Express was an amazing service. It may seem very old-fashioned to us. When you think about it, though, it should make us much more thankful for the quick ways that we can communicate with people all over the world today.



Shelly Rees

Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook

E Durkheim



Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook:

Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous captivating novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have captivated audiences this year. The Must-Read :

Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover masterfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph.

Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids absorbing storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery.

Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered.

The novel begins with Richard Papan, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts.

The Secret History is a masterful and thrilling novel that will keep you speculating until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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Table of Contents Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook

1. Understanding the eBook Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook User Reviews and Ratings
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook Free and Paid eBooks
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook Public Domain eBooks
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook eBook Subscription Services
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook Compatibility with Devices
 - Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Interactive Elements Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
8. Staying Engaged with Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook

- Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
- Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
- Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
- Setting Reading Goals Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Complete Workbook Reading Comprehension Workbook
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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