Adelina’s Whales
Adelina Mayoral lives in La Laguna, Mexico. Each January, the gray whales arrive in the lagoon near La Laguna and stay for three months before migrating farther north for the summer. Whale watchers, scientists, and photographers visit La Laguna from all over the world to observe and interact with the whales.

Activity
Silly Sentences Create silly sentences about unusual pets. Try to make each sentence sillier than the one before. If someone says, “If I had a pet whale, I’d walk it on a leash every day,” you might say, “If I had a pet whale, I’d sleep inside its mouth underwater.”

Fact and Opinion
A statement of fact can be proved true or false. You can use a reference book or your own knowledge, or ask an expert, to prove it true or false. A statement of opinion cannot be proved true or false because it expresses a belief or a judgment.

Activity
Not Just the Facts Together, with a family member, read a short newspaper editorial. Identify sentences that are statements of fact, statements of opinion, or both. Talk about what clues made you decide to categorize the sentences the way you did.
Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know
Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading Adelina’s Whales. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words
biologist a scientist who studies living things
bluff a high, steep slope or cliff
lagoon a pond or small lake, especially one connected to a larger body of water.
massive big and heavy; bulky
rumbling making a deep, heavy, continuous sound
tropical of or like the regions 23.45 degrees north and south of the equator, where the sun can shine directly overhead

Main and Helping Verbs
The main verb shows the action in a sentence. The helping verb works with the main verb, helping to show whether the action in the sentence is in the past, present, or future. Am, is, are, was, and were can be helping verbs. For example: I am talking to Mother. “Talking” is the main verb and “am” is the helping verb.

Activity
When Is It Happening? Make a list together of several action verbs. Then see if you can write three sentences for each one of them, using a helping verb to show action happening in the past, present, and future. For example: We were cooking dinner. We are cooking dinner. Soon we will be cooking dinner.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
_________________  __________________  __________________  __________________

148 Family Times
Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false by doing research.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as best, should, or beautiful. It may begin with the words In my opinion or I believe.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then complete the table. Read each statement and answer the questions at the top of each column.

People and their pets have special relationships. Many people believe that their pets are a part of their families. Some people dress their animals in colorful clothes and buy expensive food for them to eat.

Pets also help people in many ways. For instance, pets can cheer up people who are sick or living alone. Barking dogs protect people and their homes. In addition, Seeing Eye™ dogs guide their blind owners. These dogs are trained to stop walking if they sense a dangerous situation and to avoid low branches and other obstacles. Whether the animals are companions or trained partners, animal experts feel that it’s important to treat them kindly.

<table>
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<td>Seeing Eye™ dogs guide their blind owners.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many people believe that their pets are a part of their family.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
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5. Write a statement of fact from the passage. How could you prove it?

**Home Activity** Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short passage. Read an article or story about nature with your child. Ask your child to identify the facts and opinions in the article or story.

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Name _________________________________________

Vocabulary

Directions Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line.

Joan Ferguson looked out over the blue 1. __________. She viewed the whales shooting air out of their blowholes. As the mist covered the air above the water, a low 2. __________ sound echoed across the valley. Joan felt small as she observed the 3. __________ mammals. She was a 4. __________, or a scientist who studied animals. Joan came to the same 5. __________ location every year.

Directions Circle the word or words with the same or nearly the same meaning as the first word in the group.

6. rumbling deep sound squeaky sound sharp sound silent

7. bluff lake creek cliff island

8. massive tiny bulky salty long

9. biologist nurse doctor teacher scientist

10. lagoon pond bluff island ocean

Write a Newspaper Article

On a separate sheet of paper write a newspaper article about an animal that returns to the same place every year. Remember to include a title, and use as many vocabulary words as you can.
Vocabulary • Multiple-Meaning Words

- **Multiple-meaning words** are words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, depending upon how they are used in a sentence.
- When you read, you may come to a word whose meaning you know, but that meaning does not make sense in the sentence. Use **context clues** to find the meaning.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

The tropical island nation of Jamaica is wonderful to visit. Its weather is warm and sunny, although brief rain showers fall almost every day. The sound of thunder rumbling through the sky gives everyone time to take cover. Since it is sunny so much, it is a lovely place to go swimming. There are many waterfalls and warm-water lagoons on the island. Some of the lagoons are hidden behind a bluff or a cluster of hills. At the beach, you might sit on the sand, read a book, and watch for the flukes of passing whales.

1. What does the word *bluff* mean in this passage? What clues can help you determine the correct definition?

2. *Sand* can mean “tiny grains of stone and shell” or “what you do to make wood smooth.” How is it used in the passage? How can you tell?

3. *Beach* can mean “the sand at the ocean’s edge” or “to wash up on shore.” Which meaning does it have above? How do you know?

4. *Flukes* can mean “parts of an animal” or “strokes of luck.” How is it used in the passage? How can you tell?

5. Why are context clues useful when you encounter multiple-meaning words?

**Home Activity** Your child identified and used context clues to understand multiple-meaning words used in a passage. Work with your child to identify other multiple-meaning words. Make a list of the words and take turns using them in sentences that employ the words’ different meanings.

**R1.6** Distinguish and interpret words with multiple meanings.
Generalize

- A generalization is a broad statement or rule that applies to many examples.
- You can test generalizations with knowledge you already have to see if they make sense.

Directions  Read the article. Then answer the questions below.

Many birds migrate, or move from one place to another at specific times of the year. For example, birds such as geese and sparrows fly south for the winter. It is warmer in the south, and there is more to eat there. Some birds will fly the same path year after year. Many scientists say that the birds don’t get lost because they use the stars at night to guide them. When some birds migrate, they form different patterns in the sky. One of the most common is the V formation. Geese migrate in a V formation. Each goose takes turns as the lead bird. The other geese follow in the shape of a V. The lead bird must fly directly into the wind and block the wind for the other birds. By taking turns as lead bird, no goose becomes too tired during the journey. Seeing the birds fly south is always a sign that winter is on its way.

1. Write an example of a generalization in the passage.

2. How do you know that this is a generalization?

3. Write another example of a generalization in the passage.

4. How do you know that this is a generalization?

5. Do you think the above generalizations are true, based on what you know about birds? Explain.

Home Activity  Your child read information about the migration of birds and generalized statements about the information. Challenge your child to find two examples of generalizations from a magazine article.

152 Comprehension  R2.4 Evaluate new information and hypotheses by testing them against known information and ideas.
Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false by doing research.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as *best, should, or beautiful*. It may begin with the words *in my opinion* or *I believe*.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Patrick ran to the edge of the stairs and looked at the large chalkboard next to them. It had information about the ocean’s tides and the day’s weather. Patrick loved knowing what time the tide was going to come in. He knew the tides were caused by the sun and moon pulling the water. Knowing this helped him decide when he would go swimming. The size of the waves always showed how fast the winds were blowing. Patrick knew if the winds were strong, then the waves would be high. He also knew that the winds might bring colder water to the shore. It looked like the ocean was going to be calm today.

Patrick ran down the stairs to the beach and looked around. The beach was already busy. He saw his friends and headed toward them. Patrick knew it was going to be a great day.

1. Give one example of a fact from the passage.

2. How do you know this is a fact and not an opinion?

3. Give one example of an opinion from the passage.

4. How do you know this is an opinion and not a fact?

5. On a separate sheet of paper, create a graphic organizer showing which sentences from the above passage are facts and which are opinions.

**Home Activity** Your child identified facts and opinions in a short passage. Read the promotional material from a book or video to your child. Work together to identify the facts and opinions in the promotion.
Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false by doing research.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as *best, should, or beautiful*. It may begin with the words *in my opinion* or *I believe*.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then complete the table. Read each statement and answer the questions at the top of each column.

In my opinion, dolphins and whales are the best communicators in the animal world. Dolphins and whales make sounds that travel underwater. These sounds are beautiful, almost like music. Animals also communicate in other ways. They use body language or make faces. But I think the sounds animals make are by far the best way that animals communicate. The next time you hear the special sounds of whales or dolphins, try to imagine what they are saying.

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<td>1. ______________________________</td>
<td>2. Best, ______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphins and whales make sounds that travel underwater.</td>
<td>3. ______________________________</td>
<td>4. Do research about ________________________________________________</td>
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5. Write a statement of opinion from the passage. How do you know it is an opinion?

**Home Activity** Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short passage. Talk with your child about places you can research facts to prove they are correct. Give your child two facts to look up. Challenge your child to write a paragraph with the information.

154 Comprehension

**R2.6** Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion in expository text.
The Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature

The Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature is a set of books that is an index of articles published in periodicals. Each volume lists articles published in a specific year. Within each volume, articles are listed alphabetically by author and subject. The introductory pages of each volume explain how to use the Readers’ Guide.

Directions  Look at the volumes of the Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature illustrated below. Then answer the questions that follow.

1. In what order are volumes organized? What volume will be published for 2005?

2. If you were looking to read more about some whales that were saved in 2002, in which volume would you look?

3. How would you use the Readers’ Guide to find the most up-to-date information about whales?

4. If you wanted to read articles about whales written by the biologist Dr. Joan Brady, why do you think you would check several volumes?

5. How are the Readers’ Guides important for research today?

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W1.7 Use various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, card catalog, encyclopedia, online information) as an aid to writing.
Directions  The entry below is similar to what you might see in the Readers' Guide. Read it, then answer the questions that follow.

WHALES
COMMUNICATION
  See also
  Animal behavior
  Marine animals
  Sharing information. K. Kleeman. il Animal Quarterly v.45 pp. 98–101 O ’03
  Whales’ habits. S. Romberg. il The Animal Sanctuary v.20 pp. 22–26 Mr ’04
ENDANGERED See Endangered species
MIGRATION PATTERNS
  See also
  Animal migration
  Marine animals
  Whales’ yearly patterns. T.H. Finley. il Whales and Their Ways v.2 pp. 101–123 S ’04

1. What main subject and subtopics are listed?

2. Name the magazine and article about how whales share information.

3. Where would you find more information about whale communication?

4. Which magazine has an article titled Whales’ Yearly Patterns?

5. Are there any listings about whales that are endangered? Where would you find them?

School 4 Home  Your child answered questions about the Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature. With your child, go to the library and look for articles about something that interests your child.

156  Research and Study Skills  W1.6  Locate information in reference texts by using organizational features (e.g., prefaces, appendixes).