Cross-Curricular Samples

Episode 1: The Up-Trunk Tree

These sample questions show how Chapter 1 can support discussion, reading comprehension, environmental awareness, and math connections through the same story experience.

3rd-Grade Samples

Critical Thinking

1. The Up-Trunk Tree has its trunk where it is not supposed to be. What does this upside-down image suggest about nature, balance, and human choices?

2. Crypt means "CReature You Put There." Why might the story give the guide a name that points back to human responsibility?

3. The boy has to notice something strange in his own yard before the adventure begins. What do people miss when they only glance at nature instead of really looking?

Math Connections

1. Crypt is described as having 3 legs and wearing 1 shoe. How many legs are without shoes?

2. If 5 Crypt-like guide bugs each had 1 wing, how many wings would there be altogether?

3. The boy labels 4 important parts of the Up-Trunk Tree: roots, trunk, branches, and leaves. If he labels each part once, how many labels does he use?

4. The boy asks 3 questions about the tree and 2 questions about Crypt. How many questions does he ask in all?

5. Season 1 has 10 episodes. If The Up-Trunk Tree is Episode 1, how many episodes remain after it?

6th-Grade Samples

Critical Thinking

1. The Up-Trunk Tree is impossible, but the story treats it as a message. How can fantasy make a real environmental problem easier to understand?

2. Crypt is not just a magical helper; his name suggests that people helped create the problem. How does that change the responsibility of the boy, the reader, and the adult viewer?

3. The story begins in an ordinary yard, not a distant wilderness. Why might the author want readers to see environmental responsibility as something that starts close to home?

Math Connections

1. Episode 1 is part of a 10-episode season. What fraction of the season is Episode 1? Write the fraction and the percent.

2. If a class watches 2 episodes each week, how many full weeks will it take to watch all 10 episodes? Explain your calculation.

3. A teacher prints 4 activity pages for each of 18 students. How many pages are printed in all?

4. If 3 groups each make 12 observations in their schoolyard after viewing Chapter 1, how many observations are collected altogether?

5. A library program has 24 children. They split into groups of 4 to discuss the Up-Trunk Tree. How many groups are there? If each group shares 2 ideas, how many ideas are shared?

Teacher / Parent Use: Use the 3rd-grade samples for general discussion or younger learners. Use the 6th-grade samples when you want more abstract reasoning, and use the math questions for 5th-grade-level practice in fractions, multiplication, division, and multi-step thinking.