

PART FOUR: Learn More About Facts and Details

Facts and details give additional meaning to the main idea of a reading passage. When you read, look for sentences that

- ★ describe a person, place or thing.
- ★ tell the order in which things happen.
- ★ explain how to do something.
- ★ share an experience, idea or opinion.
- ★ help you picture where a story takes place.
- ★ understand what characters are like.

Read this journal entry, written long ago. Then answer the questions.

5 January 1838

Somewhere in Victoria

Today, I turned twelve years old, but no one remembered. There has never been a day when I felt more lonely or dejected.

Our food ran out days ago, and none of us have eaten since. Our trip has taken longer than Pa and the others anticipated. Pa and the other men left camp at dawn and, as the sun begins to set on yet another gloomy day, they have not yet returned. He and the other men left to hunt for food.

Ma has been with little Marie all day, trying to help her get over the fever. Me? Well, I've been alone, except for the company of Pete, my dog. And, I'm cold to the bone. I spent most of the day trying to keep warm, sitting by the campfire and thinking about the life we left behind.

I hope next year, when I turn thirteen, things will be like the old days. Then my family and I will sit down to a large dinner. We'll sing songs and tell stories in front of the fire. There will be gifts and laughter, long into the night. If we arrive soon, maybe life will return to normal and be good again.

5. What is the setting for the journal entry?
 - (A) England
 - (B) New South Wales
 - (C) Victoria
 - (D) Van Diemen's Land
6. Which detail helps explain the main idea of paragraph 3?
 - (A) I've been alone, except for the company of Pete, my dog.
 - (B) Our trip has taken longer than Pa and the others anticipated.
 - (C) My family and I will sit down to a large dinner.
 - (D) Today, I turned twelve years old, but no one remembered.
7. Who was sick with a fever?
 - (A) Ma
 - (B) Pa
 - (C) Marie
 - (D) the writer
8. Most of the details in the journal entry
 - (A) explain how to do something.
 - (B) share an experience.
 - (C) tell the order in which things happen.
 - (D) help the reader picture where the story takes place.

