"ZOO" by Edward D. Hoch

READING SKILL-Making inferences: An inference is an intelligent guess, based on what the text tells you, about things NOT directly stated in the text. One way to make inferences is to READ BETWEEN THE LINES.

LITERARY ANALYSIS - Theme: a story’s theme is the message or insight about life. Sometimes, the author states it directly. More often, however, the theme is implied.

Story vocabulary

Interplanetary-

Awe-

Expense-
**Anticipation Guide Form**

**Directions:** Before reading, mark in the Me column whether you agree (A) or disagree (D) with each statement. Be prepared to support your opinions with specific reasons and examples from your prior knowledge and experiences. Then, discuss your responses with your group and mark the group's decision in the Group column. As you read, look for information or details that support your opinion or cause you to change your mind. After reading, mark whether you still agree or disagree.

**Selection**

"Zoo"

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Reading</th>
<th>Statements</th>
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<td>Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. It is impossible to be right and wrong at the same time.</td>
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<td>2. A person's experience shapes his or her point of view.</td>
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<td>3. First impressions are usually correct.</td>
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Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from "Zoo." Then, apply your knowledge to the activities that follow.

Word List A

breed [BREED] n. a particular kind or type of animal or plant
  Alexander's favorite breed of dog is the golden retriever.

clutching [CLUHCH ing] v. holding on to something tightly
  Kevin was clutching his new baseball mitt to his chest.

constantly [KAHN stuhnt lee] adv. happening over and over; endlessly; continually
  The annoying child was constantly whining about something.

horrors [HAHR uhrz] n. things that cause a strong feeling of fear or disgust
  The novel *The Red Badge of Courage* tells of the horrors of war.

limit [LIM it] n. the greatest number or amount allowed
  The speed limit on this highway is fifty-five miles per hour.

odd [AHD] adj. not usual or ordinary; peculiar; strange
  The animal's odd behavior worried the zookeeper.

scurried [SKER eed] v. ran quickly or hastily; scampered
  The mouse scurried across the floor, fleeing from the cat.

seeking [SEEK ing] v. searching for; looking for
  Seeking answers to her questions, Justine did research online.

Word List B

adults [uh DULTS] n. mature persons
  Adults pay twice as much as children for the movie.

annual [AN yoo uhl] adj. happening or appearing once a year
  The bake sale is an annual fund-raising event at our school.

awe [AW] n. a mixed feeling of reverence, fear, and wonder, caused by something powerful
  The eruption of the volcano inspired awe in the scientists.

clustered [KLUS terd] v. gathered together as a bunch
  The baby chicks clustered around their mother.

daybreak [DAY brayk] n. dawn; the time of morning when daylight first appears
  The farmer was up at daybreak to milk the cows.

expense [ek SPENS] n. financial cost; fee
  The fancy dinner was not worth the expense.

jagged [JAG id] adj. having sharp points or notches
  Dominic used the jagged rock to cut the branch into firewood.

reveal [ri VEEL] v. to expose to view; show; exhibit; display
  Charlotte opened the curtains to reveal the spectacular view.
Exercise A  Fill in each blank in the paragraph below with an appropriate word from Word List A. Use each word only once.

Although she had been dealing with the [1] _________ of training a puppy that [2] _________ misbehaved, Carla decided she wanted another pet. She did some research on cats and found out about a [3] _________ she liked. She spent many weeks [4] _________ a Manx cat. The Manx is an [5] _________ cat—it does not have a tail. Finally, she heard there was one at the pet shop. Carla [6] _________ over there as quickly as she could. The price of the cat was a little over the [7] _________ she had set for herself. Carla was [8] _________ her money in her hand when she decided that the expense was worth it. She was sure her puppy would love the tail-less cat.

Exercise B  Answer the questions with complete explanations.

Example: If Mr. Greene detests spinach, would he enjoy having it with dinner?
   No; detests means “dislikes intensely,” so Mr. Greene would not enjoy eating spinach.

1. If something is an expense, are you likely to get it for free?
2. If you reveal a secret, are others likely to hear about it?
3. If you attend an annual family gathering, do you go to it every month?
4. If you walk barefoot on jagged rocks, are you likely to cut your feet?
5. If only adults are invited to a party, could your grandparents go to it?
6. If you were in awe of something, would you be bored by it?
7. If plants are clustered in a garden, are they scattered around the garden?
8. If you want to be awake at daybreak, would you get up at 9 A.M.?
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Reading Warm-up B

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

Since the time of the earliest humans on Earth, adults and children alike have gazed in awe at the night sky. They have marveled until daybreak at its beauty and mystery. We can imagine our ancestors pointing to groups of stars. They would compare them to familiar objects, such as dippers, bears, and crabs. Then they would name the groups of stars, the constellations. Of course we know now that the stars in constellations are not clustered together, even though they appear to be. In fact, they are at greatly varying distances from Earth. Because all the stars in a constellation lie within the same line of sight, they seem to be connected.

Modern tools of astronomy reveal many details about the universe that earlier humans never knew. For example, telescopes and space probes have told us a great deal about Mars. We know more about Mars than we know about any planet other than Earth. Its cold, thin, transparent atmosphere allows us to observe the features of its surface. The spacecraft Mariner 9 orbited the planet in 1971. It photographed the entire surface. Pictures of a Martian “Grand Canyon” show jagged formations more than two and a half miles deep in some places. Mariner 9 also showed what appear to be dried riverbeds. These suggest a long-ago presence of water on Mars. We know that a day on Mars lasts 24 hours, 37 minutes, a little longer than a day on Earth. A year on Mars, however, is much longer than a year on Earth. It takes Mars 687 days to orbit the sun, compared with the 365 days it takes the Earth to orbit the sun.

Science-fiction writers delight in writing about Mars as a good place for human beings to live. Is it worth the expense of finding out whether they are right? Many people think so. Who knows? Maybe in the future we will be spending our annual vacations on Mars.

1. Circle the word that tells who gazed at the sky with the adults. Name one responsibility adults have that children do not have.

2. Circle the words that tell what the earliest humans gazed at in awe. Use awe in a sentence.

3. Underline the words that tell what the people marveled at until daybreak. What is another word for daybreak?

4. Underline the words that explain what early humans thought were clustered together. Define clustered.

5. Underline the words that tell what modern tools of astronomy reveal. Use reveal in a sentence.

6. Underline the words that tell what is jagged. Define jagged.

7. What expense is being questioned? Describe an unnecessary expense—one that people can do without.

8. Circle the word that tells what kind of annual event is being described. Use annual in a sentence.
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Reading: Make Inferences by Reading Between the Lines and Asking Questions

An inference is an intelligent guess, based on what the text tells you, about things not stated directly in the text. Suppose a story opens with crowds forming to wait for the arrival of an interplanetary zoo. You can infer from those details that the zoo will soon arrive.

One way to make inferences is to read between the lines by asking questions, such as, "Why does the writer include these details?" and "Why does the writer leave out certain information?" In the opening sentence of "Zoo," for example, we learn that "the children were always good during the month of August." The next thing we learn is that the Interplanetary Zoo comes to Chicago every year around August 23. Why does the writer open his story with these details? What conclusion can be drawn about why the children are always good in August? From these details you can infer that the children are good in August because they want their parents to take them to the interplanetary zoo.

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passages from "Zoo," and answer the questions that follow.

1. In the following passage, what inference can you draw from the detail that the people are clutching dollars?
   Before daybreak the crowds would form, long lines of children and adults both, each one clutching his or her dollar and waiting with wonderment to see what race of strange creatures the Professor had brought this year.

2. In the following passage, what inference can you draw about the Professor from the description of his clothing?
   Soon the good Professor himself made an appearance, wearing his many-colored rainbow cape and top hat.

3. In the following passage, what inference can you draw about the horse spiders from the way they file out of their cages, listen to Hugo's parting words, and then scurry away?
   The odd horse-spider creatures filed quickly out of their cages. Professor Hugo was there to say a few parting words, and then they scurried away in a hundred different directions, seeking their homes among the rocks.

4. In the following passage, what inference can you draw from the she-creature's reaction to her mate and offspring's arrival?
   In one house, the she-creature was happy to see the return of her mate and offspring. She babbled a greeting in the strange tongue and hurried to embrace them.
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**Literary Analysis: Theme**

A story's **theme** is its central idea, message, or insight into life. Occasionally, the author states the theme directly. More often, however, the theme is implied.

A theme is **not** the same as the subject of a work. For example, if the subject, or topic, of a story is similarities and differences, the theme will be a message about that subject, such as "differences between groups of people can keep people from seeing the ways in which they are similar."

As you read, look at what characters say and do, where the story takes place, and objects that seem important in order to determine the theme—what the author wants to teach you about life.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions about "Zoo."

1. What is the setting? If there is more than one setting, name and briefly describe each one.

2. What do the main characters say? Summarize the words spoken by Hugo, one of the people from Earth, the female horse spider, the male horse spider, and the little one.
   
   Hugo: __________________________

   Person from Earth: __________________________

   She-creature: __________________________

   He-creature: __________________________

   Little creature: __________________________

3. How do the characters act? Describe the actions of the people in Chicago and the actions of the horse-spider people.
   
   People in Chicago: __________________________

   Horse spiders: __________________________

4. What object or objects seem important?

5. What is the subject, or topic, of "Zoo"?

6. Based on these details, what would you say is the theme of "Zoo"?
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Vocabulary Builder

Word List

interplanetary  awe  expense

A. DIRECTIONS: Complete each sentence with a word from the Word List.

1. The ______________ of interplanetary travel was high, but Professor Hugo earned the money back by charging admission to his zoo.
2. The crowd gazed in ______________ at the terrifying yet unusual creatures.
3. Professor Hugo’s ______________ zoo visited Earth, Mars, Kaan, and many other planets.

B. DIRECTIONS: Revise each sentence so that the Word List word is used logically.

1. The interplanetary mission involved travel from Rome to Tokyo.

2. The spectators at the zoo were awed by the cute rabbits.

3. The expense of the zoo allowed the promoter to make a great profit.

C. DIRECTIONS: Write the letter of the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to the Word List word.

1. awe
   A. arrogance and hatred
   B. terror and fear
   C. amazement and fear
   D. compassion and love

2. expense
   A. cost
   B. amount
   C. total
   D. budget

3. interplanetary
   A. between galaxies
   B. between planets
   C. universal
   D. worldwide