

Main Ideas and Details: Roachzilla Practice Activities

Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

The hissing cockroach is such an interesting and entertaining creature that it has become a favorite insect pet. It comes from Madagascar, an island off the coast of Africa where many other unusual animals live. You would find these cockroaches in groups on the forest floor among the fallen leaves and fruits. If you should frighten one by bumping it with your foot, it would frighten you with a sharp hiss created by forcing air out of its breathing tubes.

First, think about what you know about cockroaches. After thinking, please read the passage about the "Madagascar Hissing Cockroach."

Next, answer the following questions:

1. What is this passage about?
2. Where does this cockroach come from?
3. Where is Madagascar located?
4. Where would you find these insects while in the forest?
5. Do cockroaches live individually or in groups?
6. What sound do Madagascar cockroaches make in order to frighten other things?
7. How do these cockroaches make this sound?
8. Why do they make this sound?

Finally, what was the one main nonfiction text feature the author used in order to help the reader understand what this passage is going to be about.

Description Text Structure

- A style of writing that authors use to describe characteristics, features, attributes, or examples of a person, place, thing, or idea.

To help describe main ideas authors will use strong adjectives and sensory word to make their description clear. Strong **SENSORY WORDS** include:

- Feels like, tastes like, smells like or sounds like.

Authors will also use signal words to organize their thoughts and help readers follow along. Strong **SIGNAL WORDS** include:

- For example, such as, or including.

As you read you should also look for other clues to aid in organizing and understanding nonfiction text.

These **NONFICTION TEXT FEATURES** include:

- Titles, pictures, headings, chapter titles, glossary, index, table of contents, captions, bold/italicized/colored print, bullets, charts, maps, graphs, and diagrams.

Manga Mania

Manga (m-g) is the Japanese word for comics. Enjoyed by all ages in Japan, manga collections are also rapidly expanding in U.S. libraries and bookstores. Manga are read differently than comics published in the United States. The manga reader begins in the top right-hand corner and works his way down, reading all print, including speech bubbles, right to left. Books are read back to front as well.

In addition to differences in how the text is read, Japanese manga have a unique style of artwork that helps communicate the story line. Manga artists draw characters with large eyes, small mouths, dramatic hair and long legs and arms. The illustrations also depict characters with exaggerated emotions. When a manga character cries, for example, it fills a bucket with tears. Anger may be shown by steam coming out of the character's ears.

There are manga for every kind of reader. "Shojo" manga are for girls, while "Shonen" manga appeal to boys. Young children learning to read may begin with "Kodomo" manga. The most popular story lines are sometimes adapted to Japanese animation, or "anime". In response to this genre's growing popularity, manga clubs provide a fun way for readers to share, trade and talk about what they're reading.

First, think about what you know about comics, Japanese Manga and Anime. After thinking, please read the passage about the "Manga Mania."

Next, answer the following questions:

1. What does Manga mean?
2. How does a person read Manga?
3. What are the features of Manga characters?
4. What are the examples the author used to describe the exaggerated emotions of Manga characters?
5. What do you believe is the most interesting aspect of Manga?
6. What are three signal words the author used during this passage?

Finally, based upon the information presented in this passage, create your own Manga comic strip.

Compare your answers with **Eduardo's Think Aloud**.