



Tom Longboat

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.
Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

In 1905, Tom enters his first race. He leads for much of the race. Then he fades. He comes in second.

Stop and think: Imagine you are Tom.
What are you thinking during the race?
How do you feel at the end?

Tom learns two lessons. First, he loves to race. Second, he does not like to come in second. He wants to win.

Stop and think: What does this tell us about Tom's character?

To win, Tom must train harder. Each week, he runs farther and faster. He becomes fitter.

Tom is smart. He listens to his body. If Tom feels tired, he does not train as hard. If he feels good, he trains harder.

Stop and think: Tom listens to his body when he trains.
Do you ever listen to your body?
When? What does it tell you?



Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Read the details.

Circle the correct main idea.

The first one is an example.

Details	Main Idea
Tom wins the Victoria Day race by 437 yards. Tom is a fast Army runner. Tom sets a new record in the Boston Marathon.	(a) Tom is a great runner. (b) Tom trains hard.
Running attracts huge crowds. Fans travel miles to watch a race. Good runners can make a good living.	1 (a) Running is a popular sport in the early 1900s. (b) Lots of people run in the early 1900s.
Tom is hurt twice during the war. The Army thinks Tom is lost during the war. Tom's wife marries another man during the war.	2 (a) Tom learns a lot during the war. (b) The war affects Tom in different ways.

Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Tom runs more like a deer than a horse.	Tom runs fast. Tom is a graceful runner.
1. Tom wants to race his brother. Tom lets his brother have a half-hour head start.	
2. Tom's wife is happy to see him alive. Still, she stays with her new husband.	

Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Tom runs more like a deer than a horse. ____
Tom runs 40 miles to Hamilton. ____
2. Tom leaves school with a Grade 4 education. ____
Tom's life is hard because he leaves school. ____
3. The Boston Marathon is the most famous race in the world. ____
In 1907, the Boston Marathon is 25 miles. ____

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are ideas or beliefs.

Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
When is Tom born?	Early Years	1887
1. Where is Tom born?		
2. How much money does Tom make as a runner?		
3. When does Tom die?		

Activity

6

Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas
to their lives.

Idea

It is 1914. Tom is 28 years old.
Canada needs men to fight in the war.
Tom joins the Army in 1916. He goes
to Europe to serve his country.



Your Life

Why do countries go to war?

Should governments make their citizens
fight in a war? Why or why not?

What would you do if your country
went to war?

Would you support the war? How?

Would you protest against the war? How?

Do you know anyone who was in a war?

What is their opinion of war?

Describe their experience.



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• Writing •

Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about war.
Use your ideas from page 41.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

Paragraph 1

Countries go to war because _____

They also go to war because _____

Paragraph 2

In my opinion, wars _____

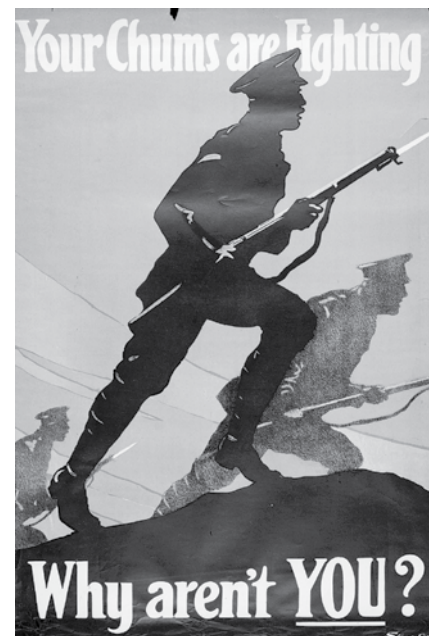
If my country went to war, I would _____

I would do this by _____

Read each paragraph out loud.
Which paragraph do you like better?
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

Good writers know that writing is a process.
Good writers think of ideas before they write.
Good writers check their writing.



Activity

2

Organize Ideas



Read the details for Idea Maps 1 and 2.

Are the details a cause or an effect?

Copy the details into the correct box.

Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas before they write.

One way to organize ideas is to use cause and effect.

Idea Map 1

Details

Tom runs away from school.
The teachers make Tom speak English.
The teachers push their religion on Tom.

Cause



Effect
Tom hates school.



Effect

Cause



Idea Map 2

Details

The Army reports Tom is dead.
The Army loses track of Tom.
Tom's wife marries another man.

Cause



Effect



Effect

Choose details from Idea Maps 1 and 2 to complete the answers.

1. Why does Tom hate school? *Because* _____
_____ *and* _____ .

2. Why does Tom run away from school? *Because* _____ .

3. Why does Tom's wife marry another man? *Because* _____
_____ .

Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation 

Read these sentences.
Circle the capital letters and end punctuation.

1. The Six Nations Reserve is in Ontario.
2. The Cayuga and Seneca tribes live on this reserve.
3. Tom Longboat goes to a mission school.
4. Why does Tom run away from his school?

Read these sentences.
Add capital letters and end punctuation.

5. tom is part of the onondaga nation
6. tom's school is in brantford, ontario
7. the teachers make tom speak english
8. why does tom go to europe
9. tom loses his wife, lauretta maracle
10. in 1920, tom marries martha silversmith

In this activity...

use capital letters
at the beginning of a sentence,
with names of people and places,
with names of languages, and
with names of groups of people.

use punctuation
at the end of a sentence.

• Word Attack Skills •

Activity

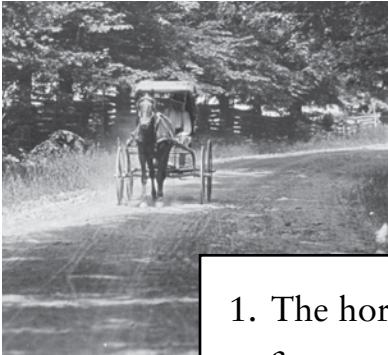
1

Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

Use the pictures to predict the word.



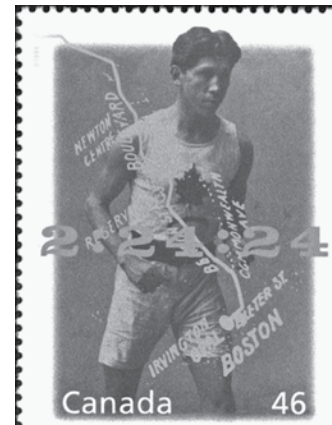
© Archives of Ontario.

1. The horse pulls a buggy down a _____ road.



© General Synod Archives.

3. These boys use _____ and _____ to do their work.



© Library and Archives Canada.

2. Tom's _____ is on a stamp.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

4. Tom wants to speak his own _____.

5. Tom does not want to be _____ in a race. He wants to be first.

6. Tom trains hard. Each week he runs faster and _____.

Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

<i>track</i> ✓	<i>back</i>	<i>dice</i>	<i>twice</i>
<i>clear</i>	<i>spice</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>crack</i>
<i>nice</i>	<i>hear</i>	<i>stack</i>	<i>fear</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

ack

ear

ice

track

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

ack ear ice

Find the Common Patterns



1. The Army loses track of Tom.
2. Tom's wife does not go back to him.
3. Tom clears bush on a small farm.
4. Years later, many people hear about Tom.
5. Tom is hurt twice in the war.
6. After the war, Tom lives in nice homes.

Many words have common patterns.
The patterns look and sound the same.

Activity

3

Divide and Conquer



Read these words.

Look for common endings.

Write the base word on the line.

works work

older old

Many words have a base word with a common ending.

Good readers look for base words and common endings

This is another way to decode words.

1. races _____

2. dies _____

3. misses _____

4. greatest _____

5. leaves _____

6. runs _____

7. worker _____

8. finishes _____

9. faster _____

10. stronger _____

Read each sentence out loud.

Circle the words with common endings.

11. Tom runs faster than his older brother.

12. His father dies.

13. Tom leaves school in Grade 4.

14. Tom is a farm worker.

15. He runs faster and faster.

16. Tom is stronger in his second Victoria Day race.

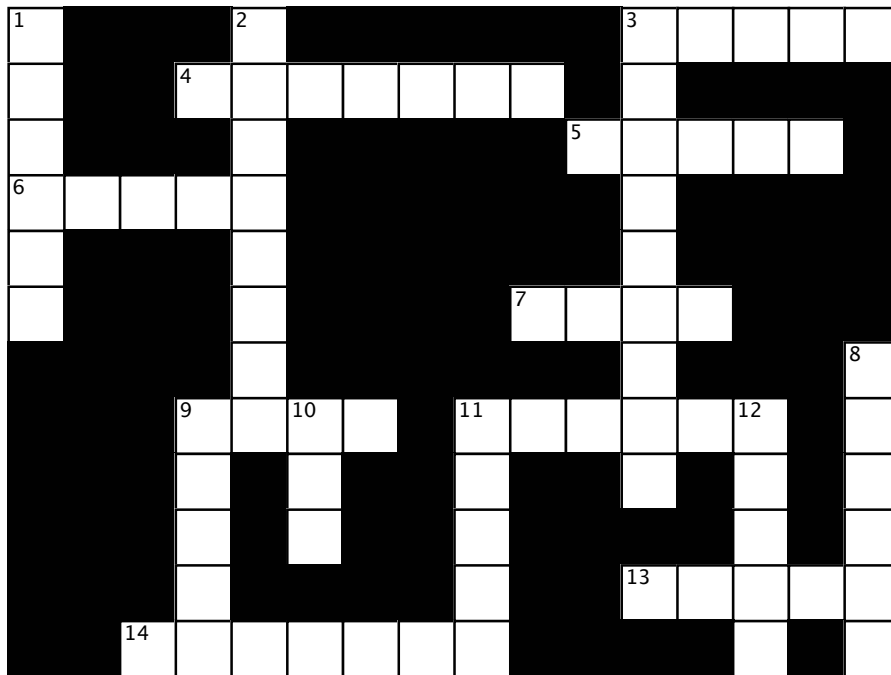
17. Tom finishes many races in first place.

18. The world misses Tom when he dies.

19. Tom is the greatest!

• Crossword •

Tom Longboat



Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Tom Longboat's biography.

ACROSS

3. an animal we can ride
4. we leave this if the person we want to talk to is not available
5. a small house made of logs
6. two times (rhymes with mice)
7. opposite of love
9. soldiers belong to this
11. jobs we do in the house
13. we feel like this with not enough sleep
14. horses, cows, pigs

DOWN

1. March, May, June, November
2. opposite of forget
3. a racing word that means an early start (2 words)
8. run with long, even steps (rhymes with wide)
9. once more
10. soft, wet earth
11. corn, cotton, oats
12. clever

