**Use Your Words**

**Directions:** Use the words and definitions in the left column to complete the tasks in the right column. (Hint: If you need help, find the words in the story to see them used in context.)

| **guidance:** instruction, direction, or advice | Complete the sentence below.  
With a lot of guidance from her grandmother, Caitlin managed to __________________________________________________________________________________________________________. |
| **ignorance:** a lack of knowledge or education about something | Write an antonym (a word that means the opposite) for ignorance: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________. |
| **intellectual disabilities:** conditions that can limit people’s ability to learn, communicate, or care for themselves | Pick the best choice to complete the sentence:  
Because my school has many students with intellectual disabilities, it also has  
a) many sports teams.  
b) extra staff to help those students.  
c) great food. |
| **intent:** very focused | Complete the sentence below.  
Henry was so intent on finishing his homework that he __________________________________________________________________________________________________________. |
| **mission:** an important goal or purpose | Write a sentence using the word mission.  
Sentence: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________. |
| **neglect:** fail to give time, care, or attention to someone or something | What might happen if you neglect your schoolwork?  
Answer: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________. |
| **potential:** ability that can be developed | Choose the best follow-up sentence:  
Daniel has great potential on the violin.  
a) He should quit taking lessons.  
b) Why does he bother practicing?  
c) He could be a professional musician one day. |
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading the articles “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. In the opening section, the author describes a playground game as “unusual.” Explain what was happening in the game and why it was unusual.

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is Down syndrome (DS)? How does it affect people who have it?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What did people commonly believe about those with DS before the 1970s? Compare these attitudes with the way Bobby’s family treated him.

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Think About It! p. 2

4. Reread the section “Isaac’s Magic.” How did the teachers and students at New Richmond Elementary help Isaac? How did he help them?
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. What is the main idea of “A Very Special Olympics”?
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Who started Special Olympics? Why?
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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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7. How many people volunteer for Special Olympics? Why might someone want to be a part of this program?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of both articles.

8. What do both articles say about the potential of people with DS and other intellectual disabilities?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
9. Based on what you read, what role do you think other people can play in the success of those with disabilities?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
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10. Did reading these articles change your view of people with disabilities in any way?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Think About It!

Directions: After reading the articles “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:

1. In the opening section, the author describes a playground game as “unusual.” Explain what was happening in the game and why it was unusual.

2. What is Down syndrome (DS)? How does it affect people who have it?

3. What did people commonly believe about those with DS before the 1970s? Compare these attitudes with the way Bobby’s family treated him.

4. Reread the section “Isaac’s Magic.” How did the teachers and students at New Richmond Elementary help Isaac? How did he help them?

5. What is the main idea of “A Very Special Olympics”?

6. Who started Special Olympics? Why?

7. How many people volunteer for Special Olympics? Why might someone want to be a part of this program?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

8. What do both articles say about the potential of people with DS and other intellectual disabilities?

9. Based on what you read, what role do you think other people can play in the success of those with disabilities?

10. Did reading these articles change your view of people with disabilities in any way? Explain.
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics.” Then go back and reread sections of the texts to answer the questions below. We’ve started the first answer for you.

1. Based on the beginning of “The Magical World of Isaac,” what is Down syndrome (DS)? Name three challenges that people with this condition face.

   Down syndrome is a condition that

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. Reread the section “A Different Time.” Before the 1970s, how were people with DS and other disabilities treated? How did this change in the 1970s?

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________
Think About It! p. 2

3. Reread “You Need to Come Here.” Who has helped Isaac do well in school?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. In “Focus and Determination,” which details show that Isaac was determined?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Continued on next page >
Think About It! p. 3

5. Reread “Isaac’s Magic.” How has Isaac affected the students and teachers in his school?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Reread the article “A Very Special Olympics.” Why did Eunice Kennedy Shriver start Special Olympics?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
Critical-Thinking Question (big question about the whole story):

7. What do both articles say about how people with intellectual disabilities can find success? Explain using examples from the texts.

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Putting It All Together

**Directions:** To synthesize means to combine parts from different sources. Answer the questions below to synthesize information from the article “The Magical World of Isaac” (TMWI) and the informational text “A Very Special Olympics” (AVSO). We’ve indicated where you can find each answer.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>What is Down syndrome (DS)?</strong> What challenges does it create for people who have it, like Isaac Friedman? (TMWI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Who helps Isaac succeed?</strong> How? (TMWI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>What was life like for people with disabilities such as DS before the 1970s?</strong> (both texts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>What is the main mission of Special Olympics?</strong> (AVSO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Who helps run Special Olympics today?</strong> (AVSO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>What characteristics do Isaac and Special Olympics athletes share?</strong> (both texts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Think about what you wrote in the chart. What main idea do you think both articles share?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Write Now!** Use your answers above to help you respond to the writing prompt at the bottom of page 20.
Summary of “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics”

“The Magical World of Isaac” is about _____________________________________________.

Isaac has a condition called ________________________________________________,
which causes _______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

Life was difficult for people with DS until the 1970s, when _________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

Isaac’s family, friends, and teachers have helped him succeed by ____________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

Isaac inspires others by __________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

“A Very Special Olympics” is about ______________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

Both articles show that ___________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________.

Directions: Complete the summary below, using the prompts in the margins to help you.

1. Begin with a topic sentence that tells who the article is mainly about.

2. What condition does Isaac have?

3. List at least two effects of this condition.

4. What did people realize about DS in the 1970s?

5. Name three ways that other people have helped Isaac.

6. What is Isaac’s special talent?

7. What idea do the texts share about people with intellectual disabilities?
Quick, Tell Me What Happened!

Your friend Miguel was absent from school and didn’t get to read “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics” in Storyworks. Poor Miguel! You call him to tell him about the articles, but he has only one minute before he has to eat supper. Quick, give him a short summary!

Directions: Follow the prompts below to write a two-paragraph summary—one paragraph for each article. Remember, a summary is a brief retelling of the most important parts of the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

1. Decide what the first article is mainly about. Ask yourself:
   - What do the title and subtitle on page 16 suggest the article is about? _______________________________
   - What do the photos and captions help you understand? __________________________________________
   - What condition does the article tell you about? _________________________________________________

   Use what you wrote to write a topic sentence for your summary:
   ________________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Decide what the most important information in the article is. Go through each section and jot down notes about what you think is necessary to know to explain what you wrote in your topic sentence. Your notes don’t have to be complete sentences. We’ve given you some examples (and crossed out what does not belong).

   Opening Section
   New Richmond students enjoy making Isaac Friedman happy.
   Soccer played with a basketball
   Isaac = a 10-year-old with Down syndrome

   “A Different Time”
   ________________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________________

   “You Need to Come Here”
   ________________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________________

Continued on next page >
Quick, Tell Me What Happened! p. 2

“Focus and Determination”
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

“Isaac’s Magic”
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Now go to page 20 and decide what the second article, “A Very Special Olympics,” is mainly about. Ask yourself:
What do the title and photos suggest it’s about? __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
What do the subheadings help you understand? _______________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
How does this article relate to the first article? __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Look at your notes. Cross out anything you wrote that is not necessary. Add anything that’s missing.
Ask yourself:
* Did I include information about what happened in each article? What challenges were mentioned in each article? How were the challenges overcome? How did the articles end?
* Did I write down details that aren’t essential for understanding the main topic? Get rid of those! (See example on page 1.)

5. Number your notes above so you can retell them in an order that makes sense.

6. Use your topic sentence and your notes to write your two-paragraph summary on a separate sheet of paper, retelling what happened in your own words. End with a sentence tying the two texts together. Reread it to make sure it’s clear and that it sums up what’s important. Then you can share your summary with your friend Miguel!
**Making Inferences**

An inference is something you can figure out from clues in a story, even though the story doesn’t say it directly.

**Directions:** The chart below lists clues from “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics” on the left and inferences you can make from them on the right. Fill in the blanks on the chart with clues or inferences from the articles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider these lines from “The Magical World of Isaac”:</td>
<td>What can you infer about how Isaac makes other students feel?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“. . . and the kids at New Richmond loved to see Isaac happy.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“As Isaac moved through his day, kids swarmed around him.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Kids didn’t just look out for Isaac, they sought him out.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write two lines from the article that support the inference on the right.

Today, people with Down syndrome and other disabilities face less prejudice than they did in the past.

1

2

Continued on next page >
### Making Inferences, p. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider these lines from the article:</td>
<td>What can you infer is one of the main reasons for Isaac’s success at school?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Learning took time for Isaac.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “And Isaac worked with extreme focus and determination.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “The word officer was a tough word for him to pronounce. Each time he came to it, he would say it over and over until he got it right.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write two lines from “A Very Special Olympics” that support the inference on the right.

Special Olympics has grown a lot since the first World Games in 1968.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Write two lines from “A Very Special Olympics” that support the inference on the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Olympics has grown a lot since the first World Games in 1968.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Making Inferences**

An *inference* is something you can figure out from clues in a story, even though the story doesn’t say it directly.

**Directions:** The chart below lists clues from “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics” on the left and inferences you can make from them on the right. Fill in the blanks on the chart with clues or inferences from the articles.

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<tr>
<td>• “. . . and the kids at New Richmond loved to see Isaac happy.”</td>
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<td>• “As Isaac moved through his day, kids swarmed around him.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Kids didn’t just look out for Isaac, they sought him out.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write two lines from the article that support the inference on the right.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Today, people with Down syndrome and other disabilities face less prejudice than they did in the past.

**Continued on next page >**
**Making Inferences, p. 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Consider these lines from the article:  
- “Learning took time for Isaac.”  
- “And Isaac worked with extreme focus and determination.”  
- Write one more line from the article that supports the inference on the right.  

| What can you infer is one of the main reasons for Isaac’s success at school?  

| Write two lines from the texts that support the inference on the right.  

| Write your own inference from the texts.  

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**“The Magical World of Isaac” Quiz**

**Directions:** Read the articles “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics” in the March/April 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What is the main purpose of the soccer game the students play at the beginning of the article?
   - A to score as many goals as possible
   - B to share the ball with Isaac Friedman
   - C to kick the ball away from Isaac Friedman
   - D to see which student runs the fastest

2. Which of the following statements about Down syndrome is NOT true?
   - A It can be passed from one person to another.
   - B It can cause digestion problems.
   - C It can cause muscle weakness.
   - D People who have it learn more slowly.

3. The author explains that people with DS and other disabilities were once neglected in large hospitals. What is another word for neglected?
   - A adored
   - B feared
   - C ignored
   - D entertained

4. How did the way people with DS were treated change in the 1970s?
   - A Schools were opened just for kids with DS.
   - B Reading was no longer taught to students with DS.
   - C Students with DS were encouraged to stop playing games.
   - D Experts realized students with DS could learn a lot with the right kind of teaching.

5. Based on the article, you can tell that the author is _______ by Isaac.
   - A confused
   - B impressed
   - C annoyed
   - D embarrassed

6. “A Very Special Olympics” is mostly about...
   - A how Special Olympics is changing attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities.
   - B how President John F. Kennedy had a sister with a disability.
   - C how pop stars volunteer to perform at the Special Olympics World Games.
   - D what sports people with disabilities enjoy.

---

**Constructed Response**

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the articles.

7. Isaac’s grandmother told the author that “something important” was happening at her school. Explain what she meant.

8. Based on both articles, what can help people with intellectual disabilities succeed?
**The Magical World of Isaac** Quiz

**Directions:** Read the articles “The Magical World of Isaac” and “A Very Special Olympics” in the March/April 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. **How is Isaac affected by Down syndrome?**
   - A. He cannot play most sports.
   - B. He has blond hair and brown eyes.
   - C. He avoids playing games with other kids.
   - D. He learns at a different speed than other kids.

2. **Which line from the article supports the answer to question 1?**
   - A. “Because he has DS, Isaac learns slowly.”
   - B. “DS is not an illness, and nobody can ‘catch’ it from someone who has it.”
   - C. “People with this condition are born with it, like people are born with blond hair . . .”
   - D. “. . . he doesn’t have strong muscles, and sometimes he has problems digesting his food.”

3. **In the past, why did many schools not accept kids with DS?**
   - A. Most kids with DS were taught at home.
   - B. There were no teachers for kids with DS.
   - C. Many people believed that kids with DS couldn’t learn.
   - D. Very few kids had DS.

4. **The author explains that people with DS and other disabilities were once put in large hospitals and neglected. What is another word for neglected?**
   - A. adored
   - B. feared
   - C. ignored
   - D. entertained

5. **According to both the article and the pictures at the top of page 18, what is the main way Isaac’s teachers help him?**
   - A. They play games with him.
   - B. They work with him one-on-one and in small groups.
   - C. They work with him after school.
   - D. They show him how to hold a pencil.

6. **Based on page 19, which word best describes Isaac?**
   - A. motivated
   - B. careful
   - C. bored
   - D. quiet

7. **Which line from the article supports your answer to question 6?**
   - A. “. . . kids swarmed around him.”
   - B. “Learning took time for Isaac.”
   - C. “His expression was always warm . . .”
   - D. “. . . he would say [the word] over and over until he got it right.”

8. **Which idea do both articles share?**
   - A. People with disabilities enjoy many sports.
   - B. People with disabilities can thrive and inspire others when given the opportunity.
   - C. People with disabilities work harder than most people.
   - D. People with disabilities have a lot of friends.

**Constructed Response**

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the articles.

9. **What is the author’s tone, or attitude, toward Isaac? Explain using details from the article.**

10. **How does Special Olympics often change the lives of athletes and volunteers?**
“The Magical World of Isaac”

To the teacher: We suggest using these questions with the lower-Lexile version of the texts, supported by the lower-Lexile audio version. Select the ones that are best for your students, depending on where they are in their acquisition of English. Ask them orally or choose questions to create your own written assignment. If students are ready, prompt them to follow up their answers with more details.

Yes/No Questions
These questions allow students who are new to English to show their understanding with a simple answer.
1. Is Down syndrome a sickness that people can catch? (No, it isn’t.)
2. Were most children with Down syndrome understood before 1970? (No, they weren’t.)
3. Can students with Down syndrome learn? (Yes, they can.)
4. Is Isaac a hardworking student? (Yes, he is.)
5. Could Isaac participate in Special Olympics if he wanted to? (Yes, he could.)

Either/Or Questions
These questions allow slightly more-advanced students to use language from the question in their answer.
1. Do Isaac’s classmates support him or leave him alone? (They support Isaac.)
2. In the past, experts thought kids with DS couldn’t learn. Were they right or wrong? (They were wrong.)
3. Do people generally feel afraid or calm around Isaac? (They feel calm.)
4. Does Special Olympics have many fans or few fans? (It has many fans.)

Short-Answer Questions
These questions prompt students to produce simple answers on their own with language from the text.
1. Why do you think so many people like being around Isaac? (He tries hard at everything he does, and he has an accepting personality and a warm expression on his face.)
2. Do you know anyone with an intellectual disability? What have you done, or what could you do, to help this person feel loved and accepted? (Answers will vary.)