

Informative Text 1

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Letters From Rifka

Have you ever been determined to do something? In the book, Letters From Rifka, the main character was determined to leave Ukraine to get to America. Rifka, a 12 year old girl, is forced to leave Russia because if she doesn't she will be killed. Along the way she is determined and that determination helps her to get to America. Rifka never gave up hope. In other words she had indomitable spirit.

In the beginning, at the Polish border when Rifka got off the train, the guards force her and her family to take off their clothes for the Doctor. They did this because the Doctor wanted to see if she had a disease. Her determination enabled her to stand there naked, even though it was an uncomfortable, humiliating situation.

Another time was when she was on the ship to America, she nearly drowned and lost a friend when a tempest hit. She goes into the hold which really smells. After the storm ends she looks for her friend, Peter, and learns that he has been lost at sea during the storm. Rifka returns to her cabin in tears. A few hours later, when she hears people ooing and ahing up on deck as the Statue of Liberty comes into sight she realizes she still wants to go to America. Her determination gave her the power to endure the emotions she had and then gave her strength to carry on without her friend.

Another example is when Rifka is in the hospital wing at Ellis Island. A Doctor asks Rifka to take off her kerchief so he can check her for ringworm. Rifka realizes that if he finds something wrong with her she can be sent back to Ukraine. She was so determined to get to America that she stood up to an American doctor. Other people that didn't have as much determination might not have done that because they would be too frightened to stand up to someone who could send them back to their old country.

So as you can see, determination can get you anywhere. It got Rifka to America. How? It gave her the strength to carry on even though the obstacles were hard to overcome. Determination can help you achieve your goals too.

Informative Text 2

Family Reunion

It has been eight long months since we last saw our mother. She has emailed us some pictures of her and other soldiers, but that's not the same as seeing her in person and being able to talk to her and hug her every day. My little brother Jackson and I have missed our mom so much. Jackson is only four so he doesn't understand why she has been away. You see my mom is in the army, and she has been away at war in a foreign country.

While we waited for her plane to arrive, our dad was holding our hands. He missed mommy too. There were other families at the airport as well. Some had balloons, others had flowers, and some even had welcome home signs. The marching band from our high school was warming up. It was so great that they were there to welcome all of the soldiers home. I was thinking they would play patriotic music in their honor. Everyone was looking up at the sky waiting for the plane to make its appearance.

Eight months was a long time for Jackson and I not to see our mom. Since I am the oldest, I tried to be very brave, but it wasn't easy. I read bedtime stories to Jackson every night just like mommy does. I made a countdown chart so that we could keep track of how many more days until we saw our mom. I missed her so much, but I tried not to think about what it was like for her to be in a war.

Finally, we saw the plane. It seemed like it took forever for it to land and even longer for the door to open and our mom to come out. The band started to play The Star-Spangled Banner. People waved flags and shouted for their loved ones. We just stared at the door waiting for our mom. There she was with a big smile on her face. She spotted us right away and ran as fast as she could to give us all the biggest hug ever. Our family was whole again. I hope she doesn't have to go away any time soon. That was the hardest time of my life so far.

Informative Text 3

Snowflakes

Most people don't like cold weather especially when it snows, but that is just the opposite for scientist and author Kenneth Libbrecht. From the time the first snowflake falls, Libbrecht is out the door with his camera in hand. He has written several books on the topic including *The Snowflake: Winter's Frozen Artistry* and *The Secret Life of a Snowflake*.

He watches and waits for the most perfect snowflakes to fall. He catches a snowflake with a little paintbrush. He then places it under a microscope and begins to take a series of pictures. His pictures have caught the attention of people around the world. In fact, his snowflake shots earned an award which is given to superior science photographers worldwide.

Libbrecht is interested in snowflakes to learn more about how they are shaped. Every snowflake grows into a hexagon or six-sided figure. It is amazing that scientists have discovered that no two snowflakes are alike, however no one has proven why.

Libbrecht has taken almost 10,000 photographs of snowflakes from a variety of places including Canada, Alaska, and Vermont. His goal is to solve the snowflake mystery someday.

Informative Text 4

A Letter from Camp

Dear Mom, Dad, Daisy, and Tucker,

Well, it's day three at Camp Spearhead, and I'm having a lot of fun so far. I have five bunkmates. That's the term we use for the kids who sleep in your cabin. My bunkmates are pretty cool, but they have some odd names. One of the boys is named Pep. He says that his real name is Pepsi, but everyone calls him Pep. I said I didn't think his parents would name him Pepsi, but he said his dad loves soda and wanted to name him after his favorite brand. I think that's really weird. Another kid is named Link. He has one blue eye and one green eye. They look really cool. He says he can juggle four objects at a time, but he has not proven himself yet. Another boy is named Art Lessons. Isn't that funny? He says he is not good at Art, but everyone asks if he is. The kid that sleeps above my bunk is named John. He can sleep through anything. On the first night, we told jokes and laughed really loud until midnight, and he didn't wake up once.

Our cabin sits on a hill, and it is very close to the latrine. That's a camp word for bathroom. There are no bathtubs, and our showers are outside. We actually stand in the mud to take a shower. Of course, our feet are never really clean. Our cabin is quite far from the canteen or dining hall. I am not a fan of the food here. I miss your cooking mom and dad. We have had beans all three nights. You know how I hate every kind of bean. At least the desserts are really good.

I told everyone that my sister's name is Daisy. They thought it was funny that she was named after a flower. They asked if her middle name was Rose or Violet. I miss Tucker, and I bet he misses me too. He would love to run around the camp ground and chase the squirrels and chipmunks. I also told my bunkmates that dad worked on space shuttles, but they didn't believe me at first. Then I showed them a picture on my phone, and they wanted to know all about it.

I miss you guys. Please write and send good food!

Love,

Andrew

Informative Text 5

A New Invention

Have you ever wanted to climb walls like Spider-Man? Well you just might have the chance. Scientists have invented a new powerful tape, and they have gecko lizards to thank for that. To make this tape, scientists first studied geckos to determine the secret to the gecko's power which allows them to climb on smooth walls and even hang from glass ceilings. What they discovered was geckos have millions of tiny hairs on the bottom of their feet. These hairs work like a suction cup to keep the gecko attached to any smooth surface.

Scientists created a new tape replicating the bottoms of geckos' feet. The tape is covered with not millions, but billions of tiny plastic hairs. The tape is similar to the way Velcro works, but only one piece of tape is needed. Once the tape attaches to any surface, a natural force is created between the tape and the surface it is attached to. This is what will help humans climb walls.

This new powerful tape is still being tested for human use. It may be a few years yet before you can test your Spider-Man skills.

Grade 5 Informative Writing Checklist

Grade 5 Opinion Checklist Sample		Missing	Could be better	Got it!
Introduction	Topic: Did I introduce the topic?			
	Topic: Did I define and set the purpose?			
Middle	Did I use multiple subtopics to describe the topic?			
	Do I have headings for each subtopic?			
	Did I use details, facts AND definitions to describe each subtopic?			
	Did I use quotations to describe the topic?			
	Did I use examples, illustrations or multimedia to tell about the topic?			
	Did I use content specific vocabulary?			
Closing	Restate the topic			
	Did you leave the reader with a message to think about?			
Other	Did I use linking words?			
	Did I logically group related information into paragraphs or sections?			

