

## Seeing Changes

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fiction

My family has lived in this community for many years. We still live in the same house my grandmother lived in when she was a child.

When she was a child, there were open fields. That was 50 years ago. Then more people moved here. It still was a good place to live. There was a good school, and people thought the neighborhood looked pretty. There were many trees and people had big yards.

After many people moved to this community, it got crowded. They built big apartment buildings. They built homes where there had been open lots. By ten years ago, there was no more open land.

Being crowded is not such a bad change. People opened stores in the neighborhood, making it more convenient to shop. My grandmother says that when she was young she had to walk for blocks to get to a store. Now there is a store down the street that opened because store owners know that there are many customers in our community.

More changes keep happening. My grandmother used to have to walk very far to get to school. Thirty years ago, they built a school right across the street from our house. So her child, my mother, could go to school in a minute. She just opened the front door and crossed the street and she was there.

More people moved into the community. The school got overcrowded. So the school district built another building. Hundreds of children go to the school every day. I am one of them.

Five years ago, when I was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, there was no place to play. We had a playground but it was not good. So after school I would go home and play on my block. But there wasn't much to do, it was hard to play there, and my mother worried.

That year they started to change the school. They tore up the concrete outside the school. They planted grass and trees. It took a long time, and there was a lot of dirt and construction noise. My mother kept vacuuming every day. She said it was dust from the construction.

Finally, they finished. Now there is a park right across the street from my home. I'm there every day after school. My mother can see that I am safe. She just looks out the window.

## Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question*

1. Why did the population grow in the community?

- a. People liked it.
- b. They had trees.
- c. There were places to park.
- d. Friends came to stay.

3. What caused them to add a school building?

- a. The growth of the population.
- b. The change in the community.
- c. The improvements in transportation.
- d. The parents demanded it.

2. Why did people open stores in the community?

- a. They liked the community.
- b. They knew they could sell things there.
- c. There was a good school.
- d. Many children lived there.

4. What was one effect of the construction?

- a. There was a lot of dust.
- b. People moved out of the community.
- c. They built another school.
- d. There was no place to play.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What do you predict an effect will be of the building of the park?*

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### TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	b	a	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
More people will move to the community.