

At the meeting, one neighbor was shouting. "I've had enough," he said. "This neighborhood has too many potholes." Other people clapped. They agreed with the neighbor. There were potholes.

"We can't fill in all the potholes until we know where they are," said the Alderman. "Please tell me when you see one. Then I promise I will get it fixed. I need you to help me to help your community."

"What about the snow plowing," a woman asked. "No one came to plow our street. We had to do it ourselves. We voted for you. You need to help us." The Alderman answered. He said, "There was so much snow, that we could not get to the side streets quickly. But they are going to try to do a better job next time. We know this is important. We will fix it."

"Let's talk about progress," the local librarian said. "Are we going to get the new library building?"

"I think we need a new park, first," said a parent.

"A library is more important than a park," she answered.

"No, it's not. You're wrong. You're thinking about yourself."

"Wait, now," said the Alderman. "This ward belongs to everyone. And both will help. We need the park. We need the library. And we need more. I'm trying to get it all. But we're starting with the library. We don't have space for the books in the old one. We need a computer area, too."

"I'm angry," the parent said. "I wanted the park first. I'm going to vote for someone else to be alderman next time."

"Let's all work together," a teacher said. "This is about what we all need and want. We have a great community. Let's work together." Everyone agreed. They clapped loudly. "That is what we need to do," said the alderman.

## Summarize Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2010.

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. Which is the best summary of the first paragraph?

- a. Everyone was happy.
- b. There was a problem.
- c. People were fighting.
- d. They had a meeting.

3. What is the best summary of the passage?

- a. People need help.
- b. People need libraries.
- c. People argue.
- d. People should work together.

2. What is the best summary of the paragraph about the snow?

- a. It snows a lot.
- b. They were busy.
- c. They had to solve a problem.
- d. They voted for the alderman.

4. Which of these is NOT a good summary of the passage?

- a. The alderman is sad.
- b. The librarian is sad.
- c. The community gets a library.
- d. All of them.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Write a summary of the last paragraph.*

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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	b	c	d	d

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
Students should state that the meaning is that people should work together.