

Reading for Comprehension: Cause and Effect



A **cause** is something that makes something else happen. It is the reason for the effect.

It answers the question, "Why did this happen?"



An **effect** is the result of the cause. It happens because of the cause.

It answers the question, "What happened?"

Directions: Read the passage below. Then, answer the questions that follow.

School starts in a week and today is the day we go shopping for school supplies! I told my mom that I didn't need new supplies this year. I loved my backpack from last year because it had a picture of Topaz, my favorite rock singer. It even had her autograph across the bottom of her picture! I couldn't wait to get it out and check my supplies.

When I pulled out my backpack from the back of my closet, I was horrified at how dirty it was. Somehow, over the summer, I had forgotten that the backpack wasn't in good shape. A strap was broken, the color was faded, and the zipper was stuck. There was a dark spot right on Topaz's chin and you could hardly read her signature any more.

When I looked inside, I found papers that were stuck together from an open glue bottle. I wondered who took the cap off of my glue bottle. There was a library book I borrowed and forgot to return. My markers had escaped from the box and the caps were mysteriously missing. My lucky pencil was too short to write with anymore. How did this happen?

I discovered the dark spot on Topaz's chin was from the cupcake I packed away from the end-of-the-year picnic. The frosting melted all over my notebooks and scissors. I decided it was time to make my list of new school supplies.

1. Why did the main character think she could use her old school supplies?

2. What caused the main character to change her mind about getting new school supplies?

3. What caused the dark spot on the backpack?

4. Why were the papers stuck together in the backpack?

5. Why was there a library book inside the backpack?
