

DIRECTIONS

1) **Study:** Learn the meanings of the important domain-specific vocabulary in the text. Use context clues while you reading to deepen your understanding of the words and to infer the meanings of other challenging words:

contractors
disparity
harassed
nicotine
pesticides
recounting

2) **Read:** the article, marking the text to note key ideas or questions.

3) **Check Your Reading:** Take the reading QUIZ to make sure that you have comprehended the author's main claims. If you cannot answer most of the questions with ease, re-read the article.

3) **Think and Respond:** Complete the close-reading activity *Up Close: What They Did for Their Summer Vacation* individually, or better yet, with a partner or small group.

4) **Discuss:** Follow up by talking about the questions and article with classmates or others who have read the article.

5) **Write:** Based on what you've read and discussed, write an essay in which you propose the rules and/or laws that you think should be in place to regulate youth employment on farms. Cite evidence from the text to support your argument and explain how the evidence supports your reasoning. You may wish to conclude your essay with thoughts about OTHER steps that can be taken beyond laws and regulations to address the issue of child farm labor.

Your essay should include:

- an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement
- at least two body paragraphs guided by topic sentences
- a thoughtful concluding paragraph

What They Did for Summer Vacation

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- The article is mainly about
 - tobacco farming in U.S. history.
 - child labor practices all over the globe.
 - the plight of young tobacco workers.
 - hidden dangers on family farms.
- Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the article as a danger tobacco workers face?
 - flooded fields
 - extreme heat
 - nicotine poisoning
 - pesticides
- In 1938, the ____ established rules for child employment in the U.S.
 - Occupational Safety and Health Act
 - Civil Rights Act
 - Fair Labor Standards Act
 - Federal Trade Commission Act
- According to the article, why did the law mentioned in question 3 treat farmwork differently from other kinds of employment?
 - Farmwork was seen as more dangerous than factory work.
 - Parents relied on children to work on family farms.
 - Farmwork was already highly regulated.
 - Unlike most other kinds of employment, farmwork was seasonal.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- What literary device does the author employ in the article title "What They Did for Their Summer Vacation"?
 - simile
 - alliteration
 - flashback
 - irony
- Which conclusion can you draw from the article?
 - Child labor on tobacco farms is not likely to be banned anytime soon.
 - Work on tomato farms is as dangerous as work on tobacco farms but does not get the same attention.
 - New tobacco-company policies are expected to put an end to child labor on tobacco farms.
 - In the U.S., child labor exists only on tobacco farms.
- Select the sentence from the text that best supports your answer to question 6.
 - "She often felt dizzy during her 12-hour shifts . . ."
 - "But the legislation has stalled in committees."
 - ". . . it's one of the most dangerous kinds of work . . ."
 - "Esmeralda Juarez started working on tobacco farms at 12."
- You can infer that Margaret Wurth of Human Rights Watch says "These kids are hired workers" to emphasize that teen tobacco workers
 - should not complain about conditions.
 - deserve better protections under labor law.
 - are learning marketable job skills.
 - none of the above

Up Close

What They Did for Their Summer Vacation

Read the article (on pages 8-11) closely, then answer each question below. Write two to five sentences for each response, using evidence from the text to support your answers. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

- 1.** Summarize the author's purpose in the first three paragraphs of the article.

- 2.** Use evidence from the text to explain why child farmworkers have fewer protections than children who work in other kinds of jobs.

- 3.** Why do you think so many teens are willing to tolerate the harsh conditions in the tobacco fields?

- 4.** In the article, the author states that farmwork is "one of the most dangerous kinds of work young people can do." How does the author develop that claim?

- 5.** The idea of regulating child farm labor has been controversial. Use the text to compare the position of the Obama administration with the position held by farm groups and many Republican lawmakers.

- 6.** Study the photos that appear with the article. What do they add to your understanding of the topic?

- Summarize the author's purpose in the first three paragraphs of the article.

Author's purpose, text structure

(The author's purpose here is to draw the reader's attention by describing the dangerous conditions one teen tobacco worker faces. The author also introduces a central idea of the article—that although Americans think of child labor as a thing of the past, it continues in the nation's tobacco fields.)

- Use evidence from the text to explain why child farmworkers have fewer protections than children who work in other kinds of jobs.

Analyze cause & effect, cite text evidence

(The 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act regulated child labor by limiting work hours, banning children from certain dangerous tasks, etc. However, "because family farming was widespread back then—and parents needed their children to work alongside them—agricultural work was treated differently." These differences remain in place today, even though many child farmworkers are employed by commercial farms rather than their own families.)

- Why do you think so many teens are willing to tolerate the harsh conditions in the tobacco fields?

Make inferences, cite text evidence

(The author notes that many young tobacco workers are "American citizens whose Hispanic immigrant parents may or may not be in the U.S. legally. These teens usually have to work to help their struggling families get by." Because their families need them to help pay the bills, and because they can get many working hours in the tobacco fields, these teens may feel that they have little choice but to tolerate the dangers.)

- In the article, the author states that farmwork is "one of the most dangerous kinds of work young people can do." How does the author develop that claim?

Analyze author's claims

(The author cites data to back up her claim. For example, she notes that three fourths of children under 18 who died from work-related injuries in 2012 were agricultural workers and that about 2,000 child farmworkers suffered non-fatal injuries in that same year. She also describes specific farmwork dangers, like sharp blades and heavy machinery, and notes that young tobacco workers face the "added threat of nicotine poisoning.")

- The idea of regulating child farm labor has been controversial. Use the text to compare the position of the Obama administration with the position held by farm groups and many Republican lawmakers.

Compare & contrast, cite text evidence

(The Obama administration has proposed restrictions, such as banning children under 16 from working in tobacco fields or operating a tractor. But farm groups and many Republican lawmakers have opposed these restrictions, arguing that they "would hurt family farms and make it harder for young people to learn farming skills.")

- Study the photos that appear with the article. What do they add to your understanding of the topic?

Integrate multiple sources

(Both photos illustrate the enormous size of the tobacco fields in which teens labor, helping readers visualize the difficulty of the work. In addition, the photo of Saray shows how impossible it must be to avoid touching the giant—and toxic—leaves of the tobacco plants.)

QUIZ

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|------|------|
| 1. c | 5. d |
| 2. a | 6. a |
| 3. c | 7. b |
| 4. b | 8. b |