Text-based Analysis: Finding Details that Matter

What are details that matter, and why is it important to understand how to find them?

- **Details** shape the central idea of a text. Readers need to identify the important details.
- Authors use **details** to develop and support their **claims** and **message**.
- **Details** help readers make **inferences** and support **claims** about texts. (Inferences are guesses readers can make from clues in the text.)

1. List two details that you notice in the visual text:

   -
   -
   -

   You have just found your first pieces of text-based evidence! In this text, the details that matter are the ones that tell the story or message of the photo.

Let’s take a closer look at portions of this text. Find the important details that answer the questions below.

2. What does the text state?
   The text states________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What evidence (details) from the text supports this claim?
   The claim is supported by ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What can be inferred about the text?
   I can infer ______________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. What evidence (details) from the text supports this inference?
   This inference is supported by ______________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Image source: For the sunny South. An airship with a “Jim Crow” trailer. (1913)

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With a partner discuss the important details in this portion of the visual text and write your answers. Use the sentence starters from questions 2-5.
6. What does the text state?

7. What evidence (details) from the text supports this claim?

8. What can be inferred about the text?

9. What evidence (details) from the text supports this inference?

10. Analyze the relationship between the written text and the visual text. What new inferences can you make about the visual text? Using evidence (details) from each text, support your answer in a paragraph. Use quotation marks for any direct quotes.

Read the following excerpted definition and examples of *Jim Crow laws* from the National Park Service’s Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

From the 1880s into the 1960s, a majority of American states enforced segregation through "Jim Crow" laws (so called after a black character in minstrel shows). From Delaware to California, and from North Dakota to Texas, many states (and cities, too) could impose legal punishments on people for consorting with members of another race. The most common types of laws forbade intermarriage and ordered business owners and public institutions to keep their black and white clientele separated. Here is a sampling of laws...

•Nurses: No person or corporation shall require any white female nurse to nurse in wards or rooms in hospitals, either public or private, in which negro men are placed. *Alabama*

•Buses: All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races. *Alabama*

•Railroads: The conductor of each passenger train is authorized and required to assign each passenger to the car or the division of the car, when it is divided by a partition, designated for the race to which such passenger belongs. *Alabama*


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