Year 6 reading comprehension: How Eucalypts Recover After Fire

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 2 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–2.



How Eucalypts Recover After Fire

After a bushfire, a forest of eucalypts can look dead, yet within weeks green shoots often appear along the black trunks. This is possible because many eucalypts have buds hidden deep beneath their thick bark. These are called epicormic buds, and they stay dormant until the tree is damaged. The bark acts like insulation, so the heat of a fire usually cannot reach the buds. Fire often burns away all of a tree’s leaves. Losing its leaves signals the buds to grow, because without leaves the tree cannot make food. Within weeks, the buds burst through the bark and grow into new leafy shoots, which let the tree make food again. Many mallees have a swollen woody lump underground called a lignotuber, which stores energy and is protected by the soil. If a fire kills every stem above the ground, new stems can sprout from the lignotuber. A few species, such as the mountain ash, are killed outright by very hot fires. Their survival depends on seeds, which drop from woody capsules after the fire and sprout in the ash-rich soil, although a mountain ash does not make seed until it is about 20 years old.

1. What does ‘outright’ mean in the tenth sentence?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** gently, without harm
- ○ **B** completely, with no chance of recovery
- ○ **C** slowly over many years
- ○ **D** partly, but only a little

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2. Which of these is NOT true, using the text?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** A lignotuber stores energy for a mallee.
- ○ **B** Mountain ash seeds sprout in the ash-rich soil.
- ○ **C** Epicormic buds stay dormant until the tree is damaged.
- ○ **D** Mountain ash trees always survive very hot fires.

Answer key

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1. B — completely, with no chance of recovery

The text says: “A few species, such as the mountain ash, are killed outright by very hot fires.” The sentence around the word tells you what it means here.

2. D — Mountain ash trees always survive very hot fires.

The text says: “A few species, such as the mountain ash, are killed outright by very hot fires.”