

1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

1. You are going to read a text titled *Laugh First, Think Later*. Discuss in a group:
 - (a) Based on this title, do you have any idea what this text is about?
 - (b) Now, look at the title, the headings and the picture. Can you predict the subject of the text now?
 - (c) What have you already heard, read or seen about this subject?
2. Read the explanation.

EXPLANATION

When you read a text, do you already know the meaning of all the words? Probably not. Don't worry, because there are some tricks to clarify (find out) the meaning of unknown words. Here is what the Step-by-Step Reading Guide tells us about the reading strategy **clarifying**:

What can you do when you see a word you don't understand?

- *Read part of the text again*: you may find a word that means the same or the opposite. Or you may find an explanation of that word.
- *Look at the picture*: maybe it has something to do with the word.
- *Look at the word*: sometimes you already know part of the word, for example from your own language.
- *Look it up in a dictionary or ask someone the meaning of the word*. This is the last step. Try to clarify the word first! Looking up all the unknown words in the text takes a lot of time, time you often don't have.

Remember to always check if the meaning is correct in the sentence!

3. Read the text together with other classmates. While reading, underline or mark all the words you don't know. You are going to look up a number of these words after reading the text.
4. (a) Now look at the table on the next page. It contains a number of words from the text you might not know. You may have underlined or marked a number of them!
 - Do you already know the word? Write 1 in the second column.
 - Do you think you can find the meaning from the word form? Write 2.
 - Do you think the context can help you find the meaning? Write 3.
 - Will you need to use a dictionary? Write 4.(b) In the third column, you give your definition of the word, based on your own and your classmates knowledge, the word form and/or the context. Or, if none of these methods work, you give a proper dictionary definition.

word	1 to 4	meaning
to have in common (lines 1-2)		
to curse (line 3)		
nutritional (line 5)		
the saliva (line 6)		
the parody (line 10, 11)		
the acceptance speech (line 32)		
to exceed (line 34)		
the equivalent (line 42)		
to remove (line 51)		
to pop out (line 56)		
the breakthrough (line 63)		

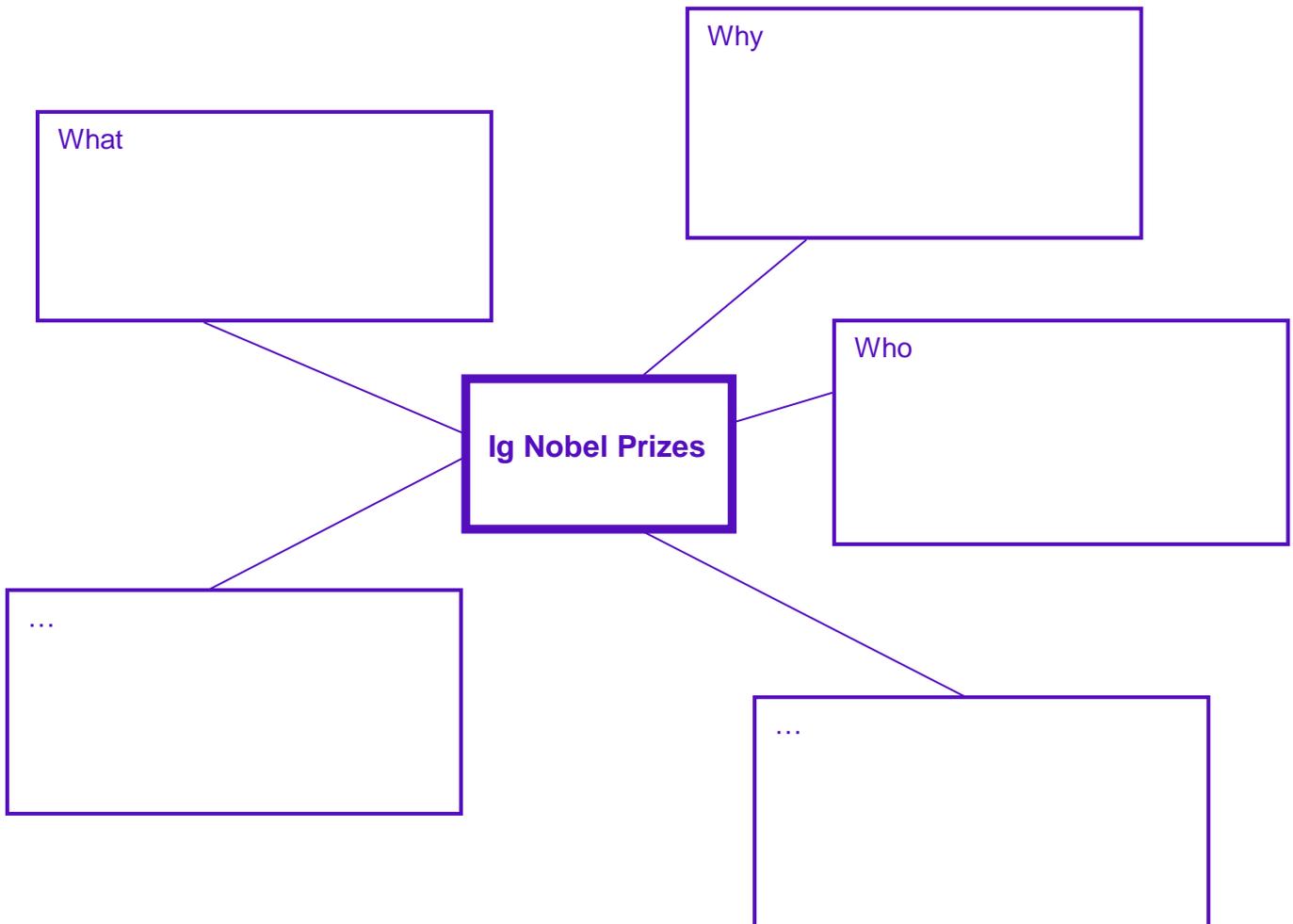
(c) Now complete the above table with the rest of the words you underlined or marked while reading.

2. COMPLETE THE W-CHART

KEY VISUAL

The text gives you information about Ig Nobel Prizes. In order to collect the most important information, you can make a W-chart. This is a chart with questions that start with a 'w': *what, when, who, which, why, where*.

Formulate your own questions and write them around the Ig Nobel Prizes. And, subsequently, fill in the answers. Use the information from the text.



3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Explain the meaning of the title of the text: Laugh First, Think Later.

2. What examples of “absurd” scientific research are mentioned throughout the text?

3. Do researchers become rich by winning an Ig Nobel Prize? Explain your answer.

4. Which verb in lines 61-69 is a synonym for ‘*monkey see, monkey do*’ (line 60)?

- A. to show
- B. to lead
- C. to study
- D. to imitate

5. Name two humorous traditions of the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony that are mentioned in the text.

4. LAUGH FIRST, THINK LATER

The texts gives some examples of reseach that, initially, seems funny or even ridiculous, but appears to be quite interesting when you think it through.

1. Think of your own award-winning research. What would you study? What is your field of research? What would your method be? And what would you hope to achieve with your research? Prepare a short presentation of three minutes.
2. You want to win an Ig Nobel Prize, so, prepare an acceptance speech of one minute.
3. Give a short presentation of your research to the class (max. 3’). The audience may throw folded paper airplanes when the time is up.
4. Vote for the best research idea. This research wins an Ig Nobel Prize.
5. The winning research team gives a short acceptance speech (max. 1’).

Remember the slogan of the Ig Nobel Prize contest: **Laugh First, Think Later!**