

During Reading

Guiding Comprehension

Use the following questions to support students as they read.

- **Page 3** What is a sanctuary? Use context clues to figure it out. (A sanctuary is a place for animals that are not wanted.)
- **Page 4** Why is Mary sold to the Riddles? (She was a circus elephant, but she wouldn't always do what her owners wanted. The owners then sold her to the Riddles.)
- **Page 5** Why did the Riddles think that Mary might want to paint? (She used a stick to doodle in the dirt. Doodling is kind of like painting.)
- **Page 6** What is the main idea of this page? (An elephant's trunk is very useful.)
- **Page 8** What happened the first time that Mary tried to paint? (Mary didn't understand how to paint, and she made a mess.)
- **Page 9** How has Mary's painting improved? (Mary is now careful with the brushes. She doesn't just slap paint on the canvas.)
- **Pages 9–10** Why do you think people buy Mary's paintings? (They think it is interesting or unusual to have a painting by an elephant. They think she paints abstract art.)
- **Page 13** What does Mary like when she paints? (She likes bright colors. She likes to use just part of the canvas. She likes to pick her own brushes.) What does she dislike? (She doesn't like very light or very dark colors.)
- **Page 16** Do you think Mary is an artist? Why or why not? (Answers will vary. Some students will say only people can be true artists. Others may say that since Mary makes her own choices that she is an artist.)
- **Page 16** Why do you think the author wrote this book? (Possible answer: to inform readers about an interesting elephant)

Ongoing Assessment

Reading Strategies

If... a student has difficulty understanding or paraphrasing information in the book,

Then... suggest that the student use a slower reading rate, pausing often to restate the main idea of a passage in his or her own words.

If... a student does not know what an abstract painting is,

Then... point out the abstract paintings on pages 10 and 11 and the phrases "show wavy lines" and "jumble of colors" on page 10.

If... a student has difficulty explaining why the author may have written the book,

Then... use **Model Your Thinking** below.

Model Your Thinking

Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

Think
ALoud

Authors have different reasons for writing. Some authors want to persuade their readers, or get them to think a certain way. Some authors write to entertain readers, and some authors write to tell information. When I read, I ask myself: "What does the author want me to remember when I am through reading?" The photographs are of an actual family and an actual elephant. The book is full of facts about Mary and other elephants. Books that have facts and photographs are usually written to inform, so I think the author wrote this book to inform readers about Mary, the elephant artist.

After Reading

Revisiting the Text

Comprehension Have students use a web to explore the author's purpose. Have them write the author's purpose for writing *Elephant Painter* in the center. Students can list reasons to support that purpose around the outer edges of the web.

Name _____

🔄 Author's Purpose

Read the book *Elephant Painter* and then answer Numbers 1 through 5.

1 What is the end of an elephant's trunk called?

- (A) a nostril
- (B) a finger
- (C) a hand
- (D) a brush

🔄 2 Why did the author end the book with a question?

- (F) to get readers to think more about elephants
- (G) to compare elephants with people
- (H) to end the story in a strange way
- (I) to show that elephants are very smart

3 What did Mary do when the Riddles FIRST gave her a paintbrush?

- (A) She painted very carefully using big and little strokes.
- (B) She painted on only one part of the canvas.
- (C) She chose bright colors and painted abstract pictures.
- (D) She smashed the brush at the canvas and punched a hole in it.

4 Why did the Riddles decide to teach Mary to paint? Use details and examples from the book in your answer.

🔄 5 Why did the author write *Elephant Painter*? Use details and examples from the book in your answer.

Name _____

🔄 Author's Purpose

Read the book *Elephant Painter* and then answer Numbers 1 through 5.

1 What is the end of an elephant's trunk called?

- (A) a nostril
- (B) a finger
- (C) a hand
- (D) a brush

🔄 2 Why did the author end the book with a question?

- (F) to get readers to think more about elephants
- (G) to compare elephants with people
- (H) to end the story in a strange way
- (I) to show that elephants are very smart

4 Why did the Riddles decide to teach Mary to paint? Use details and examples from the book in your answer.

🔄 5 Why did the author write *Elephant Painter*? Use details and examples from the book in your answer.
