

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Understanding Cancer

By  
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**Ningwakwe Learning Press**

*Questions and Activities Designed*  
by Christopher McGruer

**Accompanying Teacher's Guide contains the answer key and more group activities.**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Healthy Living Series. These questions will help you understand and remember what you have read in the book “Understanding Cancer.”

Good readers think when they read. Life has taught you a wide range of thinking skills. This question booklet will help you use them for reading.

The question booklet is divided into nine parts. The answers to the questions in each section can be found on the pages indicated at the beginning of each section.

At the end of each section, there is a self-assessment rubric that you can fill out. This will help you identify what you need to work on.

When you have finished reading the book and answering these questions, your instructor will have a final assessment. As you read, the questions in the booklet will help you practice thinking skills. These skills will help you become a better reader.

**Helpful Tip:**

Read “Understanding Cancer” all the way through then go back and answer the questions in the booklet.

Use the book as a guide to help you with your answers.

# Part 1

(answers found on pages 5-6)

## **A. Comprehension Check**

Choose the best answer

1. When did Mishoo usually pull his net up?
  - 1) in the morning before the sun came up
  - 2) the late afternoon
  - 3) twice a week
  - 4) after the net was completely full
  
2. How old are Mishoo's grandchildren?
  - 1) eight and ten
  - 2) both are twelve years old
  - 3) they are both eleven years old
  - 4) seven and eight
  
3. What does Mishoo call the game that he will make Pitchi play?
  - 1) Talking to the Fishes
  - 2) The Game of Fillet the Fish
  - 3) Catch the Fish in the Net
  - 4) Gills and Fins
  
4. What did Mishoo think his granddaughter, Waubuno, was sad about at first?
  - 1) she had lost her favourite toy
  - 2) her brother was not there
  - 3) her friends had been mean to her at school
  - 4) she wasn't allowed to go swimming

## **B. Revisit the Story**

Mishoo wonders if he should tell his eleven-year-old granddaughter about cancer and how it kills people. Do you think he should tell Waubuno the truth? Why or why not?

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**C. Self-Reflection**

We have all had to tell people things that were difficult. What was a situation that you had trouble telling somebody something? This could be a time you put a dent in your family's car or maybe when you broke up with a girlfriend/boyfriend.

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**Part 1  
How did I do?**

Take some time to reflect on your learning progress. Write the number in the box that best fits the level you are currently working in, with each of the three categories.

Fill this out on your own.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Current level:</b>	<b>Excellent 4</b>	<b>Good 3</b>	<b>Needs Work 2</b>	<b>Review 1</b>
<b>Sentence Structure / Grammar</b>		Used full sentences and proper grammar in the answers.	Answered in full sentences and used proper grammar in the answers but there may be some mistakes.	There are mistakes and while some can be identified, others cannot.	Not sure what is wrong with sentence structure or grammar.
<b>Identify Details in Story</b>		Recalled all the details for answers - only referring to the book occasionally.	Recalled several details, but needed to refer to the book more often.	Needed to use book to locate all details for answers.	Could not locate details with accuracy.
<b>How am I Doing?</b>		All the instructions are clear and my answers are correct.	Understand everything but sometimes not sure if the answers are correct.	Some things are fine but other things are difficult.	The questions are difficult to understand.

I completed Part 1 on \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(date)

## Part 2

(answers found on pages 7-8)

### **A. Comprehension Check**

Choose the best answer.

1. Why is Mishoo impressed with his granddaughter at the lake?
  - 1) she brought sandwiches for them to eat
  - 2) her willingness to help and her belief in practicing the cultural customs
  - 3) she is very good at catching fish
  - 4) it is the first time she seems happy to be fishing
  
2. What does Mishoo remind her grandfather to offer the lake for the fish they will catch?
  - 1) worms for fish food
  - 2) a prayer
  - 3) tobacco
  - 4) nothing
  
3. How many different types of cancer are there?
  - 1) over 200 types
  - 2) 150 kinds of cancer
  - 3) 100 to 120
  - 4) too many to count
  
4. Mishoo had not called her grandfather *Poppa* since she had started school.
  - 1) true
  - 2) false

### **B. Revisit the Story**

Why do you think the author made a point of saying that cancer does not discriminate, regardless of race, creed or colour?

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### **C. Self-Reflection**

Cancer touches everybody in some way, whether it is personally or through someone you know. It takes an adjustment to learn to live with this new change in life. What are some things someone or their family can do to help deal with this. Your instructor can guide you to some great websites.

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## **Part 3**

(answers found on pages 8-11)

### **A. Comprehension Check**

Choose the best answer

1. What does multifactorial mean?
  - 1) it describes the way something smells
  - 2) it is a term used in math
  - 3) caused by one thing
  - 4) there is no single cause
  
2. What are a couple of things that can cause cancer?
  - 1) carcinogens and diet
  - 2) television and movies
  - 3) hiking and running
  - 4) working with wood and paper
  
3. What is the most common kind of cancer among the First Nations people?
  - 1) stomach cancer
  - 2) non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
  - 3) prostate cancer
  - 4) lung cancer
  
4. Mishoo's daughter worked in a factory that made things out of\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1) wood
  - 2) metal
  - 3) asbestos
  - 4) fibreglass

**B. Revisit the Story**

Mishoo’s daughter worked in an asbestos factory and in a diner with second hand smoke. What are some of the changes that have been made in society since the dangers of asbestos and smoke have become known?

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**C. Self-Reflection**

Carcinogens are substances that can cause cancer. Were any of the known carcinogens on page 10 of *Understanding Cancer* surprising to you? Which ones surprised you? Find three more things online that you think may surprise people and have a group discussion about what people have found.

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**Part 4**

(answers found on pages 12-13)

**A. Comprehension Check**

Choose the best answer

1. Smoke inhaled indirectly is called ‘second hand smoke’.
  - 1) true
  - 2) false
  
2. How many fish did they catch?
  - 1) over a dozen
  - 2) six
  - 3) they caught no fish
  - 4) twenty-four
  
3. Was Mishoo stretching the truth when he told his granddaughter that it was the most fish he had caught that early in the fall?
  - 1) yes
  - 2) no

4) Did Mishoo row the boat or use a motor?

- 1) he used a motor
- 2) he used oars
- 3) he used both
- 4) he used neither

**B. Revisit the Story**

Many times we do not know what caused the cancer and there are many different reasons that could be the cause. This can cause a feeling of powerlessness. What are some things someone could do to take control of their life? Create a list of five things and choose two that you could apply to yourself right now.

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**C. Self-Reflection**

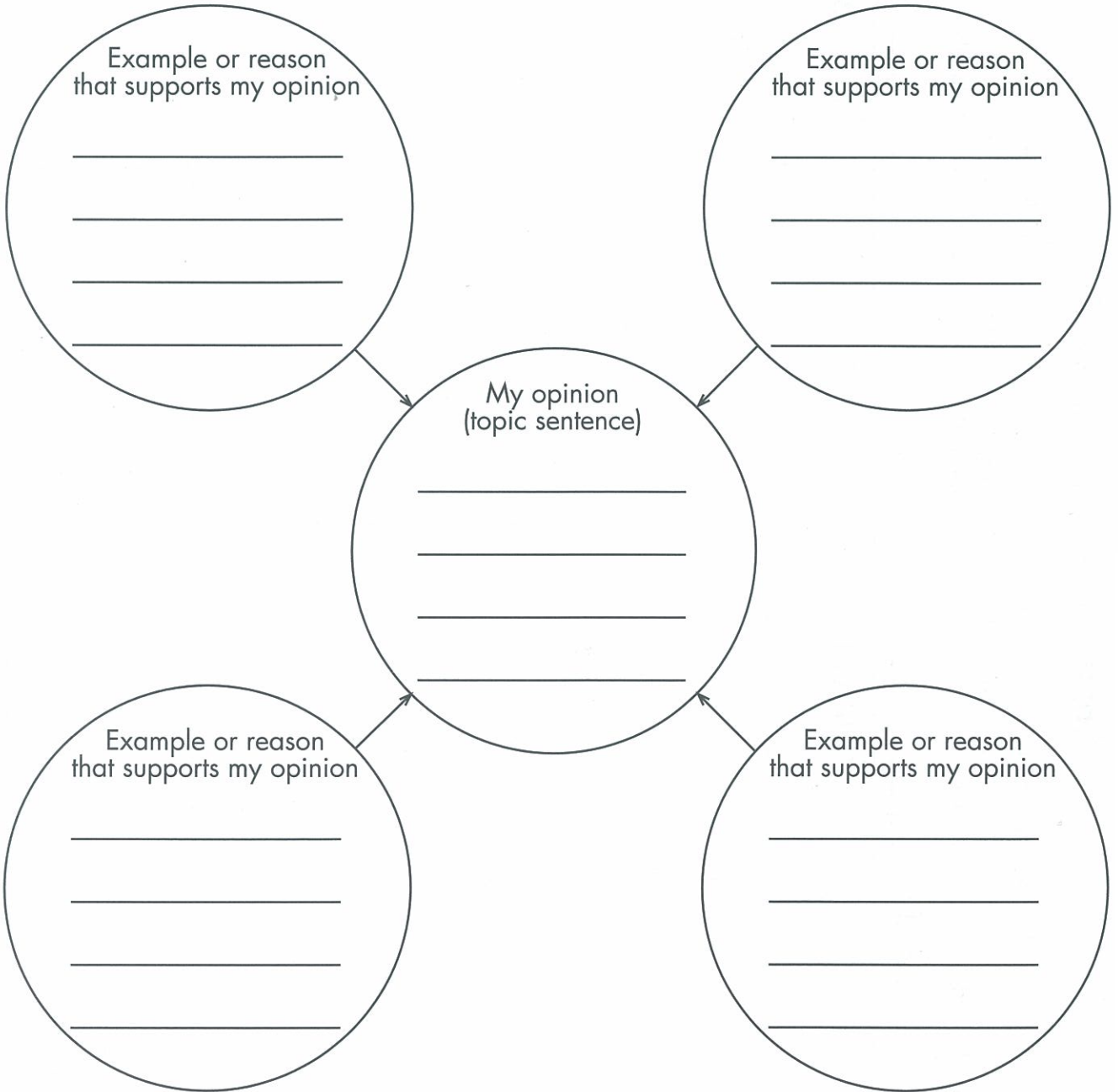
We have learned throughout the years about many things that cause cancer. Yet many of us still do things, like smoking, or eating unhealthy foods, that can cause cancer. Create an idea map, using the sample on the next page, of bad habits that people could change in their life to make them healthier and the positive end product of making those changes.

Example: Stop smoking----- healthier lungs-----walking easier / more energy

# Idea Map

Write your topic on the line below. In the center circle, write a topic sentence summarizing your opinion about the topic. In the surrounding circles, list examples or reasons that support your topic sentence. You can add more circles if you'd like.

**My Topic** \_\_\_\_\_



## Part 4 How did I do?

Take some time to reflect on your learning progress. Write the number in the box that best fits the level you are currently working in, with each of the three categories.

Fill this out on your own.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Current level:</b>	<b>Excellent 4</b>	<b>Good 3</b>	<b>Needs Work 2</b>	<b>Review 1</b>
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I completed Part 1 on \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(date)

## Part 5

(answers found on pages 14-15)

### **A. Comprehension Check**

Choose the best answer.

1. What kind of cancer does Pitchi's best friend's baby sister have?

- 1) lung cancer
- 2) bone cancer
- 3) leukemia
- 4) melanoma

2. Leukemia is a form of cancer that affects the \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) blood
- 2) bones
- 3) lungs
- 4) skin

3. What are the three main ways to treat cancer?

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4. What did Auntie call her chemotherapy treatments?

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5. What did Auntie wear to hockey games to cheer up her nieces and nephews?

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### **B. Revisit the Story**

The author states that Mishoo had felt powerless to help his daughter when he found out she had cancer. What are some of the things he might have done to help her deal with her feelings at the beginning of her illness? Check online for help or ask someone you know who has dealt with cancer in his or her life.

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### **C. Self-Reflection**

The death of a loved one or a close friend is a very traumatic event. What are the stages of loss that one goes through when dealing with such an event? Research your answers online and discuss in a group whether you agree with the stages listed. Hint: try searching for “The Kübler-Ross model.”

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## **Part 6**

(answers found on pages 16-18)

### **A. Comprehension Check**

Choose and write the best answer

1. How does Pitchi think April’s hair will grow back after the chemo treatments?

- 1) blond
- 2) very long
- 3) wavy
- 4) curly

2. Why is Mishoo glad when Pitchi appears coming down the hill?

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3. What does Pitchi say when he is told he has to clean all the fish?

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4. What else does Mishoo want to do with the fish besides use it for the fish fry?

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**B. Revisit the Story**

How do you think Waubuno is feeling having to deal with such major issues at such a young age? What are some of the fears she may be experiencing?

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**C. Self-Reflection**

What is the best or the worst advice you have ever received? This can be about anything you want. What happened? Did you take the advice or did you wish you had or hadn't?

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## Part 7

(answers found on pages 18-20)

### A. Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer

1. There were no computers or electricity in Mishoo's home when he was growing up.

- 1) true
- 2) false

2. What do you think the word, Gokum, means?

- 1) grandmother
- 2) horse
- 3) boat
- 4) table

3. What does Mishoo remember being planted in the garden when he was younger?

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4. What time did people go to bed and get up in the morning in Mishoo's childhood?

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5. Use the following "Occupational Carcinogens Chart" as a guide. Draw a line to match the carcinogen with the occupational use or source.

#### Carcinogen

#### Occupational uses or source

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Benzene                   | floor tiles / fire-resistant textiles                  |
| 2. Nickel                    | ripening agent for fruits and nuts / rocket propellant |
| 3. Arsenic and its compounds | light fuel oil / former use as solvent / printing      |
| 4. Ethylene oxide            | yellow pigments / phosphors / solders                  |
| 5. Asbestos                  | nickel plating / ceramics / stainless steel welding    |
| 6. vinyl chloride            | alloys / herbicides / animal dips                      |
| 7. Calcium and its compound  | refrigerant / vinyl polymers / adhesive for plastics   |

## Occupational Carcinogens

Occupational carcinogens are agents that pose a risk of cancer in several specific work-locations:

Carcinogen	Associated cancer types	Occupational uses or sources
Arsenic and its compounds	Lung Skin Hemangiosarcoma	Smelting byproduct <i>Component of:</i> Alloys; Electrical and semiconductor devices; Medications (e.g. melarsoprol); Herbicides; Fungicides; Animal dips
Asbestos	Lungs Mesothelioma Gastrointestinal tract	<i>Not in use, but still found in:</i> Constructions; Roofing papers; Floor tiles; Fire-resistant textiles; Friction linings
Benzene	Leukemia Hodgkin lymphoma	Light fuel oil Former use as solvent and fumigant Printing; Lithography; Paint; Rubber; Dry cleaning Adhesives; Coatings; Detergents
Beryllium and its compounds	Lung	Missile fuel; Lightweight alloys; Aerospace applications; Nuclear reactors
Cadmium and its compounds	Prostate	Yellow pigments; Phosphors; Solders; Batteries; Metal paintings and coatings
Hexavalent chromium(VI) compounds	Lung	Paints; Pigments; Preservatives
Ethylene oxide	Leukemia	Ripening agent for fruits and nuts; Rocket propellant; Fumigant for foodstuffs and textiles; Sterilant for hospital equipment
Nickel	Nose Lung	Nickel plating; Ferrous alloys; Ceramics; Batteries Stainless-steel welding byproduct
Radon and its decay products	Lung	Uranium decay; Quarries and mines; Cellars and poorly ventilated places
Vinyl chloride	Hemangiosarcoma Liver	Refrigerant; Vinyl polymers; Adhesive for plastics; Former use in pressurized containers

