TEACHER COPY · READ FIRST

Wyoming Climbing Challenge on paper · Grade 9

6 printable trips that match the 6 levels of the online game. No device or account needed.

What is inside

Pages	For	What
This page	Teacher	How to run, score and choose a next step
Trips 1–6	Students	Each trip: the level's picture and stop names, 4 word stops, a two-part challenge (stop 5) and an unscored Talk bonus
Answer key	Teacher	Answer, why it fits, and what each wrong letter usually means
Record sheet	Teacher	First answers and fixes, one row per student per trip

Run one trip (15–25 minutes)

1. Copy one trip for each student. Keep the answer key back.
2. Students read each passage and circle an answer. On the online game a miss gives a clue and a second try; on paper, check the stop, say *"Reread for the clue,"* and let the student try once more. They keep the first answer and write the new letter with a star (★).
3. If the second try misses too, read the key's "why" line together. That is what the game does after a second miss.
4. When all five stops are done, students may read and answer the Talk bonus. It is not scored.

Count and choose a next step

Count **first answers** on stops 1–4, and record stop 5 Part A and Part B separately. Fixes with a star go in their own column. There is no cut score: use the pattern to decide what to talk about next.

What you see	A next step
Missed, then fixed after rereading (★)	Ask "Which detail helped?" The clue strategy is working; give another trip.
Missed twice	Read the key's "why" line together; replace the word in the sentence and check it makes sense. Revisit that skill.
Part A right, Part B wrong	The meaning is there; practice pointing to the exact words that prove it.
Part A wrong, Part B right	The student found the clue but did not use it; ask them to say the meaning in their own words.
The same skill missed on several trips	Small-group practice on that skill (the key names the skill for each stop).

Levels in this packet

- **Climb 1: Ten Sleep: Pocket Ledges** — Pocket Start, Low Shelf, Pale Wall, High Shelf, Rim Anchor
- **Climb 2: Ten Sleep: Pillar Crack** — Lower Crack, Pillar Corner, Shaded Notch, Upper Seam, Crack Anchor
- **Climb 3: Vedauwoo: Granite Tower** — Granite Step, Slab Edge, Lichen Ledge, Tower Crack, Upper Blocks
- **Climb 4: Vedauwoo: Chimney Line** — Chimney Entry, Aspen View, Granite Notch, High Corner, Chimney Anchor
- **Climb 5: Devils Tower: Column Steps** — Lower Column, Block Step, Sunlit Edge, Broken Blocks, Column Anchor
- **Climb 6: Devils Tower: Split Pillar** — Split Start, Lower Seam, Parallel Crack, High Pillar, Pillar Anchor

Same words as the online game. These are the game's approved passages and questions, so a student who played online may have seen some. Every word also has a second passage that is **not** used in this packet; it is kept back for an unseen recheck. Original practice from Pole Mountain Learning, informed by published ELA expectations. It is not an official Pearson, NAVVY or WY-TOPP assessment and does not use their test questions. Results are practice notes, not grades, and do not predict test scores or establish mastery. Built and reviewed with AI tools; no human classroom trial of this revision yet. Free for classroom use. November 2026 edition.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY · KEEP SEPARATE FROM STUDENT COPIES

Answer key · Grade 9

Climb 1: Ten Sleep: Pocket Ledges

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	reconcile context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**B**	The January signatures can describe preparation before the March public meeting. Distinguishing those stages lets both accounts fit one sequence, so neither account has to be rejected.	**A:** The conflicting details are examined rather than simply discarded. **C:** A preference alone would not resolve the conflict between the sources. **D:** Repeating a disagreement leaves it unresolved.
2	tentative shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**D**	The word “tentative” signals caution while leaving the plan open to change. The detail “She welcomed the proposal but would confirm the arrangement only after reviewing the building schedule.”	**A:** A decision kept open for revision has not been discarded. **B:** Important conditions remain unresolved, so the decision is not final. **C:** The group has prepared a plan; its remaining conditions are still being checked.
3	undermine figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**C**	The detail “They weaken the link between the proposed cause and the evidence.” supports the meaning “weaken the support on which something depends” in this passage.	**A:** Adding a new version is not the same as weakening trust in the existing one. **B:** The passage describes a challenge that reduces confidence rather than leaving it intact. **D:** The effect is to weaken the argument’s standing, not improve its clarity.
4	qualify multiple meanings · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**A**	The detail “The result applied to the conditions actually tested.” supports the meaning “limit how broadly a claim should apply” in this passage.	**B:** Meeting a requirement is another meaning, but this passage concerns the scope of a statement. **C:** The added limits reduce certainty rather than strengthen an unrestricted claim. **D:** Adding a condition preserves part of the claim; it does not necessarily reverse it.
5A	autonomous word parts · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, RL.9-10.1	**B**	Auto- relates to self, and nomos relates to governing rules. Autonomous describes self-government; the context shows decisions made locally within agreed limits.	**A:** Waiting for every instruction would contradict the independent decision-making described. **C:** Self-government still involves responsibilities and agreed limits. **D:** Autonomy gives a group decision-making authority rather than requiring identical preferences.
5B	evidence	**A**	“We made our own decisions without waiting for central instructions.” is the detail that shows “autonomous” means “self-directing rather than controlled by another group.”	**B:** Drying the paper does not explain self-government. **C:** This describes the narrator’s earlier assumption, not the team’s actual authority. **D:** This locates the paper rather than showing who has authority.

Talk bonus (ledge): A ledge is a narrow shelf of rock projecting from a cliff.

Climb 2: Ten Sleep: Pillar Crack

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	concede context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**C**	The detail “Accepting that objection did not require abandoning electronic announcements.” supports the meaning “acknowledge a point despite initial resistance” in this passage.	**A:** Accepting one valid point does not mean abandoning every part of a position. **B:** The speaker accepts part of the opposing case instead of disproving it. **D:** The response directly addresses the objection rather than escaping it.
2	impartial shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**B**	The word “impartial” emphasizes fairness rather than personal allegiance. The detail “Both groups received the same questions, the same opportunity to clarify costs and the same published explanation of the final decision.”	**A:** Treating sides fairly does not mean being indifferent to consequences. **C:** Fair judgment requires examining the competing positions rather than ignoring them. **D:** Favoring a reputation would abandon the equal standard described.
3	catalyst figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**D**	The detail “It brought the separate concerns together at a moment when a practical response was possible.” supports the meaning “an event that sets a larger change in motion” in this passage.	**A:** A triggering event can prompt action while disagreements remain. **B:** The incident draws attention to a concern instead of hiding it. **C:** The event begins or accelerates change rather than ending the process.
4	articulate multiple meanings · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**B**	The detail “Her account turned a general feeling into reasons that someone unfamiliar with the route could understand.” supports the meaning “express an idea clearly enough to be understood” in this passage.	**A:** Connecting movable parts is another sense, but this context concerns expressing ideas. **C:** An idea can be clearly expressed without winning everyone’s agreement. **D:** Clear expression requires more than repeating the same unexplained position.
5A	disproportionate word parts · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.4b, RL.9-10.1	**A**	Proportionate means in an appropriate relation, and dis- reverses that meaning. The passage shows an amount that exceeds what the comparison supports.	**B:** Changing labels would not explain the unequal burden described. **C:** The word concerns an unbalanced relationship, not equal distribution. **D:** The response exceeds an appropriate relation rather than matching it.
5B	evidence	**C**	“Her penalty was far greater without a corresponding difference.” is the detail that shows “disproportionate” means “out of reasonable proportion to the stated difference.”	**A:** The two pages introduce the characters without explaining the unequal consequences. **B:** Putting away the page does not explain whether the penalty fits the circumstances. **D:** The adviser leaves the final decision open, which does not explain the unequal penalty.

Talk bonus (fissure): A fissure is a long, narrow opening or split in rock.

Climb 3: Vedauwoo: Granite Tower

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	sustain context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**D**	The detail “Those supports would keep later sessions running when the original donations were gone and the first organizers needed a break.” supports the meaning “keep an activity operating over an extended period” in this passage.	**A:** The passage concerns maintaining the activity, not repeatedly substituting a new one. **B:** Starting an activity is different from keeping it functioning over time. **C:** Continuing reliably does not require rapid growth or overuse of resources.

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
2	conventional shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**A**	The word “conventional” presents a method as familiar and widely established. The detail “Many local exhibitions already used photographs beside explanatory labels, so visitors would recognize how to approach it.”	**B:** The method is familiar rather than an unprecedented experiment. **C:** Following an established practice does not mean that exceptions are impossible. **D:** An established method can remain useful; the word does not itself dismiss it.
3	thread figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**A**	The detail “That concern appeared in different situations and gave the exhibition more coherence than a list of occupations would have provided.” supports the meaning “an idea that connects otherwise separate parts” in this passage.	**B:** The connecting idea runs through several parts without replacing them. **C:** The passage refers to a relationship among ideas, not a physical fastening. **D:** The recurrence organizes meaning rather than being an accidental duplication.
4	reservation multiple meanings · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**D**	The detail “Her concern prevented her from agreeing without further discussion.” supports the meaning “a doubt that prevents complete acceptance” in this passage.	**A:** A concern can limit support without ending all discussion. **B:** The speaker identifies a concern rather than offering unconditional approval. **C:** That is another meaning of reservation, but this context concerns hesitation about agreement.
5A	misinterpret word parts · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.4b, RL.9-10.1	**D**	Interpret means assign or explain meaning. Mis- changes that action to doing it incorrectly, which the surrounding context confirms.	**A:** Translation is not necessarily a misunderstanding of the source. **B:** The reader reaches a mistaken conclusion rather than suspending judgment. **C:** A useful paraphrase can preserve meaning; this response gives the wrong meaning.
5B	evidence	**B**	“I had mistaken a later start for being told not to come.” is the detail that shows “misinterpret” means “give a message a meaning its context cannot support.”	**A:** Entering the studio follows the correction rather than explaining it. **C:** This describes the initial conclusion, without directly identifying it as unsupported. **D:** Receiving a message does not establish how it is understood.

Talk bonus (granite): Granite is a coarse-grained rock with visible mineral crystals.

Climb 4: Vedauwoo: Chimney Line

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	perspective context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**D**	The detail “Each perspective emphasized a different consequence because each person occupied a different place in the system.” supports the meaning “a viewpoint shaped by experience or social position” in this passage.	**A:** The passage shows differing interpretations rather than a single shared conclusion. **B:** A viewpoint selects and interprets details; it is not a complete inventory. **C:** The word concerns how an issue is viewed, not a guarantee about future events.
2	scrutiny shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**B**	The word “scrutiny” emphasizes close examination rather than quick acceptance. The detail “Reviewers checked which classes had been compared, how participation had been counted and whether quieter students were represented.”	**A:** Close examination can reveal strengths as well as problems; judgment is not predetermined. **C:** The word stresses sustained examination instead of a passing look. **D:** The review examines methods and details rather than surface appeal alone.

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
3	friction figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**C**	The detail “Requests to move equipment became personal complaints, and members began treating ordinary questions as criticism.” supports the meaning “strain caused by people’s conflicting expectations” in this passage.	**A:** The disagreement causes strain rather than only constructive exchange. **B:** That is a literal meaning, but the passage concerns the relationship between groups. **D:** The expectations remain in conflict rather than being fully resolved.
4	margin multiple meanings · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**B**	The detail “We needed time left over for something we had not predicted.” supports the meaning “extra capacity available if circumstances change” in this passage.	**A:** That is another meaning of margin, but the passage concerns spare capacity. **C:** Extra capacity can help with uncertainty without preventing every problem. **D:** The word refers to what remains beyond the expected requirement, not the whole amount.
5A	indispensable word parts · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.4b, RL.9-10.1	**D**	Dispensable means able to be done without. In- adds not, so indispensable means necessary in the circumstances described.	**A:** Removing an essential function would prevent the work from proceeding properly. **B:** Being essential in the present arrangement does not mean being irreplaceable forever. **C:** The function is required for the activity, not just for its appearance.
5B	evidence	**C**	“Without the notes, we could not complete an accurate account.” is the detail that shows “indispensable” means “essential rather than merely convenient to have.”	**A:** The narrator’s reaction does not explain the role of the notes. **B:** This action responds to the problem without directly explaining why the notes are essential. **D:** The failure creates the need but does not directly establish the notes’ necessity.

Talk bonus (chimney): In a rock formation, a chimney is a vertical opening between rock faces.

Climb 5: Devils Tower: Column Steps

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	viable context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**A**	The detail “It required shelving and supervision that the group could provide.” supports the meaning “capable of working under the existing conditions” in this passage.	**B:** Familiarity does not establish whether the required resources are available. **C:** Attention alone does not show that a proposal can operate successfully. **D:** A workable proposal can still need changes and does not guarantee success.
2	measured shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**C**	The word “measured” portrays a response as controlled and carefully judged. The detail “The response was controlled without pretending that the loss did not matter.”	**A:** Restraint follows a judgment; it does not necessarily show confusion. **B:** A restrained response can address a serious issue without treating it lightly. **D:** The response is considered before it is expressed rather than impulsively released.
3	a double-edged sword figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**A**	The detail “The same feature that helped the newspaper reach readers quickly also reduced the time available for checking.” supports the meaning “something offering a benefit along with a linked risk” in this passage.	**B:** Both benefit and drawback matter to the comparison. **C:** The benefit creates another concern, so caution remains necessary. **D:** The comparison concerns opposing effects, not two useful physical parts.

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
4	temper multiple meanings · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**B**	The detail “The condition reduced my enthusiasm without removing it.” supports the meaning “reduce the force of a reaction without removing it” in this passage.	**A:** Tempering metal is a physical treatment; this passage uses temper for moderating a reaction. **C:** Moderation reduces intensity without necessarily reversing the attitude. **D:** The feeling remains visible but becomes more restrained.
5A	circumspect word parts · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, RL.9-10.1	**C**	Circum- means around, and spect relates to looking. The parts suggest examining surrounding circumstances; the passage applies that idea to careful judgment.	**A:** Careful consideration does not guarantee complete control of future events. **B:** Considering several sides requires examining inconvenient information as well. **D:** The person delays commitment long enough to examine the consequences.
5B	evidence	**B**	“She marked three clauses to question before either of us signed.” is the detail that shows “circumspect” means “cautious after looking at several sides of a situation.”	**A:** Sitting down is not the strongest evidence that consequences are considered. **C:** This physical setting does not explain the careful approach to the offer. **D:** The apparent benefit introduces the offer without showing how it is evaluated.

Talk bonus (column): Here, a column is a tall, upright section of rock.

Climb 6: Devils Tower: Split Pillar

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
1	implicit context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**D**	The detail “The arrangement and the volunteers’ repeated actions communicated that expectation without a direct written instruction.” supports the meaning “understood without being directly stated” in this passage.	**A:** A direct instruction would be explicit, whereas the expectation here is inferred. **B:** An unstated expectation can be stable even when it is not written down. **C:** The expectation can be understood from the situation; it is not an unknowable secret.
2	pragmatic shades of meaning · RL.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b	**C**	The word “pragmatic” emphasizes workable results over an ideal arrangement. The detail “She chose a workable arrangement under the actual limits.”	**A:** The decision weighs useful results and constraints, not price alone. **B:** The practical choice is intended to serve people, not to ignore their needs. **D:** The person changes the arrangement to meet real constraints rather than refusing adjustment.
3	in the shadow of figurative language · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a	**C**	The detail “Their quality was not necessarily lower, but the better-known event dominated public attention.” supports the meaning “receiving less attention because of something better known” in this passage.	**A:** The comparison concerns public notice, not the direction of sunlight. **B:** The work exists and may succeed even though it receives less attention. **D:** The passage concerns reduced recognition rather than protection from criticism.
4	cumulative context clues · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a	**B**	The detail “Added across the afternoon, the interruptions consumed enough time to prevent the final test.” supports the meaning “building as the effects of successive additions combine” in this passage.	**A:** The result follows the additions; it does not precede them. **C:** The effect develops through several contributions rather than one isolated event. **D:** The contributions build the result rather than leaving it unchanged.

Stop	Word · skill	Key	Why it fits	If they chose…
5A	nuanced shades of meaning · RI.9-10.4, L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b, RI.9-10.1	**C**	The word “nuanced” shows careful attention to meaningful differences. The detail “The account separated differences that a simple verdict concealed.”	**A:** A careful judgment can still reach a conclusion while recognizing important differences. **B:** Recognizing distinctions does not require treating all claims as equally sound. **D:** The distinctions are supported by the account rather than used to conceal weak evidence.
5B	evidence	**B**	“The account separated differences that a simple verdict concealed.” is the detail that shows “nuanced” means “shows careful attention to meaningful differences.”	**A:** The visitors request a simple verdict rather than providing the nuanced analysis. **C:** The cards present the analysis; the selected quotation directly describes the distinctions it makes. **D:** The existence of two proposals does not itself show careful distinctions.

Talk bonus (joint): In geology, a joint is a fracture or break in rock.

TEACHER COPY · CLASS RECORD SHEET

Wyoming Climbing Challenge on paper · Grade 9

Use initials or class codes only. One row per student per trip. Copy this page for more students.

Student (initials or code)	Climb #	Stop 1	Stop 2	Stop 3	Stop 4	Stop 5 · Part A	Stop 5 · Part B	Next step / notes

In each stop cell write ✓ if the FIRST answer was right, or ★ if the student fixed it after rereading. Leave it blank if it was still missed. Count only ✓ as first answers, as the online game does; ★ fixes are shown but counted separately. Part A and Part B of stop 5 are recorded separately.