

The Mystery Tower

by Ellen Cafferata



- 1 The smallest state in the United States is Rhode Island. However, it has a big mystery in it. The mystery is a tower in the city of Newport.
- 2 The tower is made of huge gray rocks. They're many shapes and sizes. However, they fit together perfectly.
- 3 The tower is a strange building. It has arched doorways, and it has small windows. But the windows are so far up that no one can reach them.
- 4 There are no stairs in the tower. There's no place to sit. There's no floor or roof. There's nothing at all inside the tower! It's a mystery.
- 5 Scientists have studied the mystery tower. No one knows who built it. Some scientists think it is an old windmill. They say it was built by people who settled there about three hundred years ago.
- 6 Others think it was built by Vikings. Vikings came from the northern lands of Europe long ago. They were sailors. They came on big ships. They might have built the tower. They might have used it to study stars at night. If built by Vikings, the tower would be about seven hundred years old.
- 7 Scientists are still studying the tower. They still need to find many answers. Will they find them? Or will the strange tower always be a mystery?

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 The author writes that the tower is a mystery because
 - a** nobody knows why it was made or how old it is.
 - b** the end is a surprise.
- 2 The Vikings might have reached Rhode Island because it is
 - a** far from the sea.
 - b** close to the sea.
- 3 You know that the builders were very good because
 - a** the tower is still there today.
 - b** they knew how to build many stairs and windows.

- 4 You know that the tower would *not* be a good place to live because
 - a** it has no roof or floor.
 - b** its doors are arched.
- 5 If people find the answers to their questions about the tower,
 - a** the tower will no longer be a mystery.
 - b** people will no longer visit it.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 curved at the top; rounded (3)
- 2 unknown; something that isn't understood (4)
- 3 machine that is worked by the wind (5)
- 4 went to live; came to stay (5)
- 5 trying to learn more about (7)

C Look at the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 People would like to find the answer to a _____.
- 7 If people keep _____ the tower, they might learn more.
- 8 A windy hill is a good place for a _____.
- 9 Some people might have _____ there about seven hundred years ago.
- 10 An _____ window would match the rounded doorways.

THINK ABOUT IT

D wind + mill = windmill

The word *windmill* is a mill run by the wind. *Windmill* is a compound word. A compound word is made by putting two or more words together.

Look at the two words in **bold type**. Put the two words together to complete the second sentence. Write the compound word.

- 1 The only **way** in is through the **door**. Use that _____.
- 2 Sailors follow the **light** of a **star**. The _____ guides them.
- 3 Vikings had to **sail** on a **boat** for many days. A _____ was the best way to travel.
- 4 There was no **roof** at the **top** of the tower. The _____ fell in long ago.
- 5 People built a **mill** that used the **wind**. A _____ grinds things.

E A fact is something that is true. An opinion is what someone thinks.

Fact: Mrs. Lopez is a teacher.

Opinion: I think she is nice.

Read each sentence. Is it a fact or an opinion? Write *F* if it is a fact. Write *O* if it is an opinion.

- 6 I think it is an old windmill.
- 7 I think Vikings built it.
- 8 The tower has small windows.
- 9 There are no stairs to climb to the top.
- 10 You would have to sit on the ground there.