

**Activity 22:**  
**RELATING CAUSE & EFFECT & DRAWING CONCLUSIONS**  
**WITH THE CLASS**

Practice connecting cause and effect in text and drawing conclusions.

Directions: (*Do this activity as a class*)

1. Stories often contain a series of related events. One event causes another event. And then that event causes another event. This is sometimes called cause and effect. Understanding how a series of related events can result in a lesson learned or a logical next step is sometimes called drawing conclusions.
2. Look at the following story as an example. Preview the story. Look at the title. Read the first couple of paragraphs. What do you think this story will be about? What do you think you will learn about the characters in the story?
3. Read the following story together. Draw an arrow from the sentence that is underlined (cause) to something that happened as a result of it (effect). Then draw another arrow to the next thing that happened as a result and underline it. The first arrow is drawn as an example.
4. Connect all of the causes and effects in the story with arrows. Start from the first cause and make a sentence using the word, “because,” connecting the causes and effects. For example: *The children were taking a walk in the meadow with their dog, and because Cole ran ahead, he discovered a snake. Because Ellen took time to decide if she wanted to see it, it was gone by the time she caught up with Cole. And because ...*
5. Start from the last effect and go backwards, connecting as many effects to the causes again using the word, “because”.
6. What did the characters in the story learn?
7. Answer the questions at the end of the story.

## Chase's Surprise

- 34 Ellen, her brother Cole, and her sister Sara, decided to take a walk in the meadow near their neighborhood. They took Chase, their dog, with them on their adventure over the hills of grasses and wildflowers.
- 35 They weren't really sure what they were looking for, but they hoped for a few surprises on their adventure.
- 36 Chase was a golden lab. His name was perfectly chosen because he loved to run after anything that moved. His nose was constantly sniffing around for something interesting. He was happiest when left to explore the meadow. Often the only sign of Chase was his golden tail waving back and forth like a flag above the meadow grass, signaling his excitement over his discoveries.
- 37 At the moment, Chase was nowhere to be seen. Cole had run ahead up to the top of a hill. He was yelling for the others to come quickly. He had made the first discovery. It was a snake!
- 38 Sara ran to catch up with Cole, but Ellen lagged behind. Did she really did want to see the snake? Reptiles did not normally scare her. At the nearby marsh, she liked to discover the turtles and lizards swimming and jumping in and out of the shallow pools of water in the tall grass. But she wasn't sure about snakes.
- 39 By the time Ellen decided to catch up with her brother and sister, the snake had disappeared into a patch of tall meadow grass. The children looked across the miles of grass blowing in the wind and the clusters of brilliant wildflowers, burning in small blazes of reds, oranges, and yellows. They called for their dog, Chase.

- 40 As they did so, they saw Chase, charging up the hill, barking and wagging his tail. Straight up the hill Chase rushed, right toward the spot where the children had seen the snake. When Chase reached that spot, he stopped and started sniffing around.
- 41 "Here, Chase!" Ellen called. She was worried that the snake might bite Chase and that the snake might be poisonous.
- 42 Chase was too interested in what he was doing to obey. He continued sniffing and digging.
- 43 "Come on Chase!" shouted Cole.
- 44 But Chase only seemed more and more interested in whatever he had found in the grass.
- 45 Then all at once, Chase pounced on something. The children couldn't see exactly what Chase had pounced on, but they feared the worst.
- 46 "Oh, the snake!" Ellen gasped.
- 47 Chase came up toward the children and they could see he had a long, black object dangling from his mouth.
- 48 "Chase has the snake!" exclaimed Cole.
- 49 "What if it bites him?" Ellen cried.
- 50 The children didn't know whether to run away or try to get the snake from Chase.

51 As Chase approached the children, he dropped the black thing. But instead of wiggling or trying to bite, it lay motionless.

52 "It's dead," said Ellen. "Chase must have killed it."

53 Ellen was braver now. She went closer to examine the snake.

54 "Look, Cole and Sara!" she called. "It isn't a snake at all! It's only an old black root of a tree all twisted up like a snake!"

55 Cole and Sara came to examine the black object more closely. Chase stood over it, wagging his tail as if he had captured a real snake. But just as Ellen had said, it was only a tree root.

56 "It looks just like a snake," Cole laughed.

57 "Yes," agreed Ellen. "But I'm glad it isn't."

58 Chase jumped about, barking as though he wanted praise for what he had done. He held the root up again for all to see.

59 "Chase, you are the bravest dog ever," Cole remarked as he scratched Chase behind an ear. "And if it had been a real snake, you'd have scared it away, you brave dog!"

60 If barks meant anything, Chase seemed to be saying that he certainly would have. He seemed to be telling the children that not even a dozen snakes could frighten a big dog like him.

61 The children started off again, looking for more adventures.

- 62 "There probably aren't any poisonous snakes in the meadow at all," Cole noted.
- 63 "Probably not," said Ellen, but she and the others kept a vigilant lookout for snakes just in case.
- 64 When the children returned home, they told their mother all about their meadow adventure and Chase's surprise.
- 65 They all had a good laugh and agreed that things are not always as they look.
- 66 It had been just the exciting adventure they were looking for. Their mother suggested that they make a trip to the library to learn about different kinds of snakes in the meadow and their habitat.
- 67 The children agreed. Tomorrow's adventure was planned.

**Answer the questions on the following page.**

## Questions

Why didn't Ellen see the snake?

- A. Because she was busy catching turtles.
- B. Because she didn't go to the place where it was lying in the grass.
- C. Because by the time she went to see it, it was gone.
- D. Because she was looking for her dog, Chase.

Why did the children think that Chase was pouncing on a snake?

- A. Because Chase always found snakes in the meadow.
- B. Because the children had seen a snake at the same place Chase was pouncing.
- C. Because the children saw the snake fighting with Chase.
- D. Because the children heard the snake hissing.

## Open-ended question

### Part A

What was Chase's surprise?

### Part B

Explain three events in the order that they happened in the story that led up to Chase's surprise.