Read the stories. Use the Study Buddies and the Close Reading to guide your reading.

**Mystery of the Old Sea Chest**

*by Allison DePaul*

1. The attic was one creepy place, Gloria decided as she swatted a mass of cobwebs hanging between the wall and an old sea chest. Gloria was hunting for facts about her ancestors for a school project. Her mother had suggested looking in the chest, which had belonged to Gloria’s grandmother.

2. Inside the chest, Gloria found old photographs, a thimble, and a tin box. After flipping through the blurry photos, Gloria opened the box. All at once, her eyes bulged, and she slammed the box shut! When she opened the box again, she was still shocked at the contents—money, and lots of it. Where had it come from? Gloria was determined to find out.

3. Gloria asked her mother what she knew about the chest. She said that Uncle Roger had the chest before they did. Gloria decided to call him. He said he’d been storing it for his mother, Gloria’s grandmother, for years, but he’d never bothered to open the tin box.

4. Gloria was frustrated, but she didn’t give up. She kept thinking. Who else might know about the money? Suddenly Gloria had an idea. She asked her mother if they could visit Great-aunt Jean, her grandmother’s sister. When Gloria opened the tin box for her great-aunt, the woman’s face grew sad. “She never got to take any of her trips,” Great-aunt Jean said.

5. Great-aunt Jean explained that whenever her sister had extra money, she saved it so she could travel, but then never had the chance. With the mystery behind her, Gloria felt proud of herself for working hard to solve it. And later on, Great-aunt Jean had an inspiration—the family would use the money to take a vacation together. Gloria’s grandmother would have liked that.
Mile High Mystery  by Joanna Banks

1. It was a freezing-cold night in Fairbanks, Alaska, and snow had been falling all day. My sister Missy and I sat at the kitchen table doing our homework when we heard an eerie sound.

2. “It’s coming from the porch,” Missy whispered as she lifted the curtain to look out. On the porch sat the shaggiest, saddest dog I had ever seen. His paws were crusted with ice, but the snow had already covered his tracks. We carried him inside to show him to our parents.

3. “This dog must belong to someone,” I said, rubbing his head. I was determined to get him back to his family. But who was his family? Just then, I felt something. “There’s a collar under all this fur. He’s wearing tags!” I said. “We can find his owner through these. Hmm, it says ‘Mile High’ on the tag.”


5. I eagerly grabbed the phone book. But there was no Mile High clinic listed. “Maybe it’s a new clinic and isn’t listed yet,” I said. “I’ll call the operator and check.”

6. “Sorry, there’s no listing with that name,” the operator said. I thanked her and then hung up with a sigh. But I just couldn’t give up.

7. “This is a job for the Internet,” I said. A quick search revealed that Denver, Colorado, is nicknamed the “Mile High City.” Next I searched for animal clinics in Denver. Bingo! I dialed the number for the Mile High Animal Clinic in Denver. After the phone call, I explained to my family that a family whose dog was known there had recently moved to Fairbanks. Their house was not far from ours, but the snow had kept the dog from finding his way back. The mystery was solved and now this lost dog was really found!
Lesson 22

Both girls try one way to solve the mysteries and do not succeed. Which sentence states what both girls do next?

How do both characters face and overcome their challenges? Look back at the sentences that you underlined.

Use the Hints on this page to help you answer the questions.

1. Which of the following statements is true about both mysteries?
   A. Each mystery has to do with homework assignments.
   B. Something unexpected is discovered in an unlikely place.
   C. Weather makes the main character’s problem worse.
   D. Talking to a distant family member finally solves the mystery.

2. Both of the main characters handle their problems in similar ways. Which statement best describes how they solve their problems?
   A. They both travel to another city to find the answer.
   B. They both ask their sisters to help them.
   C. They both find important information in the attic.
   D. They both contact people to get more information.

3. The stories “Mystery of the Old Sea Chest” and “Mile High Mystery” share the common theme: Determination is the key to solving problems. Identify at least two details from each story that support this theme.