

# STRUCTURE OF A TEXT

Read the given passage and answer the questions.

## *Can Trees Talk?* by Leeann Zouras

Trees do not communicate in the wind. They do it via fungi (mushrooms) deep underground. Imagine following a tree root deep underground. You'll see the roots covered in fine white fuzz that stretches into the soil like a cottony web. The white threads are hyphae.

It absorbs nutrients and water from the soil. Stretching for miles, they can connect many trees. Trees can use the fungus network to exchange food and chemicals—a tree form of talking. Scientists discovered this while researching how carbon moves through a tree. They fed one tree a special kind of carbon dioxide, and measured where it went in the roots and leaves. Surprisingly, they discovered the special carbon in the roots of nearby trees—even in different species.

Trees in a forest can help each other via the fungus network. They send extra sugar along to the sick, injured, neighbors, or those who don't get enough sun. They can also use the network to warn about danger.

Bugs become repellent when they nibble on a tree. The taste is passed on through the fungus network to others. Then, before the bugs arrive, its neighbors begin producing poison, resulting in benefits for all.

In Africa, when a giraffe eats an acacia tree, the leaves release ethylene gas. Other trees' leaves take in the ethylene. This triggers them to fill their leaves with poison. Giraffes walk away from them. So, although trees may be quiet giants, they can say plenty, if you know how to listen.



**A** Complete the sequence: How do trees help each other to save them from bugs?

Tree nibbled by bugs, makes it repellent.

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**B** Complete the sequence: How do trees help each other save themselves from bugs?

Giraffe munches on an acacia tree, the leaves release ethylene gas.

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**C** Cause: The leaves of the acacia tree release ethylene gas.

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

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**D** Effect: Scientists fed one tree a special kind of carbon dioxide and measured where it went in the roots and leaves. They also found it in the roots of nearby trees.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

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**E** Problem: Some trees in the forest do not get enough sunlight.

Solution: \_\_\_\_\_

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