

## LESSON 15 • OUTLINING SKILLS (LEVEL A)

## PLACING MAIN TOPICS, SUBTOPICS, AND DETAILS IN OUTLINE FORM

Textbook Pages 15–16

## READING SELECTION: MUSHROOM FARMERS

**[Par. 1]** Some ants live on nothing but mushrooms which they grow on farms in little rooms called cellars. The cellars are dug in ant cities which may be five or six yards under the ground. These cities are very large, sometimes a half a city block long. While thousands of ants live together, each one has a job to do. **[Par. 2]** Some ants work above the ground. The largest ones are chosen to be police. It is their duty to guard the entrances to the cities. Middle-sized ants gather fresh leaves from the trees. They especially like orange trees. Often you can see ants carrying pieces of leaves which are larger than their bodies. They can strip a whole tree of its leaves. **[Par. 3]** Other ants work under the ground. It is their job to make paste by chewing the leaves into bits. They stick the paste on the tops and bottoms of the rooms. Then mushrooms grow on the paste. These ants weed the gardens. They also tend the plants by keeping the mushrooms cut off. If the stems cannot grow tall, large tops form and make more food. Ants eat only the tops of mushrooms. The smallest ants act as personal servants to the queens. As each new queen leaves, she carries a supply of little mushroom plantings in her mouth to use in starting her own city.

## WORD &amp; PHRASE BANK

20 ITEMS

- Mushroom Farmers
- Where are mushroom farms found?
- In little rooms called cellars
- In ant cities
- Five or six yards underground
- May be half a block long
- How do ant farmers work aboveground?
- Largest ones are police who guard entrances
- Middle-sized ants
- Gather fresh leaves
- Carry pieces larger than ant's body
- Sometimes strip a whole tree
- What do ant farmers do underground?
- Make paste by chewing leaves
- Stick paste on tops and bottoms of rooms
- Mushrooms grow on paste
- Prune the growths
- Keep stems short by cutting them off
- Large tops form and make more food
- Act as servants to the queen

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

- I. \_\_\_\_\_
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
- II. \_\_\_\_\_
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
- III. \_\_\_\_\_
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

MUSHROOM FARMERS

- I. Where are mushroom farms found?
- A. In little rooms called cellars
  - B. In ant cities
    - 1. Five or six yards underground
    - 2. May be half a block long
- II. How do ant farmers work aboveground?
- A. Largest ones police who guard entrances
  - B. Middle-size ants
    - 1. Gather fresh leaves
    - 2. Carry pieces larger than ant's body
    - 3. Sometimes strip a whole tree
- III. What do ant farmers do underground?
- A. Make paste by chewing leaves
    - 1. Stick paste on tops and bottoms of rooms
    - 2. Mushrooms grow on paste
  - B. Prune the growths
    - 1. Keep stems short by cutting them off
    - 2. Large tops form and make more food
  - C. Act as servants to queen

The Mental Proof & Sentence Synthesis Method (Textbook Page 17 Standards)

- **Article Topic:** The entire report is about *How ant farmers cultivate mushrooms and organize colony labor.*
  - **Paragraph-to-Topic Correspondence:** 3 Paragraphs = 3 Main Topics (Roman numerals I, II, III). Each Main Topic is structured as an inquiry question directly answered by its subtopics.
- Proof Sentence 1 (I + A + B):** "Mushroom farms are found in little rooms called cellars in ant cities."
- Proof Sentence 2 (I. B + 1 + 2):** "Ant cities are five or six yards underground and may be half a block long."
- Proof Sentence 3 (II + A + B):** "Ant farmers work aboveground with the largest ones policing entrances while middle-sized ants gather leaves, carry huge pieces, and strip trees."
- Proof Sentence 4 (III + A + B + C):** "Underground ant farmers make leaf paste for mushrooms, prune growths for larger tops, and act as queen servants."

Scoring Rubric & Indentation Standards (20 Total Points)

| Tier Component      | Point Allocation     | Verification Criteria                                                                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title (1 pt)        | 1 Point              | "Mushroom Farmers" centered at the top of the outline form.                               |
| Main Topics (3 pts) | 3 Points (1 pt each) | Roman numerals I, II, III aligned with plumb line; formulated as governing questions.     |
| Subtopics (7 pts)   | 7 Points (1 pt each) | Capital letters A, B, (C) indented 2 spaces; directly answering the Main Topic questions. |
| Details (9 pts)     | 9 Points (1 pt each) | Arabic numerals 1, 2, (3) indented under subtopics; providing specific descriptive facts. |