Recognizing Plagiarism Worksheet

For each exercise:

1. Read the original text
2. Read the student writing
3. Decide if the student is plagiarizing or not and explain your reasoning

| **Exercise 1** | |
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| Original text  Cats are built to hunt. Among their superior senses, they have excellent eyesight. They have a wider field of vision than humans do, so they can accurately judge where their prey is. Their large, light-sensitive eyes, like their wild cousins, are for night hunting. A cat’s pupils contract to slits rather than circles. This allows them to control more precisely the amount of light that enters their eyes and also to protect their retinas. The pupils also have a reflective layer called the *tapetum lucidum* that helps cats see better in darkness—and makes their eyes shine yellow-green in car headlights or flash photographs.  Text above was taken from page 10 of:  Singer, Marilyn. *Cats to the Rescue*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006. Print. | Student writing  Cats are built to hunt. They can see very well even at night. The pupils in their eyes can open very wide to see better. In photos where a flash was used, cat’s eyes might look a yellowish green color. This is because one of the things that helps them see better in low light reflects this color in bright light. These special features of their eyes help them to be good hunters.  Work Cited  Singer, Marilyn. *Cats to the Rescue*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006. Print. |
| Exercise 1: Did the student plagiarize? Why or why not? No because he used it in his own words and rephrased it. | |
| **Exercise 2** | |
| Original text  Cats are built to hunt. Among their superior senses, they have excellent eyesight. They have a wider field of vision than humans do, so they can accurately judge where their prey is. Their large, light-sensitive eyes, like their wild cousins, are for night hunting. A cat’s pupils contract to slits rather than circles. This allows them to control more precisely the amount of light that enters their eyes and also to protect their retinas. The pupils also have a reflective layer called the *tapetum lucidum* that helps cats see better in darkness—and makes their eyes shine yellow-green in car headlights or flash photographs.  Text above was taken from page 10 of:  Singer, Marilyn. *Cats to the Rescue*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006. Print. | Student writing  Cats can see better than humans and they see very well even at night. The pupils in their eyes can open very wide to see better. To protect their eyes in bright light their pupils narrow to slits to limit the light coming into their eyes. In photos where a flash was used, cat’s eyes might look a yellowish green color. This is because one of the things that helps them see better in low light reflects this color in bright light. These special features of their eyes help them to see what they are hunting.  Singer, Marilyn. *Cats to the Rescue*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006. Print. |
| Exercise 2: Did the student plagiarize? Why or why not? No because he used the correct usage of words and made them in his own words. | |
| **Exercise 3:** | |
| Original text  You probably own something that was first invented in the mid-1800s: blue jeans! When news of a big gold strike was made in California, Levi Strauss, a 20-year-old immigrant, headed west to sell canvas for tents and covered wagons. One day, a miner came up to him and said that what he really needed was pants—pants with lots of pockets. Strauss sewed up some of his canvas into a couple of pairs of pants. He called them waist overalls.  Masoff, Joy. *Oh, Yikes! History's Grossest, Wackiest Moments*. New York: Workman, 2006. Print. | Student writing  Blue jeans were invented in the mid-1800s. When news of the big gold strike in California was heard, Levi Strauss, was 20 years old and not from this country. He "headed west to sell canvas for tents and covered wagons." A miner asked him for pants with lots of pockets. Strauss sewed up canvas into a pair of pants and called them waist overalls.  Masoff, Joy. *Oh, Yikes! History's Grossest, Wackiest Moments*. New York: Workman, 2006. Print. |
| Exercise 3: Did the student plagiarize? Why or why not? Yes because he only changed a few words and made a lot of his words plagiarized. | |