**Mrs. King’s Science Class**

Dave was half paying attention to Mrs. King lecture on and on about the lab they were about to do today, and half watching out the door to see who was going by in the hall.

“Okay, this is the set up for today’s lab.”  Mrs. King demonstrated with the equipment.  “You put the pipestem triangle on top of the iron ring and it supports the crucible over the Bunsen burner. The bottom of the crucible needs to be only a few inches above the flame.  Make sure you show me your set up before you light the Bunsen burner.”  Dave glanced out the door again; Savannah was walking by and he waved.

“If your crucible is really dirty,” Mrs. King continued, holding up a little ceramic pot, “there’s concentrated nitric acid in the fume hood with which to clean it.  The acid is pretty strong, so be careful with it.  If you get some on your hands, what should you do?”

“Wash your hands with plenty of soap and water,” everyone answered, groaning.  This was like the thousandth time Mrs. King had asked that question this year.

“Okay go ahead and get started.  And, get your goggles on right away.”  Mrs. King finished the pre-lab talk.  Dave grabbed his lab paper and a pen and met Steve, his lab partner, over at their assigned lab bench.

“I’ll get the ring stand and iron ring,” Steve said, “You get a crucible and cover.”

“Okay,” Dave agreed.  Both boys went off to find the equipment they needed.  Dave dug around in the drawer of crucibles, but couldn’t find a clean one.  They all had black stuff burned into the bottom.  Next, he grabbed one and a cover that looked like it would fit then went back to the table.  “This crucible’s gross,” he said to Steve who was tightening the ring onto the ring stand.

“So go clean it,” Steve replied. Mrs. King walked by, “guys, don’t forget to get those goggles on.”

“Okay, Mrs. King.”  Steve answered.  “Dave, go get us a couple of pairs of goggles.”

**Text Dependent Questions**

1. **How are the science tools in Mrs. King’s class used?**
2. **What safety precaution did Mrs. King remind her students to do? Explain.**