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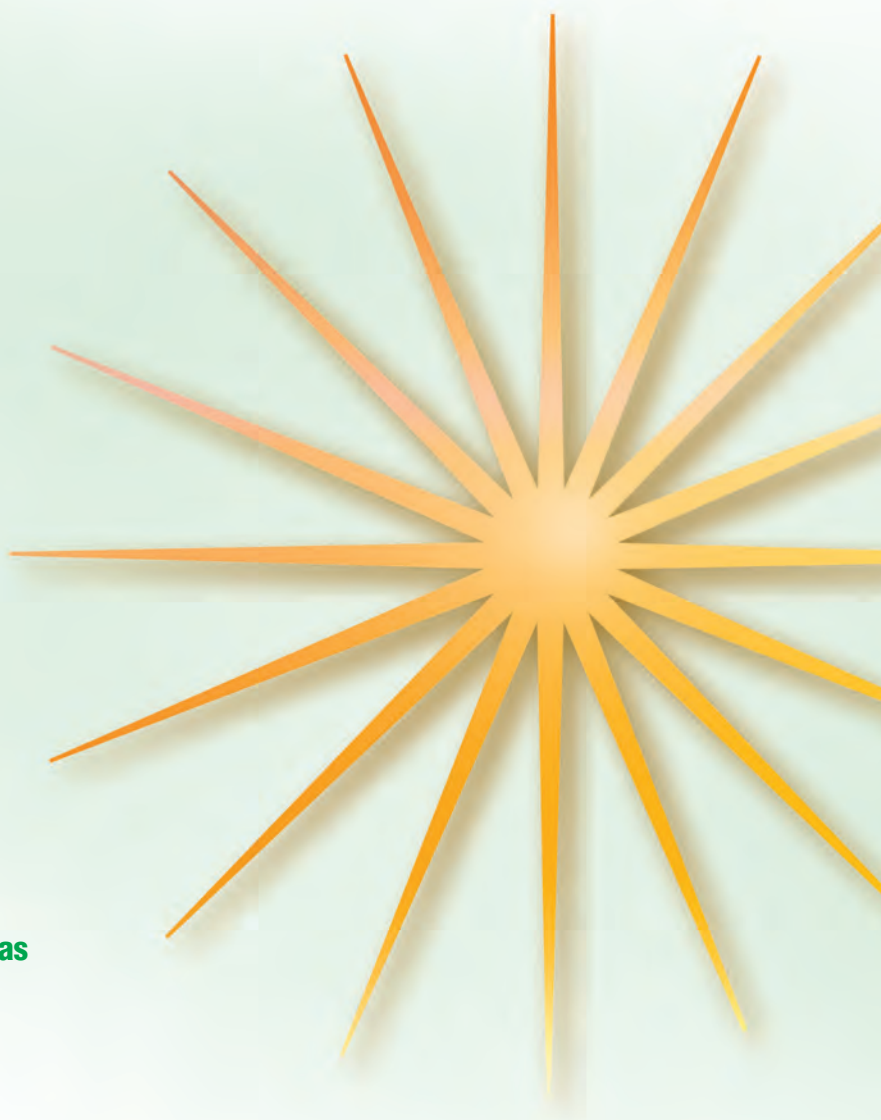
# Reading

GRADE  
**2**



## Focused Practice for Reading Comprehension






- Fiction and non-fiction passages
- Main idea and story structure
- Integration of knowledge and ideas
- Key ideas and details
- Answer key



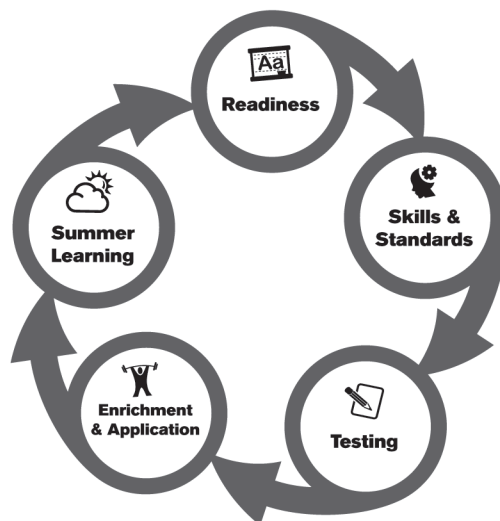
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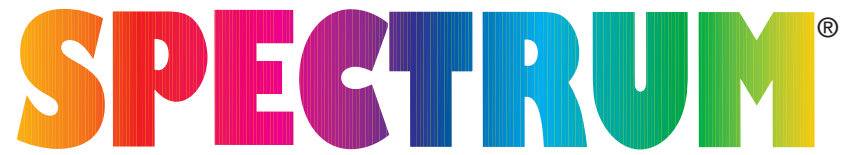
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# Reading

## Grade 2

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# Dad's First Day

*Read to see why Dad is upset.*

<sup>1</sup> I think Dad is nervous. At breakfast, he almost poured milk into his orange juice instead of into his cereal bowl! Mom doesn't seem worried. She knows why Dad is a little upset. Today is his first day at a new job.

<sup>2</sup> My dad builds bridges. Some of them look heavy and strong. Others look light, as if they are just hanging in the air. Dad says the light bridges are just as strong as the heavy ones.

<sup>3</sup> Dad is an excellent bridge builder, even at home. Once, we almost filled my whole room with bridges. We used boxes, blocks, pots, pans, and even the dog's dish. It was great.

<sup>4</sup> I know Dad has tons of great bridge ideas, so he shouldn't be nervous. I guess he just wants to practice making one more bridge before he goes to work.



**1.** What kinds of bridges does Dad build?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Why is Dad nervous?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** How does the boy know that Dad is nervous?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** What kind of bridge did the boy and Dad make at home?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** From whose point of view is the story told?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** The last line of the story says that Dad is going to make one more bridge at home. What does he use to make it?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Is the first sentence of the story a fact or an opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_





# Bridges

*What kinds of bridges are there?*

<sup>1</sup> Have you ever stepped on a stone to get across a puddle or stream? If you have, you were using a bridge.

<sup>2</sup> Bridges are different sizes and shapes. Some bridges have straight “legs,” or supports, called beams. Other bridges have curved supports, called arches. Still others actually hang from strong steel ropes, or cables, that are strung above the surface of the

bridge. The cables are then attached to the land on either end of the bridge.

<sup>3</sup> Most bridges go over water, but some bridges were made to carry water. About 2,000 years ago, the Romans built this kind of bridge. One such bridge, in France, had three levels. Water flowed in the top level, and people and carts traveled on the two lower levels.



---

**1.** This passage is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ old bridges.

\_\_\_\_\_ kinds of bridges.

\_\_\_\_\_ making bridges.

**2.** The author wrote this selection to

\_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh. \_\_\_\_\_ help you learn.

**3.** Think about what you already know about bridges. What are bridges for?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** This passage tells about another use for bridges. What is it?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Are all bridges made by humans? What might a natural bridge be made of?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** How are bridges with arches and beams different?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** *The Golden Gate Bridge is the prettiest bridge in the U.S.* Is this a fact or an opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Bridges to Remember

---

*Read to find out what is special about these bridges.*

<sup>1</sup> Some people do not like to drive across bridges. They look straight ahead and try to hold their breath until they get to the other side. Good luck if those people are driving in Louisiana. There is a 24-mile-long bridge there! It takes about half an hour to get across.

<sup>2</sup> If you like to look way, way down when you cross a bridge, you should go to Colorado.

A bridge there stands more than a thousand feet above a river. A 75-story building could fit under that bridge!

<sup>3</sup> If you do not like to look down, get in the middle lane of a bridge in Australia. It has eight lanes for cars, two train tracks, a bike path, and a sidewalk.

<sup>4</sup> Finally, if you like crowds and bridges, go to India. A bridge there carries 100,000 cars and trucks every day, plus thousands of walkers.



- 
- 1.** How does the text help you understand how long a 24-mile-long bridge is?

---

- 2.** How does the text help you understand how high the bridge in Colorado is?

---

---

- 3.** If you do not like to look over the side of a bridge, why would the bridge in Australia be a good one to cross?

---

- 4.** Why is the bridge in India a bridge to remember?

---

---

- 5.** Name three things, other than cars, that cross bridges in the selection.

---

---

---

- 6.** What do some people do if they are nervous on a bridge?

---

---



# Moving Out Day

Read to see how Emily feels about moving.

<sup>1</sup> *There goes another box, thought Emily. All my stuff is in boxes. It's all getting squashed together.*

<sup>2</sup> Mom stood on the front steps. "Oh, be careful with that one!" she cried. The movers nodded as they went past. *All my stuff is in boxes, thought Mom. It might all get broken.*

<sup>3</sup> Dad came out of the garage. "Wow, this is a heavy

one! It might break everything else." Mom and Emily frowned.

<sup>4</sup> An hour later, the boxes were still going past. One box had holes in it. Emily had made the holes so her stuffed animals could get some air.

<sup>5</sup> Finally, they all watched the movers close up the truck. *Ka-thunk* went the big doors. Dad gave Emily a little hug. "One empty house and one full truck. That's a good day's work."





**1.** What do Mom and Emily worry about?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Circle the word that best tells how Emily feels about her stuffed animals.

hopeless

caring

harsh

**3.** What word best tells how Mom feels? Circle it.

relaxed

worried

careless

**4.** How do you think Dad feels about moving day?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** What clues in the story help you know how Dad feels?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** How do you think Emily will feel when the move is complete?  
Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Why did Emily put holes in one of the boxes?

\_\_\_\_\_

**8.** How does the picture on page 8 add to your understanding of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Moving In Day

*What does Emily think of her new home?*

<sup>1</sup> “Emily, would you go turn on the lights, please?” asked Mom. “The movers will need to see when they bring our stuff in.”

<sup>2</sup> “Sure, Mom.” Emily was happy to check out the new house. She turned on twelve lights and then went back to Mom.

<sup>3</sup> “Why don’t you help me unpack this box?” asked Mom.

<sup>4</sup> “Sure, Mom,” said Emily.

<sup>5</sup> Mom and Emily lifted out shapes wrapped in newspaper. One was the cookie jar. Another was a mug. Then, Mom unwrapped a roll of paper.

<sup>6</sup> “Oh, look, Emily! It’s the picture you drew last summer!” Emily saw the picture she had made of her family. They were all smiling. The picture made Emily smile, even here in the new house.

<sup>7</sup> Mom smiled, too. “Let’s put it on the refrigerator,” they said together. And they did.



**1.** Why was Emily happy to go turn on the lights?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** How did the picture make Emily feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** How did Emily feel about her new house?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Write **1**, **2**, and **3** by these sentences to show what happened first, next, and last.

\_\_\_\_\_ Emily turned on the lights.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom and Emily put a picture on the refrigerator.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom and Emily unpacked a box.

**5.** How would you feel about moving to a new home? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Do you think Emily's mom understands how Emily feels? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Boxes, Books, and More

*How do Emily's feelings about the new house change?*

<sup>1</sup> Emily pushed a box across the floor. Her room was so empty! She didn't like it. Her old room had been pink. This one was just plain white.

<sup>2</sup> Emily's mom poked her head in. "Do you need any help?"

<sup>3</sup> "No, I'm okay, Mom. I'm going to unpack my books first."

<sup>4</sup> "That sounds good," said Mom. "I'll just make up your bed. Okay?"

<sup>5</sup> "Thanks, Mom." Emily put the biggest books on the bottom shelf. She put the medium books on the middle shelf. She put the smallest books on the top shelf. It took a long time because she stopped to read some of them along the way.

<sup>6</sup> Emily stepped back. All of her books were in place. Her quilt was on her bed. Everything looked just right.



**1.** This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ Emily's new room.

\_\_\_\_\_ how busy Mom is.

\_\_\_\_\_ Emily's toys.

**2.** At the beginning of the story, what does Emily think about her new room?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What does Emily think of her room at the end of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** What happened to change Emily's feelings?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** How does Emily organize her books?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** How does Mom help Emily with her room?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** What do you think Emily will do next in the story? Make a check mark next to your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Go on a bike ride

\_\_\_\_\_ Unpack more things in her room

\_\_\_\_\_ Call her grandma



# No Boxes Today

*Read to see what Emily learns about her new home.*

<sup>1</sup> “Who is tired of unpacking boxes?” asked Dad at breakfast. Mom and Emily laughed and raised their hands high.

<sup>2</sup> “Why don’t we go on a little tour? We won’t even think about boxes today,” said Dad.

<sup>3</sup> “What will we tour, Dad?” asked Emily.

<sup>4</sup> “We’ll tour our new city. San Antonio is an exciting place.”

<sup>5</sup> “Are there old houses?” asked Emily. She liked old houses.

<sup>6</sup> “Yes, there are, but I thought we might start at the Children’s Museum.”

<sup>7</sup> Emily grinned. “There is a museum just for me? Wow!”

<sup>8</sup> “And after that,” said Dad, “we can ride in a river taxi.”

<sup>9</sup> “Okay, let’s go!” said Emily, jumping up from the table.

<sup>10</sup> Mom and Dad laughed. “Maybe you should get dressed first, Emily.”



Look at each picture and circle the sentence that goes with it.

1. Emily is eating breakfast.

Emily is making her bed.



2. Dad is carrying a box.

Dad is unpacking a box.



3. What meal is the family eating?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why can't the family leave right away?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the setting for this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

\_\_\_\_\_ San Antonio is an exciting place.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom and Emily laughed and raised their hands high.

\_\_\_\_\_ We can ride in a river taxi.

# The Texas Story

*What do you know about Texas?  
Read to see what else you can  
learn.*

## How Big Is Texas?

<sup>1</sup> Texas is the second-largest state in the United States. Only Alaska is larger. Texas is also second when it comes to the number of people living in the state. Only California has more people than Texas.

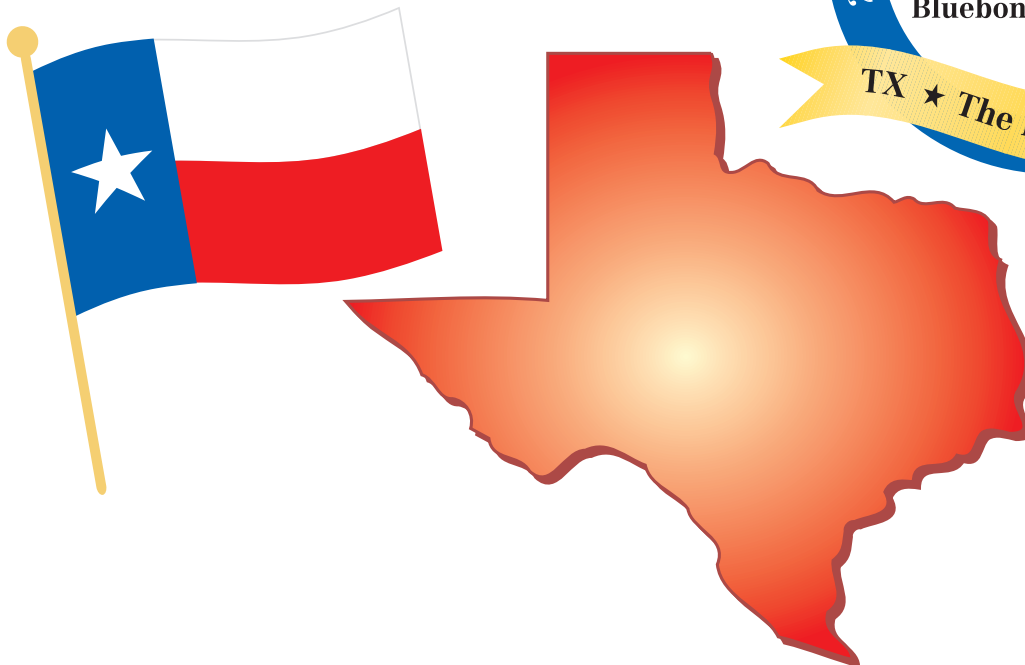
## How Old Is Texas?

<sup>2</sup> On December 29, 1845, Texas became a state. It was the twenty-eighth state. In 2015, Texas turned 170 years old.

## What Comes From Texas?

<sup>3</sup> The huge state of Texas gives us many things to eat and use. Many farmers raise cattle for beef and milk. Other farmers grow grapefruit, which is Texas's state fruit.

<sup>4</sup> There is much oil in Texas. Once oil is drilled out of the ground, it is used to make many things, including gas for our cars and plastic.





---

**1.** What did you already know about Texas?

---

**2.** List two new things you learned about Texas.

---

---

**3.** What question would you like to ask about Texas?

---

---

**4.** Why do you think the author wrote this article about Texas?

\_\_\_\_\_ to help the reader learn something

\_\_\_\_\_ to make the reader laugh

**5.** How do the boldface headings help organize the text?

---

---

**6.** What are two things you learned from the illustrations that are not in the text?

---

---

**7.** Complete the sentence: Texas is number two both in

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

# San Antonio Today

*Do you think you would like to visit San Antonio?*

<sup>1</sup> In San Antonio today, a visitor can learn many things about Texas's past. Many old buildings still stand. At the same time, it is a modern city. People visit San Antonio to eat, shop, go to concerts, and see the sights. The city's River Walk is a common place to go. The San Antonio River flows right through downtown. Along the river are many shops and hotels. Beautiful plants grow along the River Walk, too. Many bridges and stairways help people get from one place to another.

<sup>2</sup> If you don't feel like walking, you might choose to ride a streetcar. You can see all of downtown and the River Walk from your seat. Or, if you like the water, you can take a river taxi. River taxis travel all along the 21 blocks of the River Walk.



Write each word in the correct blank.

**city****hotels****concert****ride**

1. If you like music, go to a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. San Antonio is a large, modern \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If you are tired, \_\_\_\_\_ in a river taxi.
4. People sleep in \_\_\_\_\_ along the River Walk.
5. Which word best describes the city of San Antonio?

\_\_\_\_\_ rundown

\_\_\_\_\_ beautiful

\_\_\_\_\_ cold

6. If you visited San Antonio, what would you most like to do?

---

---

7. What do you think a river taxi is?

---

---



# Paul Bunyan: A New Story

*Read this tall tale to find out how Paul Bunyan solves a problem.*

<sup>1</sup> After the great race, everyone in Minnesota was wondering what to do about all the holes. The giant lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his big blue ox, Babe, had made the holes with their feet. People couldn't plow their fields or walk through the woods any more. Every time they tried, they fell into one of those holes. Paul felt terrible, but Babe felt so badly that he ran

away. Paul climbed the Black Hills to see if he could spot his blue ox. Then, he looked under the Mississippi River, but Babe wasn't there.

<sup>2</sup> At the end of the day, Paul just sat down and cried. He cried so hard that all of those holes filled up with water. The people in Minnesota got out their boats and fishing poles. They thanked Paul so loudly that Babe heard them and came home to Paul.



**1.** How did Paul solve the problem with the holes?

---

---

**2.** Why did Babe run away?

---

---

**3.** What made Babe come back?

---

**4.** People who tell tall tales stretch the truth. List one idea from the story that can't be true.

---

---

**5.** What is the story's setting? \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Why did the people of Minnesota thank Paul?

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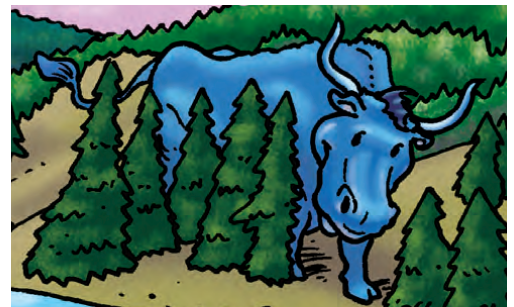
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**7.** What causes Paul Bunyan to cry?

---

**8.** Who is the main character in the story?

---



# Afternoon Art

*Read to see what Mom and Matt draw.*

<sup>1</sup> “May I have the green, please?” asked Matt.

<sup>2</sup> “Sure,” said Mom. She handed it over. “Are you making more trees?”

<sup>3</sup> “No,” said Matt, “I’m done with trees. I’m drawing a turtle now. What are you working on?”

<sup>4</sup> Mom held up her paper. A big orange flower filled the page. Matt smiled. “That’s the flower in Gram’s garden, isn’t it?”

<sup>5</sup> “That’s what I’m trying to make it look like,” said Mom. “Drawing pretty flowers helps me remember them when the flowers are all gone.”

<sup>6</sup> Matt nodded. “And drawing this turtle helps me remember the one we saw by the road last week.”

<sup>7</sup> “May I have the orange, please?” asked Mom.

<sup>8</sup> “More flowers?” Matt asked.

<sup>9</sup> “No. Cheese,” teased Mom. “I’m trying to remember my lunch. I’m hungry.”



**1.** This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ how to draw.

\_\_\_\_\_ Matt and Mom drawing.

\_\_\_\_\_ choosing colors.

Circle the best answer.

**2.** What do you think Mom and Matt will do next?

get ready for bed

go to school

have a snack

**3.** Write **1**, **2**, and **3** in the spaces below to show in what order events happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom shows Matt her flower.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom says she is hungry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Matt says he is drawing a turtle.

**4.** There is a lot of dialogue in the story. Write one example of dialogue on the line. Tell how you know that it is dialogue.

---

---

**5.** At the end of the story, do you think Mom will really draw cheese? Why or why not?

---

**6.** What does drawing a turtle make Matt think of?

---



# What Is an Art Museum?

*Read to find out what an art museum is.*

<sup>1</sup> Art comes in all sizes and shapes. It might be pretty, or it might be unusual. If you look for it, you can see art all around you. It might be a building, a picture on a poster, or a shape in the sand.

<sup>2</sup> A place where people display art so that other people can see it is called an *art museum*. Some museums take care of art that is very old. Old art helps us learn

about the people who made it long, long ago.

<sup>3</sup> Some museums display new art. New art helps us see the world in different ways. It might make us ask questions, or it might make us laugh.

<sup>4</sup> Most big cities have art museums. Some are big and famous. Others are small and not well known. All of them take good care of their art, though, so that people can see it and learn about it.





---

**1.** What is the author's purpose in writing this piece?

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain

\_\_\_\_\_ to teach

\_\_\_\_\_ to persuade

**2.** What can we learn from new art?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What can we learn from old art?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Tell in your own words what an art museum is.

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Name two ways that art museums can be different from each other.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** In the first paragraph, the text says that you can see art all around you. What art can you see right now?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** If you visited an art museum, what kind of art would you hope to see?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Animal Shelter News

*What is Carly excited about?*

<sup>1</sup> Carly's fork dropped against her plate. She felt her face turn red. Her dad had invited a friend from work for dinner. Mr. Mendez was right next to Carly. She felt a little nervous.

<sup>2</sup> "Mrs. Blake," said Mr. Mendez, "thank you for such a fine meal. I do wish my wife had been able to come."

<sup>3</sup> "You're welcome, and so do we," Mrs. Blake smiled. "Did you say there was a problem at work?"

<sup>4</sup> "Yes," said Mr. Mendez, nodding his head. "She has been working extra hours. The animal shelter is so busy in spring."

<sup>5</sup> "Why is it so busy?" Carly asked.

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Mendez looked down at Carly. "This is the time of year when many kittens are born."

<sup>7</sup> "Kittens!" said Carly so loudly that her face turned red again. "Did you hear that, Mom?"



---

1. Why does Carly's face turn red the first time?

---

2. Why couldn't Mrs. Mendez come to dinner?

---

3. Based on your reading of the story, where do you think Mrs. Mendez works?

---

4. Why does Carly's face turn red the second time?

---

Circle the best answer.

5. What do you think will happen next?

Mrs. Mendez will arrive.

Carly will ask for a kitten.

Carly's cat will enter the room.

6. Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false* next to each sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Carly's dad works with Mr. Mendez.

\_\_\_\_\_ Carly's family has three cats.

\_\_\_\_\_ When Carly is embarrassed, her face turns red.

\_\_\_\_\_ The animal shelter is busy in the spring.

7. Why is the animal shelter extra busy in spring?

---

# The Case for a Cat

What does Carly's family talk about after dinner?

1 "Did you hear what Mr. Mendez said about the animal shelter?" Carly asked. "They have *too many kittens!*"

2 Mom was washing dishes. She didn't turn around. "Yes, it's sad that so many animals don't have homes."

3 "We could give one a home!" said Carly. Now, Mom turned around, shaking her head.

4 "Dad and I would like you to have a pet," explained Mom, "but our apartment is so small."

5 "The Hamlins live just two apartments down. They have a cat," objected Carly.

6 Mom frowned. She looked at Dad. "Dad and I will have to talk about it," she said slowly. "We need to think hard about whether we are ready for a cat or not."

7 "Okay," said Carly. Then, she grinned. "If you need any help, let me know. I'll help you think."



---

1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cats and dogs as pets.

\_\_\_\_\_ a girl who wants a kitten.

\_\_\_\_\_ doing chores at home.

2. Carly thinks getting a cat is a good idea. What reasons does she give?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What reason does Mom give for not getting a pet?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What would you do if you were Carly?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Look at the last line of the first paragraph. The words *too many kittens* are in italics. Why do you think the author used italics here?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In paragraph 5, Carly *objects* to what her mom says. What does it mean to object?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. At the end of the story, why does Carly offer to help her parents think about getting a cat?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Cats Long Ago

*Read to learn part of the history of cats.*

<sup>1</sup> Imagine that it is three thousand years ago. You are visiting Egypt. You see a statue of a cat. You go into a building, and there are cats everywhere! People are feeding them and taking care of them. Everyone seems to like cats.

<sup>2</sup> “Why so many cats?” you wonder. To answer that question, we have to learn a little bit about Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> The Egyptians grew grain for food and to trade with other people. They stored their grain in huge buildings. Rats and mice, in particular, also liked to eat grain. Cats, which eat rats and mice, were the best way to protect the grain.

<sup>4</sup> Cats became the most respected animal in Egypt. When a family’s cat died, the family members shaved their eyebrows to show that a sad and important thing had happened.



1. The author wrote "Cats Long Ago" mostly to

\_\_\_\_\_ give information.

\_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh.

2. Compare what you know about cats in Egypt with what you know about cats today. One idea is written for you.

**In Egypt** cats were respected

**Today** cats are usually well cared for

3. What is one difference between us and the people in Egypt long ago?

4. What did Egyptians do when a family cat died?

5. How were cats helpful to Egyptians long ago?

Use the text to fill in the blank in each sentence below.

6. Rats and mice ate the \_\_\_\_\_ that Egyptians stored.

7. Cats were the most \_\_\_\_\_ animals in Egypt.

8. Cats helped to \_\_\_\_\_ the grain.

# Cats Every Day

---

*What kind of care does a cat need?*

<sup>1</sup> Like all house pets, cats need food, water, and a certain amount of attention every day.

## **Food**

<sup>2</sup> A cat needs its food dish filled every day. A box of cat food costs several dollars. An adult cat may eat a box in less than two weeks.

## **Water**

<sup>3</sup> A cat needs to have fresh water each day. You will probably have to fill the dish twice a day.

## **Other Needs**

<sup>4</sup> If a cat lives indoors, it needs a litter box. Cat litter costs several dollars for a 10-pound bag. The bag lasts for several weeks. The litter box, however, should be cleaned out almost every day.

<sup>5</sup> Once a cat becomes your pet, it will depend on you for almost all of its needs. Are you ready?





1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cats in animal shelters.

\_\_\_\_\_ how cute kittens are.

\_\_\_\_\_ daily cat care.

2. After reading the article, do you think you could care for a cat?  
Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write one idea that you find under each heading.

**Food** \_\_\_\_\_

**Water** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Needs** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think the author used headings in this article?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read each sentence. Write **F** if it is a fact and **O** if it is an opinion.

\_\_\_\_\_ A cat needs to be fed every day.

\_\_\_\_\_ Cats make the best pets!

\_\_\_\_\_ If you have an indoor cat, it needs a litter box.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you adopt a cat, you should choose an older cat.

6. How often does a litter box need to be cleaned?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Comb the Cat, Please!

*What does a cat need besides food and water?*

## Grooming

<sup>1</sup> Cats are very clean animals. They use their rough tongues to bathe themselves several times a day. Sometimes they like help, though. To keep a cat's coat in shape, it is a good idea to comb or brush the cat once or twice a week. If you have a long-haired cat, you may need to brush it every day to keep its fur neat.



## Health Care

<sup>2</sup> All kittens should visit a vet and get several shots. These shots help prevent common cat illnesses. An adult cat should visit a vet once a year for a check-up and to get booster shots.

<sup>3</sup> Unless your family plans to breed and raise cats, your cat should have an operation so that it cannot have kittens. This prevents unwanted kittens from ending up stray or at the animal shelter.



---

**1.** What do cats do for themselves?

---

**2.** What should a cat owner do once a year?

---

**3.** Why might a long haired cat need to be brushed more often than a short-haired cat?

---

---

**4.** If you had a cat, would you rather have a short haired cat or a long haired cat? Write why.

---

---

**5.** Why do cats need to have an operation?

---

**6.** The text says that cats have rough tongues. How do you think this is helpful when they groom themselves?

---

---

**7.** Is it important to be a responsible cat owner? Explain.

---

---

# Cat or No Cat?

*Will Carly get the kitten she wants?*

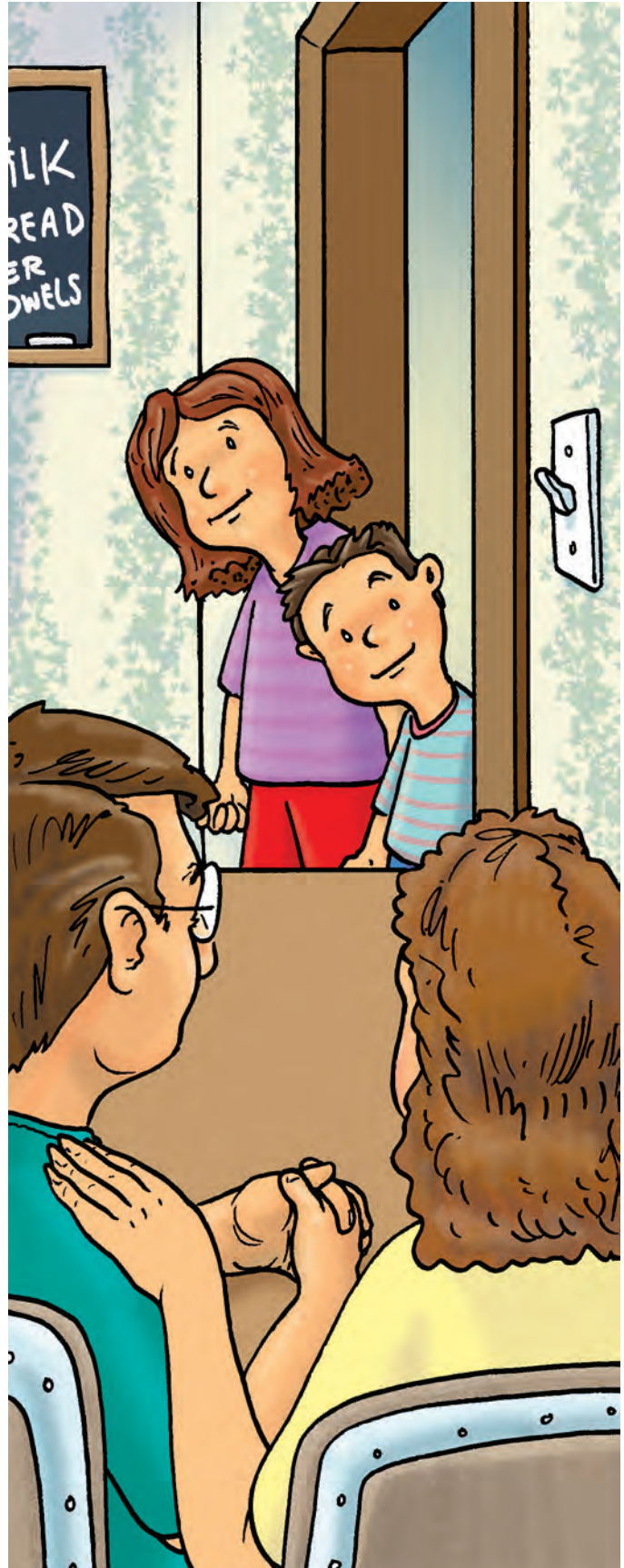
<sup>1</sup> “Carly, would you and Mitch come here, please? We want to talk to you about something,” Dad called from the kitchen.

<sup>2</sup> “Coming, Dad,” said Carly. To her little brother, she said, “Come on, Mitch. Maybe this is about a kitten!”

<sup>3</sup> Mom and Dad were sitting at the kitchen table. They looked thoughtful. Carly and Mitch sat down. Dad spoke first. Carly’s heart sank. Dad always gave out the bad news. “Your mother and I have been talking about a cat.” Carly held on to a tiny bit of hope.

<sup>4</sup> Then, Mom began to speak. Carly perked up a little. “We don’t think a kitten is a good idea.” *Boom!* Carly’s spirits sank again.

<sup>5</sup> Mom went on, “We think it would be better if we got a grown up cat.”





- 
- 1.** At the beginning of the story, what did you predict would happen at the end?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2.** Why does Carly worry when Dad speaks first?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3.** Have you ever wanted something as much as Carly wants a kitten? Tell about it.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4.** In the story, who is Mitch?

\_\_\_\_\_ Carly's dad \_\_\_\_\_ Carly's brother \_\_\_\_\_ Carly's cousin

- 5.** Why do you think Carly's parents want an older cat and not a kitten?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6.** Do you think Carly will be happy about her parents' decision? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7.** Look at the picture on page 36. What does the art add to the story? How do the kids look like they are feeling?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 8.** Read the last line of the story again. What do you predict will happen next?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Choose a Cat

*Which cat will Carly and Mitch choose?*

<sup>1</sup> “It’s our first pet, so we would like to start with a grown up cat,” explained Mom.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Mendez smiled. “I think that’s a smart idea for a first pet. It’s a little easier. Feel free to look around. Just wave if you have questions,” said Mrs. Mendez as she turned away.

<sup>3</sup> Carly and Mitch were already looking around. An orange tiger cat looked at Mitch, but then it walked away. Carly saw a big black cat. She held out her hand. The cat hissed and batted at her hand.

<sup>4</sup> “You are not very friendly!” cried Carly, pulling her hand back. Just then, a gray cat with white paws rubbed against Carly’s ankles, then against Mitch’s.

<sup>5</sup> Mitch smiled at Carly. “This one has picked us, Carly.”



---

**1.** This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ choosing a cat.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mendez's work.

\_\_\_\_\_ kittens who need homes.

**2.** Why didn't Carly choose the big black cat?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** How did Mitch and Carly choose the gray cat?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** What does it mean when a cat hisses at you?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Mrs. Mendez comes up in an earlier story. How does Carly's family know her?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Why does Mrs. Mendez think a grown up cat is a good choice for a first pet?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** What is the setting for this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

**8.** Do you think the Blake family will be good pet owners? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Mouse in the House

*Read about Mouse's first day in his new home.*

<sup>1</sup> Carly opened her eyes and stretched. What was special about today?

<sup>2</sup> "Oh," she cried, throwing back the covers. "Mouse! Where are you? Here, kitty, kitty, kitty!"

<sup>3</sup> It had been easy to pick a name for the new cat. He was gray, and he made a tiny little meowing sound. "Mouse" was perfect. But where was he now? Carly looked under her bed. Mitch looked, too.

<sup>4</sup> Carly passed through the kitchen. "Mom, have you seen Mouse?"

<sup>5</sup> "Not since I gave him his breakfast," she said over the newspaper. "Did you try the living room?"

<sup>6</sup> On the living room floor was a big patch of sunshine. Right in the middle was Mouse. He was curled up and sound asleep.

<sup>7</sup> Mouse was at home.





---

**1.** Which sentence best tells how Carly feels about today?

\_\_\_\_\_ She is excited.

\_\_\_\_\_ She is worried.

**2.** What words or ideas in the story helped you answer question **1**?

---

---

**3.** Where did Carly and Mitch look first for Mouse?

---

**4.** In what room did Carly find Mouse?

---

**5.** Why was Mouse sleeping there?

---

**6.** Why do Carly and Mitch name their cat Mouse?

---

---

**7.** Why is the title of the story funny?

---

---

**8.** How do you think Carly feels about her new cat?

---

# A Letter from Kyle

*What news does Kyle send to his grandparents?*

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

<sup>1</sup> How are you? I am fine. School is out already. On our last day, we had a picnic out on the baseball field. It was fun until we all had to dash out of the rain. Even that was kind of fun, though.

<sup>2</sup> How was your camping trip? Dad says you're just getting back home today. We took good care of Sparky for you. He sleeps at the foot of my bed on most nights. He and the cat have even been getting along. I think Snowy must have had a talk with Sparky. When Snowy walks into the room, Sparky leaves!

<sup>3</sup> Dad says to tell you that our garden is looking good this year. We've had lots of rain, especially on that last day of school.

<sup>4</sup> When are you coming to get Sparky? See you soon.

Love,  
Kyle



---

**1.** Why was there a picnic on the baseball field?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Why did everyone have to dash into the school?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Why is Kyle's family taking care of Sparky?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Why does Sparky leave the room when Snowy comes in?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** What kind of animal is Sparky? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Think of what you learned about Kyle by reading his letter. Write three words you could use to describe him.

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** In what time of year does the story take place?

\_\_\_\_\_ winter      \_\_\_\_\_ fall      \_\_\_\_\_ summer

**8.** What clues in the text helped you answer number 7?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Kyle Gets Mail

*What did Kyle's grandparents see on their camping trip?*

Dear Kyle,

- <sup>1</sup> Our camping trip was wonderful! We're already talking about going to the same place next year. There is so much to see. I think you and your parents would like it, too.
- <sup>2</sup> From Ohio, we drove south to Kentucky. We enjoy looking at rocks, so we had decided to go to Mammoth Cave State Park. We made the right choice! I've never seen so many rocks!
- <sup>3</sup> Each day, we chose a different cave. We saw narrow places and huge, high rooms. In one cave, we were underground for more than two miles.
- <sup>4</sup> We'll come to get Sparky next weekend, if that's okay. We hope he hasn't been unhappy.

Love,  
Grandma and Grandpa





**1.** Where did Kyle's grandparents go on their trip?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Why did they go there?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What did you learn about Kyle's grandparents by reading their letter?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Where do Grandma and Grandpa live? \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Read each sentence. Write **F** if it is a fact and **O** if it is an opinion.

\_\_\_\_\_ You and your parents would like it, too.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our camping trip was wonderful!

\_\_\_\_\_ We were underground for more than two miles.

\_\_\_\_\_ Each day, we chose a different cave.

**6.** Based on their letter, you know that Grandma and Grandpa probably

\_\_\_\_\_ live in Kentucky.

\_\_\_\_\_ like to have adventures.

\_\_\_\_\_ have several dogs.

**7.** What is the purpose of Grandma and Grandpa's letter?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Mammoth Cave, Kentucky

*What would you like to see at Mammoth Cave?*

<sup>1</sup> For natural beauty, there is no spot quite like Mammoth Cave National Park. Beneath the park lies the longest cave system on Earth. There are more than 350 miles of underground passages. That's more than three times longer than any other cave we know about. Some scientists think that there are hundreds of miles yet to be found!

<sup>2</sup> If you go, you can follow a path that humans walked on four thousand years ago. You can see crystals that are millions of years old. If you're lucky, you might see an eyeless fish.

<sup>3</sup> Though the cave passages are dark, more than 200 kinds of animals live in them. Many of these use the cave only part of the time. Some, however, can live only in the dark, cool cave.



---

**1.** This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ how caves are formed.

\_\_\_\_\_ the sights in Mammoth Cave.

\_\_\_\_\_ animals that live in caves.

**2.** What is special about Mammoth Cave?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Why might a fish that lives in a cave not have any eyes?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** If you went to Mammoth Cave, what would you most like to see?  
Write why.

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Name two types of animals that are likely to live in Mammoth Cave.

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Based on the article, how do you think the author feels about Mammoth Cave?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** How long do you think humans have known about the cave?

\_\_\_\_\_

**8.** Why are the caves still a mystery to scientists?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Post by Post

*What is hard about painting a fence?*

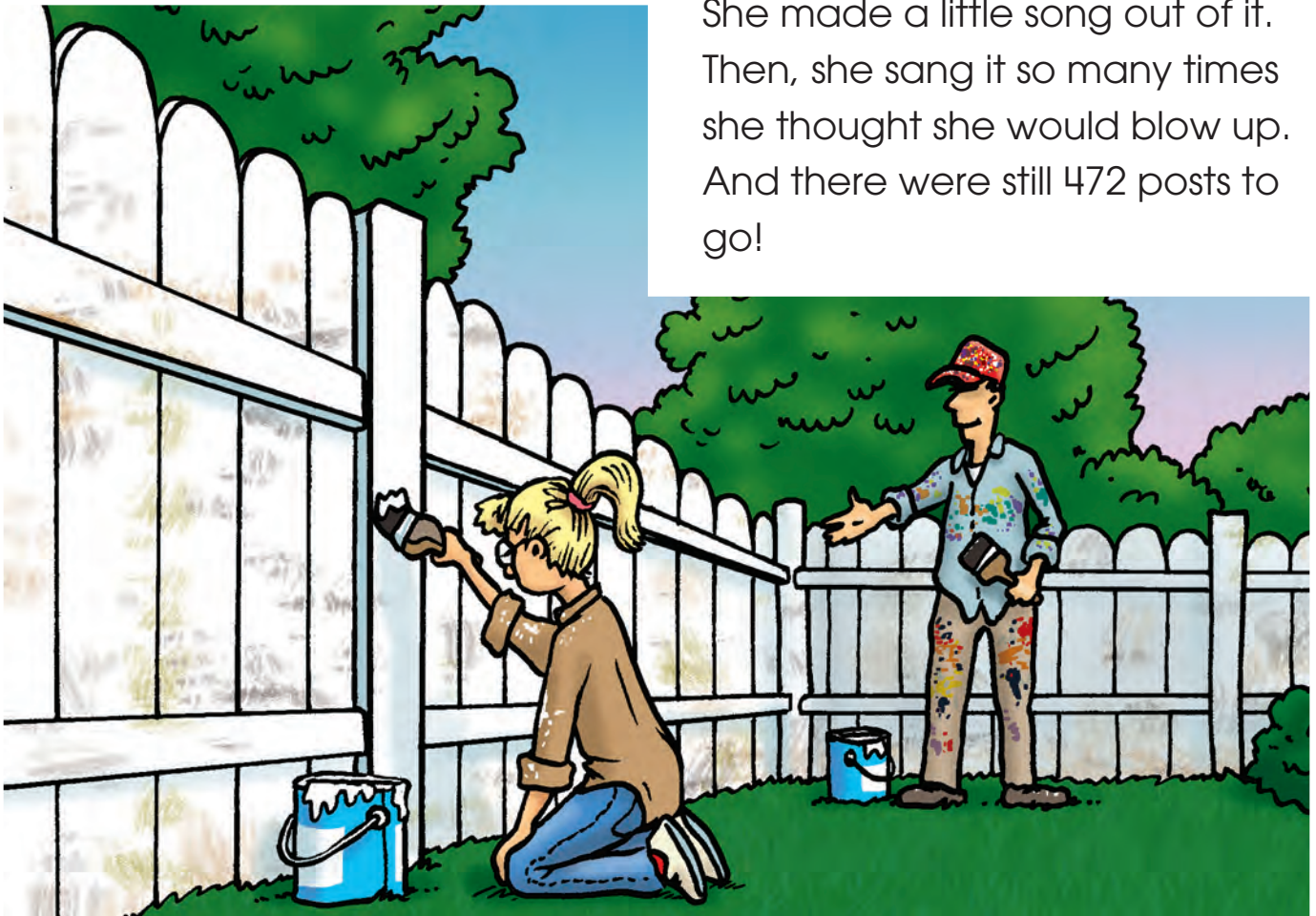
<sup>1</sup> “Is this everything we need, Dad?” Michelle looked at her dad in his painting hat. It was covered with so much paint that you couldn’t see the words anymore.

<sup>2</sup> Dad looked grim. “No. We need a radio. I can’t paint without some good painting music.”

<sup>3</sup> “I’ll get the old one from the basement,” Michelle called out as she ran into the house. When she got back, Dad stirred the paint. Then, he stared at the fence. It went all the way around the yard.

<sup>4</sup> “On each post,” Dad explained, “you have to do the front, then both side edges.”

<sup>5</sup> “The front, the edge, and the other edge,” repeated Michelle. She made a little song out of it. Then, she sang it so many times she thought she would blow up. And there were still 472 posts to go!





1. Write **1**, **2**, and **3** by these sentences to show what happened first, next, and last.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dad stirred the paint.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Michelle got the radio.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dad and Michelle painted.



2. What does Michelle have to do on each post?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does Michelle think she will blow up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever done a task that went on and on and on? Write about it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In the second paragraph, why does Dad look grim?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Dad's painting hat tell you about him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What can you learn about the story from the picture? Choose something that you didn't learn from the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does Dad send Michelle inside to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Mixed Up Day

*What goes wrong for Danny?*

<sup>1</sup> It all started at breakfast. The milk jumped out of the jug and flowed all over the table and all over me. I barely had time to clean up the table and put on a clean shirt.

<sup>2</sup> On the way to school, I saw myself in a store window. Bed head! My hair was sticking up to the sky on one side, and the shirt I had on did not match my pants.

<sup>3</sup> At school, I headed right to the water fountain so I could wet down my hair. I pushed the button. Nothing happened. I pushed again and looked closely to see what was wrong. All of a sudden, the water spurted up into my face. My hair was fixed, sort of, but now my shirt was soaked.

<sup>4</sup> I slid into my desk, hoping no one would notice. Mr. Torres looked right at me. "Oh, Danny. Tomorrow is Mixed Up Day, not today."



Put each word in the right blank.

**water****hair****milk**

1. First, Danny spilled the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Then, he had a problem with his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Next, he got sprayed with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did Danny look like when he sat down in his desk?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you ever had a mixed up day? Write about it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In the first paragraph, it says "the milk jumped out of the jug."  
What does this mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does Danny notice the problem with his hair and shirt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false* next to each sentence below.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Torres is Danny's teacher.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Danny spilled orange juice on the table.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Danny's dad drove him to school.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The water fountain sprays Danny's shirt.

# Mountain Magic

*How does the girls' project turn out?*

<sup>1</sup> "Oh, we missed a spot," said Hailey, pointing.

<sup>2</sup> "Okay," said Megan, dabbing at the spot. "Are we done now?" She and her best friend, Hailey, had made a volcano out of wet, sticky goop. They were painting it to look like a mountain.

<sup>3</sup> The next day, they were ready for fun. Megan thought out loud, "Mrs. Metzger said the baking soda goes first, then the vinegar. Right?"

<sup>4</sup> "That's right," said Megan's mom. "Are you ready for the lava?"

<sup>5</sup> "Ready!" they said together.

<sup>6</sup> In went the baking soda. The girls held their breath. In went the vinegar. It hit the soda and bubbled up, up, up, and over the edge of the volcano.

<sup>7</sup> Megan and Hailey clapped. "Yea, it worked! Let's do it again!"





1. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show what happened first, second, third, and last.

\_\_\_\_\_ The girls painted the volcano.

\_\_\_\_\_ The friends made a volcano.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bubbles came up out of the volcano.

\_\_\_\_\_ Baking soda and vinegar went into the volcano.



Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ The girls can build a real volcano.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ A real volcano can be on someone's back porch.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ The girls do projects together.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Mothers help with projects.

6. A mixture of two things makes the volcano bubble up. What two things do the girls use?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who is Mrs. Metzger?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Look at the picture. Why are the girls wearing goggles?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Was the project a success? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Making Plans

*Read to see what the Shaws are planning.*

<sup>1</sup> “Where will they sleep?” Lisa asked her mom. Lisa was wondering if she could fit two cousins in her bed without hurting any stuffed animals.

<sup>2</sup> “They’ll sleep in the green bedroom, just like last time,” answered Mrs. Shaw.



<sup>3</sup> Lisa was a little bit glad. “Oh, that’s good,” she said. Now, she had another question. “What will they do?” Lisa was wondering if she had enough dress-up clothes to go around.

<sup>4</sup> “I’m not sure yet. They’ll be here for a week. We’ll have to plan some things,” said Mrs. Shaw. “I thought we might spend one day at the zoo.”

<sup>5</sup> “I vote for the zoo, too,” Lisa replied.

---

**1.** Who is coming to visit Lisa's family?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Lisa's cousins won't be sleeping in her room. How does she feel about this? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What do you think will happen next in the story? Circle the correct answer.

Lisa and her brother will  
go to bed.

Lisa will hide her dress-up  
clothes.

The cousins will arrive soon.

**4.** Look at the picture. What is happening in the thought bubble over Lisa's head?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** How does the picture help you to understand the story better?

\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank to complete each sentence below.

**6.** Lisa's cousins will be staying for \_\_\_\_\_.

**7.** Lisa doesn't want her stuffed animals to get \_\_\_\_\_.

**8.** Mrs. Shaw says that the family will visit the \_\_\_\_\_  
one day.

**9.** The Shaws' extra bedroom is painted \_\_\_\_\_.

**10.** Lisa's \_\_\_\_\_ have visited before.



# To the Zoo

*What would you want to see at the zoo?*

- <sup>1</sup> “Is everyone buckled in?” called Mrs. Shaw.
- <sup>2</sup> “Yes, Mom. Hold on, tigers. Here I come!” sang Jake from the back seat.
- <sup>3</sup> “Ooh, tigers? You didn’t tell me there were tigers there,” said Charlie. “Here we come!”
- <sup>4</sup> Julia was very grown-up. “I would rather spend my time looking at animals that don’t want to eat me. I like to watch the owls.”
- <sup>5</sup> “An owl would eat you if you were a mouse!” called Charlie. Julia made a face.
- <sup>6</sup> “What about you, Lisa?” Mrs. Shaw asked. “What do you want to see?”
- <sup>7</sup> “Make mine zebras,” she answered, after thinking for a moment.
- <sup>8</sup> Mrs. Shaw laughed. “Zebras, tigers, and owls—oh, my!”





1. How does everyone feel about going to the zoo?

\_\_\_\_\_ They are tired. \_\_\_\_\_ They are eager.

2. Why isn't Julia very interested in seeing the tigers?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write **first**, **next**, and **last** on the lines to show the order in which events happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa wants to see the zebras.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Shaw asks if everyone is buckled in.

\_\_\_\_\_ Julia makes a face.

4. What does Charlie say would happen if Julia were a mouse?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How are Charlie and Julia related to each other?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Is this story realistic, or is it a fantasy? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What animals would you like to see if you went to the zoo?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What was the author's purpose in writing this story?

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain \_\_\_\_\_ to make you want to visit the zoo

\_\_\_\_\_ to teach you about zoo animals

# Zebra News

*Read to learn about zebras.*

## Where Zebras Live

<sup>1</sup> Wild zebras live only in Africa. They choose open country that has some areas of trees and grass.

## How Zebras Live

<sup>2</sup> Zebras move together in large groups called herds. They often travel with herds of other animals, such as antelopes, wildebeest, and gnus. Zebras graze, or eat grass. When the grass is gone in one area, the herd moves to another area.

## Other Zebra News

<sup>3</sup> How can you tell one zebra from another? By their stripes, of course. Each zebra's stripes are different from every other zebra's stripes. The animals' stripes help them blend together when they are in a herd. That makes it harder for lions to single out and catch one zebra.



**1.** What is a large group of zebras called?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Why does a herd move from place to place?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What are some other animals that move in groups?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Why do zebras' stripes make it hard for lions to catch a zebra?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** How are a zebra's stripes similar to a human's fingerprints?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** What animals are a threat to zebras?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** In what part of the world are zebras found?

\_\_\_\_\_



**8.** A zebra's stripes are a form of camouflage. What is another animal that uses camouflage? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Tiger Tips

*Read to learn something new about tigers.*

## Where Tigers Live

<sup>1</sup> You might find a tiger on a mountain, in a deep forest, or in a wet, grassy area. You will have to go to Asia, however, to find one in the wild.

## How Tigers Live

<sup>2</sup> If you're looking for a tiger in the middle of the day, look in cool places. Tigers stay out of the heat by sleeping in caves or by lying in thick grass or in shallow water. After a day of rest, the tiger is ready to hunt all night. Once a tiger catches its meal, it drags it to a quiet place to eat in peace.

## Other Tiger Tips

<sup>3</sup> If you're looking for a tiger cub, look for its mother. A mother tiger, or *tigress*, takes care of her cubs for more than two years. She protects them, brings them food, and teaches them how to hunt.





---

**1.** In what three kinds of places do tigers live?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** How are these places different?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** How does the author help you with the word tigress?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Under what heading can you find information about when a tiger hunts?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** What is similar about the way the articles on pages 58 and 60 are organized?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** In what kinds of places do tigers like to sleep?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Tigers hunt at night. What other kinds of animals hunt at night?  
Think of at least two examples.

\_\_\_\_\_

**8.** Is this article fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Only Owls

*Read to find out about owls.*

## Feathers

<sup>1</sup> Owls fly on silent wings. Their feathers are so soft that they make no noise during flight. How does that help an owl? It allows the owl to sneak up on its prey, or the animals it hunts and eats, such as mice, rats, rabbits, small birds, and insects.

## Eyes and Ears

<sup>2</sup> Does an owl see well with its large round eyes? Yes, especially at night. Owls also have excellent hearing. In fact, they use their hearing, rather than sight, to find their prey.

## Feet

<sup>3</sup> Why might a bird's feet be important? Owls have strong three-toed feet with sharp claws. To hunt, owls swoop down and catch their prey with their feet. Most owls then swallow their prey whole.



---

**1.** Do you think owls would be able to live in a city? Explain.

---

---

**2.** What would happen if an owl made noise as it flew?

---

---

**3.** What do the three headings have in common?

---

---

**4.** Why are an owl's feet important for hunting?

---

---

**5.** Why does the author say, "An owl flies on silent wings"?

---

**6.** Based on the text, what is prey?

---

**7.** Which two senses are most important to an owl for hunting?

---

**8.** Name three animals that owls eat.

---

# Remembering the Zoo

*What did the children like about the zoo?*

<sup>1</sup> “I wish I could sleep just like that big, old tiger,” said Charlie. They had had a great day at the zoo, but he sure was tired. He remembered the tigers and smiled though.

<sup>2</sup> “He was lying in the dirt,” said Julia, making a face. “I would like to be up on a high branch. That’s where wise animals sleep.” She thought of the owls and smiled.

<sup>3</sup> Jake was still ready for action. “Not me,” he spoke up. “I’m glad one of the tigers was awake. I wish I could climb rocks like he did.” Everyone nodded, thinking about the strong animal and how easily he had moved.

<sup>4</sup> After a long time, Lisa had a question. “Mom?” she asked in a small voice. “Do you think I would look good in stripes?”





---

1. Why didn't Julia care for the sleeping tiger?

---

2. Why does Lisa want stripes?

---

---

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Animals ride in car seats.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Children sleep in beds.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ People climb rocks.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Girls perch in trees.

7. Why does Julia think that owls are wise?

---

8. What do you think Charlie's favorite part of the zoo visit was?

---

9. What did the tiger do that the kids admired?

\_\_\_\_\_ roared          \_\_\_\_\_ climbed rocks          \_\_\_\_\_ slept

10. Do you think the kids will want to visit the zoo again? Why or why not?

---

---

# Waving Good Bye

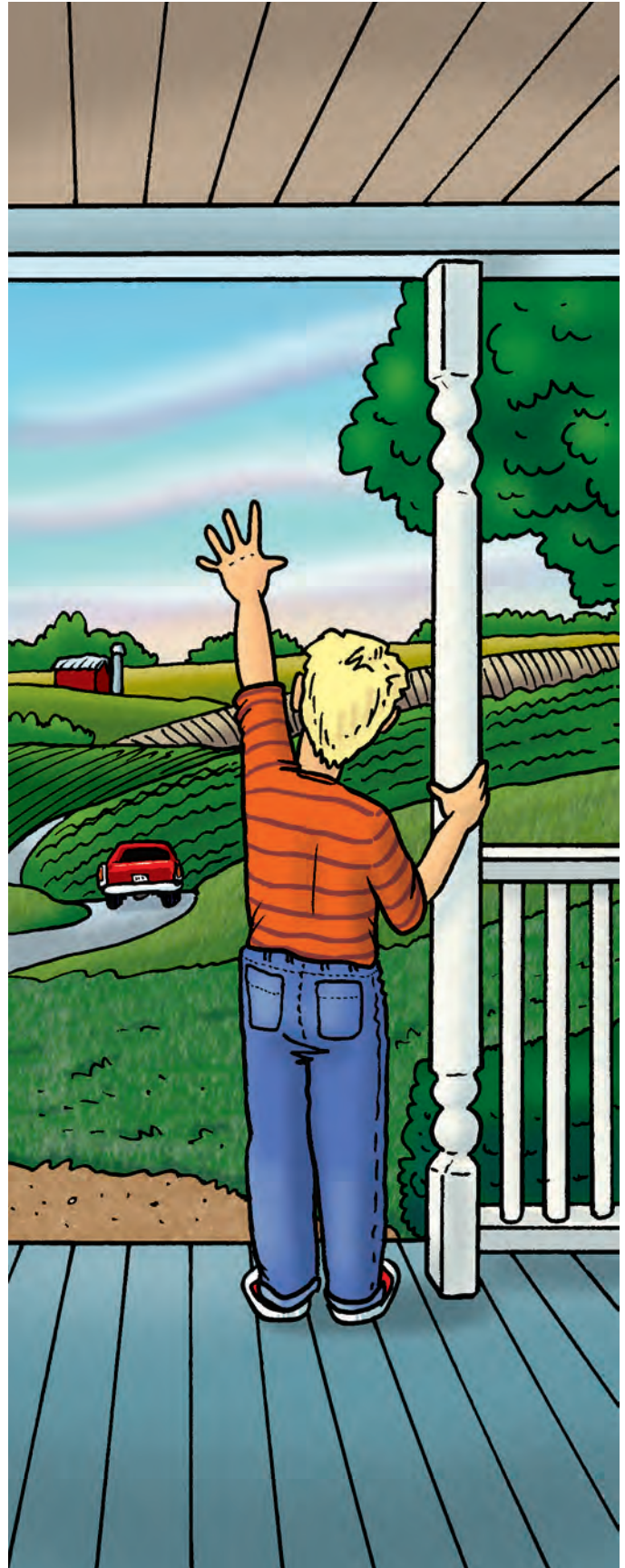
*What does the boy remember about his grandparents' visit?*

<sup>1</sup> I stood on the porch for a long time and waved. Gram and Gramps had such a long drive. They wouldn't get home until tomorrow.

<sup>2</sup> Everything seemed quiet now that they were gone. Gramps wasn't telling one of his stories. The best one was about the fort he and his brothers had built in the hay barn. It seemed as if the fort got bigger every time I heard the story.

<sup>3</sup> And Gram wasn't in the kitchen humming like she always did. Every now and then, she would even dance a little. Then, she'd look up and laugh. If anyone was watching, her face would turn red.

<sup>4</sup> I watched until their car was just a dot. Then, I hummed a little song and went to ask my dad about the hay in the barn.



1. Which word best describes the boy's feelings about his grandparents?

fond

excited

hopeless

2. Why do you think the fort "got bigger" every time Gramps told the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think the boy might do next?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Mark the sentence that is true.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gramps grew up on a farm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gramps grew up in the city.

5. What information in the story helped you answer question 4?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who is telling the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Gramps      \_\_\_\_\_ the boy      \_\_\_\_\_ the boy's dad

7. Read the two sentences below. Write **C** for *cause* next to one and **E** for *effect* next to the other.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gram and Gramps have headed home.

\_\_\_\_\_ Everything seems quiet now.

8. Why do you think Gram's face sometimes turns red?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Games for a Rainy Day

What do Gina and her mom do on a rainy day?

<sup>1</sup> *Rumble, rumble, rumble.* The afternoon thunder told me that we would not get to go swimming this afternoon. I went looking for my mom just as the first raindrops fell.

<sup>2</sup> “What can I do, Mom?”

<sup>3</sup> Mom looked up from her book. I saw her eyes move to the window, and then she frowned. “Hmm,” she said, “this looks like a day for the game closet, Gina. How about pick-up sticks? Or hopscotch?”

<sup>4</sup> I groaned. Those were little kid games. “Uh, anything else?” I asked hopefully.

<sup>5</sup> Mom shook her head. “Those are good games. Let’s try them.” We headed for the closet.

<sup>6</sup> Mom and I played all afternoon. Once we laughed until we fell over. It was pretty fun, even if they were little kid games.





1. Gina knows she will not be able to swim this afternoon because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mom frowned because \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This story is mostly about  
\_\_\_\_\_ the rules for playing hopscotch.  
\_\_\_\_\_ cleaning out a closet full of games.  
\_\_\_\_\_ how a girl and her mom spend an afternoon.
4. Why didn't Gina like her mom's ideas at first?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the afternoon turn out for Gina?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If the next day is sunny, what do you think Gina and her mom will do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the setting for this story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What games do you like to play on rainy afternoons?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

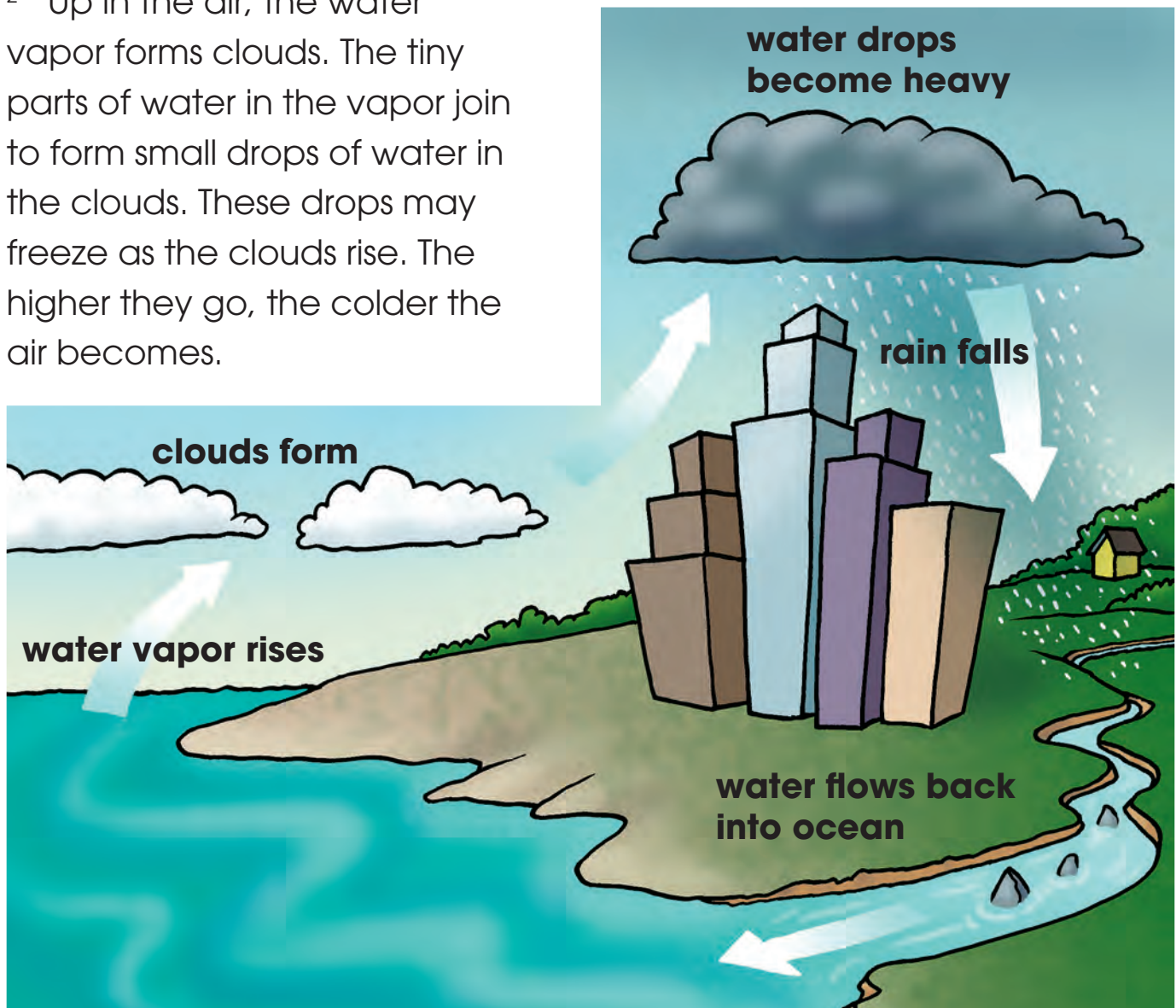
# Clouds and Rain Today

*Read to find out why it rains.*

<sup>1</sup> Water is all around us—in lakes, rivers, streams, oceans, and even puddles. Heat from the sun causes tiny parts of that water to rise into the air. Those tiny parts are called *water vapor*.

<sup>2</sup> Up in the air, the water vapor forms clouds. The tiny parts of water in the vapor join to form small drops of water in the clouds. These drops may freeze as the clouds rise. The higher they go, the colder the air becomes.

<sup>3</sup> When the water drops in the cloud get too heavy, they fall back to the ground. The water falls as rain, snow, hail, or sleet. Some of the water flows back into rivers, streams, and the ocean. The next time the sun shines, the cycle starts all over again.



1. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show the correct order of the steps in the water cycle.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rain, snow, hail, or sleet falls to the ground.

\_\_\_\_\_ Water vapor rises and forms clouds.

\_\_\_\_\_ The sun's heat causes water to form water vapor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Water drops form and become heavy.

2. Look at the picture of the water cycle. What do the arrows above the ocean tell you?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain the water cycle in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens when the water drops in a cloud get too heavy?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What rises up into the air to form clouds?

\_\_\_\_\_ water vapor      \_\_\_\_\_ hail      \_\_\_\_\_ snow

6. Name three places you can find water in nature.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Here is an effect: **Water vapor rises into the air.** What is the cause?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Shopping with Dad

*What does Gina learn at the store?*

<sup>1</sup> I like shopping with my dad. The other day, we went to the grocery store. I laughed so hard I almost fell over. I learned something, too. It all started when Dad got excited about the corn on the cob.

<sup>2</sup> “What’s the big deal? There is fresh food here all the time,” I said.

<sup>3</sup> “Yes, that’s true, Gina,” agreed Dad, “but it’s nice to see fresh food that was grown nearby. Then, we know it’s really fresh.”

<sup>4</sup> “Oh,” I said. I guess Dad could tell I didn’t get it. He explained.

<sup>5</sup> “Some of the fresh food was picked many days ago, maybe even weeks ago. Then, it probably got washed, put into packages, loaded onto a truck, and unloaded here.”

<sup>6</sup> “Oh,” I said. We chose six ears. It was the best corn I ever ate. Now I get it.





---

**1.** Why does Gina's dad get excited about the corn?

---

**2.** Why isn't some of the fresh food really fresh?

---

---

**3.** What does Gina's dad do that makes her laugh?

---

**4.** Where did you find the answer to question 3?

---

**5.** Tell two things you know about Dad from reading the story.

---

---

**6.** What does Gina think about the corn after she eats it?

---

**7.** Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

\_\_\_\_\_ It was the best corn I ever ate.

\_\_\_\_\_ It's nice to see fresh food that was grown nearby.

\_\_\_\_\_ We chose six ears.

# Backyard Corn

*Learn how to grow corn by reading the passage below.*

<sup>1</sup> Corn is fairly easy to grow. Even in a small backyard garden, a family can grow enough corn for quite a number of yummy meals.

<sup>2</sup> First, take care of the soil, just like for any garden. Work it up as deeply as you can. Chop up clumps of dirt, and rake the surface smooth.

<sup>3</sup> Next comes the planting. Place seeds 2 inches deep and about 12 inches apart.

Your rows should be about 2 feet apart. Keep the soil moist. You'll have to wait for 10 to 15 days for the seeds to sprout. Once they do sprout, water them (if it doesn't rain), and keep the rows clear of weeds.

<sup>4</sup> About 70 to 90 days after you plant your corn seeds, you will be able to enjoy your first harvest. Pass the butter and the salt, please!



Write these steps in the correct order.

- watch plants grow
- plant seeds
- water soil
- harvest corn
- prepare soil

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. At the end of the article, why does the author say, "Pass the butter and the salt, please"?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. It takes the seeds \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ days to sprout.

9. Based on the text, how do you think the author feels about growing corn?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. If you could choose to grow something in a garden, what would it be? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Corn: How We Use It

*What are some different uses of corn?*

<sup>1</sup> There was a time when the only use for corn was to eat it or to feed it to the cattle or hogs. Those days are long gone.

<sup>2</sup> There may be as many as four thousand products at your grocery store that contain corn. No, they're not putting corn kernels in your peanut butter. But they might be sweetening the peanut butter with corn syrup. And there may be another corn product—corn starch—in items such as baked goods and laundry soaps. If you drive home from the store, you could use a fuel made from corn called *ethanol*.

<sup>3</sup> About half of the corn that American farmers grow is still fed to cattle and hogs. The other half, though, shows up in everything from paper to shampoo, from medicine to the glue on a postage stamp.





1. Today, corn is used in thousands of products. How is that different from many years ago?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The article mentions two food products that come from corn. What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Half of the corn grown in America is fed to cattle and hogs. Why is that important?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are two ways to use corn, aside from eating it?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to get people to buy more corn

\_\_\_\_\_ to teach about the uses of corn

\_\_\_\_\_ to make you laugh

6. **Corn is no longer fed to farm animals.** Is this true or false?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think ethanol is a good way to power cars? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Something New for Gina

*Read to see what Gina learns at the picnic.*

<sup>1</sup> Tonight was the Nolan Street picnic. We have one every year. Everyone takes one dish of food. Then, you go along the table and you wonder what to try because some of it looks sort of unusual.

<sup>2</sup> “Gina, don’t you want some of this salad? It has raisins in it.” Mom never gives up.

<sup>3</sup> “Um, no, thanks, Mom. I took some apple slices for my salad.” I took other safe things, such as potato salad and baked beans. Then, my dad came up all of a sudden.

<sup>4</sup> “Gina, try this pizza. It is great!” he said. Before I could say anything, he popped a piece into my mouth.

<sup>5</sup> “Hey, Dad! This isn’t pizza.”

<sup>6</sup> “Ah, but it is. It’s fruit pizza,” he said, grinning.

<sup>7</sup> I asked for another piece. Then, I asked Mrs. Taylor for the recipe.



---

**1.** Explain how the Nolan Street picnic works.

---

---

**2.** Who do you think made the fruit pizza?

---

**3.** Which of these sentences best tells how Gina feels about food?

\_\_\_\_\_ If it's food, I'll try it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like to try new foods.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll try something only if I know what it is.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like trying foods that have fruit in them.

**4.** Did Gina like the fruit pizza? How could you tell?

---

**5.** In paragraph 3, Gina says she took "safe things." What do you think she means by "safe"?

---

**6.** Who does Gina go to the picnic with?

---

**7.** Do you enjoy trying new foods? Explain.

---

---

# Fruit Pizza

*Does this sound like something  
you would like to try?*

## Ingredients

- 1 package (20 ounces) sugar cookie dough
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup orange marmalade
- 2 tablespoons water
- 4–6 types of fruit (bananas, oranges, blueberries, seedless grapes, strawberries, and so on)

## Directions

1 On a cookie sheet or pizza pan, press cookie dough into a thin circle about 12 inches wide. Bake at 375° F for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Place on serving tray.

2 Combine cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Mix until well blended. Spread over crust. Slice and arrange fruit over cream cheese mixture. Mix marmalade and water. Pour over fruit. Chill. Cut into wedges to serve.





Write these steps in the correct order. (Not all of the recipe's steps are here.)

- chill
- bake dough
- press dough into circle
- slice and arrange fruit
- make cream cheese mixture

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Recipes often use short forms of words called **abbreviations**. Match the abbreviations in the box with their common recipe words.

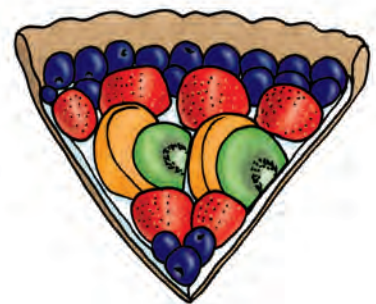
**C.****oz.****tsp.****pkg.**

6. teaspoon \_\_\_\_\_

7. cup \_\_\_\_\_

8. ounce \_\_\_\_\_

9. package \_\_\_\_\_



10. What step do you have to do after you bake the pizza dough, before you add the spread?

\_\_\_\_\_ arrange the fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ cool it

\_\_\_\_\_ cut it into wedges

# New Neighbors

*Read to see what Yuki discovers.*

<sup>1</sup> The grass looked shiny. It had rained last night, but now the sun was shining brightly. If Yuki looked just right, she could even see little sparkles. She waded out into the grass to see if she could catch one.

<sup>2</sup> Just as she bent down near a sparkle, she saw a girl looking at her over the fence. Yuki stopped. The girl waved her fingers a little bit. Yuki waved back a little bit and stood up.

<sup>3</sup> Just then, Yuki's mom stepped out the back door. "Oh, hello. Yuki, this must be Roxie. I was just talking to her mom in the front yard." The girl nodded.

<sup>4</sup> "Do you want to see my sunflowers?" asked Roxie. Yuki looked at her mom, and then nodded. She went to the fence. In the corner of Roxie's yard, she saw the tallest flowers she had ever seen in her whole life.



**1.** This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ a girl playing in the wet grass.

\_\_\_\_\_ how a rain storm hurt some plants.

\_\_\_\_\_ two neighbor girls and how they meet.

**2.** What do you think will happen next in the story?

---

---

Use the story to fill in the blanks and complete each sentence.

**3.** Roxie likes to grow \_\_\_\_\_.

**4.** Yuki is looking at raindrops on the \_\_\_\_\_.

**5.** Roxie and Yuki are on opposite sides of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**6.** Yuki's mom has already met Roxie's \_\_\_\_\_.

**7.** In what season do you think this story takes place? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

**8.** What are two adjectives you could use to describe the grass in the yard?

---

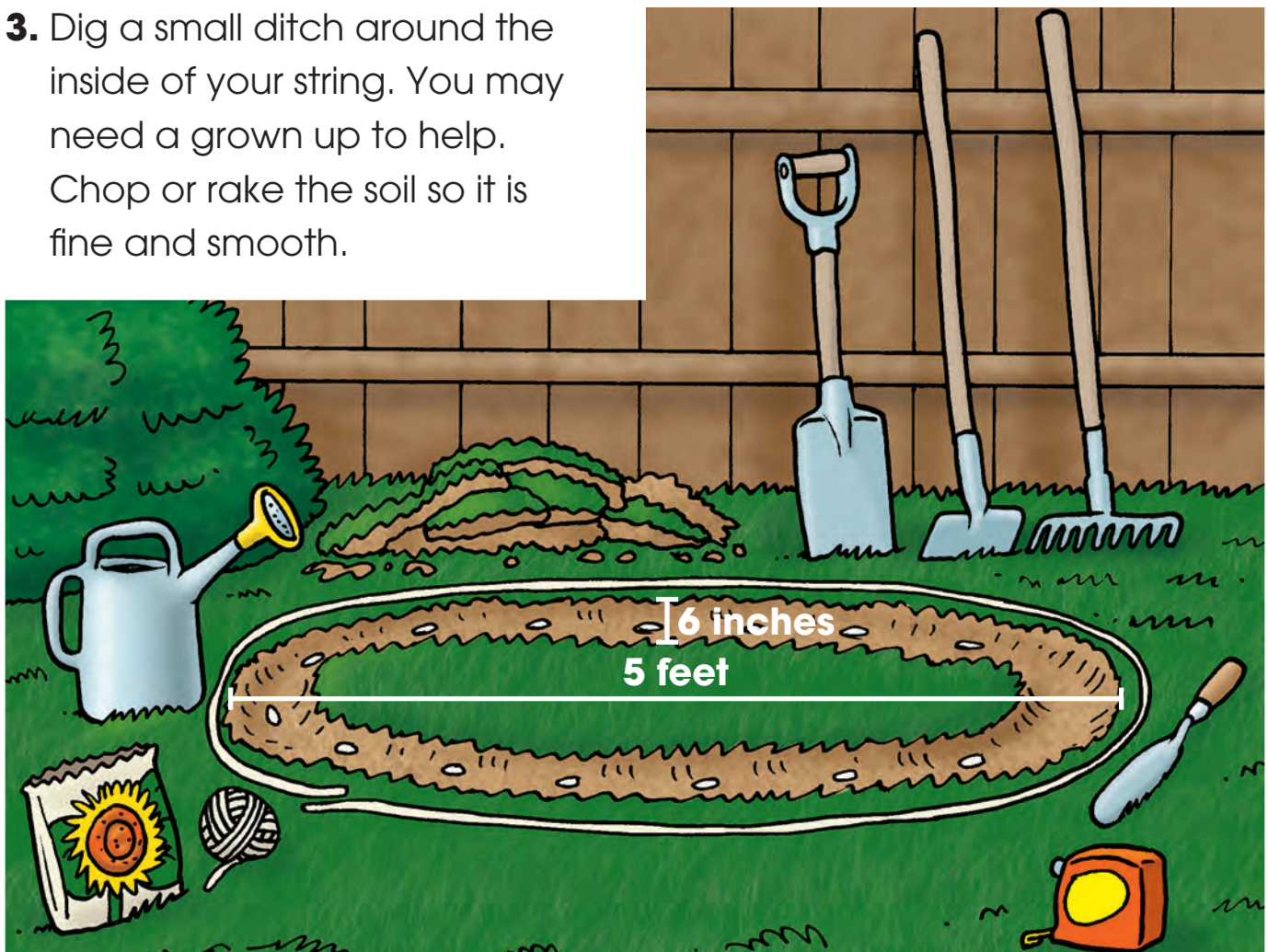
# The Sunflower House

*Can you imagine a sunflower house?*

Follow these directions to make your own sunflower house.

1. Choose a sunny space for a garden. Get permission from a grown up to use the space.
2. Lay down a string to outline your garden. You may make a round or square space.
3. Dig a small ditch around the inside of your string. You may need a grown up to help. Chop or rake the soil so it is fine and smooth.

4. In your ditch, place one sunflower seed about every nine inches. Go all the way around the circle. Then, remove one seed. That spot will be your doorway.
5. Brush soil over the seeds with your fingers. Press gently all around the ditch. Then, water and wait for your house to grow.





---

**1.** What did you think of when you read the title, “The Sunflower House”?

---

**2.** Was your idea anything like the sunflower house described in the directions? Explain.

---

**3.** What information is given only in the diagram?

---

**4.** Would you have been able to follow the directions without the diagram? Explain.

---

**5.** Do sunflowers need a sunny or shady place to grow?

---

**6.** For which part will you probably need a grown up’s help?

---

**7.** How far apart should you plant the seeds?

---

**8.** Why do you remove one seed before you cover the rest with dirt?

---

# Great Seats

*What does David like best about his day with Grandfather?*

<sup>1</sup> People were rushing along the sidewalk. David stayed close to Grandfather. He kept his eyes on the signs that read, "To Stadium."

<sup>2</sup> "I'm afraid we don't have very good seats, David," said Grandfather. "They're quite high up in the stands."

<sup>3</sup> "That's okay, Grandfather," said David. He didn't really care about good seats. He was just glad to be here.

<sup>4</sup> David and Grandfather ate popcorn and cheered for all of their favorite players. They saw some great hits and some great plays. During some innings, nothing happened. They cheered anyway.

<sup>5</sup> After the game, David walked next to Grandfather. He could still see the players out on the green grass. He could smell the popcorn. He could hear the smack as the ball landed in the catcher's mitt.

<sup>6</sup> "Grandfather," said David, smiling, "you were right. Those weren't very good seats—they were *great* seats."



---

**1.** Why is David's grandfather afraid?

---

**2.** How does David feel about the seats at first, and then later?

---

**3.** What three things does David remember?

---

**4.** What sights, smells, and sounds do you remember from a special day?

---

**5.** Which word best describes how David feels about the game?

\_\_\_\_\_ excited      \_\_\_\_\_ worried      \_\_\_\_\_ annoyed

**6.** In paragraph 5, what senses does David use to remember the game?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Do you think David and Grandfather go to a lot of baseball games together? Why or why not?

---

**8.** David and Grandfather cheered even when nothing much happened. Why do you think they did this?

---

---

# Baseball Basics

*What do you know about the game of baseball?*

- <sup>1</sup> To enjoy baseball, you need to know a few things.
- <sup>2</sup> There are nine sections, or *innings*, in a game. During an inning, each team gets a turn to bat and a turn to field.
- <sup>3</sup> When a team is at bat, one player at a time tries to hit the ball. When a player hits the ball, he runs around the bases, trying not to be tagged out by a fielder with the ball. The runner

may stop at first, second, or third base and be “safe.” If he makes it all the way to home base, he scores a run.

- <sup>4</sup> If a fielder catches the ball before it bounces, the batter is “out.” If the ball touches the ground, a fielder must get the ball and tag the runner or throw the ball to another fielder who can do so. When three players have made outs, the teams trade places and the game goes on.





1. What did you learn about baseball after you read this article?

---

---

2. What happens during an inning?

---

3. What can a runner do to be safe?

---

4. Why do you think the author wrote this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to give information

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain



5. How many innings are there in a game?

---

6. In paragraph 2, why is the word *innings* written in italics?

---

7. What does a player have to do to score a run?

---

8. Read the sentences below. Write **C** next to the *cause* and **E** next to the *effect*.

\_\_\_\_\_ A fielder catches the ball before it bounces.

\_\_\_\_\_ The batter is out.

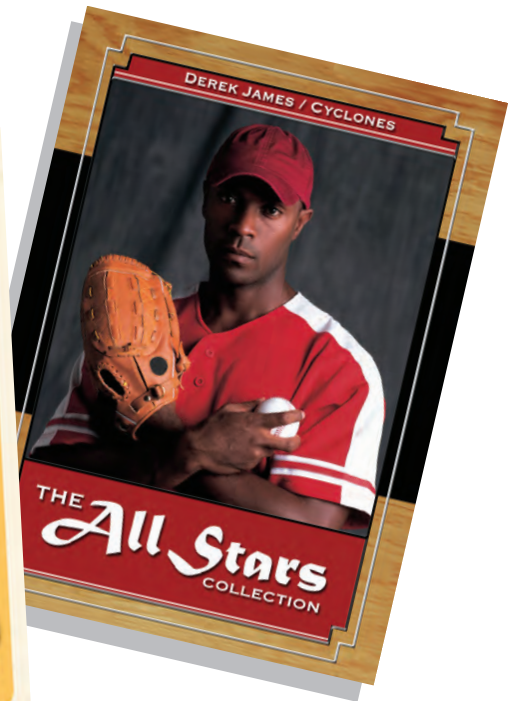
# Baseball Cards

*Read to learn about collecting baseball cards.*

<sup>1</sup> In 1887, the first baseball cards were printed. The earliest fans of baseball liked to collect the cards of their favorite players. In time, they collected cards of whole teams. Most of these early collectors were adults. In fact, they were businessmen who had the time and money to go to games during the week.

<sup>2</sup> As baseball grew and changed, so did card collecting. As the game became more popular, it caught the interest of children, and so did collecting cards. A pack of cards and some candy cost just a few pennies in the early 1900s.

<sup>3</sup> Today, some people pay thousands of dollars for very special or rare cards. For some, though, it is still a thrill to pay a few dollars for a pack of baseball cards, just to see what's inside.



**1.** This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ the greatest baseball teams.

\_\_\_\_\_ the history of baseball.

\_\_\_\_\_ collecting baseball cards.

**2.** Do you collect anything? Write about it.

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** When were the first baseball cards printed?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1887

\_\_\_\_\_ the early 1900s

\_\_\_\_\_ 1987

**4.** Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false* next to each sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most early collectors were adults.

\_\_\_\_\_ People no longer collect baseball cards.

\_\_\_\_\_ Today, some people pay a lot for just one card.

\_\_\_\_\_ Baseball just became popular about 20 years ago.

**5.** How much did a pack of cards cost in the early 1900s?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Do you think a pack of cards costs more or less today? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Those Were the Days

*What does Lorna learn about the past?*

<sup>1</sup> “Who’s that in the picture?”

Lorna asked. She pointed to a woman with white hair. Her mother looked more closely.

<sup>2</sup> “That’s your great-grandmother Lucy.”

<sup>3</sup> Lorna looked closer too. “How did she ride her air scooter in that thing she’s wearing?”

<sup>4</sup> Lorna’s mother smiled. “That ‘thing’ is a dress. And they didn’t have air scooters. People drove cars to get around.”

<sup>5</sup> “Oh, I remember reading about those,” Lorna nodded. “How did people get them up to their houses?”

<sup>6</sup> “Lorna’s mother smiled again. “People’s houses were on the ground back then.”

<sup>7</sup> Lorna made a face. “That would be weird.”





Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Houses are not on the ground.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Children wear space suits.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ People look at old pictures.
4. What do you learn about Lorna from the picture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Lorna ask about getting a car up to a house?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Look at the picture. What do you like best about Lorna's world?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you think Lorna lives in the past or in the future? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the setting for this story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think Lorna feels that having a house on the ground is weird?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In the photo, Lorna's great grandma is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_.

# One City Block

*Read to see who lives on Rachel's block.*

<sup>1</sup> Mama says the whole world lives right here on our block. Everyone is different, and I'll always like it that way.

<sup>2</sup> Right down the hall is Mrs. Rotollo. She and her husband speak Italian, but when they see me, they always say "hello" in English. When Mama was sick once, Mrs. Rotollo helped me make dinner. It turned out yummy!

<sup>3</sup> Upstairs is Philip. He takes dancing lessons. When I hear his feet thumping in the morning, I know it is time to get up.

<sup>4</sup> Next door is Mr. Tran's grocery. Mama sends me over for fresh vegetables and fruit. Mr. Tran always picks out the best ones for me.

<sup>5</sup> On the first floor of our building is Mrs. Moya's shop. I love the colors! I always know when it's going to rain because she takes her piñatas down.



Write one thing you know about each of Rachel's neighbors.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Rotollo \_\_\_\_\_

2. Philip \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mr. Tran \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mrs. Moya \_\_\_\_\_

5. Look at the picture and the story. Which neighbor seems most interesting to you? Write why.



6. In the picture, who is Rachel? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you like to live in an apartment like Rachel's? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How does Rachel know it is time to get up in the morning?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. In the first paragraph, why does Mama say "the whole world lives right here on our block?"

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# What Is a City?

*What kinds of people, buildings, and jobs make up your city?*

<sup>1</sup> A city is made up of people. They live and work in the city. Some of them work to make sure the city is a good place to live. They make rules for the people in the city. One rule might be, "Don't throw trash in the street." What rules does your city have?

<sup>2</sup> Other people try to make sure there are things to do in a city. They run restaurants, movie

theaters, and sports centers. The bigger a city is, the more things there are to do. What is there to do in your city?

<sup>3</sup> If a city is going to be a nice place to live, the people who live there must agree to follow the city's rules. They must also pay taxes. Taxes pay for things such as cleaning the streets, running schools, and filling the public library with books. Is your city a nice place to live?





1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ what makes a city. \_\_\_\_\_ how to live in a city.

\_\_\_\_\_ America's largest cities.

2. What is your favorite thing to do in your city or in a nearby city?  
Write about it.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The person who wrote this article is the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Do you think this article is meant to give information or to make  
you laugh? Write why.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you most like to live in a city, in a small town, or in the  
country? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which of the following would taxes NOT pay for?

\_\_\_\_\_ library books \_\_\_\_\_ a new clothing store

\_\_\_\_\_ street cleaning

7. If you made the rules for a city, what rule would be most  
important to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **It is more fun to live in a city than in the country.** Is this a fact  
or an opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Ant and Grasshopper

*What does Grasshopper learn?*

<sup>1</sup> Ant hurried back and forth. Each time he went, he carried another small piece of food back to his nest. *I have to fill the nest, I have to fill the nest*, he panted to himself as he worked.

<sup>2</sup> Grasshopper watched. He thought Ant was silly. "Come watch the bugs skate on the pond," he called to Ant.

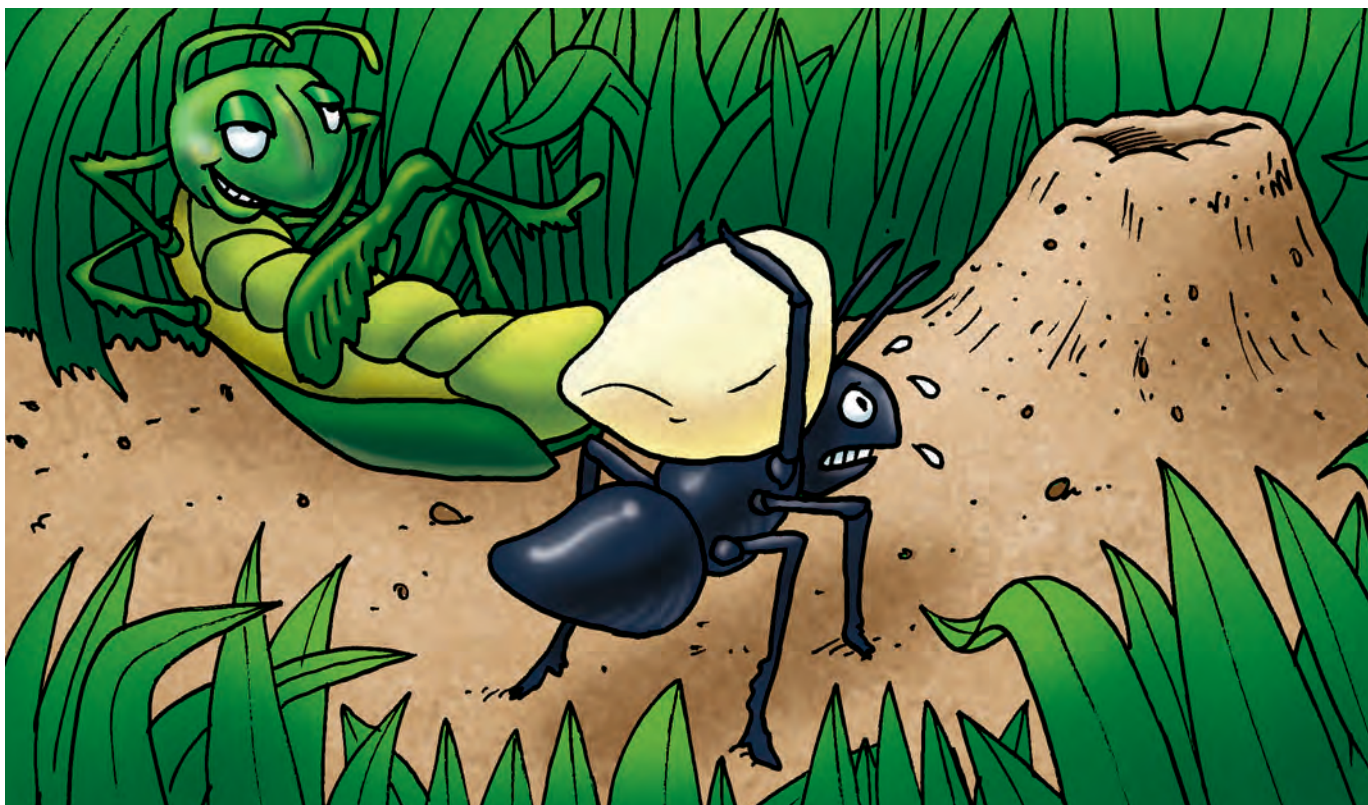
<sup>3</sup> Ant didn't even stop. "Oh, no, I can't. I must get more food for winter. I have to fill the nest."

<sup>4</sup> So it went all summer.

Grasshopper called out every day, and Ant answered the same.

<sup>5</sup> When the leaves had all fallen off the trees, a sharp wind began to blow. Ant crawled safely into his nest. Grasshopper had nowhere to go.

<sup>6</sup> In spring, when there were fresh green buds on the trees, Ant came out of his nest. Grasshopper was nowhere to be found.



Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ants gather food.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Grasshoppers watch baseball games.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Grasshoppers are lazy.

4. This story is called a **fable**. Fables usually teach a lesson. What lesson does this one teach?

---

---

5. If you were Ant, what would you have said to Grasshopper?

---

6. What makes Ant and Grasshopper different from real insects?

---

7. What season is it when the story begins? What season is it when the story ends?

---

8. In paragraph 1, why do you think the words *I have to fill the nest* are in italics?

---

9. Why does Grasshopper think Ant is silly?

---

# A Pleasant Tale

*Read to see what the princess learns from the market girl.*

<sup>1</sup> The king had made a law. The people in the town had to be pleasant to the princess. Each day, the princess stood on the castle wall so everyone could be pleasant to her. Each day, a few people looked up pleasantly. No one waved or smiled. This made the princess sad and mad.

<sup>2</sup> One day, she noticed a market girl in the marketplace. The market girl waved and everyone she met waved back to her. They smiled. They looked pleasant. The princess had the girl brought to the castle.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do people wave and smile at you? Why are they pleasant?” demanded the princess.

<sup>4</sup> The market girl thought this was a silly question. “Perhaps it is because I wave and smile at them,” she said pleasantly.

<sup>5</sup> The next day, the princess stood on the castle wall and waved. She even smiled. Down in the marketplace, the market girl waved and smiled back. This made the princess happy.





1. How did the princess feel when she waved and no one waved back?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did the princess speak to the market girl?

\_\_\_\_\_ She spoke pleasantly.

\_\_\_\_\_ She spoke angrily.

\_\_\_\_\_ She begged her.

3. What lesson did the princess learn from the market girl?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of these best describes the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ a true story

\_\_\_\_\_ a fairy tale

\_\_\_\_\_ an article meant to teach



5. Read the sentences below. Write **C** next to the *cause* and **E** next to the *effect*.

\_\_\_\_\_ This made the princess mad.

\_\_\_\_\_ No one smiled or waved at the princess.

6. Who do you think was wiser in this story, the princess or the market girl? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Castles

*What do you already know about castles?*

## Why do castles have walls?

<sup>1</sup> Have you ever seen a castle without walls? They all seem to have them, don't they? The walls are for protection. At least, they used to be. Hundreds of years ago, the main reason for building a castle was to protect yourself from your enemies.



## Why do castle walls have notches?

<sup>2</sup> What if your enemies attacked you? You couldn't just hide. You probably had to fight back. So you sent your knights or the townspeople up to the walls. They may have had rocks to throw or arrows to shoot. Either way, they took aim through the openings, or the lower parts of the notches. They stood behind the higher parts of the notches to protect themselves from whatever the enemy was throwing or shooting back up at them.



1. How are castles different from our homes? List some ways.

### Castles

Walls \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Homes

Walls \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

2. Imagine that you are standing on the wall of the castle shown on page 102. Describe what you see.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the main reason that castles were first built?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think that castles are still built today? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

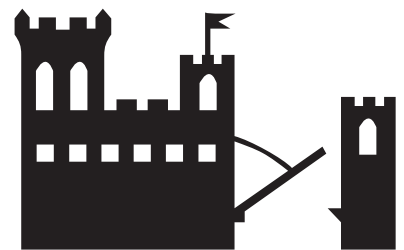
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How were the notches in castle walls used?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. People used \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as weapons.

# Yard Sale Day

*How does this yard sale turn out?*

<sup>1</sup> The day we had our yard sale is a day I'll never forget. Early on that Saturday morning, we set everything out neatly on tables. People started coming. Some of them bought things, some didn't.

<sup>2</sup> All at once, the sky got very dark. Mom took one look and told Nathan and me to get into the garage. A big *whoosh* of wind came. Over went the bikes. Over went the tables. *Crash* went an old lamp. Within a few minutes, it was all over. We walked out of the garage, amazed by the huge mess.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a door slam and looked up. Mr. Piper from down the street said it looked like we needed some help. Soon, a bunch of neighbors came to help. I don't remember how much we sold, but we ended up having the nicest neighborhood get together ever! Maybe we should have a yard sale again next summer.





---

1. What two things made this yard sale day a time to remember?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the problem in the story and how is it solved?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show the correct order from the story.

\_\_\_\_\_ People began coming to the sale.

\_\_\_\_\_ Neighbors came to help.

\_\_\_\_\_ The storm blew through.

\_\_\_\_\_ The family set things out on tables.

4. The person who tells a story is the **narrator**. What did the narrator like best about the yard sale day?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think the family will have another yard sale next year? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the setting of this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. In paragraph 2, the author uses two sound words. What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hard at Work

*Why are these students working so hard?*

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Davis looked around the room at her students. "I think it would be lovely for each of you to have flowers on your desk for the Open House."

<sup>2</sup> A hand went up. "Yes, Caitlyn?" said Mrs. Davis.

<sup>3</sup> "Can we give our flowers to our parents when they come?"

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Davis smiled. "Yes, I think that's a fine idea, Caitlyn."

<sup>5</sup> Pedro raised his hand. "Are there any more green pipe cleaners? I need some more flower stems."

<sup>6</sup> "Yes, right here," said Mrs. Davis, and she handed more stems to Pedro. "Does anyone need more coffee filters?"

<sup>7</sup> No one answered. They were all working so hard that no one even heard the bell ring. School was over, but the students were all still hard at work.



**1.** Circle the word that best tells about Caitlyn.

selfish

thoughtful

careless

**2.** Circle the word that best tells about Mrs. Davis.

nice

nervous

angry

**3.** What parts of the story helped you learn about Mrs. Davis?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** What three materials do the students need to make the flowers?  
Use the text and the picture to help you.

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** For what event are the students making the flowers?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Why didn't anyone leave when the bell rang?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Write **F** next to sentences that are facts. Write **O** next to sentences that are opinions.

\_\_\_\_\_ It would be lovely for each of you to have  
flowers on your desk.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pedro raised his hand.

\_\_\_\_\_ These are beautiful flowers!

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Davis handed pipe cleaners to Pedro.



# Open House

*What is there to see at the Open House?*

<sup>1</sup> “I want to show you my butterfly, and my flower poster, and....”

<sup>2</sup> “Hey, slow down, Ted. We’ll look at everything. Don’t worry,” said Ted’s dad. Ted grinned. He was excited about showing everything in his classroom to his parents.

<sup>3</sup> Ted led them around the room to his butterfly model, his flower poster, his plant report, and his part of the butterfly life cycle. At each stop, his parents said, “What a great job, Ted!” or “That’s wonderful, Ted!”

<sup>4</sup> At last, they stopped near Ted’s desk. “These are for you,” said Ted. He handed a handful of coffee-filter flowers to his mom. “Great job!” and “That’s wonderful!” didn’t seem to be enough, so Mom just gave Ted a hug.





Put each word in the right blank.

**excited****model****poster**

1. The butterfly \_\_\_\_\_ even had wings that flapped.
2. Even Mrs. Davis was \_\_\_\_\_ about the Open House.
3. The picture on the \_\_\_\_\_ showed a sunflower.
4. This story is mostly about  
\_\_\_\_\_ how hard Mrs. Davis worked.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ted and his parents at the Open House.  
\_\_\_\_\_ the parts of a butterfly.
5. Have you ever been excited about an Open House or a school project? Write about it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is the main character in this story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do you think Ted feels as he shows his parents his projects?  
\_\_\_\_\_ worried      \_\_\_\_\_ bored      \_\_\_\_\_ proud
8. Why does Mom hug Ted instead of saying "good job"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Making Flowers

*Learn how to make flowers out of coffee filters.*

## Supplies Needed

- white coffee filters
- watercolor paints
- cup of water
- paintbrushes
- spoon
- newspapers
- pipe cleaners

## Instructions

1. Gather all supplies. Cover your work area with newspapers.
2. Flatten a coffee filter. Drip clean water onto the filter with a spoon.
3. Brush or drip watercolor paints onto the coffee filter. For bright colors, use more paint. For pale colors, use more water.
4. Let coffee filter dry.
5. Gather center of coffee filter and twist pipe cleaner around it several times.



Write these steps in the correct order. Not all of the steps are listed here.

- flatten coffee filter
- drip paint onto coffee filter
- let dry
- gather supplies
- wet down coffee filter

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which step does the illustration show?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did the illustration help you understand the project?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. If you want bright colors on your flowers, use more \_\_\_\_\_.

If you want pale colors on your flowers, use more \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Which material is used for the stem of the flower?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Tell about another craft you have enjoyed making.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Parts of a Plant

*Can you name the parts of a plant?*

## Root

The roots collect water and food, or *nutrients*, from the soil. The plant cannot grow without roots or without the water and nutrients.

## Stem

The stem carries nutrients from the roots to the leaves.

## Leaf

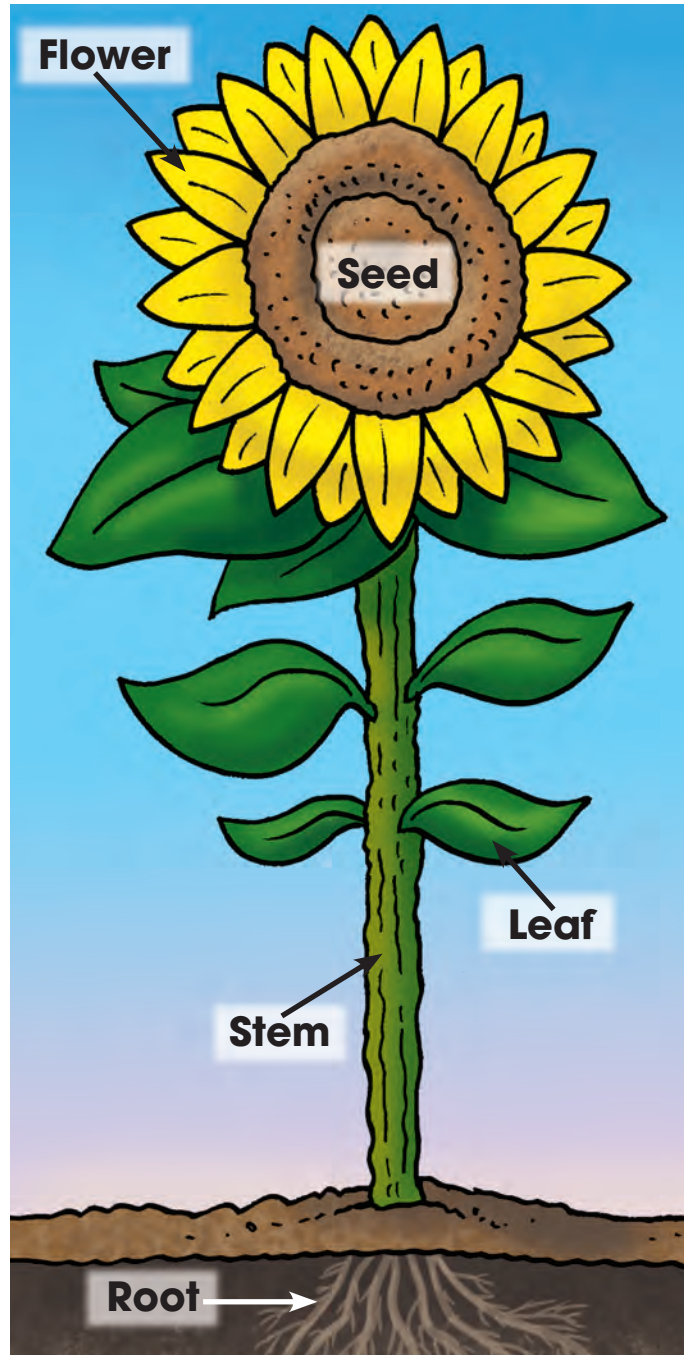
The leaves collect energy from the sun. Using this energy, plus the water and nutrients from the roots, the plant makes its own food.

## Seed

In the center of the flower, seeds form. Birds eat some of them. Others drop to the ground and sprout new plants next year.

## Flower

Flowers produce seeds. Flowers' bright petals appeal to birds and butterflies. They spread pollen, which is needed to form the seeds.





1. What jobs do a plant's leaves do?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write what nutrients are.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. After the roots collect water and nutrients, what happens?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The illustration on page 112 includes **callouts**, short pieces of information that explain parts of an illustration. How can you tell what each callout is telling about?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What two things happen to the seeds in the center of the flower?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. To make its own food, a plant needs \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

7. How do birds and butterflies help flowers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# No Help for Allison

*Why can't Mom help Allison?*

<sup>1</sup> Allison was bored. She had asked Mom to play a game with her, but Mom said she was busy.

<sup>2</sup> Allison read for a while. Then, she was bored again. *Ugh, there's nothing to do!* she thought. She asked for help with her weaving, but Mom was busy. *Why is Mom always busy when I need her?* Now, Allison was bored and grumpy.



<sup>3</sup> Allison shuffled into the kitchen. Mom looked up from her cooking. "Oh, Ally, I'm glad you're here. Come next door and help me cheer up Mrs. Baxter. She broke her leg last week, and I'm taking some food over to her."

<sup>4</sup> "That's why you were busy?" asked Allison.

<sup>5</sup> "That's right. Why?"

<sup>6</sup> "Oh, poor Mrs. Baxter," said Allison, suddenly feeling not so grumpy. "I wanted you to help me today, but it turns out you were helping someone who really needed it."

---

**1.** At the beginning of the story, how did you think it would turn out?

---

**2.** Why can't Mom help Allison?

---

**3.** How does Allison feel about what her mother was doing?

---

**4.** Why do you think she feels that way?

---

Write **T** if the sentence is true. Write **N** if the story does not give the information.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_ Mom is kind to a neighbor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom dislikes playing games with Allison.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom is a great cook.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom uses a nickname for her daughter.

**6.** In the story, who is Mrs. Baxter?

---

**7.** Why does Allison feel upset with her mom?

---

**8.** Have you ever wanted your parents to do something with you when they didn't have time? Tell about how it made you feel.

---



# Can Central

*What is Mark and Timo's problem?*

<sup>1</sup> Mark was used to people staring. He stopped his bike, picked up the soda can on the sidewalk, and tossed it into the special basket on his bike. He flashed a smile at the people staring, just to confuse them.

<sup>2</sup> At home, Timo was waiting outside the garage. He also had a basket full of cans on his bike. The boys nodded at each other, and then they opened the garage door. A mountain of black, can-filled garbage bags greeted them. Mark and Timo had been here every day, emptying their baskets into the bags. Now, the summer was almost over. It was time to figure out how to get all of their cans to the recycling center.





Some words create pictures in our minds. For example, look at these sentences.

Mark rode his bike around the block.

Mark zoomed his bike around the block.

*Rode* tells you what Mark did, but *zoomed* really tells you how he did it and how he looked as he did it.

Read each sentence below. Think about the underlined words. Make a check mark next to the sentence that really tells you what the character did or how something looks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Mark put a can into his basket.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark tossed a can into his basket.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ He flashed a smile.

\_\_\_\_\_ He smiled.

3. What problem do the boys have in the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The story doesn't tell us how they solve it. What do you think they should do?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think people stare at Mark?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think Mark and Timo are doing a good thing? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Trading Favors

*Read to see what Mark and Timo figure out.*

<sup>1</sup> It's funny how things work out. Mark and Timo had been stuck. They had all these cans and no way to get them to the recycling center. They went for a walk to think and ran into a neighbor, Mr. Timmons. He was stuck, too. He explained how he had hurt his foot and had to use a cane. He was trying to figure out how to get his lawn mowed.

<sup>2</sup> The boys offered to help. Mr. Timmons was very grateful. Then, it happened. He opened his garage and asked the boys if they could dump the grass clippings into the back of his truck. A truck!

<sup>3</sup> "Mr. Timmons," said Mark, "how would you feel about doing us a favor?" After Mark and Timo explained, Mr. Timmons said he would be more than happy to trade favors.



1. Why did the boys take a walk?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did Mr. Timmons need help with his lawn?

\_\_\_\_\_

Look at the picture. Put a check mark by the two sentences that tell about the picture.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Timmons is asleep.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Timmons uses a cane.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Timmons is wearing jeans.



4. What does Mr. Timmons have that the boys need?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the title of the story? How does it help you predict what will happen?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you think the boys and Mr. Timmons felt at the end of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ upset

\_\_\_\_\_ glad

\_\_\_\_\_ confused

# Counting Money

*What will the boys do with the money they earned?*

<sup>1</sup> It was a hot, muggy day. Mark and Timo were glad they weren't lugging cans today. Yesterday, it had taken hours to get all of the cans they had collected to the recycling center. Mr. Timmons said his truck hadn't worked so hard in a long time. He was laughing when he said it, though.

<sup>2</sup> Today, all the boys had to do was count their money and figure out what to do with it. They talked about bikes and basketballs. They dreamed about rockets and hot air balloons.

<sup>3</sup> As they walked, Mark bent over and picked up a can without even thinking about it. When he saw the can in his hand, he laughed.

<sup>4</sup> "Old habits die hard," Timo said. "Maybe we better buy some more trash bags!"





1. What did the boys do yesterday?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Today, the boys are \_\_\_\_\_.

3. How did Mr. Timmons feel about helping the boys?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What part of the story helped you answer question 3?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. After Mark picked up the can, he laughed because

\_\_\_\_\_.

6. What does “old habits die hard” mean? Do you think it is true?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. In paragraph 1, it says the boys were glad they weren’t lugging cans today. What does **lugging** mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Write **first**, **next**, and **last** next to the events below to show in what order they happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark picked up one more can.

\_\_\_\_\_ Timo said they should buy some more trash bags.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Timmons laughed about how hard his truck was working.

# Spending Money

*Read to see what choice Mark and Timo make.*

<sup>1</sup> Mark and Timo were still laughing about picking up cans when they caught up with Mr. Timmons.

<sup>2</sup> “Hi, Mr. Timmons,” smiled Timo. “Where are you headed?”

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Timmons seemed pleased to see them. “Well, it’s Thursday, so I’m on my way to help at the food pantry.”

<sup>4</sup> “What goes on there?” Mark asked.

<sup>5</sup> “Oh, they always need help packing or unpacking cans of food,” Mr. Timmons explained. “The pantry helps those people who don’t have the money to buy food for their families.”

<sup>6</sup> “Not enough money for food?” said the boys together. They looked at each other and nodded.

<sup>7</sup> “Can we come along, Mr. Timmons?” asked Timo. “I think we just figured out what to do with our recycling money.”



1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ how a food pantry works.

\_\_\_\_\_ what Mr. Timmons does in his free time.

\_\_\_\_\_ what the boys decide to do with their money.

2. Mr. Timmons is going to \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. What will Mr. Timmons do there?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Mr. Timmons says something that gives the boys an idea. What does he say?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do the boys ask Mr. Timmons if they can come along?

\_\_\_\_\_ They want to pick up some canned food.

\_\_\_\_\_ They want to donate their money.

\_\_\_\_\_ They hope to find some more cans at the pantry.

6. Which word best describes the boys?

\_\_\_\_\_ foolish          \_\_\_\_\_ sneaky          \_\_\_\_\_ generous

**7. The food pantry helps people who don't have enough to eat.**

Is this a fact or an opinion?

\_\_\_\_\_

# You Can Recycle

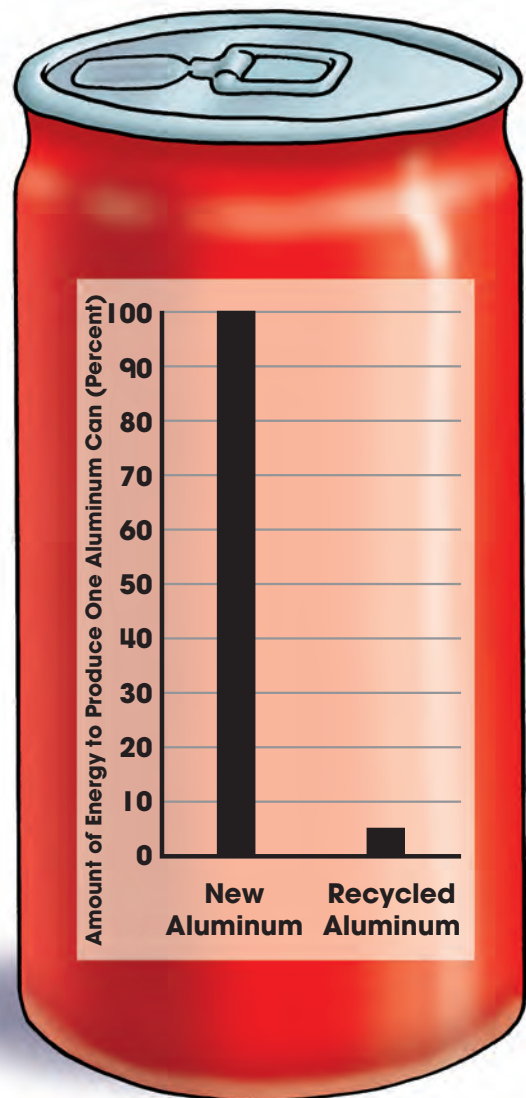
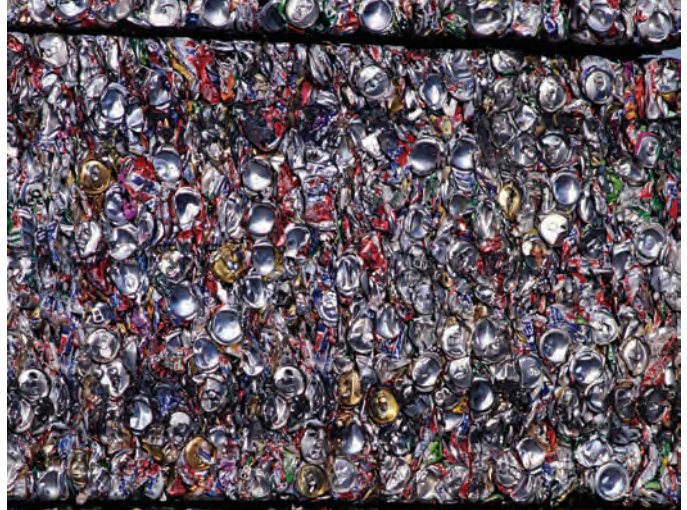
*Why is recycling a good idea?*

<sup>1</sup> Here's a riddle. What can you use over and over again? An aluminum can.

<sup>2</sup> In fact, about half of the aluminum cans you see in the grocery store are recycled. As little as 60 days ago, that aluminum can in the store could have been part of some other can in some other store. If you buy that can, empty it, and recycle it, it could be part of another aluminum can 60 days from now.

<sup>3</sup> Recycling aluminum cans saves energy. Making a can out of recycled aluminum uses only a small part of the energy it takes to make a can out of new aluminum.

<sup>4</sup> Recycling saves energy and money, and it cuts down on waste. Recycling aluminum makes sense no matter how you look at it.





**1.** This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cans at the grocery store.

\_\_\_\_\_ recycling aluminum cans.

\_\_\_\_\_ how to recycle aluminum.

**2.** If you buy a can of lemonade, drink it, and recycle it, how long will it take for that can to be recycled and made into new cans?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** It makes sense to recycle because \_\_\_\_\_ .

**4.** What does the graph show?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Why do you think the author included a graph with this article?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false* next to each sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Very few aluminum cans are recycled.

\_\_\_\_\_ Recycling saves energy and money.

\_\_\_\_\_ It takes more energy to recycle a can than make a new one.

\_\_\_\_\_ It takes years to recycle a can.

**7.** Do you recycle at home or at school? If not, what could you do to start?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Pool Rules

*What do the girls learn?*

<sup>1</sup> At eleven o'clock this morning, the city pool opened for the season. At two minutes after eleven, Katie and Sara were in the girls' locker room. They wanted to be the first ones into the pool.

<sup>2</sup> "I'll race you!" yelled Sara as she dashed out of the locker room door. Katie was right behind her. They were halfway across the hot cement when they heard phweeeet! "Walk, please!"

<sup>3</sup> Katie slowed and turned toward the lifeguard. She felt terrible. She knew they shouldn't have been running. At that moment, her foot went out from under her. Down she went, backward and sideways all at the same time. Ouch! She scraped her elbow on the cement.

<sup>4</sup> Sara and the lifeguard were beside her in an instant. "Are you okay, Katie?"

<sup>5</sup> Katie made a face. "I think so, but next time I think I'll walk."



Choose the best word to finish each sentence below. Write the word in the blank.

1. The girls want to be the \_\_\_\_\_ ones into the pool.

dash

first

next

2. Katie slowed down when the whistle \_\_\_\_\_.

blew

cool

walk

3. Katie hurt her elbow when she \_\_\_\_\_.

feet

backward

fell

4. What rule do you think Katie and Sara were breaking?

---

5. Why do you think most pools have this rule?

---

6. What else do you know about pool rules?

---

7. In paragraph 2, what do you think **phweeeet** means?

---

8. What did Katie learn? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Read the two sentences below. Write **C** for *cause* next to one and **E** for *effect* next to the other.

\_\_\_\_\_ Katie fell and scraped her elbow.

\_\_\_\_\_ Katie was running by the pool.

# Hot Wool

*Why isn't it a good idea to wear a wool sweater on a hot day?*

<sup>1</sup> I peered into my drawer. *What should I wear today? Ah! That's it!* I dove down to find my favorite red sweater way at the bottom. That sweater always made me feel good. I pulled it on and headed for the kitchen.

<sup>2</sup> "Hi, Mom. May I go over to Nick's house?" I asked.

<sup>3</sup> "Sure, Ryan," she said, but then she looked up. "Hey, do you really think you need a wool sweater today?"

<sup>4</sup> I looked down. I loved this sweater. Why did it matter that it was wool?

<sup>5</sup> "Wool clothing is made for warmth," Mom went on. "It's 90 degrees out there. You'll roast." I promised to come back and change if I got hot. Mom raised an eyebrow, but she said okay.

<sup>6</sup> I was back in about five minutes. Mom was right.





---

**1.** What did you think as Ryan was finding his favorite sweater? Did it seem like a good idea?

---

**2.** Are there any clues in the picture that tell you it is a hot day? What are they?

---

**3.** What causes Mom to raise her eyebrow?

---

---

**4.** Why does Ryan come back home?

---

**5.** What would have been a better top for Ryan to wear?

---

**6.** In paragraph 5, Mom says, "You'll roast." What does she mean?

---

**7.** Why did Ryan choose to wear the red wool sweater?

---

**8.** Have you ever worn the wrong thing for the weather? Tell about it.

---

---

# From Sheep to Sweater

*What do you know about wool?*

<sup>1</sup> Have you ever wondered how the wool gets from the sheep to your sweater? Let's find out.

<sup>2</sup> First, the sheep gets a haircut. This is called **shearing** the sheep. The wool from each sheep comes off in nearly one big piece, called a **fleece**.

<sup>3</sup> The fleece is then washed. Washing removes straw and dirt. Washing also gets rid of a special oil that helps keep the sheep dry. When it is dry, the clean fleece is combed, or **carded**. Carding makes the wool soft and fluffy.

<sup>4</sup> Next, the carded wool is made into yarn. This is done by **spinning**, which twists the wool into a long, thin strand. Finally, someone can use the yarn to knit your sweater.



You will find the words below in **bold** print in the article. Find the words and read carefully. Then, write the meaning of each word.

**1.** shearing \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** fleece \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** carded \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** spinning \_\_\_\_\_

Write these steps in the correct order.

- Dry the fleece.
- Spin wool into yarn.
- Card the fleece.
- Shear the sheep.
- Wash the fleece.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** The author wrote this article to

\_\_\_\_\_ give information. \_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh.

**11.** Choose the photo you like best. Tell what is happening in the photo.

\_\_\_\_\_

**12.** Why does sheep's wool have oil on it?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Cotton: From Field to Closet

*Read to see how your cotton clothing is made.*

<sup>1</sup> Are you wearing jeans or a t-shirt today? Chances are good that some part of your clothing is made out of cotton. How do those puffy little cotton balls out in the field get to your closet?

<sup>2</sup> First, those white cotton balls are, in fact, fine hairs growing out of many tiny seeds. After the cotton is picked, it is cleaned and dried. Then, the cotton is

separated from the seeds. A machine called a cotton gin does this. The ginned cotton is then pressed into 500-pound bales and sent to a mill.

<sup>3</sup> At the mill, the cotton is spun into yarn or thread. Then, huge mechanical looms weave the thread into fabric. Finally, the cloth is cut and sewed to make a shirt or a pair of jeans, just like yours.





---

**1.** What are two kinds of clothing that might be made of cotton?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** What does a cotton gin do?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Imagine that you are holding a cotton ball. It has many little seeds in it. Does it seem as if it would be easy to get those seeds out? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Before the cotton gin was invented, people had to remove cotton seeds by hand. Would you want that job? Write why or why not.

\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** What is the author's purpose in writing this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to tell a story                      \_\_\_\_\_ to give information

**6.** Where is cotton spun into yarn or thread?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Cotton balls are actually made of fine \_\_\_\_\_  
growing out of tiny seeds.

**8.** Is this article made mostly of facts or opinions?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Baxter's Shoes

*Where would you look for missing shoes?*

<sup>1</sup> “I was sure I put them in my closet,” I said to Mom.

<sup>2</sup> “Well, maybe you should look again,” Mom smiled, but she didn’t get up to help. I knew the rule. If the shoes go on your feet, you keep track of them. I guess she was right. She never asked me where her shoes were. I kept looking.

<sup>3</sup> The front hall, the back porch, and the basement were next. Then, I looked under my bed, in the corner of the kitchen, and by the family room sofa.

<sup>4</sup> A thump from the corner made me look over at Baxter. He was on his bed thumping his tail. And there under his paw were my shoes!

<sup>5</sup> “Baxter! Those are *my* shoes. Why are you keeping track of them?”



---

1. Most stories include a problem. What is this story's problem?

---

2. As you began to read "Baxter's Shoes," who did you think Baxter was?

---

3. The **narrator** is the person who tells a story. Whom does the narrator ask for help?

---

4. What is Mom's rule about shoes?

---

---

5. Does this story seem realistic to you? Why or why not?

---

---

6. **She never asked me where her shoes were.** Is this a fact or an opinion?

---

7. Do you think the boy in the story has lost his shoes before? Explain.

---

8. What do you do when you have lost something at home?

---

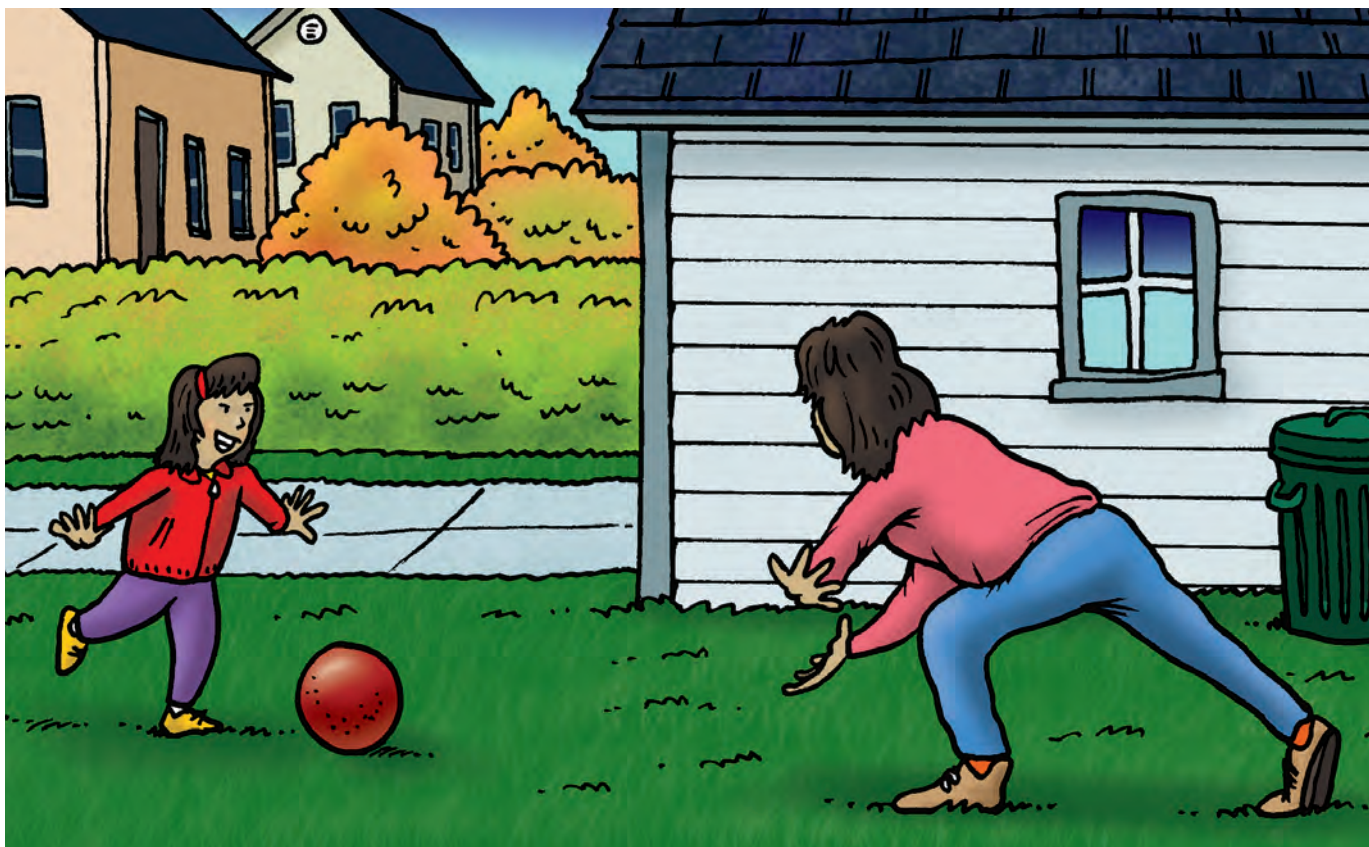
# Getting Ready

*How does Andrea get ready for the game?*

<sup>1</sup> Andrea's teacher, Mrs. McKay, was all excited. The yearly kickball game against Mr. Haskins' class was tomorrow. Andrea had an icky feeling in her stomach. She didn't know how to play kickball, and she wasn't sure she wanted to learn.

<sup>2</sup> After Andrea came home from school, her mom could tell something was wrong. Andrea told her about the game.

<sup>3</sup> "We can fix that," said Mom, opening the back door. "Welcome to the backyard kickball field." An hour later, Andrea had practiced pitching, kicking, fielding, and running the bases. She had won the game, even without any teammates. Mom had been a really good sport about it. Now, Andrea was ready for tomorrow!





Find words in the story with these meanings.

1. once every twelve months \_\_\_\_\_  
(Par. 1)

2. find out, get information \_\_\_\_\_  
(Par. 1)

3. area of open ground \_\_\_\_\_  
(Par. 3)

4. Andrea is worried because \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Put a check mark by the sentence that best tells about how Andrea looks in the picture.

\_\_\_\_\_ Andrea is working hard. \_\_\_\_\_ Andrea is lazy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Andrea thinks kickball is funny.

6. What lesson did Andrea learn?

Things work out if

\_\_\_\_\_ you keep things to yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_ you let people help you.

\_\_\_\_\_ you never let anyone see you have a problem.

7. In the story, what is the solution to Andrea's problem?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How do you think Andrea feels at the end of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ grateful \_\_\_\_\_ lonely \_\_\_\_\_ stressed

9. How did Andrea's mom know something was wrong?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Fitness for Life

*How do you keep yourself healthy?*

## Healthful Lifestyle

<sup>1</sup> Experts agree that a well-rounded healthful lifestyle is the best way to be healthy. You can't just watch what you eat. You can't just exercise. You have to eat well and exercise.

## Eat well

<sup>2</sup> Choose wisely from among the four food groups. These groups are fruit and vegetables, grains, dairy, and meat. Do not snack on sweet or salty foods between meals. Also, drink eight glasses of water a day.

## Exercise

<sup>3</sup> Exercising regularly at least three times each week is the best plan. If that's just not possible, at least be active. Use stairs instead of elevators. Walk the last few blocks to school or work. Take a walk instead of watching television. Make healthy choices.



**1.** What is this article mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_ It is important to eat the right foods.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure you exercise every day.

\_\_\_\_\_ Eat well and exercise to stay healthy.

**2.** If people don't have time to exercise, what can they do to stay active? Write two ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** What do you do to stay healthy?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** For each pair of foods, circle the more healthful choice.

apple    crackers                      chips    celery and peanut butter

yogurt    toaster pastry

**5.** Why is taking the stairs a better choice than the elevator?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** What healthful snacks do you enjoy?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Give one example of a food from each of the food groups.

fruits and vegetables \_\_\_\_\_ grains \_\_\_\_\_

dairy \_\_\_\_\_ meat \_\_\_\_\_

# Snow Rooms

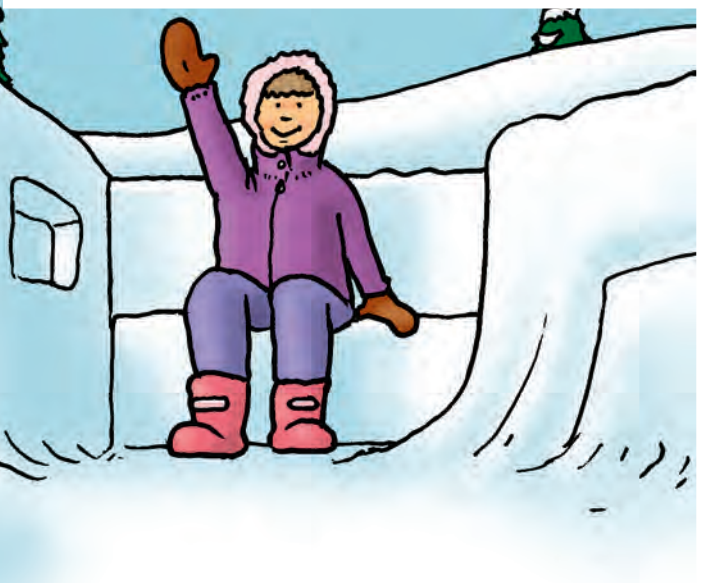
*Read about a great snow day.*

<sup>1</sup> It was a magical day. I woke up and looked out the window. Everything was white. It had snowed a ton during the night. I didn't even have to ask about school. There was no way!



<sup>2</sup> By 8 o'clock, my sister and I were outside. We went to the top of a little hill and jumped down. We knew there was a hollow under all that drifted snow. By pushing against the snow with our shoulders, we were able to widen our holes into spaces. Before long, the spaces became two rooms with a door between them.

<sup>3</sup> We fixed up our rooms with snow benches, and I even made a snow picture on the wall. We lost all track of time. Mom finally came and got us. But first, she had some snow lunch with us in our snow rooms.





1. There was no school because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

2. The girls made rooms by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

3. The girls lost track of time, so \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. What did the girls add to their snow rooms?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Mom do when she came to get the girls?

\_\_\_\_\_

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Snowflakes are magic.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Girls make snow forts.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Snowmen come to life.

9. Who is the narrator of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How do you think the girls felt about their day?

\_\_\_\_\_ happy      \_\_\_\_\_ bored      \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed

11. What do you think the girls will do next?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Wilson Bentley (1865–1931)

*Read about the man who taught us about snowflakes.*

<sup>1</sup> You've heard the saying that "no two snowflakes are alike." How does anyone know this? We know because of the life and work of a quiet Vermont farmer who loved snow.

<sup>2</sup> As a boy, Wilson Bentley was interested in many things. One thing he liked to do was look at objects under a microscope. He had the idea of looking at snowflakes, and he discovered how beautiful they were, and how different.

<sup>3</sup> As Bentley got older, he wanted to show this beauty to others. He figured out a way to take a picture through a microscope. During the next 45 years, he took pictures of more than 5,000 snowflakes. Though he never made much money, "Snowflake" Bentley was always happy to share the beauty and the mystery of snowflakes with others.



---

Circle the word or phrase that means the same as the underlined part of each sentence.

1. Bentley discovered that each snowflake is different.

found out

wondered

2. Even as a boy, Bentley was interested in many things.

curious about

knew about

3. How did Bentley get a good look at snowflakes?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is one challenge that Bentley met?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What other challenges might Bentley have met while trying to take pictures of snowflakes?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. About how many snowflakes did Bentley take pictures of?

\_\_\_\_\_ 50

\_\_\_\_\_ 500

\_\_\_\_\_ 5,000

7. How does the picture on page 142 help you understand the story better?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. In paragraph 3, the author says that Bentley wanted to show the beauty of snowflakes to others. What reason supports the author's statement?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Meal Mix-Up

*Have you ever had a mix-up at a restaurant?*

<sup>1</sup> “All right, I think I have everything.” Our server had made all of us say our orders two times. Now, it didn’t seem as if he knew what to do.

<sup>2</sup> Dad nodded, “Thanks very much.” We began to talk among ourselves, so the server left.

<sup>3</sup> We waited. We played word games. We listened to our stomachs growl.

<sup>4</sup> At last, our server appeared with a huge tray. We watched silently as he set our plates down. Then, he left.

<sup>5</sup> We didn’t know what to do. It wasn’t our food. Well, it was, but it wasn’t. My green beans were in front of me, but my spaghetti was on my brother’s plate. Dad’s chicken was on Mom’s plate, and his corn was on a plate with Sierra’s pork chop.

<sup>6</sup> There was nothing else to do. “Please pass the spaghetti,” I said.

<sup>7</sup> Everyone laughed. We passed and ate, just like we do at home.





**1.** This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ a rude table server.

\_\_\_\_\_ a family's mixed-up meal.

\_\_\_\_\_ a bad meal at a restaurant.

**2.** Number the sentences to show what happened first, second, third, and last.

\_\_\_\_\_ The family passed the food.

\_\_\_\_\_ The family waited.

\_\_\_\_\_ The server brought the food.

\_\_\_\_\_ The server took their orders.

**3.** Which description best fits the family in the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ rude          \_\_\_\_\_ patient          \_\_\_\_\_ angry

**4.** Who do you think is telling the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Dad          \_\_\_\_\_ Sierra          \_\_\_\_\_ one of the boys

**5.** Which of these is NOT something that the family ordered?

\_\_\_\_\_ green beans          \_\_\_\_\_ mashed potatoes

\_\_\_\_\_ pork chops

**6.** Have you ever had a mix-up at a restaurant? How did you (or your family) handle it?

---

---

# Waiting Tables

*Do you think you would like to be a server in a restaurant?*

<sup>1</sup> Almost everyone has been unhappy in a restaurant at some time or other. Sometimes, it seems as if the server can't get anything right.

<sup>2</sup> Like any job, being a server is hard. There are many, many things to remember. First, servers have to know everything on the menu. They also have to know if anything on the menu can be changed. For example, a customer might ask, "Can I have the roast beef and mashed potatoes without the gravy?"

<sup>3</sup> In general, servers have to keep all of their customers happy at all times. And on top of it all, servers are on their feet almost the whole time they are at work.

<sup>4</sup> The next time you are in a restaurant, think about the hard work your server is doing. Then, remember to say "thank you."



**1.** This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ what a server has to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ why servers get mixed up.

\_\_\_\_\_ how to act in a restaurant.

**2.** Name two things that are hard about being a server. Write why.

---

---

**3.** If you were a server, what kind of restaurant would you want to work in? Write why.

---

**4.** Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Being a server is hard.

\_\_\_\_\_ Servers are on their feet most of the time they are at work.

\_\_\_\_\_ Servers need to know a lot about the food they serve.

\_\_\_\_\_ Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q Shack has the best service ever!

**5.** Tell two things you know about the restaurant from the pictures.

---

---

**6.** Why did the author write this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to tell what it's like to be a server

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain

# Game Night

*Read to see how the game turns out.*

<sup>1</sup> Friday night is family game night at the Turners' house. Each week, a different family member chooses the game. This week, it was Cody's turn to choose. He chose his favorite board game, as always.

<sup>2</sup> It was thundering outside, but no one minded. They were having a good time with their game. About halfway through, just as Cody was about to make a big move, everything stopped. The lights went out!

<sup>3</sup> Everyone was silent for a few moments, and then they all started talking at once. Mom felt her way to a drawer and got some candles. Dad felt his way to the fireplace for some matches.

<sup>4</sup> Cody made his big move, by candlelight, and went on to win the game. Everybody thought this made the game even more fun. In fact, they plan to play by candlelight next week, too.





---

1. How did everyone act when the lights went out?

At first, \_\_\_\_\_

Then, \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_

2. Before the lights went out, how did you think the story would turn out?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Did the story turn out how you expected it to? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do you think that playing by candlelight was different from playing before the lights went out?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do the Turners decide which game to play each week?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Read the two sentences below. Write **C** for *cause* next to one and **E** for *effect* next to the other.

\_\_\_\_\_ There was a big thunderstorm.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Turners lost power.

7. Who won the game? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you ever lost power before? What did you do?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Before There Were Lights

---

*How did people light their homes before electricity?*

<sup>1</sup> Have you ever thought of making a lamp out of a hollow stone? That's what people did as much as 15,000 years ago. In the hollow part of the stone, they probably put some animal fat. A part of a plant lying in the fat was the wick. Scientists have also found other early lamps made out of shells and animal horns. In time, people shaped lamps out of clay.

<sup>2</sup> About 3,000 years ago, someone came up with the idea of shaping animal fat to make candles. Because they were made of animal fat, they were smoky and smelly.

<sup>3</sup> Even 200 years ago, candles and oil lamps were the only sources of light. Most people worked during daylight hours and went to bed when it was dark. Candles and lamp oil cost a lot of money, so people used them as little as possible.



**1.** How could someone make a lamp out of a hollow stone?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** What else might you have used to make a lamp a very long time ago?

\_\_\_\_\_ an animal horn

\_\_\_\_\_ a plastic dish

\_\_\_\_\_ a leaf

**3.** When were the first candles made?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** The first candles were made of \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ wax          \_\_\_\_\_ stone          \_\_\_\_\_ animal fat

**5.** Long ago, why did people go to bed early?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Were candles and lamp oil cheap or expensive?

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Name two reasons people still use candles today.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

1. What kinds of bridges does Dad build?

heavy, strong ones and light ones

2. Why is Dad nervous?

It is his first day at a new job.

3. How does the boy know that Dad is nervous?

He almost poured milk in his juice.

4. What kind of bridge did the boy and Dad make at home?

They filled the boy's room with bridges from boxes, blocks and pans.

5. From whose point of view is the story told?

the boy

6. The last line of the story says that Dad is going to make one more bridge at home. What does he use to make it?

things on the breakfast table

7. Is the first sentence of the story a fact or an opinion?

an opinion



3

1. This passage is mostly about

old bridges.

X kinds of bridges.

making bridges.

2. The author wrote this selection to

make you laugh.

X help you learn.

3. Think about what you already know about bridges. What are bridges for?

to get across or to get over something; to carry things across

4. This passage tells about another use for bridges. What is it?

Some bridges were made to carry water.

5. Are all bridges made by humans? What might a natural bridge be made of?

No. Possible answer: A natural bridge could be made of rocks or a log.

6. How are bridges with arches and beams different?

Bridges with arches have curved supports.

Bridges with beams have straight supports.

7. The Golden Gate Bridge is the prettiest bridge in the U.S. Is this a fact or an opinion?

an opinion

5

1. How does the text help you understand how long a 24-mile-long bridge is?

It takes half an hour to go across.

2. How does the text help you understand how high the bridge in Colorado is?

It says that a 75-story building could fit under the bridge.

3. If you do not like to look over the side of a bridge, why would the bridge in Australia be a good one to cross?

because it is very wide

4. Why is the bridge in India a bridge to remember?

It is a very busy bridge, with cars and trucks and walking traffic.

5. Name three things, other than cars, that cross bridges in the selection.

Possible answers: trucks, trains, bikes, walkers

6. What do some people do if they are nervous on a bridge?

They hold their breath until they get to the other side.

7

1. What do Mom and Emily worry about?

They worry that their stuff will be squished.

2. Circle the word that best tells how Emily feels about her stuffed animals.

hopeless

caring

harsh

3. What word best tells how Mom feels? Circle it.

relaxed

worried

careless

4. How do you think Dad feels about moving day?

Dad seems kind of excited.

5. What clues in the story help you know how Dad feels?

He says it has been a "good day's work."

6. How do you think Emily will feel when the move is complete? Explain.

Answers will vary.

7. Why did Emily put holes in one of the boxes?

so her stuffed animals could breathe

8. How does the picture on page 8 add to your understanding of the story?

Answers will vary.



9



# Answer Key

1. Why was Emily happy to go turn on the lights?

She wanted to check out the new house.

2. How did the picture make Emily feel?

It made her feel good, even though she missed her old house.

3. How did Emily feel about her new house?

She seems a little sad. Maybe she doesn't feel at home yet.

4. Write **1**, **2**, and **3** by these sentences to show what happened first, next, and last.

1 Emily turned on the lights.

3 Mom and Emily put a picture on the refrigerator.

2 Mom and Emily unpacked a box.

5. How would you feel about moving to a new home? Why?

Answers will vary.

6. Do you think Emily's mom understands how Emily feels? Explain.

Possible answer: Yes. Mom is trying to make Emily feel at home.



11

1. This story is mostly about

X Emily's new room.

\_\_\_\_\_ how busy Mom is.

\_\_\_\_\_ Emily's toys.

2. At the beginning of the story, what does Emily think about her new room?

She doesn't like it. It is just plain white.

3. What does Emily think of her room at the end of the story?

She thinks it is just right.

4. What happened to change Emily's feelings?

She put her books in place and Mom made her bed.

5. How does Emily organize her books?

by size

6. How does Mom help Emily with her room?

She makes up Emily's bed for her.

7. What do you think Emily will do next in the story? Make a check mark next to your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Go on a bike ride

☒ Unpack more things in her room

\_\_\_\_\_ Call her grandma

13

Look at each picture and circle the sentence that goes with it.

1. Emily is eating breakfast.

Emily is making her bed.



2. Dad is carrying a box.

Dad is unpacking a box.



3. What meal is the family eating?

breakfast

4. Why can't the family leave right away?

Emily is not dressed yet.

5. What is the setting for this story?

Emily's kitchen

6. Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

O San Antonio is an exciting place.

F Mom and Emily laughed and raised their hands high.

F We can ride in a river taxi.

15

1. What did you already know about Texas?

Answers will vary.

2. List two new things you learned about Texas.

Answers will vary.

3. What question would you like to ask about Texas?

Answers will vary.

4. Why do you think the author wrote this article about Texas?

X to help the reader learn something

\_\_\_\_\_ to make the reader laugh

5. How do the boldface headings help organize the text?

Possible answer: They tell you where to find things in the text.

6. What are two things you learned from the illustration that are not in the text?

Possible answers: Texas is called the Lone Star state. The state bird is the mockingbird.

7. Complete the sentence: Texas is number two both in

size; number of people living there

Spectrum Reading Grade 2

17

17

# Answer Key

Write each word in the correct blank.

city	hotels	concert	ride
------	--------	---------	------

- If you like music, go to a concert.
- San Antonio is a large, modern city.
- If you are tired, ride in a river taxi.
- People sleep in hotels along the River Walk.
- Which word best describes the city of San Antonio?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ rundown  
X beautiful  
 \_\_\_\_\_ cold
- If you visited San Antonio, what would you most like to do?  
Answers will vary.
- What do you think a river taxi is?  
Possible answer: A boat that charges money for a ride down the river.

19

1. How did Paul solve the problem with the holes?

He ended up crying, and his tears filled up the holes and made lakes.

2. Why did Babe run away?

He was upset about the holes he and Paul had made.

3. What made Babe come back?

He heard the people thanking Paul for the lakes.

4. People who tell tall tales stretch the truth. List one idea from the story that can't be true.

Ex.: Paul's tears making rivers; Paul looking under river.

5. What is the story's setting? Minnesota

6. Why did the people of Minnesota thank Paul?

Paul's tears filled up all the holes his footprints had made.

7. What causes Paul Bunyan to cry?

Paul could not find Babe.

8. Who is the main character in the story?

Paul Bunyan



21

1. This story is mostly about

- \_\_\_\_\_ how to draw.  
X Matt and Mom drawing.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ choosing colors.

Circle the best answer.

2. What do you think Mom and Matt will do next?

- get ready for bed      go to school      have a snack

3. Write **1**, **2**, and **3** in the spaces below to show in what order events happened.

2 Mom shows Matt her flower.

3 Mom says she is hungry.

1 Matt says he is drawing a turtle.

4. There is a lot of dialogue in the story. Write one example of dialogue on the line. Tell how you know that it is dialogue.

Possible answer: "May I have the green, please?" It is in quotes.

5. At the end of the story, do you think Mom will really draw cheese? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

6. What does drawing a turtle make Matt think of?

It makes him remember the turtle he saw by the road.

23

1. What is the author's purpose in writing this piece?

- \_\_\_\_\_ to entertain  
X to teach  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to persuade

2. What can we learn from new art?

Possible answer: It helps us see the world in different ways and makes us ask questions.

3. What can we learn from old art?

We can learn about the people who made it long ago.

4. Tell in your own words what an art museum is.

Ex.: An art museum is a place where people take care of art and show it to other people.

5. Name two ways that art museums can be different from each other.

Some are big and famous. Some are small and not well known.

6. In the first paragraph, the text says that you can see art all around you. What art can you see right now?

Answers will vary.

7. If you visited an art museum, what kind of art would you hope to see?

Answers will vary.

25

# Answer Key

1. Why does Carly's face turn red the first time?

She drops her fork; Mr. Mendez is beside her.

2. Why couldn't Mrs. Mendez come to dinner?

She had to stay at work.

3. Based on your reading of the story, where do you think Mrs. Mendez works?

at an animal shelter

4. Why does Carly's face turn red the second time?

Carly speaks out a little too loudly at the table.

Circle the best answer.

5. What do you think will happen next?

Mrs. Mendez will arrive.

Carly will ask for a kitten.

Carly's cat will enter the room.

6. Write **T** for true or **F** for false next to each sentence below.

T Carly's dad works with Mr. Mendez.

F Carly's family has three cats.

T When Carly is embarrassed, her face turns red.

T The animal shelter is busy in the spring.

7. Why is the animal shelter extra busy in spring?

Many kittens are born in the spring.

27

1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cats and dogs as pets.

X a girl who wants a kitten.

\_\_\_\_\_ doing chores at home.

2. Carly thinks getting a cat is a good idea. What reasons does she give?

The animal shelter has too many; The Hamlins have one in their apartment.

3. What reason does Mom give for not getting a pet?

The apartment is too small.

4. What would you do if you were Carly?

Ex: I would tell my parents I could take care of a cat all by myself.

5. Look at the last line of the first paragraph. The words *too many kittens* are in italics. Why do you think the author used italics here?

Possible answer: That part of the sentence is very important to Carly.

6. In paragraph 5, Carly *objects* to what her mom says. What does it mean to object?

to not agree

7. At the end of the story, why does Carly offer to help her parents think about getting a cat?

Possible answer: She wants to try to get them to agree with her.

29

1. The author wrote "Cats Long Ago" mostly to

X give information.

\_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh.

2. Compare what you know about cats in Egypt with what you know about cats today. One idea is written for you.

In Egypt cats were respected

cats ate mice and rats; family shaved eyebrows when a cat died

Today cats are usually well cared for

cats eat mice and rats sometimes; family may be sad when a cat dies

3. What is one difference between us and the people in Egypt long ago?

Ex: Many people like cats, but we don't really respect them.

4. What did Egyptians do when a family cat died?

They shaved their eyebrows.

5. How were cats helpful to Egyptians long ago?

They ate the mice and rats that ate the grain.

Use the text to fill in the blank in each sentence below.

6. Rats and mice ate the \_\_\_\_\_ grain \_\_\_\_\_ that Egyptians stored.

7. Cats were the most \_\_\_\_\_ respected \_\_\_\_\_ animals in Egypt.

8. Cats helped to \_\_\_\_\_ protect \_\_\_\_\_ the grain.

31

1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cats in animal shelters.

\_\_\_\_\_ how cute kittens are.

X daily cat care.

2. After reading the article, do you think you could care for a cat? Why or why not?

Ex: I think I could because I would feed and water it every day.

3. Write one idea that you find under each heading.

**Food** Ex: Fill dish once a day.

**Water** Ex: Give fresh water twice a day.

**Other Needs** Ex: Clean litter box almost every day.

4. Why do you think the author used headings in this article?

Ex: The headings make it easy to find information.

5. Read each sentence. Write **F** if it is a fact and **O** if it is an opinion.

F A cat needs to be fed every day.

O Cats make the best pets!

F If you have an indoor cat, it needs a litter box.

O If you adopt a cat, you should choose an older cat.

6. How often does a litter box need to be cleaned?

about every day

33

# Answer Key

1. What do cats do for themselves?

They bathe themselves several times a day.

2. What should a cat owner do once a year?

Take the cat to the vet.

3. Why might a long haired cat need to be brushed more often than a short-haired cat?

It would take more work to keep the coat neat and clean.

4. If you had a cat, would you rather have a short haired cat or a long haired cat? Write why.

Answers will vary.

5. Why do cats need to have an operation?

so that they don't have more kittens

6. The text says that cats have rough tongues. How do you think this is helpful when they groom themselves?

Possible answer: It helps them remove loose fur.

7. Is it important to be a responsible cat owner? Explain.

Answers will vary.

35

1. At the beginning of the story, what did you predict would happen at the end?

Answers will vary.

2. Why does Carly worry when Dad speaks first?

Dad usually gives the bad news.

3. Have you ever wanted something as much as Carly wants a kitten? Tell about it.

Answers will vary.

4. In the story, who is Mitch?

\_\_\_\_\_ Carly's dad X Carly's brother \_\_\_\_\_ Carly's cousin

5. Why do you think Carly's parents want an older cat and not a kitten?

Possible answer: It will be calmer and easier to care for.

6. Do you think Carly will be happy about her parents' decision? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

7. Look at the picture on page 36. What does the art add to the story? How do the kids look like they are feeling?

Answers will vary.

8. Read the last line of the story again. What do you predict will happen next?

Possible answer: The kids will go with their parents to pick out a cat.

37

1. This story is mostly about

X choosing a cat.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mendez's work.

\_\_\_\_\_ kittens who need homes.

2. Why didn't Carly choose the big black cat?

It hissed and batted at her hand; it wasn't friendly.

3. How did Mitch and Carly choose the gray cat?

It was friendly; it rubbed against their ankles.

4. What does it mean when a cat hisses at you?

Possible answer: It does not feel friendly.

5. Mrs. Mendez comes up in an earlier story. How does Carly's family know her?

Possible answer: She works at an animal shelter.  
Mr. Mendez works with Carly's dad.

6. Why does Mrs. Mendez think a grown up cat is a good choice for a first pet?

It's a little easier than having a kitten.

7. What is the setting for this story?

an animal shelter

8. Do you think the Blake family will be good pet owners? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

39

1. Which sentence best tells how Carly feels about today?

X She is excited.

\_\_\_\_\_ She is worried.

2. What words or ideas in the story helped you answer question 1?

Ex.: She wondered what was special; she threw back the covers.

3. Where did Carly and Mitch look first for Mouse?

They looked under Carly's bed.

4. In what room did Carly find Mouse?

in the living room

5. Why was Mouse sleeping there?

He liked the sunshine.

6. Why do Carly and Mitch name their cat Mouse?

He is gray and made a little mewing noise.

7. Why is the title of the story funny?

Possible answer: It sounds like the story is about a mouse, but it is about a cat.

8. How do you think Carly feels about her new cat?

Answers will vary.

41



# Answer Key

1. Why was there a picnic on the baseball field?

It was the last day of school.

2. Why did everyone have to dash into the school?

because it started to rain

3. Why is Kyle's family taking care of Sparky?

because his grandparents are on a camping trip

4. Why does Sparky leave the room when Snowy comes in?

because he is afraid of the cat

5. What kind of animal is Sparky? How do you know?

a dog; Possible answer: In the picture, there is a dog in Kyle's room.

6. Think of what you learned about Kyle by reading his letter. Write three words you could use to describe him.

Possible answers: kind, helpful, friendly

7. In what time of year does the story take place?

\_\_\_\_\_ winter \_\_\_\_\_ fall X summer

8. What clues in the text helped you answer number 7?

Possible answers: School is out. The garden is looking good.

43

1. Where did Kyle's grandparents go on their trip?

Mammoth Cave State Park

2. Why did they go there?

They like to look at rocks.

3. What did you learn about Kyle's grandparents by reading their letter?

Ex.: They like to camp; they like rocks; they like hiking; they are in good health.

4. Where do Grandma and Grandpa live? in Ohio

5. Read each sentence. Write **F** if it is a fact and **O** if it is an opinion.

O You and your parents would like it, too.

O Our camping trip was wonderful!

F We were underground for more than two miles.

F Each day, we chose a different cave.

6. Based on their letter, you know that Grandma and Grandpa probably

\_\_\_\_\_ live in Kentucky.

X like to have adventures.

\_\_\_\_\_ have several dogs.

7. Possible answer: to tell about their trip; to tell when they will come get Sparky

45

1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ how caves are formed.

X the sights in Mammoth Cave.

\_\_\_\_\_ animals that live in caves.

2. What is special about Mammoth Cave?

Ex.: It is the longest cave system in the world; it has 350 miles of passages.

3. Why might a fish that lives in a cave not have any eyes?

Ex.: It is so dark, it wouldn't be able to see anyway.

4. If you went to Mammoth Cave, what would you most like to see? Write why.

Answers will vary.

5. Name two types of animals that are likely to live in Mammoth Cave.

Possible answer: bats, fish

6. Based on the article, how do you think the author feels about Mammoth Cave?

Possible answer: The author thinks it is a very interesting place.

7. How long do you think humans have known about the cave?

Possible answer: for at least 4,000 years

8. Why are the caves still a mystery to scientists?

There are hundreds of miles that probably haven't been found yet.

47

1. Write **1**, **2**, and **3** by these sentences to show what happened first, next, and last.

2 Dad stirred the paint.

1 Michelle got the radio.

3 Dad and Michelle painted.



2. What does Michelle have to do on each post?

Paint the front, then the edge, then the other edge.

3. Why does Michelle think she will blow up?

Ex.: There are so many posts to paint; she is tired or bored.

4. Have you ever done a task that went on and on and on? Write about it.

Answers will vary.

5. In the second paragraph, why does Dad look grim?

Possible answer: Dad is not looking forward to starting.

6. What does Dad's painting hat tell you about him?

Possible answer: He does a lot of painting projects.

7. What can you learn about the story from the picture? Choose something that you didn't learn from the text.

Possible answers: It's a nice day; Michelle wears glasses.

8. What does Dad send Michelle inside to do?

to get the radio

49

# Answer Key

Put each word in the right blank.

water	hair	milk
1. First, Danny spilled the _____ <u>milk</u> _____.		
2. Then, he had a problem with his _____ <u>hair</u> _____.		
3. Next, he got sprayed with _____ <u>water</u> _____.		
4. What did Danny look like when he sat down in his desk? <u>Ex.: His hair and shirt were wet; his shirt didn't match his pants.</u>		
5. Have you ever had a mixed up day? Write about it. <u>Answers will vary.</u>		
6. In the first paragraph, it says "the milk jumped out of the jug." What does this mean? <u>Possible answer: He spilled the milk.</u>		
7. How does Danny notice the problem with his hair and shirt? <u>He sees himself in a store window.</u>		
8. Write <b>T</b> for <i>true</i> or <b>F</b> for <i>false</i> next to each sentence below.		
<u>T</u> Mr. Torres is Danny's teacher.		
<u>F</u> Danny spilled orange juice on the table.		
<u>F</u> Danny's dad drove him to school.		
<u>T</u> The water fountain sprays Danny's shirt.		

51

1. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show what happened first, second, third, and last.

- 2 The girls painted the volcano.
- 1 The friends made a volcano.
- 4 Bubbles came up out of the volcano.
- 3 Baking soda and vinegar went into the volcano.



Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

2. M The girls can build a real volcano.
3. M A real volcano can be on someone's back porch.
4. R The girls do projects together.
5. R Mothers help with projects.
6. A mixture of two things makes the volcano bubble up. What two things do the girls use?  
baking soda      vinegar
7. Who is Mrs. Metzger?  
the girls' teacher
8. Look at the picture. Why are the girls wearing goggles?  
to protect their eyes
9. Was the project a success? How do you know?  
Yes, the girls clap and say, "Yea, it worked!"

53

1. Who is coming to visit Lisa's family?

her two cousins

2. Lisa's cousins won't be sleeping in her room. How does she feel about this? Why?

Lisa is glad. She was worried there wouldn't be enough room in her bed.

3. What do you think will happen next in the story? Circle the correct answer.

Lisa and her brother will go to bed.

Lisa will hide her dress-up clothes.

The cousins will arrive soon.

4. Look at the picture. What is happening in the thought bubble over Lisa's head?

Possible answer: Lisa is imagining how crowded her bed would be.

5. How does the picture help you to understand the story better?

Possible answer: You can tell what Lisa is thinking.

Fill in the blank to complete each sentence below.

6. Lisa's cousins will be staying for a week.
7. Lisa doesn't want her stuffed animals to get hurt.
8. Mrs. Shaw says that the family will visit the zoo one day.
9. The Shaws' extra bedroom is painted green.
10. Lisa's cousins have visited before.

55

1. How does everyone feel about going to the zoo?

\_\_\_\_\_ They are tired.      X They are eager.

2. Why isn't Julia very interested in seeing the tigers?

She doesn't like animals who could eat her.

3. Write **first**, **next**, and **last** on the lines to show the order in which events happened.

last Lisa wants to see the zebras.

first Mrs. Shaw asks if everyone is buckled in.

next Julia makes a face.

4. What does Charlie say would happen if Julia were a mouse?

an owl would eat her

5. How are Charlie and Julia related to each other?

They are brother and sister.

6. Is this story realistic, or is it a fantasy? Explain.

realistic; Possible answer: It tells about things that could happen in real life.

7. What animals would you like to see if you went to the zoo?

Answers will vary.

8. What was the author's purpose in writing this story?

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain      X to make you want to visit the zoo  
\_\_\_\_\_ to teach you about zoo animals

57

# Answer Key

1. What is a large group of zebras called?

a herd

2. Why does a herd move from place to place?

They eat grass, then move to a new place where there is more grass.

3. What are some other animals that move in groups?

antelopes, gnus, wildebeest

4. Why do zebras' stripes make it hard for lions to catch a zebra?

Ex: The stripes make the zebras blend together. The lion can't see just one zebra to chase.

5. How are a zebra's stripes similar to a human's fingerprints?

Both are one of a kind.

6. What animals are a threat to zebras?

lions

7. In what part of the world are zebras found?

in Africa



8. A zebra's stripes are a form of camouflage. What is another animal that uses camouflage? Explain.

Answers will vary.

59

1. In what three kinds of places do tigers live?

mountains, forests and wet, grassy areas

2. How are these places different?

Answers will vary.

3. How does the author help you with the word tigress?

The author wrote "mother tiger" first, then used the word "tigress."

4. Under what heading can you find information about when a tiger hunts?

How Tigers Live

5. What is similar about the way the articles on pages 58 and 60 are organized?

The headings are very similar.

6. In what kinds of places do tigers like to sleep?

They sleep in cool places, like caves or tall grasses.

7. Tigers hunt at night. What other kinds of animals hunt at night? Think of at least two examples.

Possible answers: raccoons, owls

8. Is this article fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

nonfiction: The article contains facts about tigers. It is not a story.

61

1. Do you think owls would be able to live in a city? Explain.

Answers will vary.

2. What would happen if an owl made noise as it flew?

Ex: It would not be able to sneak up on its prey.

3. What do the three headings have in common?

They all name parts of an owl's body.

4. Why are an owl's feet important for hunting?

They can swoop down and catch their prey with their claws.

5. Why does the author say, "An owl flies on silent wings"?

They make no noise during flight.

6. Based on the text, what is prey?

Animals that are hunted by other animals.

7. Which two senses are most important to an owl for hunting?

seeing hearing

8. Name three animals that owls eat.

Possible answers: mice, rats, rabbits

63

1. Why didn't Julia care for the sleeping tiger?

It was lying in the dirt.

2. Why does Lisa want stripes?

She wants stripes because she liked the zebras so much.

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

3. M Animals ride in car seats.

4. R Children sleep in beds.

5. R People climb rocks.

6. M Girls perch in trees.

7. Why does Julia think that owls are wise?

They sleep high up where they are safe.

8. What do you think Charlie's favorite part of the zoo visit was?

He liked the tigers best.

9. What did the tiger do that the kids admired?

roared X climbed rocks slept

10. Do you think the kids will want to visit the zoo again? Why or why not?

Possible answer: Yes, because it seems like they had a great time.

65

# Answer Key

1. Which word best describes the boy's feelings about his grandparents?

fond

excited

hopeless

2. Why do you think the fort "got bigger" every time Gramps told the story?

Ex: He wanted to keep the story interesting, so he had to change it each time.

3. What do you think the boy might do next?

Answers will vary. Ex: He might build a fort with his dad.

4. Mark the sentence that is true.

X Gramps grew up on a farm.

Gramps grew up in the city.

5. What information in the story helped you answer question 4?

Gramps and his brother had a barn with hay.

6. Who is telling the story?

Gramps X the boy the boy's dad

7. Read the two sentences below. Write **C** for cause next to one and **E** for effect next to the other.

C Gram and Gramps have headed home.

E Everything seems quiet now.

8. Why do you think Gram's face sometimes turns red?

She gets embarrassed when everyone sees her hum and dance.

67

1. Gina knows she will not be able to swim this afternoon because she hears thunder.

2. Mom frowned because she saw that it was raining.

3. This story is mostly about

the rules for playing hopscotch.

cleaning out a closet full of games.

X how a girl and her mom spend an afternoon.

4. Why didn't Gina like her mom's ideas at first?

She thought they were little-kid games.

5. How did the afternoon turn out for Gina?

She thought it was pretty fun, even if they were little-kid games.

6. If the next day is sunny, what do you think Gina and her mom will do?

go swimming

7. What is the setting for this story?

Gina and Mom's house

8. What games do you like to play on rainy afternoons?

Answers will vary.

69

1. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show the correct order of the steps in the water cycle.

4 Rain, snow, hail, or sleet falls to the ground.

2 Water vapor rises and forms clouds.

1 The sun's heat causes water to form water vapor.

3 Water drops form and become heavy.

2. Look at the picture of the water cycle. What do the arrows above the ocean tell you?

Ex: They show what direction the water is moving.

3. Explain the water cycle in your own words.

Answers will vary.

4. What happens when the water drops in a cloud get too heavy?

They fall to the ground as rain.

5. What rises up into the air to form clouds?

X water vapor hail snow

6. Name three places you can find water in nature.

Possible answer: lakes, rivers, oceans

7. Here is an effect: **Water vapor rises into the air**. What is the cause?

Possible answer: Heat from the sun warms water.

71

1. Why does Gina's dad get excited about the corn?

because he knows it's fresh

2. Why isn't some of the fresh food really fresh?

It may have been picked days or weeks ago, then washed and trucked in to the store.

3. What does Gina's dad do that makes her laugh?

He made the corn look like ears on top of his head.

4. Where did you find the answer to question 3?

in the picture

5. Tell two things you know about Dad from reading the story.

Possible answers: He's funny; He cares about where food comes from.

6. What does Gina think about the corn after she eats it?

She thinks it's the best corn she's ever had.

7. Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

O It was the best corn I ever ate.

O It's nice to see fresh food that was grown nearby.

F We chose six ears.

73



# Answer Key

Write these steps in the correct order.

- watch plants grow
- plant seeds
- water soil
- harvest corn
- prepare soil

1. prepare soil
2. plant seeds
3. water soil
4. watch plants grow
5. harvest corn

6. At the end of the article, why does the author say, "Pass the butter and the salt, please"?

It will be time to eat the corn.

7. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

You need to prepare the soil before you plant the corn.

8. It takes the seeds 10 to 15 days to sprout.

9. Based on the text, how do you think the author feels about growing corn?

Possible answer: excited

10. If you could choose to grow something in a garden, what would it be? Why?

Answers will vary.

75

1. Today, corn is used in thousands of products. How is that different from many years ago?

It used to be eaten or fed to cattle and hogs.

2. The article mentions two food products that come from corn. What are they?

corn syrup corn starch

3. Half of the corn grown in America is fed to cattle and hogs. Why is that important?

Answers will vary.

4. What are two ways to use corn, aside from eating it?

Possible answers: laundry soap; fuel

5. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to get people to buy more corn

X to teach about the uses of corn

\_\_\_\_\_ to make you laugh

6. **Corn is no longer fed to farm animals.** Is this true or false?

false

7. Do you think ethanol is a good way to power cars? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

77

1. Explain how the Nolan Street picnic works.

Everyone takes one dish of food. Then, you go along the table and wonder what to try.

2. Who do you think made the fruit pizza?

Gina's Dad

3. Which of these sentences best tells how Gina feels about food?

\_\_\_\_\_ If it's food, I'll try it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like to try new foods.

X I'll try something only if I know what it is.

\_\_\_\_\_ I like trying foods that have fruit in them.

4. Did Gina like the fruit pizza? How could you tell?

She liked it. She asked for another piece, then asked for the recipe.

5. In paragraph 3, Gina says she took "safe things." What do you think she means by "safe"?

Possible answer: Foods she had had before.

6. Who does Gina go to the picnic with?

her parents

7. Do you enjoy trying new foods? Explain.

Answers will vary.

79

Write these steps in the correct order. (Not all of the recipe's steps are here.)

- chill
- bake dough
- press dough into circle
- slice and arrange fruit
- make cream cheese mixture

1. press dough into circle

2. bake dough

3. make cream cheese mixture

4. slice and arrange fruit

5. chill

Recipes often use short forms of words called **abbreviations**. Match the abbreviations in the box with their common recipe words.

C.	oz.	tsp.	pkg.
----	-----	------	------

6. teaspoon tsp.

7. cup C.

8. ounce oz.

9. package pkg.



10. What step do you have to do after you bake the pizza dough, before you add the spread?

\_\_\_\_\_ arrange the fruit

X cool it

\_\_\_\_\_ cut it into wedges

81

# Answer Key

1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ a girl playing in the wet grass.

\_\_\_\_\_ how a rain storm hurt some plants.

X two neighbor girls and how they meet.

2. What do you think will happen next in the story?

Answers will vary.

Use the story to fill in the blanks and complete each sentence.

3. Roxie likes to grow sunflowers.

4. Yuki is looking at raindrops on the grass.

5. Roxie and Yuki are on opposite sides of the fence.

6. Yuki's mom has already met Roxie's mom.

7. In what season do you think this story takes place? Explain your answer.

Possible answer: summer; Everything is green, and Roxie is growing flowers.

8. What are two adjectives you could use to describe the grass in the yard?

Possible answers: shiny, sparkly

83

1. What did you think of when you read the title, "The Sunflower House"?

Answers will vary.

2. Was your idea anything like the sunflower house described in the directions? Explain.

Answers will vary.

3. What information is given only in the diagram?

The measurements of the circle and the ditch.

4. Would you have been able to follow the directions without the diagram? Explain.

Answers will vary.

5. Do sunflowers need a sunny or shady place to grow?

sunny

6. For which part will you probably need a grown up's help?

digging a ditch around the string

7. How far apart should you plant the seeds?

nine inches

8. Why do you remove one seed before you cover the rest with dirt?

so you have an opening for the door

85

1. Why is David's grandfather afraid?

He feels bad about their seats.

2. How does David feel about the seats at first, and then later?

He doesn't really care at first. Later he says they were great seats.

3. What three things does David remember?

players on green grass, smell of popcorn, smack of ball in mitt

4. What sights, smells, and sounds do you remember from a special day?

Answers will vary.

5. Which word best describes how David feels about the game?

X excited \_\_\_\_\_ worried \_\_\_\_\_ annoyed

6. In paragraph 5, what senses does David use to remember the game?

seeing hearing smelling

7. Do you think David and Grandfather go to a lot of baseball games together? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

8. David and Grandfather cheered even when nothing much happened. Why do you think they did this?

Possible answer: They were still having fun.

87

1. What did you learn about baseball after you read this article?

Answers will vary.

2. What happens during an inning?

Each team gets a turn to bat and to field.

3. What can a runner do to be safe?

stop at first, second, or third base

4. Why do you think the author wrote this article?

X to give information

\_\_\_\_\_ to entertain

5. How many innings are there in a game?

nine

6. In paragraph 2, why is the word *innings* written in italics?

Possible answer: the author is defining it.

7. What does a player have to do to score a run?

make it around all the bases

8. Read the sentences below. Write **C** next to the *cause* and **E** next to the *effect*.

C A fielder catches the ball before it bounces.

E The batter is out.



89

# Answer Key

1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ the greatest baseball teams.

\_\_\_\_\_ the history of baseball.

X collecting baseball cards.

2. Do you collect anything? Write about it.

Answers will vary.

3. When were the first baseball cards printed?

X 1887

\_\_\_\_\_ the early 1900s

\_\_\_\_\_ 1987

4. Write **T** for true or **F** for false next to each sentence below.

T Most early collectors were adults.

F People no longer collect baseball cards.

T Today, some people pay a lot for just one card.

F Baseball just became popular about 20 years ago.

5. How much did a pack of cards cost in the early 1900s?

a few pennies

6. Do you think a pack of cards costs more or less today? Why?

Possible answer: more; most things go up in price

91

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

1. M Houses are not on the ground.

2. M Children wear space suits.

3. R People look at old pictures.

4. What do you learn about Lorna from the picture?

Ex: Her house looks like a space ship. It is high off the ground.

5. Why does Lorna ask about getting a car up to a house?

Ex: Her house is up off the ground, so she thinks houses always were that way.

6. Look at the picture. What do you like best about Lorna's world?

Answers will vary.

7. Do you think Lorna lives in the past or in the future? Explain.

Possible answer: future; She didn't know much about cars or dresses. The picture looks like something from the future.

8. What is the setting for this story?

Lorna's and her mom's house

9. Why do you think Lorna feels that having a house on the ground is weird?

Possible answer: In the future, houses are up high.

10. In the photo, Lorna's great grandma is wearing a dress.

93

Write one thing you know about each of Rachel's neighbors.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Rotollo Italian, helped make dinner

2. Phillip dancer, lives above Rachel, wakes her up

3. Mr. Tran runs grocery, gives Rachel best food

4. Mrs. Moya runs shop, takes down piñatas when it rains

5. Look at the picture and the story. Which neighbor seems most interesting to you? Write why.

Answers will vary.



6. In the picture, who is Rachel? How do you know?

the blonde girl; Possible answer: Philip, the dancer, lives above her. You can see him in the picture.

7. Would you like to live in an apartment like Rachel's? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

8. How does Rachel know it is time to get up in the morning?

She hears Philip dancing upstairs.

9. In the first paragraph, why does Mama say "the whole world lives right here on our block?"

Possible answer: People from all around the world live on their block.

95

1. This article is mostly about

X what makes a city. \_\_\_\_\_ how to live in a city.

\_\_\_\_\_ America's largest cities.

2. What is your favorite thing to do in your city or in a nearby city? Write about it.

Answers will vary.

3. The person who wrote this article is the author.

4. Do you think this article is meant to give information or to make you laugh? Write why.

To give information; reasons will vary.

5. Would you most like to live in a city, in a small town, or in the country? Explain.

Answers will vary.

6. Which of the following would taxes NOT pay for?

\_\_\_\_\_ library books X a new clothing store

\_\_\_\_\_ street cleaning

7. If you made the rules for a city, what rule would be most important to you?

Answers will vary.

8. It is more fun to live in a city than in the country. Is this a fact or an opinion?

opinion

97

# Answer Key

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

1. R Ants gather food.
2. M Grasshoppers watch baseball games.
3. M Grasshoppers are lazy.
4. This story is called a **fable**. Fables usually teach a lesson. What lesson does this one teach?  
Ex: It is good to plan ahead; store food for the winter.
5. If you were Ant, what would you have said to Grasshopper?  
Answers will vary.
6. What makes Ant and Grasshopper different from real insects?  
They can talk.
7. What season is it when the story begins? What season is it when the story ends?  
summer                      spring
8. In paragraph 1, why do you think the words *I have to fill the nest* are in italics?  
He is saying it to himself.
9. Why does Grasshopper think Ant is silly?  
Ant is working very hard to prepare for winter.

99

1. How did the princess feel when she waved and no one waved back?  
It made her mad and sad.

2. How did the princess speak to the market girl?

       She spoke pleasantly.  
X She spoke angrily.  
       She begged her.

3. What lesson did the princess learn from the market girl?

If she is pleasant, others will be pleasant to her.

4. Which of these best describes the story?

       a true story  
X a fairy tale  
       an article meant to teach



5. Read the sentences below. Write **C** next to the *cause* and **E** next to the *effect*.

E This made the princess mad.  
C No one smiled or waved at the princess.

6. Who do you think was wiser in this story, the princess or the market girl? Why?

Answers will vary.

101

1. How are castles different from our homes? List some ways.

## Castles

Walls Tall, thick, strong; usually made of stone.

Purpose For protection and for shelter from weather

## Our Homes

Walls Usually one or two stories high; made of wood.

Purpose For shelter from weather

2. Imagine that you are standing on the wall of the castle shown on page 102. Describe what you see.

Answers will vary.

3. What is the main reason that castles were first built?

to protect the people who lived there

4. Do you think that castles are still built today? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

5. How were the notches in castle walls used?

Knights could shoot through the openings and hide behind the higher parts.



6. People used arrows and rocks as weapons.

103

1. What two things made this yard sale day a time to remember?

the wind storm, the helpful neighbors

2. What is the problem in the story and how is it solved?

The wind storm messes up the sale.  
The neighbors help clean up.

3. Write **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** by these sentences to show the correct order from the story.

2 People began coming to the sale.  
4 Neighbors came to help.  
3 The storm blew through.  
1 The family set things out on tables.

4. The person who tells a story is the **narrator**. What did the narrator like best about the yard sale day?

The narrator liked the time spent with the neighbors best.

5. Do you think the family will have another yard sale next year? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

6. What is the setting of this story?

the family's front yard

7. In paragraph 2, the author uses two sound words. What are they?

whoosh                      crash

105



# Answer Key

1. Circle the word that best tells about Caitlyn.

selfish

**thoughtful**

careless

2. Circle the word that best tells about Mrs. Davis.

**nice**

nervous

angry

3. What parts of the story helped you learn about Mrs. Davis?

Answers will vary. Ex: She is helpful. She doesn't stop the students from working.

4. What three materials do the students need to make the flowers? Use the text and the picture to help you.

pipe cleaners coffee filters paints

5. For what event are the students making the flowers?

Open House

6. Why didn't anyone leave when the bell rang?

They were too busy working on their flowers.

7. Write **F** next to sentences that are facts. Write **O** next to sentences that are opinions.

**O** It would be lovely for each of you to have flowers on your desk.

**F** Pedro raised his hand.

**O** These are beautiful flowers!

**F** Mrs. Davis handed pipe cleaners to Pedro.

107

Put each word in the right blank.

**excited**

**model**

**poster**

1. The butterfly **model** even had wings that flapped.

2. Even Mrs. Davis was **excited** about the Open House.

3. The picture on the **poster** showed a sunflower.

4. This story is mostly about

how hard Mrs. Davis worked.

**X** Ted and his parents at the Open House.

the parts of a butterfly.

5. Have you ever been excited about an Open House or a school project? Write about it.

Answers will vary.

6. Who is the main character in this story?

**Ted**

7. How do you think Ted feels as he shows his parents his projects?

worried

bored

**X** proud

8. Why does Mom hug Ted instead of saying "good job"?

Words weren't enough to let him know how she felt.

109

Write these steps in the correct order. Not all of the steps are listed here.

- flatten coffee filter
- drip paint onto coffee filter
- let dry
- gather supplies
- wet down coffee filter

1. **gather supplies**

2. **flatten coffee filter**

3. **wet down coffee filter**

4. **drip paint onto coffee filter**

5. **let dry**

6. Which step does the illustration show?

**Step 4**

7. How did the illustration help you understand the project?

Answers will vary.

8. If you want bright colors on your flowers, use more **paint**.

If you want pale colors on your flowers, use more **water**.

9. Which material is used for the stem of the flower?

**pipe cleaners**

10. Tell about another craft you have enjoyed making.

Answers will vary.

111

1. What jobs do a plant's leaves do?

Leaves collect energy from the sun and make food for the plant.

2. Write what nutrients are.

Nutrients are the food that the roots get from the soil.

3. After the roots collect water and nutrients, what happens?

The nutrients go up the stem to the leaves.

4. The illustration on page 112 includes **callouts**, short pieces of information that explain parts of an illustration. How can you tell what each callout is telling about?

An arrow connects each callout to one part of the plant.

5. What two things happen to the seeds in the center of the flower?

Birds eat some. Others drop to the ground to sprout new plants.

6. To make its own food, a plant needs **water**.

**sun**, and **soil**.

7. How do birds and butterflies help flowers?

They spread pollen.



113

# Answer Key

1. At the beginning of the story, how did you think it would turn out?

Answers will vary.

2. Why can't Mom help Allison?

She is busy making food for a neighbor who broke her leg.

3. How does Allison feel about what her mother was doing?

She feels less grumpy.

4. Why do you think she feels that way?

Answers will vary.

Write **T** if the sentence is true. Write **N** if the story does not give the information.

5. T Mom is kind to a neighbor.

N Mom dislikes playing games with Allison.

N Mom is a great cook.

T Mom uses a nickname for her daughter.

6. In the story, who is Mrs. Baxter?

the lady who lives next door

7. Why does Allison feel upset with her mom?

Mom is too busy to play with her.

8. Have you ever wanted your parents to do something with you when they didn't have time? Tell about how it made you feel.

Answers will vary.

115

Some words create pictures in our minds. For example, look at these sentences.

Mark rode his bike around the block.

Mark zoomed his bike around the block.

*Rode* tells you what Mark did, but *zoomed* really tells you how he did it and how he looked as he did it.

Read each sentence below. Think about the underlined words. Make a check mark next to the sentence that really tells you what the character did or how something looks.

1. ✓ Mark put a can into his basket.

✓ Mark tossed a can into his basket.

2. ✓ He flushed a smile.

    He smiled.

3. What problem do the boys have in the story?

They don't know how to get the cans to the recycling center.

4. The story doesn't tell us how they solve it. What do you think they should do?

Answers will vary.

5. Why do you think people stare at Mark?

He always picks up cans and puts them in his bike basket.

6. Do you think Mark and Timo are doing a good thing? Explain.

Answers will vary.

117

1. Why did the boys take a walk?

to think about their problem with the cans

2. Why did Mr. Timmons need help with his lawn?

He had hurt his foot and had to use a cane.

Look at the picture. Put a check mark by the two sentences that tell about the picture.

3.     Mr. Timmons is asleep.

✓ Mr. Timmons uses a cane.

✓ Mr. Timmons is wearing jeans.



4. What does Mr. Timmons have that the boys need?

a truck

5. What is the title of the story? How does it help you predict what will happen?

Trading Favors: Possible answer: You can guess that the boys will trade favors with Mr. Timmons.

6. How do you think the boys and Mr. Timmons felt at the end of the story?

    upset

X glad

    confused

119

1. What did the boys do yesterday?

They took their cans to the recycling center.

2. Today, the boys are counting their money.

3. How did Mr. Timmons feel about helping the boys?

He was glad, cheerful.

4. What part of the story helped you answer question 3?

It says he laughed when he said his truck hadn't worked so hard in a long time.

5. After Mark picked up the can, he laughed because

they were done collecting cans

6. What does "old habits die hard" mean? Do you think it is true?

Answers will vary.

7. In paragraph 1, it says the boys were glad they weren't lugging cans today. What does **lugging** mean?

Possible answer: carrying something heavy

8. Write **first**, **next**, and **last** next to the events below to show in what order they happened.

next Mark picked up one more can.

last Timo said they should buy some more trash bags.

first Mr. Timmons laughed about how hard his truck was working.

121

# Answer Key

1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ how a food pantry works.

\_\_\_\_\_ what Mr. Timmons does in his free time.

X \_\_\_\_\_ what the boys decide to do with their money.

2. Mr. Timmons is going to help at the food pantry.

3. What will Mr. Timmons do there?

He will pack or unpack cans of food.

4. Mr. Timmons says something that gives the boys an idea. What does he say?

He says some people don't have enough money to buy food for their families.

5. Why do the boys ask Mr. Timmons if they can come along?

X \_\_\_\_\_ They want to pick up some canned food.

\_\_\_\_\_ They want to donate their money.

\_\_\_\_\_ They hope to find some more cans at the pantry.

6. Which word best describes the boys?

\_\_\_\_\_ foolish

\_\_\_\_\_ sneaky

X \_\_\_\_\_ generous

7. The food pantry helps people who don't have enough to eat. Is this a fact or an opinion?

fact

123

1. This article is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ cans at the grocery store.

X \_\_\_\_\_ recycling aluminum cans.

\_\_\_\_\_ how to recycle aluminum.

2. If you buy a can of lemonade, drink it, and recycle it, how long will it take for that can to be recycled and made into new cans?

about 60 days

3. recycling saves money, and energy, and cuts down on waste

4. What does the graph show?

It shows how much energy it takes to make a can out of new aluminum and out of recycled aluminum.

5. Why do you think the author included a graph with this article?

Answers will vary.

6. Write T for true or F for false next to each sentence below.

F \_\_\_\_\_ Very few aluminum cans are recycled.

T \_\_\_\_\_ Recycling saves energy and money.

F \_\_\_\_\_ It takes more energy to recycle a can than make a new one.

F \_\_\_\_\_ It takes years to recycle a can.

7. Do you recycle at home or at school? If not, what could you do to start?

Answers will vary.

125

Choose the best word to finish each sentence below. Write the word in the blank.

1. The girls want to be the first ones into the pool.

dash

first

next

2. Katie slowed down when the whistle blew.

blew

cool

walk

3. Katie hurt her elbow when she fell.

feet

backward

fell

4. What rule do you think Katie and Sara were breaking?

no running

5. Why do you think most pools have this rule?

Answers will vary.

6. What else do you know about pool rules?

Answers will vary.

7. In paragraph 2, what do you think phweeeet means?

Possible answer: The lifeguard is blowing his whistle.

8. What did Katie learn? not to run by the pool

9. Read the two sentences below. Write C for cause next to one and E for effect next to the other.

E \_\_\_\_\_ Katie fell and scraped her elbow.

C \_\_\_\_\_ Katie was running by the pool.

127

1. What did you think as Ryan was finding his favorite sweater? Did it seem like a good idea?

Answers will vary.

2. Are there any clues in the picture that tell you it is a hot day? What are they?

Answers will vary.

3. What causes Mom to raise her eyebrow?

She told Ryan it is too hot for his sweater.

Ryan doesn't believe her, so she lets him go.

4. Why does Ryan come back home?

He is too hot in his sweater.

5. What would have been a better top for Ryan to wear?

Possible answer: a t-shirt

6. In paragraph 5, Mom says, "You'll roast." What does she mean?

Possible answer: You will be very hot.

7. Why did Ryan choose to wear the red wool sweater?

It is his favorite sweater.

8. Have you ever worn the wrong thing for the weather? Tell about it.

Answers will vary.

129

# Answer Key

You will find the words below in **bold** print in the article. Find the words and read carefully. Then, write the meaning of each word.

1. shearing cutting the sheep's hair
2. fleece the wool from a sheep
3. carded combed
4. spinning twisting the wool

Write these steps in the correct order.

- Dry the fleece.      • Spin wool into yarn.      • Card the fleece.
- Shear the sheep.      • Wash the fleece.

5. Shear the sheep.
6. Wash the fleece.
7. Dry the fleece.
8. Card the fleece.
9. Spin wool into yarn.

10. The author wrote this article to

X give information. \_\_\_\_\_ make you laugh.

11. Choose the photo you like best. Tell what is happening in the photo.

Answers will vary.

12. Why does sheep's wool have oil on it?

It keeps the sheep dry.

131

1. What are two kinds of clothing that might be made of cotton?

Possible answers: jeans, t-shirts

2. What does a cotton gin do?

It separates the cotton from the seeds.

3. Imagine that you are holding a cotton ball. It has many little seeds in it. Does it seem as if it would be easy to get those seeds out? Explain.

Answers will vary. Ex.: No; if the seeds are little, they would be all mixed up with the cotton.

4. Before the cotton gin was invented, people had to remove cotton seeds by hand. Would you want that job? Write why or why not.

Answers will vary.

5. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?

\_\_\_\_\_ to tell a story      X to give information

6. Where is cotton spun into yarn or thread?

at a cotton mill

7. Cotton balls are actually made of fine \_\_\_\_\_ hairs growing out of tiny seeds.

8. Is this article made mostly of facts or opinions?

facts

133

1. Most stories include a problem. What is this story's problem?

A boy can't find his shoes.

2. As you began to read "Baxter's Shoes," who did you think Baxter was?

Answers will vary.

3. The **narrator** is the person who tells a story. Whom does the narrator ask for help?

his mom

4. What is Mom's rule about shoes?

If the shoes go on your feet, you keep track of them.

5. Does this story seem realistic to you? Why or why not?

Possible answer: Yes, everything seems like it could happen in real life.

6. **She never asked me where her shoes were.** Is this a fact or an opinion?

fact

7. Do you think the boy in the story has lost his shoes before? Explain.

Answers will vary.

8. What do you do when you have lost something at home?

Answers will vary.

135

Find words in the story with these meanings.

1. once every twelve months yearly (Par. 1)

2. find out, get information learn (Par. 1)

3. area of open ground field (Par. 3)

4. Andrea is worried because she doesn't know how to play kickball

5. Put a check mark by the sentence that best tells about how Andrea looks in the picture.

✓ Andrea is working hard. \_\_\_\_\_ Andrea is lazy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Andrea thinks kickball is funny.

6. What lesson did Andrea learn?

Things work out if

\_\_\_\_\_ you keep things to yourself.

✓ you let people help you.

\_\_\_\_\_ you never let anyone see you have a problem.

7. In the story, what is the solution to Andrea's problem?

Mom helps her practice.

8. How do you think Andrea feels at the end of the story?

X grateful      \_\_\_\_\_ lonely      \_\_\_\_\_ stressed

9. How did Andrea's mom know something was wrong?

Answers will vary.

137



# Answer Key

1. What is this article mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_ It is important to eat the right foods.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure you exercise every day.

X Eat well and exercise to stay healthy.

2. If people don't have time to exercise, what can they do to stay active? Write two ideas.

Answers will vary.

3. What do you do to stay healthy?

Answers will vary.

4. For each pair of foods, circle the more healthful choice.

apple crackers chips celery and peanut butter

yogurt toaster pastry

5. Why is taking the stairs a better choice than the elevator?

You get some exercise by taking the stairs.

6. What healthful snacks do you enjoy?

Answers will vary.

7. Give one example of a food from each of the food groups.

Answers will vary.

139

1. There was no school because it had snowed during the night.

2. The girls made rooms by pushing their shoulders against the snow.

3. The girls lost track of time, so Mom came and got them.

4. What did the girls add to their snow rooms?  
benches, a door, a picture

5. What did Mom do when she came to get the girls?  
She had some snow lunch with the girls.

Some of these sentences are about **real** things. Write **R** by them. The other sentences are about **make believe** things. Write **M** by them.

6. M Snowflakes are magic.

7. R Girls make snow forts.

8. M Snowmen come to life.

9. Who is the narrator of the story?  
one of the sisters

10. How do you think the girls felt about their day?

X happy \_\_\_\_\_ bored \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed

11. What do you think the girls will do next?  
Answers will vary.

141

Circle the word or phrase that means the same as the underlined part of each sentence.

1. Bentley discovered that each snowflake is different.

found out wondered

2. Even as a boy, Bentley was interested in many things.

curious about knew about

3. How did Bentley get a good look at snowflakes?

He looked at them through a microscope.

4. What is one challenge that Bentley met?

Answers will vary.

5. What other challenges might Bentley have met while trying to

Answers will vary, but might include waiting until winter, keeping the snowflakes cold, working out in the cold.

6. About how many snowflakes did Bentley take pictures of?

\_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 500 X 5,000

7. How does the picture on page 142 help you understand the story better?

Possible answer: You can see what kind of a set up Bentley used.

8. In paragraph 3, the author says that Bentley wanted to show the beauty of snowflakes to others. What reason supports the author's

Bentley figured out a way to take pictures of snowflakes through a microscope.

143

1. This story is mostly about

\_\_\_\_\_ a rude table server.

X a family's mixed-up meal.

\_\_\_\_\_ a bad meal at a restaurant.

2. Number the sentences to show what happened first, second, third, and last.

4 The family passed the food.

2 The family waited.

3 The server brought the food.

1 The server took their orders.

3. Which description best fits the family in the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ rude X patient \_\_\_\_\_ angry

4. Who do you think is telling the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Dad \_\_\_\_\_ Sierra X one of the boys

5. Which of these is NOT something that the family ordered?

\_\_\_\_\_ green beans X mashed potatoes

\_\_\_\_\_ pork chops

6. Have you ever had a mix-up at a restaurant? How did you (or your family) handle it?

Answers will vary.

145

# Answer Key

1. This article is mostly about

X what a server has to do.  
\_\_\_\_\_ why servers get mixed up.  
\_\_\_\_\_ how to act in a restaurant.

2. Name two things that are hard about being a server. Write why.

Answers will vary.

3. If you were a server, what kind of restaurant would you want to work in? Write why.

Answers will vary.

4. Read each sentence. If it is a fact, write **F** on the line. If it is an opinion, write **O**.

O Being a server is hard.  
F Servers are on their feet most of the time they are at work.  
F Servers need to know a lot about the food they serve.  
O Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q Shack has the best service ever!

5. Tell two things you know about the restaurant from the pictures.

Answers will vary.

6. Why did the author write this article?

X to tell what it's like to be a server \_\_\_\_\_ to entertain

147

1. How did everyone act when the lights went out?

At first, everyone was silent.  
Then, they all talked at once.  
Finally, Mom and Dad got candles and matches.

2. Before the lights went out, how did you think the story would turn out?

Answers will vary.

3. Did the story turn out how you expected it to? Explain.

Answers will vary.

4. How do you think that playing by candlelight was different from playing before the lights went out?

Answers will vary.

5. How do the Turners decide which game to play each week?

They take turns choosing.

6. Read the two sentences below. Write **C** for *cause* next to one and **E** for *effect* next to the other.

C There was a big thunderstorm.  
E The Turners lost power.

7. Who won the game? Cody

8. Have you ever lost power before? What did you do?

Answers will vary.

149

1. How could someone make a lamp out of a hollow stone?

Answers will vary.

2. What else might you have used to make a lamp a very long time ago?

X an animal horn  
\_\_\_\_\_ a plastic dish  
\_\_\_\_\_ a leaf

3. When were the first candles made?

about 3,000 years ago

4. The first candles were made of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ wax \_\_\_\_\_ stone X animal fat

5. Long ago, why did people go to bed early?

so they didn't have to spend money on  
candles and lamp oil

6. Were candles and lamp oil cheap or expensive?

expensive

7. Name two reasons people still use candles today.

Possible answers: for light if the power  
goes out; for special occasions

151











# Stop the summer slide. Start Summer Bridge Activities®.

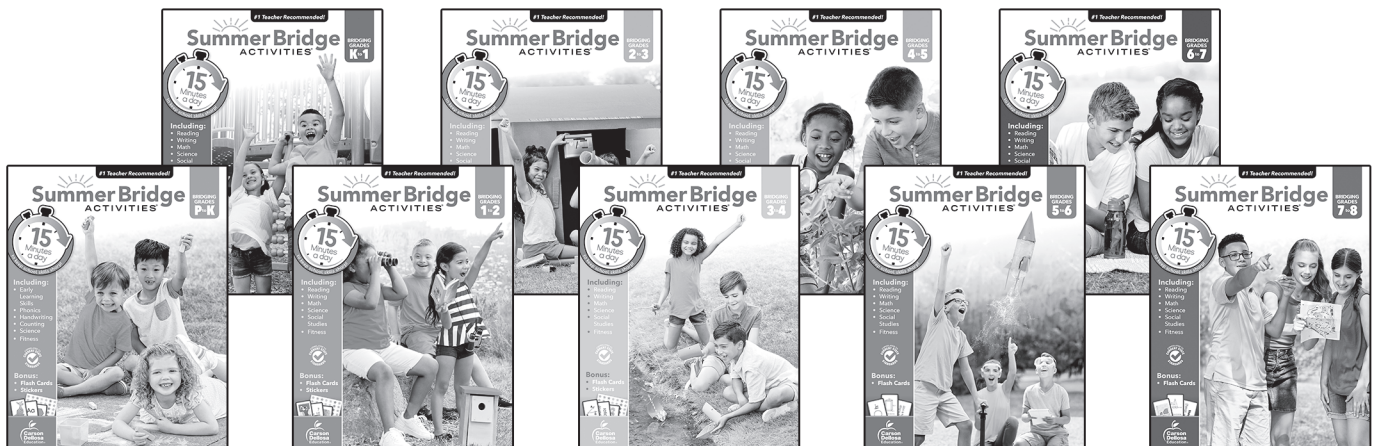
You've probably heard of "summer learning loss," or the "summer slide." Studies have shown that children can *lose up to 2.5 months of learning* over the summer. But did you know that summer learning loss could have a cumulative effect with a long-term impact on children's skills and success?

**Summer Bridge Activities®** are an easy, effective, and fun way to keep your child's mind sharp all summer long.

Inside each book you'll find:

- ✱ Essential math, language arts, reading, social studies, science, and character development skills
- ✱ Encouraging stickers and certificates to keep kids motivated
- ✱ Outdoor fitness activities to keep them moving
- ✱ Free access to the **Summer Bridge Activities®** online companion site

With **Summer Bridge Activities®**, your child will be on track for a terrific school year, and beyond. That's why we say; ***just 15 minutes a day goes a long way!***



Newly updated, **Summer Bridge Activities®** books align to state learning standards.

# Reading

**SPECTRUM®**

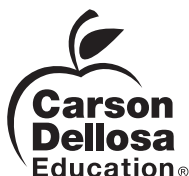
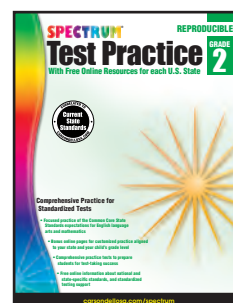
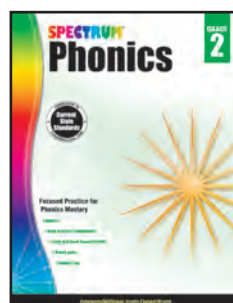
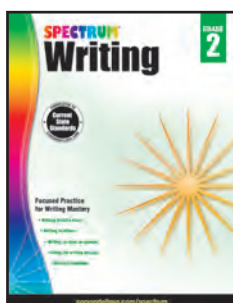
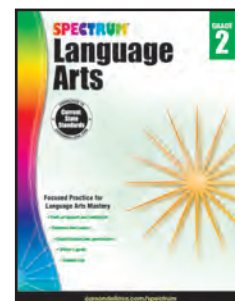
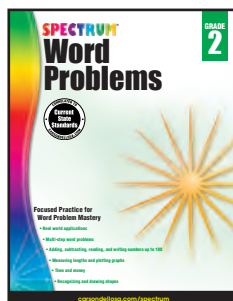
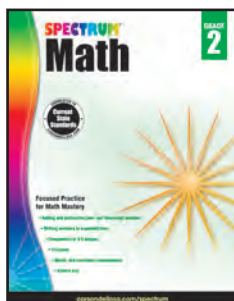
Supporting your child's educational journey every step of the way.

*Spectrum®* provides specific support in the skills and standards that your child is learning in today's classroom.

- Comprehensive, grade-specific titles to prepare for the year ahead
- Subject-specific practice to reinforce classroom learning
- Skill-specific titles to enrich and enhance educational concepts
- Test preparation titles to support test-taking skills

No matter your need, *Spectrum* is with you every step of the way.

*Spectrum* is available in these titles for second grade success:



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