



acadience™ reading

Student Materials

Grade 2 | Benchmark Assessment

Roland H. Good III

Ruth A. Kaminski

with

Kelli Cummings, Chantal Dufour-Martel, Kathleen Petersen,
Kelly A. Powell-Smith, Stephanie Stollar, and Joshua Wallin

Dynamic Measurement Group, Inc.

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Picture Day

► The teacher told the class that they would have their pictures taken the next day. Nick did not look forward to picture day. He did not understand why all of the other kids were so excited. Why did they like picture day so much?

Nick took the picture order form home and gave it to Mom. Even she was excited. She filled out the form and put it in an envelope with money. Then she went into Nick's room to find the right outfit. Nick wondered again why everyone got so excited about picture day.

The next day, Nick went to school in his best red shirt and new blue jeans. His hair was combed neatly. His mom had even sprayed his hair with hair spray!

The classroom buzzed with excitement. The other children could not wait to have their picture taken! Nick sat at his desk and felt puzzled. Someone sat down at the desk next to him. Nick saw that it was his friend Cody, and he was smiling. Nick asked Cody why he was so happy. Nick could not believe his ears when Cody told him that the school had a new plan for picture day. This year there would be real animals in the pictures! You could pet the animal while they took the picture. Nick suddenly was looking forward to picture day!

Going Camping

► Some people like to camp. Will Lily be one of them? She is going on her first camping trip. She wonders what it will be like to sleep in a tent. Will she see any wild animals?

Lily, her parents, and her sister drive to the camp site. First, they set up their tent. It is not as easy as Lily thought it would be! There are so many steps to follow. Finally, the tent is ready, and each person puts a sleeping bag inside.

Everyone sits down and eats sack lunches they brought from home. After Lily eats, she throws her trash away in the trash can. Then she has a fantastic idea! She says they should split into two groups and go on hikes. They will draw pictures of things in nature that they see. They will have fifteen minutes to hike and then return to the camp site. Then the two groups can compare all the different things they have seen. The family thinks the plan sounds like fun. They get ready and set off on the two paths.

Just after she leaves the camp site with her dad, Lily sees a deer! It is the first wild animal she has ever seen. Lily hurriedly sketches its picture in her notebook.

Fifteen minutes later, the family meets back at the camp site. They show their drawings to each other. Lily loves seeing what everyone drew. She is already enjoying her first camping trip!

The South Pole

► What do you think of when you hear the words South Pole? Do you see a pole in your mind? There really is a pole at the South Pole. It is red and white like a candy cane. The flags of many countries surround it. Scientists from these countries come to the South Pole. They work together to study the climate.

The scientists have learned that the South Pole is the coldest place on Earth. Even in the summer the temperature is below zero degrees. It is so cold that most scientists only live at the South Pole during the warmer summer months. Very few stay for the harsh winters. No one else lives at the South Pole.

While the scientists are at the South Pole, they see some animals, including penguins and seals. There are many fish in the water, too. In the summer, some whales come to the South Pole. Even the whales leave in the winter. It is just too cold.

Most people are surprised to learn that the South Pole is a dry place. Yes, there is a lot of snow and ice, but little new sleet or snow falls each year. The South Pole is like a frozen desert.

Perhaps you would like to see the South Pole for yourself. If you travel there, you will see a few buildings where the scientists work and live. Of course, you will see the red and white pole, too. Other than that, when you look around, you will only see flat land covered with snow and ice.

Check Out a Book

► There are many reasons to go to a library. You can find many books there. Did you know that a library also has movies and music? Many have programs just for kids, too. You can go to story time or meet a real author.

If you want to borrow something from the library, you need to get a library card. To get a card, an adult must fill out a form. The form has information such as the person's name and address. At many libraries, children may get a card too, but an adult must sign the form. When you get your card, learn the library's rules. Ask how many items you can check out at one time. Also ask how long you may keep them.

Once you have your card, you are ready to find something to check out. You can use the library's computer to find a book or a movie. Search by title, author's name, or subject. Or, you can always just browse. Maybe you want to read a fiction book. Look at the books in the fiction section. Or browse the movie section. You are sure to find something you like!

Once you have chosen the items you want, take them to the front desk. Give the librarian your library card and your items. He or she will check them out for you and tell you when to bring them back. Remember to return the items by their due date. Then come back to the library to check out more items!

Sue's Goals

► Mom was sitting at the table writing in a notebook. Sue asked what she was doing. Mom said she was making a list of goals she wanted to meet at work. Sue was interested. She wondered how it would feel to set a goal and reach it.

Sue decided she would write down one goal a day. She thought about what she wanted to do for her first goal. At school she was learning about healthy foods. That gave Sue a great idea. She would set a goal to eat two servings of vegetables that day. Later, at lunch, Sue looked in the fridge. She got out a stalk of celery to eat with her sandwich. At dinner, Sue had a helping of spinach. That night, she drew a line through the goal on her paper. She felt great about meeting her first goal. Sue even decided she liked eating spinach.

The next morning, Sue set a new goal. She would clean out a drawer in her dresser. Sue opened the drawer and took everything out. She made a pile to keep and a pile to give away. She could not believe how much stuff was in the drawer. Sue neatly placed things she wanted to keep in the drawer. She carried the other pile to her mother. Her mother helped her decide which things were in good enough shape to be given away.

Sue smiled as she crossed the second goal off her list. She was proud of what she had done. She began to think about the goal she would set for tomorrow.

The Best Big Brother

► Max thought his big brother Kevin was awesome. Kevin was perfect. He was a great soccer player, and he played in the band. He was a good student, too. Max wanted to be just like Kevin. However, when Max tried to do something Kevin did, he was never as good. Kevin always reminded him that he was six years younger. When Max was older, he would be able to play soccer just like Kevin. Although Max knew Kevin was right, he still felt disappointed. He wanted to be just like Kevin right now!

Years went by, and Max got better at what he did. Then one day, Kevin went to college. What would Max do without his big brother? At first, Max was very sad, but his schoolwork and activities kept him busy. After school, he had band practice twice a week. Two days a week he had soccer practice, and he had soccer games on Saturdays.

One Saturday, Max was having a great soccer game. He scored two goals in the first half. When he scored the second goal, he heard a familiar voice yelling in excitement. Max scanned the stands and saw Kevin! He had come home from college to watch Max's game. After the game, Kevin congratulated Max on having a great game. "You're the best," he said.

As Max hugged Kevin, he realized he had become a lot like his big brother. "No," he said. "We're the best!"

Gavin's Jump

► It was the first day of summer vacation. Gavin was excited. He had decided to jump off the diving board at the community pool!

Last summer, many of Gavin's friends jumped off the diving board. Gavin watched them, but he knew he was not ready to jump. Instead, he practiced his swimming strokes while they took turns jumping off the diving board. Then they all swam and played together.

When Gavin woke up this morning, he knew he was ready to jump off the diving board. He was looking forward to it. He hopped out of bed and went to the kitchen to eat some oatmeal.

Just then, Gavin's uncle came into the kitchen for his coffee. He told Gavin they could go to the pool that afternoon. When Gavin told his uncle that he planned to jump off the diving board, his uncle patted him on the shoulder. "I know you can do it," he said encouragingly.

Finally it was time to go to the pool. When Gavin arrived, his friends were already there. He surprised them by saying he was going to the diving board. Gavin waited in line. His friends stood behind him. When it was his turn, he walked out to the edge of the diving board. He saw his uncle smile at him. He heard his friends saying, "You can do it!" Gavin counted to three and jumped into the water. He shot up to the surface with a huge smile on his face. He could not wait to jump again!

The New Year

► The first day of the year is a special day. People around the world celebrate the New Year in different ways. In some places, people watch fireworks. In other places, there are parades with people in colorful costumes. In our country, people often celebrate by having a party. People count down the seconds until midnight when the New Year starts. Then they blow horns and make a lot of noise.

In some places, people make special New Year's bread. When the bread is being made, the baker puts a gold coin in the dough. The coin gets mixed up in the bread dough and is baked inside the bread. No one knows where the coin is. After the bread is baked, it is cut into pieces. It is lucky to get the piece of bread with the coin. All of the people chew carefully. They wonder who the lucky person will be.

In the country of Denmark, people save their broken dishes all year. On New Year's Eve, they throw the broken dishes at friends' doors. If you wake up on the first day of the New Year and find a lot of broken dishes, you are happy. Finding a lot of dishes means you have many friends.

How do you celebrate the New Year? Maybe you would like to try one of these customs with your family.

Roller Skating Fun

► Every Saturday Dad and Craig did something together. This morning Dad had a surprise. They were going to go roller skating. Craig was excited. He had never been roller skating. Dad said it was a lot of fun, so Craig got dressed and put on his coat. They walked to the bus and rode to the skating rink.

As soon as they walked in, Dad started smiling and telling stories about his childhood. He told how he had skated at this same rink. He told of birthday parties and skating contests. Dad was very happy. Craig liked to hear about the things his dad did when he was a boy. They were both excited to start skating.

Dad and Craig went to the counter to rent skates. Then they sat on a bench and laced up their skates. Loud music played, and Craig sang along with the song. Red and blue lights flashed, calling the skaters to the wooden floor.

Together, Dad and Craig stood up. Craig was a bit shaky on four wheels. Dad had an easier time skating, remembering the skating he did as a boy. They both moved closer to the rink and entered through a gate. Dad led the way. Craig had a hard time at first. He clung to the wall, inching slowly around the rink. Dad did one lap and skated up to Craig. He took Craig's hand and led him away from the wall. Soon, Craig found it easier to skate. He let go of Dad's hand and was skating on his own. Craig smiled. Skating with Dad was a lot of fun.
