



acadience® reading k–6

Student Materials

Grade 3 | Benchmark 1

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with

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Finding a Nest

▶ As Patrick walked along the path to his neighbor's house, he tripped over a tree root covered by some spiky leaves. He bent down to see if the leaves had scratched him. It was then that he saw the nest. It was tucked into the leaves with two tiny eggs inside. He remembered from his school trip to the nature center that he shouldn't touch it. He looked around for the mother bird. Not seeing her, he quietly backed away and continued down the path.

Each day, Patrick walked down the path and carefully checked the nest. Patrick made sure not to disturb anything that was near it. He knew that the brush protected the nest from predators. By the end of the week, there were a total of five eggs in the nest. Just one week later, there were nine eggs. He wondered what kind of bird would hatch out of them. The eggs were smaller than chicken eggs and they were cream-colored with brown speckles. One day, Patrick got his answer. As he crept over to look at the nest, he saw a mother quail sitting on the eggs.

Patrick continued to check on the nest every day. He was determined to keep it safe. After about three weeks, the eggs finally hatched. Patrick was thrilled to see all the little quails scurrying around their mother. After that, every time he passed the spot where the nest had been, he remembered the little baby birds and smiled.

A Famous Food: The History of Pizza

► Many people love eating pizza. Pizza is made using a thin crust which is covered with tomato sauce and cheese and then baked. Often, other toppings are added. You might think that pizza is a new type of food, but people have been eating it for hundreds of years.

Most people think pizza comes from Italy. This is partly true. The type of pizza that is most common today was first made in the city of Naples. Some of the earliest pizzas, though, were made in Greece more than two thousand years ago. This early pizza was made by traveling armies. After marching all day, the soldiers baked a flat bread on their shields and then covered it with cheese and fruit.

When tomatoes were first brought to Italy, they were put on a crust. Not long after, pizza began to be sold on the streets at market stands. People would order their favorite toppings while the crust was being made. Even kings and queens started to enjoy this new food.

People from Italy who traveled to other parts of the world took the idea of pizza with them. Travelers who had tried pizza in Italy returned home wanting more, and the demand for the food grew. Today, almost every country has some kind of pizza. You can choose thick crust or thin crust. The number of toppings you can have is numerous. There are breakfast pizzas and even dessert pizzas. No matter how you slice it, pizza is a delicious and adaptable food.

Living in Singapore

► The whole family moved when Nell’s mother was asked to transfer to an office in a foreign country for a year. Everyone was excited because they thought it would be a splendid adventure. They would be living in Singapore.

Nell loved her new home, which was in the middle of a lively city full of people. Honking buses and cars filled the streets, yet beautiful flowers grew everywhere. It seemed a lot noisier than Nell’s small town had been.

One thing Nell and her family had to get used to was the rain. It seemed like it poured every day. But today, the sun shone brightly. Nell and her dad decided to take advantage of the good weather to go to a bookstore. They wanted to purchase the latest book in the series they were reading.

On the way to the store, Nell and her dad looked at the sidewalk filled with people selling various foods from small carts. One man sold juice from fresh fruit, and a woman sold rice with chicken on top. Nell stopped and stared when she saw a big snow cone in a bowl with pink and green juice on top. A man was adding yellow juice. Nell’s dad told her it was an iced kachang, and then bought one for her.

Nell wanted to eat the ice before it melted. When she got to the bottom of the bowl, she saw some seeds and beans. Nell was surprised since the snow cones at home were different. Nell took a bite and smiled. It was very good.
