Maze
Administration Directions and Scoring Keys
Level 3 | Progress Monitoring

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Acadience Learning Inc.
**Maze**

**L3 / Progress Monitoring**

**Directions:** Make sure you have reviewed the scoring rules in the *Acadience Reading K–6 Assessment Manual* and have them available. Say these specific directions to the students:

1. **Before handing out the worksheets,** say *I am going to give you a worksheet. When you get your worksheet, please write your name at the top and put your pencil down.* Hand out the Maze student worksheets. Make sure each student has the appropriate worksheet.

When all of the students are ready, say *You are going to read a story with some missing words. For each missing word there will be a box with three words. Circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. Look at Practice 1.*

*Listen. After playing in the dirt, Sam went* (pause) *home, summer, was* (pause) *to wash her hands. You should circle the word “home” because “home” makes the most sense in the story. Listen. After playing in the dirt, Sam went* home *to wash her hands.*

*Now it is your turn. Read Practice 2 silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. When you are done, put your pencil down.*

Allow up to 30 seconds for students to complete the example and put their pencils down. If necessary, after 30 seconds say *Put your pencil down.*

2. **As soon as all students have their pencils down,** say *Listen. On her way home, she* (pause) *chair, sleep, saw* (pause) *an ice cream truck. You should have circled “saw” because “saw” makes the most sense in the story. Listen. On her way home, she* saw *an ice cream truck.*

*When I say “begin,” turn the page over and start reading the story silently. When you come to a box, read all the words in the box and circle the word that makes the most sense in the story. Ready? Begin.*

Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”

3. **Monitor students to ensure they are reading and circling the words.** Use the reminders as needed.

4. **At the end of 3 minutes,** stop your stopwatch and say *Stop. Put your pencil down.* Collect all of the Maze worksheet packets.

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### **Timing**

3 minutes. Start your stopwatch after you say “begin.”

### **Reminders**

- If the student starts reading the passage out loud, say *Remember to read the story silently.* (Repeat as often as needed.)

- If the student is not working on the task, say *Remember to circle the word in each box that makes the most sense in the story.* (Repeat as often as needed.)

- If the student asks you to provide a word for them or, in general, for help with the task, say *Just do your best.* (Repeat as often as needed.)
Race Car Driver

A checkered flag waves. A line of cars takes off. It's the Indianapolis Five Hundred, one of the most famous car races in the world. Many dream of driving one of the sleek, fast cars around the track. It's a dream that comes true for only a few people, but some find great success at the Indy Five Hundred. One of these people is Bobby Unser.

Bobby began racing in his home state of New Mexico as soon as he learned to drive. He soon was bringing home trophy after trophy in local races, but he longed to win the Indy Five Hundred. He got one step closer to his dream when he started racing cars at the track in Indianapolis. It took six years of attempts, but he finally won the Indianapolis Five Hundred! He went on to win the Indy Five Hundred three times in all. Between those races, he competed in and won many smaller races.

Bobby became very popular with the public. Toy companies made small race cars and other toys with his name on them. Children loved imitating their racing hero with these toys.
Thousands of fans loved Bobby and **cheered** for him when he raced.

However, Bobby **wasn't** the only one from his family who **loved** racing. His father and two **all** uncles drove race cars. Bobby's brother, Al Unser, **also** raced in the Indy Five Hundred and won the race four times in all. Al Unser's **son** has even won twice! Bobby's two **other** brothers did some racing, and Bobby's **sons** also have raced. In addition, his **other** daughter is now a race car driver. She is the first girl in the family to **race**. Over the years, their family has driven in over a hundred races and **won** thirty-seven times! That is a lot of **races** for one family.

Today, Bobby is **thankful** for his many years of success and **happiness** racing cars. He stopped racing years **ago**, but he stays busy working, flying his **airplane**, and spending time with **friends**. Even though he doesn't race anymore, he certainly hasn't slowed down!
A Jazz Composer

In the nineteen twenties, a young boy heard some exciting new music on the radio. He had never heard anything like it, and from that moment he was hooked. The boy's name was Charles Mingus, and the music he heard was big band jazz. Charles would grow up to be a great jazz composer.

Charles was born in Arizona and grew up in California. When he was a very young boy, he spent many hours at his church listening to traditional gospel music. He was eight years old when he first heard jazz music on the radio. The loud sounds of the trumpets thrilled him. He began listening to the radio more often, always trying to find more of that music. A couple of years later, he got a trombone. He chose that instrument because he had seen one at church and he thought it sounded like a trumpet.

He started practicing right away, but the trombone was not a good match for him and he never learned to play it very well. Eventually, he stopped taking lessons. His father
traded the trombone for a cello, an instrument with strings that is played with a bow. This was a much better match for Charles. His teachers were impressed by his talent.

Years later, Charles switched instruments again, this time trading his cello for a bass. The bass is similar to the cello, but it is much bigger. Charles practiced by playing along with the radio. After only three days, he played his new instrument in a concert!

When Charles was a teenager, he started writing his own music. He would play these new songs when he performed. Pretty soon, famous bands were playing his music too! Even though Charles wanted to make a living as a musician, he needed to earn more money. As a young man, he moved to New York City to work for the Postal Service.

This turned out to be a good move for him. Many of the greatest jazz musicians of the time lived in New York, and Charles met them all. Soon he was playing concerts with them and writing more music. He went on to become one of the most important jazz composers of our
time. The styles of his childhood, gospel and big band jazz, often came together in his music. Years later, his music still sounds fresh.
Long Key State Park

Schools of colorful fish swim through sparkling blue water next to smooth, white beaches. A bright green lizard darts up the **trunk** of a tree. Tall, pink birds with **long** legs search for tasty shrimp. These **colorful** sights are just a few of the **things** visitors can see at Long Key State Park in Florida. This **tropical** island is a great place to **walk**, canoe, swim, and fish. It is also a great place to just lie on the **beach** under the warm Florida sun!

The **park** offers three choices of nature trails. The Golden Orb Trail is named for a kind of spider that **lives** in the area. The trail takes **visitors** on an easy walk along the **beach**. It also passes through a swampy **thicket** and tropical woods. It is interesting to **see** the different kinds of plants that **grow** in each area. There is a **tall** tower at the end of the **trail**. It gives visitors a bird's-eye **view** of the beach and ocean.

Bird **lovers** will enjoy walking on the Layton Trail. It **leads** to a point where many tropical **birds** come to hunt in the shallow **water**. A flock of bright pink flamingos **catching** tiny
shrimp is an exciting sight!

The third trail is not for walking, though. It is for canoes. Visitors can rent a canoe and paddle it through the shallow, clear ponds that lie behind the beach. Many tropical plants, birds, fish, and other animals live in the water. This trail is a great way to get a close look at them.

The park offers other things to do besides hiking. The beautiful beaches and sparkling water invite visitors to play in the ocean waves. Many visitors try their hand at fishing. There are places for picnics, as well.

Some people like to camp at the park. Each campsite has a view of the ocean. After a full day of fun in the sun, campers can enjoy a quiet evening with the breeze blowing across the water. They go to sleep to the sound of the waves on the beach. Those who wake up early can watch the sun come up over the ocean. Visitors might stay the night or just come for the day,
but they **will** all leave with great memories of their **time** at Long Key State Park.
Have you ever looked at a tool you use and thought of a way you could improve it? Such a thing happened to Maggie. One day, Maggie was doing her math homework when the lead broke on her pencil, so she stopped what she was doing and went to the pencil sharpener. A few minutes later, she went back to the math problem, but she could not recall where she was in the solution. She had to start over from the beginning. That gave her an idea. She thought pencils should have a built-in sharpener. Maggie concentrated on her homework until it was complete, but she could not stop thinking about her idea.

That night at dinner, Maggie told her dad about her idea. Dad encouraged Maggie to think more about her idea by making a drawing of what the pencil would look like. Maggie got a notebook and began making sketches. She drew many designs, but the one she liked best looked like a regular pencil. It had a removable top that held an eraser and a sharpener.

That weekend, Maggie showed her drawing to her dad. Together, they used pencils and
other materials to make a working model of Maggie’s pencil. They tried many times and used a lot of pencils. At last, they had a functioning model. Maggie tried it on her homework the next week. It really worked! When her pencil broke, Maggie had what she needed to sharpen it. When she made a mistake, she had what she needed to erase it.

Maggie loved her new pencil. And when her friends saw it, they all wanted sharpening pencils, too. Maggie showed them how they could make their own. She wondered if there were other things she could improve. She started to look for them. One night, as she got up from bed to get a drink of water, she thought how nice it would be if instead of putting on her slippers and then turning on the light, she could have her slippers automatically light up when she put them on. Maggie was excited to think she might have another great invention.
The Nurse

Jason and his mother were in the waiting room of the doctor's office. He leaned on his mother's arm and asked why he had to see the doctor. Mom stroked Jason's forehead with her fingers.

“Because you are sick and we need to get some medicine for you.” Suddenly, someone called his name. A man in white pants and a white smock was waiting for them at the doorway.

“I hear you're not feeling too well today,” the man said. “Let's see if we can fix you up!” He showed Jason out of the lobby and asked him to step on a scale. He wrote down Jason's weight and then he measured his height. Then the man in the white pants and white smock recorded that number, too.

“Why did you need to measure and weigh me?” asked Jason.

“Because we want to make sure that you are a healthy weight, and to see how much you've grown recently,” the man explained. “Your weight also helps us decide how much medicine to give you.” The man led Jason and his mom to a small room and took Jason's
temperature while he told them how all this information helps the doctor decide how to treat the illness.

Jason was surprised. “I thought you were the doctor!”

The man chuckled, “No, I’m Nurse Doug. I assist the doctor.”

Jason was thoughtful for a moment. “All you do is measure people and take their temperature?”

Nurse Doug shook his head. “No, I do lots of other things. For example, I can clean and bandage bad cuts, measure blood pressure, or take out stitches. I can also take a sample of your blood or give you a shot.”

Jason’s eyes grew wide. “Don’t worry,” Nurse Doug laughed and said, “you probably don’t need a shot.” Nurse Doug showed Jason some of the equipment he used in his job and explained the purpose of each item. Jason thought it was all very interesting.
When the doctor finally entered, she looked in Jason's throat and gently into his ears. She tapped on his chest with her fingers and listened to his heart. During the examination, she asked him about school, his favorite subject and his favorite sports. When she asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, Jason knew what to say immediately. “A nurse!”
A Special Place in Arizona

Arizona is a state with great natural beauty. Its landscape of desert and giant red rock formations attracts visitors from far and wide. Arizona has many state parks where people can hike, camp, and enjoy nature. But Slide Rock State Park has something extra. It has a natural water slide!

A creek with a rocky bottom runs through the park. In one part of the creek, the water runs through a crack in a giant, flat rock. Over the years, the crack has become smooth and slippery. People go there to splash and slide in the cold water. It is exciting to slide down the creek along the slick rock. Not everyone is brave enough to ride the natural water slide, though. Some prefer to wade and swim in the calmer parts of the creek. This can be fun, too. After playing in the cold water for a while, many like to spread out a towel and lie down on the warm, sunny rocks.

Slide Rock State Park offers more than just swimming. It has many attractions. A
trail leads to a cliff overlooking the **creek**. Visitors can also bring fishing poles and **try** their luck at catching fish that **live** in the creek. There is also an **area** where visitors can play volleyball. The **park** is a great place to have a **picnic**. There are areas with picnic tables where visitors can enjoy lunch in the **great** outdoors. For those who want to **stay** out of the hot sun, there are some shelters with roofs.

The park **sits** on a piece of land that **used** to be an apple farm. The **man** who owned the farm planted his **apple** trees almost one hundred years ago. Some of those trees are still growing. Park **visitors** love to see the pink **blossoms** in the spring. In the fall, they **can** try a fresh apple straight from the **tree**. A stroll around the old farm **is** interesting at any time of year. Some of the old tools and machines the **farmer** used are still sitting in the **field**. The barn where the apples were **packed** into boxes is still standing.

With its **hiking trails**, **apple trees**, fishing, and **slippery** water slide, Slide Rock State
Park has something for **every** visitor.
Starting a Company

Every year, a certain catalog is delivered to mailboxes all over the world. It is full of camping gear, comfortable clothes, and backpacks. The name on the catalog is L. L. Bean, a company that has been around for more than ninety years. It sells more than one billion dollars worth of goods every year. This giant company had a simple start when one man got tired of having cold, wet feet.

Leon Bean lived in Maine, a state known for its woods, lakes, and rivers. One day he went hunting when the weather was cold and wet. Water leaked through his boots and made his feet cold and sore. Why couldn't someone make a pair of boots that did not leak? As he stomped around the wet woods, he dreamed up a design for waterproof boots. They would have rubber bottoms to keep the water out. They would have leather tops to provide sturdy comfort and a good fit.

Leon decided to make the boots himself if he could not buy them. He had a shoemaker sew leather uppers to a pair of rubber boots. He tried them out, and they worked! His feet
stayed dry and snug, **even** in wet weather.

Leon was sure that **others** would also like his boots. He **wrote** a description of the boots and mailed it to all the hunters he **knew**. He wrote, “You cannot expect success **hunting** deer or moose if your feet **are** not properly dressed. The Maine Hunting Shoe is **designed** by a hunter who has tramped the Maine **woods** for the last eighteen years. We **guarantee** them to give perfect **satisfaction in every way.” Leon promised that if a **buyer** did not like the boots, he **would** send his or her money back.

**Many** people wrote to Leon to order a **pair** of the boots. He had them **made** and sent them off. However, the **rubber** bottoms fell off most of the **boots**! Leon kept his promise, though, and **sent** back all the money. Then he **went** to work fixing his design, adding **stronger** stitching. The new boots held up to **wear and tear** and people loved them. **Soon**, Leon began selling other goods as **well**. All the products he sold were of **good** quality and he always promised
complete satisfaction. This promise to the customer lives on today as his company continues to grow.
Going to the Dentist

Sitting in the dentist's leather armchair, Kayla noticed that a picture of a waterfall hung above her head. Kayla wondered why the dentist would want to hang pictures on the ceiling.

A woman in a blue smock walked in. “Hello, Kayla,” she said. “I'm Christine, and I'm going to be cleaning your teeth today. Before we get started, I'd like to show you some of the special tools that we'll be using.”

Christine let Kayla look at a small tray of items next to her armchair. Some of these things were familiar to Kayla. She remembered the special kind of string, called floss, that she used each night when she brushed her teeth. There was also a funny-looking toothbrush. It was round, and smaller than the one she used at home. Christine explained that the toothbrush was very soft, and wouldn't hurt as she ran it over Kayla's teeth and gums.

There were also different-sized tools that looked a little bit like toothpicks. Christine explained that she would use these instruments to scrape a substance called plaque off of...
Kayla's teeth.

Kayla protested, “My teeth aren't dirty! I brush them twice a day.”

“Wonderful!” said Christine. “You will have less plaque to remove than some of the patients I see. But everybody gets plaque. Even me.” Kayla laughed. Then Christine began cleaning and brushing Kayla's teeth.

While she cleaned, she told Kayla lots of stories. She also explained what she was doing while she worked. After she was finished, she ran a little tool with a small mirror on the end of it around Kayla's mouth. She said that this was so she could check her work and make sure she had cleaned all of Kayla's teeth.

“All right, Kayla. You're all finished!” Christine said. “Now, all you need to do is rinse out your mouth at this sink.” Kayla walked over to the sink and swished the rinse around in her mouth before spitting it down the drain.
As Kayla left the dentist's office, she realized why the picture was hung on the ceiling. It was nice to gaze at the waterfall while she was having her teeth cleaned. She had even imagined that she could feel the mist as the water hit the pool below.
The New House

“Let's go, everybody,” Mom called as we got in the van. I fastened my seatbelt while Dad

locked my brother Ian's wheelchair into place. “I can't wait to see our new house!” Mom

cried. We were all eager to see it, but no one was more excited than Ian. After all, the

house was designed especially for him.

As we drove, I thought about our old house and about how uncomfortable it was for Ian.

First of all, his small hands had trouble turning the doorknobs. In addition, it was hard for him to

move his wheelchair through the narrow hallways. His greatest challenge was that he couldn't go

upstairs by himself. Dad had to carry him. In the bathroom, Ian was barely able to reach the

faucet handles.

As Mom pulled into the driveway, we saw Mr. Sanchez waiting for us. He was the contractor who built the house. We got out of the van and Ian rolled up the ramp that led to the

front door. Shouting a hearty welcome, Mr. Sanchez shook Ian's hand and explained that
he was going to take us on a **tour** of our new home.

Ian opened the **front** door. Instead of the usual round **doorknob**, it had a long, thin handle to **turn**. “Hey, this is easy to open,” Ian said.

We entered the living room. The **windows** were low so Ian could see out of them **easily**. The doorway to the dining room was wide. Mr. Sanchez told us that **all** the doorways in the house were **wide**.

Mr. Sanchez led us down the wide **hallway** to the bathroom. The faucet handles on the **sink** were long handles, like the doorknobs. Mr. Sanchez also pointed out that there were no **cabinets** underneath the sink. Ian showed us **how** he could roll right up to the **sink** and reach the faucet handles.

As we **headed** down the hallway to the bedrooms, Ian looked troubled. He asked if Dad would **still** have to carry him up the **stairs** to go to his room.
Mr. Sanchez shook his head. “There isn't an upstairs, Ian. All the rooms are on the same level, so you can go everywhere by yourself.”

Ian clapped his hands and said, “This is a terrific house.” Mom gave Ian a giant hug and said, “We're all going to love living here.”
The Best Kind of Present

The students were on their way to Dinosaur State Park for a field trip. They were all very excited about seeing real dinosaur tracks, and they chatted and laughed as the school bus rolled along. Cody was looking forward to seeing the park, too, but he was quiet. He had something on his mind.

His teacher, Miss Chen, sat down next to him. “You look troubled,” she said. “Is something wrong?”

“It's nothing serious,” Cody started. “It's just that tomorrow is my dad's birthday, and I still don't have a present for him.” He sighed. “I want to get him something different this year.”

Miss Chen said that perhaps he would find something great at the park's gift shop. Cody nodded, but when Miss Chen returned to her seat, he sighed. He knew he didn't have enough money to buy a present.
When they arrived at the park and went inside the exhibit hall, Cody forgot all his troubles. It was fantastic! The painted walls and dinosaur models made Cody feel like he had traveled back in time. There were displays of fossils to look at, too. Best of all, though, were the dinosaur footprints in the sandstone floor. Cody liked the fact that he was standing right where dinosaurs had once walked.

After the students watched a movie about dinosaurs, Miss Chen led them outside to another area with dinosaur footprints. She asked if they would like to make a plaster casting of a footprint. Everyone clapped and cheered, and Miss Chen explained that they would each use a footprint as a mold. First, they would mix plaster powder with water in a bucket. Then, they would rub oil into the footprint. Next, they would pour in the plaster. When it was dry, they could lift it out and have their very own dinosaur footprint.

The students got busy mixing, oiling, and pouring. Cody found that it was messy work,
but very fun. When he **lifted** up the dry plaster and looked at his **dinosaur** footprint, his eyes lit up.

With a **big** smile, he told Ms. Chen that he had **just** found the perfect present.

“That's great,” she **cried**. “And best of all,” she added with a **wink**, “it is really different!”
The Attorney General

Over three hundred million people live in the United States today. There are thousands of laws to make sure all are treated fairly. The Department of Justice has thousands of law officers, judges, and lawyers. They work hard to bring justice to all the people.

The Department of Justice is part of the United States government. This department has many duties. Two of the most important are helping people understand the laws and making sure people follow them.

The person in charge of such a large department has a lot of responsibility. This person is the Attorney General. To do this job, a person must be honest, tough, and fair. He or she must have many years of experience in the justice system. President Bill Clinton saw all of these qualities in Janet Reno. He named her Attorney General at the start of his term.

She held this job for eight years. Janet was the first woman to be Attorney General. As a young girl, she looked up to the
other women in her family as role models. At a time when most women did not have jobs, her mother was a reporter. Her aunt was an army nurse. Another aunt flew planes.

Janet went on to study law. When she was done with college, she tried to get a job at a big law firm in Florida. They did not want her because she was a woman. Another office was glad to have her, though. After a few years, Janet began to work for the state of Florida. During this time she worked hard to protect the rights of children.

As Attorney General, Janet had a lot to do. Every day she had stacks of papers to read and sign. She also had to attend important meetings. She often met with judges, people in the government, or the head of the FBI to give legal advice and ask questions. Sometimes she would meet with the President to give him advice. Other times, she would meet with reporters to answer questions.

In all she did, Janet worked hard to do what was right. Some people will remember her...
being the first woman Attorney General. Most will remember her for being honest and fair.
Hank Aaron

The famous baseball player known as Hank Aaron was born in nineteen thirty-four. When he was a teenager, his family moved to another part of town so that he and his siblings could go to a different school. His mother and father always encouraged their children to be the best that they could be. So when Hank decided to become a baseball player he put all of his heart into it.

When Hank was a teenager, he played on some of his city's baseball teams. On these teams, he just played for fun and did not earn any money. One day he played in a game against a big, important team from a city in Indiana. The team's owner was amazed by young Hank's talent. He offered him a job as a professional baseball player. Hank was very happy because this man was going to pay him to do what he loved—playing baseball. With only two sandwiches and two dollars, Hank took the train to Indiana. Over the next few years, Hank played for many other teams. Each one was better than...
the last. On every team, Hank's talent made him stand out as an important player. Then, when he was twenty, Hank was invited to join a team called the Braves. He eagerly agreed. Hank was playing with the best players in American baseball.

What made Hank such a special player? It was his speed and power when hitting a baseball. Most baseball players feel lucky to hit eighteen home runs every year. Hank once hit forty-seven! Baseball pitchers tried to trick him, but he could always get a hit. One pitcher said that trying to fool Hank was like slapping a rattlesnake.

Each year, Hank made more home runs. Baseball fans started to wonder if he would beat Babe Ruth. Babe Ruth held the title for the most home runs during his career. When Hank hit the record-breaking home run, his fans went wild! It was an exciting moment in the history of baseball.

Six years later, Hank stopped playing baseball. He began a new job finding talented
young players and helping them to succeed at the sport he loved so much. This role was perfect for Hank. He is a role model, both on and off the field, and has certainly left his mark on the sport of baseball.
Known for Courage

Leaping across the boulders leading to the lighthouse, Ida pulled her shawl tightly around her.

“What a busy morning it’s going to be,” she said aloud. Ida knew that if she didn’t clean the prisms on the lighthouse light, it wouldn’t be bright enough to help guide the sailors entering the harbor.

When she reached the small lighthouse, Ida pulled open the heavy door and stepped inside. She put out the oil lamp and trimmed the wick before relighting it. She finished the rest of her chores quickly. She wanted to get back home before the big storm blew in. Making her way back to her house, Ida heard the cries of gulls and the blast of a horn from a ship at sea.

As the hours passed, the day became gray and bleak. A frosty chill settled on the island. The wind grew more forceful. Inside, Ida had moved her chair closer to the fire and picked up her mending basket when she heard a voice crying, “Help! Someone's drowning!”

In an instant, Ida leapt from her chair and ran out of the house, calling for her brother to
follow. She was moving too quickly to hear her neighbor's plea. “Stop! It's dangerous!” the neighbor shouted, but Ida couldn't hear her voice over the crashing waves.

Seconds later, she was rowing the boat through the choppy seas. Even though her arms were strong from years of rowing back and forth to the mainland, Ida had to struggle to keep the boat on course. Halfway out, a huge wave crashed into the bow, causing the boat to tilt to one side. Ida barely noticed the wave or the water at her feet. Instead, she held her gaze on the two men bobbing in the water ahead.

Straining to pull the oars through the water, she slid the boat beside the first man. Ida tried to steady the boat against the slamming waves. Her brother pulled the man aboard. At that moment, she saw the second man disappear beneath the water for a short time. She could tell that his strength was running out.

Minutes later, the second man was also safely in the boat, and Ida had turned the boat.
toward shore. The two men, gasping for air, tried to thank Ida and her brother for saving them.

“What would you do if you saw someone drowning?” she said calmly.
The Perfect Topping

On Thursday, everyone in class went around and named their favorite foods. Tonya said her favorite food was the pizza her family made. After school was over, she waited with Megan for the bus.

"Do you really make your own pizza?" Megan asked. "I love pizza, but I've never made it. Is it hard?"

"No, it's easy!" said Tonya. "If our parents let us, do you want to come over for dinner tomorrow? We're making it then."

Megan was eager to try it, and their parents agreed, so the next day Megan went to Tonya's house. On the way, they discussed what toppings to put on their pizza.

"You'd be surprised by what you can put on a pizza," Tonya said. "Lots of things you'd never think of can make really good toppings."

Megan always ordered the same thing on her pizza: mushrooms and green peppers. She
wondered what else she could try.

As dinnertime approached, Tonya's brother started making the dough by mixing flour, water, salt, and yeast. He let Tonya and Megan taste it, and Megan thought it was delicious.

Tonya's parents opened the pantry for topping ideas. “What shall we put on it tonight?” her mom asked.

Tonya suggested an onion, and then Tonya's brother got out some potatoes. Megan had never seen potatoes on a pizza before. She tried to think what she could choose that would be a good, unusual topping.

“What if we put apple slices on the pizza?” Megan suggested. Everyone agreed that was a great idea. While Tonya's parents prepared the toppings, Megan grated cheese and Tonya and her brother rolled the dough flat and put it in the pan. They spread sauce on it and Megan sprinkled on the cheese. Tonya's dad put on the grilled onion and her mom added the potatoes and apple.
slices. Then they put the **whole** thing in the oven to cook.

As Megan **helped** Tonya set the table, she was **excited** by the thought of their pizza. She **couldn't** wait to taste it.

“Careful, it's **hot**,” called Tonya's father as he brought it out. He **cut** it into slices and served everyone, and **when** it was cool enough, Megan took a **bite**.

The sweet flavors of the apple **slices** mixed perfectly with the grilled onion and **potato**.

Thrilled, Megan turned to Tonya. “Now your **favorite** food is my favorite food, too!” she **said**.
Being a Plumber

When people wake up and prepare for the day ahead, they expect to have hot and cold water.

When they are ready to brush their teeth, they turn on the faucet for cold water. Warm water makes for a comfortable bath or shower. Clean water flows into the sink, shower, or tub. Then it drains down and out through the pipes.

A hundred years ago very few people had hot and cold running water. Most people had an outhouse in the backyard. Very few had indoor toilets. They had to pump water from a well. If they wanted hot water, they had to pump cold water and then heat it on the stove.

Plumbers are the workers who make running water possible. Plumbers know how to connect all the pipes and valves that bring water into a home. They also know how to get the wastewater out of the house to the sewer. These sewer pipes carry wastewater to the treatment plant. Water is also brought to our homes through pipes. These pipes are buried in the ground along the streets. When a new house is built, the city installs a water meter, a branch.
pipe, and a cut-off valve near the house. The water meter measures the amount of water that is used in the house. The plumber uses the branch pipe to connect a supply line. The cut-off valve lets a plumber turn off all of the water coming into the house in case of emergencies.

Inside the house, the single line coming in is split into two. One of these lines feeds water into the hot water tank. From there, pipes go to all the hot water faucets in the house. The other line feeds water to all the cold-water faucets and to the toilets.

Plumbers know how to provide people with the water they need for cooking, cleaning, and washing. Sometimes a part of the plumbing in a house or an apartment breaks. A toilet might start to run water all the time. A faucet might not turn off completely. When that happens, it is time to call the plumber, who will know just what to do to fix the problem.
The Invention of the Vacuum

Pet hair, dust, dirt, and cookie crumbs can all add up to make a carpet a dirty mess. It's time to get out the vacuum cleaner! Plug it in, and in just a few minutes the carpet is clean again.

It wasn't so simple in the past. Before the invention of vacuum cleaners, floors were cleaned with brooms, brushes, and mops. To get a carpet really clean, it had to be hung up outdoors and beaten with sticks. It was backbreaking, unpleasant work.

Inventors looked for ways to make the job easier. The first sweeping machine appeared in 1858. It was a brush with wheels on a handle. The brush spun around when pushed, sweeping up dirt. This machine worked about as well as a broom, but it could not pick up dirt that was deep in a carpet. Housekeepers still had to beat their carpets to get all the dirt out.

A few years later, an inventor came up with a machine that would suck the dirt up, rather than brush it around. The suction was created by a small fan inside the machine. There was no motor to drive the fan, however. Instead, it had a crank that the housekeeper turned by hand.
Turning this crank fast enough and long enough to clean a whole rug was tiring! This machine did not catch on.

Around the beginning of the twentieth century, someone got the idea that a machine that blew air could be used for cleaning floors. This machine was not popular either. All it did was blow the dirt around!

Finally, a year later, a man invented a machine with a motor that sucked dirt up. However, this machine was huge! It sat on a cart that was pulled by horses. People would call the man when they wanted their floors cleaned. He would park the cart outside the house and use a hose that was one hundred feet long to suck up the dirt. It was not easy, but it did a very good job of cleaning.

This man's success got other inventors thinking, and it wasn't long before someone made the first small electric vacuum cleaner. Thanks to its small size, people could store it in...
their **closets**. Thanks to its electric motor, it was **easy** to use. And thanks to all these **clever** inventors, cleaning a carpet is a **quick** and simple job today!
The People's Artist

You might not know his name, but you may have seen his pictures. His art brings to mind the good old days of small town America. Those days may be gone, but people still love the art of Norman Rockwell.

Norman was born in New York City. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be an artist. He actually left high school early to study art full time. It wasn't long before he was earning money for his artwork. He was only eighteen when he was hired by a magazine to be its art director.

At age twenty-two, a magazine called the Saturday Evening Post put one of his paintings on its cover. This was a great honor for such a young man. The Saturday Evening Post was one of the most popular magazines in America at that time. Over the next few decades, Norman's artwork appeared on the cover of the “Evening Post” more than three hundred times.

Many of Norman's paintings showed ordinary moments of life in America. They showed
children playing and people working at their jobs. Norman painted these scenes with charm and humor. They showed the good side of life and made people feel happy and proud. He often told people that he just couldn't paint sad pictures.

His paintings were very different from the work of other artists of that time. These artists were making modern art. They did not paint scenes in a normal way. For instance, a painting of a woman by a modern artist might be made up of scribbles, drips of paint, or circles and squares. These artists looked down on Norman's work. They said it was dull. They did not consider him a good artist.

But modern art did not interest Norman. He wanted to paint pictures that everyone would like, not pictures that would confuse or worry people. And many people preferred Norman's simple, charming scenes to modern art. They let him know by sending him bags and bags of fan letters. Even after his death, his art lives on. Today people still love his pictures for their...
warmth and humor, and for making them smile.
The News Team

It is 1956, and people all across the country are turning on their television sets to watch the evening news. On one channel, two men deliver the news. One is serious, and the other lets a spark of wit and humor show in his reports. They make a perfect team. For the next several years, their program is number one in the country.

The serious member of this team is Chet Huntley. The other is David Brinkley, who was born in North Carolina in nineteen twenty. His career as a news reporter began when he was a teenager. He wrote articles about his high school for a newspaper owned by a member of his family. After high school, he went to college for a while. Then he started working as a reporter again, writing news stories for many newspapers. He made the switch from newspaper to radio during the Second World War. Soon a new invention started to catch on: television! It wasn't long before Brinkley began giving news reports on TV.

What made Brinkley so good at what he did? First of all, he was a good writer.
He could explain a news story clearly with just a few words. Younger news writers looked up to him. From him they learned that good writing could make their work better. Second, he did more than just read the news. His wit and clever mind always came through. He once said that the only way to do news on TV is not to be scared of it. He said that most of the news isn't very important. In fact, he thought very little of it was. He was serious about his work, though. In fact, he and his partner on the news show did not like the ending of their show because they felt it was not serious enough. Each night at the end of the show, David said, “Good night, Chet.” Chet then answered, “Good night, David.” They thought this was silly, but people watching the show loved it. They liked the warm and friendly feeling it brought to the news show. Brinkley's career lasted for over forty years, and he enjoyed all of it. He told his son that if he were twenty years old, he would do the same thing all over again.
Money

Most people have seen money, but few have seen it being created. Keep reading to find out where money comes from and how it is made.

In the United States, money comes in the form of coins and paper bills. New coins are made every day at one of four places in the country. These special places are called mints.

To make a coin, a machine feeds huge rolls of flat metal into the side of another machine. Different coins use different metals. Then the second machine cuts the flat metal into more than thirty thousand round pieces, like cookie cutters on dough. The metal pieces come out of the machine shaped like coins, but they are blank. The pieces are heated and cooled. Then they are washed and dried. Next they go to another machine. This machine presses each round piece into a mold of a coin. New shiny coins come pouring out of the machine. The coins are counted and put into huge bags. The bags are loaded onto armored cars. Now they are ready to be safely delivered to banks across the country.
Paper bills are printed in Washington, D.C., and Forth Worth, Texas. Each of these locations prints millions of dollars worth of bills each year.

The printing of bills begins with large sheets of blank paper. Unlike other kinds of paper, the special paper the government uses for the bills does not get soggy if it gets wet or is run through the washing machine. The paper is made of cotton and linen. Bills made one hundred years ago even contained silk.

The huge blank sheets of paper enter a machine that stamps the paper with ink and cuts it into bills. The machine uses special ink that cannot be duplicated. There are many other safety features on the bills, too, such as watermarks that can only be seen when holding a bill up to the light. This helps people make sure that the money they are spending is real. As you can see, a lot of work goes into creating the money that is used each and every day.
The Harper House

One hundred years ago, the Harper House was the grandest in town. The Harper family gave parties in its ballroom, and the gardens were the envy of everyone. But then the family lost their money, and they moved away. For years the house stood empty. The roof fell in, the walls sagged, and weeds took over the gardens.

But today the Harper House is beautiful once more, thanks to the efforts of the town’s Park Department. The head of the Park Department explained, “We wanted to save the house because it is part of our town's history. Now it is beautiful and useful, too.”

Workers and builders fixed the walls, roof, and floors. When repairs were finished, it was time to decorate inside. The decorators wanted everything to look just like it did one hundred years ago. They studied old photographs and drawings of the house. This helped them choose the right curtains, artwork, and furniture.

Then it was time to restore the lawn and gardens. For this job, the director hired May
Chen, an expert gardener and landscape designer. She believes landscaping is very important to the appearance of a house. She wanted the yard to be as pretty as the house.

Designing the landscape for the Harper House was a challenge for Ms. Chen. Because the house is very big and sits on a huge piece of land, she needed to plan flower beds that were very large. Flower beds of a normal size would look too small.

Like the decorators, Ms. Chen studied old photographs of the house. She also talked to older people in town. The Harper family still lived in the house when some of these people were children. They had played in the gardens and could still remember what the gardens looked like.

One man told her about a little goldfish pond in the backyard. With his help, she planned one just like it.

The Park Department has big plans for the house now. There will be town meetings and parties in the ballroom, and part of the house will be a museum. People will be able
to stroll and have picnics in the gardens, and it **is** the perfect place for weddings. The Harper House is **part** of the town's history. Now it **is** part of its future, too!