



# acadience® reading k–6

## Student Materials

### Grade 4 | Benchmark 3

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## For use with remote testing

## A Wild Ride for Bella

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▶ Bella fastened her life jacket and stepped into her aunt and uncle’s big yellow raft. Her older brother, Martin, had claimed that river rafting would be the most exciting thing Bella would ever do, but she was skeptical.

“How could floating on the water be that exciting?” Bella thought to herself. She thought maybe her brother was just trying to show off because he’d been rafting so many times. This trip would be her first time down the river.

Bella’s aunt and uncle sat in the back of the raft where they could steer the boat best. Bella and Martin sat in the front and used their paddles to help the raft move downstream. As they drifted down the calm river, Bella said, “This is fun, but it seems pretty simple to me. It doesn’t seem like the most exciting thing I’ve ever done.”

Just then, they heard a roaring sound up ahead and Bella felt her heart pounding loudly. As they came around the bend, Bella saw white water rushing and whirling between huge rocks.

“Draw left!” called her aunt. Bella and Martin immediately paddled to the left as hard as they could. They managed to avoid colliding with a big rock hidden under the churning water. They spun around in a whirlpool and then slipped into a fast current. They raced along, dipping and bouncing over the water. Sprays of water soaked their clothes. Suddenly they reached the end of the rapids and floated into calm water again.

Bella’s eyes were bright and she was breathing heavily after the wild ride. “Martin, I think you were right. That was definitely the most exciting ride I have ever had.” She grinned and said, “Now I want to go back and ride those rapids again!”

Everyone laughed. They had all been thinking the exact same thing.

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# Rainbows

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▶ Since long ago, people around the world have been amazed by the rainbow. This natural light show has inspired everything from movies to songs. A close look at the science behind the rainbow shows that there is more to the rainbow than what meets the eye.

The first thing most people notice about a rainbow is the bright colors. These colors are created by the sun's light passing through raindrops. Different colors reflect back at slightly different angles, splitting the light into the rainbow. What may surprise you is that the colors you see are not the only colors in a rainbow. Rainbows are actually made up of every color in the light spectrum, from red to violet. However, the human eye can only see a small number of these colors.

Another interesting part of a rainbow is its arch. A rainbow is really a circle. Since the ground gets in the way, it looks like an arch. Actually, the arch that you see is formed by raindrops that are in just the right place to reflect the colors back to your eyes. A person standing next to you will see a rainbow formed by slightly different drops. We can only see a rainbow when the sun is low enough in the sky. This is why we do not see a rainbow every time it is sunny and raining.

Rainbows can also be seen in other combinations of light and water. This includes waterfalls, dew-covered spider webs, and even light from the moon. There are also double rainbows, when a second arch is formed by light that bounces twice inside the raindrops. Much more rare is the fire rainbow. A fire rainbow is caused by a rainbow's interaction with cirrus clouds that creates a rainbow in the shape of fire. As you now know, rainbows are much more complex than what we see!

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## A New Kind of Family

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► Baby elephants need help to survive. Like all babies, they need protection. They also need a sense of love and belonging. A woman in Kenya is trying to provide that kind of love and care for baby elephants who have lost their families. She is giving orphaned elephants a new kind of family.

The woman, Daphne Sheldrick, has created an elephant nursery. It is a place to give a baby what it needs so it can return to the wild. The keepers who work there become the elephant's new family. They stay with the baby at all times just as its elephant family would have. The keepers make milk available to the orphan twenty-four hours a day. They show it love and affection and never let it feel alone. Baby elephants are so sensitive that missing someone can make them very ill. To prevent that, the keepers make sure the baby doesn't become attached to just one person. Each night, a different worker sleeps with it. That way, the baby feels secure no matter which workers are on duty.

Elephant orphans must learn to communicate by being with other elephants. When the babies are a year old, they move to a nearby park. It is a protected place where herds of older orphans live. They are slowly getting ready to live in the wild. There, the baby orphans learn elephant language and how to get along with a herd. It is easy for them to fit in because older elephants naturally love all baby elephants.

At the park, baby orphans are free to wander with the herd. But they still have plenty of contact with their human family. As the young elephants become more confident, they go into the wild more and more often. Most eventually find a place with a wild herd.

Orphans who live in the wild often come back to visit. Many years later, they still recognize and love the humans who raised them. The keepers know that the old saying is true—an elephant truly never forgets!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice 1

After playing in the dirt, Sam went 

home
summer
was

 to wash her hands.

## Practice 2

On her way home, she 

chair
sleep
saw

 an ice cream truck.



C: \_\_\_\_\_

I: \_\_\_\_\_

AS: \_\_\_\_\_

**G4/Benchmark 3**

## Diamonds State Park

There is a park in Arkansas where visitors come to enjoy the outdoors, view wildlife, camp, and

hunt for diamonds. That's right, diamonds! Crater of Diamonds State Park sits on a end hunt piece of land that is

full of diamonds bank did, and visitors can dig through the dirt outdoors sits to find them. Whatever they find, they

come can zone keep.

One hundred years ago, the pan yellow land belonged to a farmer. One day, while diamonds many the farmer was

in the field day feeding different his pigs, he saw something sparkle in the something dirt share. He hoped it was a little

keep work piece of gold. He scooped some of the rocky offers how soil into a pan and washed it in water washed belonged. He didn't

find any gold, but he prefer did have find two strange pebbles. One was forever yellow uncovers and the other was white. He

showed look property them to the president of his local land hundred bank, and learned that they were soil falls diamonds.

How did the diamonds end up on a farmer's pebbles shovel property? Billions of years ago, there was strange tiny a

volcano on this part of the land hard however. The diamonds were created deep inside the Earth, and right then are the

volcano pushed them to the Earth's surface learned patience. The volcano is long gone, but the diamonds pushed owned are still

there.

Today, the land 

is
inches
leaving

 owned by the state of Arkansas, and the 

rocks
park
ways

 is a place for locals

and 

tips
tourists
billions

 alike to enjoy. There is a 

visitor
rocky
simply

 center where people can learn how the diamonds

large
hoped
formed

. The park also offers a discovery 

alike
zone
ago

, where park rangers share tips about 

how
send
rangers

 to

search for diamonds.

The diamonds 

are
gold
didn't

 hard to find. Visitors can hunt for them in 

pigs
several
memory

 different ways. They

can simply walk along and 

walk
look
feeding

 for diamonds on the surface. This 

is
farmer's
use

 a good method to use

after it 

dig
dirt
rains

. The rain washes the dirt away and 

uncovers
deep
several

 the rocks and diamonds near

the 

method
surface
piece

.

Many visitors prefer to use a 

water
is
small

 shovel to dig up a few 

enjoy
inches
diamond

 of soil. They toss the soil

onto a 

piece
years
learn

 of screen. The dirt falls through the 

fun
holes
local

 in the screen, leaving any rocks and diamonds

behind.

Very  
Gone  
Serious

diamond hunters dig deep holes and

washes  
away  
send

the soil through several screens. This

while  
method  
one

takes many hours of hard work and

patience  
most  
sparkle

.

Over the years, several very large diamonds

will  
discovery  
have

been found at the park. However,

most  
been  
screens

of the diamonds are very small.

Still  
Few  
Even

, the visitor who finds even a

saw  
tiny  
locals

diamond will keep

the memory of a

scooped  
full  
fun

time forever!

