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Acadience Reading Diagnostic Student Materials Packet

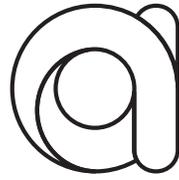
Phonemic Awareness (PA)

Word Reading and Decoding (WRD)

Comprehension, Fluency, and Oral Language (CFOL)

Acadience Learning Inc.

For use with remote assessment



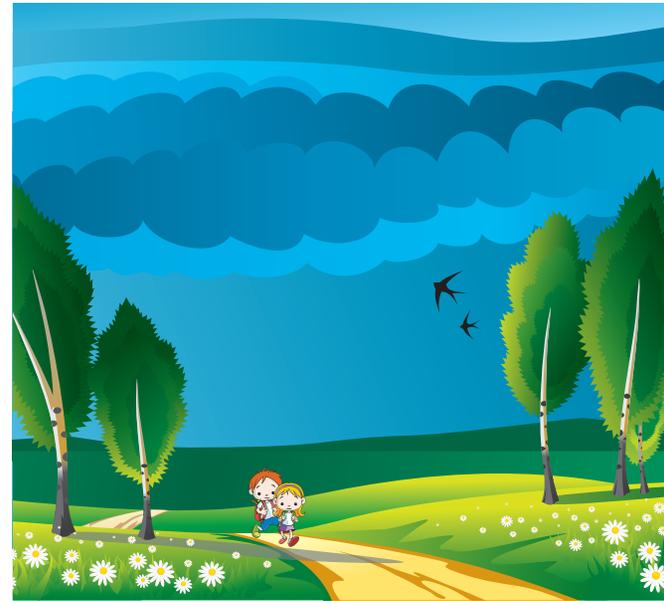
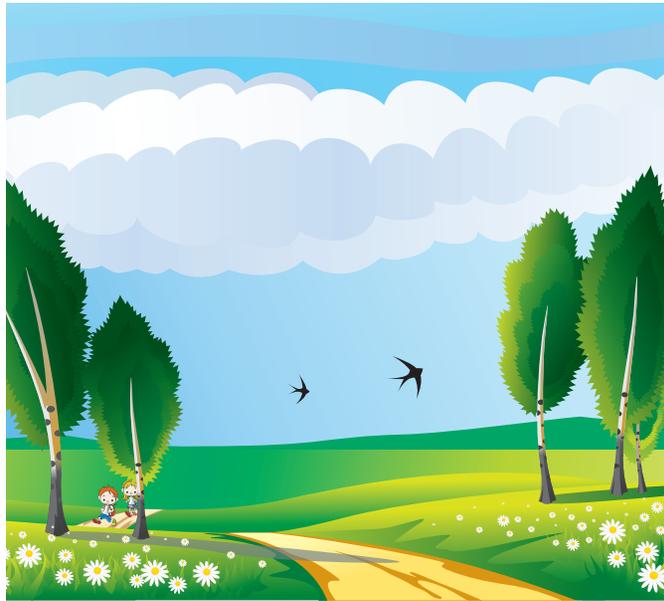
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Comprehension, Fluency, and Oral Language (CFOL)

Section A1. Story Telling

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How Our Homework Got Soaked



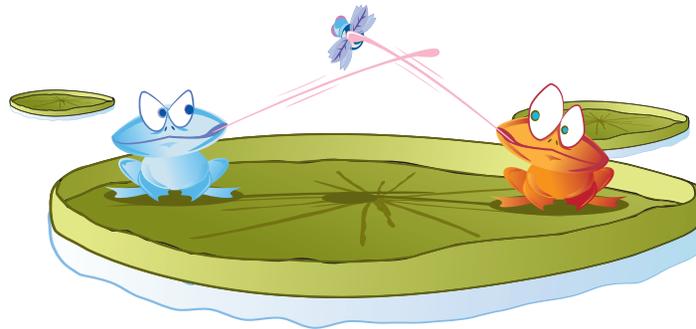
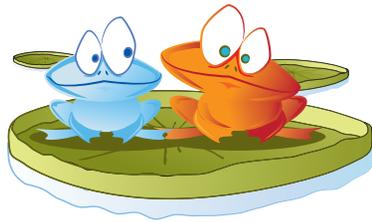
How the Mouse Has a Good Nap



How the Momma Bird Saved the Day



How the Fly Got Away

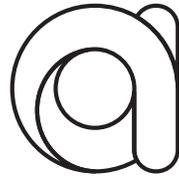


How the Animals Took Over the Campfire



How the Boy Has a Happy Bedtime





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Section A2. What Happens Next

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Landing on the Moon



Building a Snowman



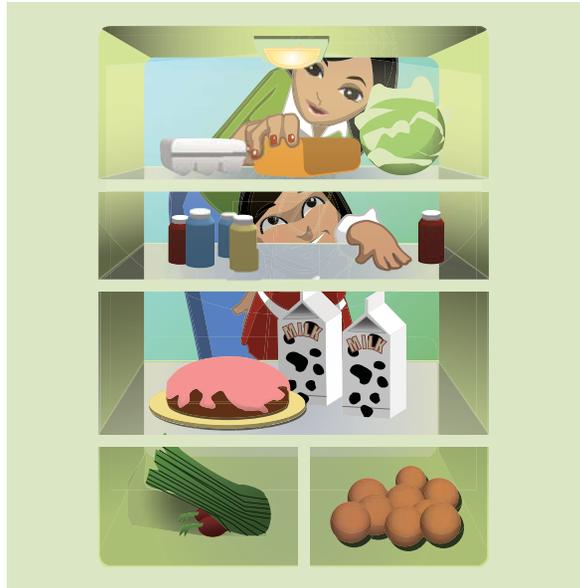
The Chef Goes Shopping

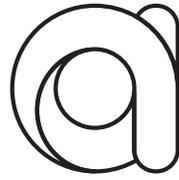


A Beach Adventure



What's for Dinner?





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Section C1. Paragraph Retell

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Learning to Tie Your Shoes

When Abby was little, she had to ask someone to tie her shoes for her. Abby wanted to learn to tie her shoes by herself. One day, she asked her mom to show her how to do it. It was easy to learn how to tie her shoes. Now, she is quite skilled at it. She helps her little brother tie his shoes, too. It makes her feel happy to help her brother. Soon, he will be able to tie his own shoes, just like Abby!

The Importance of Hand Washing

Did you know that hand washing is a healthy thing to do? Of course you should wash your hands if they look dirty. But, even if your hands look clean, germs may be on them. Some germs make people sick. Hand washing is one way to get rid of these germs. You should wash your hands before you eat. Also, wash your hands after using the bathroom. Other times to wash your hands are if you sneeze or cough. Washing your hands helps you stay healthy. It helps other people stay healthy, too!

Nora's Turtle

My name is Nora and I am six years old. I have always wanted to have a pet. However, I am not allowed to have one. You see, when I was younger, my parents discovered that I am allergic to cats and dogs. Even so, I asked for a pet for my sixth birthday. Because of my allergies, my parents thought that a turtle might be a good pet for me. At first, I thought this idea was silly. But then I began to learn about turtles at school. Soon, I liked the idea of having a pet turtle and got to pick one out all by myself. I named the turtle Billy. Now Billy lives with me in a special tank in my room. Billy has a neat personality and is great fun to play with. I take good care of him.

Caring for Indoor Plants

There are a few important things to remember when caring for indoor plants. First, an indoor plant needs to be potted so it has enough room for its roots. Second, be sure it is getting enough sunlight. Third, water your plants often. But don't give it water too often! Before giving the plant water, check the soil for dampness. If the soil feels moist, then it is best to wait.

Sam's First High Dive

Have you ever jumped off of the high diving board at a swimming pool? Sam did a high dive for the first time last summer. It was quite an experience. The diving board was very high in the air. Sam could see the whole pool. He was a little nervous. He took a deep breath. He counted to three and jumped. He fell through the air and landed with a big splash. It was so fun! Sam got out of the pool and dove again. As they were leaving, Sam told his mom he wanted to high dive every day!

Railroad Crossing

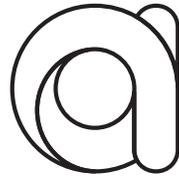
Have you ever seen what happens when a train crosses a road? When a train is coming, red lights go on at the railroad crossing. Also, a gate comes down across the road. This stops cars from going over the tracks. You will also hear a train whistle blow. It can be very loud. The whistle and lights warn people that a train is coming. Trains can take a long time to pass by. The people in cars have to be patient and wait to cross the tracks. Sometimes it is hard to wait. Remember, safety is more important!

The Secret Swings

Grace loves to swing. She and her sister go to the swings at the park almost every day. No one else is ever there, so it is like a secret place for them. A few days ago, Grace heard talking and laughing as she and her sister got closer to the swings. What if their secret swings were no longer a secret? When she turned the corner, she saw two girls swinging. Grace's sister explained that she had invited them. One of the girls was Grace's age. Grace felt a little shy about meeting a new friend, but she got on a swing. She and the girl talked about school and things they did for fun. In the end, Grace really liked her new friend. She decided sharing the secret swings wasn't so bad after all.

Groundhog Day

Did you know February second is a holiday? It is called Groundhog Day. Many people gather to observe a certain groundhog as he comes out of his burrow. If he sees his shadow, he will return to his hole. Then, people think six more weeks of winter are on the way. But, if he does not see his shadow, they think spring is not far off. Most often, he will see his shadow. Either way, this unique holiday is a lot of fun.



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Section C2. Reading Sentences with Homophones

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sun

son

1. The _____ shines in the sky.

blew

blue

2. The sky was _____ today.

ate

eight

3. We _____ dinner early tonight.

red

read

4. She _____ the book to her mom.

sense

cents

5. Count your dollars and _____.

ferry

fairy

6. Our teacher read us a _____ tale.

hear

here

7. You use your ears to _____.

tail

tale

8. The dog wagged its long _____.

meat

meet

9. The tiger ate the _____.

road

rode

10. The cowboy _____ the horse out of town.

flour

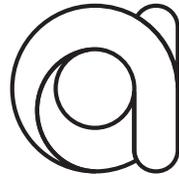
flower

11. The cake mix had _____ in it.

seen

scene

12. She painted a winter _____.



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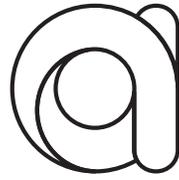
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Section C3. Reading Sentences with Homographs

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1. Close the door behind you and come close by the fire to stay warm.
2. The live snake will live in my yard.
3. I like to read. I read a book last night.
4. She gave an excuse that did not excuse her actions.
5. I would like to present to you this present.

6. I won't shed a tear if you tear my best dress.
7. Before the wind gets too wild, wind up the kite string.
8. He can lead us around those lead pipes.
9. The dancer had a bow on her dress. She took a bow after the show.
10. The writer was content with the content of her book.



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Section C4. Passage Retell

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Apple Harvest

Every fall, I visit my uncle during apple picking season. It is a fun time of year to visit him. My uncle has a huge apple orchard. Often, he has to find extra workers to help pick the apples. I have always wanted to help. But every year my uncle told me I was not big enough. This year everything changed.

When I arrived at my uncle's house, he noticed how much I had grown. For the first time, he asked me if I wanted to pick apples. I was so excited. I was also a bit nervous. I had never helped in the orchard. I knew I would have to wake up at sunrise to pick apples. I wondered if I would have to get up high on a ladder.

After I unpacked, my uncle took me out to the orchard. Then, he showed me around. I also met some of the other workers. The next morning, I woke up very early. My uncle and I, and the other workers, picked apples all day long. My job was to put the apples in baskets. The apples had to be stacked gently so they didn't get hurt. At the end of the day, we stored the apples in a cool, dark place. We stored them this way to keep them fresh. The best part of the job was getting to take some apples home. I like apples, but I like my mom's apple pie even better!

What to Do When You're Sick

When you have a cold, you don't feel well. A cold can make your nose stuffy or your throat hurt. Your body may hurt all over. You also may run a fever. When you feel this way, it is important to get plenty of rest.

Most colds go away in a few days. But, it is much easier to get well if you take care of yourself. One thing to do is drink plenty of fluids. Also, try hard not to wear yourself out. You should rest instead. Resting means that you don't go outside to play.

When you are sick, you should stay home from school. Staying home will prevent other people from getting sick. If you do leave your house, be sure to cover your nose and mouth if you sneeze or cough. Also, it is a good idea to wash your hands frequently. Finally, if you begin to feel worse, you may need to go see a doctor.

Learning to Make Tamales

My name is Isabel. When I grow up I want to be a great cook just like my mom. I have never tasted better tamales than the kind my mother makes. Her recipe is an old one from Peru, which is where she grew up. On special occasions, my mom makes tamales for our entire family and for our friends. The tamales are so good that all of us eat more than we should. Rarely are any tamales left over for another meal. I would like to learn how to cook Peruvian tamales like these.

One day, my chance came along. For my brother's birthday, my mom asked me to help make tamales. Before we could begin cooking, we had to go to the Latin food market near our house to get the right ingredients. My mother was so pleased because the banana leaves she had ordered for the tamales had arrived. While most tamales are wrapped in cornhusks, Peruvian tamales are wrapped in banana leaves. I could hardly wait to start putting the tamales together.

When we got back to our house, my mom and I started to cook. I had to pay close attention to the tamale recipe. I made the cornmeal filling all by myself. Then, my mom prepared the spicy red sauce. After filling each tamale with cornmeal, I stuffed each one with a single green olive. Next, my mom wrapped each tamale tight in banana leaves. Then, she put them in a pot on top of the stove to steam. Helping my mom was really fun. Finally, we got to eat the tamales I helped make. Eating tamales is one of my favorite things to do. But now, I am even more excited to know how to make them!

The South Pole

The South Pole is farther south than anywhere else on the planet. It is located on the continent of Antarctica and is on the opposite side of the earth from the North Pole. As you might guess, the South Pole is a very cold place. It is also the driest and windiest place on Earth. Because of its weather, few people visit and no one lives there permanently. But, some scientists and explorers do visit the South Pole and stay there for a while.

The first people to reach the South Pole did so over one hundred years ago. These people were a group of five men from Norway who used dogs and sleds to travel over the ice and snow. The trip was very hard. The explorers had to carry their food with them because nothing edible grows in Antarctica. Also, all of the men got frostbite on their fingers and toes.

Today, groups of scientists live at a research station near the South Pole year round. However, these scientists don't stay there permanently. Even so, in the summer, more than two hundred people may live at the South Pole station at one time. Some are there to study weather or the nearby glaciers. These days, a plane drops off people and supplies. Luckily, no one has to use a dog sled to travel. Finally, thanks to advances in clothing and technology, people who visit the South Pole are better equipped to handle the extreme weather.

Jett's Special Day

This year, for Jett's birthday, his mom took him river rafting! The trip was his idea. His mom had gone rafting before. So, she knew how to row a raft. They only went for the day, but it was so much fun!

Jett's mom told him it would be pretty safe. They would be rafting on a wide and slow river. It had only a few small rapids. Even so, it was important that they wear life vests. Jett's mom told him that you never know what might happen. Jett was not scared, just excited. He knew that his mom wouldn't take him rafting if it was unsafe.

On the day of his birthday, they woke up very early. They needed to get to the river at sunrise. It would be nice and cool with an early start. For lunch, they had a picnic on the shore. Jett's mom surprised him with cupcakes. It was the best birthday Jett had ever had!

A Baby Means Change

When a new baby arrives it can mean big changes for a family. For example, a new baby's parents may not get much rest. Babies don't always sleep all night like older kids. Babies may wake up and cry at night. Parents may need to wake up to care for them. It can be tiring to be up many times at night.

Babies also spend a lot of time in their parents' arms. So, siblings may need to help more with household jobs. They may be asked to help carry groceries. They also may be asked to feed the baby or change diapers. These jobs can be a lot of work. But, these jobs can also be fun.

Older siblings may gently play with the new baby. They can make faces, sing, or tell stories. Over time, the baby will recognize faces. When this happens, the baby will start to smile and laugh at people. Babies sure seem to grow up fast. In a few years, the baby will be able to play games and run around outside with the other kids.

Wedding Day Storm

Have you ever planned an event and had something unexpected happen? Something like that happened to my friend Oscar. Last weekend, Oscar's neighbors had planned a big party to take place in their back yard. Their daughter was getting married and the reception afterwards was going to be in the back yard. They ordered a giant wedding cake, hired a band, and planned to have dancing for the guests. Oscar's family was invited, too. Everything turned out great and all the guests had a wonderful time. Little did the other guests know that the party was almost ruined.

You see, early in the day, the sky was blue and the sun was out. The bride's mother was busy decorating the back yard and setting up for the party. But as the day wore on, dark gray clouds began to fill the sky. The bride's mother began to worry that a storm was coming. Oscar's mother went next door to see if she could help.

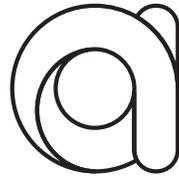
No one was sure what to do. Oscar's mom suggested they try to find a really big tent. A few phone calls were made and soon they found a tent that was available to rent. Oscar's dad offered to go get the tent and help them set it up. Putting up the tent was hard work and they finished just minutes before the rain started to pour and the wind began to blow. Just after that, the first guests arrived. Thankfully, the tent held up to the storm. After the reception was over, the bride thanked everyone for helping to save her wedding. She said that this was the best wedding present she could ever receive.

Building a Tree House

Building a quality tree house can be a lot of hard work. You need an adult to help out with the construction and it can take several days, even weeks, to complete. The first thing to do is find the right tree. The tree you select must be strong and stable. For example, it should have a thick trunk and sturdy branches.

Next, decide what part of the tree house to build first. Most often, building a tree house begins with constructing a ladder and a floor. One way to build a ladder for your tree house is to nail a few boards to the trunk a few feet apart, one above the other. When building the floor of the tree house, getting it level can be very difficult. Sometimes it is easiest to build the floor platform on the ground. Then, lift the floor platform into the tree.

Once the floor is in place, the rest of the structure can be built easily. Probably the most difficult thing will be deciding what to add. Many tree houses have walls, windows, railings, and a roof when they are finished. Some tree houses have rope swings attached. Many have other types of fun equipment added to them. When your tree house is finished, be sure to thank all the people who helped you build it.



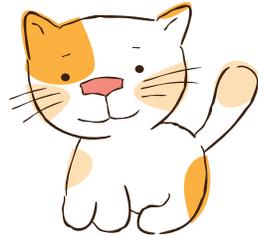
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Section D1. Matching Sentences to Pictures

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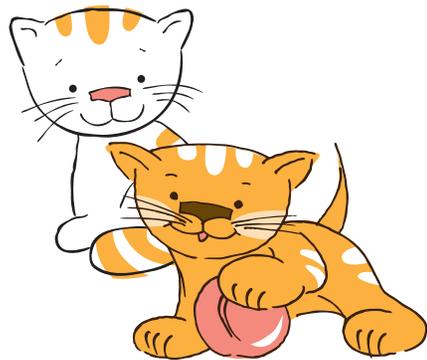
A



B



C

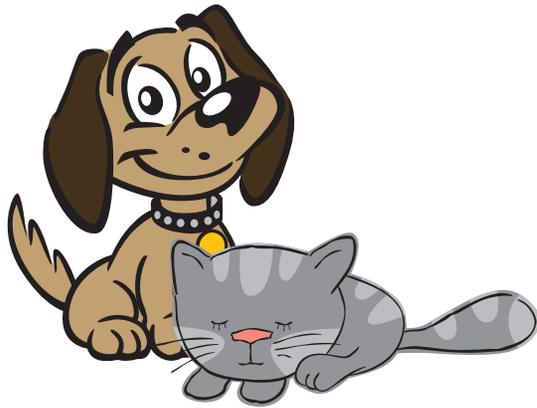


D



There are many cats.

A



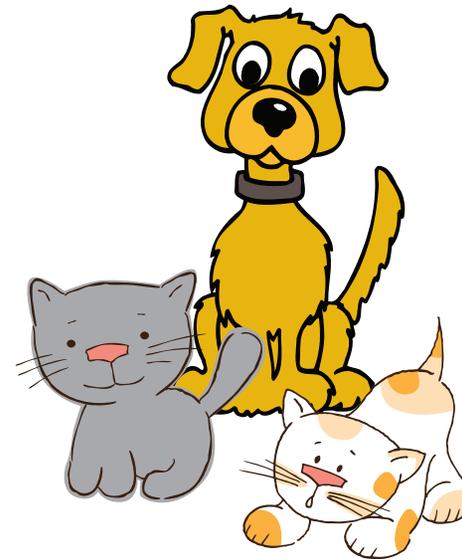
B



C

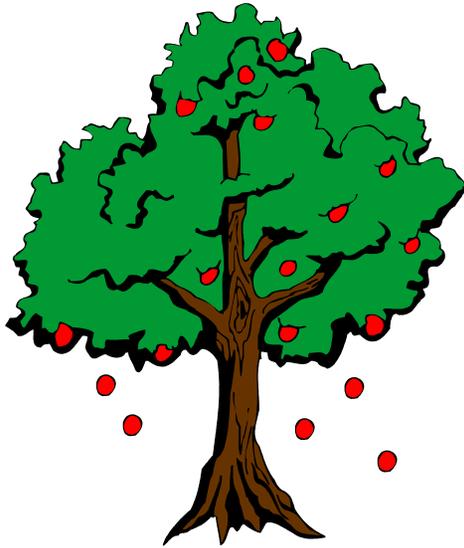


D

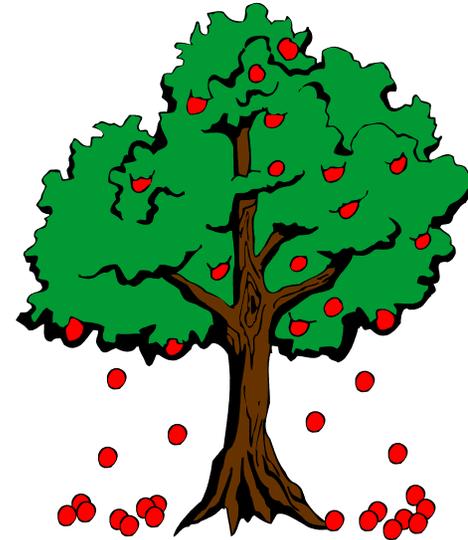


1. There is a dog and a cat.

A



B



C



D

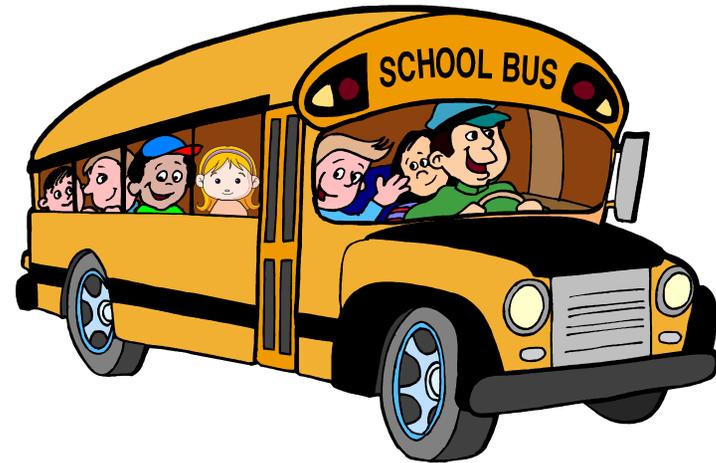


2. The apples had fallen off the tree.

A



B



C



D

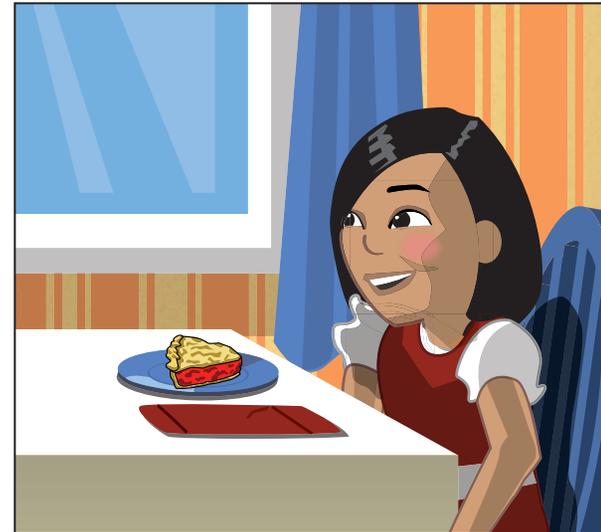


3. She was happy she decided not to ride the bus or her bike to school.

A



B



C



D



4. Because she had already finished her meal, she was allowed to leave the table.

A



B



C



D



5. Neither the boy nor the girl is playing.

A



B



C



D

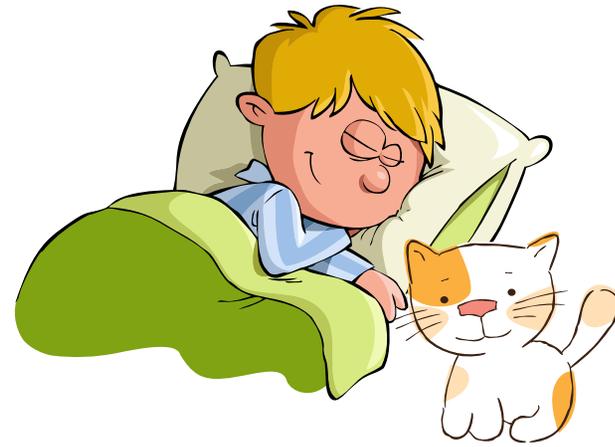


6. The picture that was painted by the artist is now complete.

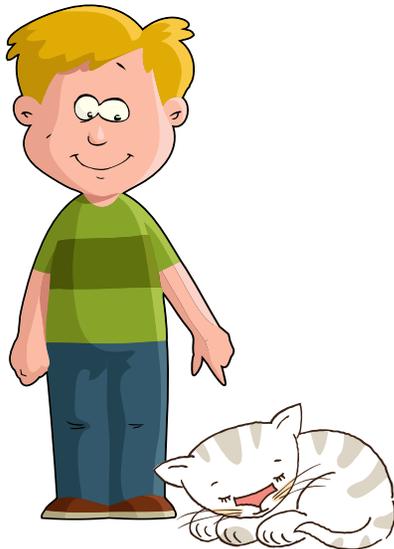
A



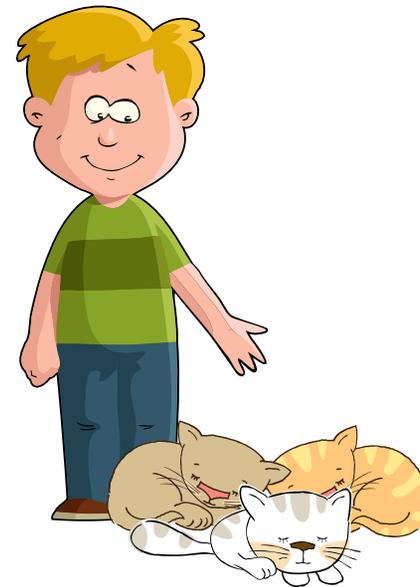
B



C



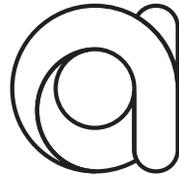
D



7. The cat that the boy chose was sleeping.



8. They had to wait until the bear joined them before they could roast more hot dogs.



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Section D2. Use of Plurals

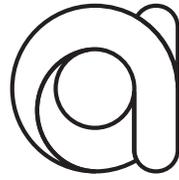
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- A. Girl. Amanda is a girl and Jaden is a girl. They are both _____.
- B. Box. There was one box, now there are two of them. We have two _____.
- C. Man. There is one man, now there are two of them. There are two _____.

- 1. Book. Paco had one book. His mom got him many more from the library. Now he has many _____.
- 2. Tree. Brook planted an apple tree and a plum tree in her backyard. She planted two different kinds of _____.
- 3. Dish. My sister put away one dish. Then she put away another dish. When I asked what she was doing, she said, "I am helping mom put away the _____."

4. Dog. Our family adopted a dog. Last year our dog had three puppies. Now, we have four _____ .
5. Person. The swimming pool is only a little crowded, but then one person, and another person, and another person get into the pool. Now the swimming pool is filled with _____.
6. Shelf. Josh has a new shelf in his room. He put the new shelf above a shelf he already had. Now he has two _____.
7. Tooth. You had one loose tooth, now there are three loose ones. You have three loose _____.

8. Fish. My sister caught her first fish today. I caught a fish also. Now we have two _____.
9. Mouse. There was one mouse, now there are two of them. There are two _____.
10. Goose. The mother goose laid her eggs. Now the eggs have hatched. Look at all the baby _____.



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Section D3. Use of Past Tense

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A. Eat. Today I will eat. At dinner last night I _____.

B. Stick. The boy is sticking the tape on the package. The tape is now _____.

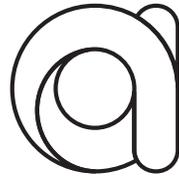
1. Do. The girl is doing her homework. When she finishes it, the homework will be _____.

2. Brush. Sarah brushes her hair every day. So, yesterday her hair was _____.

3. Run. A dog is running down the street. The park was where the dog _____.

4. Break. He is breaking the toy. Now, the toy is _____.

5. Buy. The girl is buying some candy. Chocolate and lollypops were what the girl _____.
6. Choose. The boy is choosing some candy. Chocolate was what he _____.
7. Fly. The bird is flying. The nest is where the bird _____.
8. Bend. The man is bending the stick. The stick is now _____.



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Section D4. Sentence Anagrams

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Sample A. Susie the bucket got.

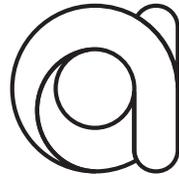
Sample B. eats grapes Jimmy.

1. kicked the ball Marcus.

2. Henry drawing was.

3. is eating Rebecca dinner.

4. didn't want to leave the birthday party Charlotte.
5. running was quickly Jake over the bridge.
6. furry cat the purred loudly.
7. Conner his name on the book wrote neatly.



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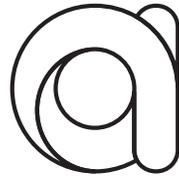
Section E2. Sentence Completion

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Teach. In school we learn from our _____.

1. Painter. A painter will need a brush to _____.
2. Fish. We were at the lake and decided to spend the day _____.
3. Walked. My father says the best way to get to school is to _____.
4. Tie. When you take off your shoes, it is best to first make sure your shoelaces are _____.

5. Write. If I am sloppy when writing my story, it will have to be _____.
6. Magic. The man doing tricks is a _____.
7. Electric. Turning out the lights saves _____.
8. Natural. We went outside to study _____.



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Section E3. Making Words

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A. play

B. help

C. invite

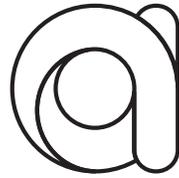
move

pay

sign

decide

equal



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Section F1. Definitions

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A. kitchen

B. bravery

garden

guest

lake

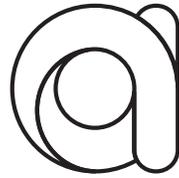
moon

today

memory

health

truth



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Section F2. Multiple Meanings

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bark

stick

fly

bank

can

ring

left

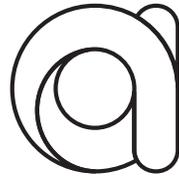
top

dash

well

season

fine



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Section F3. Figurative Language

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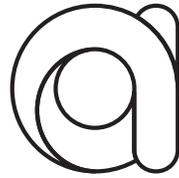
Lisa and her soccer team played in a difficult game on Saturday. Her team was losing the game by several goals. Lisa was very sad and told her coach that she thought they would lose the game for sure, so her coach told her, “Lisa, keep your chin up, the game isn’t over yet.”

Skyler loves to play football. When Skyler plays football with his little brother, he likes to make up new ways to play the game each time. His little brother, Sam, doesn't like it when he changes how the game is played. Sam says Skyler should go by the book.

Madison is really interested in dinosaurs. She has read a lot of books about them. She also enjoys going to museums to see models of dinosaurs. She told her teacher that she wished she lived when the dinosaurs roamed the earth. When Madison said that, her teacher responded by saying, “Madison, you can’t turn back the clock.”

Three girls decided to open a lemonade stand during the summer so they could earn extra money to spend on ice cream and going to the movies. They had to make a lot of decisions before they could begin selling lemonade. For example, they had to decide how to build the lemonade stand and where to put it. They also had to decide what the lemonade should cost, and if they should sell other things besides lemonade. One of their moms heard them talking and told them, “You’ll have to put your heads together to make these decisions.”

One day Cameron was talking to his dad about being prepared for emergencies. They talked about things like what to do if there was a fire or what to do if they saw someone get badly hurt in an accident. Cameron learned a lot about what to do in an emergency from his dad. One thing Cameron will never forget is that his dad said, “An emergency is definitely not a time to sit on your hands.”



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Section G. Reading Fluency

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Ready for a Snow Storm

The start of winter can mean lots of snow. Snow is fun, but it can be dangerous too. When a big storm comes, the snow can last for days or weeks. Also, driving can become very dangerous. Many schools close when a big storm comes. They do not want parents or the school buses out on the icy roads. Staying home is the smart thing to do.

It is important to be prepared for a big storm. One way to prepare is to store extra food in your home. Having extra food is important if you cannot go anywhere for several days. You might also want to store some water. Extra water is good to have if your pipes freeze. You can drink the water. You also can use the water to prepare food.

Going out to play in the snow is a fun thing to do. However, you should dress in warm clothes. You need gloves to keep your hands warm and dry. You also need a jacket and hat. Maybe the most important thing to wear is a pair of boots. Without them, your feet will get cold and wet. Once you are dressed warmly, you can go out and enjoy the snow!

My Big Sister

When I get bigger, I want to be like my big sister. My sister works hard in school. She always does her homework. My sister plays on a softball team, too. Even though she is busy, she still has time for me.

My sister and I like to spend Saturday mornings together. We stay in our pajamas and eat a big breakfast. We laugh and play and make a mess. Sometimes, her friends come over. My sister makes sure that she includes me in the games they play. Every so often, our playing leaves a big mess.

When her friends leave, I help clean up. My sister always says thank you. It is usually my mess too, so I am happy to help. We get along very well. I am so glad I have such a kind big sister!

Seasons and the Sun

Have you ever wondered how we know when summer starts and ends? One way we know that summer has started is when the weather heats up. And, we know summer is over when the days become shorter and the weather begins to cool. But if you look at a calendar, you will see that summer starts on a particular day. In the northern hemisphere, the first day of summer follows the solstice in late June. The solstice has to do with the seasonal movement of the sun. This movement affects how high the sun appears in the sky as we see it from the earth. The solstice happens twice each year. There is a winter and a summer solstice.

The summer solstice is often called the longest day of the year. On this day, the sunrise and sunset are farther apart than on any other day. In the northern United States, it stays light past nine o'clock on this day! The winter solstice is in December. It is the opposite of the summer solstice. The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year and has the least amount of time between sunrise and sunset.

Summer ends with the fall equinox. The equinox is marked by exactly twelve hours of day and twelve hours of night. Like a solstice, the equinox comes twice a year. There is one equinox in September. The other equinox is in March. Both the solstice and the equinox mark four special days during the year that help us keep track of the seasons.

My Brother on the Radio

If you turn on the radio in my hometown, there is a good chance that you will hear my big brother, Ryan. He has a job with a local radio station. The radio station he works for mostly plays music. But, my brother provides listeners with a few minutes of news at the beginning of every hour. Everyone in our town knows Ryan, even if they don't know what he looks like.

The first time my brother was on the air, I knew he was nervous. He sounded very serious, but I still knew it was him. Later, he told me he had dropped his notes while reporting the news. He said it made him very anxious. Now that he has had lots of experience, he sounds more relaxed. He has even had a case of on-air hiccups, but nobody could tell. Many people have told me they enjoy hearing him and appreciate his news updates. He has a great voice. People think he is very professional.

I have gotten used to hearing Ryan's voice on the radio. But next week, he has an interview for a job as a radio news broadcaster in a big city far away. He is really good at his job, so they probably will want to hire him. If they do hire him, Ryan's voice will be heard by thousands of people every day. I guess he will be kind of famous. I will miss him when he moves away. But, maybe I will get to see a big city radio station when I visit him. I am excited for my brother and I'm proud of him, too.

Talking Drums

How do you talk to a person who is far away? Maybe you would use a phone. Many years ago, people did not have phones. But, they could still talk to people far away. How did they do it? They used drums.

Many groups of people have used drums to talk to each other. The people of West Africa are the most well known for it. They used their drums often. To send a message far away, someone would play a drum loudly using special beats. The other groups that lived close by would hear it. They would listen carefully. If the message was not for them, they would pass it on. They passed it on with their own drums. This way, a message could be passed on for miles and miles.

Today, phones are used in West Africa. But, drums are still used by some of the West African people. For example, drums are used to make music. And, some people still talk with drums. They use the same beats used long ago to talk to others far away. In this way, drums are still an important part of their life and culture.

Mystery at the Park

Carlos and Emily were at the park when they saw something on the ground. It looked like a wallet. The two of them were not sure what to do.

They went to find Emily's dad. He was with her brother near the swings. All of them went back to where the wallet was. Emily's dad picked it up and looked inside. He found a phone number and called it. A man answered. Emily's dad asked the man if he had lost his wallet. The man on the phone sounded excited. He said he would come to the park right away.

A few minutes later, the man arrived. He told them he had been there with his son a few days earlier. He thought his wallet was long gone. He was so happy it was found. He thanked them many times. Everyone was glad that the mystery at the park had been solved!

The Public Library

If you enjoy books, you might want to get a public library card. With a library card, you can check out books, audio books, music, and even movies and then take them home.

Borrowing from a library does come with responsibilities. For instance, you have to take good care of the books and other items that you borrow. It is important that they are treated with respect. Two ways to do this are to keep books dry and turn the pages carefully. Doing these things helps the books last a long time so that other borrowers can enjoy them, too.

Library items are most often borrowed for a week or two at a time. The library gives you a due date so you will know when to return your items. Most libraries will let you renew a book, which means you can keep it longer. Remembering to turn in your library books on time is important because someone else may be waiting to borrow it next. Plus, if you forget to renew your book and turn it in late, you may have to pay a fine.

Spending time at the library can be pretty fun, too. For example, many libraries have an activity called story time. During this time, a librarian reads books out loud to children. Sometimes there are even songs and games. Children of all ages can go and families are welcome, too. So, go explore your local library. It is free, easy, and there for your enjoyment. You will be surprised by its many treasures!

Hiking Adventure

My name is Logan and I love adventure. Last weekend, my family drove up to the mountains to go hiking. At the trailhead, we found that the air smelled like pine needles, and we could hear the mountain breeze blowing through the trees. It was a beautiful day, and the peaks of the mountain range looked incredible against the blue sky.

Our mountain hike was an adventure for several reasons. First of all, it was kind of spooky. We met very few people on the trail, and it was really quiet. Also, we felt dwarfed by all the giant trees. We could not see any birds, but we could still hear some of their strange calls. Because the trail was very steep in places, we had to be careful not to trip over tree roots or rocks. As a result, we found ourselves wanting to look up at the towering trees while, at the same time, looking down to watch our steps. As we were hiking, I ran out of breath and had to take a break. My dad told me the air has less oxygen at higher altitudes. This was making it harder to breathe. Dad was pretty winded, too!

After a few miles, we came to an amazing lookout spot. We could see a great distance in almost every direction. Though I couldn't see all the way to the city, I could see some of the small towns we had passed on the drive up to the mountains. Even though we were out of breath, the fresh air felt good and the view was fabulous! The hike was so much fun that I hope we can go back soon.