

# SKILL SHARPENERS Reciency



# Connecting School and Home



vocabulary

Phonics of



# Engaging and Easy to Use

#### **Shaped by Research Findings**

The Skill Sharpeners Reading Series is written by teachers and addresses these essential components of reading instruction as identified in the No Child Left Behind Act:

- Comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Phonics/Structural Analysis
- Fluency

Other literacy topics addressed include:

- Grammar
- Spelling
- Reference Skills
- Writing

The reading component and the specific skills addressed are listed on the Contents pages; skills are also given on each practice page.





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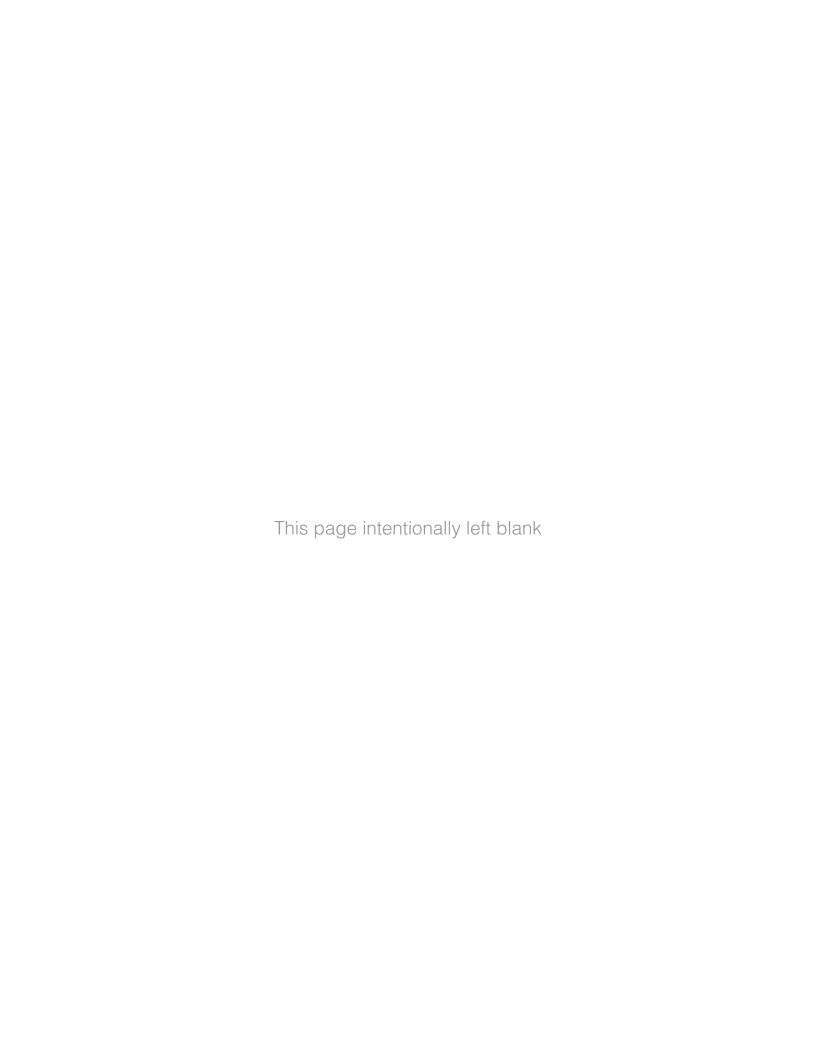
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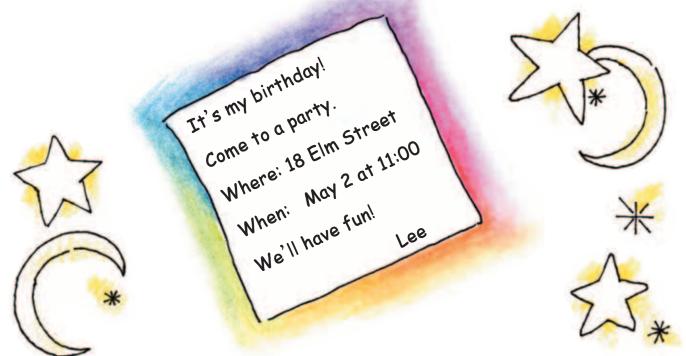
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# Ha.P. Birthday, Lee,

Lee sent notes to his friends. The notes said,



Dad baked a big cake for the party. It looked like a spaceship. He cooked hot dogs and buns on the grill. He made lemonade to drink.

Mom went to the store. She got chips to go with the hot dogs. She got ice cream to go with the cake.

Mom and Dad hung stars and moons in the backyard. They set the table with paper plates. They put party hats by the plates.









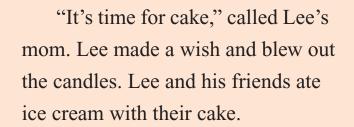
Lee's friends came to the party at 11:00. "Let's go into the backyard," said Lee. "We're going to play games."

After they played games, it was time to eat. "Come and get your hot dogs," called Lee's dad.

The hot dogs were good. Mike ate three of them. He ate a lot of chips. Then he drank a lot of lemonade. "You'll get sick, Mike," said Tami.

"I like hot dogs and lemonade," said Mike as he took a big drink.





Mike ate a lot of cake. He ate a lot of ice cream, too. "You'll get sick, Mike," said Maggie.

"I like cake and ice cream," said Mike as he took another bite. Mom called, "Come on, Lee. It's time to open your presents."

Maggie gave Lee skates and Tami gave him a kite. Mike gave him a toy ape with a big hat. Then Mom and Dad gave Lee a green bike.

Lee hugged his mom and dad.
"Thank you," said Lee. "I love my new bike! I can't wait to ride it."

"Thank you," Lee told his friends.
"Come on. Let's play with them."





All of a sudden, Tami shouted, "Mike, you look green!"

"Oh!" moaned Mike. "I feel sick!
I want to go home."

While Dad took Mike home, Lee and his friends played. They had fun with Lee's new toys all afternoon.



#### After You Read

Practice this page.
Make it sound like the people feel (happy, excited, sick).
Read the page to an adult.

# Answer Questions about Happy Birthday, Lee!

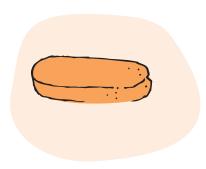


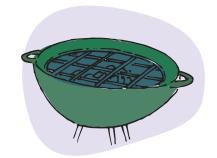
Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. | <ul><li>Why did Lee have a p</li><li>It was Mike's birtho</li><li>He was having a s</li><li>It was Lee's birtho</li></ul>                       | day.<br>leepover.    |                        |        |  |  |  |  |
|----|---|----------------------|------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| 2. | Who came to Lee's pa  | -                    |                        |        |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | List Lee's presents.  |                      |                        |        |  |  |  |  |
|    |   |                      |                        |        |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | <ul> <li>4. Why did Mike get sick?</li> <li>He was getting a cold.</li> <li>He ate food that was bad.</li> <li>He ate too much food.</li> </ul> |                      |                        |        |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Fill in the circle in fron  | t of the food the cl | hildren ate at Lee's p | oarty. |  |  |  |  |
|    | <ul><li>birthday cake</li></ul>   | O pizza              | chips                  |        |  |  |  |  |
|    | lemonade  | ○ hot dogs           | ○ soda                 |        |  |  |  |  |
|    | ocandy  | o ice cream          | chicken                |        |  |  |  |  |

# What Is It?

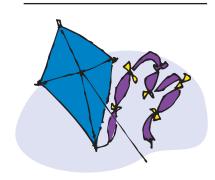
Find words in the story to name each picture.

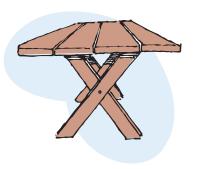


















#### Mike

Write the sentences in order.



Mike got sick.

Mike ate a lot of cake.

Mike came to Lee's party.

Lee's dad took Mike home.

Mike ate three hot dogs.

| 1. | Mike | came | to | Lee | <b>'</b> S | party | <b>y</b> . |
|----|------|------|----|-----|------------|-------|------------|
|    |      |      |    |     |            |       |            |

| 2  |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
| 3. |  |  |  |
| 1  |  |  |  |





#### Which Sound Do You Hear?

Write the words in the correct columns.

| barn   | map  | sand | skate |
|--------|------|------|-------|
| candle | far  | tape | plane |
| star   | make | ran  | card  |
|        |      |      |       |

| a in hat | a in cake | ar in car |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |
|          |           |           |

Write a sentence using one word from each column.









# A Word Family old



Write old on the lines. Read the new words to an adult.

| t old | C |
|-------|---|
| f     | h |
| m     | S |

Write the new words you made in these sentences.

- 1. I put on mittens when it is \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Can I \_\_\_\_\_\_ your puppy?
- 3. Mom \_\_\_\_\_ me to go to bed.
- 4. Will you help me \_\_\_\_\_ this blanket?
- 5. Dad \_\_\_\_\_ our old car.
- 6. There was \_\_\_\_\_ on the old bread.



#### Who Owns It?

We show that someone owns something by adding 's to his or her name.



Lee's skates.

Add 's to show who owns these things.





2. \_\_\_\_\_ kite





4. \_\_\_\_\_ lemonade Tami



5. \_\_\_\_\_ party hat Maggie



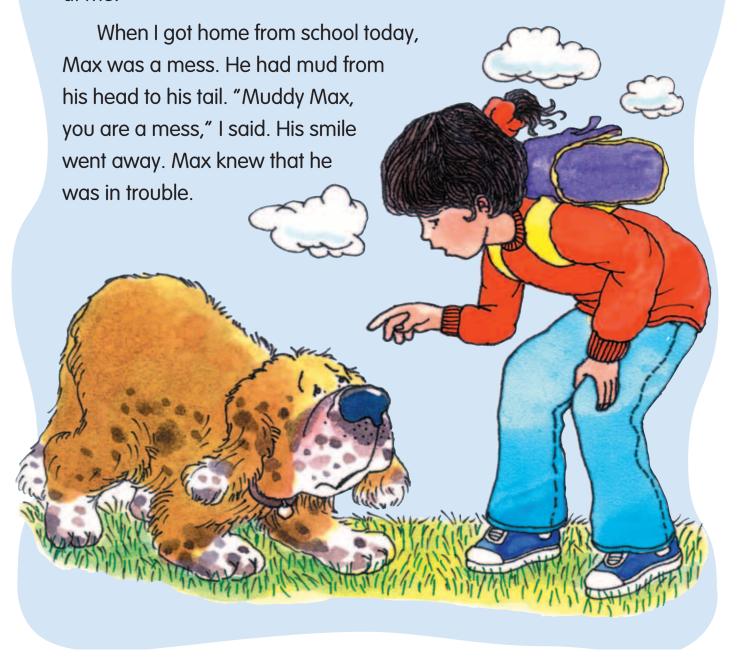




# My Dog Max

My dog Max is a great dog. He can catch a rubber ball. He will fetch a stick when I throw it. He sits when I tell him to sit.

The only bad thing about Max is mud! He loves mud! If there is mud around, Max can find it. He plays in mud puddles after it rains. He rolls in wet dirt in the garden. I yell at Max. He just smiles at me.



"Max," I said, "you need a bath."

Max hates getting a bath! As soon as I got the washtub and hose, Max took off. I chased him around the backyard. I chased him around the front yard. At last I grabbed him. Then I had to drag him to the tub.

"Get into the tub, Max," I said. Max just sat there.

"Come on, Max. Get into the tub!" I said. Max started to pull away.

"Oh, no you don't! You have to have a bath. You're a muddy mess!" I shouted.



At last Max was in the tub.

I rubbed soap all over him. I got
the hose and rinsed off the soap.
I dried him with a big, old towel.
Max was fluffy and clean again.
"You look great, Max!" I told him.
"Now stay out of the mud."

Max licked my face. He ran off wagging his tail. "What a good dog," I said.

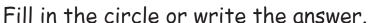
I put the tub and towel away. Then I walked around the house. There was Max. He was digging a big hole in the soft dirt in the garden. "Max, you dirty dog!"

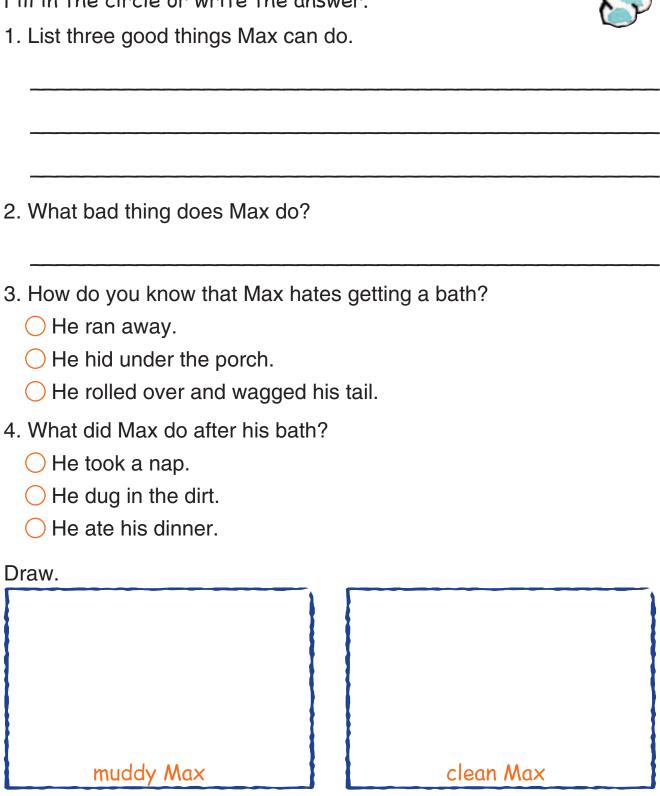




## Answer Questions about





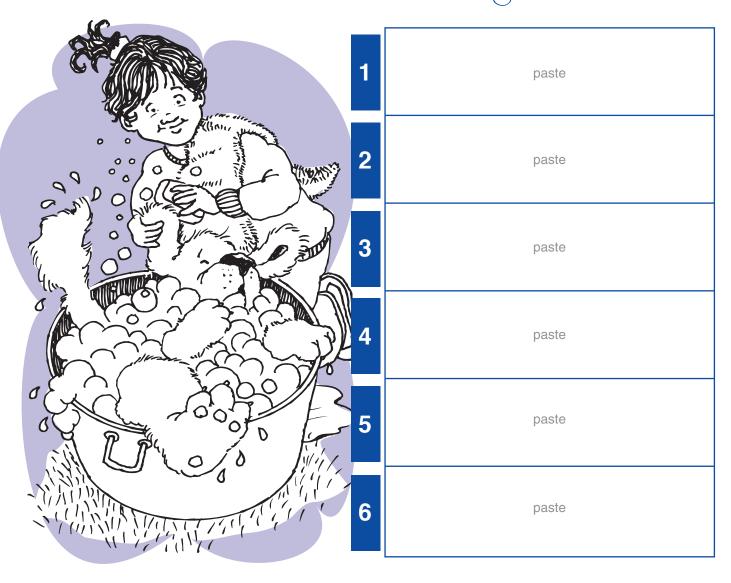


## **Short Yowel Review**

Color the boxes with short vowel words to help get Max to the tub for his bath.

|  | <b>a</b> —an | <b>e</b> —egg | j i—  | in o | -on   | <b>u</b> —up |
|--|--------------|---------------|-------|------|-------|--------------|
| The same of the sa |              |               |       |      |       |              |
| W WELLINGS   | dog          | and           | I     | ask  | bath  | yell         |
|  | face         | i†            | mud   | when | out   | soft         |
|  | the          | my            | start | no   | wag   | his          |
|  | box          | as            | fun   | mess | catch | hose         |
|  | will         | smile         | storm | need | water | dirt         |
|  | Max          | fetch         | got   | sit  | run   | tub          |
|  |              |               |       |      |       |              |

# How to Give Your Dog a Bath



| Put him in the water.                      | Wash the suds off the dog.      |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Dry him with the big towel and let him go. | Now catch your dog.             |
| Fill a tub with water and get a big towel. | Rub the suds all over your dog. |

## What Does It Mean?

#### Match.

1. fetch

• a little pool of water

2. mud

• to get something and bring it back

3. puddle

• to use water to get soap off

4. drag

• wet dirt

5. rinse

• not hard

6. soft

• to pull

# The Sounds of th

Circle the words with the sound of th in the.

Make an X on the words with the sound of th in three.

| ( | then    | bath  | that  |
|---|---------|-------|-------|
|   | there   | throw | with  |
|   | thimble | those | these |

# Adding Endings

|       | add <b>ed</b> | add <b>ing</b> |
|-------|---------------|----------------|
| start |               | <br>           |
| shout |               | <br>           |
| pull  |               | <br>           |
| lick  |               | <br>           |
| paint |               | <br>           |

Read the new words to an adult.

### **Pronouns**

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns.



he his she her

| Write a pronoun on each line.      |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Jan has a great dog.            |
| has a great dog.                   |
| 2. Max can catch a ball.           |
| can catch a ball.                  |
| 3. Jan's dog was a muddy mess.     |
| dog was a muddy mess.              |
| 4. Jan pushed and pulled Max.      |
| pushed and pulled Max.             |
| 5. Jan gave Max a bath.            |
| gave a bath.                       |
| 6. Jan put the tub and towel away. |
| put the tub and towel away.        |
| 7. Max was digging in the dirt.    |
| was digging in the dirt.           |
| 8. Max licked Jan's face.          |

licked \_\_\_\_\_ face.

# Five Furry Kittens

Five furry kittens one spring night Sat on a fence. What a funny sight!

The first one danced on her kitty toes.

The second one washed his little black nose.

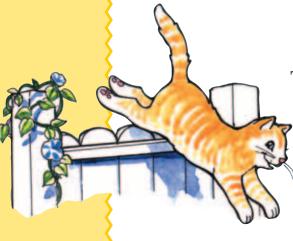
The third one turned around and around.

The fourth one jumped down to the ground.

The fifth one sang a kitty song.

Five furry kittens played all night long.







## After You Read

Practice the poem. When you can read it with no mistakes, read it to an adult.



# Answer Questions about Five Furry Kittens



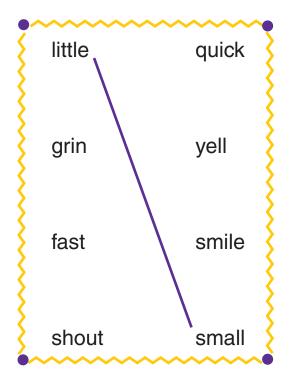
Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. Where were the kittens sitting?                         |
|--|
| in a tree  |
| on the ground  |
| on the fence   |
| 2. What were the kittens doing?                            |
| 2. What were the mitoric deling.                           |
| first  |
| fifth  |
|  |
| second   |
| fourth   |
|  |
| third  |
| 3. Find the words in the poem that rhyme with these words. |
| sight  |
| Signt  |
| around   |
| long   |
| long   |
| nose   |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

## Words That Mean the Same



Match the words that mean the same.



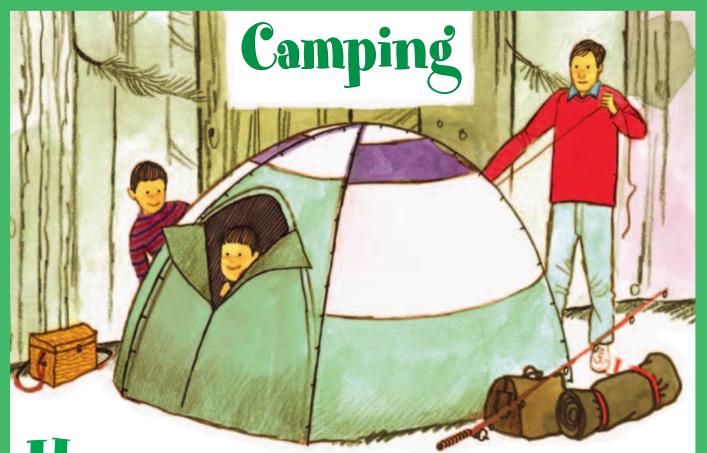
| middle | glad   |
|--------|--------|
| happy  | slow   |
| pokey  | center |
| large  | big    |

# **Colorful Kittens**

Color the kittens.

firet

| yellow | gray | black | orange | brown |  |
|--------|------|-------|--------|-------|--|
|        |      |       |        |       |  |



Carlos. "My dad and I are going camping this weekend. Do you want to come with us? We can sleep in a tent and fish in the lake."

"That sounds like fun," said Carlos. "I'll pack my sleeping bag and fishing pole."

The next day, Dad and the boys set off for the woods.
"There's a good spot for our tent and a campfire!" shouted Carlos.

It was an open space between a group of trees and the path to the lake.

The boys helped Dad set up two tents. They put their sleeping bags inside one of the tents. "You boys can find some firewood," said Hank's dad. "Then I'll make a campfire."

The boys went into the woods to find the firewood. Carlos found three long sticks. "We can use these to cook dinner," he told Hank.

Dad and the boys put hot dogs on the ends of the sticks and cooked them over the campfire.
Then they cooked marshmallows over the fire. Everything tasted great!

After dinner the boys sat by the campfire. They sang songs and told funny jokes. Dad told a scary story.

It was getting dark. The sky filled with stars and a big, bright moon. It was getting cold, too. "Boy, this campfire feels good," said Hank. He moved closer to the fire to stay warm.

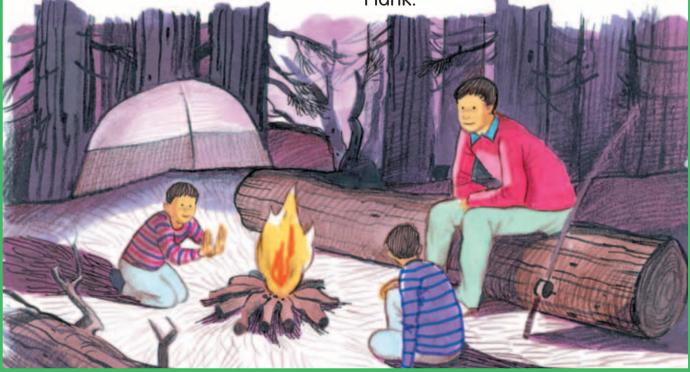
The boys could hear an owl hooting. They could hear something moving in the woods. "What was that?" asked Carlos.

"I don't know, but it sounds big," said Hank as he moved closer to his dad.

"I think we should go to bed now," said Carlos.

"Me, too!" agreed Hank.

The boys said good night to Dad. They went into the tent and shut the flap. Then they crawled into their sleeping bags. "I want to go fishing when I wake up," said Hank.



"I want to fish, too," said Carlos. "Good night, sleep tight, and don't let the bedbugs bite."

Soon both boys were asleep and dreaming about the big fish they would catch.

As soon as it was light, Dad called, "It's time to get up!"

When the boys were dressed, Dad said, "Look here." He pointed to a footprint in the dirt.

"I think that noise we heard last night was a deer," said Dad.

Both boys were hungry. "Let's fix breakfast," said Hank.

They put bread on their sticks and toasted it over the campfire. The toast was good with peanut butter and jam.

Then they took their fishing poles and ran down the path to the lake. "Let's see if we can catch lunch," said Carlos.

And they did!



# Answer Questions about

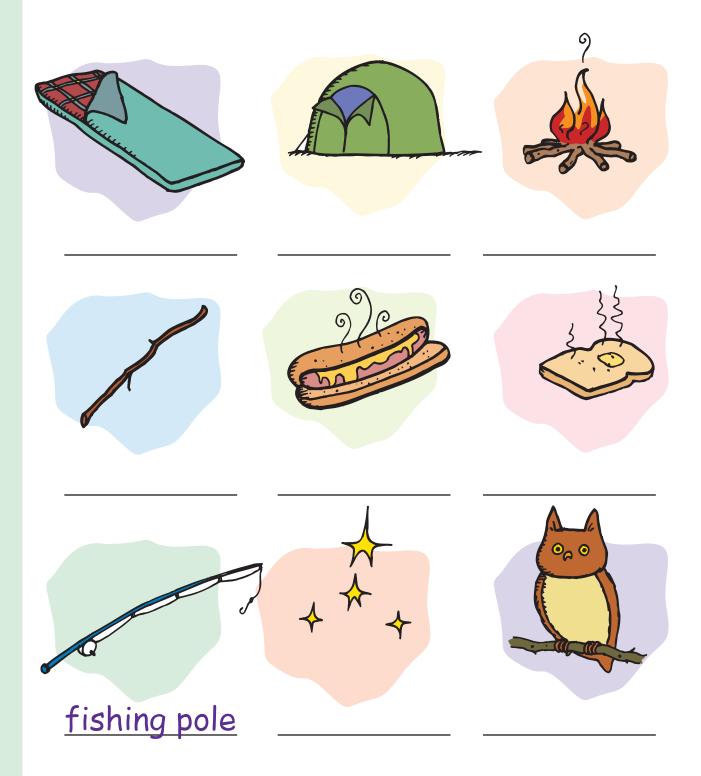




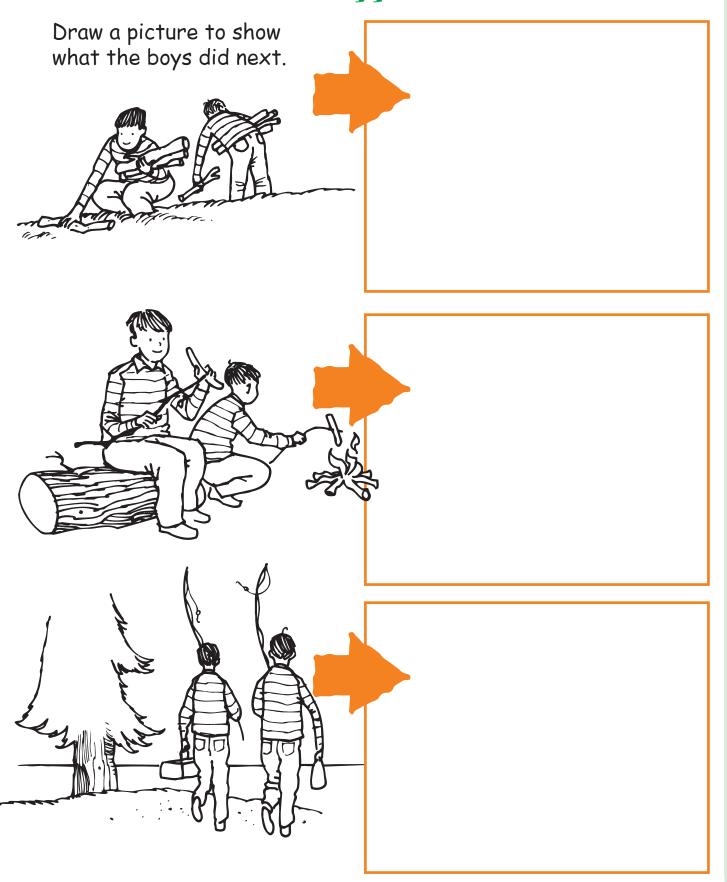
| 1. | Where were Dad and the boys going?  O to the beach O to the woods O to the desert                        |
|----|--|
| 2. | What were they going to do?  output sail a boat ride horses go fishing                                   |
| 3. | Why did they need to collect firewood?   |
| 4. | How did they cook their hot dogs and toast?  |
| 5. | Why did the boys want to catch fish?  to keep for pets  to cook and eat them  to take home to their moms |
| 6. | How do you think the boys felt when they heard something moving in the woods? Why?                       |
|    |  |

## What Is It?

Find words in the story to name the pictures.



# What Happened Next?



# A Word Family ick



Use the new words you made in these sentences.

- 1. A baby \_\_\_\_\_ came out of its egg.
- 2. Carlos cooked his hot dog on a \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. How far can you \_\_\_\_\_ the ball?

# A Word Family ead

$$r + ead = br + ead =$$

Use the new words you made in these sentences.

- 1. Hank \_\_\_\_\_ a story to his little sister.
- 2. He \_\_\_\_\_ butter on a slice of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The clown had a funny hat on his \_\_\_\_\_\_.

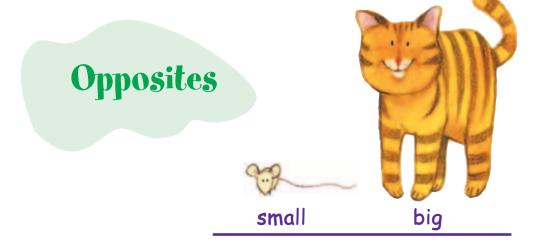
## The Sounds of ed

Read these words. Write them in the correct columns.

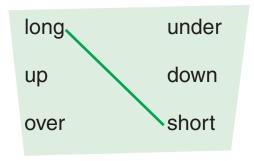
looked wanted filled named cooked toasted

shouted dreamed picked

| ed | d | t |
|----|---|---|
|    |   |   |



Match.



| cold | come  |
|------|-------|
| go   | happy |
| sad  | hot   |

# What Are You Doing?

Words that tell what you are doing are called verbs.



Draw a circle around the doing words (verbs).

| 1 | camping      | campfire | stars         |
|---|--------------|----------|---------------|
|   | sleeping     | cooked   | moving        |
|   | scary        | firewood | crawled       |
|   | fishing      | sang     | good          |
|   | funny        | told     | peanut butter |
|   | marshmallows | bright   | dreaming      |

# Feanut Butter

Do you like peanut butter? Jake loves it. He likes it on hot toast. He likes to eat it with a spoon. Most of all he likes peanut butter and jelly on bread.

One day Jake's mom took him to a peanut farm. The farmer said they could take some peanuts. Jake looked at the peanut plants, but he didn't see any peanuts. His mom said, "Peanuts grow under the ground."

They dug up some plants and picked the peanuts. "Thank you for the peanuts," Jake told the farmer.



On the way home, they stopped at the store. Jake's mom wanted to buy a jar of grape jelly. "Why are you buying jelly?" he asked.

"You'll see," was all she said.

When they got home,
Jake took the peanuts out
of their shells. His mom
put the peanuts in a pan.
She toasted them a little bit.
Then she put the peanuts
into the blender.

"Whir-r-r!" went the blender. The peanuts broke into little bits.

"Whir-r-r!" went the blender. The little bits got

smoother and smoother.



Jake's mom got out some bread and the grape jelly. "I think it's time for a snack," she said with a smile.

"This is the best sandwich I ever had," Jake said. "May I have a glass of milk, too?"



## Answer Questions about Peanut Butter

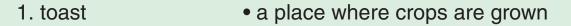


Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| . Name three ways Jake likes to eat peanut butter.  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
| 2. Where do peanuts grow?  On a tree  |  |  |
| <ul><li>under the ground</li><li>under the water</li></ul>                                |  |  |
| 3. Why did Jake's mom stop to buy grape jelly?  |  |  |
| She needed it to make a pie.  |  |  |
| <ul><li>She needed it to make a cake.</li><li>She needed it to make a sandwich.</li></ul> |  |  |
| 4. How did Jake's mom make peanut butter?   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
| 5. Do you like smooth peanut butter or chunky best? Why?                                  |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |

## What Does It Mean?

Match each word to its meaning.



2. farmbread browned by heat

3. blenderthe part of a peanut plant that holds the seeds

4. snack
 two pieces of bread with meat, peanut butter, or another filling in between

5. sandwichsomething to eat between meals

shell
 a kitchen tool for grinding food into smaller pieces

Write the name of each picture.







### A Peanut Butter Sandwich

Number the sentences to show how to make a peanut butter sandwich.

Cut the sandwich in half.

Get out the bread, peanut butter, jelly, and a knife.

Put the slices of bread together.

Put a lot of jelly on the other slice of bread.

Sit down and eat it up!

\_\_\_\_ Open the jars of peanut butter and jelly.

Put a lot of peanut butter on one slice of bread.

Make an X on the peanut butter sandwich you would like to eat.



## Long Vowel Sounds

Sometimes two letters together make the long sound.

ea-meat

oa—roast

ee—see

Write the missing letters to name the pictures.



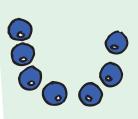
c oa t



p\_\_\_\_nut



thr\_\_\_\_\_



b\_\_\_\_ds



s\_\_\_\_ds



t\_\_\_\_st

Write the missing letters in each sentence.

- 1. I like to \_\_\_\_\_t ch\_\_\_se and m\_\_\_\_t sandwiches.
- 2. A funny g\_\_\_\_t rode on the circus fl\_\_\_\_t.
- 3. A bumbleb\_\_\_\_\_ flew by that tr\_\_\_\_.

## **Compound Words**

Sometimes peanuts are called **groundnuts**. **Peanuts** and **groundnuts** are compound words. A **compound word** is two small words put together to make a new, longer word.

ground + nut = groundnut

Write the parts together to make new words. Match the new words to the pictures.









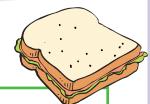
Circle the two compound words in each sentence.

- 1. Did you know that peanuts grow underground?
- 2. The cowboy saw a rainbow in the sky.
- 3. A butterfly danced in the sunlight.

## **Alphabetical Order**

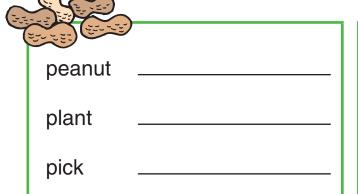
When the first letter in each word is the same, look at the second letter.

Write the words in alphabetical order.



| b <u>l</u> ender . | blender |
|--------------------|---------|
| b <u>u</u> y .     | boy     |
| b <u>o</u> y .     | buy     |

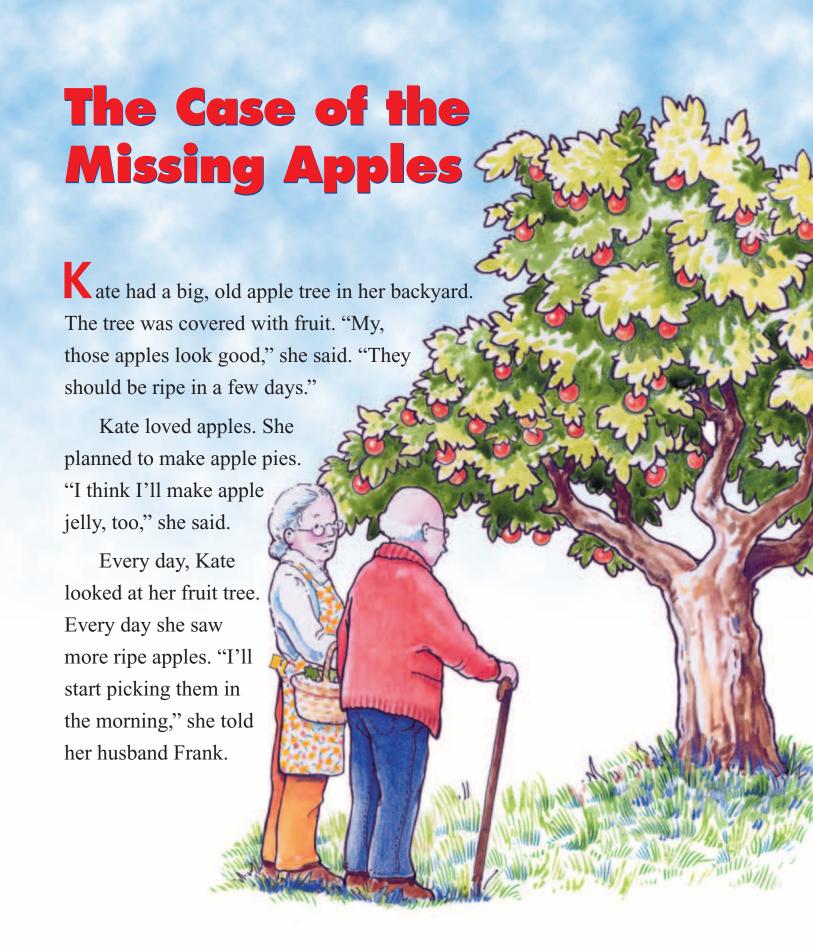
| snack .   |  |
|-----------|--|
| sandwich. |  |
| she .     |  |

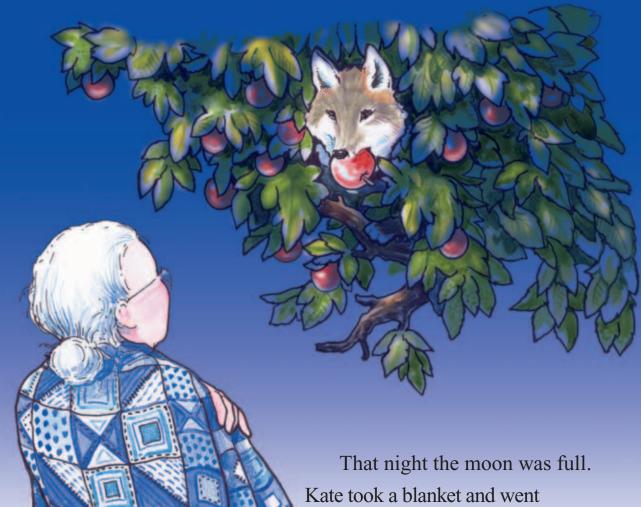


toast \_\_\_\_\_
take \_\_\_\_
time

home \_\_\_\_\_\_
his \_\_\_\_\_he

jelly \_\_\_\_\_\_
jar \_\_\_\_\_
joke \_\_\_\_\_





In the morning, Kate went out to pick the apples. "Oh, no!" she cried. "Something has been eating my apples!"

Kate picked enough apples to make a pie. "I'll pick the rest of the apples tomorrow."

The next day, more apples were gone. Kate said, "I must find out what is eating my apples."

That night the moon was full.

Kate took a blanket and went
outside. She could see the apple
tree in the moonlight. Kate
wrapped up in her blanket and sat
still and quiet. Kate watched the
tree for a long time.

At last, Kate heard a noise.

Something was moving in the apple tree. A furry face peeked out of the branches. Kate saw a long, pointy nose and big ears.

It was a gray fox! The fox was carrying an apple in its mouth. "So you've been eating my apples!"

Kate said.

When the fox heard Kate, it ran down the tree and scooted across the yard. Quick as a wink, the fox was gone.

Kate ran back into the house. "Frank! Frank! Wake up!" she shouted as she shook her husband.

Frank sat up in bed. "What's the matter?" he asked.

Kate told Frank what she had seen. "What are you going to do?" asked Frank. "How are you going to keep the fox out of your apples?"

The next day, Kate picked the ripe apples. She left a few apples for the fox. "I think we can share the apples," she said with a grin.



# Answer Questions about The Case of the Missing Apples

Fill in the circle or write the answer.

|    | <ul> <li>What made Kate unhappy when she went out to pick the apples?</li> <li>The apples were still green.</li> <li>The apples were all gone.</li> <li>Some apples had been eaten.</li> </ul> |
|----|--|
|    | How did Kate find out what was taking the apples?  She watched the tree all day.  She stayed up all night to watch the tree.  She called the police to find the thief.                         |
| 3. | Why do you think Kate needed a blanket?  |
| 4. | What surprised Kate?   |
| 5. | What does quick as a wink mean?  |
| 6. | Why did Kate leave some apples on the tree?  |
| 7. | What would you do if a fox was taking your apples? Why?  |
|    |  |

## A Surprise in the Apple Tree



Cut out the sentences. Paste them in order.

| 1. | paste |
|----|-------|
| 2. | paste |
| 3. | paste |
| l  | pasto |
| 4. | paste |
| 5. | paste |
| 6. | paste |
| •  |       |

Kate had an apple tree in her backyard.

Kate saw a fox in the apple tree.

Something was eating Kate's apples.

Kate picked the ripe apples. She left some for the fox.

The fox ran down the tree. It ran across the yard.

Kate sat in the moonlight. She watched the tree.

## **Opposites**



#### Match.

| inside | day     | stand | long |  |
|--------|---------|-------|------|--|
| night  | husband | short | big  |  |
| noisy  | outside | frown | sit  |  |
| wife   | quiet   | small | grin |  |
|        |         |       |      |  |

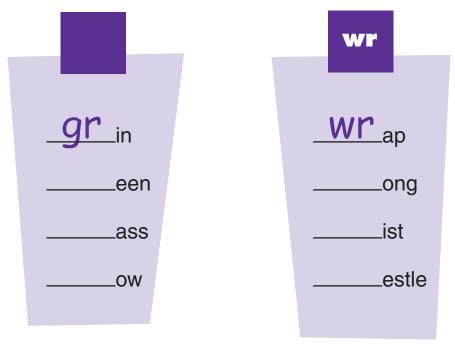
Circle the two words in each sentence that are opposites.

- 1. Kate ran up and down the stairs.
- 2. I played all day and slept all night.

## The Sounds of gr and wr



Fill in the missing letters. Read the new words you make to an adult.



Use the new words you made to complete the sentences.

- 1. Kate started to gr\_\_\_\_ when she saw the fox.
- 2. Tom likes to wr\_\_\_\_ with his brother.
- 3. Dad asked me to mow the gr\_\_\_\_ gr\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Can you wr\_\_\_\_ this present for me?



## Add Endings

In some words you must double the last letter before you add an ending.

$$wrap + p + ing = wrapping$$

$$wrap + p + ed = wrapped$$

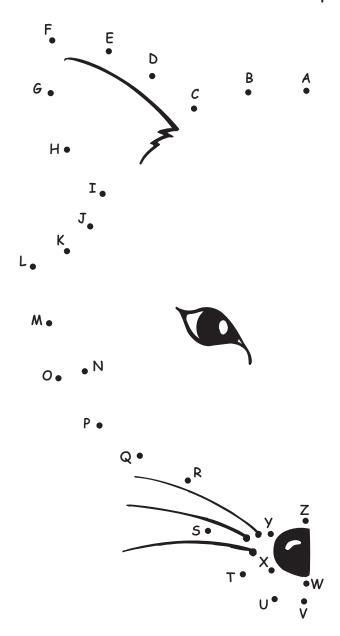
| grab | grabbed | ' |  |
|------|---------|---|--|
| brag |         |   |  |
|      |         |   |  |
|      |         |   |  |
| plan |         |   |  |
| rot  |         |   |  |

Circle the correct word.

| 1. The dog     | its tail.           | wagged  | wagging  |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|----------|
|                |                     |         |          |
| 2. He was      | a party.            | planned | planning |
|                |                     |         |          |
| 3. She         | about her new bike. | bragged | bragging |
|                |                     |         |          |
| 4. The cat was | all the food.       | grabbed | grabbing |

## Finish the Fox

Connect the dots to make one side of the fox's face. Draw the other side and color the picture.



Write sentences telling what the fox looks like.

49

## May I Keep Her?

Nick went to the kitchen to get a glass of milk. He heard a noise. It sounded like scratching at the back door. He peeked out and saw a kitten. Nick called, "Mama, come see this!"

Mother picked up the wet kitten. She began to dry it with a towel. "You poor thing. You look like you've been lost for a long time."

It didn't have a collar. "Where do you belong?" she asked the kitten.

Nick looked at his mother and

asked, "May I keep her?"

"We'll see in the morning," said Mother. "Now we're going to feed this skinny kitten.
Then we'll put her to bed to get some rest."



Mother put an old blanket in a box. She put the box in the laundry room. Nick fed the kitten and put her in the box.

"Why can't she sleep in my room?" Nick asked.

"I know you would like that, Nick," said Mother.

"But the kitten has fleas.

You wouldn't want fleas in your bed. She'll be okay in here tonight."

Nick petted the kitten until it went to sleep. Then he went to bed.

Nick woke up in the middle of the night. He wanted to see the kitten. When he got to the laundry room, he heard the kitten. She was meowing. Nick went in and picked her up. He held her until they both went back to sleep.

In the morning, Mother had a big surprise! She found Nick and the kitten fast asleep on the floor.

When Nick woke up, he asked again, "May I keep her?"

"You can keep the kitten for now," Mother told Nick. "But someone may come looking for the lost kitten. You'll have to give her back. Can you do that?"

"Yes, I can," said Nick. "I'll take care of her now. But if her owner comes, I'll give her back."

Nick and his mother tried to find the kitten's owner. They put up signs in stores. They knocked on doors and asked, "Did you lose a kitten?" They put an ad in the newspaper. But no one came for the lost kitten.

Nick did take good care of the kitten. He fed her and gave her clean water. He played with her. He brushed her fur. The kitten

Many weeks passed. Still no one came for the kitten. One day Mother said, "She is your kitten now, Nick."

grew bigger and stronger every day.

"I think I'll name you Tiger," said Nick. And he gave his kitten a big hug.

## Answer Questions about May I Keep Her?



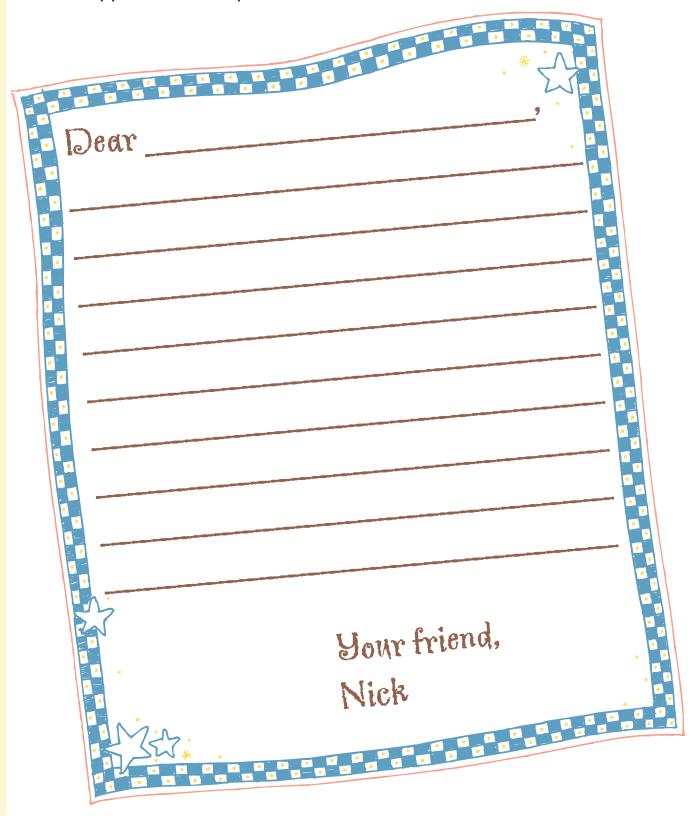
Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| (  | What did Nick find when he opened the back door?  a wet black kitten  a wet yellow kitten  a wet white kitten |
|----|---|
|    | Name the three ways Nick and his mother tried to find the kitten's owners.                                    |
|    |   |
|    |   |
|    |   |
| 3. | How did Nick take care of the kitten?   |
|    |   |
|    |   |
|    | Circle the sentence in the story that shows:  |
|    | <ul> <li>that it had been raining</li> </ul>  |

• why Mother wouldn't let Nick take the kitten to bed with him

## What Happened Next?

Pretend you are Nick. Write a letter to a friend. Tell your friend what happened after you heard the noise at the back door.



## What Does It Mean?

#### Match.

a band that goes around a pet's neck

where clothes are washed

very thin

a small insect that bites

to hit hard with a fist

a room where food is cooked

skinny

kitchen

laundry room

collar

flea

knock

Draw.

a wet cat

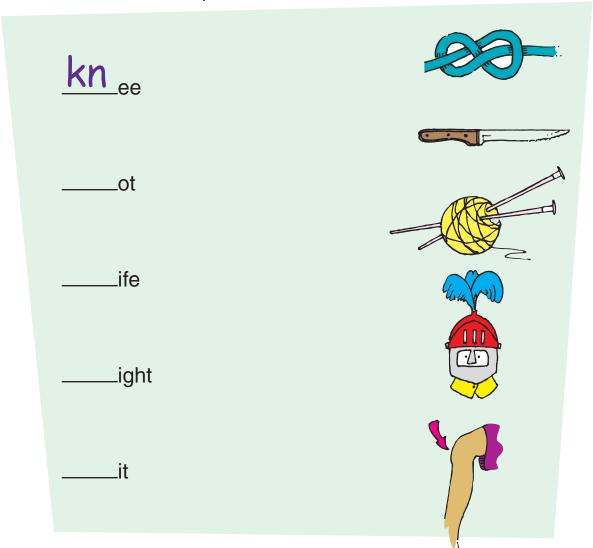
a blanket in a big box

## The Sound of kn

The letters kn stand for the sound of n in words like know and knock.



Write kn on the lines. Read the new words you make to an adult. Match each word to its picture.



Write sentences using two of the new words.

| 1. |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    |  |  |  |

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Contractions**



Match.

| we're  | did not | wouldn't | I am      |
|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| didn't | cannot  | she'll   | you will  |
| we'll  | we are  | you'll   | would not |
| can't  | we will | ľm       | she will  |
|        |         |          |           |

## Now and Then

Write the words in the correct boxes.

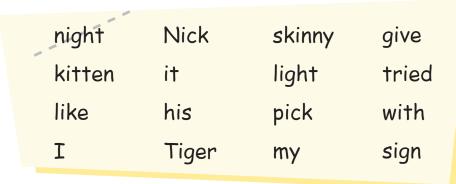
| hear  | see   | kept | knocked |
|-------|-------|------|---------|
| knock | heard | keep | give    |
| saw   | play  | gave | played  |

| ľ | Now  |
|---|------|
|   | hear |
|   |      |
|   |      |
|   |      |
|   |      |
|   |      |
| 1 |      |
|   |      |

| Then  |  |
|-------|--|
| heard |  |
|       |  |
| <br>  |  |
|       |  |
|       |  |
|       |  |
| <br>  |  |
|       |  |
| <br>  |  |

### Listen for the Sound

Read the words.





Write each word in the correct box.

|        | 6.0     |        |
|--------|---------|--------|
| long i | short i |        |
| night  |         | Bloggi |
|        |         | _      |
|        |         |        |
|        |         |        |
|        |         |        |
|        |         |        |
|        |         |        |
|        |         |        |

## Rashma's Nest

Rashma's bedroom was upstairs. A big tree grew outside her window. One branch of the tree almost touched her window.

One day, Rashma saw a robin making a nest in her tree.





- The robin used bits of twigs and weeds for the nest.
- The robin used mud to hold the nest together.
- The robin put grass in the nest to make it soft.

Soon the little nest was done. "It looks like a little brown cup sitting in my tree," thought Rashma.

The robin laid three small blue-green eggs in the nest. Day after day she sat on her eggs to keep them warm.

A few weeks later, Rashma heard a strange sound. It was coming from the tree outside her window. The eggs had hatched! Three tiny nestlings were in the nest. Their eyes were still closed. They had only a few fluffy feathers.

Rashma ran downstairs shouting, "The eggs hatched! Come see my baby birds!"

The new babies were very hungry and very noisy! The mother and father robin hunted for worms and insects. Back and forth they flew, feeding their hungry babies.

The babies grew bigger and bigger. They began to get feathers. They moved around the nest more. Soon they were flapping their wings. "I think the baby birds are getting ready to fly," said Rashma.





Rashma was right. One day the nest was empty. Her birds were gone! Rashma sat by the window feeling sad. While she sat there, the birds came back. They had not gone after all!

Rashma told her brother what she had seen. "You're right, Rashma," he said. "They're not ready to go yet. But soon they will fly away and not come back."

"I don't want them to go," said Rashma with a frown.

"I know. But they can't stay here all the time. They have to be off doing bird things," he said.

Rashma knew he was right. She looked up at her brother. "Do you think another robin will build a nest in my tree next year?" she asked.

## Answer Questions about Rashma's Nest



Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. | The robin was making a nest in  a birdhouse  a hole in the ground  a tree                |
|----|--|
|    | The nest was made of  O branches and leaves  O twigs, weeds, and mud  O grass and string |
| 3. | The robin sat on her eggs to   |
| 4. | The robins fed their nestlings   |
|    | Rashma felt when the birds flew away.  |
| 6. | Rashma's brother told her that the birds   |

## A Robin's Life Cycle

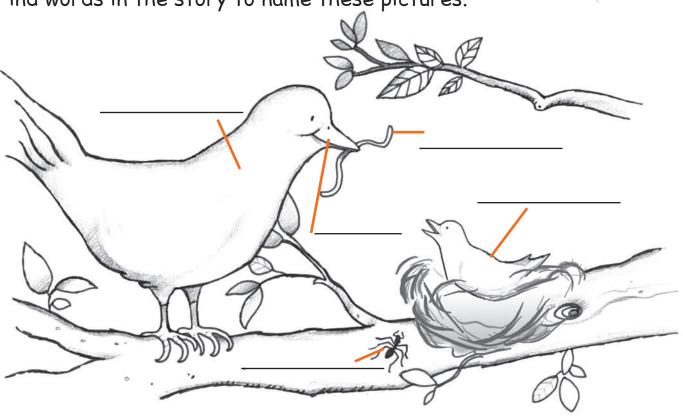
Paste the pictures in order.

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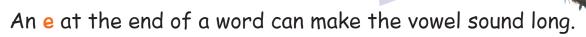
paste paste paste paste

## What Is It?

Find words in the story to name these pictures.



## Silent e



$$can + e = cane$$
  $cub + e = cube$ 

$$cub + e = cube$$

Add e to these words. Read the new words to an adult.

- 1. her <u>here</u> 5. at
- 2. bit
- \_\_\_\_\_6. tub
- 3. us
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. kit \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. rob \_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. dim \_\_\_\_\_

Draw.

robe

kite

tube

### **More Than One**

#### Add s. bird—birds

#### Change y to i and add es. cherry—cherries

- 1. robin
- 5. berry
- 2. feather \_\_\_\_\_ 6. nest
- 3. baby
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 7. penny \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. egg
- 8. pony \_\_\_\_\_

They or Them? Write they or them on the line.

1. Rashma and her brother saw the birds.

 $\underline{\mathsf{hey}}$  saw the birds.



2. The robins fed worms to the nestlings.

The robins fed worms to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. What did the nestlings look like?

What did \_\_\_\_\_ look like?

4. Rashma didn't want the birds to go.

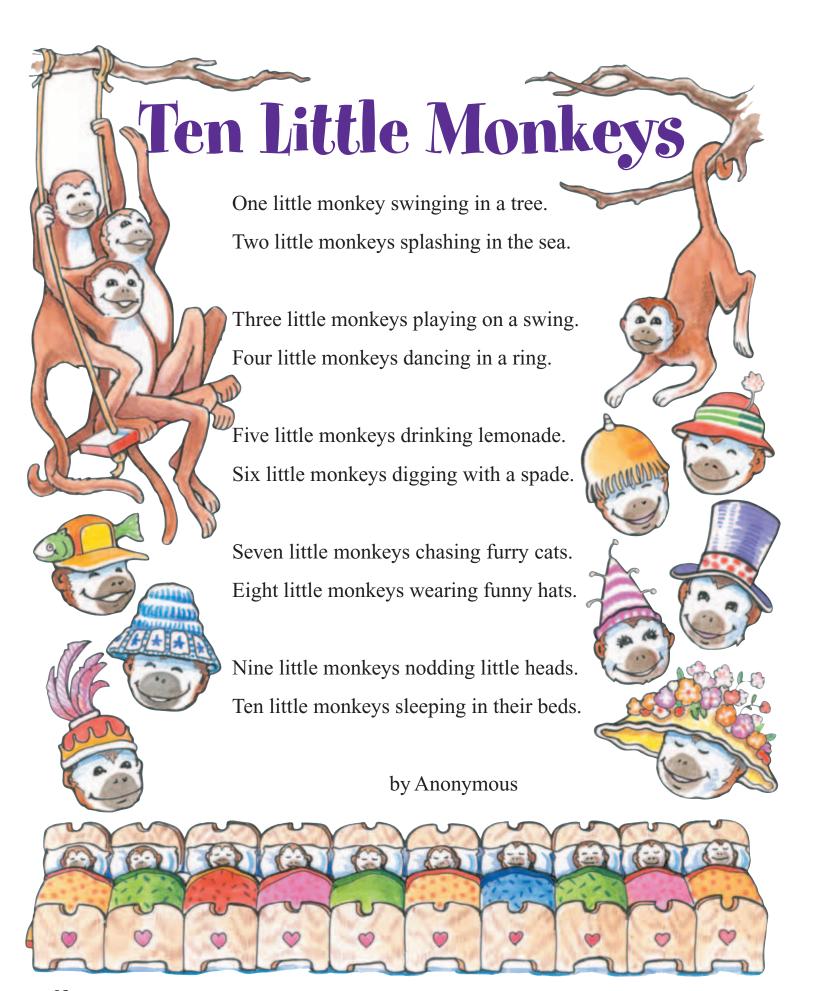
Rashma didn't want \_\_\_\_\_ to go.

## Hungry Nestlings

Draw three baby robins in a nest. Draw the mother robin bringing a worm to the babies.

| Wille about the mother robin and her bables. |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

Write about the mother robin and her babies



# Answer Questions about Ten Little Monkeys



Fill in the circle or write the correct answer.

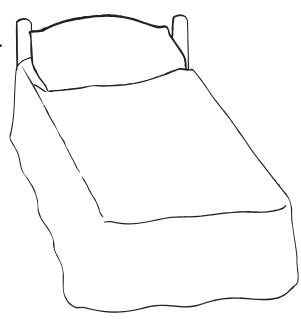
Write the correct number word.

| 1. How many monkeys were | <b>)</b> |
|--------------------------|----------|
|--------------------------|----------|

| splashing in the sea? | wearing funny hats?   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 3                   | 3                     |
| digging with a spade? | nodding little heads? |
| a.999 a shaas         | 99                    |
| swinging in a tree?   |                       |

- 2. What were seven monkeys doing?
  - onodding little heads
  - wearing funny hats
  - Chasing furry cats
- 3. What were three monkeys doing?
  - sleeping in their beds
  - Oplaying on a swing
  - swinging in a tree

Draw a monkey sleeping in this bed.



#### Find the Rhyme

Find two words in the poem that rhyme with each word.

- 1. bee \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. sleds \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. bring \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. rats \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. played \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### What Is It?

Find a word in the poem to name each picture.







Write the number words.



2



## Pancakes Every Sunday



Nell sat up in bed. She heard a sound coming from the kitchen. Pa was singing. Nell jumped out of bed. "Today is pancake day!" she said.

Pa always made pancakes on Sunday. He made them just the way Nell liked them. Nell put jam on her pancakes. Ma and Grandma put hot syrup on their pancakes. Pa ate his with bacon.

Nell got dressed and ran to the kitchen. She knew there was work to do. "Pa likes me to help," she said to herself.

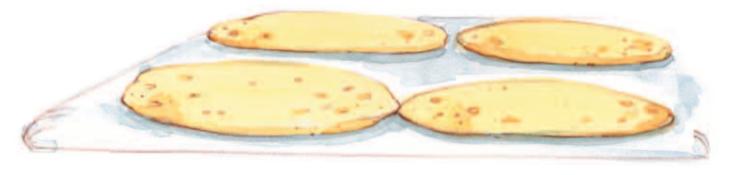
Pa always told her, "You're the best cook's helper I've ever had."

Pa tied a towel around Nell. This was her apron. He grinned at Nell and said, "Let's cook!"

Pa let Nell help make the pancake batter. She measured the milk and poured it into the bowl. Pa stirred the batter to mix in the milk. Nell broke an egg into the batter. Pa stirred some more.

At last the batter was ready. Pa
poured it on a hot griddle. Nell watched
the pancakes. When she saw bubbles
all over the pancakes, she called Pa.
He flipped the pancakes over. Now they
could cook on the other side. Soon they were golden brown. Pa put the
pancakes on plates.

While they ate the pancakes, Pa kept cooking. He was good at eating and cooking at the same time! Pa made pancakes until everyone was full.





After the last tasty bite, Ma smiled. She said, "Those were the best pancakes you've ever made!"

Grandma said, "I'm so full I think I'm going to pop!"

And Nell said, "May I have one more?"

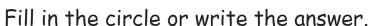
Today Grandma ate one pancake. Ma ate two pancakes. Pa ate three pancakes.

But Nell was really hungry. She ate four! When she asked for one more, Ma frowned. "Don't you think you've had plenty?" she asked.

Pa just laughed. He said, "A growing girl needs her food." He made one more pancake for his cook's helper.

#### Answer Questions about

## Pancakes Every Sunday



| 1. | What happened every Sunday at Nell's house?  O Grandma made waffles.  Ma made pancakes.  Pa made pancakes.  |
|----|---|
| 2. | What did each person like on their pancakes?  |
|    | Grandma and Ma  |
|    | Pa  |
|    | Nell  |
| 3. | Tell three things that Nell did to help Pa make pancakes.   |
|    |   |
|    |   |
| 4. | What did the bubbles on top of the pancakes mean?  It was time to turn the pancakes over.  It was time to eat the pancakes.  It was time to pour syrup on the pancakes. |

#### Nell's Sunday Morning

Read the sentences about Nell. Number them in order.

Nell ate four pancakes.

Nell jumped out of bed.

Nell helped make the batter.

Nell asked for one more pancake.

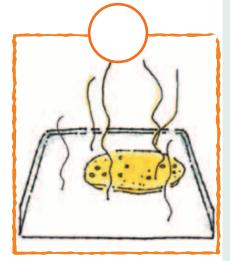
Nell watched for bubbles on the pancakes.

Nell ran to the kitchen.

Number the pictures in order.



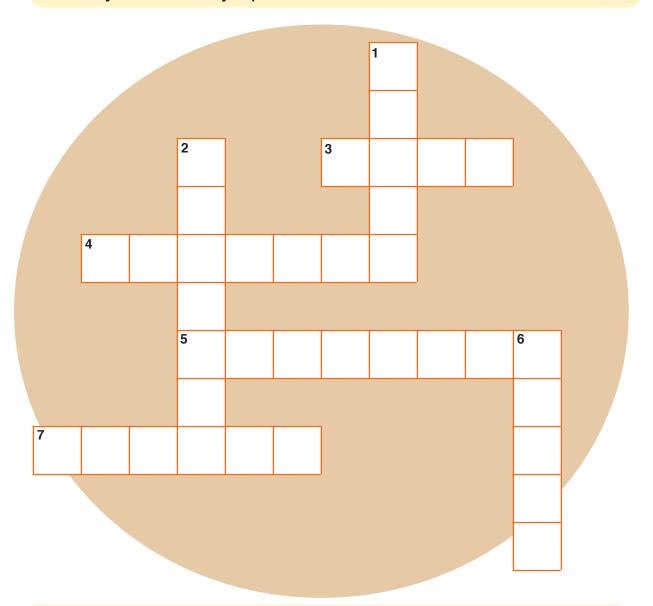




#### A Pancake Crossword Puzzle

#### Word Box

| cook   | flipped | griddle | pancakes |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|
| Sunday | syrup   | whole   |          |



#### Across —

- 3. to make something to eat
- 4. a heavy, flat pan used to cook pancakes
- 5. thin, flat cakes
- 7. a day of the week

#### Down \_\_\_\_

- 1. all of something
- 2. turned over
- 6. a thick, sweet liquid

#### The Sounds of oo

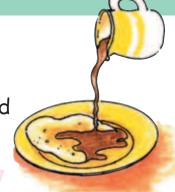
The letters oo have more than one sound. Write the words in the correct columns.



| book<br>crook<br>boot<br>foot | zoo<br>goose<br>hoop<br>cookie<br>look | school<br>soon<br>hood<br>good<br>too | stood<br>good-bye<br>moon<br>balloon |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                               | 00                                     | in cook                               |                                      |
| book                          |  |                                       |                                      |
|                               |  |                                       |                                      |
|                               | 00                                     | in food                               |                                      |
|                               |  |                                       |                                      |

#### Add an Ending

Words that end with the letter e must be changed when you add the ending ing.



drop the **e** and add **ing** rac**e** rac**ing** 

| Add | ing | to | these | word | ls. |
|-----|-----|----|-------|------|-----|
|-----|-----|----|-------|------|-----|

- 1. bake \_\_\_\_\_ 4. measure \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. smile \_\_\_\_\_ 5. sprinkle \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. bite \_\_\_\_\_ 6. pour \_\_\_\_

Use the new words you made to complete these sentences.

- 1. Pa is \_\_\_\_\_ at Nell.
- 2. Nell is \_\_\_\_\_ the milk.
- 3. Ma is \_\_\_\_\_ syrup on her pancakes.

#### Contractions

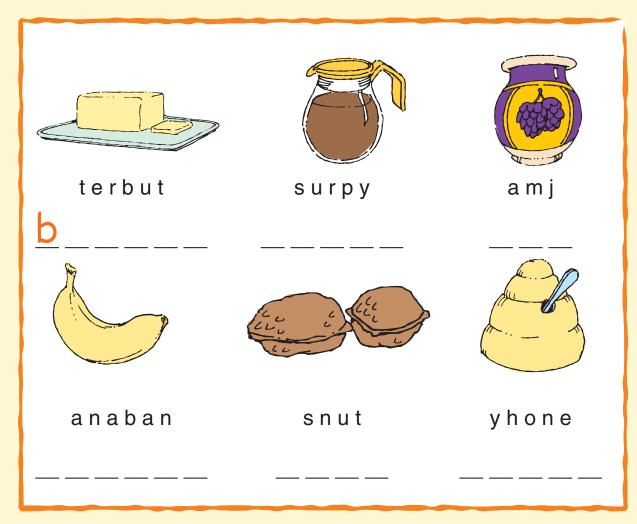
In these contractions n't stands for not. Write the meaning for each contraction.

- 1. isn't \_\_\_\_\_ 3. don't \_\_\_\_
- 2. wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ 4. hasn't \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Pancake Toppers**

Unscramble the words to name each picture.

Make an X on each thing you would put on your pancakes.



Draw your pancakes here.

## Row Your Boat



Till lived in a big house on a farm near a river. He lived there with his mother and father. Will didn't have a brother or a sister. But he did have plenty of pets.

Will looked out the front window one summer day. The sun shone down. White clouds floated in the blue sky. A soft breeze blew leaves on the trees. "I think I'll go to the river and row my boat," he said.

"All right, Will," said his mother, "but stay near the riverbank."

"I will," shouted Will as he ran out the door.

When he reached the river, Will pushed his rowboat into the water. Quick as could be, he was in the rowboat. Soon he was rowing down the river. As he rowed he sang, "I row, row, row my boat."

Will didn't see his dog running along the riverbank.

All of a sudden, the boat began to rock. Will's dog had jumped into the boat and licked Will's face. "Down, boy!" said Will. "Don't rock the boat!"

The dog lay down by his feet. Will began to row the boat again.

Will didn't see his cat sitting in a tree that grew by the riverbank.

Again Will felt the boat rock. A furry shape landed in his lap. It was the cat! His dog jumped up and started to bark. Will said, "Be still, Cat! Be still, Dog! Don't make me drop my oars!"

The cat sat down in the back of the rowboat. She began to purr. The dog stopped barking and sat by Will's feet. Will started to row the boat again. He sang, "I row, row, row my boat."

Will didn't spy the duck flying overhead.





Will had gone only a few yards when he heard, "Quack! Quack!"

Down flew his pet duck, landing on Will's head. The dog began to bark and the cat began to yowl. "Sit down!" shouted Will. And he pushed the duck off his head.

The duck sat down at the front of the boat. The dog and cat sat down quietly. Will picked up the oars and began to row. "This boat is getting pretty full," he thought.

"I row, row, row my boat," sang Will as he and his pets floated along. The animals were quiet. The warm sun shone down. The water was smooth. "What a nice way to spend a summer day," he said to his pets.

Will didn't notice the fat pig and nanny goat standing on the riverbank. "What now?" Will shouted, as his pet pig jumped into the middle of the boat. The dog barked and the cat yowled. The duck flapped its wings and quacked.

"This has got to stop!" shouted Will. He pushed the pig under his seat.

When the animals were still and quiet, Will picked up his oars. Before the oars could touch the water, four feet landed in the boat! It was Will's pet goat. This was too much!

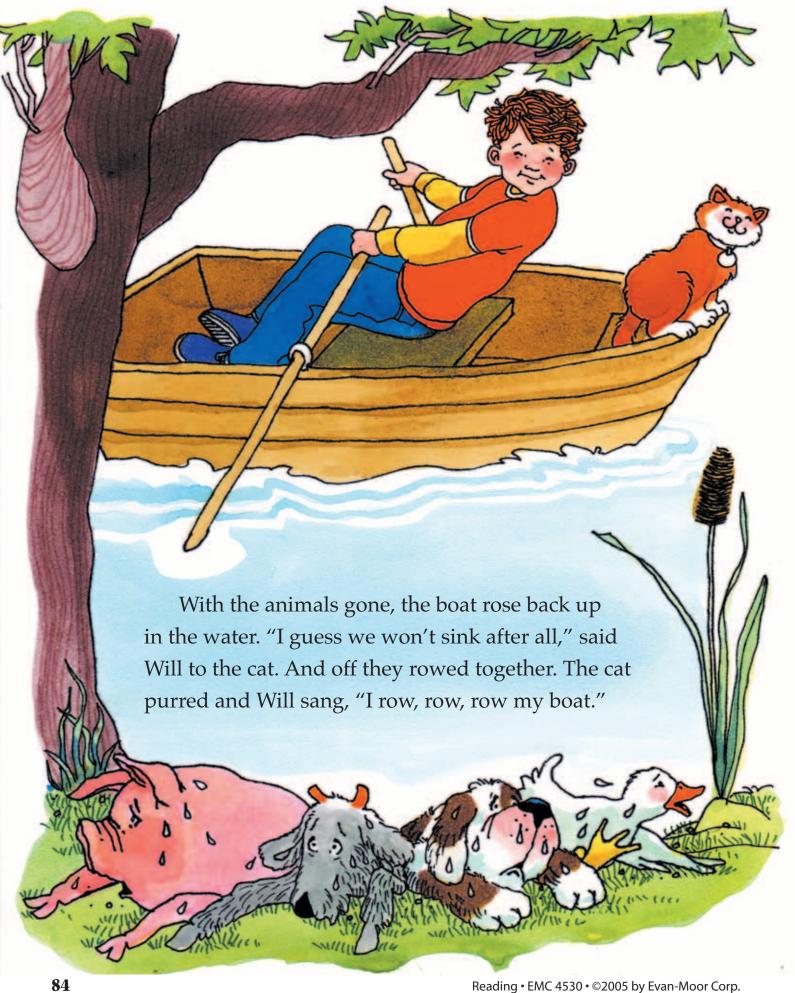
The animals were making a terrible noise. The boat was so heavy now that water splashed over the sides. The cat, which hated water, jumped onto Will's shoulders.

"Oh, no! We're going to sink!" shouted Will.

When the other animals heard this, they jumped over the side.

The dog, duck, pig, and goat all swam to the riverbank.





# Answer Questions about Row Your Boat

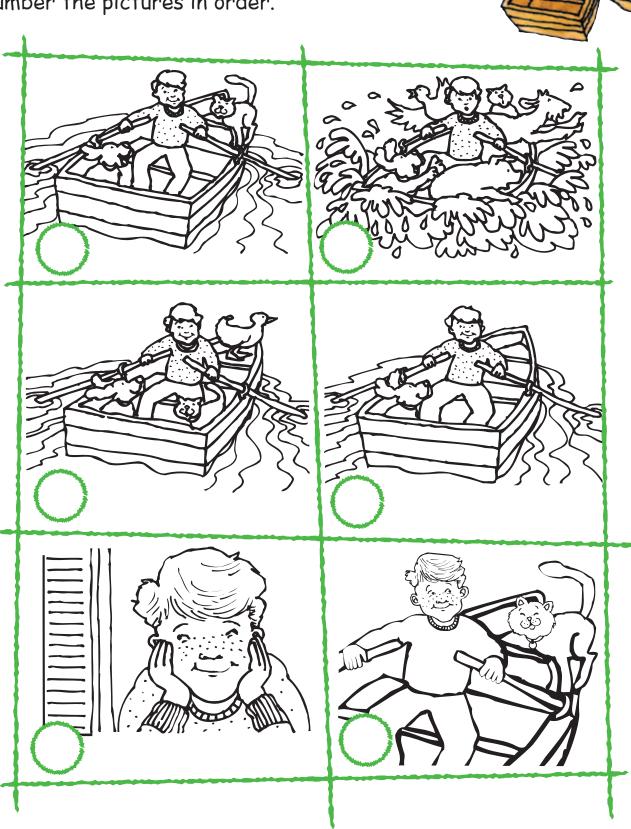


Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. What did Will do on the   | fine summer day?                  |                        |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| owent for a walk   | went for a swim                   | O went for a boat ride |
| 2. List the animals that jur   | nped into the rowbo               | oat.                   |
|  |                                   |                        |
| 3. What did the dog do ev  | •                                 | -                      |
| 4. Why did water begin to  olimits because there was a  olimits because the boat wa  olimits because it started to | a hole in the boat<br>as too full | ?                      |
| 5. Which animal landed   |                                   |                        |
| in the middle of the boa   | ıt?                               |                        |
| in Will's lap?   |                                   |                        |
| on Will's head?  |                                   |                        |
| 6. Why do you think Moth   | er told Will to stay n            | near the riverbank?    |
|  |                                   |                        |

#### **What Happened Next?**

Number the pictures in order.



#### What Does It Mean?

Use these words to complete the sentences below.



| spy    | middle | oars  | still     |
|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
| breeze | notice | quiet | riverbank |

- 1. Will used \_\_\_\_\_ to row the boat.
- 2. Trees were growing along the \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ are two other words that mean **see**.
- 4. A big seed was in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the peach.
- 5. A soft \_\_\_\_\_ was blowing the leaves on the trees.
- 6. You must be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ while you rest.

#### Farm Animals Find these animals in the word search.

| -cat- | hen     |
|-------|---------|
| cow   | horse   |
| dog   | lamb    |
| duck  | pig     |
| goat  | rooster |
| goose | sheep   |
|       |         |

| 9 | 0 | 0           | S | е | W | † | r |
|---|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | d           |   |   |   |   |   |
| 0 | C | z<br>9<br>m | С | 0 | W | i | 0 |
| r | a | 9           | 0 | а | † | 9 | S |
| S | 4 | m           | h | е | n | † | † |
| е | S | d           | 0 | 9 | × | n | е |
| q | ٧ | 1           | а | m | b | 0 | r |
| S | h | е           | е | p | b | 0 | X |

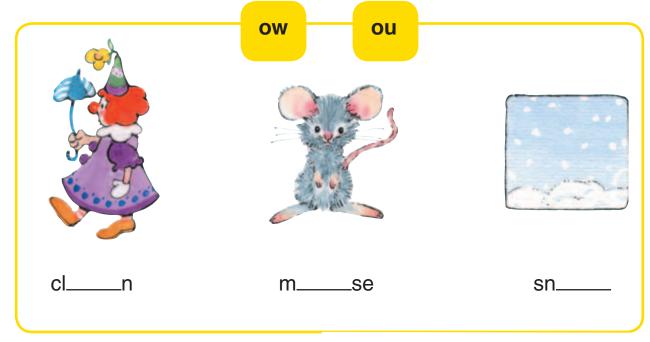
#### What Sound Do You Hear?

Write the words in the correct columns.

| row   | house | show  |
|-------|-------|-------|
| down  | know  | brown |
| cloud | yowl  | grow  |
| flow  | sound | below |



Fill in the missing letters to name the pictures.



# A Word Family oat



Write oat on each line. Draw a picture of the word you make.

| b                                | g           |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| C                                | fl          |
| Write a sentence using each word | l you made. |
| 1                                |             |
| 2                                |             |
| 3                                |             |

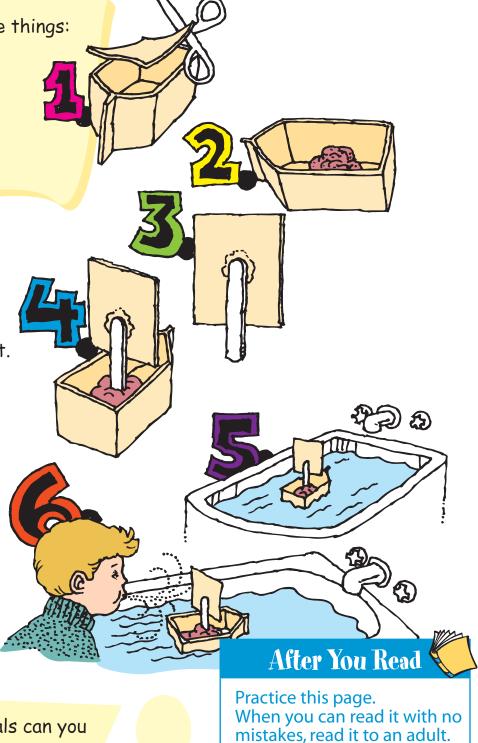
#### Sail, Sail, Sail Your Boat

You can make your own boat to sail in a tub of water. Just read and follow each step.

You will need to get these things:

- · a small milk carton
- a 4-inch square of heavy paper
- an ice-cream stick
- a small lump of clay
- glue
- 1. Cut off one side of the milk carton.
- 2. Put a lump of clay in the bottom of the boat.
- 3. Glue the sail to the ice-cream stick.
- 4. Stick the ice-cream stick into the clay.
- 5. Put your boat in a tub of water.
- 6. Blow into the sail to make the boat move.

How many small toy animals can you put into your boat before it sinks?

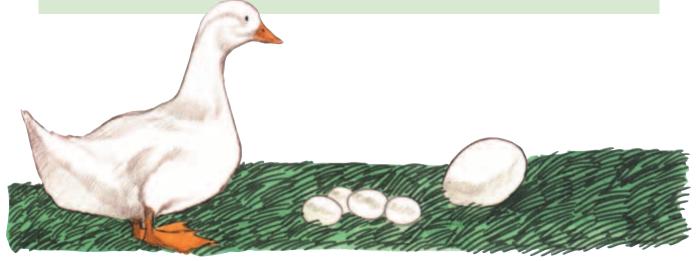


# The Ugly Duckling

In the country far from town, there was a large pond. It was in the middle of a field. The field was near a big farm. Many ducks and geese lived by the pond. Hidden in the reeds and grass was a nest of eggs. It was the nest of a mother duck.

Day after day, Mother Duck sat on the eggs. She was waiting for them to hatch. As she turned her eggs each day, she would stop at one egg. It was much larger than the other eggs in the nest. Mother Duck would think, "What will this duckling be like?"

One day Mother Duck heard a pecking sound. Then she heard, "Peep! Peep! Peep!" The ducklings were coming out of their shells!



One by one, Mother Duck saw her fluffy yellow ducklings hatch. But she shook her head and frowned when the last one hatched. He was big. He was gray. And he was ugly.

"Oh, my! What an ugly duckling," was all Mother Duck could say.

Mother Duck loved all of her ducklings. She took good care of them, too. She took them to the pond to swim. She helped them find food. She showed them how to hide from danger.

Soon the days began to get colder. Mother Duck took her ducklings to the barn. There they would stay warm.





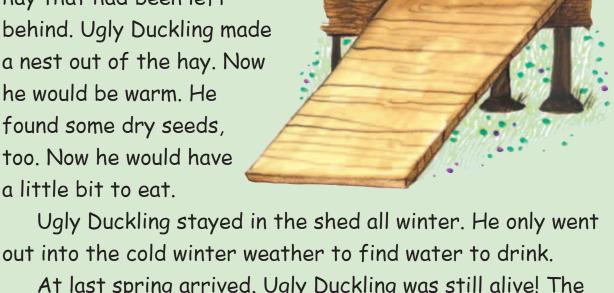
The other animals in the barn were unkind to the ugly duckling. They laughed at him and called him names. They even pecked at him. Mother Duck tried to protect her big, gray duckling, but she wasn't always around.

Ugly Duckling couldn't stand the teasing any longer. He ran away from the barn. He ran from the farm animals. And he ran from his family. He ran on and on until he came to a big lake.

Ugly Duckling felt safe at the lake, but he was lonely. None of the wild ducks would talk to him. One day, the duckling looked up into the sky. He saw a beautiful swan flying by. He looked into the water of the pond. All he saw was a big, gray ugly duckling. "I wish I were beautiful like that swan," he said softly.

It was getting colder. Ugly Duckling saw the wild ducks fly away. Soon ice covered the lake. Ugly Duckling was always cold. He didn't have much food to eat. Would he be able to stay alive until spring? He knew he had to find a warm place to stay.

Ugly Duckling looked around until he found an old shed. In the shed he found hay that had been left behind. Ugly Duckling made a nest out of the hay. Now he would be warm. He found some dry seeds, too. Now he would have a little bit to eat.

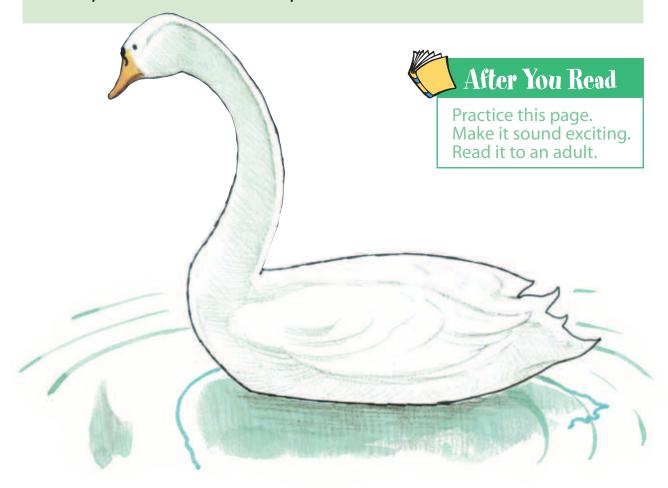


At last spring arrived. Ugly Duckling was still alive! The days grew warmer. The ice covering the pond melted. The duckling found plenty to eat. Each day he grew bigger and stronger.

One day, as he stretched his wings, he was lifted up into the blue sky. He was flying! He flew over green fields. He flew over tall trees. He flew back to the pond where he had been born.

Ugly Duckling landed on the water and swam around. He looked down into the water to find something to eat. He couldn't believe his eyes! Over the winter, he had grown up. He wasn't an ugly duckling anymore.

The animals from the farm came down to the pond. They were surprised to see the large white swan. No one knew that the beautiful swan had been the ugly duckling they treated so unkindly.



## Answer Questions about The Ugly Duckling



Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| <ul> <li>1. Why was the duckling called ugly?</li> <li>He was big and yellow, not small and yellow.</li> <li>He was small and gray, not small and yellow.</li> <li>He was big and gray, not small and yellow.</li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Write three ways Mother Duck took care of her ducklings.  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| <ul><li>3. Why did the Ugly Duckling run away from the farm?</li><li> He wanted to see new places.</li><li> He wanted to get away from the farm animals.</li><li> He wanted to find some swans.</li></ul>                |  |
| <ul><li>4. Where did the Ugly Duckling spend the winter?</li><li> He stayed in the lake.</li><li> He hid under a tree.</li><li> He hid in an old shed.</li></ul>   |  |
| 5. How did the Ugly Duckling change over the winter?   |  |

#### What Happened Next?



Cut out the sentences. Paste them in order.

| 1. | paste |
|----|-------|
| 2. | paste |
| 3. | paste |
| 4. | paste |
| 5. | paste |

When winter came, the Ugly Duckling found an old shed to live in.

The farm animals called the Ugly Duckling names and pecked at him.

Mother Duck sat on her eggs. At last they hatched. One duckling was big and gray and ugly.

Over the winter, the Ugly Duckling grew up. He wasn't a duck! He was a beautiful swan.

The Ugly Duckling ran away. He ran until he came to a lake.

#### What Does It Mean?

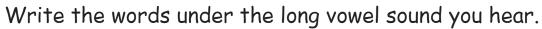
Write each word after its meaning. You will not use all of the words.

5. an unhappy look on someone's face



|   | duckling | hatch | shed | tease  |  |
|---|----------|-------|------|--------|--|
|   | frown    | lake  | swan | winter |  |
| 1 a grandi buddin a wanad ta atawa thin na  |          |       |      |        |  |
| 1. a small building used to store things    |          |       |      |        |  |
| 2. to treat others in an unkind way         |          |       |      |        |  |
| 3. to break out of an egg                   |          |       |      |        |  |
| 4. a large body of water surrounded by land |          |       |      |        |  |

#### Long Vowel Sounds





| they | sigh  | cold | find |
|------|-------|------|------|
| no   | he    | lake | fly  |
| stay | tease | ice  | ate  |
| see  | float | row  | mean |

| a—cake | e—me | i—kite | <mark>o</mark> —go |
|--------|------|--------|--------------------|
|        |      |        |                    |
|        |      |        |                    |
|        |      |        |                    |
|        |      |        |                    |
|        |      |        |                    |
|        |      |        |                    |

#### It Sounds Like er

Read the words.

Circle the letters that make the er sound.

dirt her turn butter

first stir hurt after

#### **Opposites**

Match each word to its opposite.



| large     | smile |
|-----------|-------|
| frown     | sad   |
| beautiful | full  |
| happy     | small |
| empty     | ugly  |
|           |       |

| none  | cry  |
|-------|------|
| went  | go   |
| laugh | hot  |
| stop  | came |
| cold  | all  |
|       |      |

### Add an Ending

#### Add ed.

 land\_\_\_\_
 peck\_\_\_\_
 hunt\_\_\_\_

 protect\_\_\_\_
 turn\_\_\_\_
 jump\_\_\_\_

 whisper\_\_\_\_
 look\_\_\_\_
 want\_\_\_\_

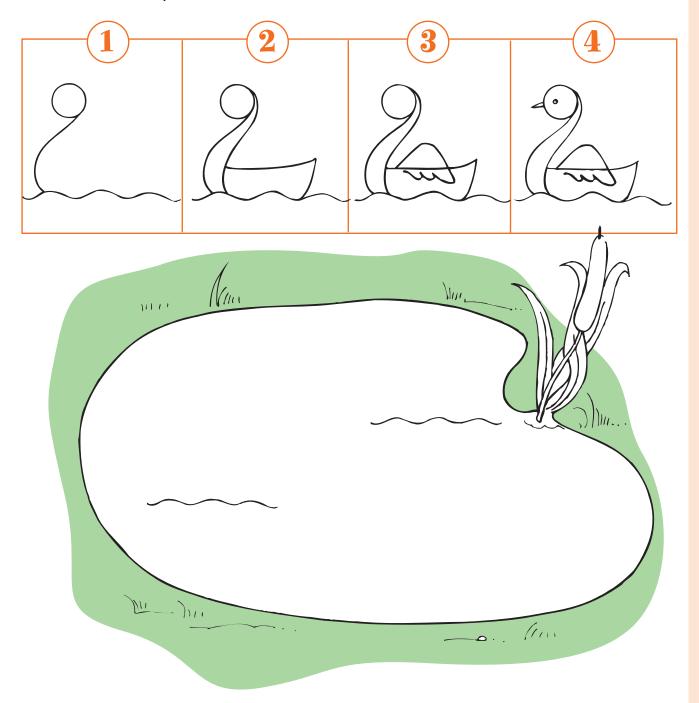
Circle the words where ed has the sound of t.

Make an X on words where ed has the sound of d.

Read the new words to an adult.

#### A Swimming Swan

Follow the steps to draw a swan on the lake.



Write an interesting sentence telling what the swan is doing.

# Elebhants

Elephants are big! They are the biggest animals that live on land. They have long noses called trunks. They have big ears that can flap like fans. Their skin is gray-black. They have some short hairs on their backs and tails.

Bulls live alone or in small groups. Cows live in herds with their calves.

#### What Elephants Eat

Elephants must eat most of the day to get the amount of food they need. They eat grasses and shrubs.

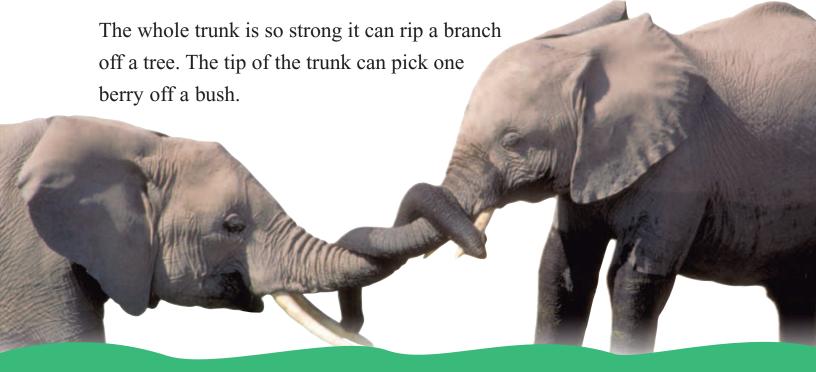
They eat twigs, leaves, and bark from trees.

An elephant must drink many gallons of water, too.

#### An Elephant's Trunk

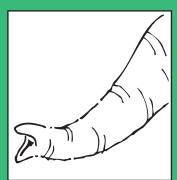
An elephant's trunk has many uses. It is used to pick up food. Then the food is put into the elephant's mouth. An elephant drinks by sucking up water into its trunk. Then the elephant squirts the water into its mouth.

Elephants use their trunks to greet one another. They hold their trunks high to catch smells in the air.

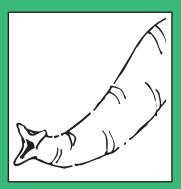


Asia (A'zhuh)

Africa
(Af'rih kuh)



The trunk of an elephant from Asia has one lip on the tip of its trunk.



The trunk of an elephant from Africa has two lips on the tip of its trunk.



#### **Elephant Babies**

An elephant baby is very big. It weighs more than a grown human. The newborn calf sucks milk from its mother. The mother will feed her baby for two years. After a few months, the baby will also eat plants.

### Where Elephants Live

Elephants live in Africa and Asia. They live on grasslands and in forests.







It has bigger ears.

# Answer Questions about Elephants



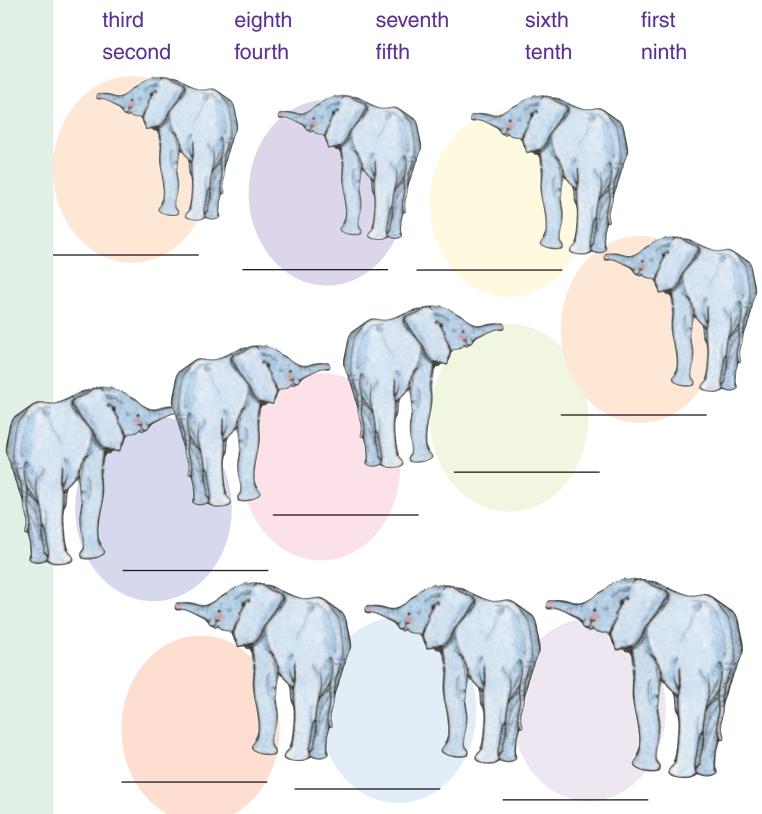
Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. What does an elephant look like?                      |
|--|
|  |
| 2. Which elephants live in herds?                        |
| <ul><li>bulls and cows</li><li>cows and calves</li></ul> |
| <ul><li>bulls and calves</li></ul>                       |
| 3. Name two places elephants live.                       |
| 4. How do elephants get their food?                      |
|  |
|  |
| 5. How else do elephants use their trunk?                |
|  |
|  |

### **Elephant Parade**

Write the correct number under each elephant.





### Find the Right Word



Fill in the missing word in each sentence. You will not use all of the words.

|                          | tip<br>bull    | bark<br>cow    | Africa<br>calf            | · ·    |           |  |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|--|--|
| 1. An e                  | elephant pick  | s berries with | the                       | of its | trunk.    |  |  |
| 2. A                     |                | is a baby el   | ephant.                   |        |           |  |  |
| 3. A                     |                | is a mother    | elephant.                 |        |           |  |  |
| 4. Elep                  | ohants eat     |                | and                       | fr     | om trees. |  |  |
| 5. Elephants live in and |                |                |                           |        |           |  |  |
|                          |                |                |                           |        |           |  |  |
|                          |                |                | <b>trunk</b> in each      |        |           |  |  |
| 1. The                   | squirrel hid i | nuts in a hole | in the tree's <b>tr</b> u | unk.   |           |  |  |
| Trunk means              |                |                |                           |        |           |  |  |
| 2. An e                  | elephant pick  | ed berries wit | h its <b>trunk</b> .      |        |           |  |  |
| Trur                     | Trunk means    |                |                           |        |           |  |  |

## A Word Family ay



All the words in a word family end with the same letters and sound. Write ay after each letter to make a word family.

Read the word family aloud to an adult.

### **──Ways to Spell /ā/**

Underline the words that have the sound of a in may. Circle the letters that make the a sound.

| weigh | gray | they  | parts |  |
|-------|------|-------|-------|--|
| tail  | Asia | water | baby  |  |

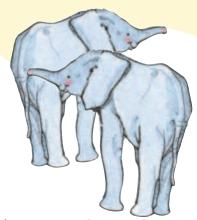
### **More Than One**



Change y to i and add es Add s Add es dish cherry tree dishes cherries trees 1. tail 6. berry \_\_\_\_\_ 2. bench \_\_\_\_\_ 7. ear 3. lady 8. wish 4. leg 9. fox

A calf is one baby elephant. What word in the story names more than one calf?

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. egg



5. baby

### **Little Lost Elephant**

Help the lost elephant calf find its mother. Color the boxes with words that rhyme with too to make a path.

| 1 | 1     |       |      |      |      |
|---|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1 | moo   | two   | do   | moon | what |
|   | door  | soon  | new  | week | barn |
|   | calf  | her   | shoe | walk | they |
|   | water | bull  | blue | flew | mine |
|   | spoon | twig  | live | who  | COW  |
|   | trunk | berry | herd | knew | clue |



Long, long ago bears had handsome, bushy tails. But that all changed one winter. This is what happened.

Bear had a long, furry tail. He was very proud of his tail. He was always showing it off to the other animals.

Bear would wave his tail around and ask, "Can you see my tail? Don't you think it is the most handsome tail you've ever seen?"

The other animals thought Bear was too proud. After all, many animals had nice, long tails. But they were afraid to make Bear angry. He did have those powerful paws. And each paw had sharp claws. An angry bear could be very scary. So the animals would say, "Yes, you have the best tail."

One cold winter's day, Bear went looking for something to eat. He was walking along the river when he saw Fox. Fox was sitting on the ice by a pile of fish. Fox thought, "Bear is too proud of that tail of his. He needs to be taught a lesson. I think I'll play a trick on him." The clever fox knew that Bear was hungry. "Hello, Bear," he said. "Hello, Fox," Bear said as he looked at Fox's fish. "Where did you get all of those fish?" "I caught them in the river," said Fox. Bear couldn't see a fishing pole. He asked, "What did you use to catch them?" "I use my tail," said Fox. "I drop it into the hole in the ice. When a fish grabs my tail, I pull it out and the fish comes, too."



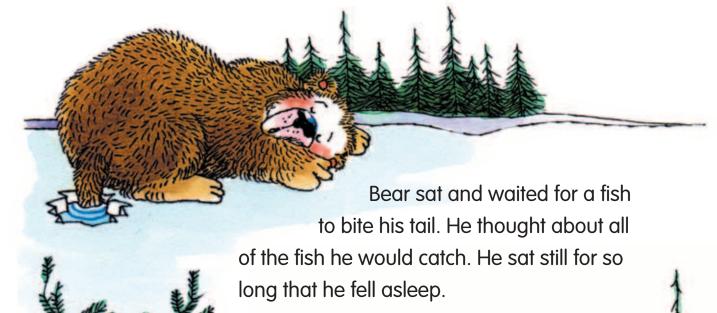
Bear had never heard of fishing that way. But there was Fox with all of the fish he had caught. Bear thought about how good fish would taste.
"I didn't know you could fish that way. Maybe I'll try it. I would like some tasty fish for lunch."

Bear was sure that he would catch many more fish than Fox. After all, his tail was much longer. Fox watched as Bear found a spot on the ice. Bear used his sharp claws to dig a hole.

"Now you must sit down with your back to the hole," explained Fox. "Then drop your handsome tail into the water. When you feel a fish bite, quickly pull out your tail. The fish will be caught."

Bear's stomach began to rumble. He was very hungry. Bear sat down and dropped his tail into the water.

Fox said, "You must sit very still or you will scare the fish away." Then Fox picked up his own fish. He walked away, laughing at the foolish Bear.



While Bear slept, it grew colder. Soon the hole in the water froze shut.

When Bear woke up he felt something holding his tail. Bear thought it was a fish. He jumped up and tried to pull his tail out of the water. But his tail did not move. The frozen tail broke off. All that was left of his handsome tail was a small stump!

"My tail! My tail is gone!" cried Bear. The once proud bear had no tail and no fish. He slowly walked back to his den, hanging his head in shame.

And that is why to this day bears have short tails.



Practice this page.
Think about how Bear will sound.
When you are ready, read it to an adult.

## Answer Questions about How BEAR Lost His TAIL



Fill in the circle or write the answer.

| 1. | Why was Bear so proud of his tail?  It had brown and white stripes.  It was long and furry.  It was short and curly.   |
|----|--|
| 2. | Why were the animals afraid to make Bear angry?  |
| 3. | How did the clever fox trick Bear?   |
|    |  |
| 4. | <ul> <li>What happened to Bear's long tail?</li> <li>It grew longer and longer.</li> <li>It froze and broke off.</li> <li>The fish ate Bear's tail off.</li> </ul> |
| 1  | Draw Bear with a long, Draw Bear with a short  |

Draw Bear with a short stump of a tail.

handsome, bushy tail.

### What Happened Next?



Draw what happened next.

As Bear was looking for something to eat, he passed the river.

What happened next?

Fox told Bear he had caught fish by putting his tail in a hole in the ice.

What happened next?

Bear fell asleep with his tail in the water. The water froze.

What happened next?

### What Does It Mean?



Find a word in the story that means...

| 1. very nice looking             |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2. thickly covered in hair       |  |
| 3. thinking too well of yourself |  |
| 4. strong                        |  |
| 5. very upset                    |  |
| 6. smart                         |  |
| 7. told how to do something      |  |
| 8. silly                         |  |
|                                  |  |

### Adjectives -

**Adjectives** are words that describe. Circle the adjectives in these phrases.

1.long, furry tail

4. big, tasty fish

2. large, powerful paws

5. cold, smooth ice

3. long, sharp claws

6. small, bare stump

Write three adjectives that describe you.

### The Sounds of y



Write the sound made by the letter  $\gamma$  at the end of each word.

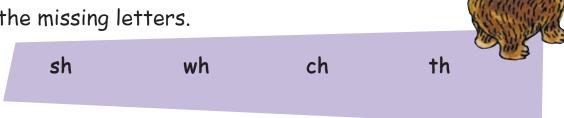
|          | m <b>y—i</b> | furr <mark>y—e</mark> |  |
|----------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. angry |              | 7. try                |  |
| 2. cry   |              | 8. very               |  |
| 3. fly   |              | 9. hungry             |  |
| 4. many  |              | 10. why               |  |
| 5. funny |              | 11. shy _             |  |
| 6. silly |              | 12. buy               |  |
|          |              |                       |  |

What sound of y do you usually hear at the end of a one-syllable word?

What sound of **y** do you usually hear at the end of a two-syllable word?

### Sh, Wh, Ch, Th





- 1. Bear thought his tail was handsome.
- 2. Marcos used a \_\_\_\_arp hook to catch the fi\_\_\_\_.
- 3. One \_\_\_\_eel on his wagon is broken.
- 4. Do you have an apple for lun\_\_\_\_?
- 5. Mo\_\_\_\_er said, "You may make a sandwi\_\_\_\_ if you want a snack."

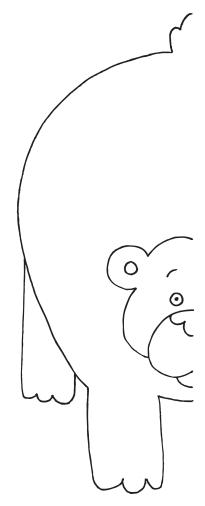
### Syllables .

How many syllables are in these words?

|                   | fish—1 | furry—2   | powerful—3       |  |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|------------------|--|
| <b>1</b> la a a u | 1      | F. fo     | O vavatavadad    |  |
| 1. bear           |        | 5. fox    | _ 9. pretended   |  |
| 2. othe           | r      | 6. tail   | _ 10. handsome   |  |
| 3. winte          | er     | 7. used   | _ 11. laughing   |  |
| 4. pass           | sed    | 8. animal | _ 12. surrounded |  |

### Bear

Draw and color the other side of this big bear.



Write a funny story about this bear.

### A Visit to the

### **Monterey Bay**

### Aquarium

Every Sunday afternoon, Neno and his father go somewhere together. His father always takes Neno to great places. Today they are going to the aquarium.



The giant kelp grows very fast.

Neno and his father stood in front of a huge tank. In the tank was the tallest water plant Neno had ever seen. "That's giant kelp," his dad said. "It's a kind of seaweed."

All kinds of fishes were swimming in and out of the giant kelp. Large schools of silver fish swam past. All of a sudden, the fish would turn and swim the other way.

There were sharks in the tank, too. "Won't the sharks

eat the other fish?" asked Neno.

"No," answered his father. "The sharks are kept well fed. They don't need to eat the other fish."

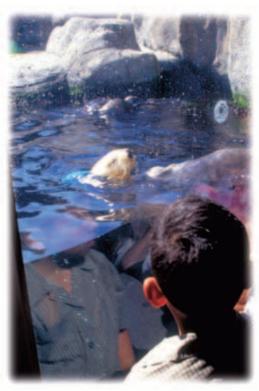


A leopard shark swims in the tank.

Next they walked over to the otter tank. The otters swam around the tank. Sometimes they rolled over in the water. It looked like they were having fun.

It was feeding time for the otters, too. Their keeper was throwing bits of crab, squid, and fish into the water. The hungry otters swam after the food as it fell to the bottom of the tank.

"I wish I could pet an otter," said Neno.



The sea otter plays in the tank.

"You can't pet them," said Father, "but you can touch otter fur."



Neno followed his father to a table nearby. The guide at the table handed Neno a piece of otter fur. "Wow! This is the softest thing I've ever

touched," Neno said.

"An otter's fur helps keep it warm and dry in cold water," explained the guide. "I know a place where you can touch living sea animals," said Father.

"All right!" said
Neno as he followed
his father. He saw
some kids standing
around an open tank.
He hurried over to
see what was going on.

Soon Neno was touching a sea star.



The guide showed Neno sea stars.

The guide showed Neno sea stars that were different sizes and colors. Some were smooth and some were bumpy. "I thought they all had five arms," said Neno.

"A lot of people think that," said the guide. "There are all kinds of sea stars. Look carefully as you go around the aquarium. You might see a huge one with many arms."

Neno thanked the guide and followed his father.

"Let's go to the kelp lab," said Father. "We can take a closer look at a sea star there."



tube feet

sea star

Underside of a

A magnified look at one ray of a sea star

Neno and his father stopped at many tanks. Each tank had interesting animals to look at.

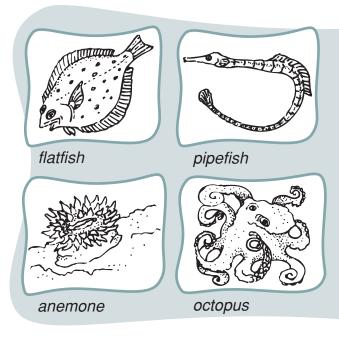
As they went upstairs, Neno said, "Wow! I didn't know there were so many kinds of sea animals here."

"Can you remember what you saw?" asked Father.

Neno listed the animals for his father. "I saw...



Sea anemones wave their tentacles.



flatfish with their eyes sticking out of the sand,

pipefish hiding in sea grass, anemones that look like flowers, and a giant octopus moving around the rocks.

"I really like the octopus. I want to go back and look at it again. And I want to see the birds, too."

"We don't have time to do that today. We will come back another time," said Father.

Then Neno and his father hurried over to take a quick look at the penguins. The penguins were fun to watch. They jumped into the water and swam with their paddle-like wings.

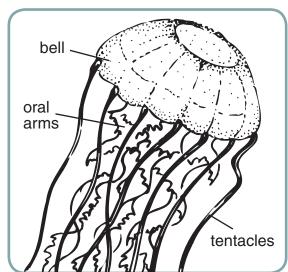


They stopped to take a funny picture of Neno sitting in a giant clam shell. "This will be a great picture to send to your grandparents," said Father.

Next it was time to go to Father's favorite place. They rode up an escalator.

Then they walked up to a huge tank. In the tank were beautiful jellies. The jellies were moving slowly through the water.





Some jellies' tentacles can be up to twelve feet long.

In the next room was another huge tank. Here were many kinds of big fish. "Look at that huge fish," said Father. He pointed at the strangest fish Neno had ever seen. "That's a sunfish," explained Father.

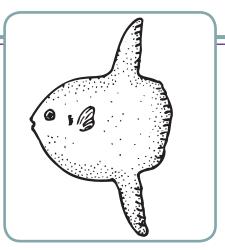
"It looks like it's all head," laughed Neno.

Next they went outside to look at the big tide pool for a few minutes. A friendly guide told Neno the names of the birds and animals that were in the tide pool.

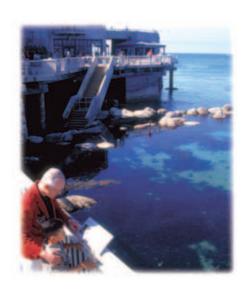
Neno looked through a telescope. He saw sea lions and seals resting on rocks. He saw an otter wrapped

up in kelp. He saw people in kayaks and sailboats.

Neno looked up at his father, smiled, and said, "This was great! Thank you for bringing me here today."



Sunfish (mola mola)



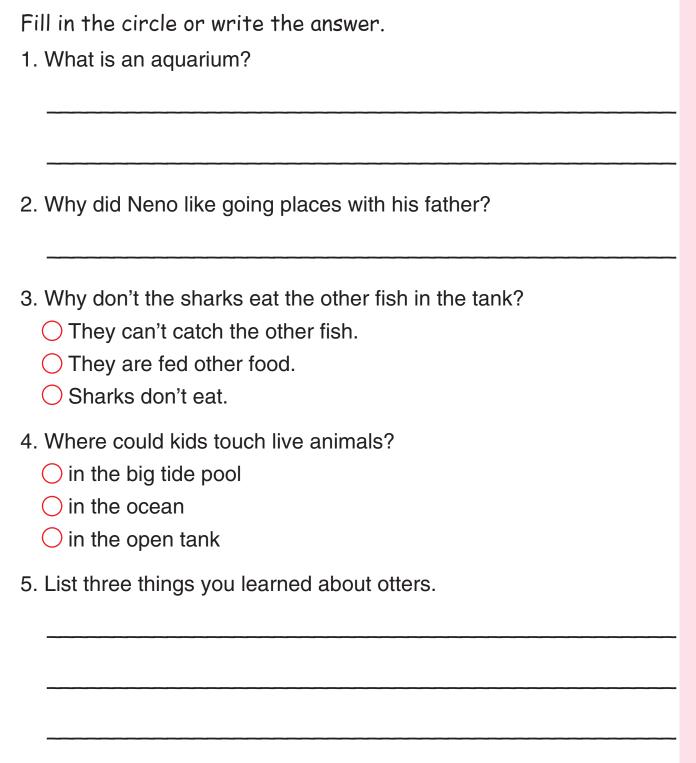


This story was about a visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California. (montereybayaquarium.org)

### Answer Questions about

### A Visit to the Monterey Bay





#### What Neno Saw

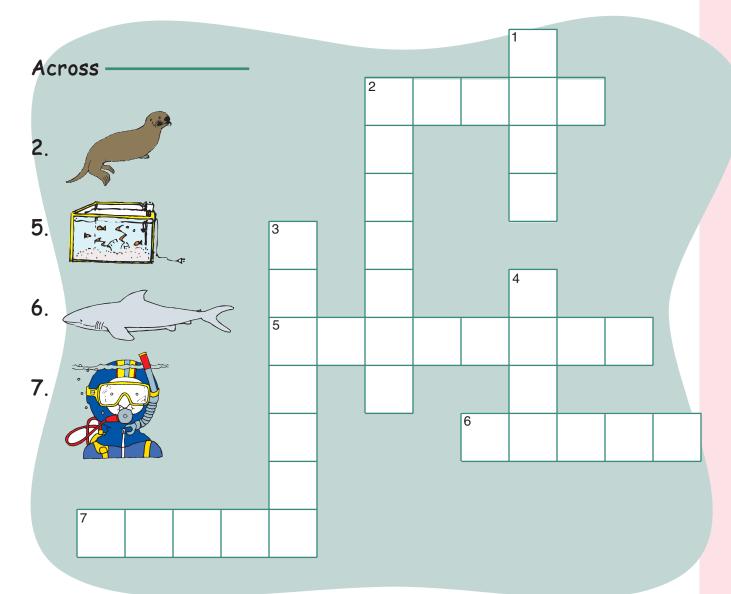
List these animals that Neno saw in alphabetical order.

shark otter seal
pipefish jellies anemone
penguin flatfish octopus
sunfish

- 1.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9.
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_

### Aquarium Crossword Puzzle

kelp aquarium diver fish octopus shark otter sea star



#### Down

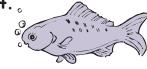
1.





3.





### The Sounds of g



Read the words.
Write the sound the letter g makes (g or j).

- 1. go \_\_\_\_\_ 5. gobble \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. gem \_\_\_\_\_ 6. giant \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. garden \_\_\_\_\_ 7. giraffe \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. gingerbread \_\_\_\_\_ 8. goat \_\_\_\_

### ——— A Word Family ——

### ark

Write ark on each line to make a word family. Read the new words to an adult.

| b | p | sh |  |
|---|---|----|--|
| d |   | m  |  |

Write sentences using two of your new words.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Words That Sound the Same

Circle the correct word.

- 1. Sharks swim in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ the shark?
- 3. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ his hat away.
- 4. White clouds were in the \_\_\_\_\_ sky.
- 5. An octopus has \_\_\_\_\_ tentacles.
- 6. The octopus \_\_\_\_\_ some shrimp.
- 7. A fish swam \_\_\_\_\_ the children.
- 8. Are you going to \_\_\_\_\_ your lunch?
- 9. How much do you \_\_\_\_?
- 10. Which \_\_\_\_\_ is the aquarium?

- see
- sea
- see
- sea
- blew blue
- blew blue
- ate eight
- ate eight
- by buy
- by buy
- way weigh
- way weigh

### In the Deep Blue Ocean

Circle the names of animals that live in the ocean.

octopus sunfish

flatfish spider

horse sea star

anemone crab

elephant parrot

caterpillar shark

jellies whale

sea snail lobster

| Tracking Form                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Topic Color in each page you complete. |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Happy Birthday, Lee!                   | 6   | 7   | 8   | ٩   | 10  | 11  |
| My Dog Max                             | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| Five Furry Kittens                     | 22  | 23  |     |     |     |     |
| Camping                                | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  |
| Peanut Butter                          | 35  | 36  | 37  | 38  | 39  | 40  |
| The Case of the Missing Apples         | цц  | 45  | 46  | 47  | 48  | 49  |
| May I Keep Her?                        | 53  | 54  | 55  | 56  | 57  | 58  |
| Rashma's Nest                          | 62  | 63  | 64  | 65  | 66  | 67  |
| Ten Little Monkeys                     | 69  | 70  |     |     |     |     |
| Pancakes Every Sunday                  | 74  | 75  | 76  | 77  | 78  | 79  |
| Row Your Boat                          | 85  | 86  | 87  | 88  | 89  | 90  |
| The Ugly Duckling                      | 96  | 97  | 98  | 99  | 100 | 101 |
| Elephants                              | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |
| How Bear Lost His Tail                 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 |
| A Visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium   | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 |

### **Answer Key**

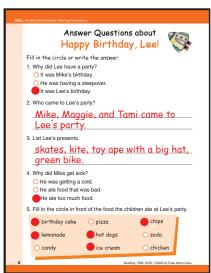
Checking your child's work is an important part of learning. It allows you to see what your child knows well and what areas need more practice. It also provides an opportunity for you to help your child understand that making mistakes is a part of learning.

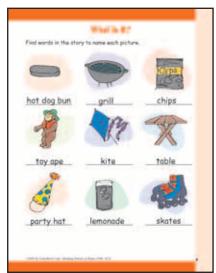
When an error is discovered, ask your child to look carefully at the question or problem. Errors often occur through misreading. Your child can quickly correct these errors. Help your child with items she or he finds difficult.

The answer key pages can be used in several ways:

- Remove the answer pages and give the book to your child. Go over the answers as each story and the accompanying activity pages are completed.
- Leave the answer pages in the book and give the practice pages to your child one story unit at a time.





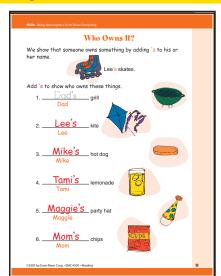




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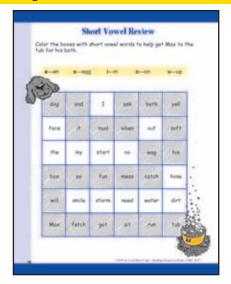




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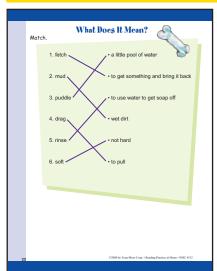
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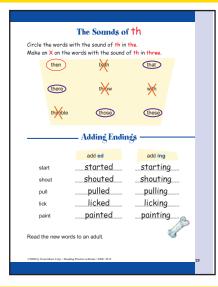


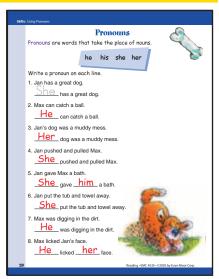




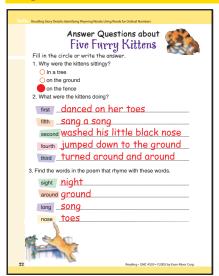
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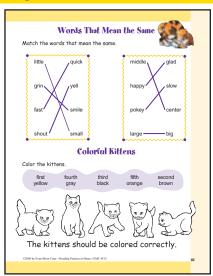






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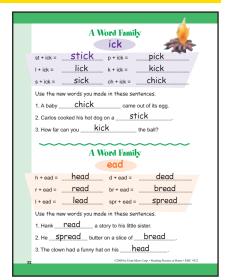




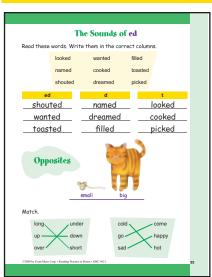
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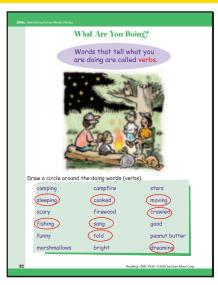


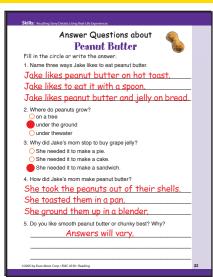




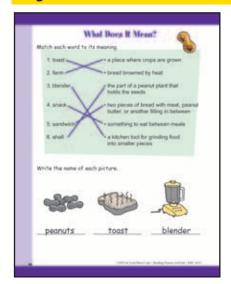
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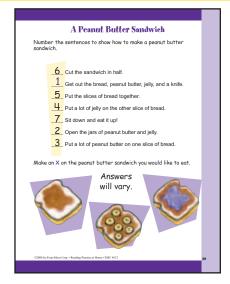






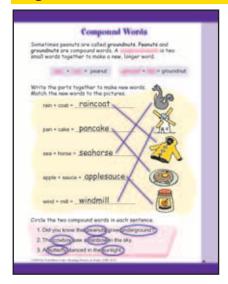
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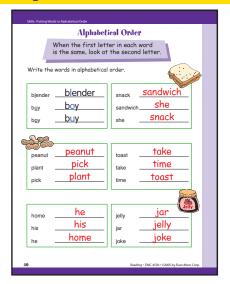


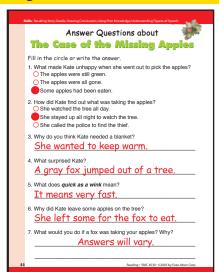




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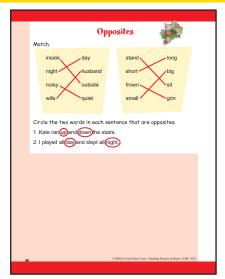


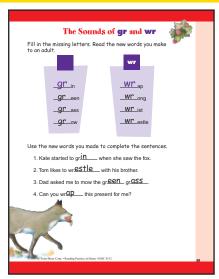




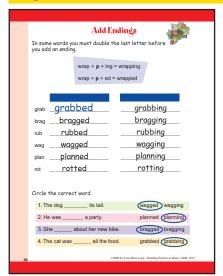
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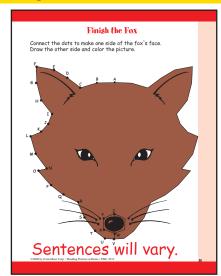


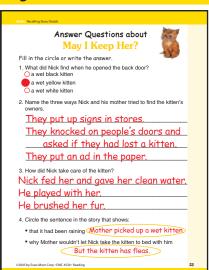




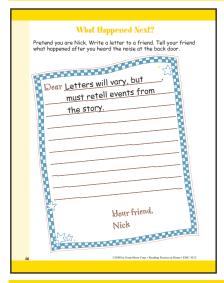
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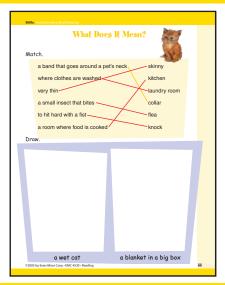


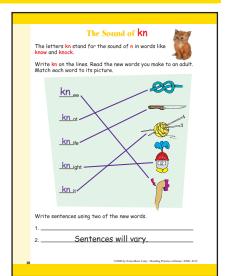




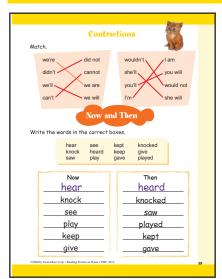
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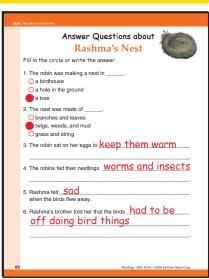




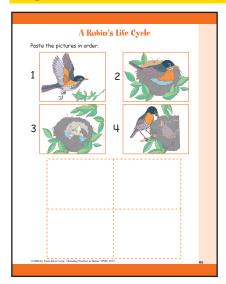
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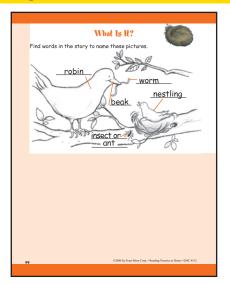


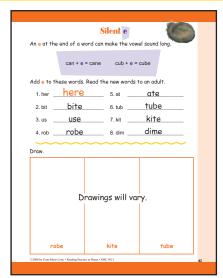




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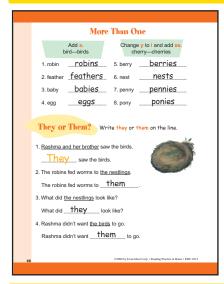


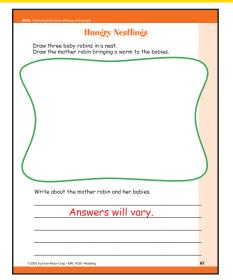


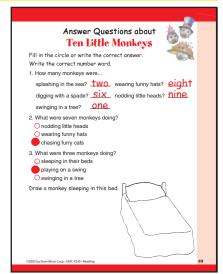
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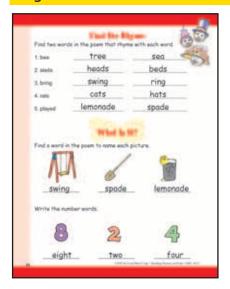


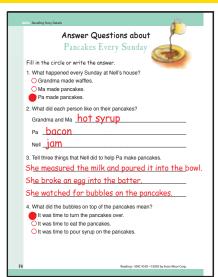


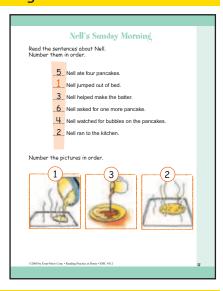
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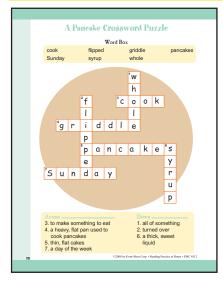


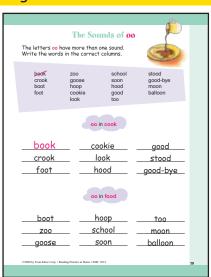


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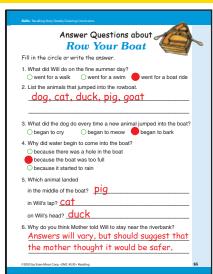


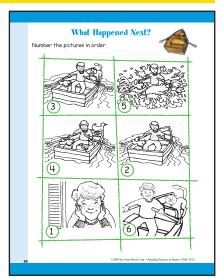




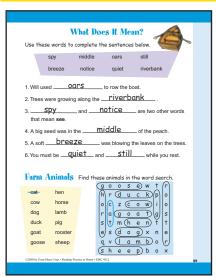
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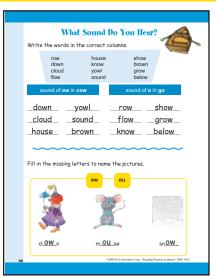






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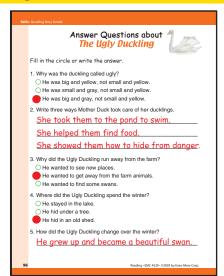


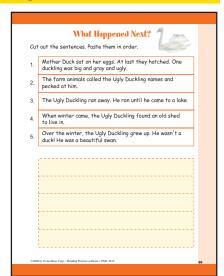




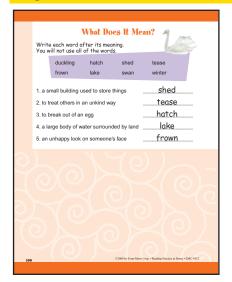
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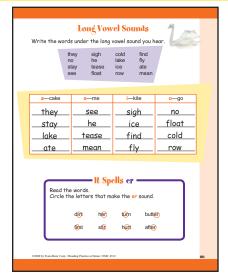


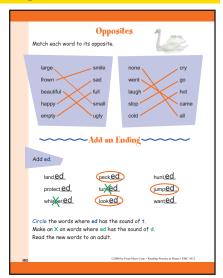




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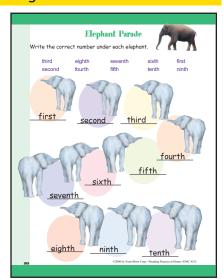
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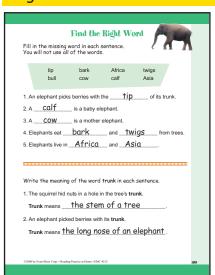
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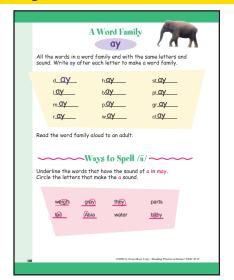
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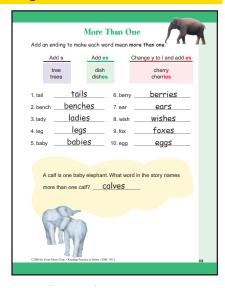
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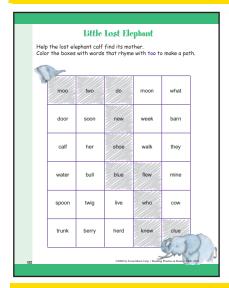
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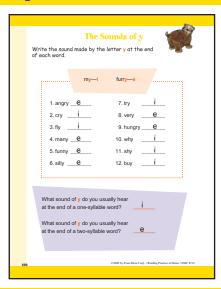




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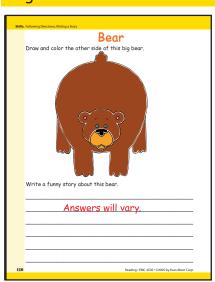
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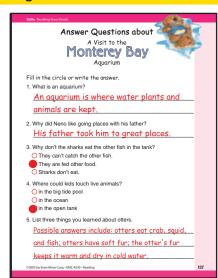
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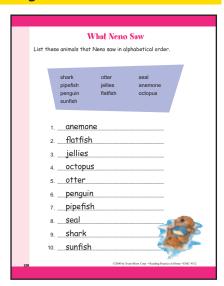
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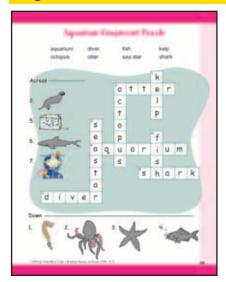


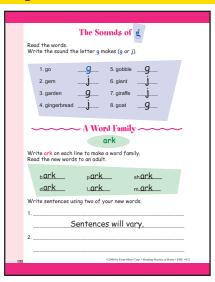
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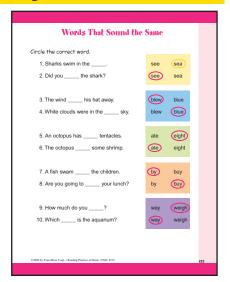


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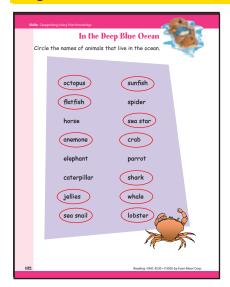








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| Grade PreK | EMC 4527 | Grade 3 | EMC 4531 |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Grade K    | EMC 4528 | Grade 4 | EMC 4532 |
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#### **About Evan-Moor Educational Publishers**

#### Who We Are

- At Evan-Moor, we are proud that our products are written, edited, and tested by professional educators.
- Evan-Moor's materials are directed to teachers and parents of prekindergarten through sixth-grade students.
- We address all major curriculum areas including:

reading social studies thematic units writing geography arts & crafts math science

#### **How We Began**

- In 1979, Joy Evans and Jo Ellen Moore were team-teaching first grade in a Title I school. They decided to put ideas that worked for their students into a book. They joined with Bill Evans (Joy's brother) to start Evan-Moor Educational Publishers with one book.
- Bill and Joy's parents' garage served as the warehouse and shipping facility.
- The first catalog was a folded 8½" x 11" sheet of paper!

#### **Who We Became**

- Evan-Moor now offers over 450 titles.
   Our materials can be found in over 1,500 educational and trade book stores around the world.
- We mail almost 2 million catalogs a year to schools and individual teachers.
- Our Web site <u>www.evan-moor.com</u> offers 24-hour service and the ability to download many of our titles.
- Evan-Moor is located in a 20,000-square-foot facility in Monterey, California, with a staff of nearly 60 professionals.

#### **Our Mission**

Now, as then, we are dedicated to helping children learn. We think it is the world's most important job, and we strive to assist teachers and parents in this essential endeavor.



Helping Children Learn



# skill sharpeners Reading

Keep
Your
Child's
Academic
Skills
Sharp

It has been proven that children benefit immensely when parents take an active role in their education. As a parent, you have a wonderful opportunity to support what happens in the classroom, inspiring your child's desire to learn.

The skills and concepts presented in *Skill*Sharpeners are grade appropriate and are aligned to national and state standards. The standardized-style assessment pages are an integral part of the series, helping to build your child's confidence with test-question formats. The books are colorful, engaging, and easy to use with interesting themes, charming illustrations, and a variety of activities that will appeal to your child.

Additional parent resources from Evan-Moor Educational Publishers:

- The Never-Bored Kid Books
- Daily Summer Activities
- Skill Sharpeners
  - Spell & Write
  - Math

