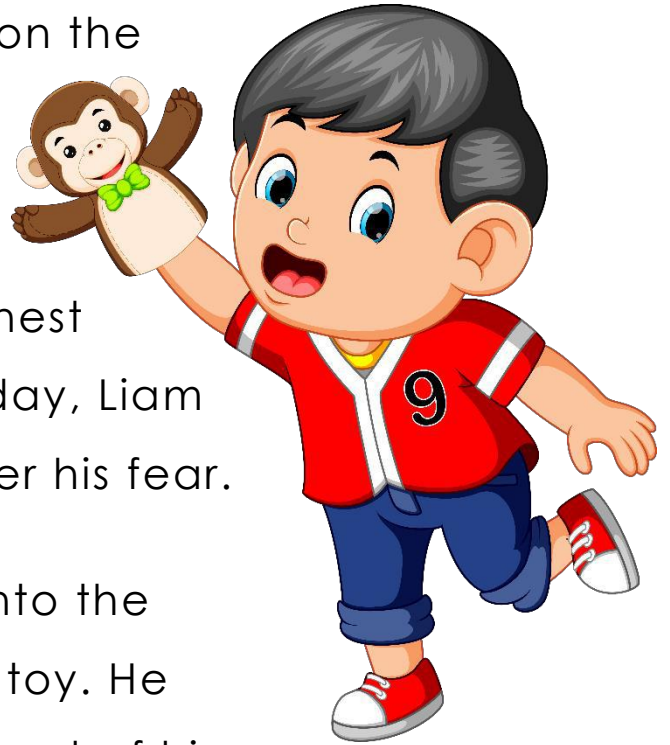


Reading Comprehension



Ernest whines, cries and pulls on the leash. He's too scared to ride the elevator.



Most of the time, Liam and Ernest take the stairs. Not today! Today, Liam decides to help Ernest conquer his fear.

First, Liam tries to lure Ernest into the elevator with his favorite dog toy. He takes Ernest's stuffed monkey out of his doggie bed and puts it on the elevator floor.

"Come on, Ernest!" he exclaims, holding the elevator door open. "Come get your toy."

Ernest looks at the stuffed monkey. He looks at the elevator. Then he lies down and makes a soft whining noise. He won't get in the elevator.

Liam has another idea. He finds some salami in the fridge and puts it on the floor of the elevator.

"Come get the salami, Ernest," he says.

Ernest looks at the salami. He looks at the elevator. He inches a little bit forward, then stops. Ernest still won't get in the elevator.

Liam is about to give up. Will nothing help Ernest overcome his fear?

Then, Liam has another idea. He takes off one of his shoes and tosses it inside the elevator.

“Ernest, go get the shoe!” Before Liam can even finish his sentence, Ernest jumps inside the elevator. He starts chewing on Liam's shoe.

They get to the bottom floor. “You are so brave, Ernest,” Liam says. Ernest won't let go of the shoe, but Liam doesn't mind. He takes Ernest for a walk in one shoe and one sock.



Ernest and the Elevator (exercises)

1. True (T) or False (F)? Circle the correct answer.

Ernest's favorite thing to chew is salami.	T	F
Liam takes Ernest for a walk every day.	T	F
Ernest's favorite dog toy is a stuffed giraffe.	T	F

2. Circle the correct answer.

Ernest looks at the stuffed monkey. He looks at the elevator. Then he lies down and (*barks / makes a soft whining noise*).

Ernest won't let go of the (*stuffed monkey / shoe*), but Liam doesn't mind.

Other than the fact that he loves (*hiding / chewing*) Liam's shoes, Ernest is very well-behaved.

3. Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to put the events of the story in the correct order.

_____ Liam tries to lure Ernest into the elevator with salami.

_____ Liam tries to lure Ernest into the elevator with a stuffed monkey.

_____ Liam takes Ernest for a walk wearing only one shoe.

_____ Liam lures Ernest into the elevator with one of his shoes.

combed special haircut
patient scissors mirror

Please Wait

Today was the first day of school, and my friend Jody had a new haircut. It looked so cool.

When I got home, I asked my mom for a haircut, and I told her exactly how I wanted it. I asked her, very politely, “Could you please do it today?”

Sadly, she was busy. She told me that it takes a long time to cut hair. “First, you have to take a bath so that your hair is wet. Then, you have to brush it out really well,” she said. My face dropped as my mom continued. “Finally, when you cut, you have to use special scissors, and cut very gently so that everything is even...” Her voice trailed off.



“You need to be very careful and get it just right. If you make a mistake, you can’t glue the hair back on,” she said, laughing. I didn’t think it was very funny.

“Maybe I can cut it for you on the weekend,” she told me.

I went back to my room and looked at my hair in the mirror. It was way too long, and I didn’t want to go back to school looking like this.

I thought about what Mom had told me. She said to take a bath first, but I already took one this morning. Then she said to brush my hair, so I gave it a quick brush. Mom had said to use special scissors. I got my school scissors out of my desk. If they could cut paper, they could cut hair!



I looked in the mirror again and paused. Mom's comment that "you can't glue it back on again" made me worry a little. I decided to cut off just a little hair.

Snip. Snip. Snip. I watched some hair float to the floor. I looked in the mirror, and one side was shorter than the other.

Snip. Snip. Snip. I looked again, but now the other side was shorter!

Snip. Snip. Snip. It was still wrong.

Snip. Snip. Snip. I kept trying to fix things, but the more I cut, the more lopsided and crooked my hair became. I started to cry.

Mom walked in. She looked at my new haircut. She shook her head and didn't say anything. I don't like it when she doesn't say anything.



“Are you mad because it's ugly?” I asked.

“No, I'm disappointed because you were not patient. I am disappointed that you did not wait for me,” she replied.

I went into the bathroom and took a bath. My mom brushed my hair out, then clipped gently with her special scissors. It wasn't perfect, but it was much better. My mom smiled as she combed my hair one last time.

“All good things come to those who wait,” she said.



Please Wait (exercises)

1. Choose the correct answer.

Why did the girl want to cut her hair?

- a. She was bored with her hair.
- b. Her best friend got a new haircut that she liked.
- c. She didn't want hair anymore.
- d. She wanted to annoy her mom.

Why did the girl's mom ask her to wait?

- a. She did not want to cut her daughter's hair.
- b. She was not in the mood.
- c. She was busy.
- d. She wanted her daughter to cut her own hair.

What lesson did the girl learn at the end of the story?

- a. Do not steal.
- b. Be kind to others.
- c. Be respectful toward your parents.
- d. Be patient.

2. Circle the correct choice in the sentences below.

The girl wanted to make her hair
(*longer / shorter*).

Her best friend's hair was (*cool / awful*).

The result was (*amazing / terrible*) when the girl
cut her own hair.

Mom was (*angry / disappointed*) that her
daughter cut her own hair.

3. Fill in the blanks with the steps for a good haircut.

Take a _____, so that your _____
is _____.

_____ your _____ really well.

_____ hair _____ with
_____ scissors.

Did the girl follow these steps when she cut her
own hair?

_____.

substitute sighed scary
muscles tattoo scars

Second-Grade Substitute

Josh waved to his mom, sat down, sighed, and looked out the window. He checked his watch. He would be at school in about ten minutes. His stomach was full of butterflies.



The bus stopped, and five more students got on. Maddox sat down next him and gave him a nervous look and a half-smile.

“Are you ready?” he asked him.

Josh shrugged his shoulders. Their teacher, Mrs. Whitman, was gone for the day, and they were having a substitute.

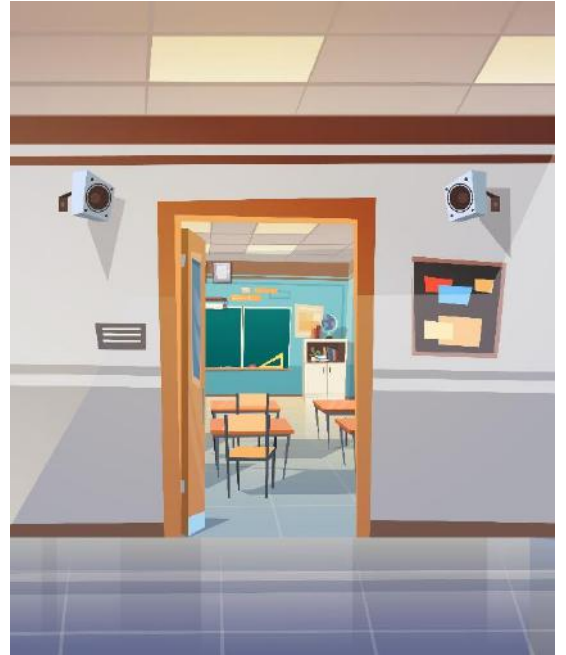
Normally, they wouldn't mind this, but their teacher had told them that Mr. Stafford would be filling in for her. The boys had never had Mr. Stafford before, but the older kids had told them all about him.

Brendan said Mr. Stafford had tattoos all over and the biggest muscles he had ever seen! Max said that he had piercing blue eyes, a thick dark beard, big teeth and a huge scar on his face. They both said that Mr. Stafford was the biggest, meanest and scariest teacher they had ever had!

The bus came to a stop and Josh looked up. They had arrived at the school. He took a deep breath and walked off the bus.



Josh and Maddox headed up the second-grade hallway. They were walking a little more slowly than normal. Josh noticed that Mrs. Whitman wasn't standing at the classroom door like she usually was. He sighed again, put his head down and walked into the classroom.



He looked around the room for their substitute teacher. He didn't see the big, scary man anywhere. Puzzled, he said to Maddox, "I don't see him. Do you?"

Maddox pointed, and Josh's eyes followed the direction of his finger. He spotted their substitute in the reading area with several students.

Maddox and Josh instantly felt better and smiled. Mr. Stafford didn't have huge muscles or scars. He didn't have tattoos all over him, and his eyes and teeth were normal. He didn't look scary at all.

He was an older man, wearing grey pants, a plaid shirt, a dark green cardigan sweater and glasses. He had a warm smile and gentle laugh.

The kids all began to clap as he finished reading a story. "Second grade, I hope you enjoyed that book. Are you ready to start our day together? I'm looking forward to it!" he told them.

Josh smiled. Suddenly, he was really looking forward to it too.



Second-Grade Substitute (exercises)

1. Choose the correct answers.

How is Josh feeling at the beginning of the story?

- a. angry
- b. nervous
- c. excited
- d. brave

What is another word for *piercing* in the story?

- a. pointy
- b. intense
- c. sad
- d. large

What does the teacher wear?

- a. a red necktie
- b. black boots
- c. a leather jacket
- d. a green cardigan

2. Put the events in the correct order.

_____ Josh and Maddox ride the bus.

_____ The teacher reads a story.

_____ Mrs. Whitman tells the students about a substitute.

_____ Josh and Maddox look around the classroom.

3. What made Josh change his mind about the day ahead?

ground snowman disappointed
lying rolling determined

The Snowman Problem

Kyle and Emma were playing in the snow. It was the kind of snow that was perfect for making snowballs. They talked about building a fort or having a snowball fight.

“How about we make a snowman?” Kyle asked Emma. “Let’s make the biggest snowman ever!”

“Great idea!” Emma said.



The two children started working on their snowman. They each started with a small pile of snow that they rolled into a ball. Next, they rolled their snowballs on the ground, making them bigger and bigger.

“Do you think my snowball is big enough?” Emma asked.

“Not yet!” Kyle replied. “Keep rolling!”

Emma and Kyle kept rolling their snowballs through the snow. Soon, the snowballs were so heavy that they could barely push them. They decided to start making a smaller snowball to use for the snowman’s head.



Once the last snowball was ready, it was time to put the snowman together.

“Help me lift this big snowball on top of the other one,” Emma said to Kyle.

The children stood on each side of the huge snowball and tried as hard as they could to lift it. It was way too heavy for them to pick up! They could not even lift it one inch off the ground.

“Now what?” Emma sighed. “Should we start again and just make a small snowman?”

Kyle and Emma stared at the three balls of snow on the ground. They felt disappointed, but Kyle was determined to build a big snowman.

“I have an idea,” Kyle replied. “Help me push this snowball.”



Emma and Kyle pushed one of the big snowballs so it was right beside the other one. Next, Kyle rolled the smallest snowball over and added it to the line of snowballs.

“What are you doing?” Emma asked. “Why do you have all the snowballs in a row?”

“I’m making a snowman,” Kyle smiled. “But he’s lying down!”

Emma laughed. "I know the perfect things to add to our snowman!"

She ran into the house. A few minutes later, she came out with sunglasses, a big, floppy hat, and a glass of lemonade.

"He's lying on the beach!" she exclaimed, as she carefully put the hat and sunglasses in place on the smallest snowball.

Kyle laughed and asked his sister, "Should we put some sunscreen on him so he doesn't get sunburned?"



The Snowman Problem (exercises)

1. Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 to put the events from the story in order.

_____ Kyle and Emma couldn't lift the big snowball.

_____ Emma put a hat and sunglasses on the snowman.

_____ Kyle and Emma made a small snowball to use for the snowman's head.

_____ Emma ran into the house.

2. Multiple Choice.

Kyle and Emma wanted to make the _____ snowman ever.

- a. smallest
- b. smelliest
- c. biggest

Where did Emma pretend the snowman was lying?

- a. in the bathtub
- b. on the beach
- c. on the couch

Where did Kyle put the three snowballs?

- a. in the freezer
- b. on top of each other
- c. in a row

3. What would happen to a snowman at the beach in summer? Answer in a full sentence.

perfectly sketch quiet
beautiful night deer

The Night Artist

Macy tiptoed through the cabin, as quiet as a mouse. She did not want to wake anyone up. She silently got dressed, picked up her sketch pad and slipped outside.

It was cooler than she expected. And quieter. And darker. It was hard to see even the trees, which just looked like shadows in front of the cabin. Macy crept along the porch to the bench and sat down quietly.



Everything seemed a bit spooky, and Macy felt a little nervous. She wasn't used to being outside at night, alone in the dark. Macy thought about going back inside, but she decided not to. Her dad had told her that many wild animals only come out at night, and she wanted to see them. She wanted to see the animals and sketch them.

Macy waited in the quiet of the night. She could hear the wind softly rustling the leaves in the trees. An owl hooted in the distance. After a while, she could see better. Up in the sky, the full Moon shone down on her, and she could see thousands of stars. The owl hooted again. Macy liked the owl sound, and she started to relax more. She started to sketch the Moon.



After a little while, Macy heard a rustling in the bushes. She could feel the excitement rising in her, as well as a little fear. She reminded herself to be calm and not run if it was a bear.

It wasn't a bear. A beautiful doe stepped out of shadows and into the light of the full Moon. The doe was only about 20 feet away. Macy gasped. She had never been this close to a wild animal before.

"You're so beautiful," she whispered.

The deer spun its head around and stared at Macy. The deer stood perfectly still. Macy sat perfectly still. The deer stared at Macy. Macy stared at the deer. Finally, the deer decided that Macy was not dangerous and started to eat the grass.

Macy very carefully and slowly picked up her pad and started to sketch the deer. She drew the deer's long neck and legs. She drew the spots on the doe's tan and white fur. She drew the deer's dark eyes and big ears.



A couple of times, the deer looked up at Macy. Each time, Macy stopped drawing and sat perfectly still. She did not want to scare the deer away. After a few seconds, the deer always went back to eating grass.

Just as Macy was finishing her sketch, the doe silently slipped away into the bushes.

Macy picked up her pad and went back inside the cabin. Everyone else was still sleeping. Macy knew she should go to sleep, but she was too excited. She looked at her sketch. She felt very special. She had truly connected with nature.



The Night Artist (exercises)

1. Vocabulary

To feel nervous is to feel:

- a. very happy
- b. really hungry
- c. a little scared

A doe is:

- a. a plant-eating dinosaur
- b. an angry bear
- c. a female deer

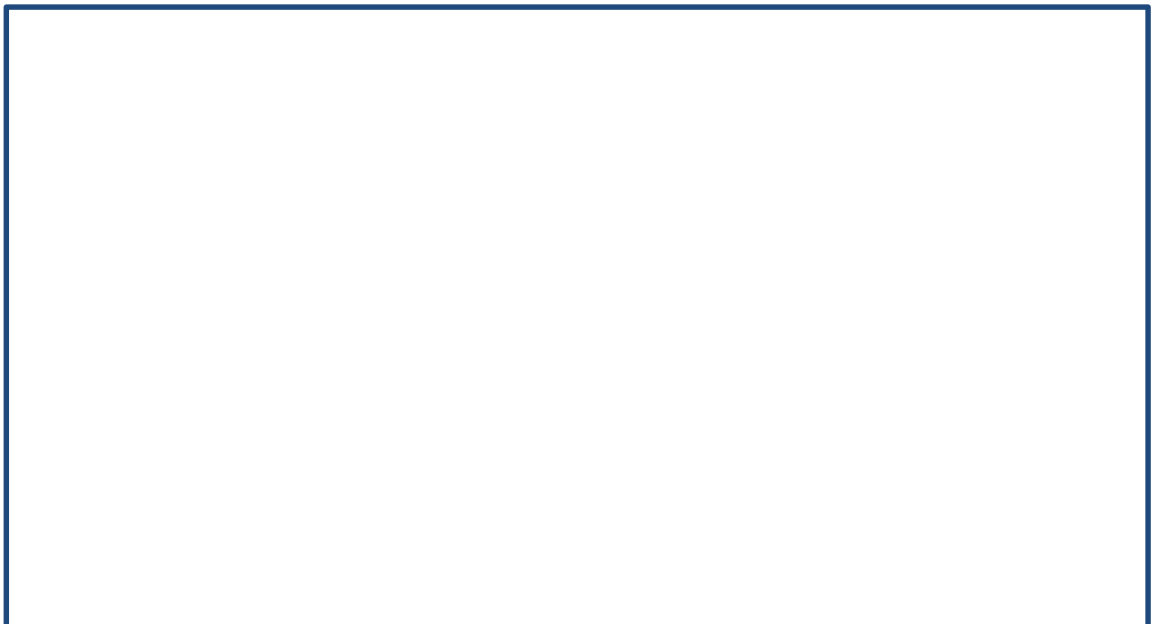
To sketch means:

- a. to draw
- b. to dig
- c. to destroy

2. Answer the questions.

a. Did the full Moon help Macy draw? How?

b. Why do you think the deer stared at Macy?

3. Draw the doe and label her neck, legs, body, spots, eyes, ears and tail.

mailbox envelope Post Office
mailman sidewalk policeman

Mikey Mails It

“Mikey, I have some letters for you to mail,” Mom called.

“Coming, Mom!” Mikey put down his book and went downstairs.

“Make sure these all go inside the mailbox,” Mom reminded him. Their street had a blue mailbox on the corner just two blocks away.



“I will, Mom.” He headed down the street. It was a little windy. When he got to Evan’s driveway, he saw his friend bouncing a basketball. Mikey put down the mail and started playing with his friend.

Suddenly three envelopes flew by, caught by the wind.

“Yikes!” Mikey and Evan scrambled to catch the letters. Mikey counted to make sure he had them all. Then he ran down to the mailbox and mailed them before he forgot again.

The next day, Mom came into Mikey’s bedroom.

“Would you take this to Mrs. Smith’s house?” she asked, holding up a big yellow envelope. “It’s the money from the bake sale. I need you to go straight there and make sure you give it to Mrs. Smith.”

Mikey felt grown-up as he marched down the sidewalk with the envelope under his arm.

At the end of the block, his friend Emily came around the corner. She had a bouncy black puppy on a leash.

“We have a new dog!” Emily exclaimed. The cute little puppy jumped up against Mikey’s legs.



“Wow!” Mikey giggled as the furry little dog nudged him with its nose. “I think he likes me.”

“Yes, he does,” Emily agreed. “Do you want to walk him?”

“Sure! Mikey was about to take the leash, when he saw the mailbox up ahead. “Oh, wait. First, I have to mail this for my mom.”

Mikey ran up to the mailbox, opened it, and tossed the yellow envelope inside.



Just as he heard the envelope drop down inside, he remembered that the yellow envelope wasn't mail. It was the money from the bake sale. He had thrown the money in the mailbox!

Mikey tried to see into the mailbox, but it was completely dark.

“What's the matter?” Emily ran up, the puppy barking at the excitement.

He told her his mistake, and her eyes opened wide.

“Maybe you can reach it,” Emily suggested. Emily held the mailbox door open while Mikey stood on his tiptoes and tried to reach into the mailbox as far as his arm would go.

“What’s going on, kids?”

Mikey and Emily both turned around. Two kids and an excited puppy stared up at a very tall policeman. The policeman looked very serious. Mikey couldn’t help it. He started to cry.

“I mailed the money,” he sobbed. “It was an accident!”

After Mikey had sniffled out the whole story, the officer walked Mikey home. Mom was surprised to see a policeman at the door.



Once Mom called the Post Office, things turned out well. A mailman came, found the yellow envelope and gave it back to Mikey's mom.

"Next time," Mikey promised, "I'll finish my job before I stop to play!"



Mikey Mails It (exercises)

1. True or False?

_____ Mikey went right to Josh's house with the yellow envelope.

_____ Emily had a new brown and white puppy.

_____ The policeman took Mikey to jail.

_____ Money from the bake sale was in the yellow envelope.

2. Circle the correct answers.

When his mom gave Mikey the three envelopes:

- a. Mikey took them straight to the mailbox.
- b. Emily's new puppy ate them.
- c. Mikey put the envelopes down to play basketball.

Why did the policeman come?

- a. The puppy was barking too loud.
- b. The kids were trying to reach into the mailbox.
- c. He had a letter to mail.

Mikey promised:

- a. He would clean his room.
- b. He would finish his job before he stopped to play.
- c. He would never mail another letter.

3. Write 1 to 4 to put the events in order.

_____ Mikey met Emily with her new puppy.

_____ Mom called the Post Office.

_____ Mikey started to cry.

_____ Evan and Mikey scrambled after the envelopes.

brilliant hurricane interviewer
crew blankets television

The Blanket Drive

Mr. Kent's students were very concerned about a hurricane that had just happened in Mexico. It had gotten very windy. The wind blew trees over and damaged houses. After the wind, there were heavy rains. Houses and streets were flooded.

The class spoke about what it would be like in Mexico. They discussed how the houses, and all the things inside, would be ruined. Ava said, "People will need clothes."

"They'll need new blankets to keep warm," Melanie added.



“My sister has a ton of clothes. We should send those to Mexico,” said Brett, thinking of how upset his sister would be to come home to an empty closet.

“Brett, that’s brilliant!” said Ava.

“It is?” replied Brett, who didn’t think he had ever said anything brilliant.

“Yes, it is!” exclaimed Ava with excitement. “You, your sister, Melanie and I, and everyone else in the school, can bring in our extra clothes and blankets to send to Mexico. We all have lots of stuff, and now they need some of it.”

“Let’s do it!” Melanie said. “My mom has a whole closet full of blankets. We don’t need that many.”



The classroom was buzzing with chatter as the students talked to Mr. Kent about how they could collect clothes and blankets. Some kids were going to make signs that said: "Blanket Drive." Other kids were writing a newsletter. Everyone was going to ask their friends and relatives for old clothes and blankets. Brett was put in charge of stacking all the clothes and blankets in the gym.

Everyone was excited, except Brett. "Am I going to have to miss recess for this?" Brett said, groaning.

"Maybe this isn't such a brilliant idea."

All week long, students brought in clothes and blankets. News of the blanket drive spread, and people living all over the city brought in



more clothes and blankets. Even Brett was impressed by how generous people were.

Everyone in town was talking about the Blanket Drive. The local television station sent a camera crew to the school. The reporter wanted to know whose idea this was.

They found Brett in the gym. Behind him, thousands of blankets and pieces of clothing were stacked almost to the ceiling.

The interviewer asked Brett, "This was a brilliant idea. You must be very proud of yourself for thinking of it."

Brett looked at the mountain of clothes behind him and then looked back at the camera. "No, it wasn't a brilliant idea," Brett said thoughtfully. "We had a lot of stuff and those people in Mexico really needed some of it. We're just trying to help. It's simple."



The Blanket Drive (exercises)

1. Write short answers to the questions.

a. In what country was there a hurricane?

_____.

b. What did the kids collect?

_____ and _____.

c. Where did they store all the items they collected?

_____.

d. What was the name of the teacher?

_____.

2. True (T) or False (F)? Circle the right answer.

It didn't rain during the hurricane.	T	F
Students thought the "Blanket Drive" was a brilliant idea.	T	F
People from all over the city made donations.	T	F
Brett's sister donated all the clothes.	T	F

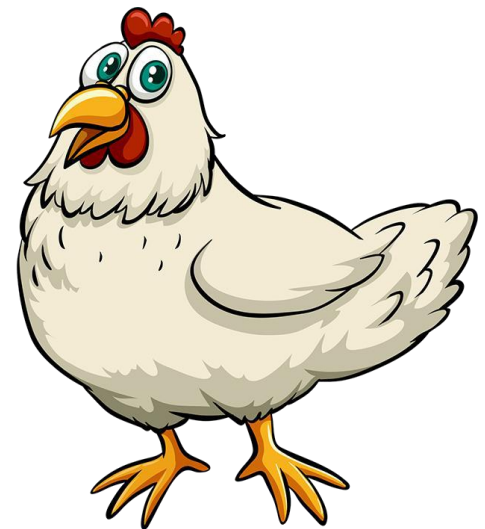
3. Can you think of two other things the hurricane victims might need?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

A Big White Hen

There was once a big, white hen that had twelve little chickens. They were very small, and the old hen took good care of them. She found food for them in the daytime and at night kept them under her wings.

One day, the old hen took her chickens down to a small brook. She thought some fresh air and the water would do them good.



When they got to the brook, they walked on the bank a little while. It was very pretty on the other side of the brook, and the old hen thought she would take her chickens over there.

There was a large stone in the brook; she thought it would be easy for them to jump to that stone and from it to the other side.

So she jumped to the stone and told the children to come after her. For the first time, she found that they would not obey her.

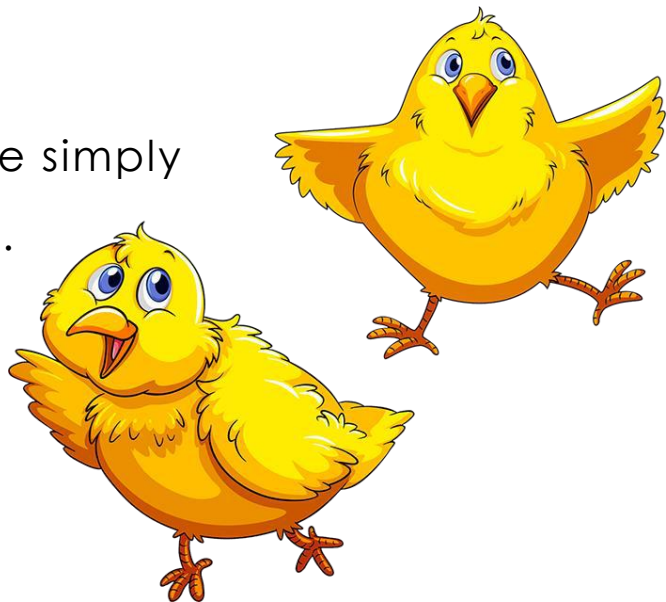
She flapped her wings, and cried, "Come here, all of you! Jump upon this stone as I did. We can then jump to the other side. Come now!"

"O Mother! We can't, we can't, we can't!" said all the little chickens.

"Yes you can if you try," said the old hen. "Just flap your wings as I did, and you can jump over."

"I am flapping my wings," said Chippy, who stood by himself, "but I can't jump any better than I could before."

The chickens' wings were simply too small to jump across.



Questions:

1. How many chickens does the hen have?

2. What did the hen find in the brook?

3. How should the chickens try to jump?

4. Why don't the chickens obey the hen?

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

Ten Little Cookies

Ten little cookies, brown and crisp and fine—
Grandma gave Baby one; then there were nine.
Nine little cookies on a china plate—
Betty took a small one; then there were eight.
Eight little cookies, nice and round and even—
The butcher boy ate one; then there were seven.
Seven little cookies, much liked by chicks—
The old hen ate one, then there were six.
Six little cookies, when
grandma went to drive—
Betty had another one; then
there were five.
Five little cookies, placed too
near the door—
The little doggie ate one; then
there were four.



Four little cookies, brown as brown could be—
Grandma took one for herself, then there were three.
Three little cookies— when grandpa said,
“I too, would like a very little one”; then there were
two.
Two little cookies— fast did Betty run
To give one to her mamma; then there was one.
One little cookie— and now our story is done.
Baby Jane ate the last; then there was none.



Questions:

1. How many cookies were left after the butcher boy ate one?

2. Who ate the cookie placed near the door?

3. What kind of cookie did Grandpa eat?

4. How many cookies did Betty eat in all?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

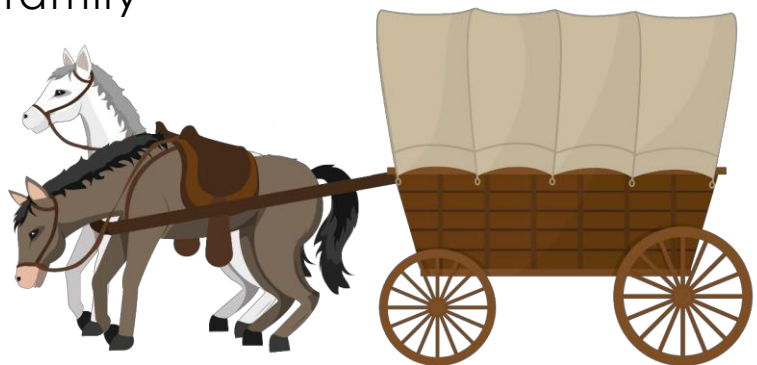
Moving On

Several years went by, and the father of the Boone family called them together. "Pack your things," he told them. "We are leaving here. Boones never stay long in one place. Besides, our farm land is worn out. We can buy rich land cheap to the Southwest of here. We will settle there."

Sixteen-year-old Daniel was happy. "I'm glad we are going," he said. "I feel crowded here. There are too many houses and too many people."

Father prepared for the journey. He took out the big wagon and hitched two horses to it. Mother packed clothes, quilts, dishes, pots, pans and kettles. She would fix food for the family along the way.

Daniel tied a cow behind the wagon.

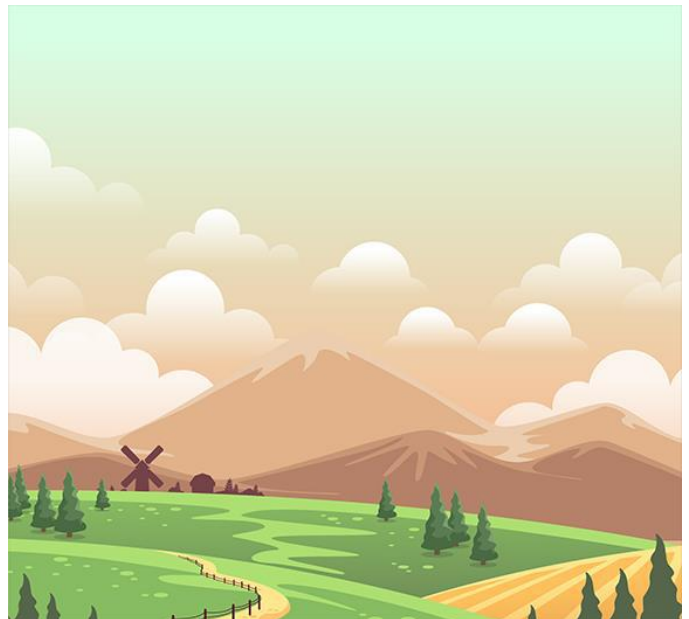


The family said goodbye to the neighbors and to their old home and started on their way. Mother, the girls, and the little children rode in the wagon. Father and the boys rode the horses. Sometimes all of them walked to give the horses a rest.

The Boones traveled across Pennsylvania. On and on they went toward the new country. At last the family came to the rolling, green Yadkin Valley in North Carolina. There were a few houses there already, but it was much wilder than in Pennsylvania.

Father said, "This is good farming land. We will stop here."

Daniel looked all about him. There was level land close by. There were woods not far away. There were mountains in the West. Daniel knew the hunting would be good.



“I like this place,” he said. “There's plenty of room here.”

Father and the boys jumped off the horses. Mother and the girls climbed down from the wagon. They fed the horses and the cow. They made a campfire. Father and the boys cut down trees and started to build a log house. Soon the Boones had a new home in the new land.

The years went by. Daniel grew taller. His shoulders became wider. He was fair-haired, blue-eyed, lean and rugged. He hunted in the woods of the Yadkin Valley. The Boones' neighbors said that Daniel was the best shot for miles around. Daniel Boone had grown into a man.



Questions:

1. How old was Daniel Boone when they moved?

2. Why did the family need to move?

3. Why didn't they always ride the horses?

4. In which state does the family Boone make their new home?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

The Coat

“Do not go outside without your warm coat, Tom. It is very cold, and the snow lies thick on the ground. If you do, then you will catch cold, and you will be sick.”

“I feel quite warm. I don’t need to wear a warm coat.”

“Yes, you do. In here we have a large fire. Outside there is no fire to keep you warm, and the cold wind blows. If you have no warm coat on, you will feel cold.”



However, Tom thought he knew best, so he went outside with no coat on. Tom caught a bad cold and cough. He was in bed quite sick.

Jack, Will and Tom were supposed to play on the frozen pond the next day, but now Tom was too sick to go. When he was in bed, Tom thought how silly he had been. He would try to do all that he was told when he got well.



Questions:

1. What was the weather like outside?

2. Why doesn't Tom think he needs a coat?

3. What happened when Tom went out without a coat?

4. Why did Tom think he had been silly?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

In Search of Flowers

A little girl went in search of flowers for her mother. It was early in the day, and the grass was wet. Sweet little birds were singing all around her.

What do you think she found besides flowers? She found a nest with young birds in it.

While she was looking at them, she heard the mother bird chirp as if to say, "Do not touch my children, little girl, for I love them dearly."



The little girl thought how dearly her own mother loved her.

So she left the birds. Then picking some flowers, she went home, and she told her mother what she had seen and heard.

Questions:

1. What time of day is the girl looking for flowers?

2. What does she find?

3. What does the mother bird say to the girl?

4. Why does the girl leave the nest alone?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Here is a Nest

“Look, Ned, here is a nest! It is made from hay, and the old hen is in it.”

“Put your hand into the nest, Mary.”

“Oh no, the hen will not let me! The hen is protecting something.”

“Mary, I will hold onto her.”

“Well, Ned, if you can hold her, I will put my hand into the nest,” said Mary as she moved her hand towards the nest. “Oh Ned, there are some little chicks under the hen!”

“Are there?” asked Ned.



“Take her out of the nest so we can see them.”

Ned lifted the hen out of the nest. The children could see the chicks. There were six of them.

“Oh, the dear little chicks! How pretty they are,” said Ned. “Should we help the hen to feed them, Mary?”

“Yes, I will run and get some food and give them some water,” shouted Mary as she ran towards her house.



Questions:

1. What is the nest made of?

2. How many chicks are in the nest?

3. What will the children do for the little chicks?

4. Why won't the hen let Mary put her hand in the nest?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

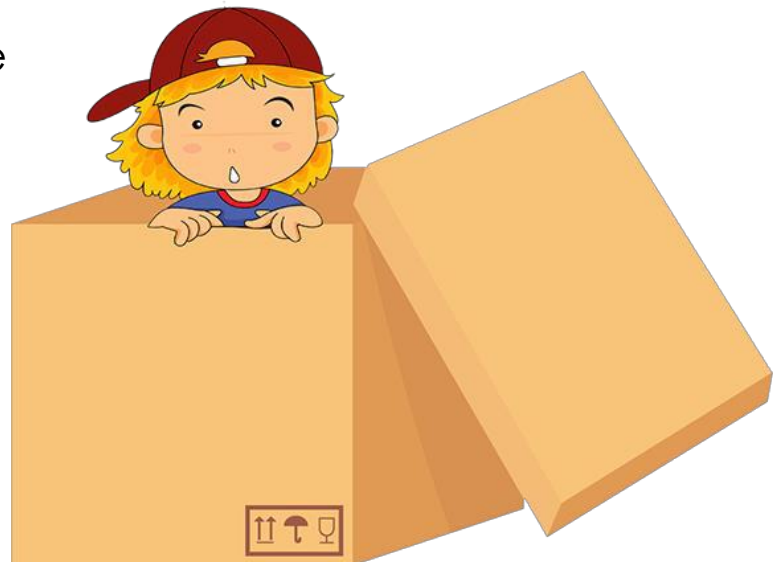
Hide and Seek

“Come boys, what shall we do? Let’s play hide and seek,” suggested Fred.

“Oh yes! That will be fun for all of us. Who will shut his eyes? Fred, will you shut your eyes?” asked Roy.

“Yes, I’ll shut my eyes while you all go and hide,” replied Fred. Then Fred stood by the tree and shut his eyes, and the other boys ran off to hide. Pretty soon Fred shouted, “Boys, are you all hidden? Well, here I go. One, two, three, here I come!”

Fred started to look for the hidden boys. He spotted Andrew hiding in a box. “Ha! I found you, Andrew. You are in that box!” shouted Fred.



Then Fred said to Roy, "I found you, Roy. You are under the sofa."

Fred could not find Frank. Fred kept looking and then saw Frank behind the curtain. "Oh there he is! I found you, Frank. Come out from behind the curtain. I see your black shoes!" shouted Fred.

Now it was Andrew's turn to stand by the door and shut his eyes while the other boys hid.



Questions:

1. Who is the first person to close his eyes and seek?

2. Where was Roy hiding?

3. What is Frank wearing that others can see?

4. How many boys are playing the game all together?

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Pretty Fish

“Look, mom! See what a pretty fish! It is a little trout,” said John to his mother.

John’s mother asked, “Where did you get it, John?”

“Frank caught it in the brook. I went to the brook to splash in the water and I saw this little fish. Then I told Frank about the fish, and he ran to get his fishing rod. He put the rod into the water and caught the fish, and I put it into this bucket.”

“Well, what will you do with it?” asked John’s mother.

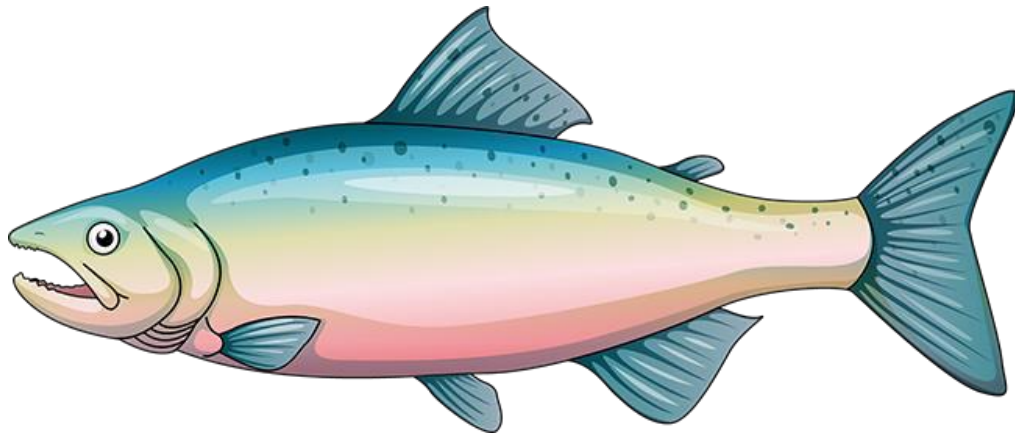
“I will keep it, mom,” replied John.



“But, my boy, it will not live in that bucket. You should put it back into the brook,” replied his mother.

John frowned. “I wish I could keep it. It is so pretty! May I put it into the pond?”

“No, John,” said his Mom. “You must put it into the brook. A trout will not live in the warm pond. The trout needs to go back to its home: the clear, cold brook.”



Questions:

1. What kind of fish did John find?

2. How did Frank catch the fish?

3. Why can't the fish live in the pond?

4. What do you think will happen next in the story?
