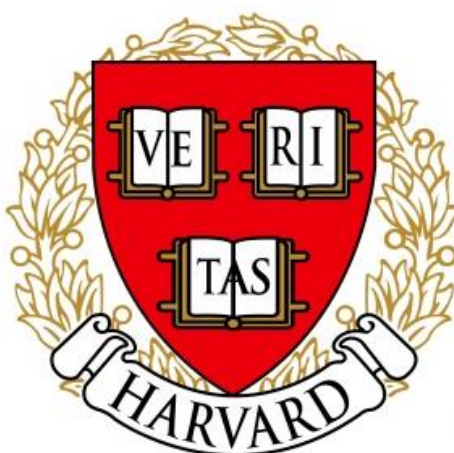




Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA/Writing Summer Learning Packet



Parents/Guardians please note that this Summer Learning Packet is also available on our website at [www.brighterchoice.org](http://www.brighterchoice.org) under the heading "Remote Learning." All assignments within this packet are to help scholars retain what has been taught the 2020-2021 school year. This packet can be returned at the beginning of next school year for a prize if completed in its entirety. We thank you greatly for your continued support.

**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Say Cheese!** by Ruth Donnelly

I love to use Mom’s camera. Can I, Mom? Oh, please?

I want a picture of these bugs. That butterfly! Those bees!

I took a hundred photographs Of monkeys at the zoo,

And thirty of my mother—She smiled for one or two.

I got some snapshots of my friends, Ella, Jack, and Will.

And now I’m taking one of YOU— Ready, now? Hold still!

Yes, I love taking photographs, It really is a breeze—

‘Cause when I take the pictures, I don’t have to say cheese!

1. Name four people who had their picture taken in the poem.

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2. Line 14 of the poem says, “It really is a breeze.” What does this expression mean?

- a. It takes a long time.
- b. It is fun.
- c. It is easy.
- d. It is windy.

3. Which sentence about the child's mother is probably true?

- a. She wants to take pictures of her family.
- b. She wants to buy a new camera.
- c. She loved having her picture taken thirty times.
- d. She did not really enjoy having her picture taken thirty times.

**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Sock Balls** by Liana Mahoney

There are sock balls on my dresser, And more sock balls on the floor.  
Though I tried to hit the hamper, One just rolled right out the door.  
But the ones that hit the hamper Don't make Mother proud at all.  
Mother says that socks, when taken Off, should NOT be in a ball.  
But as for me, I disagree! My sock balls are just right  
For lumping up a flattened Pillow on a sleepless night.  
And sock balls are to bedrooms What snowballs are to snow;  
When little brothers happen by You pick them up and THROW!  
The greatest thing about them— What I think is really neat—  
Is when supplies are running low, You roll more off your feet!

1. Is this poem about dirty socks or clean socks? How can you tell?

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2. Name two things the narrator of the poems likes to do with his or her sock balls.

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3. Why do you think Mother says that socks should not be in a ball when you take them off?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**The Race** by Liana Mahoney

I'm running a race! It's a game I play – A game for sun-lit Summer days.  
My heart is pumping. Will I win this race? My legs are flying In a high-speed chase.  
I'm really fast, But he's still ahead! Wish I were winning This race instead!  
I'm tiring out; My running slows. He slows down, too. I think he knows...  
I just can't catch him. I admit defeat. My shadow's so fast, He can't be beat!

1. Who is the boy in the poem racing against?

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2. Which of these statements is probably true about the race in the poem?

- a. The boy is a slow runner.
- b. It is impossible for the boy to win the race.
- c. The boy gets tired quickly.
- d. The boy will probably win next time.

3. Why does the poem state that this is a game for “sun-lit summer days”?

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4. Do you think the boy really expected to win the race? Why or why not?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Magician Of The Sea** by Kelly Hashway

What do three hearts, eight arms, and one huge brain add up to? An octopus, a creature that can do amazing things. Octopuses are extremely intelligent. They can learn new things just like humans. They've even learned a few tricks to get them out of sticky situations.

If an octopus is threatened by a predator, such as a shark or bird, it can use some pretty incredible skills to get away. Octopuses don't have teeth or sharp claws to defend themselves. Instead, they use more clever ways to fool their attackers. Octopuses like to hide themselves in the sand on the bottom of the ocean floor. How you ask? Well, the octopus is like a chameleon because it can change the color of its skin to match the sand. And this color change, or camouflage, happens in less than a minute. Some octopuses like to stay in more shallow water where there are rocks and coral. Because octopuses are invertebrates, meaning they don't have backbones, they can squeeze themselves into small spaces between the rocks to get out of reach of their predators.

Another way an octopus can hide is by shooting ink. An octopus uses a part of its body called a siphon to shoot ink into the water. The ink forms a cloud that hides the octopus. By the time the ink clears and the predator can see again, the octopus has swum away or hidden. It's very much like a magician doing a vanishing act. If you think that's a neat trick, then you'll love what else these creatures have up their sleeves. If an octopus is being attacked, it can actually make itself look like a venomous sea snake. It will bury itself in the sand, keeping two arms visible. It will change the color of those arms to match a sea snake.

But what if there's no time to hide? If an octopus is in trouble, it can break off one of its arms. The arm will then change colors and squirm around in the water to distract the predator while the octopus swims away to safety. Don't worry though. The octopus's arm will grow back.

There is one kind of octopus that has venom to use in defense. The blue-ringed octopus is tiny; it could fit in the palm of your hand. Predators might think this size makes the octopus a great snack, but they know to stay away. The blue-ringed octopus is very poisonous and can kill predators much larger than itself, including humans.

So the next time you see an octopus in the aquarium or while you're snorkeling, remember that inside that oversized head is a very large brain, making them a clever addition to the sea.

1. How are an octopus and a chameleon alike?
  - a. They both like to hide on the ocean floor.
  - b. They can both change the color of their skin.
  - c. They are both invertebrates.
  - d. They both use their arms to kill predators.

2. Explain how shooting ink helps an octopus to escape from predators.

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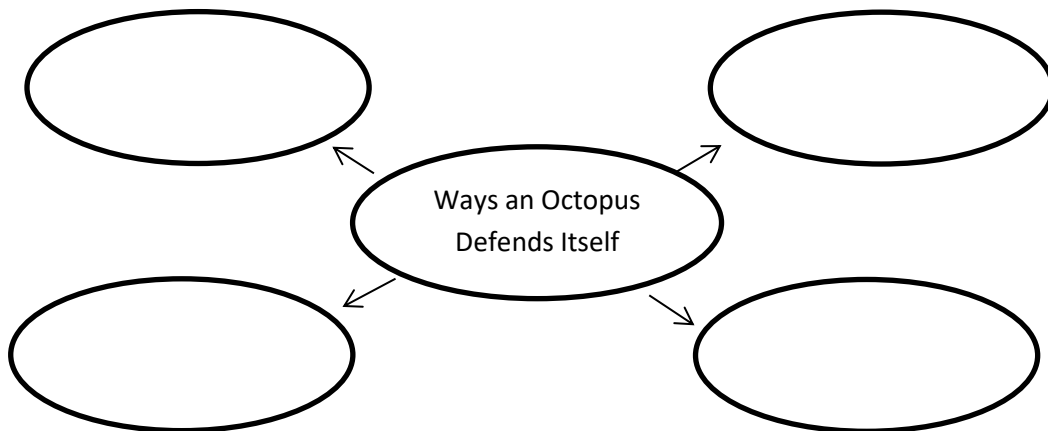
3. What happens to an octopus if it loses one of its eight arms?

- a. It will grow a new one.
- b. It will die.
- c. It is no longer poisonous.
- d. It can swim faster.

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

- a. to explain how octopuses eat, live, and play
- b. to show how dangerous octopuses are
- c. to describe the physical characteristics of octopuses
- d. to explain how octopuses protect themselves

5. Complete the graphic organizer.



**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Three Bears** by Erin Ryan

Did you know that there are eight different kinds of bears found around the world? Three very different ones are polar bears, grizzly bears and Giant Pandas.

Polar bears live in the Arctic Circle, near the North Pole. Polar bears stay warm in very cold temperatures because they have a layer of fat, called blubber, and because they are covered in two layers of fur. Polar bears are excellent swimmers and have short claws to help them walk across ice and snow. Polar bears mostly eat seals, but they will eat other arctic animals as well.

Grizzly bears can be found in Asia, Europe, and North America. Grizzly bears like to eat plants, mammals and fish. They can run over thirty miles per hour. Even though grizzly bears are very big and strong, their cubs only weigh one pound when they are born.

The Giant Panda lives in China and has black and white fur. This bear eats up to thirty pounds of bamboo every day. The Giant Panda is an endangered animal because many of the forests where they live have been destroyed. Many people work hard to protect Giant Pandas.

1. List two reasons from that article that explain why polar bears can live in such a cold climate.

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2. Why has the Giant Panda become an endangered animal?

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3. Which fact was not mentioned in the article?

- a. Polar bears are excellent swimmers.
- b. Grizzly bear cubs weigh less than a pound.
- c. Polar bears eat mostly fish.
- d. Giant Pandas eat bamboo.

**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Let Go of My Lego!** by Nikki Aksamit

One Saturday afternoon, Mark and his friend Lance sat playing with Lego blocks on the carpet in Mark's room. "I bet you don't know what 'Lego' means!" Lance said, snatching a red block right from out of Mark's hand. He stood and held the Lego block tight and put his hand behind his back. "Lance!" Mark cried out as he jumped up, grabbing at his friend's hand. "If you can tell me what 'Lego' means, I will give it back." Lance teased with a grin, twisting to keep the block away from his friend. Mark tried to wrestle the Lego away, but it was no use. "I don't know." he said, plopping down with a big sigh. Lance gave a knowing smile as he held out the block. "See the way the dots are raised here, and they fit with the holes in another block? Lego means 'fit together' in a language called Latin." Mark's mother had been watching from the doorway. "It also means 'play well' in Danish." she said as she came into the room. Frowning, she took the red Lego from Lance's hand and gave it back to Mark. This time, it was Mark's turn to smile.

1. Why is Mark upset in this story?

- a. because his mother said he can't play with his Lego blocks
- b. because Lance ruined his Lego creation
- c. because Lance took a Lego block and won't give it back
- d. because he doesn't know what the word 'lego' means

2. Why did Mark smile at the end of this story?

- a. Lance gave him his Lego back.
- b. Mom gave him his Lego back.
- c. Lance taught him a new fact.
- d. Mom started playing with the Legos.

3. What is the setting of this story?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

### **The Great Pyramid**

The Great Pyramid is the largest and most famous of the pyramids. It is located in Egypt near the Nile River. The pyramid was built for Pharaoh Khuf. It is over 140 meters high and took 20 years to build. The Sphinx stands in front of the pyramids in Giza. It has the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.

1. What is the name of the largest and most famous pyramid?

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2. What river were the pyramids built near?

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3. Who was the Great Pyramid built for?

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4. How long did it take to build?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Mount Rushmore**

Mount Rushmore is located in South Dakota. It's a giant sculpture of American presidents carved in the side of a mountain. The sculpture was created by Gutzon Borglum. The sculpture began in 1927 and ended in 1941. The sculpture represents 150 years of history. The four presidents represented in the sculpture are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

1. Where is Mount Rushmore located?

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2. Who created the sculpture?

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3. What year did the sculpting begin? What year did the sculpting end?

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4. How many years did it take Borglum to sculpt Mount Rushmore?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Two Fantastic Fruits**

Bananas are a yellow fruit that grows in hot climates. They grow on tall plants, in bunches called hands. They're easy to carry and fun to eat. Sometimes bananas are called the "perfect fruit" because they have many nutrients to keep you healthy. They have lots of potassium, which helps your muscles grow. For a delicious treat, add some banana slices to other foods, like cereal, ice cream, or a peanut butter sandwich. A banana is also an excellent breakfast food.

Pineapples are another yellow fruit that grows in hot climates. They grow on low plants, close to the ground. Pineapples are very juicy and sweet. They are not very easy to carry around because they are large and have prickly skin. Pineapples are very healthy food. They have lots of vitamin C, which helps your body fight germs and build strong bones. Slices of pineapple taste wonderful when added to other foods, like pizza, ice cream, and hamburgers. Some people even put pineapple slices on cakes.

1. According to the paragraphs above, how are bananas and pineapples alike?

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2. How are bananas and pineapples different?

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3. Which statement is an opinion?
- a. Some people put pineapple slices on cakes.
  - b. Bananas are a yellow fruit that grows in hot climates.
  - c. Pineapples have prickly skin.
  - d. Bananas taste delicious when added to cereal.

**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>I have a dog named Boots. I taught him lots of tricks. When I tell him to, Boots will sit or lie down. He can also wave his paw to greet people. When I say, "Dance, Boots." he will stand up on two legs and walk. I don't know of many dogs that can do such amazing tricks.</p>   | <p>The main idea of this paragraph is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boots is my dog</li> <li>Boots can sit.</li> <li>Boots is very smart.</li> <li>Most dogs can't dance.</li> </ol>  |
| <p>Yesterday was my birthday. When I woke up, I noticed my brother Todd hung up a big sign that said, "Happy Birthday, Joey!" Mom made spaghetti for dinner. It's my favorite food in the whole world. My friend Dave came over and handed me a wrapped gift. I wondered what it was. It was a new basketball! I had a great day.</p> | <p>The main idea of this paragraph is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Todd had a great birthday.</li> <li>Joey had a great birthday.</li> <li>Todd got lots of gifts.</li> <li>Joey got lots of gifts.</li> </ol>   |
| <p>Peter's parents bought a new carpet for the living room. Now, he has to take his shoes off when he enters the house. He's also not allowed to eat or drink in the living room any more. Peter's furry dog isn't allowed to play ball in there either. When his parents got the so the new carpet stays clean.</p>                  | <p>The main idea of this paragraph is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peter cannot go in the living room.</li> <li>Peter's parents don't like the carpet.</li> <li>Peter likes to make a mess.</li> <li>Peter's parents made new rules new carpet, there were lots of new rules.</li> </ol> |

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**The Big Egg** by Suzanne Francis

Sam lived on a farm and had a job to do. He had to wake up early every day to feed the chickens and get their eggs. One morning Sam went outside to do his job. He reached down and got three eggs from the first chicken. He reached down and got two eggs from the second chicken. He reached down and felt a huge egg under the third chicken. He could not believe it. The egg felt strange. It was much bigger and heavier than the others. He looked at it with surprise. Sam smiled and said, "So that's where my baseball went!"

1. What two things did Sam have to do each morning?

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2. How many eggs did Sam collect before he found the "strange egg"?

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3. What funny thing happened in this story?

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**Directions:** Choose a subject from the box to complete each sentence.

**Subject:** The subject of a sentence tells who or what the sentence is about.

|   |
|---|
| A big spider   A buzzing bee   My notebook   A gray dolphin   My mother   My closet |
| The houseplant   The eye doctor   The space alien                                   |

1. \_\_\_\_\_ looked for nectar in the flower.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ has lots of clothes in it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ checked my vision.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ needs soil, water, and sunlight.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ landed the UFO.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ jumped in the sea.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was upset because I broke her favorite vase.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is filled with stories that I wrote.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ spun a web in the doorway.

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**Directions:** Choose a predicate from the box to complete each sentence.

Predicate: The predicate of the sentence tells what the subject is or what the subject does.

|  |
|--|
| watered her flowers.   barked all night long.   drove me to school.   blew in the wind.<br>ate crickets.   cut the boy's hair.   fixed the sink.   slept in her crib.   flew the airplane. |
|--|

1. The gardener \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The pilot \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The little puppy \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The barber \_\_\_\_\_.

5. James' baby sister \_\_\_\_\_.

6. The flag \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The lizard \_\_\_\_\_.

8. The plumber \_\_\_\_\_.

9. The bus driver \_\_\_\_\_.

**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**The Time Capsule** by Anita N. Amin

“I’m going to make a time capsule,” Anna told her parents at the breakfast table. Dad looked up from his coffee mug and smiled. “Sounds interesting. Say hello to the pilgrims for me.” Laughing, Anna shook her head. “No, Dad. You’re thinking of time *travel*. I’m building a time *capsule* –it’s like a memory box. I watched my principal dig one up from our school yard yesterday. Some students buried the capsule thirty years ago. It had a lot of old stuff in it, so we could see what life was like back then.”

After breakfast, Anna went to her dad's workbench in the garage. She looked around and found an old coffee can filled with nuts and bolts. She dumped them out so she could use it as her time capsule. She scratched her head. What should she put in the can? With her kitten following close behind, Anna browsed through her things. She grabbed her favorite book, her yo-yo and some photos. She packed them in the can. She pulled off her charm bracelet and placed it in the can too. “What else should I put in here?” she asked Kitty. “The newspaper? So people will know what happened today?” Anna ran downstairs and brought back the newspaper. She folded it up and in the can it went. “Meow.” Kitty nudged a ball toward the can. “Sure, Kitty, I’ll include your ball.” Anna put Kitty’s ball in the can. Anna put the top on and sealed the can with tape. On the front, she wrote ANNA AND KITTY’S TIME CAPSULE with a thick black marker. She carried the can outside. After grabbing a shovel from the shed, she buried her time capsule in the garden. “All done,” she told Kitty. After a few minutes, Anna sighed.

What should she do next? She couldn’t yo-yo. Or read her favorite book. She’d buried those. Now, she missed them. She scratched her head, then paused. She missed the sound of her bracelet clinking too. “Meow.” Kitty pawed the burial spot. “Do you miss your ball?” Anna asked. “Don’t worry. I’ll get it for you.” So Anna dug up their time capsule. Kitty pounced on the ball. And Anna pulled on her bracelet and read her book while yo-yoing under a tree in the garden.

1. In the beginning of the story, what did Anna's father think a time capsule was?

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2. Why did Anna dig up her time capsule quickly?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**Ben's Loose Tooth by Donna Latham**

"I'm *always* last," Ben sighed. "Last to learn to whistle. Last to lose a tooth." Ben's older sister, Kate, was always bossy. "Jiggle your teeth," she said. "Find one that's wiggly and wobbly." Tooth by tooth, Ben jiggled. He wriggled the last tooth. "It's wiggly. It's wobbly!" "Tug it," Kate said. "Uh!" Ben mumbled. "It's stuck in my gums." "Hmmm." Kate scrunched her nose. "Munch that apple." Ben took a bite. "Ouch! No luck." "Hmmm," said Kate. She tapped her pinky against her chin. "I'll *scare* it out of you! That's how you get rid of hiccups. Maybe it works for teeth too." Ben squeezed his eyes shut. He held his breath. He waited and waited. "Hey! When are you going to scare me?" He propped one eye open. "How scary would it be if I told you?" Kate asked. "Well—," Ben said. "Boo!" cried Kate. She flapped her arms. Ben's fingers flew to the tooth. He wriggled it. He jiggled it. "Blah! I'll never lose a tooth." He hung his head. "I'll never learn to whistle, either." "Whistle? I can teach you!" Kate said. "Pucker your lips. Leave a tiny space." Ben scrunched his lips together. "Perfect." Kate smiled. "Now, shoot the air out. Hard." With all his might, Ben blasted air. Out burst a high note—with his tooth!

1. What is Ben's main problem in this story?

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2. Who is Kate?

- a. Ben's friend
- b. Ben's cousin
- c. Ben's little sister
- d. Ben's big sister

3. What was Ben trying to do when the tooth came out of his mouth?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**The Strange Star** by Anita N. Amin

Rosie loved watching the night sky. It shined with so many stars. Sometimes, she would climb onto Papa's shoulders. She'd feel like a princess, sitting closer to those stars. One afternoon, Papa said, "We're going to the beach! Won't that be fun?" Rosie wasn't sure. "Will my stars be there, too?"

"Maybe," Papa said. So they went to the beach. But it was foggy that night – no stars in sight. "Let's see what happens tomorrow," Papa said. "Okay..." Rosie frowned. The next morning, they went back to the beach and Rosie gathered seashells. Rosie found something strange. It looked like a big, orange, bumpy star. Had it fallen from the sky? And why wasn't it glowing? "It's not a star." Papa smiled. "It's a starfish. It lives in the ocean." Rosie put the starfish in the ocean. They watched the waves wash it back home. Then Rosie looked for more starfish. She liked stars AND starfish.

1. When does Rosie find a starfish?

- a. At the beach
- b. At night
- c. In her backyard
- d. In the morning

2. What did Rosie do right after she found a starfish?

- a. She gathered shells.
- b. She went to the beach.
- c. She climbed on papa's shoulders.
- d. She put the starfish in the ocean.

3. What did Rosie do right before she found a starfish?

- a. She looked up in the night sky.
- b. She collected seashells.
- c. She looked for more starfish.
- d. She watched the waves take the starfish away.

4. When Papa first took Rosie to the beach at night, she didn't see any stars. Why?

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5. About how old do you think Rosie is? How can you tell?

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**Directions:** Read the text and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

**The Closet Creature** by Kelly Hashway

*Bump! Bump! Scratch!* Adam opened his eyes and pulled the covers up to his chin. He stared around his room, searching the darkness for the thing that was making those scary sounds. The closet door moved as something banged on it from the inside. “Who’s there?” Adam asked in a shaky voice. The closet slowly began to open. Adam jumped out of bed and ran to the closet door, slamming it shut with his palms. He grabbed his desk chair and propped it against the door handle. Then he ran out of his room and down the hall. His brother’s door was wide open, and Adam jumped onto David’s bed.

“Adam?” David asked in a groggy voice. “What are you doing in here?”

Adam tugged on David’s arm. “There’s something in my closet!”

“You probably had a bad dream. Go back to bed.” Adam yanked the blankets off the bed. “It wasn’t a dream. I was awake, and the closet door started opening by itself!” David sighed. “Fine. But when we don’t find anything, you have to promise to leave me alone for the rest of the night.” Adam nodded. David reached into his desk drawer and pulled out a flashlight. Then they headed to Adam’s room. Adam stopped in the doorway. He could hear something scratching his closet door. “Do you hear that?” Adam asked. David nodded. He walked over to Adam’s bed and pulled the case off one of the pillows. He opened the pillowcase. “You open the door very slowly, and I’ll grab whatever it is.” Adam slid the chair to the side and pulled the closet door open a crack. Something banged against the door, trying to force it open. Adam took a deep breath and opened the door a few more inches. A small furry creature ran right into the pillowcase. “I got it!” David said, closing the pillowcase and holding it in the air. “What is it?” Adam moved closer as David peeked inside. David put the pillowcase on the bed and an orange cat climbed out. Adam scooped the cat up. “Apricot? How did you get trapped in my closet?” David laughed. “The poor cat. If I was locked in your closet with your stinky shoes, I’d be banging on the door to get out, too!”

“Poor, Apricot,” Adam said. “You were probably more scared than I was.”

1. What happened right after David went into Adam's room?

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2. What did David plan to do with the pillowcase?

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3. What was making the strange sounds in Adam's closet?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Identify the nouns. Write noun next to the words that are nouns. Write not a noun next to the words that are not nouns.

Noun: a person, place or thing

1. big \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. cookie \_\_\_\_\_

4. monster \_\_\_\_\_

5. chair \_\_\_\_\_

6. sit \_\_\_\_\_

7. snowflake \_\_\_\_\_

8. sing \_\_\_\_\_

9. milk \_\_\_\_\_

10. squeeze \_\_\_\_\_

11. look \_\_\_\_\_

12. street \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Write the word singular next to the nouns that refer to one person, place or thing.  
Write plural next to nouns that refer to more than one person, place or thing.

Noun: a person, place or thing

Singular: one

Plural: more than one

1. computers \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. hand \_\_\_\_\_

4. fingers \_\_\_\_\_

5. women \_\_\_\_\_

6. man \_\_\_\_\_

7. cow \_\_\_\_\_

8. mice \_\_\_\_\_

9. feet \_\_\_\_\_

10. woman \_\_\_\_\_

11. people \_\_\_\_\_

12. fox \_\_\_\_\_

13. knives \_\_\_\_\_

14. home \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Directions:** Circle the nouns in the sentences below.

Noun: a person, place or thing

1. The boy washed his hands with soap.
2. Samantha was thinking about her little, brown dog.
3. Jen picked up her pencil and drew a picture on the yellow paper.
4. Adam ate two giant cookies after school.
5. Monica cleaned her entire bedroom from ceiling to floor.
6. Michael was outside playing catch with the football.
7. The window on the garage is open.
8. Nicole hears the rain falling on the sidewalk.
9. Can Max play with the kitten?
10. The old goose honked as it flew through the air.

# Irregular Plural Nouns

2  
grammar

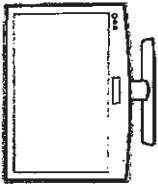
Complete the sentences using the words in the box. But WATCH OUT because there are some words in the box that are not used correctly in English. Cross out the incorrect words.

teeth fish person tables houses mice mices house  
dogs feet child tooth dog mouse people  
fishes children tooths childs table

1. This morning while I was eating watermelon, my \_\_\_\_\_ fell out. That means I have lost 4 \_\_\_\_\_ now!
2. My camp counselor is a very nice \_\_\_\_\_ who loves to teach \_\_\_\_\_ how to have fun in nature..
3. I love to put my \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand and wiggle my toes.
4. When I was swimming in the ocean, I saw seven \_\_\_\_\_. They were colorful with pretty fins.
5. I told my mom that I saw a little, grey \_\_\_\_\_ sneaking a piece of cheese in the kitchen. Right when I told her, two more \_\_\_\_\_ ran across the room!
6. All of the \_\_\_\_\_ on that street have pretty yards.
7. We have two \_\_\_\_\_ but my mom won't let us get one more \_\_\_\_\_ because she is worried about them barking too much.
8. There are five \_\_\_\_\_ sitting at the dinner \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I am the oldest \_\_\_\_\_ in my family.



# The Day My TV Ran Away



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

I won't ever forget the day my TV ran away! I came home from school at 3:00 p.m., just like any other day. I sat on the couch with a cookie my mom had just baked. I didn't want to think about math ever again, ever! As I bit the cookie, my jaw fell wide open. That's when I saw the TV gone from our shelf.

"Dad, are you fixing the TV...?" I yelled.

My dad walked into the room. "Sorry, son," he said with a sad face. "When your mom and I were at work, the TV ran away. I'm still in shock!"

"What?!" I cried. I put my hands over my face. I wanted to sob an ocean of tears. My favorite show had just come back.

"I have more bad news, I'm afraid..." said my dad. "The TV's just the start. It took the computers and tablets, too. Even the dishes, the microwave, and our smart phones."

"The TV stole my stuff?" I shouted. "What am I going to do? With no TV, I'll go crazy. Call the cops! Hurry!"

"With what phone?" laughed my dad. He went to the front door. He opened it and held his hand out. "It's a sunny day. Go play outside with your buddies and you'll have a blast."

"And do what, Dad?" I moaned.

"You're a kid, dude," he said. "Use your imagination. Go ride bikes. Make up a new game. You could even play Pokey-Go-What's-It again.

"Fine, Dad..." I groaned walking outside. I didn't want to go. Before he closed the door, I looked back.

"It worked," whispered my dad smiling. He gave my mom a big high-five.

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Use text-evidence to infer the main character's emotion:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What do you think actually happened? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What would you do if your TV "ran away"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Dolphins in the Basement



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Keeping dolphins in the basement seems like a great idea. If you love-love-love dolphins, it seems like the best idea since chocolate bacon. It was at first, but the fun didn't last.

The day the dolphins moved in and saw my basement, they groaned. Where was the pool? Where was the floating couch and floating TV to watch their favorite football team? They didn't cheer for the team you might be thinking of, either.

It went on like this for hours until I did what they asked. I had to make a trip to the store that night. I bought the biggest kiddie pool I could find. It might've taken up all the space, but at least they wouldn't complain, right? Wrong...

The pool didn't have a slide or a waterfall. It was too tight for two adult dolphins to relax. They made that crazy, high-pitched, squeaky sound as loud as they could until I gave into their new demands. I had to! My poor ears would have rather been stuck in a marshmallow jungle forever.

I hired this surfer guy to hose them down all day and night. He didn't last long. The dolphins laughed at him for losing a breath holding contest. That's why he quit.

It gets worse. I could always hear them talking about me down there. They didn't like that I kept cans of non-dolphin-safe tuna in the house. For me, that was the last straw. If I had my own blowhole, lava would've shot to the sky.

I demanded the dolphins leave or they'd join the tuna cans. They splashed me and screeched for a good hour, but then finally left. It was over.

Listen, kid—before you get wild and go buy a pool for your basement—think it over first. Do you really want rude dolphins in the basement?

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Use text-evidence to infer how the dolphins feel:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Could the main character have done anything better?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Would you let dolphins live in the basement? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Day I Became a Stegosaurus



Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

It was an odd day. I would say one of those offbeat Tuesdays. It was even odder than a pudding filled pool or a dog making dinner.

I woke up that day not feeling myself. My whole body hurt from the tips of my hair to the nails of my toes. I felt heavier with a stomachache, too. I wished I hadn't eaten that whole pie during my movie marathon last night. I walked to my bathroom half-awake and turned on the lights.

"Ahh!" I cried into the mirror.

I was a stegosaurus on two legs! My skin had turned light-brown and forest-green with black stripes. I ran my fingers down my Stegosaurus face. My skin felt rough and pokey. A mighty green tail swung behind me. It knocked bottles off the shelves every time I moved. In just one night I'd gone full-on dinosaur without any idea why.

My parents needed to know. I was scared for them to see me like this, but if I didn't get a doctor soon, I might be stuck. Even a vet would work. I ran down the stairs to the kitchen table and slid to a stop on the floor. My tail swung and knocked all the magnets off the fridge.

"Help!" I cried. "I'm a Stegosaurus! Fix it! Please, please!"

My mom quit cutting fruit and looked over from the counter. She tapped my dad on the shoulder and he looked up from his newspaper. They checked me up and down with their eyes, but then went back to what they were doing.

Dad cleared his throat. "Too much pie and dinosaur movies?" he said to Mom.

"I told you..." she laughed.

1) Explain what happens in the story:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) How does the character feel when they see in the mirror?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

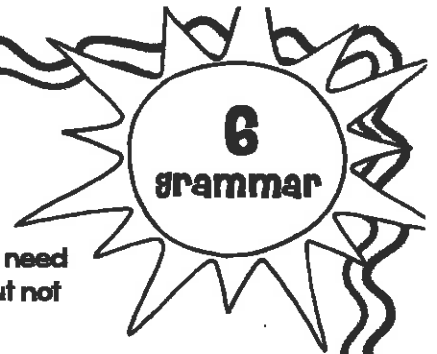
3) How do you think pie and movies could've caused this?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) If you were stuck, what would you do as a stegosaurus?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Past Tense verbs

Put the word that completes each phrase on the line. If you need a little hint, all of the words are included in the word box, but not all words from the word box are used.

had fell forgot brought ran lost knew opened cleaned  
got sold washed asked played pushed jumped folded found  
knocked hid brushed stomped thought kicked told paid

Today I **jump**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **clean**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **find**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **fold**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **think**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **have**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **tell**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **stomp**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **lose**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **push**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **get**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **run**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

Today I **sell**. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.

# Tiger the Taco



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Tiger was a talking taco. He had a dream since he was just a plain taco-shell baby. Tiger wanted to be a real tiger more than a taco. The other tacos made fun of Tiger.

“You crazy taco!” they would laugh. “You will never be a tiger!” they would yell. “Tiger’s just a taco, Tiger’s just a taco,” they would chant.

Tiger needed to be a tiger like his name. One day, he ran away from the restaurant. He snuck on a train going downtown. He was headed for the circus. The ringmaster might let him be a real tiger if he asked nicely. He wasn’t above begging, either. He saw himself as a tiger striped taco.

Tiger made it to the circus. He found the ringmaster after looking for an hour. He had a black top hat and was dressed in a red, sparkling suit.

Tiger tugged at his pants. “Hi, my name’s Tiger, and I want to be the first taco ever to be a tiger! Can you train me? Please, please, please!”

The ringmaster bent down to find out whose voice was talking. Most people gasp when they see a talking taco for the first time. It was just another day for the ringmaster. He’d seen everything from bearded, blue ladies, to pits to nowhere.

The ringmaster wasn’t sure, but he smiled at the brave little taco. “Tiger, you just became the luckiest talking taco this side of Denver. But! All my circus acts are hard workers. You get lazy, you go home. Go see Ronnie the tiger trainer in the tent. He doesn’t have many limbs left, but he’s still the best.”

Tiger could not believe his lettuce ears. He would be the hardest working taco-tiger ever. It didn’t work out, though. On his very first day, a real tiger ate him in one bite.

1) What is the theme of this story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What could the other tacos could have done better?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What type of personality does Tiger have?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What is your dream? What will it take for you to earn it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Legend of The Toe-Toes



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Everyone has had itchy feet. Many people have had sweaty feet. I'm afraid to make anyone sick, but everyone has also smelled a few super stinkers in their day. We are talking 100 day old, rotting cheese, folks.

Why is this true?

A science-guy at a college might say it's just the human body doing what it does best. You know what I say to that? **WRONG!** I don't care what his smart guy books say. No way is it just germs stinking it up.

Here's the real reason: the Toe-Toes. They're the ones causing our poor feet all those problems. Toe-Toes are creatures that live in people's socks. They're tiny, furry worms that are rainbow in color. Hold on a minute. Don't take off your shoes in class just yet. If you've got a couple of those stinkers hiding, please don't. Don't freak out and go scrub your feet. You cannot, I repeat, **CANNOT** get rid of a Toe-Toe.

Toe-Toes are even tinier than teeny-tiny. They make germs look like the size of a planet. Their furry bodies stick to the tiny hairs on your feet. They'll be there forever, even when you're a grandma or grandpa some day. Most of them like to hang out around the big toe for the luxury space. Some of them prefer the balanced life of the pinky.

You can put your magnifying glass away. You'll never see one with your eyes. Not even the best science guy microscope can spot them. So how do I know so much about furry, invisible creatures no human eye has ever seen?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've just met your first Toe-Toe. It's nice to meet you.

1) What is this story about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Use text-evidence to show why you won't see a Toe-Toe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Who was telling this story? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Do you believe in Toe-Toes? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Iceberg Incident



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Everyone I meet asks me how I got the scar on my forehead. I sigh and tell them the story. When I was in kindergarten, I only had to go in the afternoon. It was sweet. In the mornings, I always played with my best friend, Mark, at our apartments. Life was good.

One winter day, Mark asked me to go sledding. He had gotten one of those circle shaped sleds. It was bright red and said to be one of the fastest around. There was only one way to see what it could do.

We took the sled to the only hill we lived near. It was short but steep enough to get a fast ride. Mark had already tried the sled on his birthday. He let me go first. I sat on the sled and held the handles. Mark gave me a push from behind.

ZOOM!

I flew down the hill in record time. The sled didn't have any brakes. There was a deep gutter ahead. It was too late. I flew straight into it and off the sled, through the air. My face hit a small iceberg. My forehead had been hit hard. My chin had been sliced wide open like a butcher had done it.

"Grandma, Grandma!" screamed Mark running for his back porch.

I felt light-headed as I cried my way home. I walked up the stairs to my door and pounded on it. My dad freaked out when he opened the door.

My family was poor and we didn't have a car or a phone to call 911. By some miracle, a cop was driving right up our street. My dad flagged him down and asked for a ride. The cop was nice and drove us to the hospital. I left with lots of stitches in my chin.

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What happened to the main character that scarred them?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

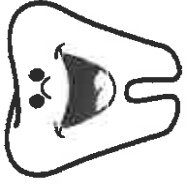
3) Why was a cop driving by at the time a miracle?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Have you ever witnessed a miracles in your life? Share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# The Twisted Root Canal

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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

My dad always told me to brush my teeth every day. I didn't like it. I was always forgetting to do it. Sooner than later, I got lazy and only did it once in awhile. I felt cool, but I was in for the twist of a lifetime.

One of my upper-left molars had too many cavities. They had dug too deep and hit the root of the tooth. The molar was mostly black by that point. Gross, I know, but what can I say? I was lazy for too long. The dentist told me I would need a root canal to fix it. I had no choice but to go through with it.

The big day came on the Monday of my spring break. I wasn't ever one of those people who was terrified of the dentist. That day, however, my stomach bubbled and I couldn't stop pacing in the waiting room. A ring of sweat soaked the collar of my white t-shirt. When they called my name, my heart forgot to beat for a moment.

Once I was sitting in the dentist chair, the nurse told me to relax. How could I?! The dentist gave me four shots to my gums to numb the area. It wasn't so bad once it began. The worst part was the stink of burning tooth as they drilled out the decay. You know that burning hair smell? It was like that but right in your mouth.

It was all done. I couldn't believe how easy it ended up being. I paid at the front counter and walked outside, but then stopped in my tracks. Something was missing. I searched the parking lot. My purple car wasn't where I'd parked it.

I thought maybe some loose laughing gas had made me loopy, so I checked the whole parking lot around the area. It wasn't anywhere to be found. Someone had stolen my car during the root canal. It was the twist of a lifetime.

1) What happened in this story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What does "neglectful" mean? Why is it a bad thing?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Describe the twist at the end of the story:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) How do you feel about going to the dentist? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Reflexive Pronouns



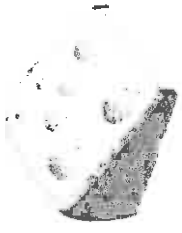
Complete the sentence using a word from the word box.

|     |           |            |    |            |   |
|-----|-----------|------------|----|------------|---|
| you | ourselves | yourselves | it | himself    |   |
| she | itself    | myself     | he | themselves | I |

1. I know how to make fruit salad all by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My brother prefers to surf by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ knows how to braid her hair by herself.
4. "Keep your hands to \_\_\_\_\_" said the lifeguard to the kids.
5. Sometimes my computer turns \_\_\_\_\_ off.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ knows how to tie his own shoes.
7. We prefer to walk \_\_\_\_\_ to the beach without the parents.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ know how to choose a good book by myself.
9. I think \_\_\_\_\_ are good at reading to yourself.
10. My sisters locked \_\_\_\_\_ in the bathroom by mistake.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ fell off the table all by itself.



# The Cheese Guard



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Family reunions at my grandpa’s house bore me to tears! They are full of talking adults I don’t know and no kids my age. Last year though, something odd happened.

I’d been bored around my house without anything to do. My mom wouldn’t let me play games on my tablet because it’s “rude when we have guests”. She had told me earlier to guard the big block of cheese in the kitchen. She was saving it for later and did not want anyone eating from it.

Guard duty got too dull, so I walked off. I would keep checking the cheese once an hour. The plan worked until I walked into the kitchen later. I gasped. My face went blank as my eyes looked up at the counter. Somebody had cut the cheese...

The cheese had been cut more than I had ever seen. Someone had cut little ones, big ones, long ones, and even a couple wet ones all over the kitchen. My brain asked questions as I looked for clues. I needed to know... who cut the cheese?!

Did my aunt cut the cheese? Did grandpa cut the cheese? Maybe Uncle Phil cut a huge one and gave it to my dad. They loved cutting the cheese as kids. Did grandma cut the cheese mid-sentence and not know it? Please, oh please, who cut this cheese?

Just then, my mom walked into the kitchen. She didn’t seem to care who cut the cheese or how many times it had been cut. She pulled out a sharp knife. It was all my fault. I was doomed!

My mom started cutting the cheese on the counter. She’d been the one cutting the cheese the whole time. I knew it! She cut the cheese! She cut more cheese that day than any mom ever before.

1) What is this story about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What emotion does the main character feel the most?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Why was it bad that somebody had cut the cheese?

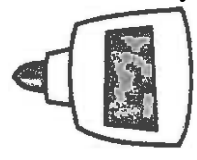
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) How would you have done the cheese guard job better?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Glue Boy



Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

It's time to tell the truth, boys and girls. All of us have tried eating white paste glue. Maybe you only ate a dab on your finger to test it? Eww, I know, but don't try and say you didn't. Your teacher probably knows what it tastes like from their days as a first grader, too.

It tasted cold, gooey, and a bit tangy. I won't ever try it again. Let me tell you about a boy I knew who lived for it. His recess name was Glue Boy.

Glue Boy was a third-grader who used to do something crazy. If you gave him a nickel at recess, he would eat a spoon of white glue. He licked his lips after each bite. There was a big oak tree in the recess yard. That's where you went to pay. Nickels don't buy much now, but back then, Glue Boy had been saving up for the bike of his dreams. He could taste it.

One day at recess, he had the chance of a lifetime. The fifth graders put together all of their money. It added up to be three dollars. They dared him to eat three tubes of white glue at the same time. Glue Boy wasn't sure, but he wanted that money so badly. He could just imagine his gluey fingers stuck to his new bike. He'd never have to let go.

The fifth graders cheered and clapped as Glue Boy held the glue above his head. It poured down into his mouth. Glue covered his teeth and tongue like cheese. He finished the first and second tubes with no problem. It might've been a world record.

Halfway through the third tube, Glue Boy stopped. Too much glue had filled his mouth and began to dry. He tried pulling his teeth apart. There was no luck. It left him stuck wearing a giant, white smile forever. No doctor or crow bar could fix it. It could be worse, I guess...

1) What's the theme of this story? (May be more than one)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Why did Glue Boy take the fifth grade bet?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What is a better way Glue Boy could've earned money?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Have you ever worked hard to save money for something?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# So You Want to Be a Hippo?



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

The word on the street is that you want to be a hippo? That's just fine. I had a friend in Denver who tried that for a few years. It's not going to be easy. It won't happen fast.

If you're going to be a hippo, you'll need a lot of grey paint. Start with a school bus full. Go from there. If you're going to be a hippo, you'll need to start eating a lot more pizza. Eating 16 pepperoni pizzas a day will help. That will make you the fattest hippo the fastest. It also means you get to pig out on pizza.

If you're going to be a hippo, you'll need the best swim lessons. I know a guy who knows a guy who can help you with that. He's a duck, but don't be foul to him. He used to be a Navy Seal. They're the best of the best! The quacking isn't easy to hear, so try hard to listen.

If you're going to be a hippo, you'll need to start working on the hippo sound. No, I'm sorry. I have no idea what a real hippo sounds like. I can't say that I've been "smart" enough to go close to one. Try the internet, or see if your library has an old CD of hippo sounds sitting around the back.

I know for sure that a hippo doesn't sound like a dog. Not my dog. Maybe my cat when I pull his tail? Please don't pull your cat's tail! They really don't like that and you might get scratched. Ouch!

All of this talk about becoming a hippo got me excited. I wouldn't have to deal with Monday mornings or traffic ever again! Maybe I should become a hippo, too? But! If there are hippo traffic jams out in the African jungle, don't be mad when I un-grey, un-pizza, and go home.

You know what—I think I'm good. Grey isn't my color, anyways. Good luck, future hippo! Make that call to the pizza man right away.

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What are some ways to become a hippo? Use the text:

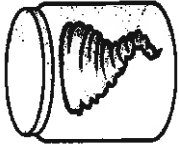
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Where can you find the official hippo sound?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) So, do you want to be a hippo? If not, then what animal?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Mr. Deming was the craziest art teacher since Bob Ross (that art guy on TV). He was bald on top with a beard like a pine tree. Kids made jokes that they saw squirrels living in there. He was a great art teacher, but there was a major issue.

After every art class, the room looked like 57 pigs had held a wild and crazy wedding party in there. It was such a mess! It wasn't that Mr. Deming's students didn't try to clean it up. It took forever to get it done. Mr. Deming had so many cool art projects for his students. He never had enough time to do them. Cleaning took too long.

"I wish there was a way to clean the room in less than 15 seconds..." he thought. An idea swept through his mind. He rushed down the hallway to the science teacher, Mrs. Buttermaker.

He burst into the room. "I need a tornado!"

Mrs. Buttermaker was eating noodles from a glass beaker at her desk. She set down her fork and gave Mr. Deming a funny look.

"A tornado?" she said laughing. "Yeah, I'll get right on that..." She continued eating her lunch.

"No, not like a real tornado," said Mr. Deming. He walked up to her desk. "A mini one! My room is a mess after every class. It takes forever to clean. If I had a mini one that fit in a paint jar, they could clean the room fast like a tornado. We would have more time for fun." He cleared his throat. "Oh, and more learning time, I guess ha-ha."

Mrs. Buttermaker's fork fell from her hand and hit the ground. She looked up at Mr. Deming. She smiled like a kid who had just found out their dog can talk.

"Teacher Tor-Maid-Os..." she said softly. "Ready to make millions of dollars and retire?"

1) Tell what this story was about:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What was the turning point of this story? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

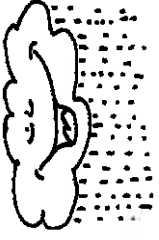
3) How are the two characters going to make millions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Could your class use a "Tor-Maid-O"? Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# I Only Eat Bacon When It Rains

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Was the author trying to inform, persuade, or entertain?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What is a monsoon? Be specific:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What food would you eat a "monsoon" of? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

My doctor told me I should only eat bacon when it rains. I used to live in Colorado. It doesn't rain enough there. Not for someone who would almost sell their soul for a plate of crispy bacon off the grill. I looked on the internet and found the perfect place.

Thailand! Why? They have monsoon season. That's why!

If you've never heard of Thailand, it's a greatly populated country on the continent of Asia. Goodness. You don't know what a monsoon is, either?

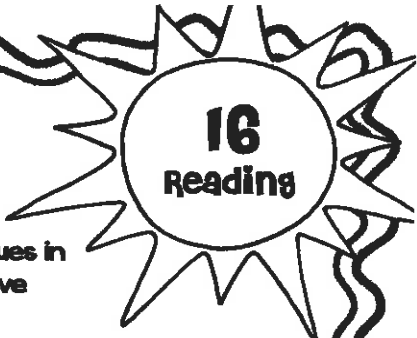
A monsoon is a like giant sea breeze that doesn't end. It causes rainstorms that can last weeks or even months. It never stops. That's the reason I chose Thailand. I hate to break my doctor's health rule. If it rains and rains, that means I can I eat bacon by the barrel. I'm just doing what my doctor told me to do.

If I could, I'd wear bacon shoes and carry a suitcase full of bacon all the time. I'd wrap it in foil to keep it piping hot. I'd drive a bacon-car that always smells like bacon inside. What if everyone had bacon-cars? The whole highway would smell like bacon every morning. I would look forward to the yummy smelling, morning traffic.

I would die to live in a house made of bacon. Maybe a house isn't such a great idea. I wouldn't stop licking the walls or the floor. I would eat myself out of house and home. Come on! It's bacon. I'd say it's worth clogging your heart with yummy grease.

Here's my best idea yet! I want a bacon monsoon. Just let it rain bacon all the time for months on end. If that's what's going down in Thailand, be happy if you ever see me back here again...





# Context Clues

The following stories have make-believe words. Use the clues in the sentence to figure out the meaning of the make-believe word.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Last summer I went to the beach with my grandma. She loves to look for <u>snarples</u> hidden in the sand. Her favorite kind of <u>snarples</u> are the ones that have no broken pieces. The coolest <u>snarples</u> I found still had a small crab living inside. I left that <u>snarples</u> on the beach instead of putting it in my collection.</p>   | <p>What do you think <u>snarples</u> are?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What words help you figure out the meaning of the word <u>snarples</u>?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
| <p>It was the hottest day of the summer so Lucy and Susie decided to sell some refreshing <u>blarling</u> on the street outside their house. They sold cups of the ice cold <u>blarling</u> outside their house. Susie picked fresh fruit from a tree in her yard and Lucy was in charge of getting ice from her house. The drink was a little sour, so they had to add some sugar.</p>  | <p>What do you think <u>blarling</u> is?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What words help you figure out the meaning of the word <u>blarling</u>?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  |
| <p>"Don't forget to put some <u>clinket</u> on before you go outside" said Claudio's mother. Claudio did not like to wear <u>clinket</u> because the lotion sometimes gets in his eyes and stings. But, <u>clinket</u> is important so that you do not get a sunburn so he rubs it all over his skin. Claudio had a painful sunburn last summer so now he has learned his lesson and wears <u>clinket</u> whenever he is playing in the sun.</p> | <p>What do you think <u>clinket</u> are?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What words help you figure out the meaning of the word <u>clinket</u>?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>   |

# Baroony and the Chocolate Milk Shower



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

“Nothing will happen, Mom,” said Braxton. “I promise.”

“Rawr-rawr,” said Baroony. He was Braxton’s pet house-bear.

“Baroony bear-swears he’ll be good,” said Braxton.

“He had better be if he wants that reward,” said Mom. She stroked the top of Baroony’s head. It was his favorite spot. “Get that chocolate milk back here and I’ll fill your bowl. Ok, boy?”

Baroony nodded his head. The fastest way to his heart was by giving him chocolate. Braxton put Baroony’s bear leash on tight. They began their walk for the store. Most third-graders can’t go by themselves. Mom knew Baroony would keep Braxton safe along the way. It was more the question of could they make it to the store and back without any problems happening to them.

Braxton wrapped the leash around his hand twice as they walked into the store. Baroony’s eyes lit up when he saw the chocolate on the racks up front. He tried getting free from his collar. Braxton gave the leash a quick tug.

“No, boy,” said Braxton. “We’re going to the dairy fridge, grabbing a milk, and then heading to the register.”

Baroony whined. He kept his bear-focus on that full bowl of chocolate milk. They made it to the dairy fridge. Baroony found the on-sale brand of chocolate milk. He pointed his paw.

“Go ahead and pick your favorite, boy,” said Braxton. He held the leash extra tight, just in case.

Baroony looked at his choices. He spotted one he liked. He stood up on his hind legs and then swiped his paw to bat it down. Sadly, his claws caught more than one of the chocolate milks. They poured out onto his head like a chocolate milk shower.

1) Tell what happens in this story:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Why was Baroony trying to get off his leash?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

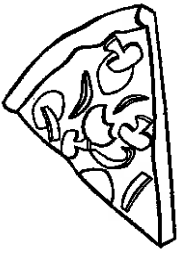
3) What happened at the dairy fridge?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What do you think happened next?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## The 7:37 Mystery

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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

At 7:37 each night, my family has a game that we've been playing since we moved into our house. We call it the "7:37 Mystery" game. Before I tell more, I need to say that my family eats healthy. We only eat junk food at special times. That's what makes this game fun.

Let me tell you about it. We have great neighbors and are lucky to have them. Sadly, eating healthy is not one of their goals. Our game only works at dinner time. At 7:37 p.m., the dad, pulls into their driveway. The game begins.

He's never come home without food. Each night, he gets out of the car with something different. Sometimes it's Chinese food. Sometimes it's Mexican or Italian food. He loves to bring home fast food or carry-out pizza. It's different every night, no matter what. That's how our game started.

Let me share last Tuesday's game. My family was packed around the curtains in our front room. We had to be quiet as we watched outside. If our neighbor saw us watching them every night, they might call the cops. The winner picked the right food.

Mom and Dad had their own bets against my siblings and I. The stakes were high. If our parents won, we had to do chores or go to bed. If one of the kids won, we'd get to stay up late and watch a movie. My neighbor's car pulled into the drive way. This was it.

"Drumroll, please..." whispered my dad.

We patted on our legs. John stepped out of his car.

"Boo-yah, pizza!" shouted my mom. "Rooms clean by nine!"

1) Summarize this passage:

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2) How would John feel if he found out about the game?

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3) What could this family have done to be helpful instead?

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4) How does this rude game make you feel? Why?

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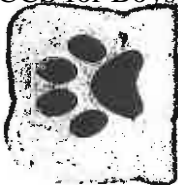


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# Ollie: the Toaster Dog



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

It's no miracle. We've all had buttered toast at some point. Even if you have a gluten allergy, the bread people still found a way to make bread you can eat

Isn't it great? It's like paradise when you take that first bite of hot toast out of the toaster. The crunch in your mouth as the hot bread hits your tongue. The buttery taste can only be said in one word—MMM!

Here's the rough part of being a toast lover. Getting out of bed first thing in the morning is like torture. The alarm clock goes off and wakes you from your dreams. The cold air nips at your toes. You have to give up your warm blanket. If only you could eat toast without having to give up 15 minutes of sleep.

This used to be a problem for toast lovers, but say no more. Ollie the toaster dog is here! He's here to save your life by delivering toast! He's the answer to your toast lover dreams.

Ollie is no regular dog. He's a hybrid Scottish Terrier. He's a half dog and half silver toaster. Picture a toaster with the head, tail, and paws of a dog. That's him except for one part.

Running from house to house delivering toast would be a challenge. Ollie's paws would be barking at him in pain. This is why he has a pair of magical, white wings on his sides. He can fly around because of toaster power.

In order to have Ollie bring toast, your parents have to order it online. Whenever you need toast, text Ollie the night before. He'll paw at your window in the morning. He flies it right to you.

1) What is this story about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Was the author trying to inform, persuade, or entertain?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

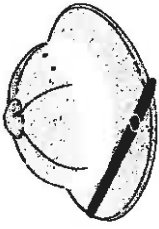
3) What could happen if Ollie didn't have wings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What's your favorite breakfast? Would you order Ollie?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Pizza Safari



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Hello everyone! Welcome to your first pizza safari. This safari is brought to you by Don n' Rob's Pizza. If it's not dripping off the plate, it's not Don n' Rob's. My name is Doughy Mann. I will be your tour guide.

We want everyone on this tour to have a wonderful time. For your safety, it is important that you keep all body parts in the bus. You're free to sniff as much as you want, but I must warn you. Some of these wild pizzas have eaten people if they smell tasty. It's hard to resist. Let's begin our tour.

As we head into the jungle, keep your eyes open. Some of the pizza, like cheese and vegetarian, likes to walk around in the open. They are used to seeing humans. The sound of our engine doesn't scare them. The wilder types like meat special and the monster pizza are more dangerous. Their grease and high number of calories make them bad for people.

Ah-hah! Please look to the left of the bus. Here we have a family of red-eyed, green olive slices by that diet cola stream. Ah-hah! If you look to the right, we have one slice of pepperoni. If he finds a mate, they can make slices of double pepperoni babies in the spring.

Wait! Stop the bus. Nobody move or make a sound. We're being watched by a special guest. Don't move your head. Slowly look up into the salad treetops above us. You'll see the rarest of the rare. It's a slice of buffalo chicken. It's double stuffed crust with triple cheese and extra sauce. It's still warm. Look at how well cooked that golden, buttery crust is. I've never felt so lucky. She isn't burned and came right on time.

That's the end of our pizza safari. Thank you very much.

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) How is the setting important to this story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

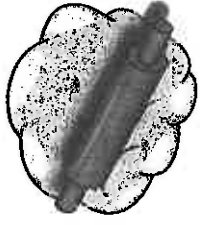
3) What could happen if you run into the monster pizza?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) What would your favorite pizza be like in the wild?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# The Dough-Splosion!

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

I was deep in dough for my yearly baking day. My goal was to bake my grandma's birthday cake. I had to get more creative to make each year better than before. Four years ago, I made an easy, round cake. The second year I made a double-decker, ice cream cake. That year, I wanted to break my records. I wanted to bake something amazing.

I wanted to bake a dirt bike made out of cake. I had watched all the baking battle shows on TV. If they could do it, so could I. The tires would be chocolate cake for the base. They would have dark chocolate frosting on the outside. The frame would be vanilla cake. I would cover it in lime-green frosting.

The plan was going great, other than one thing—my little brother. My mom said he had to help or I wouldn't be allowed to bake by myself anymore. I didn't want mom-patrol watching me. I had no choice. He turned the oven light on and off too many times. It broke! We couldn't see inside. He also kept asking too many questions. It was normal little brother stuff. Other than that, it wasn't so bad.

About 30 minutes into the baking, the oven door opened a bit. I didn't want to get off my kitchen chair. Without the light, there was no way to tell how the cake was doing. As I walked up to open it, I was shocked. Dough was coming out the sides and onto the floor. I opened the oven door. It was filled with dough and growing bigger.

"Hey, Dillon..." I said. "When I said 'add a pinch of yeast to the bowl', how much did you use?"

"Both hands!" said Dillon.

"Mom-patrol is not going to like this one..." I said.

1) What happened in the story?

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2) What is one thing this character could have done better?

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3) Is the "dough-splosion" the main character's fault? Why?

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4) Ever seen something on TV and tried to do it? Explain:

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# Peter the Plush



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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

Peter was a plush hat. He had dreams of being worn by a movie star or an author. Most of the other hats in the store thought it was silly. No famous people had ever come into their store. Everyone was a plain Jane or John Smith.

It didn't end there. Peter was the plumpest hat in the store, too. He needed his own rack to give him enough space. He never heard the end of it. The other hats teased him all the time. It was as if hats were only allowed to be thin and tall.

Peter had been on his rack for 14 months and 11 days total. He had to witness all of the other hats go home with happy people. He saw hats of every color and hats of every style sell before him. Peter had every reason to be a hopeless hat.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> month, the store owner had big news. She was retiring from the hat business. She wanted to move to Colorado to be with her grandkids. She had plans to cut prices in a huge closing sale. Any hats that didn't sell would be boxed up and stored in her attic.

Peter was scared when the sale began. He'd worked up a hat-sweat. It almost messed up his fine, plush material. One by one, all of the other hats waved goodbye and went home with happy people. Peter looked out the window as much as possible. He had to enjoy the daylight before he was boxed up for good. It would be only him and a few other hats.

On the last day of business, a man with tattoos and crazy hair walked into the store. He saw Peter and tried him on. It was only a moment before he was taking his credit card to the register. Peter left the store on the head of the famous rock star, Johnny Armstrong.

1) What is this story about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) How did Peter feel watching all the other hats get sold?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

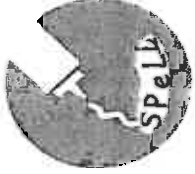
3) Use text evidence to show how Peter felt during the sale:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Tell about a time you were left out. How did you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# The Mustard Closet

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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

“Honey, I’m upset about your D in spelling,” growled my dad. “It’s now my job to find a way to help you.”

“Sorry, Dad...” I said with my eyes to the floor.

“Sorry won’t fix your spelling problem,” he said. “Your teacher works hard to help you, but you need more practice at home. Follow me.”

He led us out into the garage. We walked into the back room and stopped at the storage closet. He opened the door and turned on the light switch. There was a white piece of paper on the back wall. By his foot were eight bottles of mustard. He picked one up and opened the cap.

“I’d like you to meet the mustard closet,” he said.

“The mustard closet?” I laughed.

“Yep!” he said. “It seems like you’re half-asleep when you practice your spelling. It makes you bored, right?”

I nodded. “It bores me more than any other subject. It’s terrible, Dad!”

“We can make it better,” he said. “I had the same problem when I was your age. My dad made up the mustard closet for me. Every night, I want you to bring your spelling list out here. Spell out all your words three times in mustard. It’ll make it more fun.”

“Seriously...?” I laughed. “Mustard...?”

“You’re going to learn to spell,” he said. “I don’t care if it takes 100 bottles of mustard. By the way, we can’t tell your mom about this. She would freak out and shut us down.”

1) Summarize this passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) How will the mustard closet help the main character?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Why do you think the mom would freak out?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) If you parent made you this closet, would you use it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# cause and effect



**CAUSE:** An event that happens.  
**EFFECT:** An event that happens after the cause.

Read each sentence. Find the cause and effect.

Since it was sunny outside, Mia wore shorts.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

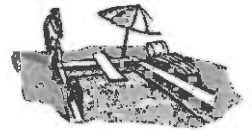
Effect: \_\_\_\_\_



The water in the pool was cold so we got out and sat in the sun.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_



I got a blister on my foot after walking all day.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_



A sunflower plant grew in my yard after I planted the seeds.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_



Claudio turned off the TV when his mother told him to go outside.

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_





# The Marshmallow Jungle

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

Directions: Read the following passage, then answer the questions.

G'day, mate! My name's Timmy. I'm one of the best tour guides in all of Australia. I have to tell you the truth, mate. Australia has been hiding a secret from the rest of the world. You look like a kid I can trust, so are you ready to hear it?

Australia is home to the only marshmallow jungle in the world. Yep, you heard it right, mate. It's far out in the Outback Desert in a cave, so it's not hard to hide. We just make sure not to tell too many people. If we did, our airports would get too busy. It's not on any maps. It's not on the internet either, mate. Before we make the trip, we have a few ground rules.

One: do not wear clothes that you like. There are no refunds just because you Americans brought high-priced jeans. There is a good chance they get sticky.

Two: no pictures at all. In fact, leave your phone at home. You can do without it for a few days. We don't need people looking at their phone like a zombie.

Three: wear long sleeves, pants, and cover your hair in a bag. Any hair lost in the marshmallow will not be given back. We use the extra hair to make wigs for our bald surfers.

Four: no pets at all! They don't ever come back. Rounder tourists are ok, but sometimes they don't come back, either. Let's just say they get "stuck" because of hunger.

Lastly, number five: don't tell a soul about the marshmallow jungle. If Australia's biggest secret got out, the world would be mad at us. People would line up to steal the marshmallows, and then melt them in the Outback's sun. S'mores are great, but not as great as having the only marshmallow jungle.

Ok, mate. See you when you fly down!

1) What is this passage about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Why shouldn't you wear nice clothes you like?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What would happen if you told people about this place?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Would you visit the marshmallow jungle? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

