

Name _____

Resolutions

Every year on New Year's Day, many people make resolutions. A resolution is a promise you make to yourself to do something different or better. For example, lots of adults make resolutions to eat healthier or exercise more often. They want to feel better and have more energy in the new year.

Some people make resolutions about doing more fun things with their friends or family. They want to spend more time laughing and playing together. They can keep their resolution by having a family picnic, taking a vacation, or playing board games together.

Other people want to do better in their job. They might want a raise or go back to school. Being a student is your job right now. What are some things that you can do better or differently to make this new year the best you've ever had?



Answer these questions about "Resolutions". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. When do people make resolutions?

2. What is a resolution?

3. Why would someone make a resolution to exercise more often?

4. What is one way some people can keep their resolution to spend more time with their family?

5. What resolution did you think of for yourself?
How can you be a better student this new year?

The Big Countdown

"How much longer is it until midnight?" Henry asked his older sister, Ashley.

"It is only 10:00! We still have two hours to go, Henry," she replied.

Henry and Ashley's family were attending a New Year's Eve party at the clubhouse in their neighborhood. There was a DJ playing music and a big dance floor. Everyone was talking and dancing the night away. Henry was only in kindergarten and he was starting to wonder if he could stay up until midnight.

"Come on, Henry, let's go get some fruit punch and cookies. That will help you stay awake for a little while," said Ashley.

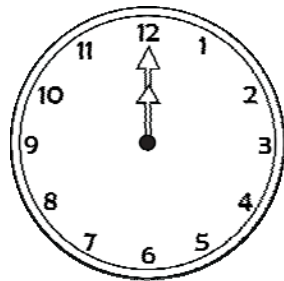
Later, Henry asked again, "How much longer is it until midnight?"

Ashley answered, "It's nearly 11:00 now. Only one hour to go, Henry. You can make it. Come and dance with me!"

They danced for a while. Henry's head was nodding up and down. His eyelids looked droopy. Ashley said, "Let's go get some fresh air on the patio, Henry. The cold air will wake you up."

It wasn't long until everyone began to shout, "10..9..8..7..6..5..4..3..2..1.. Happy New Year!"

Henry blew his noise maker and threw confetti in the air. He shouted, "Happy New Year, Ashley!" Ashley didn't answer. She was sound asleep!



Name _____

RL.2.5

Answer these questions about "The Big Countdown". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What problem did Henry face in this story?

2. How did Ashley try to help Henry solve his problem?

3. Why did Ashley take Henry out to the patio?

4. When and where did this story take place?

5. What is funny about the ending of the story?

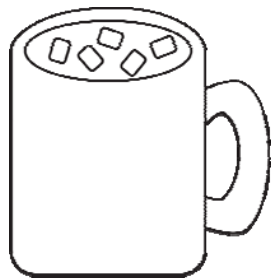
Hot Chocolate

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup of sugar
- dash of salt
- 4 cups of milk
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- marshmallows or whipped cream (optional)

Directions

1. Stir together sugar, cocoa, and salt in a medium sized saucepan.
2. Stir in water.
3. Stir constantly over medium heat until it begins to boil. Boil and stir for 2 minutes.
4. Add milk. Heat on low. **DO NOT BOIL.**
5. Remove from heat. Heat on low. Beat with a whisk until foamy.
6. Pour into mugs and add marshmallows or whipped cream, if desired.
7. Drink and enjoy!



**Serves eight people

Name _____

RI.2.3

Answer these questions about "Hot Chocolate". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How much milk will you need for this recipe?

2. Which ingredients will you use first?

3. Why do you think **DO NOT BOIL** is written in all capital letters?

4. Why do you think it says **optional** beside the marshmallows and whipped cream?

5. How much hot chocolate will this make?

Name _____

My New Hobby

I've been spending every Saturday afternoon visiting my grandma. She has been teaching me how to knit. I thought it would be easy because grandma's fingers move the knitting needles so fast. She makes it look easy. It is really hard though! At first, I got tangled up in the yarn. I told grandma that my fingers might be in knots, too! She smiled and laughed.

She has been patiently teaching me different kinds of stitches and how to count my stitches. Sometimes I lose track. Then, I have to undo my work and start over!

My school is having an event called "Warm for Winter". We can all bring in gently used or new hats, coats, scarves, and gloves. They will be given to the homeless shelter in town. I really want to make a hat to donate to this event. That would mean a lot to me!

So, I will keep practicing, and I won't quit! I can't wait to take pictures of the hat I am making. I will put them in my scrapbook to help me remember my hard work.



Answer these questions about "My New Hobby". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why is "My New Hobby" a good title for this text?

2. Why did the child think that knitting would be easy?

3. What are three words that describe the actions of the child in this story?

4. Why is the child giving her hat away?

5. Why does the child want to take a picture of the hat?

Snow Poems

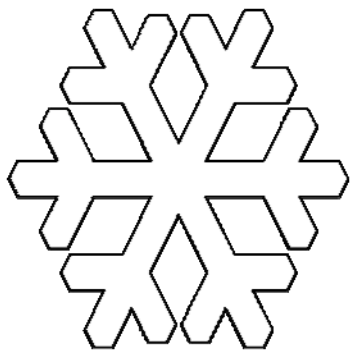
Poetry comes in many forms. It also does not always have to rhyme. Here are two examples of poems on the same topic, but they have very different formats.

Snow
Frozen, Powdery
Swirling, Falling, Dancing
Flakes, Crystals, Drops, Beads
Pouring, Showering, Misting
Dreary, Watery
Rain

This a diamante (dee-uh-mon-tay) poem that uses parts of speech to compare two things.

Snowflakes

No two are alike
Falling gently to the ground
Like a whispered hush.



A haiku (hi-koo) is a poetry form from Japan. The first line must have 5 syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The last line has 5 syllables again.

Name _____

RL.2.4

Answer these questions about "Snow Poems". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How are these two poems alike?

2. How are they different?

3. What kind of words are used on the 3rd and 5th lines of the diamante poem?

4. What two things are being compared in the first poem?

5. Which poem did you enjoy more? Why?

Name _____

Whoosh!

"Julie! Julie!, Come out to play!" yelled my next door neighbor, Brian. During the night, we had the first snow of the season. I couldn't wait to get outside and play in the fresh, powdery snow. I tapped on my window to get Brian to look at me. Then, I held up my first finger to show him that I needed one more minute to finish putting on my boots and coat. Brian and I always make snow angels, have snowball fights, and build a snowman together.

Finally, I rushed out into the bitter cold. Brian said, "Get a load of this!" He stepped to the side and showed me his brand new sled.

"Whod! I've never been sledding before!" I exclaimed.

"Well, then, let's go!" shouted Brian.

Brian's front yard had a steep hill. We like to ride our bikes down it during the summer. We walked up to the top of the hill. When I looked down, I started to get scared. "Hey, Brian, I don't know about this," I whispered.

"It will be fine. Come on. I will steer. You can sit in the back," said Brian.

"Alright, but if I fall off or get hurt, I am going to get you for this," I laughed.

We both climbed on and pushed off on the ground. Whoosh! We went speeding down the hill. We rolled up in a heap at the bottom of the hill. "Let's do that again!" I cried.



Answer these questions about "Whoosh!". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What happens to start the action in the story?

2. Where did this story take place?

3. Why was Julie not sure about sledding?

4. What happens to end the action in the story?

5. How do you feel about sledding? Why?

How to Build a Snowman

Step 1

Make sure that you have the right kind of snow. It needs to be powdery. It also has to stick together. If it won't form a small ball, it is the wrong kind of snow.

Step 2

Grab a handful of snow. Shape it into a ball. Keep packing snow onto it until it is too big to hold in your hands. Place it on the ground. Roll it away from you in the snow. It should grow as you roll it more and more. Make it as wide as you want your snowman to be on the bottom.

Step 3

Repeat step 2 two times. Make a medium sized ball and smaller ball.

Step 4

Get a friend to help with step 4 or use a shovel. Lift up the medium sized ball and place it on top of the large ball. Pack snow all around them to make them stick together. Repeat these steps with the smaller ball.

Step 5

Decorate your snowman. You can use any items you choose. Some ideas are: stick arms, hat, scarf, buttons, carrot nose, coal. Don't forget to take a picture of yourself with your new snowman. Have fun!



Name _____

RI.2.3

Answer these questions about "How to Build a Snowman". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How can you tell if you have the right kind of snow for snowman building?

2. Why do you think step 1 is so important?

3. Why would you need a friend or a shovel for step 4?

4. What does the word **repeat** mean in this text?

5. What would you do for step 5?

Sam the Snowman
A Limerick

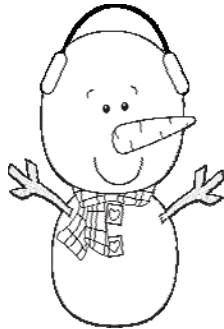
There once was a snowman named Sam,
who got in a terrible jam.
He thought it'd be fun
to play in the sun,
Oh what was he thinking? Poor Sam!

He wandered and glided downhill,
in search of a wonderful thrill.
He went and played
in the sun not the shade
and stayed there till he'd had his fill.

Oh, what an amazing sight!
The snow glistened in the sunlight!
Sam was so busy
spinning till he was dizzy
that he didn't see it was bright.

He wanted to stay there all day
and in the hot sun he did play.
He started to shrink
and still didn't think
he should get out of the sun's way.

Oh what has become of poor Sam
who got in a terrible jam?
He sure was in trouble.
Look there's a puddle
with a carrot nose! Oh no, Sam!



Name _____

RL.2.4

Answer these questions about "Sam the Snowman". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What type of poetry is "Sam the Snowman"?

2. Which word should be used to describe Sam: clever or foolish? Why?

3. Why didn't Sam notice that he was melting?

4. In this poem, what does **jam** mean?

5. How does the poem end?

Name _____

Scientists

Scientists use a step by step method to learn new things and find answers to questions. Whether they are studying space, the human body, or plants, they follow these same steps every time they work.

1. **Ask a question.** First, a scientist wonders about something. These questions usually start with words like why or how. For example, How does the human eye work?
2. **Make a guess.** Scientists use what they know and have learned to make a guess about the answer to their question. This guess is called a hypothesis (hi-poth-uh-sis).
3. **Test your guess.** Scientists carefully plan experiments to test the hypothesis. They will write down all of their information and data carefully. They also do the exact same experiment many times to see if they get the same answer every time.
4. **Write what you learned.** Scientists make conclusions. A conclusion is a summary of what you learned. Was your guess correct or not? How do you know?
5. **Share what you learned.** Scientists share what they found out with others. They can write a report, post on a website, or give a speech.



Answer these questions about "Scientists". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. When do scientists use these steps?

2. What is a hypothesis?

3. Why do scientists do the same experiment more than one time?

4. What is a conclusion?

5. Why do you think step 5 is important?

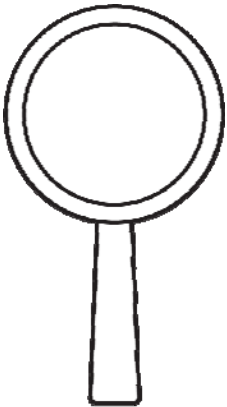
Mixing Oil and Water

What you'll need:

- empty soft drink or water bottle
- water
- food coloring
- 2 Tablespoons of cooking oil
- Dishwashing liquid
- Magnifying glass

Instructions:

1. Pour the water into the bottle. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water.
2. Pour in the 2 Tablespoons of cooking oil.
3. Screw the lid on tightly. Shake the bottle as hard as you can.
4. Put the bottle down gently. Examine the results with your magnifying glass.
5. Record what you observe.
6. Remove the lid.
7. Add a few squirts of dishwashing liquid.
8. Examine the results with your magnifying glass.
9. Record what you observe.



Name _____

RI.2.3

Answer these questions about "Mixing Oil and Water". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Which subheading helps you find the list of things you must have for this experiment?

2. Why are step 5 and 9 the same?

3. Do you add the cooking oil before or after you add the food coloring?

4. Why do you think you need to use colored water?

5. What do you think would happen if you did not follow step 3 correctly?

Name _____

RI.2.5

Matter

What is matter?

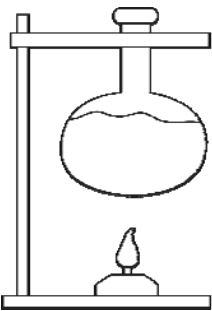
Matter is all around you. Matter is the air you breathe. Matter is the water you drink. Matter is the chair you sit on. All things can be sorted into their states of matter. They are either a solid, liquid, or a gas. Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space.

Does matter always stay the same?

Matter can be changed in many ways. Sometimes matter can change from one state to another. For example, water is a liquid. If you freeze it, it becomes a solid piece of ice. If you heat water, you will change it into a gas called steam. Other matter can be changed the same way. Think of a chocolate bar left out in the hot sun. Will it remain a solid?

How else can matter be changed?

Sometimes matter can be changed without changing states. Cutting apples and bananas up for a fruit salad will not change them from being a solid. A bicycle left in the rain will rust. A lit candle will melt. Heating, freezing, melting, rusting, and rotting are all ways to change matter.



Answer these questions about "Matter". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Which sentence in the first paragraph answers the subheading's question?

2. Which sentence in the second paragraph answers the subheading's question?

3. Which sentence in the third paragraph answers the subheading's question?

4. What is the main idea of the entire text?

5. Why did the author write this text?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I can't play with you anymore. My mama won't let me," a little white boy told Martin one day. Martin Luther King, Jr. was sad and did not understand why they couldn't be friends. Martin was just a little boy growing up in Atlanta, Georgia during the 1930s. Things were very different then. Blacks and whites usually were not friends.

As Martin grew, he saw how unfairly his friends and family were treated. He thought about it a lot. He wanted things to be different. Maybe this is one of the reasons he became a minister. He wanted to help people be kinder to each other.

Martin was also a wonderful speaker. He talked in a way that made people enjoy listening to him and what he had to say. He gave many speeches about change and peace. His most famous speech happened in 1963. In front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Martin had to be strong and brave. He led several boycotts. He walked, sang, and carried signs in marches for civil rights. People noticed all of his work. In 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize to honor his hard work.

Sadly, someone shot and killed Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 outside of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. His dream lives on in the work of his family, friends, and everyone who wants peace.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why was Martin sad when he was a little boy?

2. What job or career did Martin choose?

3. Why did people think that Martin was a wonderful speaker?

4. Where did he give his most famous speech?

5. How was Martin honored for all of his hard work?

Happy 100th Day of School!

Dear Journal,

100 days! 100 days! I've been in school for 100 days! Wow, have we learned a lot since the first day of school! I am a much better reader than I was at the end of first grade. I can solve all kinds of math problems. I have learned some cool things about science and history, too!

I can't wait to start our activities for today. My teacher said that everything we do in class will be about the 100th day of school. In math, we are going to share our 100th day projects. I built a log cabin with a 100 popsicle sticks. I hope the teacher likes my project.

Last week during centers, our group wrote a play about the 100th day of school. We are going to perform it after lunch. I am playing the part of our principal. I get to pretend that I am on the intercom.

The part I am most excited about is our 100th day snack. We all brought in snack foods. I brought in a bag of chocolate chips. We are going to mix them all together and get 100 pieces to eat at snack time.

I get goosebumps when I think about how exciting this day is going to be! Hooray, hooray for the 100th day!



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "Happy 100th Day of School!". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why do you think this child wrote this text?

2. What is causing the child to be excited?

3. What activity will happen after lunch?

4. Which part is the most exciting to the child?

5. When during the school day was this text written? Why do you think so?

Arctic Cafe

Appetizers

Calamari\$8.50
(a large portion of fried squid with dill sauce)

Seafood Salad.....\$6.00
(creamy crab salad served on lettuce)

Soups and Salads

Camp Stove Stew.....\$2.00
(a hearty stew filled with meat and vegetables)

Homesick Chicken Noodle Soup.....\$2.00
(order a large bowl for \$1.50 more)

Tundra Greens\$5.00
(fresh greens with assorted vegetables-
comes with your choice of dressing)

Main Dishes

Fried Halibut with Roasted Potatoes.....\$12.00

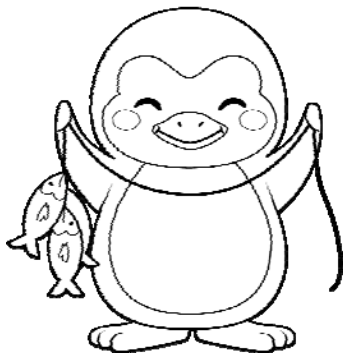
Shrimp Pasta.....\$15.00

Caribou Burger and Fries\$9.00

Desserts

Penguin Parfait.....\$3.00
(vanilla or chocolate)

Killer Whale Cake.....\$4.00
(cookies and cream cake)



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Arctic Cafe". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Which main dish costs \$9.00?

2. What is calamari?

3. How much more will you pay for a large bowl of Homesick Chicken Noodle Soup?

4. How many flavors of Penguin Parfait do they offer? What are they?

5. What would you order at the Arctic Cafe? Why?

Princess Penny Penguin's Problem

Once upon a time, in a castle of ice, there lived a pretty princess named Penny. Princess Penny had a problem. Her poor head was always cold. She had to wear her crown of gold and jewels everywhere she went. I'm sure you know that metal gets very cold to the touch if it is in icy weather. Poor Princess Penny began to even worry that it might freeze to her head! What would she do then? How would she sleep with a frozen crown on her head? She went to bed fretting and frowning.

The next morning, Princess Penny did not come down to breakfast. The king and queen were worried. They went to check on her. They found Penny asleep in bed with a very high fever. They sent for the doctor. The doctor gave her a check up from head to toe. "It seems that Penny has been entirely too cold. This has made her terribly ill. I suspect that her fancy crown may be the cause of her troubles," he said.

When the penguins in the kingdom heard that Penny was sick, they were so upset. She was dear to their hearts. They all began making pretty pink hats for the princess. Later that night, they all marched to the castle each carrying the hat they had made for Penny. They were glad to hear that her fever had broken. It took her several weeks to be well. Now, Princess Penny has a new problem. She has to decide which perfect pink hat she will wear each day.



Name _____

RL.2.5

Answer these questions about "Princess Penny Penguin's Problem". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What happens to start the problem in this story?

2. How did the problem get worse in the middle of the story?

3. How is the problem solved at the end of the story?

4. Why do the penguins make hats for Penny?

5. How would the story change if the setting was in a desert?

Polar Bear Cubs

Baby polar bears, or cubs, are born while their mother is hibernating in a den that she dug out of the snow and ice. The mother bear usually has 1 or 2 cubs at one time. The cubs are hairless, deaf, and helpless. They only weigh about 1 pound. That is less than a loaf of bread weighs!

The cubs are usually born during November or December. They will stay in the dark den with their mother until March. Then, their mother will break away the snow and ice that blocked the doorway. They will peek out for their first look at the world.

Their mother will take good care of them for about 2 and a half years. She will show them how to hunt, swim, and care for themselves. She even gives them rides on her back if they get too tired or their feet get cold.

Polar bear cubs love to romp and play in the snow. They enjoy rolling around and wrestling with each other. They will need these skills to defend themselves.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Polar Bear Cubs". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What object's weight is like that of a polar bear cub at birth?

2. When are most cubs born?

3. How long do cubs stay with their mother?

4. What does the mother teach her cubs before they leave her?

5. How have the cubs changed by the time they are 2 1/2 years old?

Harp Seals

Fast Facts

Type: Mammal

Diet: Carnivore or meat eater

Size: 5 to 6 feet long

Weight: 300 pounds

Life span: 20 years

Did you know . . . ?

- Harp seals can stay under the water up to 15 minutes at a time
- Mother harp seals can find their baby by its unique smell
- Baby harp seals are called pups
- Pups are covered in soft white fur
- The pups are often hunted for their fur
- Harp seals can crack crab shells open with their back teeth
- Harp seals are hunted by orcas (killer whales) and polar bears
- Its eyes are always covered in tears. This protects their eyes from the salt in the ocean water.
- Harp seals live in large groups and are very noisy
- A harp seal can swim to depth of 800 feet



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Harp Seals". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why are pups in danger?

2. How does a mother find her own pup?

3. How much does a harp seal weigh? How long are they?

4. How do harp seals eat crabs?

5. Which fact was the most interesting to you?

Nanuk the Great Bear
An Inuit Folktale

The Inuit tell of a time long ago when Nanuk the Great Bear still roamed the ice. He was a bear of great size. All of the men wanted to catch him and be called the greatest hunter. Nanuk was nearly impossible to find, and he was a dangerous bear.

One day, Nanuk was lying on the ice watching a hole. He was waiting for a seal to rise out of the hole. He was quite hungry! In fact, Nanuk was so focused on his hunger that he did not notice the hunter and pack of dogs creeping up on him.

Suddenly, one of the dogs howled. Nanuk raised his great white head and growled fiercely. They almost had him trapped in a circle. Nanuk began to run as fast as he could. The hunter and the dogs chased after him. He ran on and on over the frozen land. They all began to tire, but they didn't give up the chase.

Nanuk looked back to see how close they were to catching him. He didn't notice that he had reached the edge of the world. Nanuk tumbled off! The dogs were so close to him that they fell over the edge, too. They became stars in the sky. Look up at night and you may see the dog pack still chasing Nanuk across the sky.



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "Nanuk the Great Bear". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did the hunters want to kill Nanuk?

2. Why didn't Nanuk see that the dogs were coming after him?

3. What kind of bear was Nanuk? What clues told you so?

4. What happened to Nanuk and the dogs?

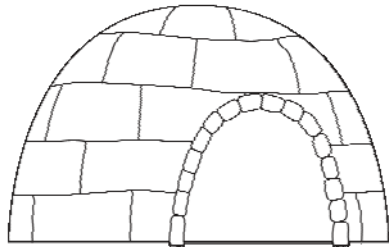
5. What does this folktale try to explain?

Igloos

You may have only seen an igloo on an alphabet chart or in a cartoon starring penguins, but let's look at the facts about igloos. Igloo means "snow house" in the language of the Inuit people. It is made by cutting or sawing thick blocks of ice and stacking them together. Then, snow is packed into the cracks. They often dug down deeper on the inside of the igloo. This would give you room to stand up if needed.

A few igloos were quite large. Some could even house up to 20 people. However, most igloos were very small. They were built to shelter a hunter from the harsh winter weather. Hunters could stand the cold during the day, but the temperature drops at night. They needed a safe place to rest.

Igloos use snow and ice to trap your body heat inside. If you are in an igloo and have an oil lamp burning, it will be 40 degrees warmer there than it is outside. You can even cook inside the igloo. Melting a little during the day and refreezing at night makes the igloo even stronger and warmer.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Igloos". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Where does the word igloo come from?

2. How is an igloo made?

3. How big were most igloos?

4. How did igloos keep hunters warm?

5. Would you stay in an igloo? Why?

Name _____

RI.2.8

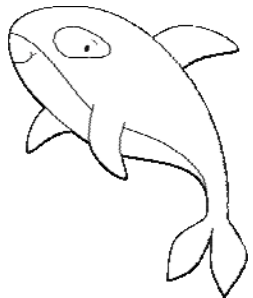
True or False?

Killer whales are the world's most deadly whale.

False! This sentence is actually wrong about three different things. First, this animal is not a killer whale. It should be called an orca. Orca is its real name. Long ago, they were seen hunting whales. People called them whale killers. Somehow, over time, the nickname was switched to killer whale.

Secondly, this sentence is false because this animal is not as deadly as you may think. Yes, they do hunt many animals. They are excellent hunters. They hunt in groups called a pod. They kill and eat squid, sharks, sea otters, penguins, seals, and even sea birds. However, there are no reported orca attacks on humans in the wild.

Lastly, they aren't whales at all! They are actually a type of dolphin. They are mammals. They give milk to their young. They must surface to breathe air. So, to call them a whale is false.



Answer these questions about "True or False?". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why is the first sentence written in bold print?

2. Why did the author write this text?

3. How did the author prove that this animal is not called a killer whale?

4. How did the author prove that orcas are not deadly whales?

5. How did the author prove that orcas are not whales at all?

San Francisco Daily News

Chinese New Year

by Anita Lee

Cries of "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" echoed in the streets of Chinatown last night as citizens wished each other much happiness in the new year. Chinese New Year was celebrated with great fanfare throughout the town. Earlier in the evening, many families gathered in their homes to feast on their favorite dishes and exchange red envelopes filled with money. Every business and home was decorated with red paper scrolls and hanging lanterns covered in wishes for good luck, long life, riches, and happiness in the coming year.

After dark, the parade through the main street of town began. The hanging lanterns lit a bright path for the dancers and musicians. Soon, the loud beating of drums and crashing cymbals could be heard. Then, the fabulous dragon and lion dancers appeared and moved with great rhythm down the street. The Chinese have long believed that the scary dragon and lion faces along with the noise of the drums and cymbals scares away anything that will bring you bad luck in the new year. The evening ended with a bold display of fireworks that lit the night sky. The noise and red fire also bring good luck to all who come to the parade.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!



Name _____

RI.2.6

Answer these questions about "Chinese New Year". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why did the author write this text?

2. Who is writing about this event?

3. What did the author hear that night?

4. What did the author see that night?

5. Would you enjoy this event? Why or why not?

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is not a new tradition. In fact, people have had similar traditions for hundreds of years. In Germany, they celebrated Candlemas Day. Candlemas Day was halfway between the first day of winter and the first day of spring. That day is February 2nd. This is also when Americans and Canadians celebrate Groundhog Day.

Long ago in other countries in Europe, people would watch for a hedgehog on February 2nd. If it saw its shadow, there would be more winter weather coming. So, when settlers came to America from Germany and other parts of Europe, they wanted to predict the weather again. However, hedgehogs do not live in America. The Native Americans living here respected the groundhog. They believed that the groundhog was wise and sensible. So, the new settlers watched for a groundhog to come out from its underground burrow instead.

To this day, we use the groundhog to **predict** the weather. If it sees its shadow, winter will be six weeks longer. If it doesn't see its shadow, spring will be coming soon. What do you think will happen this year?



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Groundhog Day". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why is Groundhog Day celebrated on February 2nd?

2. Which animal did people watch in Europe?

3. Why did they choose to watch the groundhog when they came to America?

4. What is the meaning of the word **predict**?

5. What do you think will happen this year?

The Year the Groundhog Overslept

"Wake up, Groundhog! Wake up!" shouted Fox. "You overslept! It is February 3rd!"

"What did you say?" asked Groundhog as he yawned and stretched.

"I said that you overslept! You missed Groundhog Day!" said Fox.

"Oh no, what shall I do?" asked Groundhog. "No one will know about the weather because of me! I have failed to help my friends," he cried.

"Let's go see our wise friend, Owl, maybe he'll know what to do," Fox said.

They walked several miles to the large oak tree where Owl roosted and slept the day away.

"Owl, oh, Owl, we are sorry to wake you, but we have a terrible problem. Can you help us?" they both shouted.

"I shall try," Owl replied. Fox explained their problem to Owl.

Owl asked, "Groundhog, why did you oversleep?"

"Well, I woke up a few times, but it was so dark and dreary at the door to my burrow, I thought it must still be night or maybe very early morning, he answered.

"Well, then, since shadows are made by sunlight and it was not sunny at all yesterday, I think you would not have had a shadow. So, I think it is safe to say that spring will early!" declared Owl.

"Thank you!" they cried.



Name _____

RL.2.7

Answer these questions about "The Year the Groundhog Overslept". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Who are the main characters in this story?

2. What is the problem in the story?

3. What caused the problem to happen?

4. Why did they go to visit Owl?

5. How did Owl solve Groundhog's problem?

Go for the Gold

Go for the gold! Go for the gold!
History will remember you forever we're told.

For years you sweated and trained every day.
In the Olympics, it's all work and no play.

Proudly wearing the red, white, and blue
Know that your country is thinking of you.

Whether you are on skates or on skis,
Just do your best and try to please.

All of the athletes have the same dream.
Wearing the gold, their smile will beam.

Wishing and hoping you don't slip or fall
Ending your dream once and for all.

When your turn is up, to the judges you look.
You might end up in the world's record book.

Hoping you hear our country's song
with tears falling gently as you sing along.

Go for the gold! Go for the gold!
May that medal be yours to hold!



Name _____

RL.2.4

Answer these questions about "Go for the Gold".
You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is the purpose of this poem?

2. According to the poem, how are all of the athletes alike?

3. What words were repeated in this poem?

4. Why do you think tears will fall gently as they hear their country's song?

5. What country is the athlete from? What clue in the poem led you to that answer?

Name _____

RI.2.1

Infer with Abraham Lincoln

A quote is someone's exact spoken or written words. Their words tell us a lot about them. What do these words of Abraham Lincoln tell you about what he felt, did, or thought?

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

"The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read."

"Whatever you are - be a good one."

"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."



"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

"People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Answer these questions about "Infer with Abraham Lincoln". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is a quote?

2. How did Abraham Lincoln feel about his mom? What did he say that made you think that?

3. How did Abraham feel about reading? How do you know?

4. How did Abraham Lincoln think you should handle an enemy?

5. Which quote might he say if you told him you were thinking of quitting?

A Secret Admirer

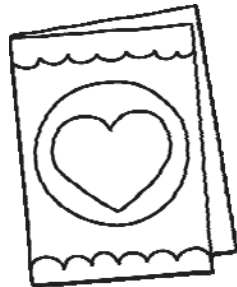
This morning, Badger lifted the lid to the mailbox attached to the door of his den. A powerful smell nearly knocked him over. The heavy scent of perfume filled the air. "What in the world is this?" he asked.

He pulled out a large white envelope. It had his name written across it in purple marker. Inside was a card that said, "Roses are red. Daisies are yellow. You sure are a handsome fellow. Love, Your Secret Admirer"

Badger was very curious. Who could have sent him this valentine? He made a quick list of all of the women he knew in the neighborhood. There was Miss Squirrel, Miss Raccoon, and Miss Skunk. Miss Raccoon was rather pretty. He would visit her first. He walked through the meadow and straight to her house. Her mailbox was overflowing with letters and newspapers. Mr. Fox wandered past and called out, "If you are looking for Miss Raccoon, she has been out of town for several weeks. Her aunt is very ill." Badger silently marked her name off of the list.

Miss Squirrel lived a few trees over. He called on her next. When he knocked on the door, Mr. Chipmunk answered. "Hello, Badger, Come in and have some tea. Say, did you hear that Miss Squirrel has agreed to marry me?" Badger sighed and marked her name off of his list.

After tea, he went to visit Miss Skunk. She smiled warmly and invited him inside. As he walked past her desk, he noticed a purple pen lying beside an empty perfume bottle. He grinned widely and said, "Miss Skunk, I came to invite you to dinner."



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "A Secret Admirer". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. How did this mystery begin?

2. How did Badger keep track of his suspects?

3. How did he know that his card was not from Miss Squirrel?

4. What clues did he find on Miss Skunk's desk?

5. Why do you think Miss Skunk covered the letter in perfume?

The Human Heart

1. Your heart has four chambers. Each chamber has a valve that works like a door. It opens and shuts to let blood in and out.
2. Electricity going through your heart makes it contract or squeeze.
3. Your heart is about the same size as your fist.
4. Your heart pumps almost 2,000 gallons of blood every day.
5. Laughing is good for your heart. It makes it pump blood even faster.
6. Your heart will probably beat over two billion times during your life.
7. The thump thump sound your heart makes comes from the noise of the valves closing.
8. A man's heart is about 2 ounces heavier than a woman's heart.
9. Your heart is made of lots of muscles.
10. Your heart is in the center of your chest and is protected by your ribs.
11. Your heart beats about 70 times every minute.
12. Usually a woman's heart beats faster than a man's heart.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "The Human Heart". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What causes your heart to squeeze?

2. What effect does laughter have on your heart?

3. What causes the sound your heart makes?

4. How is woman's heart different from a man's heart?

5. Which fact was your favorite?

U.S. Presidents

The Constitution.....	p. 1
Our First President.....	p. 4
The Campaign Trail.....	p. 10
Inauguration.....	p. 12
The White House.....	p. 14
The Oval Office.....	p. 20
The First Ladies.....	p. 23
Air Force One.....	p. 34
The Secret Service.....	p. 37
Leaving Office.....	p. 40



Name _____

RI.2.5

Answer these questions about "U.S. Presidents". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What will pages 14-19 be about in this book?

2. Who will you read about on pages 4-9?

3. The Oval Office is where the President works in the White House. Which pages will tell you about that room?

4. Air Force One is the President's airplane. Where should you turn to find out more about it?

5. Where should you look if you want to know if the White House has a swimming pool?

Name _____

RI.2.9

The Life of George Washington

George Washington was born February 22, 1732 in Virginia. He grew up on a large farm. He was a master woodsman, land surveyor, and map maker. As a young man, he fought in the French and Indian War. In 1758, he was elected to the law making branch in Virginia. He became the Commander in Chief of the soldiers during America's war for Independence from England. He helped to write many of the laws that govern our country today. He was our first President and served two terms of office. He died at home in 1799.

Our First President

George Washington became America's first president in 1789. He had helped to write the rules for how much power a president could have. He did not want to be like the King of England. He was a very popular president. The White House had not been built yet. So, he never lived there. George Washington helped get America started and governed it well during its first eight years. Washington, D.C. is named in his honor.



Answer these questions about "The Life of George Washington/Our First President". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is the first passage mostly about?

2. What is the second passage mostly about?

3. What is one fact that is included only in the first passage?

4. What is one fact that is included only in the second passage?

5. Which passage would be better to read if you were doing a report on President Washington?

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson was always an amazing athlete. He was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. He loved sports from a very early age. In college, he was the first student to letter in 4 different sports. He could play baseball, basketball, football, and track equally well. However, due to some money problems, he had to leave college and join the army. In 1945, when he got out of the military, the Kansas City Monarchs, an all black baseball team, asked him to join them. He played so well for them that he was noticed by Branch Rickey. Branch Rickey owned a major league baseball team called the Brooklyn Dodgers. He asked Jackie to join his team and become the first black baseball player in the major leagues since 1889. Jackie knew it would not be easy, but he agreed to play ball and not fight back when people were unkind to him. Jackie had a hard time. Crowds yelled and threw things at him when he was on the field. His family received threats from people. Some of his own teammates said they would sit out and refuse to play ball with Jackie. Jackie did not quit! He just kept doing his best work. He ended up being Rookie of the Year and the National League's Most Valuable Player. In 1962, his jersey number was retired and Jackie joined the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Name _____

RI.2.3

Answer these questions about "Jackie Robinson". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

2. What caused Jackie Robinson to leave college?

3. What caused Branch Rickey to want to hire Jackie for his team?

4. Which sentence supports the detail that "Jackie had a hard time."?

5. What happened because Jackie did not quit and kept doing his best?

Rosa Parks

When Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955, she didn't know that she was about to make history. She had been working all day long as a seamstress fixing clothes at a department store. She was heading home like she always did when work was over.

At that time in much of the South, the seats in the front of the bus were reserved or saved for white passengers. Black passengers were required to get on the bus, pay their fare, get off of the bus, and reenter through the back door. The seats reserved for black citizens were in the back part of the bus.

Rosa had followed all of those rules. However, the bus driver kept stopping, and more and more white passengers got on board. Soon, the white section was full. The bus driver moved the sign that divided the two groups of people. He asked 4 black passengers to get up and move. Three of them

did as he asked, but Rosa did not move. When the driver asked her, "Why don't you stand up?" She replied, "I don't think I should have to stand up." The driver called the police and Rosa Parks was arrested. Her arrest led to the bus boycott that began the Civil Rights Movement in America. She was the spark for change in our country.



Name _____

RI.2.3

Answer these questions about "Rosa Parks". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why was Rosa Parks riding on a city bus?

2. Where did black citizens have to sit on a bus in 1955?

3. Why did the bus driver ask Rosa Parks to move farther back?

4. What did Rosa say to the bus driver?

5. Why was Rosa's decision important in history?

Dental Health
Glossary

bacteria - (bak-teer-ee-uh) one celled living things that live in or on other living and nonliving things. Bacteria can only be seen with a microscope.

bristles - (bri-sulz) the short, stiff, hair like part of a toothbrush

cavity - (kav-i-tee) where decay has caused a hole in a tooth

dentist - (den-tist) a doctor who treats your teeth, gums, jaws, and mouth

floss - (flos) to clean between your teeth with a special type of string

fluoride - (flor-ide) an element needed to form strong teeth

gingivitis - (jing-uh-vite-is) gum disease

plaque - (plak) a clear film made of germs that sticks to your teeth

tooth decay— (tooth de-cay) the ruining of a tooth



Name _____

RI.2.5

Answer these questions about “Dental Health Glossary” You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Which word describes something you should do to clean your teeth?

2. What is gingivitis?

3. The mayor gave Bob a **plaque** for 25 years of service to the town. Does plaque have the same meaning in this sentence as it does in the glossary? How do you know?

4. Which word names a person who helps your teeth stay healthy?

5. If soda pop causes tooth decay, what is it doing to your teeth?

The Tooth Fairy Queen Retires

Queen Flossy had ruled the tooth fairies for many years. She was beginning to feel her age. She was almost 500 years old and she wanted sometime to spend time in her garden and relax at her home in the country. Since she had no children of her own, she decided to hold a contest to decide who would be queen after her. Last night, she announced to all of the fairies that whoever brings her the most amazing tooth tonight will become queen.

The queen has been pacing the floor all day eagerly awaiting news from the fairies. The fairies are travelling all over the world searching for a tooth that would impress the queen. The first to arrive was Brusharella. She had made a terrific find. A princess from a far away land had lost a tooth today. Brusharella had to sneak past the palace guards to enter the princess' room to take the tooth. That was pretty good!

Next, Molarissa dragged an enormous tooth into the throne room. A lion in Africa lost one of its canine teeth. She found it under a rock near the sleeping lion! Now, that was incredible! Still, the queen waited for the last fairy to return.

After midnight, Dentina walked quietly into the room. She laid a tiny tooth at Queen Flossy's feet. She whispered to the queen, "I'm sorry I am late. I had to wait for little Jimmy Hill to pull his first tooth. So, this is all I could bring. I'm sorry it's so tiny." Queen Flossy smiled brightly and said, "There is no lost tooth as precious as a child's first lost tooth, Queen Dentina."



Name _____

RL.2.7

Answer these questions about "The Tooth Fairy Queen Retires" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why does Queen Flossy want to retire?

2. How will Queen Flossy choose the next queen?

3. What was special about Brusharella's tooth?

4. What was amazing about Molarissa's tooth?

5. Why did Queen Flossy choose Dentina as the next queen?

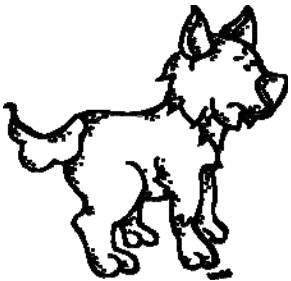
Iditarod

The Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race usually happens in early March each year. A musher or dog sled driver selects up to 16 of his best dogs. These dogs are usually huskies or malamutes. Together, they will face the toughest time of their lives.

The race begins in Anchorage, Alaska and ends in Nome, Alaska. They will cover over one thousand miles in 9-15 days. They will face blizzards so thick that they cause "white-out" which makes it impossible to see things right in front of you. There will be high winds that can drop the temperature to 100 degrees below zero. They will face all of these challenges alone. All the while, they are trying to be the fastest team to finish the race. Every decision is important!

Mushers and their teams must sign in at about 50 different checkpoints along the trail. They may either camp on the trail or stay and rest for awhile at the checkpoint. Before the race began, mushers packed drop bags. Each of their drop bags are flown in and dropped from a plane at a checkpoint. Inside the drop bag are things like food for themselves and their dog team, fresh batteries, and new booties for the dog's paws.

The last dash is a the speed race towards Nome. Mushers and their dogs can hear ringing church bells, sirens, and the cheering crowds. The winner receives a new truck. The first 30 finishers split a large amount of money. The best dogs win the golden harness award.



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about "Iditarod". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What does the word musher mean?

2. Where does the Iditarod take place?

3. What challenges do the teams face on the trail?

4. What kinds of items are inside of a drop bag?

5. What are three adjectives you could use to describe this race?

The Lion and the Mouse
A Retelling of Aesop's Fable

One day, a mighty lion slept deeply under a tree. He had been glad to find a shady place for a rest. A little mouse scurried around under the tree. Without thinking, he ran all over the top of the lion. The lion awoke in a terrible rage. He grabbed the little mouse in giant paws and roared. "How dare you awaken the king? I shall kill you for disturbing my sleep!"

"Oh, please, your Majesty, I did not mean to wake you. It was a mistake. If you let me go, I will forever be your friend. I may be able to save you one day," squeaked the tiny mouse.

The lion laughed loudly at the thought of a tiny mouse saving his life. "Since you have made me laugh, I will set you free," he said.

Several months passed. Sadly, the lion found himself trapped in a hunter's net. He roared so loudly that the trees swayed. The little mouse heard the roar and said, "My friend needs me!"

Straight away, he ran to lion. "Your majesty, I am glad that this day has come. I will now be able to return your kindness to me,"

said little mouse. He began to gnaw through the ropes that held the lion. Soon, the lion was free. The lion and the mouse would be friends forever.

Moral of the story:

An act of kindness is never wasted.



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "The Lion and the Mouse". You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Why was the lion angry at the mouse?

2. How did the mouse escape from the lion?

3. Why did the lion laugh at what the mouse promised him?

4. How did the mouse save the lion's life?

5. What do you think the moral of the story means?

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

Before people had radios, televisions, and the internet, they often watched the skies and used old folklore to help them predict the weather. For example, for hundreds of years, people in England and America have said,

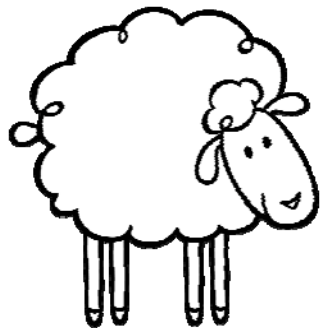
“March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.”

This means that usually the first part of the month is filled with cold weather and thunderstorms. The thunder roars like a lion. Then, later in the month, the weather will be warm and soft breezes will blow. The weather will be gentle like a lamb. This isn't always true though. So, if the first days are mild, they reversed the saying and told each other that,

“March comes in like a lamb and out like a lion.”

This means that the opposite will be true. The early part of the month will be nice, but you can expect cold and storms to return at the end of the month.

Do you believe in weather folklore? What is today's date? How is the weather today? What kind of weather should you expect later this month?



Name _____

RI.2.1

Answer these questions about “In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb” You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. Long ago, why did people have to find their own ways to predict the weather?

2. What kind of weather is described as being like a lion?

3. Why would they switch the saying around?

4. Why do you think they chose a lamb to describe nice weather?

5. Using this folklore, what should March's weather be like where you live?

The Night the Lights Went Out

"Boom! Boom!" went the thunder. "Crackle Ka-pow!" went the lightning and out went the lights. We all screamed because we don't like storms or the dark and this was both at the same time.

"It's going to be alright," Mama said. "Let me get down the candles." Soon, the kitchen was lit with an odd flickering glow.

"What about dinner, Mama? The stove won't work without power," Stevie said.

"Well, we will just have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, carrot sticks, and apples. Your grandmother used to call this pioneer dining," said mama with a laugh.

"What will we do for fun, mama? The TV and the Xbox won't turn on," Jamie asked.

"Well, I'll tell you what we did once when I was little and the power went out. We played the board game Clue by candlelight. It was a little spooky, though. Do you fellows think you can handle it?" Mama answered.

"We can handle anything!" we both answered.

Mama was right. Eating and playing a game in the quiet by the dim light of some candles was fun.

Right after Jamie said, "It was Miss Scarlett in the kitchen with the candlestick." the lights came back on. "Awww," we said, "we were having fun. Let's turn them off and play again!"



Name _____

RL.2.1

Answer these questions about "The Night the Lights Went Out" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What caused the boys to scream?

2. What effect did the storm have on their dinner plans?

3. What caused mama to say, "Do you fellows think you can handle it?"

4. What caused the boys to say, "Awww, we were having fun."?

5. What effect does being without power during a storm have on you?

Name _____

Rainy Day
(to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)

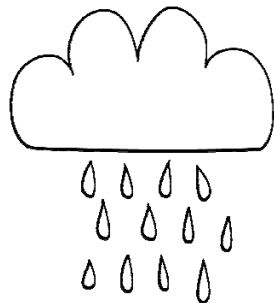
Is it going to rain today?
Skies look gray. Can't go play.
Is it going to rain today?
Inside we will have to stay.

We were going to the game.
What a shame! Rain's to blame!
We were going to the game.
Now, our plans are not the same!

Since the rain is falling down,
all around, throughout the town,
Since the rain is falling down,
I'll wish that rain could drown.

This rain is going to make me cry,
Why can't it just be dry?
Mom said that I shouldn't cry
For now I'm going to try.

Hey, I think it's going to stop!
Look right there not one drop!
Yes, I think it's going to stop!
In the mud I'm going to plop!



Answer these questions about "Rainy Day" You may look back in the text for answers or clues.

1. What question is asked in the first stanza?

2. Where was the author planning to go today?

3. What is the author going to try to do in the fourth stanza?

4. Where is the author going in the last stanza?

5. Which stanza was your favorite? Why?
