

Reading Comprehension Practice



Read the passages

Answer the multiple choice questions

*Don't guess! Go back to the story and underline your proof!

Name _____

The Lonely Swimming Pool

Poem By: Judie Eberhardt

My water is warm and full of waves
I fill up everyone's summer days
I sparkle and shine and look so clear
But I feel the end of summer is near.

June and July were so crowded you see
And now that school started, I count just three
Three kids and mom that's all that's here
Oh, it's the end of summer I fear.

No more shouting and yelling with joy
No more diving for a floating toy
The girls are sad as they gather their gear
It's the end of summer they say with a tear.

The days will be lonely and the weather cool
The men will come clean me and bring their tool
It will be quiet and a long rest I'll get
But summer is the best time yet!



The Lonely Swimming Pool

Poem By: Judie Eberhardt

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What word describes the water?
 - A. Cold
 - B. Warm
 - C. Dirty
 - D. None of the above

2. What months is the pool crowded?
 - A. October and November
 - B. August and September
 - C. June and July
 - D. None of the above

3. How many kids were at the pool near the end of summer?
 - A. Six
 - B. Eight
 - C. Five
 - D. Three

4. What word describes the weather at the end of summer?
 - A. Cool
 - B. Warm
 - C. Hot
 - D. None of the above

5. Why will men come to the pool after the summer?
 - A. To put water in the pool
 - B. To mow the grass around the pool
 - C. To clean the pool
 - D. To repair the pool

The Stolen Bicycle

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Luke was proud of his new bicycle he had gotten for his birthday. It was black with the coolest stripe on the side. He rode it to school everyday for the past three days. When Luke rode his bike home, he parked it in front of the garage and went inside to drop off his books. He wanted to tell his mom he was going to go to Justin's house. "Okay," said mom. "Just be home by 6:00." Luke said okay and went outside to get on his bike. However, there was a problem. His bike was gone. *Oh no*, thought Luke. *Someone stole my bike*. "Mom!" yelled Luke. "My bike is gone!" "Where did you park it?" asked mom. "I left it in front of the garage," Luke said. Luke ran outside to see if he could spot anyone on the street that may have seen someone ride off with his bike. There was no one around, except for Mrs. Patterson. She was weeding her garden two houses down. Luke went to Mrs. Patterson and asked, "Did you happen to see anyone riding a black bicycle in the last few minutes?" "As a matter-of-fact, I did see a boy going down our street, but I thought it was you because he pulled out of your driveway." "Which way did he go?" asked Luke. "When he passed my house, he turned onto Connor Drive," said Mrs. Patterson. Luke went back to his house and told his mom what he found out. Luke's mom said she called the police, and they would be over in a short while to get all the information. When Luke's dad got home from work, he told Luke that someone on Connor Drive has the same bike as Luke's. "How do you know?" asked Luke. "I saw a boy outside cleaning a bike that looked just like your bike." Luke's mom told Luke's dad about the bike being taken from the driveway.



When the police arrived, Luke and his mom gave the officers all the details about the bicycle and told them about the boy on Connor Drive. "We'll go check it out," said Officer Thompson. It was about thirty minutes later when the officers returned to Luke's house with a bike. "It's my bike!" yelled Luke. "The Weston boy confessed to taking the bicycle." "He said he wanted a bike, but his parents couldn't afford one." "I guess he made the wrong choice and decided to take your bike," said Officer Winters. "Do you want to press charges?" "No," said Luke and his parents. "It sounds like they have enough problems without adding stealing to the list." The next day Bill Weston came to Luke's house to apologize and thank him for not pressing charges against him. "It was a bad mistake, and I'll never do it again."

The Stolen Bicycle

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why had Luke gotten a new bicycle?
 - A. It was for Christmas.
 - B. It was for having good grades.
 - C. It was for his birthday.
 - D. He saved enough money to buy a new bicycle.

2. What time did mom tell Luke to be home?
 - A. 5:00
 - B. 5:30
 - C. 6:00
 - D. 6:30

3. Which street did the Weston boy turn on?
 - A. Willow Street
 - B. Grant Street
 - C. Evergreen Trail
 - D. Connor Drive

4. How long were the police officers gone before they returned with the bike?
 - A. 20 minutes
 - B. 25 minutes
 - C. 30 minutes
 - D. 60 minutes

5. What did the Weston boy do at the end of the story?
 - A. Apologized to Luke
 - B. Bought his own bike
 - C. Was punished by his parents
 - D. None of the above

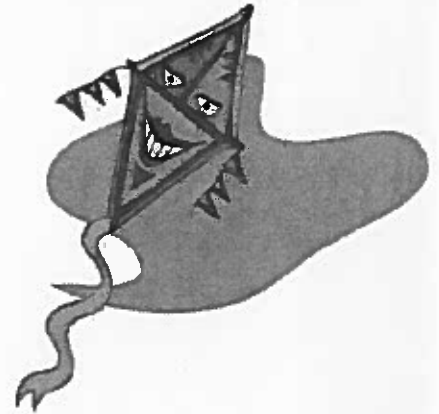
The Kite Contest

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Lee loved kites. He was always looking to buy a new kite and had four already. He had a kite shaped like a dragon and one shaped like a diamond. His favorite kite, the one that looked like an airplane, got caught in a tree last fall and was torn. But he wanted to do more than just fly his fast kites around the park by himself. Lee decided this year he was going to take two of his kites and enter them into the kite contest the park was holding on Saturday. The first place prize was \$25.00.

Lee told his mom what he was planning to do on Saturday, and she thought it was a good idea. "My only thought is that I don't know how much wind will be blowing on Saturday," said his mom. "The weather will be very hot." "That's okay," said Lee. "I have a feeling it's going to be a good day, and I will win the contest."

Saturday came, and Lee was awake early. The contest started at 9:00, and he didn't want to be late. When he got to the park with two of his kites, he was surprised to see there were close to twenty- five or thirty kids there for the contest. *Wow*, he thought to himself, *I don't know if I'll have a chance*. Lee went to the sign-in table, and said he was entering two kites. He brought his red and white box kite, and the other was a smiling face kite. The contest began, and Lee was watching his box kite fly high into the air. The kite was up in the air for ten minutes, but suddenly it fell to the ground, and Lee was out of that competition. He then entered his smiling face kite. All of a sudden, he was next to a boy that had a homemade kite with old torn rags for its tail. His kite was flying close to Lee's. Suddenly it touched Lee's kite and moved higher above the smiling face kite. Lee knew he could have won if the boy's kite didn't touch his. But Lee felt sorry for the boy, and Lee let him get above his kite. The judge called the boy with the homemade kite the winner. Lee congratulated him and said, "That was a great kite you flew." The boy said he made the kite himself using some left over material his mom had and tied some old rags to make the tail. The boy was so happy he won the prize of \$25.00. He told Lee he was going to buy a real kite with the money. "If you ever want to fly kites with me, I'm usually at the park," said Lee. "Thanks," said the boy. "I come almost every Saturday." And with that, the two boys said goodbye and made plans to meet next Saturday.



The Kite Contest

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How many kites did Lee have at the beginning of the story?
 - A. Six
 - B. Two
 - C. Four
 - D. One

2. What was the prize for the kite contest?
 - A. Twenty-five dollars
 - B. Ten dollars
 - C. A movie ticket
 - D. None of the above

3. What happened to the kite that was shaped like an airplane?
 - A. Lee loaned it to his friend.
 - B. It was torn in a tree.
 - C. The tail fell off.
 - D. Someone stole it from Lee's house.

4. Why did Lee let the other boy win the contest?
 - A. He felt sorry for him.
 - B. He was his best friend.
 - C. He didn't want to win.
 - D. None of the above

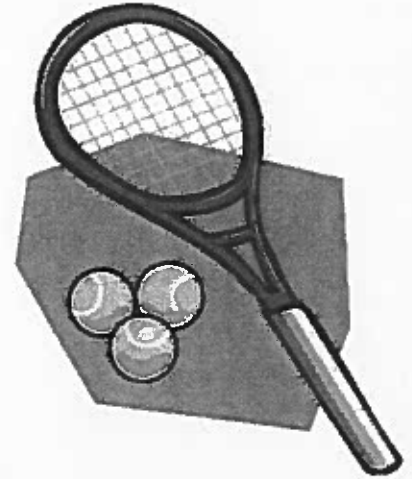
5. How did the boy feel at the end of the story?
 - A. Mad
 - B. Lonely
 - C. Tired
 - D. Happy

Tennis Time for Teddy

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Teddy was a small fast duck who always wanted to learn to play tennis. He saw all of his duck friends play in the park near the pond where he would swim. Teddy asked several of the ducks at the pond if they would teach h to play tennis. Some of the ducks laughed at Teddy. "How can you not know how to play?" asked Roger. Mandy said, "It would take too long to teach you!"

Teddy felt lonely, sad, and most of all, left out of all the fun the ducks were having while playing tennis. One day, Teddy decided to borrow a tennis racket and a tennis ball from the park director, Daniel. Daniel said to Teddy, "It's going to be hard to play tennis by yourself." "Let me help you learn." "Wow, that would be great!" exclaimed Teddy.



That afternoon, Teddy learned how to serve the ball and how to hold the tennis racket. Soon Teddy was playing like he played all his life. Mandy and Roger watched and realized that Teddy was learning the game, and he was really good at it. Mandy challenged Teddy to a match. "I know I'll beat him," Mandy said to Roger. "I've been playing so much longer than Teddy."

The next day, Mandy and Teddy had their big match. The other ducks were all there cheering on mostly Mandy. Teddy felt a little nervous but told himself he could do it. *Concentrate* he told himself. *Remember everything Daniel taught you* he thought. Sure enough, Teddy beat Mandy. Mandy was shocked! She thought for sure she would beat Teddy.

After that day, many of the ducks wanted to play tennis with Teddy. But Teddy felt since they didn't want to teach or help him, he didn't really want to play the game with them. Teddy thought they only wanted to be his partner because he won the tennis match. Teddy felt the other ducks weren't true friends.

Teddy decided to move on to another park and pond and met new ducks that liked him for himself, not because he could win a tennis match. Teddy never forgot Daniel Duck and how nice he was to him. They still get together to play tennis.

Tennis Time for Teddy

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How would you describe Teddy?
 - A. Small and fast
 - B. Big and clumsy
 - C. Small and fat
 - D. None of the above

2. What sport did Teddy want to learn to play?
 - A. Basketball
 - B. Soccer
 - C. Tennis
 - D. Hockey

3. Who was the park director?
 - A. David
 - B. Donald
 - C. Dylan
 - D. Daniel

4. How did Teddy feel at the beginning of his big match with Mandy?
 - A. Excited
 - B. Nervous
 - C. Sad
 - D. None of the above

5. What do you think the message of the story is?
 - A. We should be kind and help out when we can.
 - B. We should be mean to people and not help them.
 - C. Playing tennis is great exercise.
 - D. Learning to play a sport is hard work.

Swimming Lessons

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Araceli was looking forward to summer. She was only 6, but she was excited by the idea of going to the beach. She wanted to splash in the water, and she wanted to swim. Her best friend, Shannon, had a swimming pool, too. She wanted to get in the water there. First, she had to learn how to swim!

Araceli's mom was a good swimmer. She was pretty, and she had lots of cute swimsuits. She looked so amazing in the water! She swam like a fish. She could dive and kick and swim in any pool. She wasn't afraid to jump in a lake or off a boat, either. She was going to teach Araceli. Mom was going to be a great teacher.

The first step, mom explained, was to learn to hold your breath under water. They practiced in the bathtub. Araceli would plug her nose, close her eyes, and duck under water. The first few times she only did it for a few seconds. Later, her time increased to 10, 15, and even 30 seconds!

The next step was to learn to kick. With the bathtub filled up, she held on to the end, and kicked. It seemed easy, but it was hard to get the right rhythm. It was an awful lot like riding a bike. Her two legs had to work together.

The third step for Araceli was to learn to paddle with her hands. She got down on her belly on the bed and practiced paddling her arms like a frog or even a dog! Her arms went forward and in front of her, like she was reaching above her head. Then she pushed hard as she swung her arms toward her sides. It was exhausting work.

The final step was to put these techniques together in the water. Mom took her to a neighborhood pool where she practiced. She started by holding her breath. Then, she held on to the side of the pool and kicked. They borrowed a kickboard, so she could hold on to it and practice kicking her way across the pool. Then, she had mom hold her up by the belly while she kicked and paddled. Then, it was her turn to do it alone. It was serious exercise!

Finally, she could swim. She wasn't the best at it, and it would take more practice, but she'd learned to tread water, to hold her breath, to do the doggie paddle, and to float on her back. Some inflatable water wings gave her extra confidence, but she loved the water. Mom was the best teacher ever!



Swimming Lessons

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Araceli want to learn how to do?
 - A. swim
 - B. dive
 - C. fish
 - D. surf

2. Who is going to teach Araceli?
 - A. a swim instructor
 - B. a lifeguard
 - C. mom
 - D. dad

3. What is the first step in mom's lessons?
 - A. paddling
 - B. kicking
 - C. holding your breath
 - D. floating

4. What is the third step in mom's lessons?
 - A. paddling
 - B. kicking
 - C. holding your breath
 - D. floating

5. Which of these places is NOT a place where Araceli practiced her swimming?
 - A. in the bathtub
 - B. in a pool
 - C. in the yard
 - D. on a bed

Strawberry Fields

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Johanna loved strawberries. They were her favorite fruit. Today, she was going to a strawberry farm. It was her first time. She'd never gone before. Before, she had always just bought them at the store. It was sort of weird to think about a farm of strawberries instead of just a package at the store.



When she arrived, she was surprised. They did not grow on trees! They did not even really grow on big bushes. They grew on something like vines. Low plants in long rows were heavy with berries. There were so many. Straw was packed around the plants, and there were dirt paths between rows.

She was given a waxy cardboard basket. She could pick as much as she wanted. The more she picked, the more she would have to pay. She wasn't sure how much to get. She started filling her basket. It went pretty fast, because the berries were so big. They were heavy and juicy. She picked a basket, eating a few as she did. They were so good! The sun had made them sweet.



The basket was quickly filled. She took it back to the barn to pay for it. They sorted it into small cartons, called pints, and bigger ones called quarts. There were two pints in each quart. She ended up getting 3 quarts and 1 pint. That was almost a whole gallon of berries!



When she went home, she quickly cleaned the berries and put them in the fridge. Some, she could use to make jam or jelly. Others, she could eat fresh or with sugar sprinkled on top. She thought about crushing some over some ice cream, or freezing some for later, too. There were so many things to do with strawberries, and they were all delicious!

Strawberry Fields

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Johanna going to pick?
 - A. Blueberries
 - B. Blackberries
 - C. Raspberries
 - D. Strawberries

2. How many times has Johanna done this before today?
 - A. never
 - B. once
 - C. twice
 - D. three times

3. Why is Johanna surprised when she gets to the farm?
 - A. She didn't know how hard it was to pick them.
 - B. She thought strawberries grew on trees.
 - C. She thought it would be more fun.
 - D. She didn't realize how far away the farm was.

4. How many strawberries does Johanna pick?
 - A. 1 pint and 3 quarts
 - B. 2 pints and 2 quarts
 - C. 3 pints and 1 quart
 - D. 4 quarts

5. Which of these is NOT one of Johanna's ideas for using the berries?
 - A. jam
 - B. fresh with sugar on top
 - C. crushed over ice cream
 - D. cobbler

Staying Cool

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was so hot out, and the AC was broken. How could Bob and his friends stay cool? They thought for awhile and came up with some ideas.



Nathan sat in front of the fan. He sang into the fan and his voice sounded funny. He was a little cooler, but the fan only worked for one person, because it was small.



Richard drank ice water. He felt a tiny bit cooler, and he had to go to the bathroom. It wasn't the best way, and it was hard to watch a movie or play games.



Tommy put his feet in ice water in a bucket. He was a cold. His feet were numb and blue. Then they ran out of ice, and that plan didn't work anymore.



Gary drank hot tea. It made him sweat a lot and it cooled him off some, but he felt sticky. After a couple glasses, he was soaked. It was uncomfortable, and he went home early.

Howard sat in front of the freezer with the door open. He ate a Popsicle and found a frozen pizza while he was in there. Now at least they had lunch, but after cooking a hot pizza, everyone was warmer.



That left Bob. He went outside and ran through the sprinkler to cool off, but it wasn't very fun all alone. Also, he was still hot, but he was just wet.



Bob's sister, Janice, came home and turned the AC back on. She'd turned it off just to be mean, and he didn't know how to work it. Bob and all his friends felt pretty silly afterward, but Janice thought it was hilarious.

Staying Cool

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Bob's problem?
 - A. The AC is broken and it's hot out.
 - B. His friends are bored.
 - C. There is nothing to do.
 - D. There is nothing to eat.

2. Which friend drinks hot tea to stay cool?
 - A. Richard
 - B. Gary
 - C. Howard
 - D. Tommy

3. Which friend puts his feet in a bucket of ice to stay cool?
 - A. Richard
 - B. Gary
 - C. Howard
 - D. Tommy

4. Which friend goes to the freezer to stay cool?
 - A. Richard
 - B. Gary
 - C. Howard
 - D. Tommy

5. TRUE OR FALSE: The AC was really broken.
 - A. True
 - B. False

Panda and Tiger

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

The tiger went down into the woods from the mountain. He was tired of hunting. He came across a Panda eating bamboo in the forest.

"That must be nice." Tiger thought aloud.

"What's nice?" Asked the panda, as he chewed on bamboo.

"Whenever you want food, it's already right there for you. You just go take a bite out of leaves. I have to find mine."

"They taste kind of boring, though. I eat the same thing all day every day." The panda complained.

"That's better than having to hunt down something that's trying to get away, because it doesn't want to get eaten." Tiger whined back.

Panda snorted. "Want to bet? My jaws are tired from chewing this green stuff all day. It's worst than celery."

"Should we trade?" The tiger suggested. "We could switch roles for the day, just to take a break. You hunt, and I'll chew leaves."



The panda nodded happily, and wandered off to hunt down his first meal. It sounded fun! Tiger sat down heavily, relaxing as he put some leaves into his mouth. This was going to be much easier than hunting, he thought.

Hours later, the panda cornered his first prey. He'd trapped a rabbit against some rocks. The confused rabbit had no idea what to do, so it just whimpered. Panda thought about eating it, but all that fur didn't look tasty, and then there was the matter of killing the poor thing. How could he? He'd never even hurt a fly before.

Tiger wasn't doing much better. He wasn't built to pull down bamboo branches, so he had to eat the low ones. That wasn't working well, either, because his teeth were designed to cut and tear, not to grind up leaves. Besides that, they tasted bad and gave him a stomach ache.

That afternoon, both panda and tiger gave up. When they met each other, they both sighed and went back to their regular ways of life. It just didn't pay to try to change who they were, even if it was hard sometimes.

Panda and Tiger

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What two animals are in this story?
 - A. bear and lion
 - B. panda and tiger
 - C. panda and lion
 - D. tiger and bear

2. Why is tiger unhappy?
 - A. He has no friends.
 - B. He wants some vegetables.
 - C. He's tired of hunting.
 - D. He's sleepy.

3. Why is panda unhappy?
 - A. He's tired of chewing leaves.
 - B. He wants some vegetables.
 - C. He's tired of hunting.
 - D. He's sleepy.

4. What do tiger and panda agree to do?
 - A. Share some tea
 - B. Eat a meal together
 - C. Trade families
 - D. Switch jobs for the day

5. How does tiger and panda's idea turn out?
 - A. They both get terribly sick.
 - B. They like their new ways of life.
 - C. They both decide to go back to their regular lives.
 - D. They fight in the end.

Lilly's Vegetable Garden

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Lilly planted her vegetable garden with care. She planted carrots, beans, tomatoes, beets, and lettuce. Every day Lilly went outside to water and weed her garden. However, one day she was working on her homework when she glanced out the window. She realized her fluffy carrot tops were missing, her tomatoes were gone, and her lettuce was shortened down to only a tiny little piece of green. *What happened to my vegetables?* Lilly thought to herself.

Lilly went outside and didn't see anything unusual. Her neighbor's dog, Buffy, was barking. "What's wrong Buffy?" asked Lilly. Buffy just kept barking and barking. Lilly went back in the house to finish her homework. As the night went on, Lilly's mom said, "Buffy sure is barking a lot tonight." "I wonder what is wrong with him?" asked Lilly's mom. "I don't know," said Lilly. "He was barking this afternoon too." "I think I'll go outside and take a look," said Lilly. Just as Lilly went outside she saw something run from her vegetable garden. "Skat," yelled Lilly. "Go away!" "What's wrong?" asked Lilly's mom. "I chased a raccoon," said Lilly. "Now I know what happened to my vegetables!"



Lilly replaced her vegetables that were eaten by the raccoon, but not before her dad placed a cage to capture the raccoon. "We need to make sure he stays in the woods," said dad. "Once we catch him, we'll call Mr. Joseph at the Preston Animal Center, and he can release him into the woods." "That's a great idea," said Lilly. "I don't want to hurt him, but I don't want him eating our vegetables either."

The next morning was Saturday, and Lilly ran outside to see if anything was in the cage. Sure enough, a huge raccoon was sitting in the cage eating a carrot that Lilly's dad had placed in there to attract the raccoon. "Dad, dad!" yelled Lilly. "There's a big raccoon in the cage!" Dad ran outside to see the raccoon. "I just called Mr. Joseph, and he is on his way over to get him."

Mr. Joseph arrived about twenty minutes later and said he had never seen such a huge raccoon. He would be taking him to Triangle State Park to release him later that day. Lilly's dad thanked him, and that night Lilly picked fresh lettuce to have in a salad. "This is the best lettuce I've had!" said her dad. "I'm glad we found what was eating my vegetables," said Lilly. "I do hope Mr. Raccoon is adjusting well to his new home in the woods," said Lilly. "I'm sure he is," laughed dad.

Lilly's Vegetable Garden

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What were some of the vegetables in Lilly's garden?
 - A. Lettuce and beans
 - B. Beets and radishes
 - C. Lettuce and cabbage
 - D. None of the above

2. Where was Lilly when she heard her neighbor's dog barking?
 - A. In the house
 - B. Under a tree
 - C. On the back porch
 - D. In the garage

3. Who is Mr. Joseph?
 - A. Lilly's neighbor
 - B. The man at the Preston Animal Center
 - C. Lilly's uncle
 - D. None of the above

4. How did Lilly's dad capture the raccoon?
 - A. He waited outside for him.
 - B. He set out a special raccoon trap.
 - C. He set out a cage with a carrot in it.
 - D. He put a leash on him.

5. What park was the raccoon going to be placed in?
 - A. Locust Park
 - B. Clear Lake Park
 - C. Triangle State Park
 - D. Rolling River Park

The Herb Garden

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Grandma had an herb garden. It was full of many herbs, and Grandma knew what to use all of them for. Herbs were a lot like leafy vegetables, but they had a lot of flavor. Sara could smell the herbs before she even stepped into the garden.

"What's that one for?" asked Sara, pointing to one that looked like a little Christmas tree.

"That's Rosemary, and it's wonderful on meat, especially grilled pork."

"How about that one?"

"Thyme." Grandma answered.

Sara looked confused. "Time, like a watch tells time?"

Grandma smiled. "It is spelled t-h-y-m-e, but it does sound like that. I think it's good on poultry." Grandma handed her granddaughter a piece of green leaf from another herb.

"This one tastes soapy." Sara frowned and made a face.

"I don't think so, but not everyone likes cilantro. It's often used in Spanish cooking, and in sauces. I like it in guacamole and with seasoned rice."

"I know that one! It's parsley. They use that as garnish in restaurants." Sara grinned proudly.

"That's true, but it also has a mild, clean taste that makes it useful in a few dishes we like, or it can be chopped over baked potatoes. It goes well with the chives over there and the shallots over there." Grandma pointed out two places in the herb garden that looked like tubular grass was growing.

Just then, Sara saw Grandma's cat, Mittens, playing in the garden. "Mittens really likes that one."

"She ought to, because it's catnip!" Grandma grinned. She plucked a round, glossy leaf off of another herb and savored it in her mouth.

Sara tried one also. "This is nice, like spaghetti sauce."

"It's basil, and it's often used in Italian cooking. It's one of my favorites."

"Mine, too." Sara agreed with a smile.

Grandma went on to explain the uses of other herbs as well, like Marjoram, Mint, and Dill. There really were a lot of useful and tasty plants out there! Sara learned a lot.



The Herb Garden

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What kind of garden does Grandma have?
 - A. herb
 - B. flower
 - C. vegetable
 - D. rock

2. Which herb did Sara think tasted like soap?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

3. Which herb did Sara and Grandma both like?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

4. Which herb did Mittens really like?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

5. Which herb did Sara already a use for from restaurants?
 - A. marjoram
 - B. dill
 - C. chives
 - D. parsley

Family Cookout

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was a hot day and everyone was getting hungry. The weather was nice: just cloudy enough to keep it cool, but just sunny enough to keep it from being cold. The winds were mild, but refreshing. The air was so clean.

Some of the kids were playing with squirt guns and water toys. Others were playing football. They were working up quite an appetite as they laughed and ran and yelled.

The guys were getting the grill ready. They had charcoal and lighter fluid. They spread it out and lit it on fire. They needed to get the grill hot for dinner. A cooler full of meat waited to be cooked. There would be hot dogs, hamburgers, and ribs.

The ladies were setting up the table. They counted out plates, cups, spoons, and forks. They put out salads and side dishes. They had another cooler for drinks. They had to have things ready for when the meat was cooked.

The charcoal was getting hot. The men spread it out in the grill. Soon, the grill was hot, and the meat went on. SIZZLE. The juices snapped and popped and steamed as the meat hit the grill. Everything smelled good, but it was hot, thirsty work.

Some of the ladies handed out plastic cups with soda. There was cola, cream soda, orange soda, and root beer. Kids ran around, slurping it down. Guys sipped some drinks and talked while they cooked. The ladies sat and chatted, drinking some cream soda, too.

Then the meat was finally ready. Hot dogs went into long buns with ketchup, mustard, or onions. Hamburgers went on round buns with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cheese, and ketchup. Ribs were plopped on plates with sweet and spicy BBQ sauce.

Hungry kids came running when they smelled the food. Hungry adults gathered around the tables. Everyone was talking, laughing, and eating. It was a great time, and the food was wonderful. Dessert was cookies and chocolate cake.

When everyone finished eating, they were so full. They had to clean up, and then they played a game of Frisbee. It was a great cookout!



Family Cookout

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What kind of party are the people having?
 - A. Christmas Party
 - B. Cookout Party
 - C. Halloween Party
 - D. Parade Day Party

2. What job do the men have?
 - A. to stand around and talk
 - B. to entertain the kids
 - C. to cook the meat on the grills
 - D. to do the dishes after the meal

3. What job do the women have?
 - A. to stand around and talk
 - B. to set the tables up for eating
 - C. to cook the meat on the grills
 - D. to entertain the kids

4. What kind of meat do they NOT have at the party?
 - A. hot dogs
 - B. ribs
 - C. hamburgers
 - D. pork loin

5. Which of these statements about the end of the party is NOT true?
 - A. There was no dessert to eat.
 - B. They played Frisbee when they were done eating.
 - C. They cleaned up after eating.
 - D. The cookout was a great success.

New Swing Set

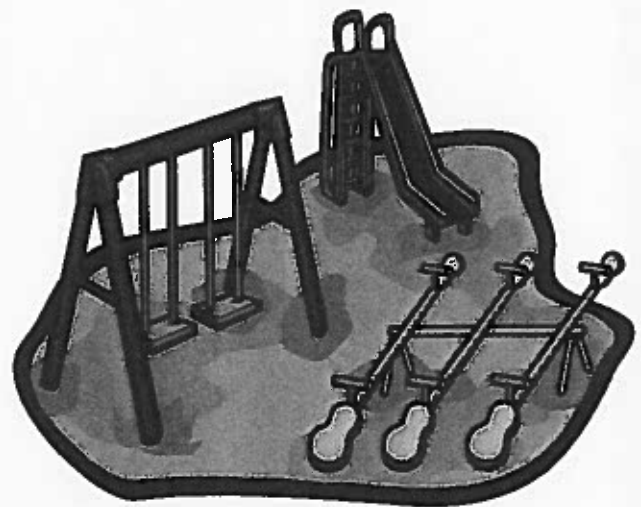
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Jane had an old swing set. It was rusty. The paint was coming off. The chains for the swings were not nice. The plastic was cracked. The rubber was falling apart. It made Jane sad. She used to play on it so much. Now it was worn out.

One day, Jane woke up to some loud noises. Her father was outside. He had tools and supplies. He had building pieces. There were boards and bolts. Her old swing set was gone!

She watched him dig holes. He put posts in the ground. She helped give him tools. He drilled holes. He put up more boards. He was working very hard!

Jane continued to help her father. He put up more boards. He used a wrench and bolts. They were working so hard.



After a long time, Jane saw what they were making. It was a new swing set. This was going to be big. It would be nicer than the old one.

They made a slide. They made swings. Then they made monkey bars. There was a ladder to climb. There was a tower to play in. There was a tunnel to crawl through. It was very exciting.

When they were done, Jane had her friends over. They all played together. Even her father played. He never played!

The swing set was nice. It was a whole playground in her back yard. The best thing was that they had made it together. She liked working with her father. She liked playing with him too.

New Swing Set

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is wrong with Jane's old swing set?
 - A. It is new.
 - B. It is too small.
 - C. It is very worn out.
 - D. It is not cool.

2. What is Jane's father making?
 - A. a new swing set
 - B. a ladder
 - C. a tree house
 - D. a castle

3. What is NOT part of the swing set?
 - A. monkey bars
 - B. a sand box
 - C. a slide
 - D. a ladder

4. What did Jane do when the swing set was done?
 - A. She called her friends over to play.
 - B. She ate cookies.
 - C. She took a nap.
 - D. She played by herself.

5. Why does Jane like the new swing set most?
 - A. because she made it with her father
 - B. because it's new
 - C. because it's cool
 - D. because it is big