



Name _____ Date _____

WINTER OLYMPICS

In 2006, the Winter Olympics were held in Italy. People from all over the world came to try to win the games. They came in cars. They came on trains. Some came in buses. Others came in planes.

Some of them came to ski. Others came to skate. Some came to play hockey. Others came to snowboard.

They came hoping to win gold medals. They wanted to take them back to their homes. They were hoping to show their parents and friends how good they were. Each of them came hoping that they would be the best.

Most of the people worked for four years to go to the Olympics. Each of them trained to be the best they could be. Some got medals. Others did not. They worked hard, and they raced hard. They also played hard.

The best of the best got to take home the gold.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did people want to go to the Olympics?
 - a. to find new friends
 - b. to win medals
 - c. to see new places
 - d. to try new foods
2. A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. *Hoping* means to . . .
 - a. give up.
 - b. not care at all.
 - c. want something very badly.
 - d. not try hard.
3. What guess can we make about the people who came to the Olympics?
 - a. Some will go home with medals. Others will go home with no medals.
 - b. They will all get medals.
 - c. They will all be happy.



Name _____ Date _____

MUSIC

Do you like music? Do you like to hear songs? Have you heard of the iPod®? An iPod is a kind of PMP. That means portable media player.

PMPs can be very small. PMPs can hold a lot of songs. They keep the songs inside. You can listen for a long time. You could hear music all day. They will just keep playing and playing. You can choose the songs you want to hear. Some PMPs can do more things. They can hold pictures and videos.

PMPs are always changing. Some of them are very strong. If you drop them, they will still be okay.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which is **NOT TRUE** about the PMP?
 - It is always changing.
 - It is very small.
 - It only holds a few songs.
 - It plays music for a very long time.
- The words "You could hear music all day" mean that . . .
 - it plays in a circle.
 - it plays songs that are old.
 - you can not turn it off.
 - the music goes on and on.
- PMP means . . .
 - portable media player
 - professional music pod
 - possible media purse



Name _____ Date _____

HURRICANE KATRINA

Hurricane Katrina started on August 23, 2005. It was a big storm. It had strong winds. It was one of the biggest storms in history.

Many people were told to pack their bags. They were told to get into their cars. They were told to go to other cities.

Some people did what they were told. They drove away and were safe.

Many people did not want to go. They said they would not go away from their homes. They thought they would be safe.

The storm came, and it was very bad. It was worse than they thought. They were not safe. There was water all over the city. The wind blew houses away. It blew cars down the street. Many stores were gone.

Hurricane Katrina did not care about the people. She was a strong storm. She blew and blew. She made a big mess and then she left a mess for the people to clean up.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite. What is an antonym for *safe*?
 - a. unsafe
 - b. bad
 - c. ugly
 - d. mean
2. Why did some of the people die in the storm?
 - a. They got stuck under cars.
 - b. They went to wrong hotel.
 - c. They did not leave when they were told.
 - d. They had too many things with them.
3. Which word best describes Hurricane Katrina?
 - a. strong
 - b. nice
 - c. soft



Name _____ Date _____

TSUNAMI

In December of 2004, there were big waves in the ocean. They were too big. These waves were called tsunami waves. They hit many places near the Indian Ocean. They hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.

It was the day after Christmas. Many people had opened their gifts.

A big wave came to the shore. It was the biggest one that had been seen. Some people got their cameras. Others got scared and started to run.

No one knew that it was going to be so big. No one knew that it would make the houses and hotels fall down.

The waves hit hard. Beach chairs went flying into the air. The water was moving very fast. The water moved over the land.

The waves stopped. People looked for the people they loved. Some of them were alive. Others were missing. Some were dead. It was a very sad day.

The big waves had washed over the islands. They had washed over cities. They were gone.

There were other tsunamis at other times. There was a tsunami in Japan. When things like tsunamis and earthquakes happen, people from all over the world help each other.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is a tsunami?
 - strong winds
 - small waves
 - big waves that start under the ocean
 - large boats
- A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. Which word is a synonym for the word *gone*?

a. washed	c. over
b. hiding	d. missing
- The word *stopped* is . . .
 - future tense.
 - present tense.
 - past tense.



Name _____ Date _____

TOUR DE FRANCE

Lance Armstrong is a brave man. In 2005, he rode in the bike race. It is called Tour de France. He won the race.

Lance wanted to win this race badly. He wanted to win, because it was his last time to ride in this race.

He is a very good bike rider. Lance is the best bike rider in the world. He won the Tour de France seven times. He won for seven years in a row. No one has ever done that before.

Lance was also happy because he has also won another race. It was the race with cancer. A few years ago, he got very sick. He did not want to die. He did what the doctor said to do. He kept riding his bike. He kept fighting cancer.

Lance says to "Fight or quit." He did not quit. He decided to fight. He won. Now, he is the winner of both things: cancer and the bike race.



STORY QUESTIONS

- What word talks about Lance Armstrong?
 - weak
 - scared
 - mean
 - brave
- If Lance talked to you, he would say, . . .
 - "It's not the end of the world."
 - "Today is another day."
 - "Never stop trying!"
 - "Don't worry. Be happy!"
- How many times did Lance win the Tour de France?

a. six	c. three
b. seven	d. five



Name _____ Date _____

SEPTEMBER 11TH

Do your parents ever talk to you about 9/11? That is a date in history. On September 11, 2001, two planes hit the World Trade Center towers. These towers were in New York City. Another plane crashed in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania. Many people died that day. These crashes were not accidents. They were done on purpose. People who did not like the United States caused the crashes.

Even now, people still feel sad about what happened that day. Each year, on September 11th, people do different things to show how they remember. One boy makes red, white, and blue key chains. He sells them to raise money for firefighters from 9/11. A girl writes to the police and firefighters. She thanks them for saving lives. Another boy says he hugs his mom and dad extra hard and says, "I love you." One woman decided to make quilts dedicated to each person who died.

September 11th was a very sad day. Many lives were lost. People who remember the victims want to keep their memories strong. There is a saying you might hear sometimes when people talk about 9/11. They say, "We will never forget."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this story, what is 9/11?
 - a. a fraction
 - b. the final score of a soccer game
 - c. the height of a basketball player
 - d. a date in history
2. Where did two of the planes crash on 9/11?
 - a. San Francisco
 - b. New York City
 - c. Los Angeles
 - d. Florida
3. What do you think would be a word people use to describe September 11th?
 - a. peaceful
 - b. happy
 - c. sad
 - d. excited



Name _____ Date _____

JOHN PAUL II DIES

John Paul II was the pope for the Catholic Church. This means that he was in charge. John Paul worked for a very long time. He was the pope for 27 years. John Paul did a lot of work for the church. He had to work many long hours.

He got sick in 1992, but he did not stop working. He kept doing his job. He kept talking to people about religion. John Paul did not get better. On April 2, 2005, he died.

Many people were sad. Many people loved him. They went to Rome to say good-bye. They wanted to tell him they would do their best to remember what he had told them.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. What pope has had the job for 27 years?
 - a. Frank Glenn II
 - b. John Paul III
 - c. John Paul II
 - d. George Bush III
2. When he got sick, what did John Paul do?
 - a. He kept working.
 - b. He took a vacation.
 - c. He gave up his job.
 - d. He got a different job.
3. Where did people go to say goodbye to John Paul?

a. to New York	c. to London
b. to Paris	d. to Rome



Name _____ Date _____

BEN

Ben Roethlisberger is a football star. Ben is very strong and very fast.

One year, Ben threw the ball 268 times. Other players caught 168 of the balls that he threw. He made 17 touchdowns. Every time he ran, he ran about eight yards. He played 13 games in one year.

Mothers and fathers like to watch Ben play. Kids like to watch Ben play. People just want to see Ben. If he is hurt, they still want to see him sitting on the bench. If he is playing, they want to yell his name.

Ben is a great player!



STORY QUESTIONS

1. What makes Ben great?
 - a. He is strong and fast.
 - b. He is ugly.
 - c. He has blond hair.
 - d. He can play soccer.
2. How many times did he pass the ball in one year?
 - a. 178
 - b. 168
 - c. 13
 - d. 268
3. Tell what kind of sentence this is: Ben is a great player!
 - a. exclamatory
 - b. declarative
 - c. interrogative



Name _____ Date _____

AIR FORCE ONE

Did you know you could see an important plane? It is a plane for seven presidents. These men used this plane to take them to many places. They sat in the chairs. They slept in the beds. They ate in this plane. Some of them even played golf in this plane.

This plane is at the Ronald Reagan Museum. It is in Simi Valley, California. It came there in October 2005.

A room was made for the plane. It has glass windows on all of the sides. The plane is in the middle of the room.

People can come and see the plane. They can walk up the stairs. They can stand and wave. They can act like they are in the president's family. A man or a lady will take their photos.

They can walk inside. They can see where the presidents worked. They can see where they slept. They can see where they ate.

It is fun to walk on the plane. It makes you feel good to walk where presidents have walked.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did people come to see the plane?
 - a. It was old.
 - b. It was big.
 - c. They came to eat at the snack bar.
 - d. It had taken seven presidents on trips around the world.
2. What can people who go to the museum do?
 - a. ride in the plane
 - b. walk in the plane
 - c. cook in the plane
 - d. take a nap in the plane
3. Tell what kind of sentence this is: It is fun to walk on the plane.
 - a. exclamatory
 - b. interrogative
 - c. declarative



Name _____ Date _____

LION KING TRYOUTS

There was a show. It was like the movie *The Lion King*. The show moved from place to place.

The people who made the show were looking for kids to be stars. The kids had to be able to sing. They could not be too tall. If they were taller than 58 inches, they were too tall. They could not be short either. They could not be too young. All of the kids had to be 9, 10, 11, or 12 years old.

About 700 kids came to try out for the parts. They learned to dance. They learned to act. They sang songs. The kids were trying out to play Nala or Simba. They were trying out to sing in the choir.

Some kids got picked. They traveled and were very busy. It was hard work, but they had fun.



STORY QUESTIONS

- What **compound word** means “to try to do something”?
 - underdog
 - something
 - tryouts
 - inside
- What movie was the show like?
 - The King and I*
 - Nala and Simba*
 - Sing and Dance*
 - The Lion King*
- How many kids tried to get a part in the show?

a. about 700	c. about 600
b. about 200	d. about 1,000



Name _____ Date _____

NO MUMMIES

In January of 2006, archaeologists found a tomb. Archaeologists are people who find old things. They study them. The old things give us clues to the past.

The tomb was in Egypt. Mud huts were not far away from the tomb. These huts were for the workers who built the tomb. There were long dirt holes dug in the ground. The archaeologists went all the way inside.

They found seven coffins. People thought there would be mummies in the coffins. They opened them. There were no mummies inside. There were other things. There were pillows and cloth.

They thought this was a place where important people were buried. It was something else. It was a place to keep things. To bury people, the Egyptians needed jars. They needed coffins. They needed cloth. In the tomb, archaeologists found jars, coffins, and cloth.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the name for a person who studies things from the past?
 - a. doctor
 - b. lawyer
 - c. teacher
 - d. archaeologist
2. What did they find in the tomb?
 - a. mummies
 - b. nothing
 - c. mud huts
 - d. coffins and jars
3. Why do archaeologists study things from long ago?
 - a. so they can write books for money
 - b. so they can tell stories about the things they find
 - c. so they can be happy
 - d. so they can find out what life was like long ago



Name _____ Date _____

WORKING IN THE MINES

All over the world, there are men in mines. They are called miners. They work under the ground. They put coal into cars. Others dig for iron. Each miner digs and digs. Miners move the coal or iron. They move the gold or silver. They take it out of the ground. The gold or silver is sent away to be sold. The iron is sent away, and the coal is sent away, too.

There have been many bad days in the mines. Some walls have fallen in. Men have gotten stuck under the ground.

When the men were stuck, some of them had air to breathe. Others ran out of air in the holes. Some ran to get out, but others could not get out. Rocks would fall, and wood crashed. Things did not go well. People thought of ways to save the miners who could not get out.

Working in a mine is a hard job. It is not very safe. These men are brave. They go down in the ground day after day.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What guess can you make about working in a mine?
 - a. They have lots of light under the ground.
 - b. It is not scary at all.
 - c. It is easy.
 - d. It is not the safest job.
2. How are miners and groundhogs the same?
 - a. They both ride up and down in cars.
 - b. They both like to eat lunch at 12:00.
 - c. They spend a lot of time in tunnels under the ground.
 - d. They both make a lot of money.
3. If you are scared of small, dark places, you do not want to be a . . .

a. teacher.	c. cop.
b. truck driver.	d. miner.



Name _____ Date _____

MOMS AND DADS WANT KIDS TO EAT VEGGIES

Kids are not eating good food. Many of them are not healthy. They are eating things that are not good for them, and they are not eating their veggies.

Moms and Dad are not happy. The schools are not happy. They had an idea. They can pay for the lunches before the kids eat them. They can say if they want them to eat junk food. They can say if there are things they cannot eat. They can say if there are foods that make the child sick.

The child goes to school. At lunch, he or she punches a number. The machine looks at the food. If the child has things that mom and dad say he or she cannot eat, that food gets put back.

Some people like the idea. They think it is good. Other people do not like it. They want kids to learn to make healthy choices by themselves.

STORY QUESTIONS

- 1.** What are some parents worried about?
 - a. that kids do not like recess
 - b. that kids are getting bad grades
 - c. that kids are eating too many things that are bad for them
- 2.** An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite. An antonym for the word *goes* would be . . .
 - a. leave.
 - b. went.
 - c. stays.
 - d. left.
- 3.** How do the people feel about the idea?
 - a. They all like it.
 - b. Some like it. Others don't.
 - c. No one likes it at all.



Name _____ Date _____

SPACE SHUTTLE COMES HOME

August 10, 2005, was a good day for space. It was a good day for NASA. NASA is the agency that makes rockets. It is the place that studies space.

It was a good day for the astronauts on the space shuttle. They were coming home.

For over two years, no space shuttles had gone to space. The last one had come apart in the sky. All of the people on it had died.

Today the *Discovery* was coming back to Earth. It was raining in many places. It was stormy. It was not safe to land.

NASA said to try to land at Edwards Air Force Base. It was in the desert. It was far away from Florida. There were only small bushes and dirt.

It was the best place to land. Things were just right. The astronauts looked out the window. The earth got closer and closer. The wheels came down. They were ready to come home.

Touchdown. They landed on the ground. They were safe. The shuttle was safe. They were home.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is NASA?
 - a. an agency that makes rockets
 - b. a factory that makes toys
 - c. a beach
2. Why did the shuttle have to go to Edwards Air Force Base in California?
 - a. It was the safest place to land.
 - b. It had the best runway.
 - c. It was close to Florida.
 - d. It was stormy there.
3. A different title for this passage would be . . .
 - a. "The Rocket Is Not Coming"
 - b. "A Day to be Happy!"
 - c. "People Are Sad"
 - d. "The Desert"