



Name _____ Date _____

LIGHTS IN THE SHED

Last night I woke up at 10:00. There were lights outside my window. They were moving in my dad's shed. The lights kept moving up and down.

I was scared. I put my head under the covers. I went under the bed.

At 10:20, the lights were still there. They were bobbing up and down. The lights went on and off. Who was in my dad's shed?

It was time to read a book. The book was not scary. It was funny. It did not make me laugh.

I got up and went to the window. The lights were still moving. They were still bobbing up and down. I did not like it at all.

It was time to go down the hall. My parents would know what to do.

"Mom," I said when I came to her room. "Mom."

"What is it, dear?" she asked.

"Mom, there is someone in Dad's shed," I said.

"What?" she asked.

"There is someone in Dad's shed," I said.

"That is good," she said. "It is Dad. He is trying to catch the mouse!"

"Oh," I said. "I am going back to bed."



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did the author get scared?
 - a. He fell on the chair.
 - b. The bed moved.
 - c. There were lights in the shed.
 - d. He heard a noise in his room.
2. To whom did the author go for help?
 - a. his friend
 - b. his neighbor
 - c. his dog
 - d. his parents
3. What was the person doing in the shed?
 - a. catching a mouse
 - b. eating a cookie
 - c. drinking milk
 - d. playing a game



Name _____ Date _____

THE BUS

"Beat you to the bus!" yelled Michael.

"No, you won't!" screamed Brad.

Both boys ran and ran. Their hair was flying through the air. They had their homework in their hands.

Michael dropped his papers.

Brad dropped his books.

"I will still win!" screamed Michael.

"I will win!" yelled Brad.

The boys picked up their things and ran.

Michael fell over a rock. "That dumb rock!" he yelled.

Brad fell on a bush. "Where did that bush come from?" asked Brad.

The boys got up. The boys ran.

The bus driver was yelling, "Hurry, boys! We will be late for school!"

Michael ran his fastest. Brad ran, too.

"Tie!" yelled the driver. "You'd better tie your shoes, too!"



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who won the race?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. Michael | c. Brad |
| b. Michael and Brad | d. the bus driver |

2. Why do you think the boys were running to the bus?

- a. They were going to see the driver.
- b. They were going to the park.
- c. They were going to school.
- d. They wanted to win the prize.

3. Which sentence is **NOT** a fact about this story?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Michael dropped his papers. | c. Brad dropped his books. |
| b. Michael won the race. | d. The bus driver yelled, "Tie!" |



Name _____ Date _____

SNAPSHOT

Snap went the camera. Snap. Snap. Snap.

Kayla was visiting her grandma's farm. She was taking pictures to enter in the fair.

Snap. She took a picture of a fat, white lamb.

Snap. She took one of a big, black cow.

Snap. Snap. Snap. She wanted to take a picture of all of the animals on the farm.

"How are you doing?" asked Grandma.

"Just great," she said. "I think some of these pictures will win at the fair."

"Did you think about taking pictures of other things on a farm?" asked Grandma.

"Like what?" she asked.

"How about a big, fat spider?"

"Yuck," she said. "Why a spider?"

"They live here, too," said Grandma. "You may not think of it, but spiders are found on every farm in the world."

"I didn't think of that," said Kayla. "A picture of a spider would be good to have. I bet not everyone has thought of that."

"Probably not," said Grandma. "I know where there is a big, fat black one. Do you want to see it?"

"I do," said Kayla. "I want to win!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Kayla taking pictures?
 - a. She was starting a photo album.
 - b. She liked to take pictures.
 - c. She wanted to enter them in the fair.
 - d. She was taking pictures for school.
2. What animal do you think Kayla will take a picture of next?

a. a spider	c. a chicken
b. a sheep	d. a cow
3. Where is the most likely place the big, black spider might be?

a. on the moon	c. in the barn
b. in the park	d. in the car



Name _____ Date _____

THAT'S MY DOG!

"Thumper," I called. "Thumper, where are you?"

Our family just came home. We had been away for one week.

"Thumper," I called. "Thumper, we are home," I called.

Mom looked for Thumper. Dad looked for Thumper. He wasn't around.

"Thumper," we called.

"I think he is missing," I said.

We looked in the garage. We looked in the doghouse. No Thumper. He was not at the house.

We went in the house. We unpacked our bags. All I could do was think about Thumper. Was he hurt? Had he run away? Where was my dog?

I tried to unpack my bags. I tried to think about other things. My mind kept going back to Thumper. I started to cry.

I heard the phone ring. Dad was talking to someone. He was laughing.

"Teresa," Dad called. "Please come down here. Someone wants to talk to you!"

"Who is it, Dad?"

"You will see," he said with a smile.

I took the phone. "Hey, girl. It is Grandpa Allen."

"Hi, Grandpa, what's up?"

"I just called to tell you I came over last night. I hope you didn't mind. Thumper was sad. He was missing you. Grandma and I brought him home for the night. We left a note, but I think it blew away!"



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was the author worried about her dog?
 - a. He was not there when they came home.
 - b. He had a cut on his paw.
 - c. He did not eat dinner.
 - d. He did not wag his tail.
2. Who had Teresa's dog?
 - a. her friend
 - b. no one
 - c. her grandpa
 - d. the man next door
3. How are the little girl and Grandpa like each other in this story?
 - a. They both drink coffee.
 - b. They both love the dog.
 - c. They both like football



Name _____ Date _____

WHO'S AT MY HOUSE?

My dad and I were driving down the street. We stopped the car. We turned into the driveway.

"Who is that?" I asked.

"I do not know," said Dad. "He is in our house talking to your mom. She is waving at us."

We waved at Mom. We sat in the car and waited.

"Dad, what is going on?" I asked.

He looked at me.

I looked at him, "What is that man doing in our yard now?"

"I do not know," he said. "He looks very strange! He is wearing a mask."

We sat and waited. The man did not leave. He just talked to Mom. They were laughing. He was happy.

"Something is wrong," I said. "I will go and see."

"No, I will go and see," said Dad. He put his hands on his hips. He was not happy.

We walked to the house. The man turned around. He pulled off his mask. It was my Uncle Nate. He had come for a visit and was playing a trick on us.

"Hello, Dad. Hello, Ben! I am glad to see you!" said Uncle Nate.

"We are glad to see you, too!" we said. "What a nice surprise!"

STORY QUESTIONS

- Why were dad and the boy scared when they came home?
 - A man in their house had a banana.
 - A man in their house had a gun.
 - A man in their house was wearing a mask.
 - A man in their house was in funny clothes.
- Compound words** are two words put together that make a new word. The compound word in this story that means "a place to drive" is . . .

a. driveway.	c. streetcar.
b. subway.	d. boxcar.
- Who was wearing the mask?

a. Uncle Kurt	c. Uncle Tim
b. Uncle Kip	d. Uncle Nate



Name _____ Date _____

CODES

"I want to be a secret agent," said A.L. "I want to write secret codes."

"Me, too," said S.B. "I think that would be cool."

We both wanted to be secret agents. Now was a good time to start. We were in first grade, Room 12.

My name is Ashley Lynne, and my best friend is Samantha Bean. We go by A.L. and S.B. for short.

Our teacher thinks we are very smart. We don't want to let her down, so we are going to show her what we can do. She says secret agents are smart, so we are going to be secret agents.

"I have a new code," I told S.B. at recess.

"I have one, too," she said.

We both took out our codes. I had made mine using letters. S.B. had made hers using pictures.

"I like them both, A.L.," she said. "I have an idea."

"What is it?" I asked.

"Why don't we use your code on Monday and Wednesday. We could use mine on Tuesday and Thursday. On Friday we could mix them and use them both."

"That sounds good to me," I said.

"Just remember," she said. "We must keep them out of enemy hands!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In what grade were Samantha Bean and Ashley Lynne?
 - a. first
 - b. second
 - c. third
 - d. fourth
2. Tell what kind of sentence this is: We must keep them out of enemy hands!
 - a. interrogative
 - b. declarative
 - c. exclamatory
 - d. none of these
3. Whose code do they use on Friday?
 - a. Samantha's
 - b. Ashley Lynne's
 - c. both codes and mix them
 - d. the teacher's



Name _____ Date _____

SOCKS



"Where are my socks?" I asked my mom.

"Have you looked in your drawer?" asked Mom.

I looked in my drawer. The socks were not inside my drawer.

"Have you seen my socks?" I asked my dad.

"Did you look under your bed?" he said.

I searched under my bed. My socks were not under there.

"Have you seen my socks?" I asked my sister.

"Try looking in the bathroom," said my sister.

My socks were not in the bathroom. They were not under the sink. They were not on the floor.

"Do you know where I put my socks?" I asked my brother.

"Look in the car," he said.

I lifted the trunk. I looked under the seats. I looked in the glove box. The socks were not in the car.

"Have you seen my socks?" I asked Grandma. She laughed. "It looks like they are on your back!"

My mom laughed. My dad laughed. My socks were stuck on my shirt.

"Must be the tricky dryer!" said my mother. "Just that tricky dryer!"

We all laughed.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Who didn't the little girl ask to help her find the socks?
 - Dad
 - Grandma
 - Grandpa
 - her sister
- How do you think the little girl felt when she was trying to find her socks?
 - sad
 - upset
 - funny
 - excited
- Where were the missing socks?
 - on the back of her shirt
 - in the bathroom
 - on the floor
 - under the bed



Name _____ Date _____

SURPRISE!

Curt got up early on Sunday. The sun was out, so he opened his window. It felt nice. The sun was warm on his face. He thought about what he wanted to do today.

"Curt, time for breakfast," called his mom.

He ran down the stairs.

"Yum, bacon and eggs," he said.

"Bacon, eggs, and French toast," said Mom.

"I love French toast," said Curt. "I love bacon and eggs. It is my best breakfast."

"I know you do," said Mom. "Aren't you forgetting something?"

"No, I don't think so," said Curt. The kitchen was very quiet. No one else was around.

"What did I forget? Are we going somewhere? Do my clothes look funny? Is my hair a mess?"

"Surprise!" yelled my father after he blew on the birthday horn.

"Surprise!" yelled my sister. She threw colored paper up in the air.

"Surprise!" yelled the baby. She pulled off her party hat.

"Happy Birthday," said my mother. "I made your best breakfast."

"Happy Birthday!" yelled my family.

"What a great surprise," I said.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Curt felt when he woke up?
 - a. angry
 - b. sad
 - c. happy
 - d. tired
2. Why do you think Mom made bacon, eggs, and French toast for Curt?
 - a. She liked to make them.
 - b. He did not like them at all, so she wanted to make them for him.
 - c. That was what he liked best.
3. What did Curt forget?
 - a. to brush his teeth
 - b. his birthday
 - c. to do his hair
 - d. to wash his face



Name _____ Date _____

THE CASE OF THE MISSING KEYS

It was time for school. Mom was in the car. The baby was in the car. I was in the car. Dad was not in the car.

He came out of the house. His face was all red. "Have you seen the car keys?"

I shook my head. Mom shook her head. The baby shook his head.

"Have you seen the car keys?" Dad asked again.

Mom got out of the car. I got out of the car. I took the baby out of his car seat.

"We will help you look for the keys," said Mom. "I am sure one of us will find them in the house."

I looked in the bathroom and under Dad's bed. Mom looked in the pockets of his pants and on his desk.

The baby went right to his bed. He picked up his blanket, and he picked up his pillow. He picked up Dad's keys.

"Dad!" I yelled. "The baby had the keys under his pillow!"

"Thanks, son, for your help! Now, let's race to the car so you are not late for school!"



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is the family late?
 - a. The keys to the car are missing.
 - b. The baby is crying.
 - c. Mom is not in the car.
 - d. The author was not in the car.
2. Where were the keys to the car?
 - a. on Dad's desk
 - b. in the car
 - c. under the baby's pillow
 - d. in Dad's pocket
3. How is this story like most families?
 - a. Sometimes they lose the keys to the car.
 - b. Sometimes they like to race cars.
 - c. Sometimes they eat out at fast food places.



Name _____ Date _____

THE CAT HAS MY TONGUE!

I woke up this morning. I was not feeling good. My head hurt, and my eyes felt like glue. There was green stuff in my nose. I was sure I was getting sick. My mom came in to wake me up, "Time to get out of bed, Sweet Pea." I nodded. I tried to smile, but my mouth was not working. I rolled over and groaned. "Are you okay?" my mom asked. I gave her those sad eyes. My mouth opened, but nothing came out. "Sweet Pea, what is the matter with you. You do not look good. I think something is very wrong."

I shook my head. Grabbing a pencil I wrote her a note. This is what it said.

Mom,

I think I am sick. My eyes hurt and my tongue is broken.

Can you get me a new tongue at the store?

Mom laughed. She sat on my bed. She laughed again.

"What is so funny?" I wrote.

"I guess it is time to go to the doctor. It looks like the cat has your tongue!" she said. We both smiled.



STORY QUESTIONS

- What is wrong with the little girl in the story?
 - She is playing sick.
 - She's not feeling good.
 - She has a test and wants to stay home from school.
 - She is mad at her mom.
- What does the phrase "It looks like the cat has your tongue" mean?
 - She gave her tongue to the cat for the day.
 - The cat took her tongue at night.
 - She doesn't feel good enough to talk.
 - She wants to get up and dance in circles.
- What is the name that the mom calls the little girl?

a. Honey	c. Pumpkin
b. Sweetheart	d. Sweet Pea



Name _____ Date _____

THE MISSING DOG

Today is my first day on this job. My name is Booker T. My friends call me Big B for short. I am a detective. Someday I want to be famous. For now, I work for my friends. This morning I had a knock at my door. I went to see who was there. It was my friend, Karen. She looked sad. She looked like something was wrong.

"Come in," I said. "Are you okay?"

"Of course, I am not okay! That is why I am here to see you," she said. Her face was getting very red.

"Are you hot?" I asked.

"Not hardly," she said. "I just need you to solve a mystery for me."

"I am here to serve," I said with a smile.

She poured out the whole story. It seems someone had stolen her dog. It was a greyhound. His name was Jeb. He was the fastest dog on the block.

I listened to the whole story. "Do you have any leads?" I asked.

"None," she said. "Just these dog biscuits I found in the front yard."

"That will be a good place to start," I said. I grabbed my jacket and hat.

"Do you need anything else?" she asked.

"I will bring my trusty magnifying glass and my notebook," I said. "Let's get on the trail before it gets cold!"



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who asks Booker T. for his help?
 - a. Jeb
 - b. a dog
 - c. Karen
 - d. Big B
2. What do you think will happen next?
 - a. Booker T. will find the dog.
 - b. Booker T. will eat lunch.
 - c. Booker T. will play in the park.
 - d. Booker T. will call his dad.
3. What do you think a detective does?
 - a. finds paper on the ground
 - b. finds clues and answers to why and how things went wrong
 - c. looks for missing dogs and cats



Name _____ Date _____

BROCCOLI

It was early in the morning. The sun was coming in my window. It was so warm on my face.

"Time to open the shades," I heard myself say out loud.

I pulled back the shades. My eyes just about popped out of my head.

"Is this real?" I asked myself. "Yes, it is real!"

I looked again. I closed my eyes. It was still there. The backyard was full of giant pieces of broccoli. They were as big as my house. They were green with large tops. The tops looked like they needed a lawn mover.

"Mom!" I yelled. "Please come to my room!"

She came up the stairs. Mom went to the window. She looked at the broccoli. "Wow," she said. "Wow! Wow! Wow! Wow!"

"There is broccoli everywhere!" I said.

"I know," she said, "but it is huge. It is scary, and it is growing on top of my garden."

"Whom are you going to call, Mom?"

"I think I will call Broccoli Busters. What do you think?"

"I think that is a good plan. Can I go back to bed?"

"Not today. We are going to have to find some way of getting rid of this broccoli. You know how dad feels about the yard. It will have to go somewhere else!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What strange thing was outside the window?
 - a. birds
 - b. trees
 - c. large broccoli
 - d. mailbox
2. Whom does Mom plan on calling to help get rid of the broccoli?
 - a. Ghost Busters
 - b. Apple Busters
 - c. Broccoli Busters
 - d. Carrot Busters
3. Which **compound word** in the story means "a place in the back of your house that is outside"?
 - a. backbone
 - b. bedroom
 - c. backyard



Name _____ Date _____

LOOK AT ITS HAIR!

Bonnie came home from work. Her dog did not run out to meet her. It did not lick her face. It did not come to her room. Something was not right.

Her house was very quiet. There was no music. There were no children playing. The TV was not on. Something was very wrong.

She looked in the bedroom. Nothing. She looked outside. No children anywhere. She picked up her cell phone. She called her husband's number. The line went dead.

Bonnie was not feeling very happy. Something had to be wrong. What could it be?

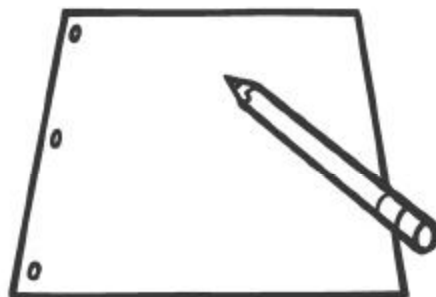
Suddenly, she saw a note on the table. This is what the note said:

Mom,

We had to take the dog to the groomer. He needed a haircut. He needed a haircut, because someone at our house cut his hair in a new way. We hope the groomer can make the dog look okay. If not, we will call him Patches until it grows out!

Love,

The Kids and Dad



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is the house so quiet?
 - a. They are hiding.
 - b. No one is home.
 - c. The family is at the beach.
 - d. They are planning a surprise party.
2. What is the new name they are going to give the dog if the groomer cannot fix the hair?

a. Circles	c. Patches
b. Squares	d. Ovals
3. Who is Bonnie?

a. the grandpa	c. the dad
b. the sister	d. the mom



Name _____ Date _____

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

"Great balls of fire!" I heard the old man yell. He was sitting in the park. Next to him was a shopping cart. It was full of junk. His name was Henry. I saw him on my way home from school every day.

"Hi, Henry!" I called.

He waved. "How are you, Hester Sue? Great balls of fire!" he yelled again.

"How was your day, Henry?" I called.

"Same as yesterday," he said. "Great balls of fire!"

"Are you okay?" I asked.

"Sure," he said. "Great balls of fire!"

I walked over to the bench. I looked at his cart. It had the same stuff in it from yesterday. "Do you need help, Henry?" I asked.

This time he jumped up and yelled, "Great balls of fire! Great balls of fire!"

I didn't know what to do, so I just sat down on the bench. He sat down and took off his shoe.

I looked inside. There was a small, sharp rock. It was stuck in his sock. "Let me take that out," I said.

He said, "Sure thing."

I took out the rock. It was sharp. "It would hurt real bad if it was in my shoe," I said.

"Great balls of fire!" I said.

Henry smiled. "Now you see what I was talking about!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did the man keep saying, "Great balls of fire!"?
 - a. He liked the words.
 - b. He wanted to get a sandwich.
 - c. He had a rock in his sock.
2. An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite. *Sharp* is an antonym for . . .
 - a. pointed.
 - b. spiky.
 - c. prickly.
 - d. dull.
3. Why did the author write this story?
 - a. to make you laugh
 - b. to make you cry
 - c. to teach you to cook a new dish