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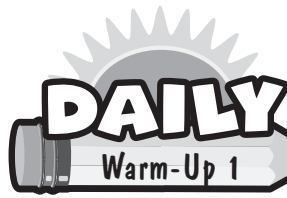
Grade

3

Daily Reading Practice



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Name _____ Date _____

SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are exciting. In the summer, they run around right after the sun comes up. In the afternoon, the squirrels go back to their nests. They take naps. Two hours before the sun goes down, they get up and run around again. When it is dark outside at night, they stay inside their nests.

Squirrels are busiest of all in the wintertime. They run fast. They make turns in the air. Squirrels jump from tree branch to tree branch. They run all morning until lunch. After lunch, they go back to their nests to rest again. When the weather is bad, they do not leave their nests. However, they do not hibernate, or sleep all winter.

Squirrels have eyes on the top of their heads. These eyes help them to see objects without having to turn their heads. These eyes are difficult, too. They make it hard for the squirrel when it is eating. The squirrel's eyes are busy watching for enemies or danger. They do not pay attention to what they are eating because they are so busy watching for danger.

Male squirrels keep themselves very clean. The male squirrel cleans himself more times than the female squirrel. He keeps cleaning himself all day long.

Be careful when you play in the park. Squirrels are beautiful to watch, but they are not safe to touch. If you try and feed one from your hand, you could get bitten. Enjoy them from a distance.

STORY QUESTIONS

- In which season is the squirrel most active?
 - summer
 - winter
 - fall
 - spring
- Using the context clues in the passage, the word *enemies* most likely means . . .
 - friends.
 - boys.
 - threats.
 - girls
- The author's purpose for this passage is . . .
 - to entertain.
 - to inform.
 - to tell you what a squirrel feels like.
 - to persuade.
- According to this passage, what would be the danger of hand feeding a squirrel?
 - You could attract other squirrels.
 - You could contract a disease.
 - You will have to take him home.
 - You might get bitten.



Name _____ Date _____

SPARROWS

House sparrows are often seen in a neighborhood in the city. They like to live where there are a lot of people. They do not like to live in the country.

The female looks like she is wearing a brown cap on her head. Black streaks run down her brown back.

Male house sparrows look like they are wearing gray caps on their heads. They have a black bib under their chin, just like a baby. They have a rusty brown body. Black streaks run down the back of the male house sparrow.

Vacant lots which have dried plants or tree limbs are the perfect place for house sparrows. They love to build their nests in old trees or in empty corners. House sparrows nibble seeds that they find in the weeds or grass.

They may make nests with string or paper. These little birds pull and tear the paper. They weave it in with sticks. They love to stop and eat food out of bird feeders that hang on balconies. House sparrows will also take baths in birdbaths that people put out in front of their apartments or buildings.

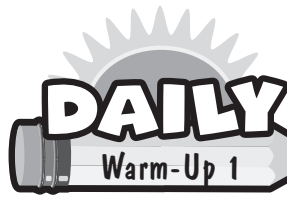
Keep your eyes peeled if you live in the city. Chances are, you might see a house sparrow parading past!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the main idea of this passage?
 - to teach you how house sparrows eat
 - to teach you the life span of a house sparrow
 - to teach you to identify a sparrow in the city
 - to teach you how to keep house like a sparrow
- Where do house sparrows **NOT** live?

a. in vacant lots	c. in nests made in dried plants
b. in the city	d. in the country
- The author's purpose for this passage is . . .

a. to inform.	c. to entertain.
b. to persuade.	d. to make you sad.
- In the text above, "keep your eyes peeled" means . . .
 - watch carefully.
 - make sure you wear make-up on your eyes.
 - use a potato peeler.
 - pay attention on rainy days.



Name _____ Date _____

DANIEL BOONE

Daniel Boone was an explorer. Many people say that he found the state of Kentucky. Daniel was born November 2, 1734. He learned farming, hunting, and other skills on the family farm. He liked to explore the woods. As a youngster, Daniel spent many days exploring plants and wild animals. The woods were his home.

When he turned nineteen, Daniel went into the army. He drove a supply wagon in the French and Indian War. On one military expedition, he met a man named John Finley. John was a great storyteller. He told Daniel many stories about travel and exploring. Daniel loved these stories. He wanted to explore, just like John.

Not long after he met John Finley, he went back to his parents' home. At this time, he married Rebecca Bryan, who was a neighbor of his parents. For a little while he stayed with Rebecca on a little farm.

But his need for adventure sent him on many trips. He traveled throughout the wilderness. He eventually helped pioneers travel and set up homes.

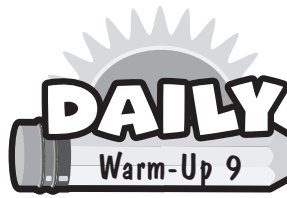
Throughout his life, Daniel traveled thousands of miles on foot or by horse. His dream to discover new places and new things became real. Many thrilling stories have been written about Daniel and his adventures.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the meaning of the word *youngster* from the passage above?
 - someone who is a child
 - a young cow
 - doctor
 - someone who doesn't like being young
- From the passage above, we can infer that Daniel Boone was . . .

a. a nice man.	c. an explorer.
b. a dogsled racer.	d. an excellent shot with a rifle.
- Another phrase for "military expedition" would be . . .

a. pleasure vacation.	c. presidential trip.
b. journey with the armed forces.	d. a trip back home.
- How did John Finley influence Daniel Boone's life?
 - He taught him to shoot a rifle.
 - He filled his head with information about trees and plants.
 - He got him to camp in the woods.
 - He always told him stories of wild, interesting adventures and travels.



Name _____ Date _____

DR. ANTONIA NOVELLO

In 1990, the U.S. Surgeon General was Dr. Antonia Novello. She was the first woman to have this job. She was the first Latina, too. The Surgeon General is the nation's main doctor. She does research. She tells the public what she finds. Novello taught about the dangers of smoking and drinking alcohol. She told the companies that make beer, wine, and cigarettes to stop trying to get teens to buy their products. She taught people how to keep from getting AIDS, too.

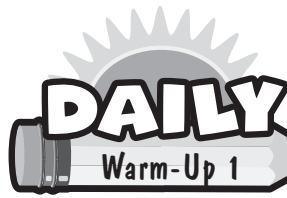
Novello was born in Puerto Rico. She earned a medical degree there in 1970. She always wanted to become a doctor. But she didn't know that she'd one day be the most important doctor in America.

As a child, she had a health problem. It hurt a lot. But she did not get the operation she needed until she was 18. While growing up, Novello didn't want other kids to feel sorry for her. Although she was in pain, she made jokes. She laughed a lot. She made friends with everyone. But she worked hard to earn good grades. Later she had a set of operations during medical school. Yet her grades did not fall. She always did her best.

Novello was shocked when she was asked to be Surgeon General. She wasn't looking for a new job. President George Bush spoke to her himself. So Dr. Novello took the job. She left after three years. Today she still works to improve health care for women, children, and the poor.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Where was Dr. Novello born and raised?
 - in Latin America
 - in South America
 - in Puerto Rico
 - in Mexico
- How did Dr. Novello become interested in being a doctor?
 - She was sick as a child and knew she wanted to help others get better.
 - The president told her that she would be a good doctor.
 - Her mother told her that she should become a doctor.
 - She wanted to be the U.S. Surgeon General.
- During medical school, Dr. Novello . . .
 - did not do her best because of her operations.
 - was asked to be the U.S. Surgeon General.
 - had operations yet kept her grades high.
 - had to stop and start classes due to her illness.
- How did Dr. Novello react when asked to be Surgeon General?
 - She expected it.
 - She was shocked.
 - She was afraid.
 - She was sad.



Name _____ Date _____

GHOST TOWN

An old town hides in the mountains of Montana. The name of it is Garnet. Most people today simply call it a ghost town. Many buildings still stand, but the town is silent. The last person who lived in the town of Garnet was a storeowner who died in 1947.

Garnet was started by families who came looking for gold in 1898. Over 1,000 people made their homes in the town. The men and women built the town by hand. Men worked hard inside the mines. They used simple hand tools and steam engines. Sixty thousand ounces of gold were mined near Garnet. Fifty thousand ounces of silver were found. Sixty thousand ounces of copper were put into mining cars.

The town was not built to last very long. After five years, the gold was almost gone. The copper was gone. Only a little silver remained. One hundred fifty people lived in the town at that point.

World War I took the men away from the town. People packed their bags. They took their families and moved away. A fire ruined most of the buildings in Garnet in 1912.

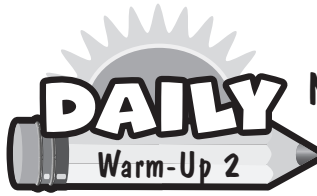
Garnet became a ghost town overnight. Today, the town of Garnet is full of history. It is a quiet place to walk around and hear whispers about life in the past.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A *mine* is a word for . . .
 - a. something that belongs to me.
 - b. ghost town.
 - c. an underground area that is created to get minerals.
 - d. silver and gold.
2. Garnet is now . . .

a. a river town.	c. a mining town.
b. a seaport town.	d. a ghost town.
3. Why did the city of Garnet die so suddenly?

a. The gold ran out.	c. The men went to fight in World War I.
b. The silver ran out.	d. All of the above
4. A ghost town is a place . . .
 - a. where there are ghost festivals each year.
 - b. where you go for Halloween.
 - c. that is haunted.
 - d. that has been deserted—the people have all moved away.



Name _____ Date _____

PONY EXPRESS

When people moved west in covered wagons, things came slowly. Letters and news took a long time to get from one side of the country to the other. People had to wait for months to hear news from other places. Sometimes the mail took as long as one year, and other times it didn't arrive at all.

The Pony Express was established in 1860 to help mail and news move quickly from one place to another. Riders brought mail and messages to people who were willing to pay for it. The Pony Express gave the riders \$100 dollars each month.

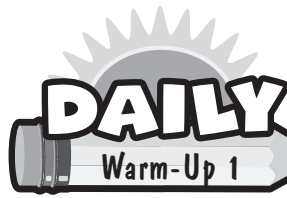
Each rider had to weigh less than 125 pounds. They rode in rain or snow, day or night. They often rode in very dangerous conditions. Mail carriers had to ride very fast. They would change horses every 10–15 miles at a relay station. After 100 miles, a new rider would take over.

The Pony Express did not last long because it had many problems. The people who gave money to get it started did not get much money back. The letters cost too much to send. In 1862, the Pony Express ended.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. The Pony Express was . . .
 - a. a place to keep ponies.
 - b. a group of horses and riders that carried mail and news across the U.S.
 - c. a line of horses that had many names.
 - d. a train named after a pony.
2. Which of the following could be dangers that a Pony Express rider probably faced?
 - a. friendly pioneers
 - b. calm streams and beautiful scenery
 - c. wolves and Native American attacks
 - d. wagon trains and campfires
3. If you wanted to be a rider for the Pony Express, how much could you weigh?

a. less than 125 pounds	c. 155 pounds
b. more than 125 pounds	d. weight didn't matter
4. According to the passage, why was the Pony Express started?
 - a. so riders could get practice riding across the country
 - b. to teach pioneers how to ride faster
 - c. so riders could exercise their ponies
 - d. to move messages and information quickly from place to place



Name _____ Date _____

CLASSIFYING ANIMALS

Did you know that there are over 1,000,000 different species, or types, of animals? With so many species, scientists have to find a way to sort them into groups. Two of the main groups are vertebrates and invertebrates.

Vertebrates are animals that have a backbone. Humans are in this group. Also in this group are whales, monkeys, birds, and frogs. Just about any pet you have in your home is a vertebrate. Dogs, cats, goldfish, hamsters, and snakes are vertebrates.

Invertebrates have no backbone. Many of them live in the ocean. Clams, jellyfish, squids, and octopuses are invertebrates. Those that live on land are spiders, worms, and insects.

Scientists are finding new species of animals every day. Every one of them can be put into one of these two groups.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are two ways, according to this passage, animals are classified or sorted?
 - a. land and water animals
 - b. mammals and jellyfish
 - c. invertebrates and vertebrates
 - d. color and shape
2. Based on the passage, which is the best definition of invertebrates?
 - a. animals that have several backbones
 - b. animals that have one backbone
 - c. animals that have no backbones
 - d. animals that prefer to swim in the ocean
3. Human beings are in the category of . . .
 - a. invertebrates.
 - b. vertebrates.
 - c. neither of these.
 - d. both of these.
4. Which of the animals below would fit into the category of invertebrates?
 - a. giraffe
 - b. bird
 - c. squid
 - d. pig



Name _____ Date _____

PLANTS

It is important for scientists to sort animals into groups. It is just as important to sort plants. Scientists sort them by how they make another plant like themselves. This is called reproduction. Scientists have decided to sort plants into three groups.

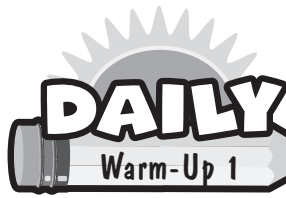
The first group of plants reproduces with spores. Spores are parts of the plant that break away and travel in the wind. Each one grows into a new plant if it lands on soil that is wet and rich. Ferns and mosses are plants that make a copy of themselves with spores.

Other plants reproduce with seeds. They are the second group. Seeds fall from the trees. They become part of the soil and grow into new plants. Evergreens, pine trees, and fir trees are plants that reproduce with seeds.

The third group is the plant that reproduces by flowering. Before seeds can form, the pollen inside the flower needs to move from one part of the flower to another. The seeds form inside the flower. Birds and insects help this by moving the pollen when they land on the flower. Some of the flowering plants grow into fruits to eat. The seeds are hidden inside the fruit. Apples, oranges, cherries, daisies, and roses are plants that have flowers.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which group of words mean the same as the word *reproduction*?
 - make a copy of itself
 - helps us understand
 - plants the flowers
 - flowering and pollen
- Scientists have broken plants into three different groups:
 - colors, sizes, and shapes.
 - spores, flowers, and seeds.
 - vertebrates, invertebrates, and seeds.
 - cherries, grapes, and oranges.
- How do the plants that have spores reproduce?
 - by seeds falling on the ground
 - by floating in the wind from place to place
 - by bees moving the pollen inside the flowers
 - by pushing their roots into the ground
- Which type of plant group needs help from birds or insects?
 - plants that reproduce with spores
 - plants that reproduce with flowers
 - plants that reproduce with leaves
 - plants that reproduce with sunlight



Name _____ Date _____

RECYCLING

Have you ever thought about the fact that most of what you own will one day be thrown out? Think about your clothes, the TV, and the stove. They will tear or break down. Or you may just want to get new, better things. But where do things go when you throw them out?

The bad news is that most of it goes to a landfill. A landfill is a big hole in the ground. It may have a concrete or plastic liner. This liner keeps chemicals from seeping into the groundwater around the landfill. Trash trucks filled with all the things that people throw out go to the landfill. They dump their loads into the hole. Bulldozers cover everything with soil. But there is a better way. And since we are running out of landfill space, more people are doing it.

The better way is recycling. Recycling lets many things be used again. Give away an old TV or stove. They can be fixed so that someone else can use them. Clothes can be sent to people who need them. Most glass, paper, plastic, and metal is recyclable. When people recycle these things, it helps the environment. It saves space in landfills. (Paper takes up more space in landfills than any other thing!) And instead of wasting these materials, they get used again.

Some people have recycle bins. They put their paper, metal, glass, and plastic into the bin. A special truck takes these things to a processing center. Other people must drive to a recycling center and drop off their things.

What happens at the recycling center? Paper is shredded and then mixed with water and wood pulp to make new paper. Glass, metal, and plastics are melted down. Then they are poured into molds to form new things. Glass jars are melted down and become new glass jars. Recycling lets things be used over and over.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following cannot be recycled?

a. dirty paper	c. plastic bag
b. dirty banana	d. soda can
2. What happens to glass jars that you throw out instead of recycle?
 - a. People dig through the trash, find them, and send them to a recycling center.
 - b. They get reused as food containers.
 - c. They take up space in a landfill.
 - d. They slowly rot and turn back into soil.
3. What is the most important reason to recycle paper?
 - a. It saves trees from being cut down.
 - b. It will keep us from running out of paper.
 - c. It keeps the cost of paper low.
 - d. A lot of people are doing it.
4. Which of the following is **true**?
 - a. Some people have to drive their things to a recycling center.
 - b. We have a lot of space available for landfills.
 - c. Glass takes up more space in landfills than any other thing.
 - d. Anything is recyclable.



Name _____ Date _____

WHAT THE PRESIDENT CAN'T DO

The president is a leader. In the United States, the president is elected. He or she is elected every four years. How is the president elected? People vote for a president every four years. The president leads the country. But there is one thing he or she can't do. What can't the president do?

The president can't make a new law. A law is a rule. The rules are to keep us safe. Some laws tell us what we can do. Other laws tell us what we can't do. We have laws about cars, seatbelts, schools, food, helmets, and more.

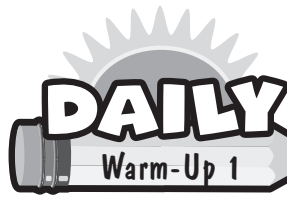
A law starts with an idea. The idea may be new. The idea may be to change an old law. Only people in Congress can make a new law. Congress has two parts. One part is the Senate. The other part is the House of Representatives. People in the Senate are called senators. People in the House are called representatives. Senators and Representatives are elected. People vote for them.

First, someone in Congress writes a bill. Second, Congress votes on the bill. The House votes on the bill. The Senate votes on the bill. The bill must pass the Senate and the House. If it passes, the bill is sent to the president. The president can sign the bill. If the president signs the bill, the bill becomes a law.

The president may veto the bill. If a bill is vetoed, it is not signed. It does not become law unless something happens. Congress must override the veto. To override the veto, Congress must vote again. Two-thirds of both the House and Senate must vote to pass the bill again. If two-thirds vote for the new rule, the bill becomes a law.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can't the president do?
 - a. be a leader
 - b. veto a bill
 - c. make a new law
 - d. get elected every four years
2. This story is mainly about . . .
 - a. how a law is made.
 - b. the Senate.
 - c. the House of Representatives.
 - d. how Congress can override a veto.
3. The Senate is part of . . .
 - a. a bill.
 - b. the House of Representatives.
 - c. the president.
 - d. Congress.
4. People do **not** elect . . .
 - a. presidents.
 - b. senators.
 - c. bills.
 - d. representatives.



Name _____ Date _____

MARSHA

Marsha lived with her stepmother Minty and her father Moppy in a large mansion. Her father had his own business and was often traveling across the country. Marsha was left home with her stepmother and her two stepbrothers, Muddy and Mushy.

Every morning the boys would yell at her and put dirty socks under her bed. They would leave cookie crumbs on the floor of her bedroom. They would use their muddy shoes to track dirt all over the floors in the hallway. Their rooms would look like pigpens, and they would force Marsha to clean them before she went to school.

One day while her father was away, she and her friend Maria had a wonderful idea. They put on rubber gloves, went to the woods, and gathered poison ivy plants. They smeared the leaves all over the sheets of Muddy and Mushy's beds.

That evening, the boys were up to their usual mean tricks. Marsha just smiled and said, "Thanks guys, but now it's my turn."

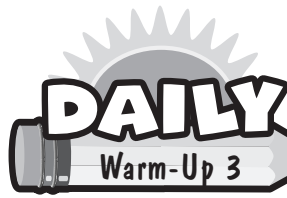
The very next morning, the boys woke up feeling very itchy. Their mother suggested they stay home from school. They did not want to miss the baseball game, though, so they grabbed their backpacks and ran out the door.

As the day went on, they got more and more itchy. They were sent to the nurse. Muddy and Mushy had poison ivy all over their arms, legs, and bodies. The nurse sent them home for two weeks.

Marsha and Maria got them good, so they never bother Marsha again. (Well, not as much anyway!)

STORY QUESTIONS

- Why was Marsha often left with her stepbrothers and stepmother?
 - Her dad was on vacation in Hawaii.
 - Her father was away on business.
 - Her father liked to eat out.
 - She liked being left home with them.
- A **synonym** for *gathered* would be . . .
 - collected.
 - let loose.
 - met.
 - mixed together.
- Why did Marsha use rubber gloves?
 - They were good for her skin.
 - So she and Maria wouldn't get poison ivy.
 - They helped her with her homework.
 - She didn't want to touch her stepbrothers.
- This fairy tale is most like . . .
 - "Cinderella."
 - "Three Billy Goats Gruff."
 - "Sleeping Beauty."
 - "Jack and the Beanstalk."



Name _____ Date _____

JESSIE AND THE CORNSTALK

Early one rainy morning in Iowa, Jessica's mother sent her to town with the last five dollars of cash in the house. She told her daughter to get a loaf of bread and a half-gallon of milk.

Jessica put on her blue rain jacket and blue boots. She was walking along dreaming, when she ran into Jake from school.

"What do you have in your hand, Jessie?"

"It's five dollars to buy some bread and milk."

He offered to sell Jessica some magic corn plants to make the family rich. She gave him the five dollars and went home with the plants.

When she came home, her mother was furious and sent Jessica to bed with no supper. She hurled the "magic plants" out into the cornfield and went to bed.

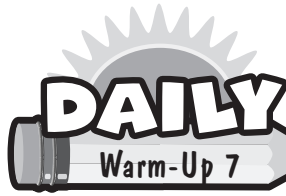
In the middle of the night, Jessica awoke to hear a loud banging on her window. It was a huge branch. She opened her window, grabbed her cell phone, and started climbing the stalk.

When she reached the top, she found a large castle, a friendly maid, and a sleeping giant. She noticed a suitcase full of money was lying next to the bed.

Jess grabbed the money and ran out the castle door. She called her dad on the cell phone and told him to get the ax. As she climbed down the cornstalk, her father chopped it away. When she reached the bottom, she gave him the suitcase. Their family bought their farm, and they were never hungry again.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which color might be Jessica's favorite?
 - blue
 - orange
 - brown
 - red
- The word *hurled* in this story means . . .
 - tossed gently.
 - picked up.
 - threw.
 - touched.
- What modern technology does Jessica use to reach her father?
 - a computer
 - a cell phone
 - an iPod® nano
 - a walkie-talkie
- This fairy tale is most like . . .
 - "Sleeping Beauty."
 - "Jack and the Beanstalk."
 - "The Little Red Hen."
 - "Three Billy Goats Gruff."



Name _____ Date _____

PATRICK HENRY'S INFLUENCE

"I do not know what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

These words kept ringing in my ears as I lay upon my bed. For days we had been arguing in Congress about the British, their rule, and taxes they always imposed on us. We wanted, as the thirteen Colonies, to be free to rule ourselves.

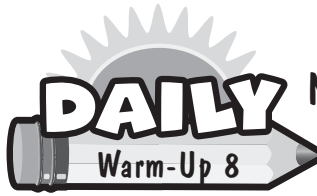
There are so many things that he said that made sense. Should we keep our opinions to ourselves for fear that we might make someone angry? Are we running out of time to wait and keep thinking things over and over? Is it not time for us to think about the struggle to be free? Is that thinking going on inside of people in all the thirteen Colonies? Don't we want to make our own laws and run our own government, the way we see best? Why should we have to pay taxes for everything from tea to paper to a country we don't even like any more?

Suddenly, I sat up. I knew what my heart was telling me. We had to go to war. Patrick Henry was right. If you believe strongly in freedom, there is only one way to get it. We must fight for liberty, or at least die trying!

As I lay back down on the pillow, a thought came to me. "Tomorrow I must tell Patrick how much I appreciate his courage to speak the words so many of us have thought, but have been too scared to speak."

STORY QUESTIONS

- In the passage, *ringing* most likely means . . .
 - sounding like the ringing of a bell.
 - repeating over and over.
 - speaking softly.
 - shouting.
- A **synonym** for *liberty* in the passage could be . . .
 - slavery.
 - taxes.
 - freedom.
 - death.
- The line that made Patrick Henry the most famous was . . .
 - "Give me no taxes or give me death!"
 - "If we believe in freedom strongly, there is only one way to get it."
 - "Give me liberty or give me death!"
 - "We must go to war!"
- The author of this passage was most likely . . .
 - an enemy of Patrick Henry.
 - a friend of Patrick Henry.
 - a person living in England.
 - a person from Patrick Henry's high school.



Name _____ Date _____

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LETTER

My dearest Martha,

As I am working here in Philadelphia, I am recalling several events in my life which have kept me pursuing my dreams. These, of course, are the dreams of freedom from England and the establishing of the 13 Colonies as a new nation.

As I think back to 1754, I remember it as clearly as if it had happened yesterday. This was at the beginning of one of the small fights that grew into the French and Indian War. There was fighting all around us that day, but somehow I managed to escape. I realized later that four bullets had ripped through my coat. I had to sew these up by hand. I admit I am not as skilled in sewing as you are, my dear. Also, on the very same day, two horses were shot from under me. Once again, I escaped unhurt. That day has reminded me of the importance of fighting for what I believe.

Another memory, which is vivid in my mind, is the time I spent with you on our plantation. I remember managing the lands and working alongside our workers. This memory brings me great joy. It is peaceful and reminds me of the peace we long for.

Each event, my dear, had made me what I am today. I am strong because you believe in me and in the cause. I am strong because I have survived unusual events. The fight may be long, but the victory will be sweet.

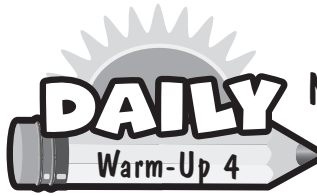
Your most humble servant,

George

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the passage, what brought George Washington joy?
 - a. the memory of fighting in the French and Indian War
 - b. the memory of working on his plantation
 - c. the memory of living in Washington
 - d. writing to his wife
2. This letter is written to George's . . .

a. daughter.	c. wife.
b. grandmother.	d. son.
3. What did George have to sew himself, even though sewing was generally done by woman?
 - a. He had to sew up bullet holes in his coat.
 - b. He had to sew buttons on his shirt.
 - c. He had to sew an American flag.
 - d. He had to sew a new hat for himself.
4. What lessons had George learned?
 - a. to fight for taxes and fight for money
 - b. to get what you want no matter who you hurt
 - c. to look at what others have and try to get it for himself
 - d. to fight for what he believed and to be thankful for what he had



Name _____ Date _____

ALL-STAR SOCCER

“Pass down the sideline,” yelled Dad. He was our soccer coach for the All-Star team, Region 538.

Most of the time I liked having my dad as our coach, but today I wasn't in the mood. Our team was 17–0 and we were playing the championship game for our area. He kept yelling crazy stuff at me, and I just wanted him to be quiet. Why did he count on me to score so many goals?

I tried to concentrate, but I kept thinking back to last Friday after school. My sister and I had been fighting on the stairs. We banged into each other, and I peeled the skin all the way off my toe. It still hurt to wear my shoe, especially my soccer cleats. It even hurt to wear my sock. The sock stuck to my sore.

“J. D., go down the field! Take it in. Pass and control.”

I glared at my dad, but I didn't want to tell him that I, fighting with my sister as usual, had torn all the skin off my right toe just before the championship game. I just wanted him to stop before I fell down holding my toe.

Suddenly, I heard a voice yell, “Hey J. D., guess that toe has you down!” It was my sister, Jill. She was so annoying. I'd show her.

The ball came right to me. I moved down the field, slicing, moving around the players. Fancy footwork. Left foot. Shoot and . . .

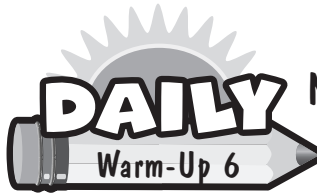
“Oh, man! I missed the goal by an inch!”

“Good try, J. D.,” yelled Dad. “Keep up the pressure.”

I gritted my teeth and looked around the field for the ball. I saw my sister with an evil grin on her face. Time to buckle down and show her what I was made of!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. J. D. is having difficulty playing because . . .
 - a. she is thinking about her birthday party.
 - b. she stayed up too late.
 - c. she injured her toe.
 - d. she is feeling ill.
2. How did J. D. get injured?
 - a. She and her sister had been roughhousing on the stairs.
 - b. She had fallen when she was roller-blading.
 - c. Her sister bit her.
 - d. She had twisted her toe at soccer practice.
3. *Annoying* is a **synonym** for the word . . .
 - a. kind.
 - b. smiling.
 - c. bothersome.
 - d. handsome.
4. Another title for this passage could be . . .
 - a. “My Dad, The Coach.”
 - b. “Soccer Season.”
 - c. “I Love Soccer.”
 - d. “The Troublesome Toe.”



Name _____ Date _____

HARVEST FESTIVAL

It was the day of the annual fall festival, and each class was responsible for having a booth. There was a competition to see which booth brought in the most money for the fundraiser. The winner got a classroom pizza party.

Our fifth grade class had worked for weeks to plan our booth. Everyone pitched in, even Evan, the class clown.

We had voted to design a haunted house, not too scary, but not too babyish. All the kids had brought things from home, and some parents had even come on Friday night to help us set up after school.

I was the president of operations. It was my job to give the final okay before we opened for business.

As I surveyed our work, a smile crept over my face. Creepy black streamers, skeletons, and black lights hung from the ceiling. Large sheets of black plastic covered the floor, forming a path to walk through the maze. Dried leaves made crackly sounds as you walked down the path. Several students were hiding behind large, dark-colored objects to reach out and grab unsuspecting guests. A large, haunted house was hung on the wall. Soft lights shone through its windows, casting an eerie glow on the path.

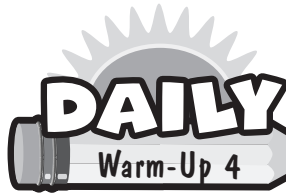
Yes, we were ready for the carnival to begin. I gave my final approval to Melissa, my assistant. She flipped the switch, and the scary music began. The tour guides pulled up their Dracula hoods, and Alexis, the ticket taker, took her seat outside the door. The fun was about to begin.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be “president of operations”?
 - a. to be the person everyone likes
 - b. to be the president of the United States
 - c. to be the person who runs classroom machines
 - d. to be in charge
2. Which is **NOT** something the class did to make the booth scary?
 - a. They sold tickets to the haunted house.
 - b. They hung a haunted house on the wall.
 - c. They played scary music in the booth.
 - d. They put dried leaves on the path to make crunching sounds.
3. A **synonym** for *eerie* could be . . .

a. spooky.	c. scared.
b. happy.	d. angry.
4. Why did the class want to have the best booth?

a. to scare the rest of the school	c. to win a class pizza party
b. to get free movie tickets	d. to get the most candy at Halloween



Name _____ Date _____

ABANDONED BUS

“Hey, look at this!” my friend, Cindy, yelled. “It’s an abandoned bus.”

Frannie and I stopped and stared. We were speechless. Right in front of us, hidden in the thick bushes, was a bus—an old broken-down school bus.

“Let’s go inside,” Frannie said.

“No way! It isn’t ours. Besides, someone might be living in there.”

“That would be hard to believe,” whispered Cindy. “The trees are grown all around the bus. You can’t even see the windows.” We walked all around the bus, but the windows were boarded up or covered with thick branches from the trees. Moss was growing on the bumper, and the license plate was covered in mud.

Suddenly, we heard the crackling of twigs breaking as footsteps approached. We ducked, jumping behind a large oak tree. None of us dared to breathe.

A tall, thin man wearing a black trench coat and dark glasses was coming down the path. He had a magnifying glass in his hand, and he was carrying a briefcase. He had a thick mustache and bushy eyebrows.

Without warning, as if he had pressed a magic button, the door of the bus opened, and the man disappeared inside.

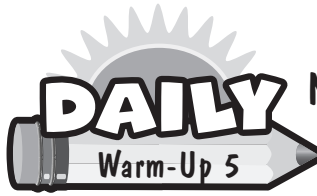
Cindy, Frannie, and I all looked at each other. We tiptoed around to the back of the bus and tried to peer in the windows.

“Give me a lift,” whispered Frannie softly.

As she looked in the window, she let out a low whistle. “Would you look at that!”

STORY QUESTIONS

- What do you think the girls were doing when they discovered the bus?
 - reading
 - exploring
 - writing stories
 - figuring out math problems
- Which of the following is a **synonym** for *crackling*?
 - blaring
 - hissing
 - crunching
 - booming
- Why was it difficult to see inside the bus?
 - The windows were closed and there were curtains that were shut.
 - It was guarded by a dog.
 - The windows were boarded up or covered with thick branches.
 - The windows had been painted over with black paint.
- Which of the following is **NOT** part of the description of the man in the passage?
 - He has a bright smile.
 - He was holding a magnifying glass.
 - He has bushy eyebrows.
 - He has a thick mustache.



Name _____ Date _____

CHOCOLATE SNAPSHOT

In the summertime, when things get boring, my friends Hank, Victor, and I often ride our bikes to the edge of town and go exploring.

Today started out as just a regular day. We had already swum in Victor's pool, played cards in Hank's garage, and shot off a rocket in my backyard.

"Let's head out to the edge of town," exclaimed Hank.

"If we pack a lunch, we can explore the hayloft at the old barn, dabble with fishing at the stream, or ride to the old broken-down castle that is way out of town."

"The castle!" Victor and I said in unison.

"I'll bring chocolate milk, celery, and cheese!"

"I've got the sodas, sandwiches, and chips!"

"I guess that means I bring the camera," said Hank.

Within ten minutes we were off, riding down the road on our bicycles at breakneck speed. We rounded the corner in front of the old castle so fast that the basket went flying off the front of Victor's bike.

"Great time for a snapshot!" yelled Hank.

We all laughed as he grabbed his camera.

The cheese, celery, and chocolate milk lay scattered on the ground in a big syrupy mess.

"Say cheese!" Victor and I smiled. "Who knows what adventures await us in the castle?"

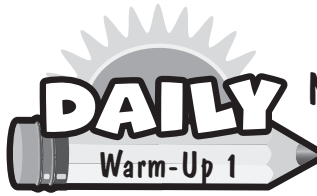
STORY QUESTIONS

- Why did the boys want to go exploring?
 - They wanted to try out their new bikes.
 - They wanted to see the new town.
 - They were already bored.
 - They loved riding in the rain.
- The words "in unison" means . . .

a. together, at one time	c. in a group, with only one leader
b. separately, all alone	d. in groups of two or three
- Another way to say "breakneck speed" would be . . .

a. moving extremely slow.	c. moving to the beat.
b. moving extremely fast.	d. moving to another town.
- Which of the following is **NOT** an activity the boys had already done that day?

a. swimming in Victor's pool	c. shooting a rocket off in the backyard
b. playing cards in Hank's garage	d. riding their bikes to the movies



Name _____ Date _____

JELLY BEAN PLANET

The rain was coming down heavily as I stood on the balcony of our apartment. It rained every day on our planet. Whenever I walked in the rain, I just opened my mouth to taste blueberry, raspberry, or a touch of licorice. The rain was delicious.

Running back inside to get out of the rain, I flopped onto the couch. It smelled of strawberries and cream. The pillow smelled like orange marmalade. Everywhere I walked, everything I did, fruity smells reached my nose.

I looked at the buildings outside our windows. There were tall blue ones, short green ones, and yellow oval ones as far as the eye could see. Some of the buildings had crazy patterns of several colors swirled on the sides. Fruity colors were everywhere.

“Breakfast, Son,” my dad called. “It’s jelly beans on toast and pancakes with jelly bean syrup.”

“Awesome!” I bellowed from upstairs. “I’ll be right there!”

Bounding down the stairs, I heard Mom calling, “Would you like a peanut butter sandwich with blackberry jelly beans or one with cherry?”

“Cherry,” I called. “By the way, Mom, could you throw in the chocolate jelly bean cake for lunch?”

“Sure,” she added.

“This is delicious!” exclaimed Dad. “The only thing wrong with this planet is the dentist bill every month!”

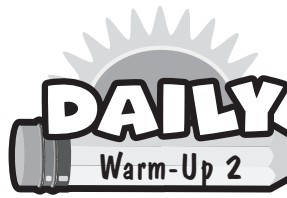
STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was everything sweet on this planet?
 - a. It was the land of pie.
 - b. It was only sweet on the weekdays.
 - c. It was made of jelly beans.
 - d. There was too much chocolate.
2. A **synonym** for *bellowed* could be . . .

a. shouted.	c. said.
b. whispered.	d. guessed.
3. Which profession do you think would make a lot of money on this planet?

a. photographer	c. librarian
b. dentist	d. taxi driver
4. Which of the following was **NOT** one of the foods mentioned in the passage?

a. pancakes with jelly bean syrup	c. bacon with jelly bean sauce
b. chocolate jelly bean cake	d. jelly beans on toast



Name _____ Date _____

MY DAY AS A PANCAKE

Mallory rolled out of bed on the morning of the first day of school. She was feeling excited. Her new school outfit hung in her closet; the new shoes were by the door. Her fancy hair ribbons were sitting on her desk.

The sight that greeted her eyes in the mirror horrified her. She blinked and looked a second time.

“Mom!” she called. “Please come here immediately!”

“Just a moment, honey. I’m frying the bacon.”

“Mom, it’s an emergency!”

“What could be such an emergency this morning?” asked Mom as she climbed up the stairs.

Suddenly, she stopped. “Mallory, is that you under there?”

“Yes, Mom, it’s me. Something must have happened in the middle of the night! Do I look like a puffy pancake to you?”

“What did you eat? Did you drink something unusual?”

“Well, I did drink a chocolate shake that a stranger at the store gave me yesterday.”

“Mallory, you know what we’ve said about taking things from strangers!”

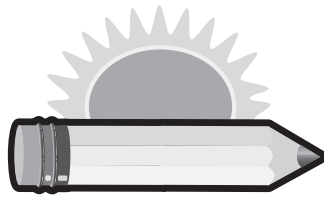
“I know, Mom, but what can we do about it now? I’ve already turned into a pancake, and I don’t know how to change back. What am I going to do? It’s the first day of school!”

Mallory tried to get out of her pajamas but could barely wiggle her toes. She was stuck. Her mom called the doctor, and she said to come immediately.

“So much for wearing my new outfit and my new shoes,” grumbled Mallory. She had been so excited about the first day of school. Now, though, she was glad that she didn’t have to go to school looking the way she did. No matter how fantastic her clothes were, they couldn’t hide the way she looked today!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What discovery did Mallory make when she got out of bed?
 - Her new outfit for school didn’t fit.
 - She had become an apple.
 - She had become a pancake.
 - A stranger was sitting in her room.
- A **synonym** for the word *wiggle* would be . . .
 - touch.
 - take off.
 - move.
 - sit.
- What unwise choice had Mallory made the day before?
 - She had crossed the street without looking both ways.
 - She didn’t brush her teeth before bed.
 - She had taken something from a stranger.
 - She hadn’t put on her seatbelt.
- Why didn’t Mallory put on her new clothes for school?
 - She was stuck in her pajamas and couldn’t get them off.
 - She didn’t like the new clothes and didn’t want to put them on.
 - She was hungry and she wanted to eat breakfast first.
 - She had gotten them dirty the day before.



Answer Key

Nonfiction

Animals

Page 9 Squirrels

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 10 Sparrows

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. a

Page 11 Hummingbirds

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 12 Cat Myths

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 13 Rats

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

Page 14 Ants

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 15 Crows

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 16 Horses

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 17 Interesting Bird

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. b

Page 18 Ducks

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. b

Page 19 Raccoons

1. d
2. d
3. d
4. c

Page 20 Milking Cows

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

Page 21 Pigs

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 22 Herding Dogs

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

Page 23 Sheep

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b

Page 24 Goats

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. c

Page 25 Geese

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 26 Chickens

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b

Biography

Page 27 Daniel Boone

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 28 Johnny Appleseed

1. b
2. d
3. c
4. a

Page 29 Sacagawea

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. d

Page 30 Davy Crockett

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. c

Page 31 Narcissa Whitman

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

Page 32 Stagecoach Mary Fields

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. a

Page 33 Clara Barton

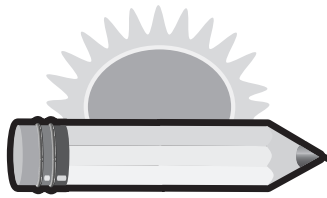
1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c

Page 34 Charlie Parkhurst

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. c

Page 35 Dr. Antonia Novello

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. b



Answer Key

Page 36 Louis Pasteur

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. a

Page 37 Elizabeth Blackwell

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. b

Page 38 Cesar Chavez

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. c

Page 39 Calamity Jane

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 40 Sally Ride

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a

Page 41 Annie Oakley

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. c

Page 42 Dale Evans

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. c

Page 43 Patrick Henry

1. c
2. d
3. c
4. a

Page 44 Betsy Ross

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. c

American History**Page 45 Ghost Town**

1. c
2. d
3. d
4. d

Page 46 Pony Express

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 47 Railroads

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b

Page 48 Trading Posts on the Oregon Trail

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. b

Page 49 Colonial Tools and Weapons

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. b

Page 50 Colonial Animals

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 51 The Wilderness

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. b

Page 52 Colonial Gardens

1. d
2. a
3. a
4. b

Page 53 Diaries

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 54 Racing to the Gold

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 55 Gold Country '49

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. c

Page 56 Women in the Civil War

1. a
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 57 Map Skills

1. d
2. a
3. a
4. b

Page 58 Declaration of Independence

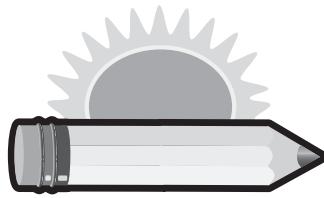
1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 59 Jamestown

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b

Page 60 Colonial Williamsburg

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. b



Answer Key

Page 61 Communities Long Ago

1. a
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 62 Communities Today

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. c

Science

Page 63 Classifying Animals

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. c

Page 64 Plants

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. b

Page 65 Forests

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. b

Page 66 Oceans

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. c

Page 67 Deserts

1. c
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 68 Tundra

1. c
2. c
3. c
4. d

Page 69 Tropical Rainforests

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. c

Page 70 Brain Power

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. c

Page 71 Soft T-Rex

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. a

Page 72 New Planet?

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. d

Current Events

Page 73 Recycling

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a

Page 74 Citizen Test

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. d

Page 75 What Is a Blog?

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 76 Cosmic DNA Surprise

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. c

Page 77 Commanding Officer

1. c
2. d
3. d
4. b

Page 78 Turnoff Weeks

1. d
2. c
3. c
4. b

Page 79 What the President Can't Do

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. c

Page 80 Saving the Movies

1. a
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 81 Hospital Technology

1. d
2. b
3. c
4. d

Page 82 Habitat for Humanity

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 83 AYSO Soccer

1. d
2. b
3. d
4. c

Page 84 Opportunities for Kids

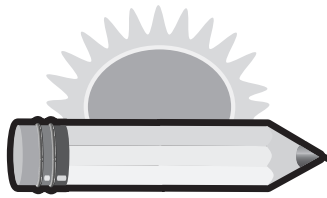
1. d
2. c
3. d
4. a

Page 85 Kids' Clubs

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 86 Jury Duty

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. b



Answer Key

Fiction

Fairy Tales and Folklore

Page 89 Marsha

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. a

Page 90 Three Little Ants

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 91 Jessie and the Cornstalk

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 92 Little Brown Hummingbird

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 93 Three Sister Sheep

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 94 Penny Loafer and the Three Monkeys

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 95 Peter and Patty

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. a

Page 96 Sky Blue

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 97 Lizard Prince

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. a

Page 98 The Sloth and the Tiger

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b

Page 99 Goofy Goose

1. d
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 100 Little Banana Girl

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 101 Why Ants Bite Legs at Picnics

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 102 Beetle Boy and the Talking Coconut

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 103 Speeding Spider

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. a

Page 104 Prince and the Pebble

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

Historical Fiction

Page 105 The Time Machine

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. a

Page 106 Kwakiutl

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. d

Page 107 Cheyenne

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b

Page 108 Navajo Landing

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. b

Page 109 Wampanoag

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. d

Page 110 Mayflower Adventure

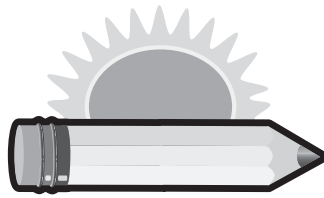
1. d
2. d
3. a
4. d

Page 111 Patrick Henry's Influence

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. b

Page 112 George Washington's Letter

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d



Answer Key

Page 113 Thomas Jefferson's Day Off

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. c

Page 114 Paul Revere's Stories

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. b

Page 115 Martha Washington's Party

1. c
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 116 Florence Nightingale's Visit

1. b
2. d
3. d
4. b

Page 117 Mother Teresa's Ride

1. c
2. d
3. d
4. c

Page 118 Rosa Parks's Tale

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 119 Princess Diana Shares

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. c

Page 120 Dolley Madison

1. d
2. c
3. c
4. a

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Page 121 Math Mania

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. a

Page 122 Write On

1. d
2. c
3. a
4. c

Page 123 Shoot the Hoops

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b

Page 124 All-Star Soccer

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. d

Page 125 Baseball Days

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 126 Harvest Festival

1. d
2. a
3. a
4. c

Page 127 Beach Days

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b

Page 128 Skiing in the Mountains

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. a

Page 129 A Day in the Park

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a

Page 130 San Francisco

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. b

Page 131 Faces in South Dakota

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b

Page 132 Bad Hair Day

1. b
2. b
3. d
4. c

Page 133 No Homework

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 134 Best Friends

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

Page 135 Exchange Student

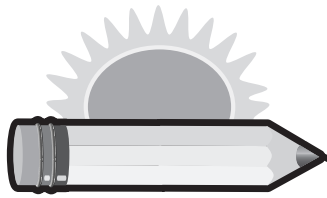
1. d
2. c
3. c
4. b

Page 136 Moving Day

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 137 Ski Pants

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. b



Answer Key

Mystery/Suspense/ Adventure

Page 138 Ray's Smirk

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. d

Page 139 Missing Key

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. b

Page 140 Moving Light

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a

Page 141 Abandoned Bus

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

Page 142 Chocolate Snapshot

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 143 Missing Dog

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 144 Called for Cheating

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. d

Page 145 A Haunted House?

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. c

Page 146 Secret Code

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. c

Page 147 Letters in the Mail

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. b

Page 148 Socks

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. d

Page 149 Cyclone in the House

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a

Fantasy

Page 150 Jelly Bean Planet

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c

Page 151 My Day as a Pancake

1. c
2. c
3. c
4. a

Page 152 Life of a Flower

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. a

Page 153 Super Girl

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. c

Page 154 Trading Places

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. d

Page 155 Talking Horse

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. c

Page 156 Animal Picnic

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a

Page 157 At the Zoo

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. c

Page 158 Exploring the Galaxy

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. c

Page 159 Couch Cookie

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. d

Page 160 Jellyfish Surprise

1. b
2. d
3. c
4. d

Page 161 Talking Toaster

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. a

Page 162 Lori Lollipop

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. b

Page 163 Strawberry Patch

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. c

Page 164 Invasion of the Animals

1. a
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 165 Vanishing Veggies

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. c

Page 166 Egyptian Ants in the Bathroom

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. d