

Dear Students,

I hope you enjoy reading the book you selected for spring break. Instead of completing the traditional reading log, just be sure to finish your book by the time school starts again on Monday, March 23rd. On the following page, I have given you some writing prompts to choose from (also due on Monday). Responding to these will help you reflect on what you have read and give you interesting discussion topics to talk about with your classmates. If you are struggling with your book, be sure to ask for help from a family member or friend. Reading with others and discussing literature always makes it more enjoyable and meaningful.

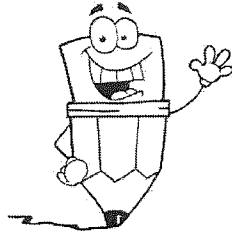
MCA's are just around the corner, so you will also find a few reading exercises. I would suggest doing one of these a day. We will begin talking through these activities the day you return from break.

Whether you're traveling, connecting with family and friends, or relaxing at home, I hope you have a wonderful break!

Best,

Ms. Padilla

Choose three of the following questions to respond to.



- If you could trade places with one of the characters, which would it be and why?
- What do you think was the best part of the story and why?
- What was the theme or the author's message? What events helped you figure out the message?
- Do any of the characters change in the story? What causes them to change?
- How are you different from one of the characters? Explain.
- Was there a character you didn't like in the story? Why didn't you like this character?

Question 1:



Question 2:

Question 3:

Name _____

Magazines/Newsletters

Directions: Read the newsletter. Use it to answer the questions below.

 <h2 style="margin: 0; display: inline-block;">Basketball News</h2> 	
<p>Thompson Brings Victory</p> <p>Tina Thompson scored 10 points in last night's game leading Gino's Giants to victory over Shawn's Shooting Stars. Both teams came into the game with a 3-0 record. Although the Shooting Stars played well, Thompson was the real shooting star of the evening.</p>	
<p>Letters to the Editor</p> <p>Dear Editor,</p> <p>I think basketball is the best sport around. Not only is it great exercise, but it is fun too. Basketball players are the greatest athletes in the world.</p> <p>Bouncing Bob</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Advertisements</p> <p>Old and new basketball cards in mint condition. Buy Now! Call 55P-LAY-BALL.</p>

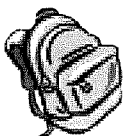
1. What is the name of the newsletter? _____

2. Who might subscribe to this newsletter?

3. If you wanted to sell a backboard and basketball, how might you use the newsletter?

4. What is the name of the news story? _____

5. Which section lets readers express their opinions? _____



Notes for Home: Your child read a newsletter and answered questions about it. *Home Activity:* Read a simple magazine or newsletter. Have your child point out the different parts. Then challenge your child to write a news story, an advertisement, or an editorial.

Text Structure and Graphic Sources

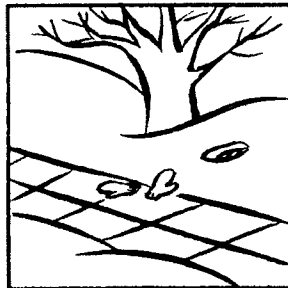
Directions: Read the article and look at the picture. Then read each question about the article and picture. Choose the best answer to the question. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

Girl Saves Cat Trapped in Snow

Caitlin Smith of Wildflower Road was walking home from school yesterday afternoon when she heard something crying. She thought something might be trapped in the snow.

She found the spot where she heard the sound and began to dig in the snow. "I reached in and pulled out a cat!" Caitlin said. "The poor thing was wet and cold, and it wouldn't stop crying."

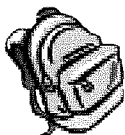
Caitlin brought the cat to the vet. If no one claims the cat, Caitlin's parents say she can keep her.



Caitlin Smith dug this hole to free the trapped cat.

- The article tells about—
 - Wildflower Road.
 - the dangers of snow.
 - how to care for your pet.
 - a girl's rescue of a cat.

- The author of this article—
 - used Caitlin's words.
 - made up a story.
 - guessed what happened.
 - found the cat.
- This story tells what happened—
 - in a mixed-up order.
 - last week.
 - in the order that the events occurred.
 - in a backward order.
- The picture shows—
 - Caitlin's house.
 - Caitlin's school.
 - how the cat got trapped.
 - the hole that Caitlin dug.
- This article probably appeared—
 - in a local newspaper.
 - in a school textbook.
 - on a neighborhood sign.
 - in a storybook.



Notes for Home: Your child reviewed elements of text structure. **Home Activity:** Read a newspaper or magazine article with your child. Talk about how the author interviews real people and reports what they say in order to tell the story.

Making Judgments

Directions: Read the story. Then read each question about the story. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen.

Forward March!

Jack and Paul were going all the way to Washington to march in the parade with their friends Sally and Roberto. They would travel down by train the day before. Jack had been thinking about it all week. He and Paul were good friends, and they would have a great time at the parade.

The night before, Jack and Paul got together to pack their bags. Paul noticed that Jack didn't pack an umbrella.

"Aren't you taking your umbrella, Jack? I read that it may rain tomorrow."

"I can't be bothered with an umbrella," objected Jack. "My pack is heavy enough already. Besides, why would it rain? The weather has been great all week."

Paul said nothing. He went back to his packing.

Jack watched as Paul stuffed a sweater into his pack. "Why are you taking that? Your pack will be so heavy you won't want to go anywhere! Besides, it's warm out."

"Sally travels on those trains all the time, and she says they're always cold," Paul explained. "They always have the air conditioning on full blast."

"Oh, what does she know?" scoffed Jack. "Sally always thinks it's cold. Bring that sweater if you want to, but I'm not taking one."

Paul grinned at his friend and zipped his full pack. "All set?" he asked. "We should get some sleep if we want to be awake in time for our train tomorrow!"

- Jack thinks he won't need an umbrella because—
 - it's too big to fit into his backpack.
 - he has no room for it.
 - he doesn't believe it will rain.
 - Paul has an umbrella.
- Jack should take an umbrella because—
 - Paul tells him to.
 - Paul read a forecast that predicted rain.
 - they can sell it later.
 - it will balance the weight of his pack.
- Paul takes a sweater because—
 - Sally told him it would snow.
 - he likes to wear sweaters.
 - he thinks it will amuse Jack.
 - Sally told him the train would be cold.
- Which character do you think is best prepared for whatever may happen?
 - Jack
 - Paul
 - Sally
 - Roberto
- Which character do you think is least prepared for whatever may happen?
 - Jack
 - Paul
 - Sally
 - Roberto



Notes for Home: Your child read a story and made judgments about the characters and their actions. **Home Activity:** Talk with your child about some of the decisions he or she made recently. Together, discuss your opinion of each decision.

Name _____

Following Directions

When **following directions**, read all the directions first. Do each step one at a time. Follow directions in the order in which they are written.

Directions: Read the directions for figuring out how many miles lightning is from where you are. Then answer the questions.

- Watch for lightning to strike.
- When you see the lightning, start counting.
- When you hear the thunder, stop counting.
- Write the measurement “miles” after the number you counted to figure out how many miles the lightning is from where you are.
- Remember, always stay inside during a thunderstorm and keep a safe distance from windows.

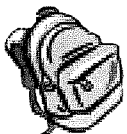
1. Suppose you counted to 5 before you heard the thunder. How far away would the lightning be from where you are?

2. If the lightning were 7 miles away from you, how many numbers would you expect to count after seeing the lightning and before hearing the thunder?

3. Underline the second step you do to figure out the distance between the lightning and you.

4. Where is it safest to watch for lightning—indoors or outdoors? Explain.

5. Why is it important to follow directions in the order that they are written?



Notes for Home: Your child read a set of directions and answered questions about these directions. **Home Activity:** Write down simple directions for your child to follow. You might write directions telling your child how to set the table, use the washer or dryer, or wash the dishes.

Drawing Conclusions

Directions: Read the story. Then read each question about the story. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen.

The First Game

Today would be Amy's first game in the Little League. She had been awake since before the sun came up. She had dressed before breakfast. She wondered if her uniform still fit right. She brushed her teeth three times. She walked Champ twice.

At last, it was time to go to the ballpark. Amy was quiet in the car. She didn't even notice her favorite songs on the radio. She bit her nails as her mother drove her to the ballpark.

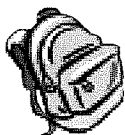
"Stop that," Mother said. "You're going to be just fine." Amy wanted to believe that. Mother was usually right. She tried to think of other things as she bent her glove back and forth.

At the park, Amy joined her teammates on their side of the field. They got together and started their team cheer. They starting practicing swinging the bats. They practiced throwing the ball. They listened to their coach remind them of their plans for winning the game.

From the stands she could hear cries of, "Go Amy! Go Fireball." Fireball was a nickname her cousins had given her when she was little. She liked the nickname and was glad her team and the fans used it.

During the game, Amy didn't have time to worry. She struck out twelve batters. She got a single at her first turn at bat. Then she got a double in her next turn. By the end of the game, Amy wore a smile that no one could remove.

1. Before the beginning of the game, Amy feels—
 - A. hungry.
 - B. tired.
 - C. nervous.
 - D. confused.
2. Amy tries to think of other things because she—
 - F. is bored in the car.
 - G. wants to relax.
 - H. doesn't like baseball.
 - J. doesn't like her glove.
3. Amy's position on the team is—
 - A. catcher.
 - B. outfield.
 - C. first base.
 - D. pitcher.
4. Amy's playing is—
 - F. poor.
 - G. average.
 - H. good.
 - J. uneven.
5. After the game, Amy feels—
 - A. embarrassed.
 - B. happy.
 - C. nervous.
 - D. angry.



Notes for Home: Your child read a story and drew conclusions based on its details. *Home Activity:* Read a story together with your child. Afterward, invite your child to tell you what conclusions he or she can draw about how a character feels or why an event happened.