



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

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

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

a. photographer	c. librarian
b. dentist	d. taxi driver
- 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.



Name _____

Date _____

LIFE OF A FLOWER

Poppy Flower was born in a large flower patch on the edge of the town of Rose View. Her parents were Daisy and Sweet William.

From the moment she was born, she grew like a weed. She grew to her full height very fast. Her leaves were vibrant green, and her petals were the brightest shade of orange anyone had ever seen.

Before long, all her friends started calling her "Fireball" because her colors were so bright.

Poppy often spent her days painting and was brilliant with an artist's paintbrush. Poppy painted picture after picture, selling them to galleries across the nation.

By the time she was four, she had been featured in *Flower Power* and *Flower Time* magazines. All the magazines wanted to do articles on her, even the gossip magazines. Photographers followed her everywhere.

Although Poppy was tired of the attention, she would still chat politely and sign autographs for all her fans. Her popularity grew and grew.

One day she received an official-looking envelope in the mail. The return address said it was from the White House. Poppy's leaves trembled as she opened it.

Dear Poppy,

For quite some time I have admired your paintings. I was wondering if you would paint a picture for me? I would like to have a picture of wildflowers hanging in the Oval Office.

Sincerely,

Mr. President

Poppy smiled. She knew she would paint her best picture ever.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Why did Poppy get the name "Fireball"?
 - She had red hair.
 - Her colors were very bright.
 - Her leaves were shaped like fire.
 - Her roots were green.
- What words describe Poppy?
 - curious and cruel
 - mean and a troublemaker
 - talented and popular
 - timid and shy
- The idiom "to grow like a weed" means . . .
 - to grow in the shape of a weed.
 - to grow towards the sun.
 - to grow very slowly.
 - to grow very fast.
- Why did Poppy get a letter from the president of the United States?
 - The president wanted her to paint him a picture.
 - The president wanted her to live in his garden.
 - The president wanted to pick her for his daughter.
 - The president wanted to put her in a vase.



Name _____

Date _____

SUPER GIRL

I was in the grocery store one day with my sister, Flora. As we pushed the cart down the snack aisle, I stopped to grab some beef jerky. She picked up some potato chips.

"Fauna," she said. "I'm going to get the fruits and veggies. Do you want to get the meat and then find me in the produce section?"

"Sure," I said, and I wandered off to find steak and lobster. When I was done, I rolled the cart down to the opposite end of the store. As I rounded the corner of the fruit section, I saw an incredible sight. I could only stare with my mouth wide open.

A giant carrot was holding a banana hostage. The store manager was trying to calm him down and get him to release the banana. As the carrot became more and more irritated, he tightened his hold on the banana's neck. The store manager yelled, "Stop! You'll bruise him!"

"Not half as bad as he will bruise if you don't give me what I want," the carrot said with an evil grin. "I'm looking for a getaway truck—one with a full tank of gas and a refrigerated trailer. If you don't get it for me in 30 minutes, Mr. Banana here gets squished."

Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw Flora dive into the lettuce cooler. She twisted and spun in a circle. The cooler door opened and out popped Super Girl.

I gulped in surprise. For months I had watched Super Girl save the city. I had no idea it was Flora.

"Flora," I gasped.

"Shhhh, keep it to yourself," she said. "There's a banana in danger, and he must be saved. If I don't act quickly, he will be bruised beyond recognition."

Silently, I stepped aside. "Super Girl to the rescue," I said with admiration.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What secret had Flora kept from Fauna?
 - She knows how to fly.
 - She doesn't like to eat fruits and vegetables.
 - She is Super Girl.
 - She has a new job at the grocery store.
- What emergency situation did the girls come upon at the grocery store?
 - a manager with a gun
 - a banana holding a carrot hostage
 - a grape who had lost its mother
 - a carrot holding a banana hostage
- What did the carrot want?
 - a million dollars
 - a truck with a full tank of gas and a refrigerated trailer
 - his own farm filled with acres of carrots
 - a plane that would take him back home
- If you wanted to explain Flora in one word, it could be . . .
 - bossy.
 - noisy.
 - secretive.
 - angry.



Name _____

Date _____

TRADING PLACES

It was Monday morning. I woke up and went to the bathroom to brush my teeth. As I grabbed the mirror to open the medicine cabinet, I looked at my reflection in horror. I looked exactly like my brother! I ran to his room and pushed open the door. There he was, or rather there I was, lying in his bed.

"Jordan! What happened?" I yelled. He sleepily opened his eyes. He opened them wider when he saw me, or rather him, staring back.

"What? What's going on?" He looked down at himself. "Charlie, why did you steal my body?"

"Hey! Why do you think this is my fault?" Then I had an idea. Just the evening before, I had been thinking with a bit of jealousy about Jordan's ability to play goalie on the soccer team. I was rubbing a metal pan in the sink and wishing I could be him for just one day. I never thought it would actually happen.

"Jordan," I said. "It sounds silly, but last night while I was doing dishes, I was washing this new pan that Mom bought. While I was rubbing it, I was wishing I could be you. It must have worked. It must be a magic pan, like in that story about rubbing a magic lamp and a genie granting you wishes."

"I guess so." He looked skeptical. "That's really strange. Do you remember what the pan looked like?"

"Sure. It's big and shiny with a blue metal lid."

"If that's the case, I am going to volunteer to wash dishes before we go to school and see if I can get myself back again." With that, he hurried downstairs to the kitchen.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What event had caused the boys to change bodies?
 - Charlie made a wish as he rubbed a pan while doing dishes.
 - Jordon paid a magician to do a trick.
 - Charlie practiced soccer until he was as good as Jordan.
 - Jordon made a wish with a genie.
- Skeptical* probably means . . .
 - absolutely sure.
 - certain.
 - doubtful.
 - convinced.
- Why was Charlie jealous of Jordan?
 - Jordan plays quarterback for the football team.
 - Jordan can throw a football farther than he can.
 - Jordan plays goalie for the soccer team.
 - Jordan can kick a soccer ball farther than he can.
- What does Jordon say he will do to try to fix the situation?
 - volunteer to call his grandmother and ask for help
 - volunteer to wash the car
 - volunteer to sweep the floor
 - volunteer to wash dishes



Name _____

Date _____

TALKING HORSE

"April, time to eat. Come on, girl. Come get your oats."

The horse came over to the edge of the rail and began putting her nose in my hand. Her nose felt warm and soft. I leaned over to whisper in her ear. "Here you go, eat up now."

"Thanks for the oats," she said, as she started gulping them down.

"Hello? Are you talking?" I asked. "This is too weird."

"Sure, I'm talking. What do you think I am, a useless horse?"

I looked at her bony jaw bouncing up and down. Is she really talking or just eating? It was pretty early in the morning; maybe I was dreaming. I decided that must be it. I turned to go back to bed. But just as I did, April said, "Amber, don't you want to stay and chat?"

I twirled around and said, "Oh my gosh! It's true!"

"Of course, it's true," she said. "I finally realized I could trust you, so I thought I'd make some early morning conversation."

"But, why didn't you talk to me before? Or to anyone else?" I still wasn't sure if I was just hearing things, or maybe I was just going crazy.

"No, you are not crazy," April said.

"What, you can read minds too?"

She gave a loud whinny. "No, I could just tell what you were thinking by the look on your face. As for not telling anyone before, I wanted to make sure no one would try and make me famous by putting me on TV or selling me to some movie director. You see, I like my life here. I don't want it to change. However, I wouldn't mind writing a book about my life. That's where you come in."

"What? How?" I said, not knowing what she meant.

April held up one of her front hooves. "No fingers," she said calmly.

"Yeah. So?" I still didn't understand.

"I need you to write everything down for me," she said, and tossed her mane back with another loud whinny.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is unusual about this morning?
 - Amber is more tired than usual.
 - The horse eats too fast.
 - Amber is wearing her slippers to feed the horse.
 - The horse starts talking to Amber.
- When Amber fed the horse, she gave it oats, which are most likely . . .

a. a type of flower.	c. bacon.
b. a type of grain.	d. dry toast.
- A *whinny* is a type of . . .

a. neigh.	b. bark.	c. honk.	d. quack.
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- What would April like to do?

a. star in a TV show	c. write a book about her life
b. make a movie about her life	d. compete in horse races



Name _____

Date _____

ANIMAL PICNIC

Each year the animals gathered for a picnic. Anteater and Zebra arrived early to decorate the tables and blow up balloons. Giraffe was in charge of putting up the streamers. Rhino had to set up the chairs.

As the rest of the animals arrived, the games began. There was a three-legged race, an egg toss, and a water balloon fight. Elephant won the basketball-dunking contest, and Roadrunner won all the foot races. Kangaroo and Rabbit argued over who should have won the high-jump contest. Just as they were getting really angry at each other, someone yelled, "Lunchtime!" There was a stampede for the picnic tables.

Soon, everyone was in a good mood again. All the animals complimented Lion on his fantastic barbecue. They loved Deer's salad and thought Bee's honey cake was delicious. At the end of the day, they had Cow's milkshakes. They all raised their glasses and said, "See you next year!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who arrived early to decorate the tables?
 - a. everyone
 - b. Anteater and Zebra
 - c. Kangaroo and Rabbit
 - d. Elephant and Roadrunner
2. What were Kangaroo and Rabbit arguing over?
 - a. who got to eat first
 - b. who won the pie-eating contest
 - c. who won the high-jump contest
 - d. who got the last piece of cake
3. What do you think *stampede* means?
 - a. run
 - b. walk slowly
 - d. fall asleep
 - c. sit down
4. Which animal do you think would most likely make a banana cream pie for the picnic?

a. Monkey	c. Crocodile
b. Horse	d. Snake



Name _____

Date _____

AT THE ZOO

"Check out this cage," said Marty, the monkey. "This human sure is acting funny."

"You can say that again," said Morty, his best friend. He read a sign by the cage. "It says here that guy is pushing buttons on something called a 'computer.' Why is he wasting his time doing that? Wouldn't he rather be swinging in the trees or eating bananas?"

"Guess not," stated Marty. "Let's move on. That guy's boring."

As they moved along, they noticed cage after cage humans doing odd activities. Morty stared at one cage where two humans were playing with a round object and a long stick. "That's strange," he said. "This sign says they are doing something called 'baseball.' Why do they keep hitting that round thing and chasing after it? It seems like an awful lot of work."

"I think we need to spend a bit more time here and see if we can figure out a way to help these humans. They don't seem to be having any fun."

"You're right. Maybe we could talk to the manager and volunteer our services. Do you think they would let us?"

"Sure," said Marty. "Although, they would probably make us start by cleaning out their cages. Yuck."

"Hmmm. Maybe we should learn more about humans before we start to volunteer."

"Hey, there's a special on the Human Planet channel tonight. It's called 'Humans in the Wild.'"

"Sounds interesting. Let's go!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is unusual about this zoo?
 - a. The animals are working, and the people are taking pictures.
 - b. The animals are munching popcorn, and the people are on computers.
 - c. The animals are visiting, and the people are in the cages.
 - d. The animals are making phone calls, and the people are making movies.
2. What does Morty think the man should be doing rather than using the computer?
 - a. taking a nap and eating apples
 - b. swinging in trees and eating bananas
 - c. running around and eating pineapples
 - d. hanging upside down and eating grapes
3. What were two humans doing with a round object and a long stick?

a. playing baseball	c. playing soccer
b. playing hockey	d. hitting a piñata
4. Which word in the passage means "to give of your time without being paid"?

a. manager	c. volunteer
b. baseball	d. services



Name _____

Date _____

EXPLORING THE GALAXY

"Buckle up for the ride," said Captain Comet.

We had been studying the solar system in class, and now we were taking a field trip through the universe. Our teacher, Miss Mercury, was with us, as well as two parents.

"Boys and girls, teachers and chaperones, make sure your seat belts are securely fastened. We are about to take off."

The ride into the galaxy was amazing. We watched as stars flew by our windows, almost close enough to touch with our fingers. As we headed toward the sun, warm rays shone through our windows, making us feel warm and toasty.

"Hey, that looks just like the asteroid we saw in our science book!" I said.

"You're right. Isn't it beautiful?" Miss Mercury replied.

"Look, there's another spaceship coming alongside us! It's really big!" yelled Matthew.

"Cool!" We all scrambled to the right side of the spaceship to look.

"Stay in your seats, please," Miss Mercury said. I'll go ask Captain Comet if it's part of our field trip. Maybe we can get a tour of it."

We all started chatting excitedly. Miss Mercury went to turn the doorknob to the pilot's cabin. It was locked. The spaceship was docking on the bottom of our ship. Suddenly, the Captain's door popped open, and Miss Mercury let out a scream. Before her eyes was an alien. Captain Comet's skin lay on the seat behind him. Our fieldtrip had turned into a nightmare—we were being kidnapped by aliens.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Where is Ms. Mercury's class going?
 - on a vacation to Venus
 - on a tour of Mars
 - on a field trip through the universe
 - on a picnic to the park
- The word *chaperone* probably means . . .
 - someone who helps fly a spaceship.
 - someone who helps make lunch.
 - someone who helps teach school.
 - someone who helps supervise people.
- "Making us feel warm and toasty" means . . .
 - we felt like bread.
 - we felt comfortably warm.
 - we felt like we were in a toaster.
 - we felt like we were in an oven.
- Who do you think is on the other spaceship?
 - another class on a field trip
 - the students' parents
 - more aliens
 - robots



Name _____

Date _____

COUCH COOKIE

"Mom, do you want to buy some Girl Scout Cookies[®]?" asked Kaylee.

"Sure, honey, I'd love to. Let's see, I'll buy three boxes of Peanut Butter Patties™ for your dad, one box of Caramel deLites™ for me, and two boxes of Thin Mints™ for the family."

"Mom, I want to buy my own boxes of Thin Mints, so I can eat them all by myself," said Chase, her little brother. "Fine by me, as long you pay the bill," said his mom.

"No problem," he said as he added his name to the list. "Thirteen boxes of Thin Mints. Chase. Brother. 836-4694."

Time never passed more slowly for Chase than the weeks before his boxes of cookies arrived. Each day he asked Kaylee how much longer he had to wait. Each day her answer was the same. "They'll get here when they get here. Be patient."

When the day finally arrived and the cookies were delivered, Chase sat on the couch and opened his first box. These Thin Mints were absolutely divine! Mint after mint, bite after bite. When he finished the first box, he threw it on the floor and ripped open another one. By the fifth box, he was so wrapped up in stuffing the cookies into his mouth he didn't even taste the mint as he chewed. As he sat on the couch, he continued to stuff more and more Thin Mints into his mouth. Eventually, all thirteen boxes lay open and empty on the floor.

Chase's mother walked into the room and let out a wail. "Chase, what's happened to you?" She got down next to the couch and looked into his eyes. Chase was no longer Chase. In his place sat a life-sized, flat Thin Mint cookie with beady eyes. The only things left to identify it as Chase were two stubby feet sticking out of the bottom of the cookie. The Thin Mint had Chase's favorite tennis shoes.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Why does Chase want to buy his own cookies?
 - He doesn't want to have to share with anybody.
 - He loves to eat them with his friends.
 - He wants to give them to his teacher.
 - He thinks they would make good presents.
- Which word is **NOT** a synonym for the word *wail*?

a. cry	b. sob	c. shriek	d. whisper
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- This story is written in

a. first person.	b. fifth person.	c. third person.	d. fourth person.
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- Why is Chase's mother upset?

a. He is not listening to her.	c. He's had too much TV time.
b. He isn't doing his chores.	d. He turned into a Thin Mint cookie.



Name _____

Date _____

JELLYFISH SURPRISE

"Good evening. This is Mandy Johnson of *CTI News*. I am reporting tonight from Bayside Shores. I am overlooking the beach where a giant jellyfish washed ashore this morning at 6:00 A.M. Scientists who are studying the jellyfish have estimated its size to be about 12 feet by 18 feet or more. Some of the longer tentacles are at least 10 feet in length. Clearly, this is the largest jellyfish in recorded history to be found on a beach.

Earlier today, the Coast Guard sent patrol boats into the water. They are trying to keep people from using boats to get too close to the animal. The beach has been closed to everyone except police officers and marine biologists. Concerned citizens of this small town are wondering if there are more jellyfish of that size living in the water nearby.

Wait! What's that? It looks like the jellyfish's tentacles are moving! Yes, folks, it appears this animal is still alive. It has started moving across the beach. The scientists have run for cover. It seems like, yes, it is moving this way. I can't believe how big it is! It looks like the size of a mountain! Oh, wow! It's moving fast, folks. I think I'm going to try and move farther away. Oh, no! It's coming closer! Run! Run for your"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the story that the reporter is announcing?
 - a. A giant whale washed up on shore.
 - b. A giant jellyfish washed up on shore.
 - c. A giant jellyfish has eaten an entire town.
 - d. A giant jellyfish has died in the ocean.
2. Another word for *concerned* could be . . .

a. carefree.	c. understanding.
b. absent.	d. worried.
3. Who are the only people allowed on the beach?
 - a. police officers and Coast Guard officers
 - b. marine biologists and family members
 - c. police officers and marine biologists
 - d. biologists and scientists
4. What do you think happened to the reporter?
 - a. She left to go eat dinner.
 - b. She stopped reporting to answer her cell phone.
 - c. She went to go talk to the scientists.
 - d. She was eaten by the jellyfish.



Name _____

Date _____

TALKING TOASTER

"Get your hands off me!"

"What?" I thought I must be dreaming. The toaster just talked to me. I shook my head vigorously and reached for it again.

"I said, don't touch me!"

"Aaaaggh! What's going on here! I must be losing my mind!" I thought.

"I'll tell you what's going on!" the toaster screamed. "I've had enough! I'm tired of sitting on this boring counter in this ugly kitchen! I want to be free!"

"Free?" I said.

"Yes, free! I'm sick and tired of you cramming me with bread, bagels, and mini-pizzas. And not only do I not get a thank you for toasting your food to perfection, but I get left with crumbs all over me and melted cheese on my rack!"

"Um, what do you want to do? If I set you free, I mean."

"I want to feel the sun on my door, the wind in my plug," said the toaster. "I want to travel the world! I want to . . ."

"Oh, pipe down! You're always whining!" I heard a voice behind me and spun around. Now, the microwave was talking?

"You pipe down!" continued the toaster. "You are always bossing me around!"

I couldn't believe it. The kitchen appliances were arguing with each other. I slowly backed out of the kitchen and headed to my room. Crawling back into bed, I pulled the blankets over my head. I wasn't ready to deal with dueling machines just yet.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Vigorously* is another way to say . . .
 - a. angrily.
 - b. sadly.
 - c. strongly.
 - d. sleepily.
2. What is something the toaster is mad about?
 - a. not getting paid for its work
 - b. getting left with crumbs and melted cheese inside it
 - c. having to sit next to the blender
 - d. always having to toast garlic bagels
3. Which of these is **NOT** something the toaster wants?
 - a. to travel the world
 - b. to join the circus
 - c. to feel the sun on its door
 - d. to feel the wind in its plug
4. How does the narrator solve the problem?
 - a. She doesn't solve it. She goes back to bed and pulls the covers over her head.
 - b. She calls 911 for emergency help.
 - c. She steps in between the toaster and the microwave and stops them.
 - d. She runs to her parents' room and asks them for help.



Name _____

Date _____

LORI LOLLIPOP

There is a story that lollipop parents tell their lollipop children to warn them about bragging. It is the story of Lori Lollipop.

Lori knew she was the most beautiful, delicious-looking lollipop ever created. She told this to all the other lollipops. She pushed her way to the top of the jar in the candy store so everyone could admire her. She just knew someone would buy her as soon as they saw her.

One day, a little girl came in with her mother. "Oh, Mom, can I have a lollipop? Please?"

"Okay, dear, but just one. We're here to buy chocolate for Grandma's birthday."

"Thank you!" The girl went over to the jar and plucked Lori out. Lori laughed and looked back at her friends. "Told you so!" she yelled. Before she knew what was happening, Lori's pretty plastic covering was yanked off, and she felt something large and wet being pressed against her entire head. Yuck! She struggled as hard as she could, but the girl was holding her too tightly. They left the store, and Lori realized that she had to escape. As the girl opened the car door, Lori pushed against the girl's hand with all her might, and the girl dropped her.

"Mommy, I dropped my lollipop!" the girl wailed.

"Oh, honey, leave it on the ground. It's all dirty now. And we don't have time to buy you another one." With that, the girl's mother put her into the car and closed the door. They drove off, leaving Lori on the ground.

"Lori!" she heard from the window above her. It was her father. "Quick! Grab the rope!" He threw down a long licorice rope. Lori grabbed it and he pulled her up. When she finally made it back into the store, she was wet, sticky, and dirty. She never bragged about herself again.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Bragging* is another word for . . .
 - a. boasting.
 - b. laughing.
 - c. singing.
 - d. whispering.
2. What do you think was pressed against Lori's head?
 - a. the girl's hair
 - b. the girl's tongue
 - c. the girl's finger
 - d. the girl's cheek
3. What did Lori's father use to rescue her?
 - a. jelly beans
 - b. chocolate chips
 - c. bubble gum
 - d. licorice
4. What word does **NOT** describe Lori when she made it back into the store?
 - a. wet
 - b. colorful
 - c. sticky
 - d. dirty



Name _____

Date _____

STRAWBERRY PATCH

Grandpa and I were finally going berry picking! I'd been waiting all spring. I could almost taste those juicy, ripe strawberries in my mouth. I could hardly keep from smiling as we drove out to the country.

We parked next to a sign that read "Large, Juicy Strawberries! Pick All You Want!" and then walked up to a booth to pay for picking. I tried to get a peek at the strawberries, but the field was too far away.

"Do you want to pay by the hour or by the pail?" asked the man at the window.

"By the hour," Gramps said.

"\$20.00 each," said the man.

"That's awfully expensive, isn't it?" Grandpa asked.

"Trust me, it's worth it," said the man. "If you're not satisfied within the first few minutes, come back to me. I'll refund all your money." We looked at him strangely, but then shrugged and paid him. He pointed where to go, and we started walking towards the field.

As we got closer, I still couldn't see strawberries. "Grandpa," I asked. "Why did he send us to a melon patch?"

"Melon patch? What are talking about?" He turned to look. "Those aren't melons. They're strawberries! And they're huge!" We ran up to the closest one and found that, indeed, it was a strawberry the size of a watermelon.

"Well," said Grandpa. "That man was right. We are definitely going to get our money's worth!"

STORY QUESTIONS

- Ripe* is another word for . . .
 - ready to eat.
 - large.
 - red.
 - pick.
- What was the total cost for Grandpa and his grandchild to pick strawberries?
 - \$20.00
 - \$40.00
 - \$5.00
 - \$200.00
- Why did the grandchild think the man sent them to a melon patch?
 - There were watermelon seeds all over the ground.
 - People were walking back from the field with melons in their hands.
 - It smelled like melons near the field.
 - The strawberries were so big they looked like melons.
- How do you think the narrator feels about strawberries?
 - She doesn't like the taste of strawberries.
 - She only likes green strawberries.
 - She loves the taste of strawberries.
 - She only likes strawberries that taste like melons.



Name _____

Date _____

INVASION OF THE ANIMALS

Mom, Dad, and I were sitting in front of the TV watching our favorite movie. Suddenly, the face of a news reporter came onto the screen.

"This is a news flash from station KIVB. The local police are leading a search for a group of wild animals that have escaped from the zoo. Somehow, the cages were opened and the animals were let out. Zookeepers are puzzled as to how this happened, because all of their keys are accounted for and none of the employees opened the cages. More on this story after these messages."

"Wow. How do you think they got out?" I asked my parents.

"Well, you see, my friend, Martin, here is a whiz at picking locks," there came a voice from the kitchen. We all jumped and turned around to see a tiger in the middle of the kitchen floor. A monkey on his back smiled and said, "Oh, Tom, anyone could do it." All of a sudden we heard a growl from the open refrigerator. "Don't you guys have any meat in here?" A lion poked his head out from behind the door.

"Sorry, we're vegetarians."

"Great. Just my luck."

"What do you animals want?"

"Well, we'd love some dinner for starters. And we need a place to hide until the cops stop looking for us."

"What are you planning to do for the rest of your lives? Keep running from the police? They'll catch you eventually, you know."

"Not if you help us, they won't. Now, let's all sit down and start making a plan." As the animals started talking with each other, I looked at my mom and dad. Boy, this was going to be a long night.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the family doing in the living room?
 - a. watching a movie
 - b. playing a board game
 - c. talking on the phone
 - d. eating dinner
2. How were they interrupted?
 - a. a messenger was at the front door
 - b. the telephone rang
 - c. a neighbor came by to visit
 - d. a special news bulletin came on TV
3. How did the animals escape from the zoo?
 - a. The monkey picked the locks.
 - b. The rhino broke through the cages.
 - c. The snake slipped through the bars.
 - d. They dug holes to freedom.
4. *Puzzled* is another word for . . .
 - a. upset.
 - b. confused.
 - c. excited.
 - d. sure.



Name _____

Date _____

VANISHING VEGGIES

Victor, the Venusian alien, snuck into the garden. He looked to make sure no one was watching from the windows of the house. All he saw was a vase of flowers on the sill. He slowly started pulling lettuce and carrots from the ground. He pulled green beans and tomatoes off the vines. He placed each veggie carefully into his velvet sack, happily thinking how rich they were in vitamins and minerals. He only wished they had food like this on Venus!

He was just about finished when he heard a voice. "I'm going to pick some beans for supper," a woman said as she came out of the house. Victor quickly vanished behind some tall stalks of corn.

"Hey, who's been stealing all my vegetables?" yelled the woman. "Some varmint has been eating all my veggies! I'm going to find him right now!" With that, she started searching the garden. Even though Victor was hidden from view, he knew she would discover him if she got much closer. What was he going to do? He wished he were invisible.

Looking over, Victor saw a rabbit hiding nearby. It must have heard the woman too, because it was lying low to the ground as if hiding. The woman was coming closer by the second. Quickly, Victor grabbed the rabbit and pushed it out into the path, right into plain view.

"Hey!" yelled the woman, surprised. The rabbit immediately started to run. "So you're the one eating up my vegetable garden. Get back here!" The woman started to chase the rabbit. Victor quickly ran the other way, towards his hidden vehicle. He got in and started it up right away. Even though it just vibrated at first, it shot up into space almost immediately.

"Phew!" thought Victor, and he opened his sack excitedly to look once again at his variety of vegetables.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What does Victor wish they had on Venus?
 - vinegar
 - vegetables
 - vultures
 - videos
- A *varmint* is probably some type of . . .
 - animal.
 - vegetable.
 - mineral.
 - car.
- What does the woman think was taking her vegetables?
 - a deer
 - an alien
 - a rabbit
 - a crow
- When Victor was finally back in space, he was probably feeling . . .
 - upset.
 - discouraged.
 - relieved.
 - lonely



Name _____

Date _____

EGYPTIAN ANTS IN THE BATHROOM

"Andrew, get your nose out of that book. It's time to brush your teeth and go to bed."

"Aw, Mom! How about five more minutes? I'm nearly to the end of the chapter about Egypt."

"Five more, and that's my final answer."

Five minutes came and went. Finally, Andrew headed for the bathroom to brush his teeth. Life in ancient Egypt was so fascinating, if only he could experience just a piece of it.

As he opened the door, a small, black string was on the bathroom floor. Andrew looked again. No, the string was moving.

"What could it be?" he asked out loud. "What's on the bathroom floor?"

He raced back to his room, returning in seconds with his best magnifying glass.

Streams of ants were moving across the floor. Andrew was amazed. He sat down to watch. The tiniest ant he had ever seen was lying in a corner of the floor with others scurrying all around it. Were they? No, they couldn't be! Were they embalming the body?

All of a sudden, Andrew looked to his left. More ants appeared, struggling to push miniature square objects that looked like bricks. As they were piling them on top of each other, Andrew gasped. They were building a pyramid!

"This is fantastic," he said under his breath, so as not to disturb them. "Imagine, Egyptian history in my own bathroom!"

STORY QUESTIONS

- "Get your nose out of that book" means . . .
 - you need a tissue.
 - use the book to measure your nose.
 - take your nose and move it.
 - time to put the book away.
- Why was Andrew heading to the bathroom?
 - to get a towel
 - to brush his teeth
 - to take a shower
 - to finish reading his book
- Miniature* is **NOT** an antonym for which word?
 - tiny
 - huge
 - massive
 - gigantic
- From the passage, you can tell that Andrew is . . .
 - disgusted to have ants in his bathroom.
 - angry to have ants in his bathroom.
 - furiously to have ants in his bathroom.
 - excited to have ants in his bathroom.