



TeacherVision® Books

Reading Comprehension Stories

Grade 1



Volume I

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Training Sam

This is Sam. Sam is a dog. He is a happy pet. I feed Sam when he is hungry. I play with Sam. I like Sam and Sam likes me. If I want Sam to be a good pet, I must train him.

First, I teach Sam to come. I put Sam on a long rope. Sam walks around, and is soon far away. I clap my hands, and say, "Sam, come!" Slowly, I pull the rope until Sam is with me. I do not pull hard. I do not want to hurt Sam. Every day I work with Sam. Now Sam comes when I call him.

Next, I teach Sam to walk on a leash. I hold most of the leash in my hand. I want Sam to learn to walk next to me. Gently, I tug on the leash and say, "Sam, walk!" Sam learns to walk next to me.

Last, I teach Sam to sit. I wave my hand down and say, "Sam, sit!" I gently push Sam down until he sits. Soon, Sam learns to sit.

I never hit Sam. I tell him when I am angry, and I pet him when he does well. I know that if I take good care of Sam, he will always be my friend.



Training Sam

1. What is the name of the dog in the story?

2. What must the person do to make Sam a good pet?

3. What three things does Sam learn to do in the story?

4. What does the person do to Sam when he does well?

5. What does Sam learn first?

6. What does Sam learn last?

7. The story tells us that Sam likes the person in the story. Name two reasons why Sam likes the person.

8. Do you think it took one day to teach Sam to come, to walk on a leash, and to sit? Why do you think so?



Training Sam

9. The person in the story wants to teach Sam more. Name three other things she or he might teach Sam.

10. How does training a dog make it a good pet?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as possible.

12. How is training a dog to come like training it to walk on a leash? How is it different?

13. In your own words, tell how to teach a dog to sit.

14. What would happen if the person teaching Sam yelled at the dog? Would Sam learn more quickly, or would he learn more slowly? Why do you think so?

15. The story says, "If I train Sam, he will be a good pet." Is this a fact, or is it an opinion? Why do you think this way?

- 16.



Reading Tracks

After it rains, look for bird tracks. Look in places where there is mud. Did you know that you can tell what kind of bird walked in the mud?

Most bird tracks look alike in many ways. Birds have three front toes and one back toe. The way a bird walks makes its tracks special.

Sparrows are hopping birds. They put both feet together. When they hop, they land on both feet. What do you think sparrow tracks look like?

Starlings are walking birds. They walk like people. They put one foot in front of the other. What do you think starling tracks look like?

Some birds, like robins, hop and walk. What do you think robin tracks look like?

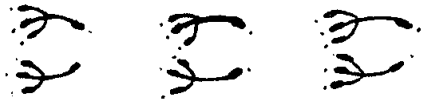
Look at the picture of bird tracks. Were you right?

Look for pictures of other animal tracks. As you learn more, you will know what tracks frogs, turtles, ducks and even dinosaurs make.

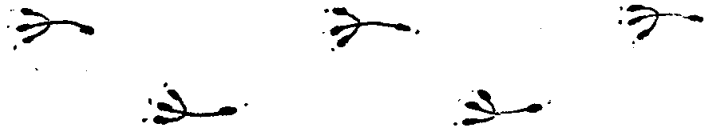


Reading Tracks

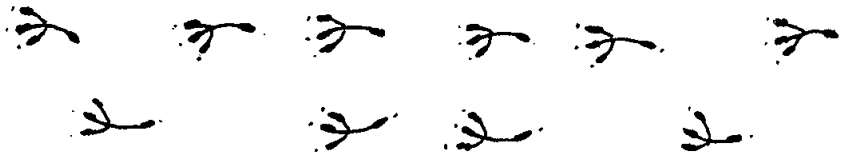
Sparrow



Starling



Robin



Reading Tracks

1. Where is a good place to look for bird tracks?

2. How are most bird footprints alike?

3. What makes bird tracks special?

4. Name the three birds in the story.

5. Which bird tracks did you read about first?

6. Which bird tracks did you read about last?

7. People found dinosaur tracks in rocks. After reading this story, what is one thing you might learn about a dinosaur by looking at its tracks?

8. The story tells us to look for bird tracks after it rains. Why would a dry day be a bad time to look for tracks?



Reading Tracks

9. What might a robin's tracks look like just before it begins to fly? Next, draw a picture of what these tracks might look like.

10. Some people look for animal tracks as a hobby. A hobby is something you like to do when you are not working. Why do you think looking at animal tracks is fun for these people?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as possible.

12. Look at the picture of bird tracks. How are the tracks of a sparrow like the tracks of a starling? How are the tracks different?

13. In your own words, tell about the tracks made by robins.

14. Imagine that a sparrow hurt one of its legs. Tell what its tracks might look like. Next, draw a picture of the tracks you might see.

15. The story says, "Every bird makes its own special tracks." Is this a fact, or someone's opinion? How do you know?

16.



In the Deep Sea

People have seen all of the Earth. We have seen all the animals. We have walked on every spot of Earth. Is this true?

No, it is not true. No one has seen most of the animals in the sea. No one has walked on the deep sea floor.

Many people are looking in space to find new life. People called oceanographers look for new life right here on Earth. They look in the sea.

There is no light deep in the sea. The sun cannot reach deep under water. Nine out of ten animals in the deep sea shine. Some blink their lights on and off, like the angler fish with its shining string.

The gulper eel looks as if it could live only on Mars. Most of its body is a large, open mouth with many sharp teeth.

Someday oceanographers will live in the deep sea. Then they will look for more wonderful animals. Would you like to join them?



In the Deep Sea

1. Have people seen all the animals on Earth?

2. Who looks in the sea for new life?

3. How many deep sea animals shine?

4. What does the gulper eel look like?

5. Name the first animal described in the story.

6. What will oceanographers do after they live in the deep sea?

7. Why is the deep sea eel called the gulper eel?

8. Do oceanographers think it is good to look for life in the deep sea? Why do you think so?



In the Deep Sea

9. Will oceanographers always look for new animals? Why do you think so?

10. Why would someone want to be an oceanographer?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as you can.

12. How are oceanographers and astronauts alike? How are they not alike?

13. Tell about the two animals in the story. Use as few words as you can.

14. How will people feel about the sea when oceanographers find new animals? Why do you think so?

15. The story said, "Someday oceanographers will live in the deep sea." Is this a fact? Why do you think so?

16.



"Little Peter" the Clown

Who was the first clown? The first clown worked for kings. His job was to make the king laugh. He did not look like the clowns we see today. He did not wear big clothes or paint his face.

The first clown to paint his face was from France. They called their clown Little Peter, or Pierrot.

Little Peter painted his face white. Even his clothes were white. His big clothes, pointed hat, and large buttons made him look like today's clowns.

Little Peter was a smart clown. He was also very sad. He painted his face white so no one could see his sad face.

The next time you see a clown, look at the way he or she dresses. Are the clown's clothes big? Does the clown paint his or her face? If the clown does, he or she is following in the steps of the sad clown, Little Peter.



"Little Peter" the Clown

1. For whom did the first clowns work?

2. Where was Little Peter from?

3. How did Little Peter feel?

4. What color were Little Peter's face and clothes?

5. Which clowns did the story tell about first?

6. Who was the first clown to paint his face?

7. What one word best tells about Little Peter?

8. Was Little Peter a good clown? Why do you think so?



"Little Peter" the Clown

9. Will clowns always dress in big clothes? Why do you think so?

10. Why did Little Peter want to paint his sad face?

11. Write a name for the story. Use only a few words.

12. How was Little Peter like today's clowns? How was he not like today's clowns?

13. In a few words, tell what Little Peter looked like.

14. How did Little Peter change the way clowns look?

15. The story said, "Little Peter painted his face white." Is this a fact? Why do you think so?

16.



"Mary Read": Lady Pirate

We think of pirates as men. On dark ships, men with peg legs are ready to fight.

Not all pirates were men. Some pirates were women. One of these lady pirates was Mary Read.

Mary ran away from home when she was 14. She ran away to sail the sea. One time she joined the army. Soon she went back to the sea she loved.

Mary Read became a pirate. She stole ships. She used a gun and knife. Next, she worked for countries at war. They asked Mary to steal their enemy's ships.

One day Mary met Anne Bonny. The two women worked together. They dressed like men and were as mean as any pirate.

In 1720, the Navy caught Mary and Anne. Mary Read died in prison from a fever. Anne Bonny disappeared. No one ever saw Anne again.



"Mary Read": Lady Pirate

1. Were all pirates men?

2. Name the two lady pirates in the story.

3. When did the Navy catch Mary Read?

4. How did Mary Read die?

5. What did Mary Read do before she was a pirate?

6. What happened to Mary after the Navy caught her?

7. What one word best tells about Mary Read?

8. Was Mary Read a friendly person? Why do you think she was or she wasn't?



"Mary Read": Lady Pirate

9. Do you think Anne Bonny was a pirate after she disappeared? Why do you think so?

10. Why was Mary Read put in prison?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as you can.

12. How was Mary Read like other pirates? How was she not like other pirates?

13. Tell about Mary Read's life in your own words.

14. How did Mary Read make people on other ships feel? Why do you think so?

15. The story said, "(Mary Read and Anne Bonny) were as mean as any pirate." Is this a fact or an opinion? Why do you think so?

16.



John Rock

John Rock was an American black man born before the Civil War. He lived in the North, so he was a free man. People with black skin in the South were slaves. They worked without pay, and could not go to school.

John Rock was born in 1825. He stayed in school until he was 18 years old. John wanted to help people. At the age of 19, he became a teacher.

John Rock never stopped learning. He read about medicine. He tried to go to school to become a doctor. The school did not let him in. They did not let black people go to medical school.

John did not give up. He taught himself to be a dentist. He worked very hard to help people. John worked so hard he became sick. Still, he did not give up.

When John felt better, he studied law. In 1865, John Rock became the first black lawyer recognized by the Supreme Court.

Throughout his life, John Rock helped his fellow human beings. He died in 1866.



John Rock

1. In what year was John Rock born?

2. How old was John Rock when he became a teacher?

3. What kept John Rock from going to medical school?

4. In what year was John Rock recognized as a lawyer by the Supreme Court?

5. What was John Rock's first job?

6. What did John Rock become after he was told he could not go to medical school?

7. What one word do you think best describes John Rock?

8. Do you think that staying in school until the age of 18 helped John Rock become such a great man? Why do you think so?



John Rock

9. John Rock understood that he needed to learn as much as he could to make his life important. He worked hard and never gave up.
What do you want to do when you finish school? What will you need to do to reach your goal?

10. Why do you think that John Rock kept working to make his dreams come true? Why do you think he did not give up?

11. Write a title that best describes this story. Use as few words as possible.

12. John Rock wanted to be a doctor. He became a dentist instead. How is a doctor like a dentist? How are they different?

13. In your own words, tell why John Rock never became a doctor.

14. After reading about John Rock, have your ideas about your future changed? How have they changed?

15. The story said, "Throughout his life, John Rock helped his fellow human beings." Is this a fact or an opinion? Why do you think so?

- 16.



Brer Rabbit and Anansi the Spider

Brer Rabbit likes to play tricks. He plays tricks on his friends. You can read about Brer Rabbit in very old stories from Africa.

There are many African stories about small animals. These animals want all the food. They do not like to share. How do these small animals get what they want? They trick their friends.

Anansi the Spider also likes to play tricks. Anansi likes to eat. He likes to eat everything he can. The spider tries to trick his friends to get a lot of food. One day his trick did not work. Anansi lost all the hair on his head.

Brer Rabbit and Anansi stories are funny. They teach something, too. They tell you to be good to your friends.



Brer Rabbit and Anansi the Spider

1. Where do the Brer Rabbit stories come from?

2. How do Brer Rabbit and Anansi get what they want?

3. What does Anansi the Spider like to do?

4. What do Brer Rabbit and Anansi stories teach you?

5. What does Brer Rabbit do before he gets what he wants?

6. What does Anansi get after he tricks his friends?

7. What one word tells about Brer Rabbit?

8. Do you think people like Brer Rabbit and Anansi stories? Why do you think so?



Brer Rabbit and Anansi the Spider

9. Do you think people will tell Brer Rabbit and Anansi stories for a long time? Why do you think so?

10. Why did Brer Rabbit and Anansi use tricks to get what they wanted?

11. Write a title for this story. Use only a few words.

12. How are Brer Rabbit and Anansi alike? How are they not alike?

13. Tell how Anansi the Spider gets what he wants.

14. Anansi the Spider is very small. He tricks his friends to get what he wants. How would Anansi get what he wanted if he was a big lion?

15. The story says, "Brer Rabbit and Anansi stories are funny." Is this a fact or what someone thinks? Why do you think so?

16.



To Fly over the Ocean

In 1927, planes did not fly far. The planes were small. They did not go fast.

Planes could not fly over the ocean. Charles Lindbergh wanted to be the first person to fly over the ocean.

On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh began to fly over the ocean. He had a very small plane. Lindbergh called his plane The Spirit of St. Louis.

Lindbergh could not see out the window. To see out, he looked in mirrors. He had one mirror to see behind him.

After 33 hours, he landed on the other side of the ocean. There were many parties. People were happy he flew over the ocean.

You can see his plane today. It is in a special place in Washington, D.C.

“Charles A. Lindbergh ... landed at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, at 5:24 this afternoon, thus becoming the first person to fly from New York to Paris nonstop.”—Lowell Thomas, May 21, 1927



To Fly over the Ocean

1. What did Charles Lindbergh do?

2. What did he call his plane?

3. On what day did Lindbergh begin to fly over the ocean?

4. How did Lindbergh see out of his plane?

5. What did people do after Lindbergh flew over the ocean?

6. How many planes flew over the ocean before May 20, 1927?

7. The story said, "People were happy Lindbergh flew over the ocean." Why do you think they were happy?

8. Reread the fourth paragraph. Do you think it was easy for Lindbergh to fly over the ocean? Why do you think so?



To Fly over the Ocean

9. Will people always enjoy reading about the flight of Charles Lindbergh? Why do you think so?

10. Why did Charles Lindbergh want to fly over the ocean? Would you like to do something no one has done before? Why do you feel this way?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as possible.

12. Look at a picture of The Spirit of Saint Louis. Look at a picture of a jet plane. How are the two planes alike? How are they different?

13. In your own words, tell about Charles Lindbergh's flight over the ocean.

14. Charles Lindbergh was the first person to fly across the ocean. How did his flight change the way people traveled around the world?

15. The story said, "People were happy he (Lindbergh) flew over the ocean." Is this a fact or someone's opinion? Why do you think so?

16.



Superfast Trains

When we think of trains, we think of slow trains rolling across the West. That picture of trains is changing, and it's changing fast!

In Japan and France, high-speed trains are racing across the land. They are so fast that people use trains, not planes.

New tracks help the trains move very fast. Turning tracks do not lie flat on the ground. They rise up on the outside, like race tracks for cars. The trains can turn without slowing down.

The Bullet Train of Japan runs up to 130 miles per hour. It runs on electric wires that are over the train.

France's trains can move people faster than an airplane. Their trains move up to 254 miles per hour. The fastest steam train can go only 126 miles per hour.

Someday trains will run in big tubes. Magnets will lift them off the ground. These speeders will move at over 745 miles per hour.



Superfast Trains

1. What is the name of Japan's fast train?

2. How fast does the Bullet Train run?

3. How fast does France's train move?

4. How fast can the fastest steam train go?

5. Which train does the story tell about first?

6. What is the second train the story tells about?

7. What one word best tells about the Bullet Train?

8. Do people want to ride on very fast trains? Why do you think so?



Superfast Trains

9. Will people make trains that go faster in the future? Why do you think so?

10. Why do Japan and France make such fast trains?

11. Write a name for the story. Use only a few words.

12. How is the Bullet Train of Japan like steam trains? How are they not alike?

13. In your own words, tell about the tracks used by super-fast trains.

14. How will a train that goes 745 miles in one hour change the way people go from place to place?

15. The story said, "The Bullet Train of Japan runs up to 130 miles per hour." Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you show you are right?

16.



Piñatas

Have you been to a party and played with a piñata? Some piñatas are paper bulls filled with candy. Children hit the bull with sticks. The bull breaks and the children run for the falling candy.

The paper bull was a piñata. Piñatas are very old toys.

In Spain, children played with piñatas at Christmas. The Christmas piñata looked like a star. The star had three points. They said each point was one of the Three Wise Men who visited Jesus. The candies in each point were like the gifts the Three Wise Men took to Jesus.

When people from Spain came to Mexico they brought piñatas. The people of Mexico liked the toys. They made them for their children.

The children of Mexico have played with piñatas for many years. Today you can find piñata animals, people, and stars.

You can play with a piñata, too. First, cover your eyes and hold a stick. Next, turn around three times. Last, hit the piñata three times. When it breaks, everyone shares the candy that falls from Mexico's piñata.



Piñatas

1. What did the piñata of Spain look like?

2. What was inside the points of the star piñata?

3. Where did the people of Spain take their piñatas?

4. For whom did the people of Mexico make their piñatas?

5. What is the first thing you do when you play with a piñata?

6. What is the last thing you do when you play with a piñata?

7. Why did the people of Spain play with their piñatas at Christmas?

8. Are piñatas hard to break? Why do you think so?



Piñatas

9. Will children always like playing with piñatas? Why do you think so?

10. Why do children play with piñatas?

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as possible.

12. How are the animal and people piñatas of today like Spain's star piñata? How are they not alike?

13. In your own words, tell how to play with a piñata.

14. How would a party change if someone brought a piñata?

15. The story says, "When people from Spain came to Mexico they brought piñatas." Is this a fact? How can you prove your answer?

16.



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