TeacherVision® Books

Reading Comprehension Stories

Grade 2

Volume I

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Contents

Name_____ Date_____

Stories in the Stars

Long ago, people looked at the stars and saw pictures of animals, people, and things. They even gave these big dot-to-dot star pictures names. At night, they told stories about the pictures in the sky.

The Big Dipper is easy to find. It looks like a large pot. Sailors use the Big Dipper to find their way at night. The two end stars point north.

The Seven Sisters is a small group of stars. A story tells us that these stars were seven beautiful sisters. The gods turned the sisters into stars and set them in the sky.

The Bull is a large group of stars. The eye of the Bull is a red star. It makes the Bull look mad.

The stories about the stars are very old. Read more about the Hunter, the Swan, or the Dragon. People use these stories today to help find their way in the stars.

Name_____ Date_____

Stories in the Stars

1. Long ago, what did people see in the stars?

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2. What star picture do sailors use to find their way at night?

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3. What makes the Bull look mad?

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4. According to a story, who turned the Seven Sisters into stars and put them in the sky?

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5. What did the gods do before they set the Seven Sisters in the sky?

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6. What can sailors do after they find the Big Dipper?

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7. Sailors use the Big Dipper to find their way at night. If you are lost in the desert, could you use the Big Dipper to guide you? Why do you think this way?

_____

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8. Read the story about the Seven Sisters. How do you think the gods felt about the sisters?

_____

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Name_____ Date_____

Stories in the Stars

9. People saw pictures in the stars a long time ago. We still use these pictures today. We use the pictures in the stars to help us find our way. Do you think people will use these pictures in the future? If so, how might they use them?

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10. Why do you think people made up stories about the stars?

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

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12. How are the Seven Sisters and the Big Dipper star pictures (constellations) alike? How are they different?

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13. Briefly describe in your own words how a sailor would use the Big Dipper to guide a ship at night.

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14. If sailors used only the Big Dipper to guide their ships at night, what would happen on a cloudy night?

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15. The story says, "The Big Dipper is easy to find." Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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Name_____ Date_____

Set a World's Record

In 1994, Noureddine Morceli set a world's record in running. Can you run as fast as Morceli?

If you would like to know, give yourself a simple test. First, you must be healthy. Don't run if you have an illness that gets worse if you exercise.

Next, go to a track. Many schools have tracks that go around a football field. Take a watch that counts seconds with you. Ask a friend to time you.

Run around the track one time. Write down how many minutes and seconds it took you to run, then multiply that number by four. One mile equals four trips around the track.

How fast do you think you can run? Morceli ran one mile in 3 minutes and 44.39 seconds.

If you did not run as fast as Morceli, work at it. Run every day around the track. Every few weeks, time yourself again. Some day you might set a new world's record.

Name_____ Date_____

Set a World's Record

1. Who set a world's record in running in 1994?

2. How fast did Morceli run?

3. When you take the test, how many times do you run around the track?

4. What number do you multiply your time by?

5. What is the first thing you must think about before you run?

6. What is the last thing you do to find out how fast you ran the mile?

7. Do you think Noureddine Morceli set a world's record the first time he ran? What did he have to do to learn how to run fast?

8. The story says, "Don't run if you have an illness that gets worse if you exercise." What can happen to people who are not healthy when they run?

Name_____ Date_____

Set a World's Record

9. If you practice running every day, what will happen to your running speed?

_____

_____

10. The story stated that you must work hard to learn to run fast. What do you think made Morceli work so hard to set a world's record?

_____

_____

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

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12. In 1980, Sebastian Coe ran the mile in 3 minutes 49.4 seconds. How much faster was Morceli than Coe? Why do you think Morceli ran faster?

_____

_____

13. Summarize the steps you should take to train yourself to run faster than you do now.

_____

_____

14. Lisa does not run as fast as her friend John. Lisa and John want to run the mile faster than anyone in the world. Lisa runs every morning before school and every night. John started to run every day, but then he started to play video games instead. At the end of one year, which person will run the fastest? Why do you think so?

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15. The story said, "Morceli ran one mile in 3 minutes and 44.39 seconds." Is this statement a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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Name_____ Date_____

Home for the Summer

Many birds fly south in the winter, then return to the north in the summer. How do they return without getting lost?

Stephen Emlen and his father, John Emlen, studied birds called buntings. The buntings fly only at night, so how do the birds know where they are going?

The Emlens made a round cage for each bird. The white paper sides sloped to the center of the cage. The bird stood on an ink pad on the bottom. When the bird tried to fly, it slid down the paper, leaving an ink line.

The Emlens took their birds to the planetarium. This is a place where tiny lights shine on the ceiling. The lights move just like real stars.

The men left the birds to watch the stars. Later, they looked at the marks on the white paper. Every bird made a line pointing north.

The Emlens think they know why. The buntings know that the stars turn around the North Star. The birds follow the North Star in the summer to find their way home.

Name_____ Date_____

Home for the Summer

1. Where do birds fly in the summer?

_____

_____

2. What was the name of the birds that the Emlens studied?

_____

_____

3. What did these birds do at night?

_____

_____

4. What did the buntings follow to find their way north?

_____

_____

5. What was the first thing the Emlens did in their experiment?

_____

_____

6. At the end of the experiment, what did the Emlens look at?

_____

_____

7. The story does not name the Emlens' job. After reading the story, what do you believe is the name of the Emlens' job?

_____

_____

8. Read the first paragraph again. All the birds in the cages made lines pointing north. What season of the year was it at the time of the experiment?

_____

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Name_____ Date_____

Home for the Summer

9. The experiment tries to answer a question: How do birds return to the same place every summer without getting lost? Do you think more experiments will be done to try to answer this question? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. The Emlens had a reason for doing this experiment. Why might it be important to learn how birds travel so far without getting lost?

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

12. Geese are birds that fly in the daytime. They fly north for the summer, and south for the winter. How are geese and buntings alike? How are they different?

_____

_____

13. In a few words, tell about the Emlens' experiment.

_____

_____

14. Reread the last paragraph of the story. What do you think would happen if it were cloudy for several weeks during the time the buntings fly north?

_____

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15. The Emlens said that the buntings followed the North Star when flying north. Is this a fact or is it their opinion? Why do you think so?

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Name_____ Date_____

Japan's Kites

The sky is full of giant butterflies and dragons. Bright colors fly across the skies of Japan. May is the month for kites.

In Japan, many people enjoy making kites. The kites are different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are so big that six people must hold the strings. Others are as small as postcards.

Would you like to make a kite? First, make a wood frame. The wood cannot be heavy, or the kite will not fly. Next, cover the frame with paper.

Finally, make a picture on your kite. You can make a bat, a bird, or anything you like.

Read about the many ways to make kites. Make kites in every shape and color you can imagine. Soon your friends will want to make kites, too.

Name_____ Date_____

Japan's Kites

1. What is the name of the country where the story takes place?

2. What is a kite frame made of?

3. What is a kite frame covered with?

4. Which month is Japan's month for kites?

5. When you make a kite, what do you do first?

6. What is the last thing you do when you make a kite?

7. Do you think it would cost a lot of money to make a kite? Why do you think so?

8. The story tells us to read about the many ways to make kites. How will this help you to be a better kite maker?

Name_____ Date_____

Japan's Kites

9. Will people always enjoy making kites? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. Why do you think the Japanese make so many different types of kites?

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

12. Look at a picture of a box kite and a common diamond-shaped kite. How are the two kites alike? How are they different?

_____

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13. In a few words, tell how to make a kite.

_____

_____

14. After reading this story, do you want to make a kite? Why do you feel this way?

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15. The story said, "In Japan, many people enjoy making kites." Is this sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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Name_____ Date_____

The Stanley Steamer

Today, most cars run on gas. The motors are noisy, and make air pollution. People are now looking at quiet and clean electricity or sun power to make cars go. Perhaps we should use steam again. Yes, again.

In the early 1900s, F.E. and F.O. Stanley invented a car called the Stanley Steamer. The men were identical twins. This quiet car ran on steam from hot water.

The car had a stick, called the throttle, and two pedals. You pushed the throttle to go. One pedal made the car stop. The other made the car go backward.

The steamer was the fastest car of its time. No car could go as fast uphill. On a flat road, it could go one mile in 28 ½ seconds. With a speed of 120 miles an hour, it held the world's record from 1906 to 1910.

Name_____ Date_____

The Stanley Steamer

1. Who made the Stanley Steamer?

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2. What did you push to make the car go?

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3. How fast did the Stanley Steamer go on a flat road?

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4. In what years did the Stanley Steamer hold the world's record for speed?

_____

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5. In 1899, Henry Ford began to make his Model T, a car powered by gasoline. Which car was the first to be made, Ford's Model T or the Stanley Steamer?

_____

_____

6. What did you have to do before the Stanley Steamer would go?

_____

_____

7. You know that teachers teach, and doctors help sick people. What job name best tells what the Stanley brothers did?

_____

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8. Read the first paragraph of the story again. In what ways are motors that run on steam better than those that run on gas?

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Name_____ Date_____

The Stanley Steamer

9. In the future, will cars use gas to make them run? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. Why are people looking for new ways to make cars go?

_____

_____

11. What title would best tell about the story? Use as few words as possible.

_____

_____

12. Compare steam-powered cars to gas-powered cars. Which one do you believe is the best way to make cars go? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

13. Tell how you would make the Stanley Steamer go forward, backward, and stop.

_____

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14. Cars that run on gas make pollution called carbon monoxide. They are also very noisy. Think about the cars that drive on the busy streets where you live. How would the streets look and sound different if everyone drove a Stanley Steamer?

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15. The story said, "The (Stanley) steamer was the fastest car of its time." Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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Name_____ Date_____

Jackie Torrence

When Jackie Torrence was a little girl, the children laughed at her. Her teeth did not grow and she could not talk. Jackie was also overweight.

Jackie's happiest times were with her grandmother. Jackie sat in her grandmother's arms and talked. She learned about her African family. She learned about her great-grandparents who lived as slaves. Jackie came from a proud past.

When Jackie was fourteen years old, a teacher named Mrs. Lancaster saw something special in Jackie. Mrs. Lancaster taught Jackie to talk. Day and night they practiced. Mrs. Lancaster said, "In Jackie I found an eagle among my chickens."

When Jackie was older, she worked in a library. One day her boss asked her to tell the children a story. Could she do it?

The children loved Jackie's story. Soon other people heard about the Story Lady. They wanted to hear her stories, too.

Jackie tells stories all over America and around the world. Mrs. Lancaster's eagle grew up to become a national treasure.

Name_____ Date_____

Jackie Torrence

1. When did Jackie have her happiest times as a child?

2. What did Jackie learn from her grandmother?

3. What did Mrs. Lancaster say about Jackie?

4. When Jackie was older, where did she work?

5. Who talked to Jackie before she met Mrs. Lancaster?

6. What happened after other people heard about the Story Lady?

7. What did Mrs. Lancaster mean when she said, "In Jackie I found an eagle among my chickens?"

8. Did Mrs. Lancaster teach Jackie to speak well? Why do you think so?

Name_____ Date_____

Jackie Torrence

9. Think about children who are laughed at in your neighborhood or school. Could they grow up to do great things like Jackie Torrence? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. Why did the children laugh at Jackie when she was a little girl?

_____

_____

11. Write a title that tells about the story. Use as few words as possible.

_____

_____

12. How did children feel about Jackie when she was a little girl? How do children feel about Jackie today? Why do you think they treat her differently now?

_____

_____

13. In your own words, tell how Jackie Torrence became a storyteller.

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14. How did Jackie's grandmother and Mrs. Lancaster help Jackie to become a storyteller?

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15. Mrs. Lancaster said, "In Jackie I found an eagle among my chickens." Is this a fact or Mrs. Lancaster's opinion? Why do you think so?

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Name_____ Date_____

The Hubble Space Telescope

Our earth circles around a star we call the sun. The Earth, Sun and other planets make up our solar system. Our solar system sits on the outside arm of a galaxy called the Milky Way. There are more stars than you can count in the Milky Way.

Edwin P. Hubble learned there are many galaxies out in space. Like our Milky Way, the galaxies hold star systems.

These galaxies float in a place called the universe. Hubble learned that the universe is growing. It is getting bigger.

Hubble made people think about the universe in a different way. If there are many galaxies with star systems, are there planets around the stars? Could there be life on some of these planets?

If the universe is growing, will it ever stop growing? If it stops growing, what will happen next? Maybe the universe will begin to get smaller.

High above the earth, a telescope looks out into space. It is finding hundreds of galaxies. It is looking for signs of a growing universe. We call it the Hubble Space Telescope.

Name_____ Date_____

The Hubble Space Telescope

1. Where does our solar system sit?

_____

_____

2. Name two things that Edwin P. Hubble learned.

_____

_____

3. What is the name of the telescope in the story?

_____

_____

4. Where is the Hubble Space Telescope?

_____

_____

5. What did the story tell about first: galaxies, or the universe?

_____

_____

6. What might happen after the universe stops growing?

_____

_____

7. What one word best describes the things that Edwin Hubble learned about the universe?

_____

_____

8. Why was the space telescope named the Hubble Space Telescope?

_____

_____

Name_____ Date_____

The Hubble Space Telescope

9. Will the Hubble Space Telescope help people find the answers to the questions in the story? Why do you feel this way?

_____

_____

10. Why did the things that Edwin Hubble learned make people ask new questions?

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

12. How is the Hubble Space Telescope like telescopes on Earth? How is it different?

_____

_____

13. In only a few words, tell about the things Edwin P. Hubble learned.

_____

_____

14. How will the Hubble Space Telescope change the way people study the universe?

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15. The story said, "Maybe the universe will begin to get smaller." Is this a fact or someone's opinion? Why do you feel this way?

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Name_____ Date_____

Jules Verne

Jules Verne was born in 1828. He always wanted to see the world. When he was twelve, Verne tried to sail far away. His father found him, and took him back home to France.

Verne never traveled far from home. How could he make his dream to see the world come true? He wrote—wonderful stories about places he would never go.

His story *Around the World in Eighty Days* took him and his readers to far-off places. He read many books to learn what the world looked like.

Verne also learned about Earth. Then he took his readers on *A Journey to the Center of the Earth.*

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea told about Captain Nemo who lived in a submarine. It would be 80 years before people made a real submarine.

Jules Verne was the first science fiction writer. Today, there are many science fiction writers. They take us on trips we can see only in our dreams.

Name_____ Date_____

Jules Verne

1. How old was Verne when he tried to sail far away?

_____

_____

2. Name three stories written by Jules Verne.

_____

_____

3. Did Verne ever travel far from home?

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_____

4. Who was the first science fiction writer?

_____

_____

5. What did Verne learn about before he wrote Journey to the Center of the Earth?

_____

_____

6. What was invented 80 years after Verne wrote 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea?

_____

_____

7. Why are Jules Verne's stories called science fiction?

_____

_____

8. Did people like to read Jules Verne's stories? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

Name_____ Date_____

Jules Verne

9. Will people enjoy reading science fiction stories in the future? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. Why did Jules Verne write about places he never visited?

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

12. How are Journey to the Center of the Earth and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea alike? How are they different?

_____

_____

13. In your own words, tell how Jules Verne wrote Around the World in Eighty Days.

_____

_____

14. What effect have Jules Verne's stories had on writers today?

_____

_____

15. The story said, "Jules Verne was the first science fiction writer." Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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Name_____ Date_____

Teamwork

Fish are an important part of our diet. You have seen people fishing with nets and poles. Have you ever seen people fish with dolphins?

There is a tribe of people who fish with dolphins. When the time is right, the men stand on the shore. They beat the ocean water with heavy sticks.

Far off shore, the dolphins hear the beating sticks, and answer the call. Like swimming cowboys, the dolphins round up schools of fish. The dolphins herd the fish toward the beating sound.

From the shore, the men see hundreds of fish coming toward them. They quickly run out in the water with their nets. The dolphins drive the fish into the nets. When the fishing is over, the tribe has fish to last for months. What do the dolphins get for their work? They get an easy meal of their favorite food, fish.

Name_____ Date_____

Teamwork

1. What does the tribe in the story fish with?

_____

_____

2. How do the men of the tribe call the dolphins?

_____

_____

3. What do the dolphins do when they hear the call?

_____

_____

4. What do the dolphins get for their work?

_____

_____

5. What is the first thing the men do when they want the dolphins to bring the fish?

_____

_____

6. What do the men do after they see the fish coming toward them?

_____

_____

7. This story shows that dolphins are smart animals. What information in the story tells you that this is true?

_____

_____

8. When the fishing begins, why can't the fish get away?

_____

_____

Name_____ Date_____

Teamwork

9. Do you think the teamwork between the dolphins and the tribe will continue? Why do you think so?

_____

_____

10. Why do you think the dolphins help the men of the tribe?

_____

_____

11. Write a title that tells about the story. Use as few words as possible.

_____

_____

12. Compare fishing with nets and dolphins to fishing with fishing poles. How are *the two alike? How are they different?*

_____

_____

13. In your own words, tell how the tribe and the dolphins work together to catch fish.

_____

_____

14. Imagine a day when the dolphins no longer live near the shore where the tribe lives. How will the tribe's way of fishing change?

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15. The story says, "There is a tribe of people who fish with dolphins." Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you prove your answer?

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16.

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Reading Comprehension Stories Grade 2 is compiled from:

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