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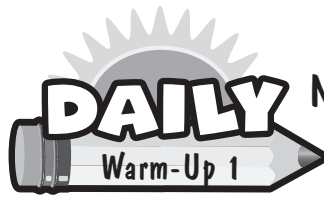
Grade

6

Daily Reading Practice



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Name _____ Date _____

THE OCTOPUS

The word *octopus* means eight feet. That is how the octopus got its name. The octopus is an animal that has eight arms that extend from the center. It eats small crabs and scallops along with fish, turtles, and crustaceans. It is even known to eat other octopuses. The octopus is able to catch its prey with its long arms. It then bites the prey and poisons it with a nerve poison. This poison softens the flesh and the octopus is then able to suck the flesh of the animal out of its shell or outer covering.

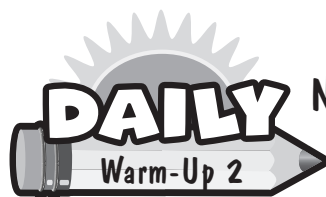
The octopus can mostly be found hunting during nighttime. Some people fear the octopus, but there is only one octopus that has been known to have a poison that is strong enough to kill a person. This is the Australian blue-ringed octopus.

Along with its eight arms, the octopus has a head with two eyes on either side. It has very good eyesight. The octopus does not have hearing. Each arm has suction cups in two rows. These suction cups help the octopus hold things. It is true that if the octopus loses an arm it will grow back. The octopus also has blue blood.

The octopus lives in dens and crevices of the ocean floor. This protects the octopus from its main predator, the moray eel. It also provides a place for the octopus to lay its eggs. The octopus can squirt black ink as a defense against its enemies.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is one feature that the octopus does **not** have?
 - a. good eyesight
 - b. excellent hearing
 - c. blue blood
 - d. the ability to squirt ink
2. This passage is mostly about . . .
 - a. the description of and eating practices of the octopus.
 - b. how an octopus eats.
 - c. anatomy of the octopus.
 - d. how the octopus defends itself.
3. What is the meaning of the word *extend* as used in the passage?
 - a. ingest
 - b. spread
 - c. ignore
 - d. arrange



Name _____ Date _____

TOUCAN

What do you know about the colorful bird called the toucan? Did you know that this bird comes from South America? It is found living in small flocks in the rain forest. This bird does not fly very well. It manages to get around by hopping from tree to tree. The toucan lives in holes in the tree. It makes a croaking sound.

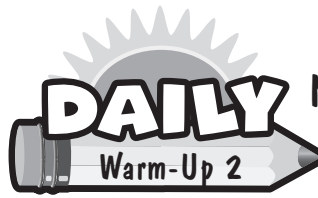
The toucan has brightly colored feathers that are very light. The toucan has four toes on its feet. Two of the toes face forward, and two of the toes face backwards. This helps the toucan grasp the branch of the tree easily and hold on. A large bill protrudes from the front of the toucan. The bill is larger than the toucan's head and is a third of the size of the toucan. The average toucan reaches 20 inches in length. The male toucan is a little bit larger than the female, but unlike many other birds, they have very similar coloration.

Living in the rain forest, the toucan eats mostly fruit but it also eats insects, bird eggs, and tree frogs. The fruit is eaten whole and then the toucan will regurgitate the seeds back up. This allows the seeds to continue growing in the rain forest.

The female toucan lays up to four eggs at a time. These eggs are laid in the holes of the trees where the toucans live. The male and female work together to incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
 - a. "Toucan Paradise."
 - b. "The Rain Forest's Bird."
 - c. "All You Want to Know About the Toucan."
 - d. "Illegal Killing of the Toucan."
2. The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. justify keeping the toucan in captivity.
 - b. inform the reader of how toucans are mistreated.
 - c. share general information about the toucan.
 - d. raise awareness of the shrinking numbers of toucans in the rain forest.
3. What can you infer about toucans from this passage?
 - a. that toucans have many predators
 - b. that toucans spend a lot of time in trees
 - c. what toucan chicks look like
 - d. what the colors of the toucan's feathers are



Name _____

Date _____

CATHERINE BERTINI

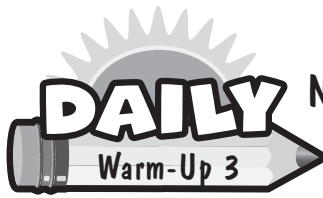
Catherine Bertini is a voice of inspiration to many people who are starving in the world. Catherine was the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) and served to prevent hunger and starvation across the world. She has worked with countries around the world that have starving people. She believes strongly that if you get the food to women, then children and all others will be fed. Her goal is to end hunger.

Catherine wasn't always helping the poor and hungry. At one time she wanted to be a music teacher. She was raised in Cortland, New York. Later her interests turned to government service. She felt that she could make more of a difference helping others this way. And what a difference she has made! She has seen 25 countries go from receiving emergency money to being able to provide food for people in their countries.

Catherine Bertini has very high goals. She works to see that 80% of the food goes to women. She knows that women will feed the people. In the past, most of the food has gone to men. She has another goal, and that is to help girls go to school. She sees to it that there are meals available for the girls at school. This has encouraged families to send their girls to school. Catherine Bertini is making a difference in the lives of millions.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What position did Catherine Bertini hold?
 - a. She was delegate to the U.N.
 - b. She was volunteer.
 - c. She was Ambassador to Africa.
 - d. She was head of the World Food Programme.
2. What can be inferred about Catherine Bertini's beliefs of women and their care of children?
 - a. She believes women will feed children and others.
 - b. She believes that women are dying.
 - c. She believes that men aren't as hungry as women.
 - d. She believes that women are stronger.
3. What does the passage say about how Catherine Bertini's encourages girls to attend school?
 - a. She teaches them the importance of learning to read.
 - b. She makes sure that meals are provided for girls at school.
 - c. She sets a good example by sharing her own school experiences.
 - d. She gives presentations on the importance of getting an education.



Name _____

Date _____

MOTHER TERESA

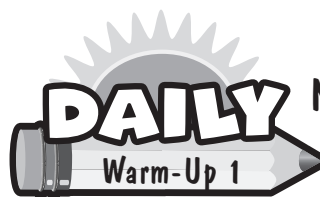
For most people, the name Mother Teresa symbolizes unconditional love and support. She was a symbol of hope to many dying and sick people around the world. Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Macedonia. She was the youngest of three children. She went on to become a nun in the Catholic Church. One of her first assignments was work at a mission in India. The mission ran the schools. This is where Agnes took on the name Sister Teresa. A year later, Sister Teresa arrived in Calcutta to teach at St. Mary's High School.

She would eventually move to the slums of Calcutta to live and set up a school. She gave every cent she ever earned to the hungry and poor. She opened an orphanage to house children who had no parents and were dying. She won many prizes for her great work, and each time she would use the money from the prizes to house or feed people. In 1979, she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Through the years, her name changed to Mother Teresa. She was indeed a mother to many. But life was not easy for her. She would struggle with heart problems and other illnesses, but her efforts to help those in need continued until the day she died. Mother Teresa's examples and words of wisdom continue to inspire millions.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What Mother Teresa's original name?
 - a. Sister Teresa
 - b. Agnes Teresa Bojaxhiu
 - c. Mother of Calcutta
 - d. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu
2. What can be inferred about Mother Teresa since she was the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize?
 - a. She was a U.S. citizen.
 - b. She worked for peace in the world.
 - c. She received the highest honor awarded to Catholic nuns.
 - d. She would go on to win the Medal of Freedom.
3. After reading the passage, which of the following words could be used to describe Mother Teresa?
 - a. studious
 - b. notorious
 - c. rugged
 - d. empathetic



Name _____ Date _____

YANKEE DOODLE

Have you sung the song “Yankee Doodle” and wondered what it was talking about? Did you know that “Yankee Doodle” was sung by the British soldiers during the Revolutionary War? They sang this song to make fun of the American soldiers and troops. The British soldiers had fancy uniforms to wear while the Americans didn’t have any uniforms to wear. Some of the American soldiers wore buckskin and furs.

Many of the words in the song have different meanings than the ones we use today. *Yankees* was the name the British soldiers called the American soldiers. *Doodle* was another name for hicks or country bumpkins. *Macaroni* in the song didn’t refer to pasta, but rather to a fancy style of dress used in England.

Surprisingly enough, the American troops liked the tune of the song. They made up their own words to the song and sang it as they went into battle. They created many verses to the song. Some say there have been 190 verses of the song. It’s been said that when Commander Cornwallis of the British surrendered, an American band played, “Yankee Doodle.”

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this reading passage, what does the word “doodle” refer to?
 - a. a type of noodle
 - b. to scribble or draw
 - c. someone who is a hick
 - d. sophisticated person
2. Macaroni was a style of . . .

a. government.	c. military strategy.
b. pasta.	d. dress.
3. What was the purpose of the British soldiers singing the song “Yankee Doodle”?

a. to scare the American soldiers	c. to challenge the American soldiers
b. to make fun of the American soldiers	d. to inspire the American soldiers
4. What would be another title for this passage?

a. “The Making of Macaroni”	c. “The British vs. the Americans”
b. “The Revolutionary War”	d. “The History of Yankee Doodle”



Name _____ Date _____

THE GOLD RUSH

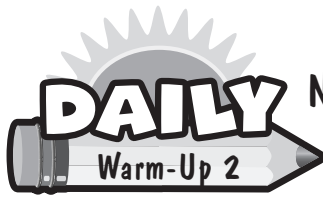
Can you imagine finding gold? This was the quest of many people who arrived in California in 1849. They were searching for gold. Gold had been found and so everyone wanted a piece of it. This was called the Gold Rush. People came from all over the world to find gold. Villages sprang up overnight. Tents formed these temporary villages that were set up wherever gold was discovered. These villages would be abandoned as soon as gold was found elsewhere.

Many gold prospectors were able to strike it rich. Some found thousands of dollars worth of gold nuggets or gold dust. Not everyone was so lucky. With so much gold around, the price for items went up and up. People had to spend a lot of money to buy food and supplies. They spent all of their money trying to find the gold that was never to be found. Most went home broke.

Years later, gold was found in 1896 near the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory. This sparked another gold rush. Within a year over 100,000 men and women arrived in Canada. It was a long trip and many would never complete it because of the cold weather and the raging rivers. People died along the way. Most of the people that did make it to the Yukon were not able to find gold in Canada, and soon the Gold Rush was over.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What brought so many people to California in 1849?
 - a. They were seeking gold.
 - b. They were starting a new territory.
 - c. They were sent by the federal government.
 - d. They were fighting in the Mexican War.
2. The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. justify the reasons people went to California.
 - b. inform the reader of how gold miners were not mistreated.
 - c. share general information about the Gold Rushes in North America.
 - d. raise awareness of mistreatment of immigrants to California.
3. Which of the following statements is a fact about the results of the Gold Rush?
 - a. Many had their land taken away from them.
 - b. Gold Rushers spent all of their money in land.
 - c. With gold around, prices for food and supplies went up.
 - d. With so much gold around, people were robbed.



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 2

MATTER

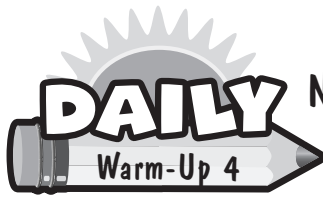
What is matter? Everything is made up of matter. Matter is made up of tiny particles called atoms, molecules, or ions. Matter is ordinarily found in three states. These states are liquid, gas, or solid. There are two forces at work regardless of the state of matter. These two forces are energy and attraction. Energy makes the matter move. Attraction pulls and keeps the particles together.

Solids are packed together. Examples of solids are wood, plastic, stone, and iron. You can hold solids in your hand. Liquids are a state between gases and solids. Liquids flow and change shape. The best example of a liquid is water. Gases are floating around you and inside bubbles. Gases don't have any particular shape, but they are fluid. They can also be compressed. Vapor and gas mean the same thing.

Matter can change from one state to another. For example, a liquid can change to a solid or gas. Solids can change to a liquid. Temperature influences the changes in matter from one state to another. For example, heating a liquid can turn it into a gas. Cooling or freezing a liquid can turn it into a solid. Scientists continue to study matter, molecules, and ions to better understand our world.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, what do you think would happen if a liquid was boiled?
 - a. It would immediately double in size.
 - b. It would turn into a gas.
 - c. It would turn into a solid.
 - d. Scientists have not yet determined what happens in this case.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. to inform the reader about what happens when it is raining.
 - b. to inform the reader about the definition of matter.
 - c. to inform the reader about how important it is to see ice, rain, and condensation.
 - d. to share general information about the universe and how it is organized.
3. Where can you find information about the three types of matter?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. all three paragraphs
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. first paragraph



Name _____ Date _____

HURRICANES

Have you ever been in a hurricane? Hurricanes are serious weather storms. They can do a lot of damage. But what is a hurricane? Another name for a hurricane is a tropical cyclone. A hurricane consists of thunderstorms, torrential rains, and waves with winds up to 75 mph or higher. A hurricane is a tropical storm that starts out in the ocean and gathers speed and strength as it travels.

When the winds inside these storms reach 39 mph, they are given names. An international committee developed the list of names. Hurricanes alternate back and forth between male and female names. Giving the hurricanes names makes it easier for meteorologists to identify and track certain storms. This makes it easier to announce hurricane warnings, as well.

The best place to be during a hurricane is indoors and away from windows and doors. If the hurricane is very bad, you will probably be asked to evacuate and move to safer ground. It's important to keep a kit ready that contains fresh water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, flashlight, rain gear, and other items that would be useful if you had to leave your home for a few days.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How fast does a tropical storm need to be moving in order to receive a name?
 - a. 25 mph
 - b. over 39 mph
 - c. 100 mph
 - d. over 76 mph
2. Where would you find the answer to the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. third paragraph
 - c. in the title
 - d. none of the above
3. What is the definition of the word *non-perishable* as used in the passage?
 - a. long-lasting
 - b. freeze-dried
 - c. emergency
 - d. fresh



Name _____

Date _____

MONEY OR HARD WORK?

Can money make you successful? Most people seem to think so, but think again. It depends on your definition of success. Some of the richest people in the world are far from successful. There is no argument that money brings with it many opportunities that may otherwise be unrealized. Money can buy opportunities and materials. But money is not the only key.

Tesa was born in Africa in the poorest of countries. She was without adequate nutrition and care for most of her childhood. At the age of 16, she was determined to stay in school, though most of the other girls her age were leaving to marry or to help provide for their families at home. Girls were just not encouraged to get an education. But Tesa worked at school during the day and in the fields at night. By the moonlight, she would pick crops that were often devastated with drought and pests.

All of this hard work paid off. When Tesa turned 17, a traveling professor from England noticed her hard work and skill. He was amazed with her intellect. This professor invited her to attend one of the most prestigious universities in England. Since that time, Tesa has become a distinguished professor. Luck, you may say? Tesa would probably disagree with you. She would say that her hard work and dedication got her where she is today.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following best describes the author of this passage?
 - a. reticent and quiet
 - b. obnoxious and loud
 - c. frustrated and demanding
 - d. encouraging and motivational
2. Which statement below helps support your answer to the previous question?
 - a. Many are left without the skills they need to survive in today's world.
 - b. Girls were just not encouraged to get an education.
 - c. Job wages have continued to be lower than they should be.
 - d. She would say that her hard work and dedication got her where she is today.
3. What is meant by the word *distinguished* as used in this passage?
 - a. annoying
 - b. different
 - c. challenging
 - d. illustrious



Name _____ Date _____

SAVE THE RAIN FOREST

For as long as I can remember, I have been taught to preserve the rain forest. In elementary school, I raised money with my class to preserve an acre of this rain forest. We were told story after story of how the rain forest was being destroyed in the name of development. We were instructed that the rain forest contained perhaps the cure to cancer and other incurable diseases. By sending money, we were also taught that we are preserving the habitat of rare birds, animals, and other species. So where are we today? After millions of dollars has been spent, what is the status of the rain forest?

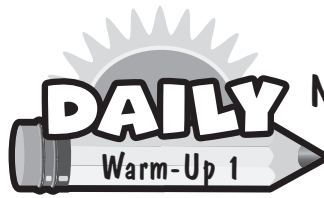
We are told the Amazon rain forest encompasses around 2.7 million square miles. The Amazon also holds one-fifth of the world's water supply. These facts should make it worth saving. But unless the governments report the status of the rain forest, all these efforts are for naught.

Are logging, mining, and burning continuing to take place? It was estimated in 2003 that an estimated 9,170 square miles had been burned or cleared. Is this number declining each year? The loss of the rain forest is not just a loss for Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, but all countries that may benefit from its treasures. All governments should be holding these countries accountable. Reports should be distributed on a regular basis that review the ongoing status of the rain forest. We can't help unless we have the right information.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. This passage is mostly about how . . .
 - a. the rain forest is being destroyed.
 - b. updates and more information on the rain forests are needed.
 - c. fund raising projects have helped save the rain forest.
 - d. the governments have kept citizens informed about the rain forests.
2. Which of the following reasons was mentioned in the passage explaining why the author thinks that more information about the rain forest is necessary?
 - a. These facts should make it worth saving the rain forest.
 - b. We were told in school story after story of how the rain forest was being destroyed in the name of development.
 - c. After millions of dollars has been spent, what is the status of the rain forest?
 - d. But unless the governments report the status of the rain forest, all these efforts are for naught.
3. What is the meaning of the word *naught* as used in this passage?

a. deranged	c. nothing
b. impossible	d. uncertainty



Name _____ Date _____

BUYER BEWARE

Once there was young lad. He walked each day to the marketplace to sell his wares. It was a hard life, but the young lad had no complaints. He worked from sun up until sun down. He knew that one day his hard work would pay off.

One day, as the young lad made his way to the marketplace, he could see a large wagon filled with goods. The young lad set down his bundle of baskets. Greed began to fill his heart.

“I could buy these flowers and sell them for a higher price. The land is barren, and I know I could sell them quickly,” he thought.

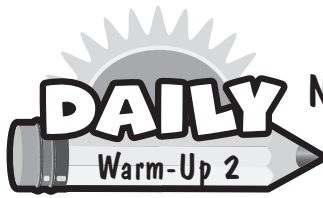
So with that, the young lad offered his bundle of goods in exchange for the flowers. The young lad and the seller made their deal.

The young lad made his way to the marketplace. He laid out his flowers and waited for the ladies to come purchase his flowers. But the heat of the sun took its toll on the flowers, and without any water nearby, they soon wilted. The young lad realized his mistake. He looked over at the man selling his goods.

The next day, the young lad saw the man with a wagon full of fruit. The man asked the young lad if he wanted to trade. The young lad saw money in the man’s eyes and said simply, “It is better to work for my fortune than to wish it away.”

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *wares* as used in the passage?
 - a. fruits and vegetables
 - b. merchandise
 - c. pots and pans
 - d. none of the above
2. What can you learn about the young lad in this story?
 - a. He took pity on his fellow sellers.
 - b. He is very good with animals.
 - c. He learned his lesson.
 - d. He wants to open a new store.
3. What is the moral of the story?
 - a. There is no such thing as quick and easy wealth.
 - b. It is better to give than receive.
 - c. One for all and all for one.
 - d. The early bird gets the worm.



Name _____ Date _____

MASKING THE ODOR

There once was a farmer who had over a hundred cows. He milked them each day and set them out into the pasture at night. His neighbor, a banker, had just moved in next door. The banker wanted to move to the country to enjoy the views.

On the first night, the banker sat outside to enjoy the sunset. He could scarcely breathe. The stench from the cows was so great. Disgusted, he went indoors. The next evening, he tried to enjoy the sunset again but was forced to go back inside because of the smell.

He finally decided that the farmer would have to go. The banker had a lot of money, so he offered to buy the farm.

“Yes, I will sell you the farm, but it will take me at least a week to sell the cows and take care of them. Would you be willing to wait a week?” asked the farmer.

The banker decided he could do that. At the end of the week, the banker approached the farmer again. The farmer wondered if they could wait until his visiting brother left. The banker consented. A month passed. The farmer approached the banker hesitantly to see if he still wanted the farm.

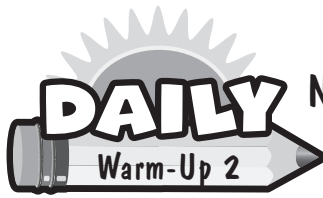
“Why, no,” replied the banker. “You keep it.”

The farmer smiled to himself. He knew that by making the banker wait, it would allow time for the banker to get used to the awful smell of the cows.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which paragraph states the conflict in this story?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fifth paragraph
2. What is the conflict or problem of this story?
 - a. The farmer doesn't know how to keep away the smell.
 - b. The farmer is worried about offending the banker.
 - c. The farmer's cows are extra smelly.
 - d. The banker is unhappy with the smell of the cows.
3. What is the meaning of the word *hesitantly* as used in the passage?

a. dejectedly	c. decidedly
b. offensively	d. cautiously



Name _____

Date _____

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

Jackson hurried up to his apartment after school, skipping two or three steps at a time. When he got inside the apartment, he slammed the door shut.

“Are you okay, dear?” asked Mom. “You look as white as a ghost.”

“I’m fine now,” said Jackson. “The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!”

“Oh, dear, they sure can be,” agreed Mom. “I wish they didn’t have to do that so close to our apartment!”

“Mom, why are they protesting? Why are they so angry?” asked Jackson.

“They are upset about the war,” explained Mom. “They don’t think we should be in Vietnam.”

“What do they want the government to do about it?” asked Jackson.

“I think they want them to send the troops home,” replied Mom.

“But why are they burning the American flags?” asked Jackson incredulously.

“It does seem crazy,” Mom explained, “but they feel it is their right to burn the flag protesting what the U.S. government is doing. Burning the flag is a way of making a statement.”

“Kind of like freedom of speech?” asked Jackson.

“That’s right,” said Mom.

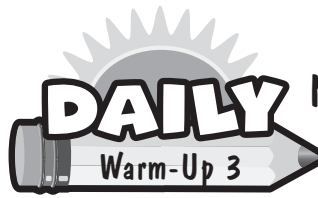
“Why don’t they try writing a letter to the President instead?” inquired Jackson.

“Perhaps this form of communication is more effective,” answered Mom.

Jackson shrugged his shoulders and headed up the stairs. He had a letter to write and he didn’t want to waste another minute.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What of the following sentences below shows when the story takes place?
 - “I’m fine now,” said Jackson. “The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!”
 - “They are upset about the war,” explained Mom. “They don’t think we should be in Vietnam.”
 - “Mom, why are they protesting? Why are they so angry?” asked Jackson.
 - “Oh, dear, they sure can be,” agreed Mom. “I wish they didn’t have to do that so close to our apartment!”
- What is the meaning of the word *incredulously* as used in the story?
 - in disbelief
 - remotely
 - timidly
 - frail
- Which of the following sentences explains the problem in the story?
 - He had a letter to write and he didn’t want to waste another minute.
 - “What do they want the government to do about it?” asked Jackson.
 - “The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!”



Name _____

Date _____

YANKEE FEVER

For as long as Matthew could remember, he had been dreaming of watching Babe Ruth play in Yankee Stadium. The time had finally come. Matthew was still not old enough to go to the game by himself, but he had a seat reserved just for him. His seat happened to be in the branches of the tree just outside the fence. He had paid lots of money to Big Jim for the seat. He was so excited he could hardly sleep that night.

The next day after school, Matthew helped his mom fix dinner and even did the dishes afterwards.

Matthew hustled out the door and ran towards Yankee Stadium. "Be back by 9:00," he shouted.

He felt as though his heart might pound right out of his chest. He couldn't believe it. Big Jim and the boys were all waiting when Matthew got there. Matthew swung his leg over the branch and climbed up. He sat down on his designated branch and peered through the holes of a fence enclosing Yankee Stadium.

The janitor came strolling by. Matthew tried to keep from being seen. He was afraid to get caught. If the janitor caught you, he sent you home. But tonight, there was a new janitor.

Just then little Danny fell out of the tree. He screamed in pain and the janitor turned to look. He helped Danny up and brought him into the stadium. "The rest of you can join me," he called.

The boys looked at each other in disbelief. They all jumped from the tree and hurried inside the stadium. They didn't need to be asked twice.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *designated* as used in this passage?
 - a. free
 - b. last
 - c. assigned
 - d. original
2. According to the passage, which sentence shows how Matthew feels about the new janitor?
 - a. Matthew tried to keep from being seen.
 - b. The boys looked at each other in disbelief.
 - c. He screamed in pain and the janitor turned to look.
 - d. He helped Danny up and brought him into the stadium. "The rest of you can join me," he called.
3. Which paragraph shows the resolution to the problem in the passage?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. sixth paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. last paragraph



Name _____ Date _____

BIG BROTHER

Ted couldn't wait to meet his new little brother. Ted was 10 and had been the only child in his family for a long time. He imagined what it would be like to have a baby brother. He would take him on bike rides and go hiking. He would go camping and fishing. He pictured himself sleeping under the stars listening to the chirping of crickets. He would even teach the little guy how to ride a bike. It would be great.

"Grandma? When are they going to be home again?" called Ted down the stairs.

"Should be any time now," said Grandma. "They called when they left the hospital."

"There they are!" interrupted Ted. He raced down the stairs and threw open the door. His parents were just pulling into the driveway.

"Big brother coming through!" called Ted and raced to the car door. He scooped up the little bundle from his mother's arms and gave it a squish.

"Be careful, Ted, that's a fragile package you've got there," said Dad.

"Don't worry, Dad. I've got everything under control," replied Ted. It was only then that Ted noticed the pink blanket wrapped around the baby.

"What?" asked Ted.

"That's right," explained Mom. "We've got ourselves a little girl."

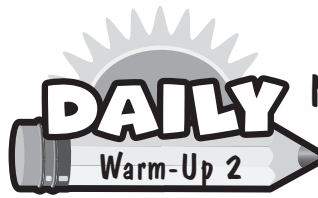
"Is something wrong?" asked Dad tenderly.

Ted stammered a minute and a hollow sound escaped his lips. "No. She'll just have to like fishing, camping, hiking, and biking."

"She will. She will," replied Mom calmly and she gave Ted a hug.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Using the context clues, what does the word *hollow* mean?
 - filled
 - perplexed
 - vacant
 - low
- According to the passage, what sentence shows that Ted's parents were worried about his reaction to a baby sister?
 - "We've got ourselves a little girl."
 - "Is something wrong?" asked Dad tenderly.
 - "She'll just have to like fishing, camping, hiking, and biking."
 - Ted couldn't wait to meet his new little brother.
- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - Being creative and using many resources can help you accomplish a task.
 - If you try hard enough, you can do it.
 - It's important to knock out your competition.
 - It's important to be flexible and roll with the punches.



Name _____ Date _____

THE PUBLIC NOTE

Shelly angrily threw her backpack on the floor and stomped up to her room. She was furious. The day had started out badly and had only gotten worse. It seemed that everything she had tried that day had failed.

Opening the refrigerator in hopes of finding something good to eat, Shelly frowned at the contents. There wasn't anything worth looking at, let alone eating!

"Why did she have to do that?" asked Shelly aloud.

"What did she do? And who is she?" asked Mom as she came into the kitchen.

"Mrs. Benton," explained Shelly. "She took a note from Angela."

"Why would you be upset with that?" asked Mom.

"Because I wrote the note!" said Shelly in an exasperated voice. "I said some things in the note that I never should have told anyone. I was just getting my feelings out. Boy, did they get out!"

"Shelly, did Mrs. Benton share the contents of the note?" asked Mom.

"No, but I just know she will!" moaned Shelly.

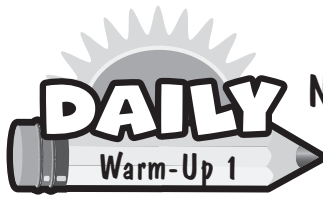
"Is there anything you should be ashamed of, Shelly?" questioned Mom.

"Oh, no," clarified Shelly, "but embarrassed about! I shared some personal feelings about people, but I didn't mention any names."

"Shelly, any time you write notes at school, you have to know that there is a chance that the teacher will catch you," said Mom.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence shows how Shelly felt about Mrs. Benton?
 - a. There wasn't anything worth looking at let alone eating!
 - b. "Oh no," clarified Shelly, "but embarrassed about! I shared some personal feelings about people, but I didn't mention any names."
 - c. "Why did she have to do that?" asked Shelly aloud.
 - d. "Shelly, any time you write notes at school, you have to know that there is a chance that the teacher will catch you," said Mom.
2. The first paragraph shares with the reader . . .
 - a. how to solve the problem.
 - b. what the problem was.
 - c. the disagreements between Shelly and her mom.
 - d. the emotions of the main character.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Being creative and using many resources can help you accomplish a task.
 - b. If you try hard enough, you can do it.
 - c. Think first before you act.
 - d. Good things come to those who wait.



Name _____

Date _____

BROWNIE DELIGHT

Sarah climbed onto the bus with her plate of brownies and sat down next to Kim. Today had been the pep assembly, and Sarah had been in charge. Kim was impressed with Sarah's creativity.

"Sarah, you did a great job today!" said Kim.

"I thought it was dumb!" said Thad. He was sitting in the seat in front of the girls.

"What was so wrong with it?" asked Sarah. She was annoyed with people like Thad. All they ever did was complain.

"You always call on the same students to participate," explained Thad.

"How can you say that?" interrupted Kim. "Sarah called on Jace. It's not Sarah's fault that he refused."

"Okay. So she picked one new kid," said Thad.

"Thad, are you feeling left out?" asked Sarah with a grin. "Do you want one of my brownies?"

"Sure," replied Thad. His face brightened at the thought of it.

Sarah grabbed the biggest brownie she could find and handed it to Thad. "Oh, wait! You are going to want a napkin to go with that!" cautioned Sarah.

Thad took a huge bite of his brownie. It didn't take long before he was coughing and sputtering!

"What's wrong?" asked Kim. "Thad, are you okay?"

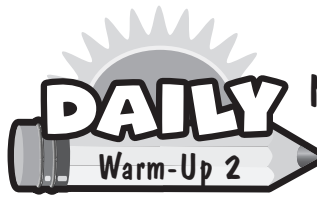
"That's disgusting!" called Thad, gagging.

Sarah began chuckling. "Now do you know why I didn't call on you? The pepper in the brownie isn't too good, is it?"

Thad continued coughing and sputtering. He moved to the front of the seat to be by the garbage can.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What word best describes how Thad feels at the end of the story?
 - organized
 - relieved
 - duped
 - exhausted
- Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - last paragraph
 - first paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
 - third paragraph
- Another good title for this passage could be . . .
 - "A New Recipe."
 - "Chocolate Brownies."
 - "Thad's Assembly."
 - "The Bus Driver."



Name _____

Date _____

SKI PATROL

“Grab the rope, Ian! We’ll pull you in!” shouted Chris. He was desperate to get Ian back on the boat. He knew Ian was injured but he didn’t know why. Ian just kept flailing back and forth calling out in pain.

“It looks like we need to jump in after him,” said Jeff. Jeff slipped on his life vest and dove into the water. His strokes were graceful and smooth. It didn’t take long for Jeff to reach Ian. When he got close to Ian, he could see what the trouble was. Jeff froze. He didn’t dare get closer to Ian. Ian was smack dab in the middle of some jellyfish. Flashbacks of last summer caused Jeff to cringe. A jellyfish had stung him, and he knew what Ian was dealing with.

“What is it?” called Chris. “Why did you stop?” Chris was starting to panic. What could be the problem? Ian was a great water skier, and he had never had problems before. Ian was so good that he could ski without a ski. And now, Jeff. Jeff wouldn’t answer Chris and he seemed frozen in the water.

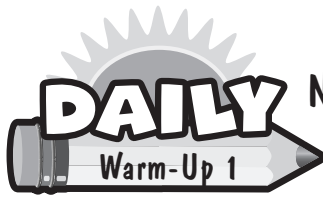
“Answer me!” called Chris. “You’ve got to tell me what is wrong!”

“Jelly,” was all Jeff could mutter.

“Jelly? This is no joking matter,” said Chris. “We are not having jelly or peanut butter for that matter.” Just then Chris began to realize what was going on. There must be jellyfish in the water!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the story, you could determine that Jeff is . . .
 - a. intelligent.
 - b. immature.
 - c. a good swimmer.
 - d. hard working.
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. What is the meaning of the word *flailing* as used in the passage?
 - a. forcing
 - b. paralyzing
 - c. thrashing
 - d. annoying



Name _____

Date _____

THE SPELL

Flora was so mad! She had planned to cast a spell at the king's ball but had been a little too late. By the time all the fairies had completed their spells, Flora was still downstairs eating cake. By the time she made it up the stairs, it was just too late! Flora was so mad she could just spit.

"Why am I always a day late and a dollar short?" she asked herself.

Flora was smaller than most of the other fairies, so people didn't take her very seriously. She had a high, squeaky voice, and that didn't help the situation much.

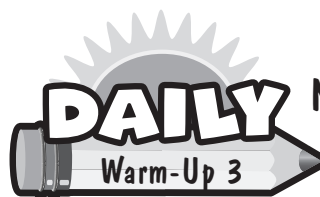
Flora's reputation was further marred by the fact that she always got her spells mixed up. You never knew what you would get with one of Flora's spells.

The king always took pity on Flora and always invited her back, but Flora knew that it wasn't because he had confidence in her.

As the crowd moved away from the line of fairies, Flora held up her wand. She knew it was too late, but she wanted to cast her spell anyway. She closed her eyes and said the words of the spell slowly and distinctly. Flora felt the jiggle of her wand and opened her eyes. There before her, crawling all over the dance floor were lizards. Flora could hardly believe her eyes. She looked up to the king and saw his crown fall off his lizard head.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *marred* as used in the passage?
 - a. secrecy
 - b. successful
 - c. humorous
 - d. flawed
2. According to the passage, what are some of Flora's weaknesses as a fairy?
 - a. She is small in stature and has a high squeaky voice.
 - b. Flora is the last fairy to arrive to the ball.
 - c. Flora is mistreated by all the other fairies.
 - d. none of the above
3. The best way to locate the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. skim the entire passage and determine the main idea.
 - c. reread the third paragraph and search for clues.
 - d. use context clues to determine the meaning.



Name _____

Date _____

DENTAL WORK

Princess Amelia threw down the mirror and stomped from the room. “Oh, I look terrible,” she moaned. “I can’t believe the ball is tonight! What kind of a princess gets her front tooth knocked out?”

Princess Amelia was not like any other princess. Don’t be mistaken, she loved her princess duties and loved to dress up with fancy dresses and jewelry, but she also adored sword fighting and fencing. It was in one of her fencing challenges that she got her front tooth knocked out by Frederick. Frederick was a knight’s son and he was a nice boy, but lately he seemed determined to do Princess Amelia in. Amelia knew for sure that he had done it on purpose.

Frederick had dashed to her aid when the incident happened to see if she was okay, but Princess Amelia also noticed he was the first to leave when everything settled down. “Oh! I wish I didn’t like him!” thought the young princess.

Frederick didn’t seem to give Princess Amelia the time of day. It was as if they were practically strangers, although they had known each other from birth.

“Your dress is here, your highness,” called Gertrude from the doorway.

“Oh, I can’t even think of the dress. Look at my teeth!” wailed Princess Amelia.

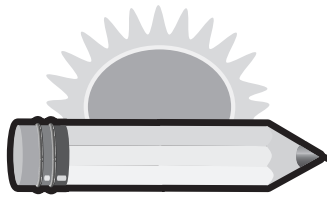
“Don’t worry about that, dear. Your father says he has a royal physician coming to take care of that!” reassured Gertrude.

“There isn’t a thing they can do except fill my mouth with animal teeth!” cried Amelia.

“You won’t be able to tell,” said Gertrude as she rubbed Amelia’s back.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which word would describe Amelia at one point in the story?
 - confused
 - gushing
 - panicked
 - coy
- Which of the following cannot be determined from the story?
 - Frederick has a crush on Princess Amelia.
 - Amelia is embarrassed about her missing tooth.
 - Amelia is a different kind of princess.
 - Amelia was injured when she was fencing with Frederick.
- Which of the following could also be a title for the passage?
 - “My Two Front Teeth”
 - “Prideful Amelia”
 - “Mirror, Mirror . . .”
 - “Amelia’s Dentures”



Answer Key

Nonfiction

Animals

Page 9 The Octopus

1. b
2. a
3. b

Page 10 Toucans

1. c
2. c
3. b

Page 11 The Ocean Food Chain

1. b
2. d
3. b

Page 12 Mountain Animals

1. d
2. c
3. b

Page 13 The Flying Squirrel

1. d
2. c
3. a

Page 14 Tarantulas

1. b
2. c
3. d

Page 15 The Peacock

1. d
2. d
3. c

Page 16 The Leopard

1. c
2. d
3. b

Page 17 The Ant Colony

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

Page 18 Bats

1. d
2. b
3. b

Page 19 Salamanders

1. c
2. d
3. d

Page 20 Puffer Fish

1. d
2. d
3. c

Page 21 Silkworm

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 22 Black Widows

1. d
2. c
3. c

Page 23 The Dove

1. d
2. a
3. c

Page 24 Holstein Cows

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 25 The Sea Horse

1. c
2. d
3. d

Biography

Page 26 Nelson Mandela

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 27 Catherine Bertini

1. d
2. a
3. b

Page 28 Mother Teresa

1. d
2. b
3. d

Page 29 Madame Curie

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

Page 30 Florence Nightingale

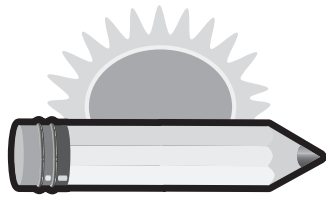
1. b
2. a
3. d

Page 31 Jim Thorpe

1. b
2. a
3. a

Page 32 Clara Barton

1. c
2. b
3. d



Answer Key

Page 33 Rudolph Giuliani

1. a
2. c
3. d

Page 34 Adolf Hitler

1. d
2. b
3. d

Page 35 Harriet Tubman

1. d
2. b
3. b

Page 36 Susan B. Anthony

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

Page 37 Thomas Edison

1. d
2. a
3. a

Page 38 Chief Joseph

1. b
2. c
3. c

Page 39 Harriet Beecher Stowe

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 40 George Washington

1. d
2. c
3. d

Page 41 Lewis and Clark

1. d
2. c
3. c

American History**Page 42 Yankee Doodle**

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

Page 43 The Gold Rush

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 44 The First Americans

1. c
2. b
3. d

Page 45 Spanish Explorations

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

Page 46 Early European Settlements

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 47 The Federal Government

1. d
2. d
3. a

Page 48 North vs. South

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 49 The Cotton Gin

1. b
2. b
3. c

Page 50 The Mexican War

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 51 Free Blacks Join the Union Army

1. d
2. c
3. b

Page 52 The Statue of Liberty

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 53 Hawaii Becomes a State

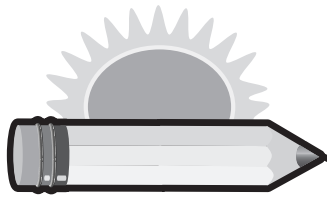
1. d
2. c
3. c

Page 54 The Great War

1. b
2. d
3. c

Page 55 The Assembly Line

1. d
2. b
3. a



Answer Key

Page 56 Civil Rights

1. b
2. a
3. d

Science**Page 57 The Sun**

1. a
2. d
3. c

Page 58 Matter

1. b
2. b
3. b

Page 59 The Heimlich Maneuver

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

Page 60 Hurricanes

1. b
2. a
3. a

Page 61 The Digestive System

1. d
2. d
3. a

Page 62 The Moon

1. b
2. a
3. a

Page 63 Water Cycle

1. b
2. d
3. c

Page 64 Life Cycle of a Frog

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 65 Cells

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

Page 66 Germs

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

Page 67 Mission to Mars

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

Page 68 The Coral Reef

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

Page 69 Nocturnal Animals

1. c
2. c
3. a

Page 70 The Eye

1. d
2. c
3. a
4. The eyelid keeps eyes moist and offers protection.

Page 71 Snowflakes

1. d
2. They are hexagonal and symmetrical.
3. d
4. b

Current Events**Page 72 Separate Schools**

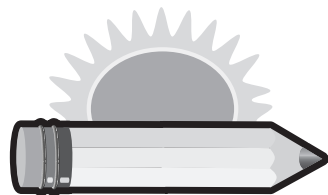
1. a
2. c
3. d

Page 73 New City Planners

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

Page 74 Captive Whales

1. b
2. a
3. They live in state-of-the-art facilities and they have been rescued from the wild.



Answer Key

Page 75 The V Chip

1. b
2. Who has the right to determine what is violence and what is not?
3. d
4. d

Page 76 School Funding

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

Page 77 Lunch Menus

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 78 Religion in Schools

1. b
2. a
3. a

Page 79 Money or Hard Work?

1. d
2. d
3. d

Page 80 Federal Land

1. c
2. b
3. a

Page 81 Reality of Television

1. d
2. c
3. b

Page 82 Save the Rain Forest

1. b
2. d
3. c

Page 83 Peanut Allergies

1. a
2. c
3. a

Page 84 Endangered Animals

1. d
2. c
3. a

Page 85 Hunting Prohibited

1. b
2. b
3. c

Page 86 Time on my Hands

1. c
2. a
3. b

Fiction

Fairy Tales/Folklore

Page 89 Buyer Beware

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 90 Masking the Odor

1. a
2. d
3. d

Page 91 Stating the Obvious

1. a
2. b
3. a

Page 92 Better to Give

1. c
2. c
3. Answers may vary. The tree realized that by keeping to itself and not sharing what it had with others, it was missing out on the good things in life. Sharing with others usually helps us enjoy our lives better.

Page 93 Rewarding Dinner

1. c
2. c
3. d

Page 94 The Cover

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 95 Who You Are

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 96 Birds of a Feather

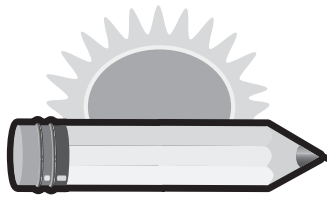
1. d
2. d
3. c

Page 97 To Please or Not to Please

1. d
2. d
3. a

Page 98 The Best Policy

1. c
2. a
3. d



Answer Key

Page 99 Lesson of Humility

1. a
2. c
3. d

Page 100 I Am Serious

1. c
2. a
3. a

Page 101 Group Think

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 102 Me, Myself, and I

1. b
2. c
3. c

Page 103 Laughing Last

1. b
2. d
3. d

Page 104 The Great Rescue

1. b
2. b
3. c

Historical Fiction**Page 105 The Daily News**

1. b
2. d
3. e

Page 106 Dear Mr. President

1. b
2. a
3. c

Page 107 Yankee Fever

1. c
2. b
3. d

Page 108 Dream Big

1. b
2. b
3. a

Page 109 Women's Suffrage

1. d
2. d
3. c

Page 110 Choose the Wright

1. d
2. c
3. b

**Page 111 Dust Off the
Memories**

1. b
2. d
3. d

**Page 112 A Letter From
Home**

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 113 Just a Scratch

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 114 The Drill

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 115 A Nation Divided

1. d
2. d
3. c

Page 116 Timber!

1. c
2. c
3. a

Page 117 The Female Aviator

1. a
2. d
3. a

Page 118 You've Got Mail

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 119 Run for Your Life

1. a
2. b
3. c

**Contemporary Realistic
Fiction****Page 120 Big Brother**

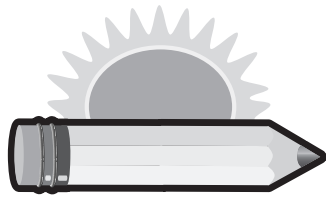
1. d
2. b
3. d

Page 121 The Public Note

1. c
2. d
3. c

Page 122 Dramatic Things

1. b
2. d
3. b



Answer Key

Page 123 Buying Time

1. b
2. b
3. c

Page 124 Juniper Inn

1. d
2. a
3. c

Page 125 The Brief Report

1. d
2. a
3. b

Page 126 Surprise Attack

1. d
2. a
3. a

Page 127 Birthday Bang

1. a
2. d
3. d

Page 128 Double Vision

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 129 A Green Thumb

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 130 Helping Hands

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 131 An Apple a Day

1. b
2. c

Page 132 Hats Off to Rules

1. c
2. d
3. b

Page 133 Storm Trooper

1. b
2. d
3. a

Page 134 Organized Crime

1. d
2. a
3. b

Page 135 Spell That!

1. b
2. d
3. a

Mystery/Suspense/Adventure**Page 136 Brownie Delight**

1. c
2. a
3. a

Page 137 Ski Patrol

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 138 Fresh Air

1. d
2. b
3. b

Page 139 Canoe Crisis

1. d
2. a
3. b

Page 140 Bee Ware!

1. a
2. c
3. b

Page 141 On the Rocks

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 142 Boot Camp

1. d
2. c
3. b

Page 143 Nocturnal Neighbors

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 144 The Practical Joke

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 145 The Mystery Shoe

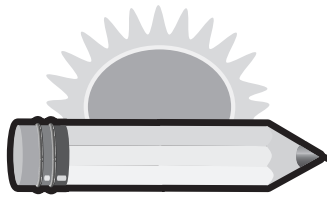
1. c
2. b
3. c

Page 146 Amazing Grace

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 147 Marla's Cookie Monster

1. c
2. a
3. c



Answer Key

Page 148 Whitney's Dream

1. a
2. c
3. d

Page 149 Thin Ice

1. d
2. a
3. c

Page 150 The Case of the Missing Violin

1. c
2. b
3. b

Page 151 In a Daze

1. c
2. b
3. d

Fantasy**Page 152 The Spell**

1. d
2. a
3. c

Page 153 The Virus

1. c
2. a
3. b

Page 154 Dental Work

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 155 King of the Cats

1. b
2. a
3. c

Page 156 Etiquette for a Prince

1. c
2. d
3. c

Page 157 Hired Help

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 158 Misuse of Power

1. a
2. d
3. b

Page 159 The Chef's Sidekick

1. c
2. c
3. c

Page 160 Are You Sure You Want To Quit?

1. d
2. c
3. d

Page 161 The Airline Passenger

1. b
2. b
3. d

Page 162 A Kingdom Divided

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 163 The Fairy Godmother

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 164 X-Ray Vision

1. a
2. c
3. b

Page 165 The Flying Machine

1. d
2. a
3. c

Page 166 The Singing Elves

1. b
2. c
3. a