Second Grade Readers

Parents: Please un-staple the packet and fold the 15 individual books
The Three-R Plan
A Reading A-Z Level Q Leveled Book
Word Count: 971

Written by Penny Atcheson
Illustrated by Hugh Armstrong

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to anticipate in life.

their labor. Is this what our children have
they seem too tired to enjoy the rewards of
polluted. Our citizens work hard, and yet
now, even our babbling creek is muddy and
was plentiful, and the air was clean and fresh.

The hills were once filled with trees, willows,

The green joined the King at the window.

and dies more and more each day.

Kingdom once so beautiful, grows barren.

Our

"Save the Kingdom"
It was true—the land was abused and overused, and the people were unhappy and too busy.

The king looked at his own beloved wife. “Surely we have intelligent people living among us. Someone must know the solution to save our dying land!”

“The Three-R Plan”

By this time, the king and queen already had heard many plans. The men were weary by the time they arrived, but they still had hope. Each man, one at a time, presented his plan to the king and queen, and each man agreed that the others had good plans as well. The king and queen also thought each plan had benefits and were willing to try each one. “Let’s try all three at the same time,” said the queen. “The one that shows the best results will be accepted as the plan to save our kingdom.”

Things didn’t happen overnight, but improvements were soon seen. The forests started to regrow, and the water cleaned itself out and ran clearer. The animals became healthier. People enjoyed working toward their common goal. Although they all were still busy, they talked and laughed more often with each other. Everyone felt more ownership in the plan.
The Three Planes

The King called for his court magistrate.

"Tell the people that I will award the royal position of Official Land Steward to the person who solves the problem of our decaying land. That person will be allowed to live in the castle for the rest of his or her days. If this problem goes unsolved, hope will fade and our future will be threatened."

present his plan to the King and the land could be saved. Randy went to need to use up the land and other resources, that were already made, the citizens wouldn't as these. He believed that by recycling things new things made from natural resources such to people who needed them. He rarely needed Then he sold these new recycled products.
Away from the castle lived three men, Ricardo, Roger, and Randy. Some might consider them country folk, but each lived happily in his own way. Each man had heard the king's decree, and each one devised a plan that might save the kingdom. Although the land around their own homes showed signs of use, it was healthy and gorgeous. The men were content and enjoyed their lives. The plans they had for the entire kingdom were based on the way they already lived.

"Recycle"

Of the three men, Randy lived the closest to the castle. He designed ways to take used things and make them into new things. For example, he had a machine that melted cans, poured the melted metal, and shaped it into new cans. He had a simple hand process for remaking paper. People would give him their used cans, glass, and paper, and he would make new products from the used materials.
Roger could be described as creative and
Even if his plan wasn’t accepted, he believed the king should know that it’s possible to live with less and yet have more. Ricardo’s plan meant more for everyone, and with that thought Ricardo left for the castle.

“Reuse”

Roger’s home was in a lush, open valley. He had many children, and neighbors helped each other regularly. Healthy animals and plants grew all year long. Roger thought, “Our life and land are wonderful, and I should share this with the king.”
Illegible text due to poor quality of the image.
The girls now know that without the past, the new would have nothing to stand on. In many ways, the new depends on the old. After nodding to each other with pride, they see their parents waiting for them with open arms. The girls run to them, waving their coins and shouting, “Let’s get more gelato!”
The Pantheon is the round-looking building with columns. The street is much higher than the street used to be.

Andria and Rosa found their cheese was mild.
Bound for Rome

Andria and Rosa live in New York City with their parents. They know that their great-grandparents and earlier ancestors lived in Italy. The girls’ parents take them on a trip to Rome, Italy, to learn about their family’s past.

After landing at the airport in Rome, they check into their hotel and then take a city tour. First, they see where their ancestors lived. Then the girls learn about some of the places built over 2,600 years ago. Among the ancient ruins they see are those of the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Teatro (tay-AH-trow) Marcello.

The girls walk through the Roman Forum and up Capitoline Hill. On their left, they see the ancient pillars and arches of Teatro Marcello. They both remember their guide telling them that new condominiums have been built above the old arches of the teatro. And they see that the church next door used pillars of an ancient building to make part of its outside wall. A third gold coin rolls in the street toward them!
and stand totally still once again. Like a mechanical wind-up doll, then stop—bucket in front of the performers, they move. Who are standing as still as statues. When someone drops a coin in the performer's—when they catch the coins, the family eats mozzarella in the pizzeria. The family eats mozzarella.

Fountains. Artists gather to sell their paintings near the inside of the oval shape. In the corner, AH-lee (Nevron for lunch. Shops and cafes. People, the family stops in the street. After exploring more of Rome's historic past. Andria feels a weight in her pocket. She pulls out a gold coin and waves it in triumph. Almost a hundred years later. Titan built the Augustus was covered by centuries of dirt. Augustus built the people couldn't see the street, either.
Dance to the Past

The family buys gelato (je-LAH-toe) and walks among the art booths. The girls hear tinkling bells and notice a group of women dancing in swirling skirts. Then one of the dancers smiles strangely, right at the sisters. She draws Andria and Rosa into the dance. When the woman says something to them in her native tongue, the girls flash worried looks at their parents. But their parents only smile at them and clap with the music.

From the Colosseum, they follow the rough stone street up the hill to the Roman Forum. Andria circles the Arch of Titus, built in about AD 84, looking for the road made of large stones that they had walked on the day before. They saw the road with their parents. But now—it isn’t there.

The stone road leads to the Arch of Titus, which was built centuries after the road.
eyes, not understanding what has happened. The girls look at each other with wide, tear-filled eyes. The chariots, horses, and chariots have filled the arena. Instead of carolers, the crowd is dressed in ancient-looking clothes. Instead of search the crowd for their parents, and Rosa feels dizzy. So they sit down by a fountain, everything around them blurry, and the performers keep whirling the girls around.

across their faces. They are on the right track.

heavy in her pocket, and excruciatingly pulls out a gold coin to show Andrea. Big eyes spread

the doors. Suddenly, Rosa feels something

Vatican City, on the other side of Rome, where St. Peter’s Basilica was built in

wall, steps, and seats of the Colosseum. And

guide explain that marble once covered the

Rosa remembers hearing their family’s tour

St. Peter’s Basilica has a great dome as part of its roof.
Andria feels a gentle touch on her shoulder. The gypsy woman who included them in the dance is next to her, talking. But now Andria can understand her words. The dancer tells the girls, “You have been taken back in time to learn how Rome was built—layer upon layer, new upon old. To return to your own time, you must discover three places where the new is built on or around the old. Each time you do, you will get a surprise.”

The girls begin by taking a chariot ride to the Colosseum. But it looks different. The worn and broken red brick walls they saw on the city tour have disappeared. And its tall, circular shape is whole again. It looks new—and now stands covered with gleaming white marble. The awnings at the top are unrolled, giving shade to the thousands of spectators inside. Andria and Rosa hear the crowd roar as the Roman citizens watch the games.
Why Abe Lincoln

Why Abe

Grew a Beard

Grew a Beard

Word Count: 834

A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book

A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book
Growing a Beard

Why Abe Lincoln

Glossary

- Persuade (p. 6)
- An idea often used to
- Real sadness or grief (p. 10)
- Some countries (p. 5)
- Presidents of the government in
- Or do (p. 10)
- Something that one must have
- Nose and upper lip (p. 14)
- Hair that grows between the
- (p. 4)
- Written messages to a person
- Behavior (p. 15)
- Customs of appearance or
- Popular or current styles of
- Or relevant to the face (p. 14)
- (p. 12)
- Though a voting process
- Having been chosen to be a
- Elected and interested (p. 12)
- Having recently shaved (p. 7)
- Or other hair shaved off
- Clean-shaven (p. 7)
- Having the beard, mustache,
- Hair that grows on the cheeks
- Beard (p. 7)
- Mustache (p. 7)
- Letters (p. 7)
- Fashions (p. 7)
- Facial (p. 7)
- Eager (p. 7)
- Clean-shaven (p. 7)
- Beard (p. 7)
- Necessary (p. 7)
- Presidents (p. 7)
- Regret (p. 7)
- Suggestions (p. 7)
Fashions come and go, though. The United States hasn’t had a president with facial hair since William Howard Taft (1909-1913). He wore a mustache.

As for Grace, she never again saw the president. All these years later, though, you can see Grace. If you ever visit the town of Westfield, New York, be sure to go to Lincoln-Bedell Statue Park. There you will see a statue of President Lincoln greeting Grace Bedell.

![Two bronze statues at Lincoln-Bedell Statue Park capture the historic meeting between president-elect Abraham Lincoln and Grace Bedell. The Philadelphia Inquirer described Grace as "a beautiful girl, with black eyes, who was blushing all over her fair face." The statues were erected in 1999.](image-url)
A Statue in New York State
Grace and Abe Meet Lincoln's Reply
What About Whiskers?
Loads of Letters

Table of Contents

Grow a Beard. Today Lincoln's letter is said to be worth more than 15 million.

Aristocrat's 1860 Letter to Abraham Lincoln (above), addressed him to

Full Beard. None of the previous presidents who

Lincoln was the first president to grow a beard.
Loads of Letters

Before texting, there was email. Before email, there were telephones. Before telephones, people wrote letters. They still do, of course. But in the 1800s, letters were the main way people reached out to each other when they weren’t in the same place.

Sometimes people fell in love through letters. Sometimes good news—say, of a new grandchild—might reach people through a letter. Sometimes bad news—of a son killed in war—might reach people the same way.

Mr. Bedell, with Grace in hand, struggled through the tight crowd to where Lincoln stood.

Lincoln climbed down and spoke with Grace. She remembered him saying, “Gracie, look at my whiskers. I have been growing them for you.” He gave her a kiss on the cheek. Then, to the sound of cheers, he got back on the train.
around the country.
President in touch with what's happening
in various states. Some are sad, all of them help keep the
anger at bay. Some letters are funny, some are
deadly.
Sometimes children write the president. They might share a story, offer an opinion, or make a **suggestion**. What follows is the story of one such child, one such suggestion, and one of our most famous presidents of all.

Lincoln went on to ask whether people might find it silly if he started wearing whiskers. He had never worn them before and wondered if, at age fifty-one, he was too old to start. Yet Grace’s letter must have caused him to start thinking about her suggestion. It wasn’t long afterward that he began to grow some. Soon he was voted in as the sixteenth president of the United States. He boarded a train in Springfield, Illinois, and headed to Washington, D.C. By that time, he had a full-grown beard.
Why Abe Lincoln Grew a Beard • Level C

Living in western New York decided he should grow a beard until an eleven-year-old girl for sure whether he ever even thought of President, he was clean-shaven. No one knows always, though! In fact, before Abe ran for five-dollar bill, he had a beard. He didn't like Abraham Lincoln, including the one on the Abraham Lincoln, including the one on the Abraham Lincoln. The last photo of Lincoln beardless was taken in August 1860.

What About Whiskers?

Mary Willie, Robert's red and Abraham Lincoln in 1861

"I regret the necessity of saying I have no daughters. I have three sons—one seventeen, one nineteen, one nineteen."

My dear little Miss, Lincoln wrote, received a letter back.

The soon-to-be-president wasted little time

Lincoln's Reply

A penny for your thoughts?
The girl’s name was Grace Bedell. When her father showed Grace a picture of Lincoln, she was struck by the sadness in Lincoln’s eyes, the wrinkles along his mouth, and his long, thin face. She thought that Lincoln would look much better if he grew a beard. (Back then, beards were often called whiskers.) On October 15, 1860, she wrote him a letter to tell him so.

Grace asked if Lincoln had any daughters her age. She told him about her family, including her four brothers. “Part of them will vote for you anyway,” she wrote, “and if you let your whiskers grow I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you…”

She went on to say, “All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President. My father is going to vote for you and if I was a man I would vote for you….”

I would vote for you (if I could)

Women struggled for many years to achieve the right to vote. They weren’t allowed to vote until 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. (Grace was 71 years old by then.)
Yo-Yo Ma

Multi-Level A-Z

Written by Mike Vogel
Illustrated by Brock Nicol

Reading A-Z

Word Count: 832
A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book
Yo-Yo Ma

Connections

Research the parts of a cello and make a diagram labeling each part.

Music

Interview questions and Make's answers.

Writing

Imagine you interviewed Yo-Yo Ma. Write a magazine article about a famous musician, using the text to generate both a magazine article and a Who I Am profile.
Focus Question

How is the Silk Road Ensemble a reflection of Yo-Yo Ma's background and music?

Illustrated by Brock Nicoll
Written by Mike Vago

Yo-Yo Ma

(a bow (n) \( \leftarrow \))

violin (n)

remove damaged parts (v. I)

surgery (n)

medical treatment in which a doctor

large group of musicians who play

orchestra (n)

a performance of a symphony

festival (n)

a group of people, such as actors

ensemble (n)

customs (n)

each with their own ideas and

cultures (n)

groups of people; particular societies;

composers (n)

people who write music

Western music such as symphonies

and operas (n)

from the eighteenth and nineteenth

classical (adj)

while playing (v. 6)

holds upright between the legs

violin family that a seated player

large stringed instrument in the

cello (n)

Glossary
“I’m an Accident”

Many musicians say their success came from hard work or natural talent. Yo-Yo Ma says he has no idea why he became one of the world’s most popular musicians. “I’m an accident,” he once said. He says his success comes from many things. His parents, teachers, sister, wife, and children have all helped him. Living in Paris and New York and performing at a young age all shaped him. If any of those things had been different, he feels that he might not have become a world-famous musician. If he hadn’t seen that giant double bass as a four-year-old, his whole life would have been different.
The Silk Road

Glossary

 relu

T'm an Accident

Three Different Points of View

Back Problems

A Young Star

An Early Start

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If help spread ideas all around the continent,

If help spread ideas all around the continent,

heard across Asia hundreds of years ago.

if heard across Asia hundreds of years ago.

The Silk Road was a trade route that

The Silk Road was a trade route that

music that draws from traditions all over the

music that draws from traditions all over the

twenty-carrier. They work together to make

twenty-carrier. They work together to make

is made up of musicians and composers

is made up of musicians and composers

found the Silk Road Ensemble. The group

found the Silk Road Ensemble. The group

that reflected his mix of cultures. He

that reflected his mix of cultures. He

In 1998, Ma decided he needed a musical

In 1998, Ma decided he needed a musical

The Silk Road
An Early Start

Yo-Yo Ma was born in 1955 in Paris, France, into a musical family. His mother was a singer, and his father played the violin and taught music. His older sister, Yeou-Cheng (YOO-CHANG), had also played the violin since she was a small child. Yo-Yo’s parents were both born in China. They moved to France so his father could teach at a music school there. When Yo-Yo was seven, the family moved to New York City. Once there, Yo-Yo’s father founded the Children’s Orchestra Society to teach classical music to kids.

Three Different Points of View

Chinese, French, and American ideas have all shaped Ma’s music. Although he started off playing European classical music, he soon branched out to other kinds of music. Ma has played bluegrass, Argentine tango, jazz, and traditional music from China, Japan, and Brazil. He has also played songs from Broadway musicals and movie soundtracks. He says that being open to new ideas is important to better understand both music and people.
Yo-Yo Ma performs with the Silk Road Ensemble and dancer Chalres

However, as soon as the cast was off, Ma

Frustration. He quickly quit playing

...says he smashed more than one violin in

...thought he wanted any good. Yo-Yo's

...was only three. Ma says he sounded terrible.

Yo-Yo's parents gave him a violin when he

Leave things behind at the end of their ride.

Ma's recorded a message that played in every

...Ma recorded a message that played in every

...999, he left it in a

The cello. Ma's plays was made in 1733 and

...is one of the best-selling classical artists alive.

He has

now made more than seventy-five albums and

...recording albums at age twenty-three. He has

begun playing all over the world. He started
Yo-Yo (age six) and Yeou-Cheng Ma (age ten) play for members of the Denver Symphony Orchestra during a practice break in 1961.

Yo-Yo didn’t stay away from music for long. A year later, his parents took him to a concert in Paris. Yo-Yo saw a double bass and decided he wanted to play it. A double bass is about 6 feet (1.8 m) tall. Yo-Yo’s parents thought it was much too large for a four-year-old. Instead, they got him the second-biggest stringed instrument—the cello (CHEL-oh).

Yo-Yo Ma struggled with back problems as a young man.

**Back Problems**

As soon as Ma graduated, he had to stop playing cello. He had back surgery to correct scoliosis, a condition that makes the spine curve the wrong way. The surgery was risky. If it went wrong, he might never be able to play the cello again. Without the surgery, however, Ma could have a lifetime of back pain. He thought it was worth the risk and had the surgery. It was a success, but Yo-Yo was in a body cast for six months. He was unable to move around, much less play the cello. It was a very hard time.
the feelings behind the music instead.

That way, they could think about them, not the music. Their mother taught them to learn the parts. Their mother taught them to learn the
task could be broken up into smaller, easier
difficult music. Their father said that any
The Mias pushed both of their children to

married and had two children.

music and spending time with Jill. They later
back to that festival every summer, playing
a college student who ran the festival. He went
met and fell in love with Jill. Honour. She was
played at a summer music festival. There, he

Before Mia started at his new school, he
At fifteen, Ma graduated early from high school. For college, he chose Juilliard, one of the best music schools in the world. Soon, however, he switched to a college where he could study other things besides music. Yo-Yo didn’t want the cello to be the only thing in his life.

A Young Star

In 1962, seven-year-old Yo-Yo performed for President John F. Kennedy. The following year, Yo-Yo and Yeou-Cheng played together on TV for millions of people. Most children that age are playing their first notes on the recorder. Ma was already one of the most famous musicians in the world.
Zookeepering

A Reading A-Z Leveled Book

Levelled Book G

Word Count: 1,198

Zookeepering
I learn new things every day. Differences between birds and mammals, and horses are related to their body structure and behavior. So their habitats are different.

Jeff: I was working for the Metroparks (the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo). What position are you in now?

Interviewer: How did you become interested in being a zookeeper?

Jeff: I heard about a position at the city park system in Cleveland, Ohio through a friend of mine. I applied and was offered a position at the Metroparks Zoo.

Interviewer: What is a zookeeper responsible for?

Jeff: A zookeeper is responsible for the care and maintenance of animals. This includes feeding, cleaning, and ensuring the animals' health.

Interviewer: What is a typical day like for a zookeeper?

Jeff: A typical day involves checking on the animals, cleaning their enclosures, and preparing food. It can be a physically demanding job, but it's also very rewarding to see the animals thrive.

Interviewer: What is your favorite animal to work with?

Jeff: That's a tough question! I enjoy working with all the animals, but I have a special fondness for the giraffes. They are so graceful and majestic.

Interviewer: Any advice for someone interested in becoming a zookeeper?

Jeff: Yes, I would advise anyone interested in this field to gain as much experience as possible. Volunteer at a local zoo or animal shelter, and consider taking courses in animal behavior and biology. It's a field that requires a lot of passion and dedication.

INDEX
**Interviewer:** What skills do you need?

**Jeff:** Observation is the most important skill. You have to be able to look at a group of animals and figure out what's happening. Maybe they're getting sick, or one is going to give birth, or they're not all getting along. These are wild animals that can be dangerous, so you need to use a lot of common sense.

**Interviewer:** Do you see yourself staying in this job for the rest of your working life?

**Jeff:** I would say so. I've had a lot of successes here, and there's still a lot I want to accomplish. Besides, I find caring for these animals very satisfying, interesting, and challenging.
Jeff cares for zebras as well as many other animals.

Interview: Which kinds of animals are you responsible for?

Jeff: I'm a lead keeper in the animal management department. We have birds and mammals, including Zebras, giraffes, and many other species. We also have a small group of monkeys that are housed in our separate area.

Interviewer: This baby giraffe runs around his new surroundings.

Jeff: We don't do any hand rearing unless we have to. The mother-reared animal develops much more manageable. Why don't you handle a baby that much at the beginning? It becomes much more manageable. Why don't you find out that if you
The baby didn’t want to nurse for a few days. We kept her with the mom, but we tube fed her. Then on the third day she started nursing on her own, and she turned out to be a really nice animal. She bonded with us, too, so she was really easy to handle. She’s in Kansas City, and she’s one of their best giraffes. She’s almost four years old now.

Interviewer: What do you like most about your job?

Jeff: I get to work independently without someone telling me what to do. Everyone finds the position they enjoy most in the zoo business. Some people enjoy working with the monkeys or birds. The hoofed animals are my favorites. We’ve had many giraffe babies born here, and I enjoy working with them.
interviewer: Do you have any special stories

Interviewer: Do you have any special stories about giraffes? This one was born in 1998. This was the mom's third or fourth

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Interviewer: Do you have any special stories about giraffes? This one was born in 1998. This was the mom's third or fourth
**Interviewer:** What’s the scariest thing that’s ever happened to you?

**Jeff:** I was run over by a giraffe. We were bringing them in, and one of the females wheeled around and started running back toward me. I barely had time to turn around and try to get out of the way, but she ran into me, over me, on me.

**Interviewer:** Were you injured?

**Jeff:** A little, but mainly just sore. I got stepped on a few times, but nothing major.

**Interviewer:** How much does a giraffe weigh?

**Jeff:** A giraffe weighs 1,500 to 2,500 pounds (680 to 1,134 kilograms), depending on whether it’s male or female.

**Interviewer:** What’s the most dangerous animal you care for?

**Jeff:** Any of the hoofed animals. Giraffes are the most dangerous—their kick can be the worst. Right now I have four of them. We’ve had as many as eight, including the calves.
distance.

Long stick to lap them. It lets us keep a safe
with our voices, and sometimes we'll use a
knows which stall to go into. We give orders
it confusing them. For example, each giraffe

If you keep doing that, as a keeper you have
Once you teach them a certain routine,
animals—they do everything as a group.

If you have a type of animal called the

An adult slender-horned gazelle

They're easy to manage, but they
be, and they're more likely to get common
immune system is not as good as it should
babies with their close relatives. So their
and they're inclined, which means they've had
Africa. There aren't many of them in captivity
slender-horned gazelle native to North

Interviewer: What's the most difficult

Interviewer: How do you manage a group of
Interviewer: How do you provide medical care? If you have to work on a large animal, do you give it a shot so that it sleeps while you work on it?

Jeff: On most of the big animals, the vets use a blowpipe or an air gun to put them under anesthesia. If it’s a long enough procedure, they keep the animals under with gas. Putting a giraffe under anesthesia is risky, so we want to make sure it’s really necessary. We need to be sure we have all the necessary people and equipment in case complications arise.

Interviewer: What do you think about keeping animals in cages?

Jeff: I think we’ve come a long way from iron bars—most of our exhibits are interactive now. We work hard to allow animals natural behaviors that keep them from getting bored. The exhibit yards are bigger and include what we call “furniture,” like rocks and logs. Most zoos have a team of people who work on developing interesting environments for the animals. Zoos share ideas, and there are zoo magazines that say “we tested such and such with this animal and it worked out well.” There’s a good network among animal-care workers.
Before we do procedures. We have to think about things carefully. Sometimes the procedure makes them have difficulty breathing, because they're so heavy. Lying on their side, they might have trouble so they don't hit their heads. When they're asleep, we have to watch how they go down.

Interviewer: What happens to a giraffe when you anesthetize it?

Interviewer: Aren't ostriches dangerous?
Interviewer: Do they ever lie down?

Jeff: Yes—every night. They lie with their legs tucked under them. They don’t sleep for hours like we would; they take naps for ten to fifteen minutes at a time, and then they get up again.

Interviewer: Are their heads up?

Jeff: They often lay their head on their hip if they want to go into a deep sleep.

Interviewer: Oh—like curled. It must be quite a sight.

Jeff: Yes—it’s neat to see them all lying down when I arrive in the morning.
Kid Inventors

Written by Jane Selman

Glossary

Kid Inventors

Different forms of something that is the same thing (p. 9)

Prototype (n. un) model for later production

An original form used as the prototype (n. un) to make money from an invention (p. 5)

Patent (n. un) an object made to look like the real thing (p. 9)

Model (n. un) a usually smaller version of an object made to look like the real thing (p. 9)

Invented (a) something that did not exist created, designed, or built for a purpose (p. 4)

Device (n. un) a thing that has been built for something (p. 8)

Design (n. un) build, make, or assemble a plan that shows how to build something that works (p. 7)

Demonstrated (a) showed how something works

Invent, or imagine new things (p. 15)

Creativity (n. un) the ability to make, design, or invent
Building robots is another way that young inventors develop their skills. The National Robotics Challenge is open to students from elementary school on up. Kids in grades four to eight may enter the U.S. FIRST LEGO League championships. During these competitions, teams of students build robots that can complete a series of tasks on their own. The team that creates the most successful robot wins. Robotics competitions help kids learn teamwork, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving.

Inventing is an awesome activity. With their inventions, kids solve everyday problems and make people’s lives better and easier. Maybe you will be the next great inventor.
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7  Getting a Jump on the Competition
6  Way Cool
5  Marine Winches Are Cold!
4  Kid Power!

Students in Grades Five to Eight Can Go to

Better Against Flooding
gets bigger when it absorbs water and expands.
Invention is bigger than a regular sandbag. It
can be hard and take a lot of time. Preyors
sandbags and putting enough into place
places from flooding but carrying heavy
an improved sandbag. Sandbags can protect
Peyton Robertson, eleven, won this title for
Young Scientist. The Grand Prize is $25,000.
Yearly competitions such as America's Top
Inventors share their ideas and creations.

Brezden Benincdi, fourteen, won the title
"Inventor of the Year" for his invention that warns
of school science fairs.
Preyors' invention is called a Model of Their
Inventors Offer Build.

Boys and girls of all ages, where
are like big show-and-tell, Maker Faires, might.

Maker Faire, might
a gathering such as a

a large school science fair.

They

As a next step,
Kid Power!

What do Popsicles, snowboards, and trampolines have in common?

Kids invented them.

An invention is a new product, process, or service. It may be unique or an improvement over something else.

Many successful inventors start young. When he was just twelve years old, Benjamin Franklin invented swim fins. Another twelve-year-old, Margaret Knight, invented a safety device for factory workers. It kept them from getting their fingers injured in machines.

What else have kids invented?

To make swimming easier, young Ben Franklin invented fins for his hands and feet.

Talking with others can be a good way to improve an invention.

Becoming an Inventor

Becoming an inventor may seem impossible, but it’s not. Many inventors got their start when they saw a problem and tried to solve it.

Once they have an idea about how to solve a problem, budding inventors often talk to their parents, friends, or teachers about it. “Advice I often give kids I meet is to not be afraid to ask someone for help,” says Hart Main. He didn’t know how to make candles, so he talked to someone who did.
to stores.

Many of Chester's neighbors worked with earmuffs, which proved he invented them.

In 1877 Chester received a patent for

but soon they wanted "ear protectors" too.

At first his friends laughed, sewed their own if it were ice, and his ears no longer got cold. At last, his friends laughed, and Chester's ears never froze again.

In 1873 at fifteen, he made a wire headpiece.

at fifteen, he made a wire headpiece.

bitter cold made his ears turn red and hurt.

Grownup worked outside in the winter.
The earmuffs warmed his face, and his ears.

Marine Winter Air Cold.
Smells Like a New Catcher’s Mitt

Hart Main’s sister was selling candles for a school fundraiser. Hart took one whiff and complained that they were too flowery. He asked why his sister wasn’t making any candles with smells that guys would like. His family suggested that he invent some, and he did.

ManCans are candles with guy-friendly scents, like “brand-new baseball mitt” and “fresh cut grass.”

Hart uses recycled soup cans to hold the candles, but he can only eat so much soup. To get more cans, he donates canned soup to local soup kitchens and picks up the empty cans.

Now ManCans is selling lots of candles and feeding hungry people.
George Nissen introduced a trampoline to his invention. Dining room table, handstand on the he performed a his eighteenth birthday. On being an acrobat, On an Olympic event. Gymnastics became
in 2000, trampoline schools, and backyards.
Trampolines were soon in many gymms.
and George demonstrated everywhere.
George and Larry made a portable version.
metal canvass, and inner tubes.
The first trampoline. He made it out of scrap college coach, Larry Criswell, he constructed "pouncing rd". In 1934, with the help of his When George was a teenager, he built a
would be thrilling.
meet George through gymnastics on that net, watched acrobats some safes off the safety trampoline and Gymnastics. At the circus, he George Nissen, a natural acrobat, loved
Getting a Jump on the Competition

Ryan won several awards, including a
$10,000 scholarship to college.
"Ryan never stopped being an acrobat. On on a small screen so that deaf and alphabet of American Sign Language. It sends Translator. It's a glove that "reads" the finger
Ryan developed the sign language

provided the answer.
His science project
without the interpreter, they would have done
Ryan wondered what
an interpreter.
the customers had to use.
know sign language, so
restaurant workers didn't
and ordered food. The
dead customers came in
on a science project. Some

Colorado native Ryan Patterson set in a
New Ways to Say Hello
A Skateboard for the Snow

Tom Sims took up skateboarding in the 1960s. He loved it, but he was sad that he couldn’t “board” in winter because of ice and snow. To solve his problem, he made a wooden “ski-board” in junior high shop class at age twelve.

He kept improving the design. He opened a company to build skateboards and snowboards. Tom designed many boards, including some made specially to fit the feet of girls and women.

Tom won many skateboarding and snowboarding competitions. He performed snowboard stunts in a James Bond movie! He made snowboarding cool.

In 1998, snowboarders began competing at the Winter Olympic Games.

Designing Girl

Eleven-year-old Cassidy Goldstein had a school project due and nothing to use but broken crayons.

She needed something that would hold small crayon pieces so she could draw with them. It had to be the right size to hold the pieces tight.

Cassidy remembered that roses from the flower shop come with a small tube of water to keep them fresh. She used one of the tubes to make a prototype, or model, of her invention.

She received a patent for her “crayon holder” in 2002 and was named Youth Inventor of the Year.

Cassidy’s father started a company to help other kids develop and market their inventions.
Influenza

Leveled Book T
Influenza

Written by Ned Jensen

By a virus (p. 9)
the body's disease caused
a microorganism that infects

(p. 13)
Viruses of the same type
the body to fight stronger
dead viral strains that reach
medicines made of weak or

same type (p. 6)
vaccines (n.)

(p. 9)
a group of microbes of the
strain (n.)
during breathing (p. 7)
through which air travels
mouth, throat, and lungs
respiratory (adj.)
the passages in the nose,
Glossary

antibodies (n.) chemicals produced by the body that attack invading germs (p. 11)

epidemic (n.) the rapid spread of a disease within a community (p. 18)

germs (n.) microorganisms that often cause sickness or disease (p. 4)

influenza (flu) (n.) an infection of the respiratory tract, caused by viruses, that can spread rapidly (p. 5)

microbe (n.) See microorganism (p. 5)

microorganism (n.) a microscopic organism such as a virus or single bacterial cell (p. 5)

mutate (v.) to change into a different form (p. 9)

pandemic (n.) the rapid, worldwide spread of a disease (p. 19)
Introduction

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Conclusion

History of the Flu
Treating the Flu
Preventing the Virus from Taking Over
Changing Viruses
What Is the Flu?

Conclusion

healthy cells in your body win the battle.
attack back. Good food and rest will help the
if you can. Most importantly, remember to
like a camel and sleep like a bear. Get vaccinated
cough or sneeze on other people. Drink water
wash your hands often and be careful not to
yourself and keep others from getting sick.
Important thing you can do is take care of
be wiped out. When you have the flu, the most
develop into new strains, influenza may never
develop of years. Because flu viruses can change and
Influenza has been around for thousands

Conclusion
Introduction

Have you ever had a sore throat and a headache with a fever? Did your body hurt so much that you just wanted to sleep? You may have had flu *germs* in your body. By learning about the flu—what it is, what causes it, what its symptoms are, and how to treat it—you can fight back and stay healthy.

Other outbreaks, such as the Russian flu in 1977 and the avian flu in 1997 and 1999, caused worldwide concern but did not become pandemics. Both of these strains began in China and spread to other countries. Doctors are always looking for major outbreaks. If doctors can recognize outbreaks quickly enough, they can often keep them from becoming pandemics.

A water bottle and a blanket can help when you have the flu.

Masks that fit around the nose and mouth are sometimes worn to help prevent the spread of viruses. However, the masks do not work all the time.
The flu, or influenza (IN-FLU-EN-zuh), is caused by a virus. A virus is a tiny microorganism—a microbe—or germ—that is invisible to the naked eye. Scientists use strong microscopes to see viruses magnified 100,000 times their original size. Viruses are so small that hundreds of thousands of them can fit on the head of a pin. Although they’re invisible to the naked eye, scientists use strong microscopes to see viruses magnified 100,000 times their original size. Viruses are so small that hundreds of thousands of them can fit on the head of a pin.

Influenza • Level 1

Historic Influenza Pandemics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>The Spanish flu, the most deadly influenza pandemic ever, kills more than 20 million people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>The Asian flu appears in southwestern China in February 1957 and then spreads throughout the Pacific Rim. It is estimated that 10 to 35 percent of the population died.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Another strain of the Hong Kong flu is first seen in Hong Kong, China. In 1968, this strain spreads quickly in Hong Kong and then to the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>H1N1 swine flu becomes a pandemic. The Hong Kong flu claims 70,000 lives. Worldwide, with 34,000 in the United States.</td>
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</table>

Swine flu became the first pandemic in 41 years, impacting people in over 70 countries.
Viruses are everywhere, but only certain types of viruses are harmful to humans. These viruses, which include influenza, enter the cells of human beings and rapidly make copies of themselves. The flu spreads as influenza viruses move from one person to another. Washing your hands and covering your mouth when you cough can help keep viruses from spreading. Coughing sends germs into the air, and those germs can easily infect other people who breathe them in.

The history of any influenza outbreak begins with a single person. On March 11, 1918, a man in the U.S. Army woke up with a fever, a sore throat, and a headache. Many other soldiers at his base soon developed the same symptoms. In one week, the Army hospital treated more than five hundred sick soldiers. Within a few weeks, forty-eight of those people had died. No one knew why until scientists learned that the illness was caused by a strain of the influenza virus.

In total, the strain of influenza known as the Spanish flu killed more than 600,000 Americans and 25 to 40 million people worldwide. An outbreak of this size is called a pandemic—a disease that spreads rapidly around the world.
to your stomach, makes you feel achy, feverish, tired, and sick. This can affect your whole body. Influenza usually is an infection of the respiratory tract, but it is similar to one kind of flu to another. Flu symptoms are kinds of flu. However, the symptoms are different viruses cause the many different symptoms of influenza.

History of the Flu

A doctor gives a child a shot of flu vaccine in 1941.
Influenza has three basic types: Influenza A, Influenza B, and Influenza C. Influenza A, which can cause serious illness in humans and other animals, is usually responsible for large outbreaks. Influenza B is milder, causes smaller outbreaks, and affects only humans (mostly children). Influenza C usually causes only mild illness in humans.

All types of influenza can be passed from a sick person to a healthy person through the air or on things like cups and forks. The flu virus is carried in an infected person’s saliva and mucus, so it can travel if it is sneezed or coughed into the air.

Treating the Flu

You can’t always stop the flu, but if viruses infect your body, there are still things you can do. Certain medicines can take away the achy feelings or lower a fever. Drinking lots of fluids (such as water or juice) when you have the flu can also help your body’s defenses. You should also get plenty of rest because your body has to work very hard to fight viruses.
Influenza • Level 1

Viruses that infect animals such as pigs and humans can mutate into strains that infect ducks and in wild animals, often in birds. These viruses, each mutation creates a new strain of the virus. Many influenza viruses start viruses. Each mutation can change more than most other viruses can change, or mutate, and flu

Changine Viruses

Wild birds (above)

To protect you from each strain, the dead and weakened viruses to make a vaccine. Similarly grown in chicken eggs, then they combine it with two other dead virus strains that have been expected they kill or weaken the virus and combine to isolate the selected viruses. Then, you might be infected with these strains by separating viruses.

Scientists and doctors begin by separating viruses. They would add up about fifty football fields. Chicken eggs? Can you imagine that many eggs? Made in hundreds of millions of specially grown I bet you didn’t know that many vaccines are

DO YOU KNOW?
Viruses can spread between many different animals, even animals as different as dogs and whales. Since humans and other animals live close together on farms, the spreading and mixing of viruses can be deadly. Sometimes viruses take a shortcut, such as the avian virus of 1997, which jumped directly from birds to humans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Risk Populations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People over 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies and very young children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with heart and lung disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who are sick and exhausted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sicker, and may need to see a doctor.

Symptoms: Infected people feel sicker and happen, the body comes down with flu and antibodies can destroy them. When this is weak, viruses can reproduce faster than However, if the body's immune system

any cells that contain the virus. When they find one, they attack and destroy looking for microbes that don't belong there.

Antibodies: Antibodies travel in the blood, harmful microbes by making chemicals called Our immune systems protect us from

The human body can fight flu viruses.

**Swine Flu Virus**

**Likely to catch the flu:**
Already sick are more young, very old, or people who are very

**Not everyone has the same risk of catching the flu.**

Age so much, and your fever will be lower. Your symptoms will be milder—your won't get the flu, but if you've had the vaccine, you might feel pretty high, but its not perfect so you might strain you have been vaccinated against. That's percent of the time, you won't get sick from a prevention rate, which means that eight percent.

Vaccines usually have an eight-percent-

**During flu season.**

Viruses that doctors think might be present is ready to defend against many strains of if you receive one of these vaccines, your body causes the body to make a particular antibody.

Several strains in a single shot. Each strain vaccine. Sometimes flu vaccines include each strain of a virus requires a different
Preventing the Virus from Taking Over

Common sense can help to prevent a flu virus from entering your body. Get plenty of rest and eat well. Don’t touch things that sick people have used to eat or drink. Wash your hands often and keep your fingers out of your mouth. Avoid people who have flu symptoms, such as sneezing and coughing.

Washing your hands often will help keep you from getting the flu.

But even the most cautious people can become infected. Fortunately, scientists invented vaccines to keep the flu virus from taking over your body. Vaccines are weak or dead-flu viruses that are injected into a person’s body in a “flu shot.” These weakened viruses cause the body to produce many more antibodies. When a person’s body has enough antibodies, it can successfully attack stronger viruses. If you get a flu shot before you are sick, your body will likely be able to defend you if any flu viruses come along.
Color Blindness

Writing
Choose two forms of color blindness. Write a report that compares the two conditions and their effects on a person's life.

Math
Research the statistics about the number of people with the various forms of color blindness in your country. Organize your results in a pie chart.
What causes color blindness, and how does it affect a person's life?

Focus Question

Written by Cheryl Kersey

Blinkness

Color

(1.5) The distance between two consecutive wavelengths (nm)

(2) A certain function (p. 5)

(3) That are similar in form and perform material made up of a group of cells

(4) Rod cells (nm)

(5) Sensitive and work best in dim light

cells in the eyes, retina that are light

to the brain (p. 6)

(6) Receive images and transmit them

to the back of the eye that

gene (nm)

(7) Each retinal to the next

a basic unit of hereditary that transfers

(8) Sensitive and work best in bright light

cells in the eyes, retina that are color

between two or more colors (p. 4)

(9) Lack the ability to distinguish
color blindness (adv)

(10) Cell phones (p. 13)

Designed for mobile devices such as
computer programs or applications

(11) Ancestral members from long ago (p. 8)

(12) Glossary
Color Vision for All?

Every year, researchers gain a better understanding of color blindness and its causes. New tools help color-blind people choose ripe fruit and pick out matching clothes. People with red-green color blindness can use special glasses to allow them to tell the difference between shades of red and green.

Best of all, a treatment for color blindness may be available in the near future. Who knows? Maybe someday soon, color blindness will become a thing of the past!
There's hope for a cure in adult humans, too.
Now that we know that color blindness
usually develops when the animals are young,
full range of colors. These parts of the brain
in a way that would allow them to see a
blind monkey's brains would not have grown.
Many doctors and scientists thought that color-
monkeys had been color-blind since birth.
This was exciting news because the
ability to tell the difference between red and green
doesn't have to come from the normal
red-green receptors, but could
be created through genetic engineering.
Researchers used a virus to insert
new genes into the monkeys' brains, which
resulted in the monkey's red-green cells
taking on a new role, allowing the
monkeys to see colors.

Recently, scientists

Treat the Color Blindness

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Tools to Help Color-Blind People

Testing for Color Blindness

Color Blindness is No Joke

Different Types of Color Blindness

Rods and Cones

How Color Vision Works

Where Do Colors Come From?

What Colors Do You See?

What colors do you see?
What Colors Do You See?

Imagine looking at a box of crayons and seeing only shades of gray, blue, and yellow. That's what they look like to many people who are color-blind. Most people who are color-blind can still see some colors. They just can't see as many colors as most people.

Tools to Help Color-Blind People

Currently, there's no known cure for color blindness. However, there are many new tools to help people deal with color blindness. Smartphone apps can perform tasks such as identifying colors and picking colors that go together well. These apps can help people choose matching clothes or tell which fruits are ripe at the grocery store.

Researchers have also created high-tech lenses that filter out specific wavelengths of light. Special sunglasses that use these lenses allow people with red-green color blindness to tell the two colors apart and see a full range of colors.
Color blindness • Level I

Do colors come from white light that is absorbed most other wavelengths?
No light because it reflects red wavelengths.
Different wavelengths of light are reflected and reflected, i.e., red. A red spot appears to be a different wavelength. Objects appear different color.
White light actually has every color.

Where do colors come from?

Testing for Color Blindness:

Can you see the hidden numbers or shapes in this circle in this picture?
Color Blindness Is No Joke

Color blindness can cause serious problems. People who are color-blind have trouble reading color-coded information on maps. Children with color blindness may have trouble in school. Red-green color blindness makes it difficult to read yellow chalk on a green chalkboard. All types of color blindness make it difficult to choose the correct colors for art and science projects.

Color blindness can also cause safety issues. Fire hydrants, car warning lights, and emergency equipment are often colored red or yellow to make them more visible. These bright colors may be obvious to those with full-color vision but unnoticeable to those who are color-blind. People may also have difficulty noticing sunburns, rashes, or undercooked meat without color vision.

Color blindness can even limit a person’s career options. Geologists and airline pilots need full-color vision. Other careers, such as interior design, photography, and food inspection, are much more difficult without it.
Color Vision in Animals

Most animals can see fewer colors than humans. For instance, dogs can only see shades of blue and yellow, and birds are completely color-blind. Other animals—including some birds—see more colors than humans, depending on the specific species. For example, pigeons can see colors that humans cannot, such as ultraviolet.

Rod cells and cones

Rod cells in the retina are the most sensitive to light and are responsible for vision in dim light conditions. They are sensitive to black and white images and are less effective in distinguishing colors. Cone cells, on the other hand, are responsible for color vision and are more effective in bright conditions. There are three types of cone cells, each sensitive to different wavelengths of light: blue, green, and red. The combined signals from these cells allow us to perceive a wide range of colors.

People with complete color blindness are missing one of the three types of cone cells, which results in a condition known as color blindness. Individuals with color blindness may find it challenging to distinguish between certain colors, especially in low light conditions.

People who work in low light conditions, such as those in the pharmaceutical industry, may also experience difficulties in color vision. This is because they need to distinguish between different colors, which can be challenging without proper lighting.

Complete color blindness (red/green blindness) is a condition in which one of the three types of cone cells is missing. This can lead to difficulties in distinguishing between certain colors, particularly red and green. Complete color blindness affects approximately one in thirty thousand people.
Different Types of Color Blindness

Red-Green Color Blindness

Red-green color blindness is the most common type of color vision problem. It occurs most often in people whose ancestors came from northern Europe. It affects one out of every twelve men and is less common in women.

Red-green color blindness is usually caused by problems in the green cone cells, which make green and yellow objects appear reddish in color. Problems in the red cone cells also cause red-green color blindness. In this case, red, orange, and yellow objects appear green or black.

Although people with red-green color blindness have trouble telling some colors apart, they can still see clearly. That’s because red and green cones have some overlap in the light they detect.

Blue-Yellow Color Blindness

Blue-yellow color blindness occurs when the blue cone cells are missing or not working properly. This type of color blindness is fairly rare, affecting only about one out of every ten thousand people worldwide. Unlike red-green color blindness, it’s equally common in men and women.

Some people with blue-yellow color blindness have no blue cone cells, which causes them to see blue as green and yellow as violet or gray. More commonly, people who are blue-yellow color-blind have blue cone cells that still work at some level. As a result, it’s difficult for them to tell yellow and red from pink.
Man

Caribou
Although some Alaska natives prefer to be called “Inuit,” “Inupiat,” or “Yupik,” none of those terms is inclusive of all people from the different northern native cultures. As it is unclear which group this folktale comes from, we have retained “Eskimo” as it is used in the original version.

Pronunciation Guide:
Onhgarouk ....... ON-gar-ook or on-GAR-ook
Arnarii ............ ar-NOR-ee
kazhgie .......... KAUZ-gee
ptarmigan ......... TAR-mi-gan

When others in the village heard of Onhgarouk’s adventures and his life as a caribou, all the hunters came to him for advice. But he would not betray the secrets of the caribou. The villagers believed only a great medicine man would have been given the magic to live as an animal. They offered Onhgarouk a position as a tribal elder.
hunter who provided well for his family. He was a decent husband and father, and a gifted artist. His village was located on a beach near the sea. Ongegonuk and two children. Their winter home was a small hut where they lived comfortably.

Many moons ago, the uncle of Amurritli, a young girl, had been away on a long journey. He had grown to adulthood and returned home to his village. His children were young, and the village was in need of help. Ongegonuk was happy to be home, but his time away had taught him many things in life. He had learned to appreciate the value of hard work.

When he returned, he found that his sister-in-law, Amurritli, was pregnant. He had left her alone with her children, and now she needed help. Ongegonuk invited her and her family to live with him.

His wife, Amurritli, thanked him for his generosity. He was happy to help his family and his community. After they finished, the two men invited their guests to join them for a meal.

The two young men were his sons who had been raised in the village from childhood. They were always helping him and his family. They were grateful for his invitation and looked forward to spending time with their family.
One year, however, the winter was extremely severe. The traps were almost always empty, and the hunting was meager. Onhgarouk tried to furnish meat to feed his family, but the winter was long, and he grew weary. He even overheard his wife’s father telling her that Onhgarouk was a terrible husband. Those words made Onhgarouk’s heart hurt, because he knew he could be a better husband. The father wanted to take Arnorrii back to her home village where food was more plentiful. She was loyal, though, and remained with Onhgarouk.

The two men just stared for a moment, never before having heard a caribou speak. The caribou repeated his request, and they finally agreed. The men saw that it was a man beneath the fur. The caribou man asked them to remove the fur from the rest of his body until he was completely human again.
from my head, the animal said.

Please release me and remove the fur.

carbon spoke to them in a human voice.
approached the large animal to kill it. The
caribu quickly came running, surprised to have
into a small trap and was caught. Two men

as he neared his old house, he tripped

his village by the sea.
appeared with hunters, until he finally reached
many difficult days and had to avoid many
left for his village, still a caribu. He traveled

Omorouk thanked the caribu leader and
After many years had passed, though, Onhgarouk began to miss his wife and children. He realized he had learned many things about life. He felt he was ready to resume his life as a human.

He decided he wanted to return to his former life. He approached the leader of the caribou and asked if he could return to life as a human. Understanding his feelings, the sympathetic leader told Onhgarouk he could become human again.

The next day Onhgarouk showed his wife how to take care of the traps. He told her where he kept the spears, bow and arrows, and the sharpest knife. When he told her that he was leaving the next morning, she pleaded with him to stay, insisting that her father hadn’t meant the things he had said. But Onhgarouk explained that he felt the need to become a better man, and he left the following morning.
might find happiness.

"Well, said Oneratour, "If I could be

and then the seemed easy

and small berries, looked happy

and surrounded by green

and discovered a flock of

the complicated lives of humans, as he

believing that other animals did not suffer

man. He wished to be something else.

He had learned nothing about being a better

and grew to dislike the loneliness of his life.

For many moons, Oneratour wandered the

a carbon

easy, but he was happy and content to be

that killed some of his friends. Life wasn't
to escape. He also learned to avoid the traps

taken by Eskimo hunters, he always managed

by wolves, and some of his brothers were

Although the herd was often preyed upon

big, strong and rather quick for his size.

of the carbon family. Over time he became

the herd, considering himself a member

For many years Oneratour lived among

wandered inland.
He stayed close to the small flock, watching them, hoping they might pity him and use their magic to change him into a bird. As the ptarmigan flew from place to place in search of food, he followed, looking for them. But every time he found them, they moved to another spot. All day it went like this, until at sundown the ptarmigan settled into a small village just over a ridge.

When Onhgarouk woke in the morning, the village had vanished. There was only a herd of caribou grazing in the valley. But something miraculous had happened—he was now a caribou, too!
输卵管 replied, "I followed you.

He did not seem angry.

"Is all day?" the dear person inquired.

Human, why have you been following around the fire in the corner of the room.

Inside the Kazbegi, manyordion set lived. Inside the Kazbegi, many birds sing their song.

He walked straight to the Kazbegi.

输卵管 followed the person in the room.

Suggested that he sleep on his decision.

The carbon leader offered him a blanket.

They listened to his story, and his desire.

Some dinner, which he gratefully accepted.

difficult life. The carbon people offered him.

He told the same old story about his

and wish to become one of you.

输卵管 replied, "I have watched you.

you been following us all day?

"Tell me, human," said the leader, "why have conversations and turned to share at him."

All the carbon in the Kazbegi stopped their

The leader of the carbon people saw
The chief stood and faced Onhgarouk.
“Our lives are not so simple. While it is nice
to be able to fly, and we seldom lack food,
it’s not easy being a ptarmigan. There are
many creatures, both in the sky and on land,
that hunt us. Our lives are always in danger.
Surely, this is not the life you seek?”

Soon Onhgarouk spotted a herd of caribou.
He hid behind a tree and watched them graze
on thick grass. They looked so strong and
healthy. Some of them were even fat. With
such a large herd, he assumed they must be
safe from other animals. He decided he
wanted to join their herd.

When he approached, just as he had
with the ptarmigan, rabbits, and seals, they
disappeared. As the sun sank low in the sky,
he noticed the herd lope over a small hill.
When he peered into the valley where they
had disappeared, he saw many igloos and
a large kajzhgie in the middle of the village.
He quickly walked down into the village
and entered the kajzhgie.
When Oun'gareok woke the following morning all the prisoners were gone. Everything had disappeared except Oun'gareok and his pack. As was the village. Everything had vanished; all the prisoners were gone, when Oun'gareok woke the following morning all day and fell asleep immediately.

Oun'gareok was very tired from walking the night before. He cautiously allowed him to sleep in the chief's tent. The chief was right—this was an animal with the better life he wanted. He was convinced that today he would find and resided across the lagoon. When he woke up, the seals and the igloo were gone. Oun'gareok gathered his things and resumed his quest across the lagoon. dinner, after which he quickly fell asleep. An igloo. For the night. They prepared fish for his evening. The seals invited him to sleep in their difficulties of living as a seal and decided this Oun'gareok had not considered the
Once again, Onhgarouk began his search for a better life. He didn’t know where he was going and didn’t care. Around midday he noticed two snowshoe rabbits playing in the bushes. He watched them chase each other and laugh as they played.

For the remainder of the day, he followed the rabbits, hoping to talk with them. But each time he got near, they disappeared over a hill. He followed them all day, just as he had the ptarmigan.

The large seal swam up to the edge of the ice beside the Eskimo and listened as he told the same sad story all over again. When Onhgarouk had finished explaining his life, the seal thought for a moment and then spoke.

“You don’t want to be a seal,” he said. “Our lives may look easy, but we are afraid much of the time. Whenever we approach a hole in the ice for air, we fear a hunter or a bear is waiting for us. Besides,” he confided with a shiver, “even with our layer of fat, this water is very cold.”
Far to become one of you."

"Please brother seal," Onhêrônûk said to the largest of the three, "I have traveled very far to become one of you."

He could talk to the seals, but he could not get close enough to speak, until finally he thought to himself, "He tried for hours..."

"I must be pleased," he thought, "I must be pleased..."

For food, they had plenty of fish in the water, and they had plenty of fish near the surface. They moved gracefully spotted seal, large bearded seals swimming near the coastline as he reached the water's edge.

In the afternoon, Onhêrônûk approached the seals...
Onhgarouk agreed that being a helpless rabbit was not what he wanted. The rabbit people offered him a blanket, and he was soon deep asleep.

When he woke, the igloo, blanket, and rabbits were gone. Again, Onhgarouk wandered aimlessly across the tundra, searching for a better life where he could be happy and uphold his responsibilities.

When he finished speaking, the male rabbit spoke. “Our lives look carefree, but at any moment an eagle or a hawk could take us for dinner. Or a fox or a wolf might chase us for a snack. Even smaller animals take our children. We play as we do because we may not see tomorrow. Surely, that is not the life you wish for?”
The Buffalo Soldiers

Levelled Book 0-T

Written by Anna-Karlotta Limjoco

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Word Count: 1,149
Glossary

buffalo (n.) another name for the American bison; a large, cowlike animal with a big head, large hump, and short horns (p. 4)

discrimination (n.) the unfair treatment of a person or group based on gender, race, age, religion, or other differences (p. 5)

expansion (n.) an increase in the size, amount, volume, or scope of something (p. 9)

frontier (n.) a wilderness area at the edge of a country’s official border or settled region (p. 5)

opportunities (n.) chances to do something (p. 4)

regiments (n.) military units that consist of two or more large groups of soldiers (p. 4)

reservations (n.) land set aside by the United States government for Native Americans (p. 9)

service (n.) work done for an organization or government, especially in a branch of a country’s military (p. 15)

stationed (v.) based in or assigned to a place or position for a specific activity (p. 6)

The Buffalo Soldiers

Written by Anna-Maria Crum

www.readinga-z.com
The Buffalo Soldiers' Legacy

People haven’t forgotten about the Buffalo Soldiers. Many books have been written about them and monuments raised to them.

History remembers the Buffalo Soldiers as tough men who took on tough jobs. Although they were often treated poorly and often faced discrimination, they fought to prove they were good at their jobs. Their bravery and service are an important part of America’s story.
A mixed unit of black and white soldiers serves in Korea in 1950.

During World Wars I and II, new black soldiers were mixed in with other units. Soldiers until the Korean War, when the troops of officers, they were kept separate from white buffalo soldiers and were still led by white regiments formed, but they were still called Stealing timber and stopped people from hunting animals and they built roads and trails. ought forest fires. serving in several national parks in California. After that war, between 1899 and 1904.
A New Army

Black soldiers have a long history in the United States. Thousands fought for both U.S. and British forces in the Revolutionary War, even though neither side gave them the same rights as white men. Even more black soldiers—more than 170,000—fought for the North’s army during the Civil War (1861–1865).

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Congress created the first peacetime regiments of black soldiers. These regiments would come to be known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Many black men who joined these regiments had fought in the Civil War. Many others were former slaves. As farmer-turned-soldier Charles Creek said, “I got tired of looking mules in the face from sunrise to sunset, thought there must be a better livin’ in this world.” He and others joined because the U.S. Army presented black men with new opportunities.

Later Service

The Buffalo Soldiers continued to work in the West, earning fourteen Medals of Honor between 1870 and 1890. The Medal of Honor is the highest award a U.S. soldier can earn.

In 1898, the Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Spanish-American War. They took part in many battles and earned five Medals of Honor. Even so, some leaders in the U.S. Army still thought black soldiers were unable to perform as well as white soldiers.

Buffalo Soldiers on Bikes

How would you like to ride a bike without brakes—in the mountains? That’s just what the Buffalo Soldiers did in the 1890s. The army wanted to see if bikes could replace horses since bikes were cheaper and easier to care for. The soldiers rode 1,900 miles from Fort Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri.
and mountains west of the Mississippi.

Western Frontier—the Great Plains, deserts, Most of these men were being sent to the adventure. clothes, shelter, work, and the chance for

write. The army provided soldiers with food, those who couldn't read and read and

messages and understanding orders and maps, because black soldiers needed to write. the same as white soldiers—$13 per month. In 1866, the U.S. Army paid black soldiers

hard for black people to gain an education. In the same places as white people. It was also

hard for black people other werent allowed to live all. Black people often werent allowed to live paid less than white workers or werent paid at

work, and when they did, they were often discrimination. It was hard for them to find

in the United States, black people still faced

Although the Civil War ended slavery

they'd done as slaves.

After the Civil War—

America...where black people and cotton fields in

Field workers stand in

land set aside for Native Americans. outlaws and settlers who were trying to take

sent to Indian Territory, where they fought

Apache under control. The 9th Cavalry was

the Southwest for years, trying to bring the

Afterward, the 10th Cavalry remained in

drove him into Mexico. He died there in 1880. After many battles and chases, they finally

Cavalries were ordered to capture Victoria.

Colonel Cement and the 9th and 10th

and U.S. troops for years.

In 1850s, they had been attacking settlements.

excellent fighters since the

Victoria had led a band of

fight back. The warrior chief

his promise, and not wanting

government would not keep

in Arizona, knowing the

Apache threats to move onto reservations

time the government was trying to force

Texas, where he joined the 9th Cavalry at

In 1873, the 10th Cavalry was sent to

The 9th and 10th Cavalries Combining
The Original Buffalo Soldiers

The first black units formed in 1866 were the 38th through 41st Infantry Regiments and the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments. Many historians consider the 10th to be the original Buffalo Soldiers.

First stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the 10th Cavalry was led by Colonel Benjamin Grierson, a white man. Like the other black regiments, the 10th Cavalry faced many challenges. Many white soldiers and officers didn’t think black soldiers should serve in the army. They gave the black soldiers old or lame horses as well as poor or damaged supplies. They gave them hot wool uniforms to wear in summer. During the winter, black soldiers were often wet and cold. The food they received was never as good as the food for white soldiers. If a white soldier stole from or hurt a black soldier, the white soldier often went free.

Word Wise

*Infantry* are made up of soldiers who fight on foot. In the past, *cavalries* were made up of soldiers who rode horses. Today, *cavalries* are made up of soldiers in vehicles.

The name came from Native Americans. Some say Comanches gave the 10th the name, while others say it was the Cheyennes. One story is that the name came from the black soldiers’ hair being similar to the dark, woolly hair between a buffalo’s horns. Other stories say that the name came from the black soldiers’ strength in battle, which was like a trapped buffalo’s.

Wherever the name came from, all the regiments of black soldiers soon adopted it. They knew that the buffalo was sacred to Native Americans, and only a respected enemy would be named for it. In time, they even added an image of the buffalo to their flag.
trouble than many white soldiers. Much less likely to quit or cause misconduct, black soldiers were
conducted by regiments were often continued to perform their duties and the other regiments of black soldiers
Despite this treatment, the 10th Cavalry
things were much the same wherever they went. Colonel Gershon asked to have his unit

This map shows important forts where the Buffalo Soldiers served in the 1860s

It was during this time that they earned the name Buffalo Soldiers. It was during this time that they earned the
Kansas and Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, was stationed in different places around
between 1866 and 1875, the 10th Cavalry
rarely welcomed in towns. Of their skin color, the black soldiers were
outlaws and Native Americans. Yet because to protect settlers, towns, and supplies from
Regiments of black soldiers were ordered
Outlaws rob a stagecoach in 1880. This drawing records the scene as described by a witness.

Out West

The West was a wild place during the late 1800s. More and more settlers were moving in. Because the area was so huge, it was hard to keep order. Outlaws often stole cattle and horses. They also robbed banks as well as stagecoaches, which provided important supplies and mail to the settlers.

Meanwhile, the expansion of the United States also pushed Native Americans off the lands they had lived on for thousands of years. The U.S. government ordered the different Indian tribes to make deals forcing them onto poorer land on reservations but promising them food and other supplies. The government did not keep its promises, which angered Native Americans. Some tribes began attacking soldiers and settlers, taking back land and supplies.
Illustrated by Lisa Ing
Written by Dina Anastasio

Stones
The Black

Glossary

website (n.)

volcanic (adj.)

search engine (n.)

research (n.)

rapidly (p. 16)

when volcanic lava cools

a smooth, glassy rock formed

proven (p. 18)

to be true but cannot be

an old story that is believed

very angry (p. 9)

of those people (p. 4)

Southwest; the language

Native American in the

a member of a group of

Apache (n.)
That night, after talking it over, Paco and Tala gave their stones to their mother. At first, Mrs. Yates wouldn’t take them because the stones seemed to have made her children friends again. In time, Paco and Tala convinced her that they wanted her to have the Apache Tears.

Mrs. Yates slept with the stones under her pillow that night. The next day, she went to a jeweler and had the stones made into a necklace. When the necklace was ready, she slipped it on and never took it off again. Apache Tears really had brought them all good luck!
a way to love peacefully as a family again.

They understood that their father was not coming back and that they needed to find

The Stones each other a long look.

..."Happy..."

"I'm a rear that says I wish my children were"

She gave the stone back to Paco, closed his

"sad children he left behind"

"I think I do see it," she said. "It's a rear for the the light."
Paco and Tala sat back and studied their stones in silence. They raised them to the light and looked into their centers. They thought about the women who had cried for their men, and they felt sad. Then they shut down the computer and held their stones tight.

When their mother returned, they told her the legend of the Apache Tears. They took turns speaking, without talking over each other.

Mrs. Yates was touched to see how the story had affected her children.

“Can you see the tear of an Apache woman?” Paco asked her, as he held his stone up to the light.
Bothering me again.

Mom! Take heed. Mom! Paco's as he grabbed her fist and tried to pry it open.

Just show them to me! Paco shouldn't back him.

"Say," and I'm keeping them, no matter what you do, stones are mine! she shouted. I found them. "Take yourself around to face him. These black stones that rested in the river, so deep that the current couldn't find them, and they were filled with great pain. Their despair was worse than death.

The Apache women heard of their warriors' deaths, to their deaths.

The legend of the Apache Tears

In their place.

Apache tears, for the Apache women have cried tears always. And whoever keeps these stones close will never come to harm. Whoever comes these stones will have good luck.

When the white men began to move west in search of new land, hoping Apache tears would be captured, the Apache women jumped from the cliff. Some were driven to the edge of a cliff. Rather than have their lands, Apache warriors came out to meet them, but the white men killed many Apache warriors.

Long, long ago, before the white men came, the Apache tears dropped. But a time came when the white men came.
Mrs. Yates stood up from the rock where she had been sitting quietly for the last half hour. She had been thinking about how difficult her life had become. The death of her husband three years ago had left her very sad. Somehow her children had taken the anger they felt over their father’s death and turned it against each other. If only they could learn to get along, she thought as she made her way down to the river. If only they could be friends.

Mrs. Yates dragged her twins apart and sat them down on either side of her. She waited to see if either of them would apologize, but neither of them said a word.

Paco noticed that his sister was rubbing her stone between her fingers as she read, and he wondered if she was making a wish. Tala didn’t usually like legends; she enjoyed reading about science.

But Paco could tell that his sister was really interested in this story.

Paco decided that he would read more about volcanoes and try to understand how the river made rough rocks into smooth stones. Maybe he would finally understand why these things interested his sister so much.

For now, Paco and Tala decided to write down the legend so that they would have it to remember.
Mrs. Bates closed her eyes. Their fighting was making her tired.

"They're mine!" Tala shouted.

"I wanted to look at them. I saw you holding them up to the light. I just even let me see what they looked like!" Tala yelled. "You wouldn't have done that if you didn't like them, now would you?"

"I was the one who found the stones, Tala."

"I lied about having stolen the stones." Paco agreed. "Let's try that once," Paco said, and his

The twins went back to the search page.

"much on this page." Apache Tears, "Paco said. "It doesn't explain Apache Tears'" Paco said. "It doesn't explain the legend of the

"Yes, we were both right," Tala agreed.
Volcanoes and Magic

"Your arguments make me very unhappy," Mrs. Yates said softly. "You are brother and sister—twins, even! You could be best friends for your entire lives if you would only try a little harder to get along. Will you try?"

Tala and Paco stared silently at the river. Mrs. Yates could tell that they did not plan to get along, now or ever.

She sighed and held out her hand. "Give me the stones, Tala," she said.

"But that’s not fair," Tala whined. "I found them, not Paco. They’re mine."

Mrs. Yates waited. Tala was filled with anger, but she dropped the shiny black stones onto her mother’s palm.
home for dinner.

Then she led them both up the trail and

child’s palm.

a hand and dropped one stone onto each

Mrs. Yates told them both to hold out

Treasures. Why did he need to take hers?

hadn’t she? Her brother could find his own

Tala was furious. She’d found the stones,

obstacles we find in the world.

They are more important than the

family. They are more important for our friends and

and there’s nothing we can do about it. That is

the things we love get taken away from us,

sometimes life seems very unfair. Sometimes

It’s okay to be angry,” her mother said.

"We were both right,” Paco said.

watched as she read

pointed to the words Good-luck stones and

and read that part of the page. Then he

followed her finger to the words volcanic glass

the part of the page she was reading. Paco

see that? Tala said as she pointed to

"Stones were Good-luck stones!

"I’m right, I told you these

finished, he said. "I’m right. I told you these

Paco was too busy reading a different part

a volcano so I’m right”

"They are obstacles and were made by

earth. They are obstacles and were made by

brother.” Our stones came from inside the

Washington, same time.

"That’s our story,” they said, exactly the

the page in front of them and examined.

and Tala compared their stones to the ones on

looked like the stones Tala had found. Paco

The website showed a picture of rocks that

Searching for answers
Tala and Paco were twins, but they were very different. Tala looked at the world as a scientist. She wanted to know why the sky turned orange at sunset and how a seashell made a sound when she held it to her ear. Paco, on the other hand, saw the world as a magical place filled with poems waiting to be written. Paco admired the beauty of an orange sunset and the mystery of a seashell’s echo.

Paco wondered if his stone could take him into magical worlds. Maybe if he rubbed it three times, a genie would appear. Or perhaps it was a good-luck charm that would protect him all his life.

While the website loaded, the phone rang. Mrs. Yates went to answer it, leaving Tala and Paco alone. They both wondered if they could get along without her.
Turned it on.

Computer: She sat down between them and Mrs. Vates grinned and led the twins to the

luck stone.

"It's a magical good-

Paco yelled. I know

you're wrong!"

inside the earth.

"I know it came from

glass rock. Tala said.

But it is a volcanic

minute.

to them for one more
couldn't bear to listen
shoulder when she just

Stop it!" Mrs. Vates

was wrong, and

what it wasn't, and who was right and who

The twins argued about what it was and

formed by a volcano?

stone been there? How old was it? Had it been

mind filled with questions. How long had the

When Tala looked at her glassy stone, her

something.

in surprise. For once, they had agreed on

same time. Paco and Tala looked at each other

Let's go to that one. The twins said at the

When their search results appeared, Paco

happen.

search and waited to see what would

good-luck stones appeared. Leap mountain into the

as well. She typed the words volcanic glass

about we add where you found the stones

How about both?" she said. And now

made a suggestion.

Their shoulders. When they were quiet, she

Mrs. Vates put a gentle hand on each of

Good-luck stones.

Volcanic glass.

"Let's type in good-luck stones.

"I don't care about volcanoes," Paco said.
The Experiment

As the computer started up, the twins started to argue about what website they would look at first, but their mother quickly stopped them.

"May I ask the two of you for a favor?" she said quietly.

The twins waited.

"I would like you to do an experiment," she continued, "as a gift to me. I would like you both to research your stones without arguing, just this once. I'll work with you to find the answers, but no fighting. I want you to understand that life is much more peaceful if you work together to solve your problems. Okay?"

Tala and Paco looked at each other for several seconds, and then they shrugged. "Okay," they agreed.

"What do you think we should search for first?" Mrs. Yates asked.

"I know what we should do!" Paco said. "We should . . ."

The sad look on his mother's face made him stop. Maybe there was a better way to go about this project.

"You can decide," he said to his sister.

"Maybe we should search for the name of our stones," Tala suggested. "Let's type the words volcanic glass into the search engine and see what comes up."
How did the Erie Canal change the transportation of goods? (p. 13)

- Picture a sign or act (p. 10) representing an idea with an object, or as many (p. 15) increased by your times as much (p. 6) to achieve financial success (p. 8) to find one's way over a long distance (p. 10) having a high price (costly) (p. 15) unusually good or impressive (p. 5) making good use of time or resources (p. 5) that blocks movement (p. 9) a natural or human-made object (p. 12) artificial channels that carry water (p. 12) a way of being able to use or get access (p. 12)

Glossary
A Lasting Innovation

Between 1820 and 1850, the population of New York City quadrupled, and the Erie Canal was an important reason for this growth. Before the canal, New York City had been a smaller port city than Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New Orleans. Today it is the largest city in the United States.

The importance of the Erie Canal extends beyond New York State. It opened the West to American settlers and changed the nation’s landscape for good. It allowed merchants to ship goods across the country cheaply and easily. As an exceptional feat of engineering and one of the most important large-scale construction projects of the nineteenth century, the canal’s legacy is one of American ingenuity, persistence, and creativity.
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A tugboat pushes two barges along the enlarged Erie Canal in 2009.

Visitors Along Its Banks Today

Several museums and educational sites entertain tourists. Attraction mostly used by leisure boaters.

Tourist attraction most used by leisure boaters.

The Erie Canal instead became a popular route for freight. The canal instead became a popular

route for freight. The canal instead became a popular

route for freight. The canal instead became a popular

route for freight. The canal instead became a popular

route for freight.

By the 1950s, though, people found other ways

to transport goods. Railroads, trucks and highways

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to...
Solving the Transportation Problem

In the 1600s and 1700s, most settlers in North America stayed between the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and around 400 miles (640 km) inland. There, the Appalachian Mountains rise up as an enormous barrier, spanning an area north to south that covers more than 1,500 miles (2,400 km).

People used the Erie Canal for more than just shipping—it also changed travel in the United States. Tourists often traveled the canal for pleasure, usually in packet boats. They could lounge, dine, and sleep in these boats. Horses and mules led the boats along the towpath at a slow speed, around 4 miles per hour (6 kmph). Passengers could even get off for a stroll, then catch up with their boat later. It cost four cents per mile (1.6 km) to travel by packet boat. The price included tolls, meals, and a bed. Tolls helped pay back what it cost to build the canal.

The United States. The work in a similar system could save time and money. Goods, they transport and travel ways to travel are used. and efficient canals were popular. Waterways called canals were popular. Where would they look to Europe? Americans the mountains. Goods across goods travel and ship a cheaper way to a quicker mode. People needed time before trains, automobiles, and airplanes. During a mountain pass, people like to travel. Dangerous, long, and challenging, trips in wagons led by horses and mules were. However, transportation options were limited.

In the 1800s, settlers became eager to explore the West and set up reliable trade routes there. The Erie Canal made it easier to ship goods west. Before the canal was built, it cost approximately $40 to ship 1 ton of wheat from New York City to New York City. After the canal was built, it cost $10 to ship 1 ton of wheat from New York City to New York City. How much more did it cost to ship 7 tons of wheat from New York City to New York City? A bridge moves along the Erie Canal in Little Falls, New York, in 1890.
Planning the Erie Canal

The New York State Canal Commission made a plan for a canal to cross the state. It would connect Lake Erie—one of the Great Lakes, located in the American Midwest—with Albany—the state capital, located on the Hudson River. From Albany, boats could take the Hudson River south to New York City and out into the Atlantic Ocean. The Erie Canal would link major cities in New York State, including Buffalo, Syracuse, and New York City. Due to their locations along the canal, smaller towns such as Rome, Lockport, and Little Falls would prosper.

Artwork from 1829 shows the Erie Canal passing through farmland.

Traveling the Erie Canal

The Erie Canal dramatically changed the way people and goods traveled west. It used to take two weeks to travel across New York from Albany to Buffalo. The Erie Canal reduced that travel to five days. More colonists moved to the American Midwest and settled in the present-day states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. Settlers in these areas mostly became farmers. It was now easy and cheap to ship goods east from the Midwest, where there were many natural resources, including lumber, gravel, and rich land for growing crops. The Midwest became known as America’s “breadbasket.” The number of bushels of wheat exported from the Midwest grew from fourteen thousand in 1826 to eight million in 1840.
New York State tax money to fund the project.

Clinton was forced to use a large portion of money to the project without any federal support. In 1817, President Thomas Jefferson turned down Clinton's request for the federal government to contribute to the project.

Not everyone believed in the Erie Canal. New settlers to the cities and towns along its path, some even built their own canals.

Initially, the Erie Canal was a political project. Clinton was a politician named Dewitt Clinton, a senator from New York State, who was elected to fund the project. He believed the canal would bring jobs and money to the state of New York.

In 1825, the Erie Canal was officially opened. The two bodies of water had been connected, and the Hudson River ran into the ocean. It was a symbol of the power of New York State.

When they reached the city, they sailed along the Hudson River to New York City. The canal was a symbol of progress and development.

Clinton's Big Ditch

Clinton's Big Ditch was a project that started in 1819, a cost of $7 million. It was a symbol of the power of New York State and the canals.
Building the Erie Canal

Work began on the Erie Canal in 1817. It was originally built to be 4 feet (1.2 m) deep and 40 feet (12.1 m) wide. A towpath 10 feet (3 m) wide was made next to the canal's bank for horses and mules to pull boats along the canal.

Building the canal was a challenging task. Since there were no engineering schools in the United States at the time, most engineers were self-taught. They had to navigate uneven terrain to create a constant flow of water throughout the entire length of the canal. Workers began construction in the middle, which was the flattest area. As they moved east and west, they had to adjust the height of the land. In some places, they dug to lower it. In other places, they added soil to raise it.

Building the canal didn’t just mean digging through soil. Workers also had to build eighteen aqueducts. These structures carried the canal over rivers and ravines. At eighty-three points along the canal, workers also had to build locks—devices that raise or lower boats. Engineers developed cutting-edge technology to make locks work in difficult areas.

How Locks Work

When a boat reaches a place where the water is at a higher or lower depth, it enters the lock through a gate. The water level inside the lock is raised or lowered, depending on the water level in the direction the boat is moving. When the water levels match, a gate on the other side is opened, which allows the boat to continue sailing ahead.
Who leads the executive branch, and what are the jobs of this branch of government?

Focus Question

Written by Willa Harryman

Forced Reading - 1

The act of refusing to approve a bill

Veto (n.)

Race agreements

Inadequate

Supreme Court

Pardon (n.)

Oversize (a.)

Impeachment

Federal (adj.)

Executive (adj.)

Congress (n.)

Cabinet (n.)

Ambassadors (n.)

Crossbar (n.)

Whether the President has the power to declare war, and what are the criteria for when a war is declared?

Definition: Congress

Decision: President
Words to Know

abroad  impeachment  overrides  pardon  Supreme Court  trade agreements  veto

Cover: In 1800, John Adams became the first president to live in the White House. The president lives and works there.

Page 1: President George W. Bush takes the oath of office for his second term in January 2005. His wife, Laura, stands beside him.

Page 3: President Harry Truman (left) meets with Defense Secretary George Marshall in 1951.

Photo Credits:

A painting depicts the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, where the U.S. Constitution was drafted. It features Ben Franklin (in brown) and George Washington (in black), two of the thirty-nine actual signers.

Conclusion

So far, the Constitution has worked as its writers meant it to work, even though the powers of the executive branch tend to change over time. The executive branch has been able to carry out the nation’s laws. At the same time, the legislative and judicial branches check the president’s power. The government of the United States, therefore, is balanced between its executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The Constitution ties the three together. As for the presidency, it is likely to continue to change as the needs of the country change.
The Executive Branch: Level U

Introduction

How Americans Choose a President

The Executive Branch in the U.S. Constitution

1. Table of Contents

...the branch of the Constitution that has been taken by the executive branch without action from Congress. The Iraq war has been an example of this action since the 1973-1975 Vietnam War. The Constitution has been a critical document in the background to the Iraq war—has been a guide to the background. It has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background. The Constitution has been a guide to the background.

Orders are constitutional, as are both constitutional and judicial branches. The judicial branches are the branches by making sure judges choose the judicial branches because the president chooses them. Finally, the executive branch is a check on the judicial branches.
Checks and Balances
Under the Constitution, each of the three branches of government—the executive branch, legislative branch, and judicial branch—serves as a “check” on the others. This prevents any one branch from getting too much power.

The president’s veto power, for example, is a check on the legislative branch. Normally, Congress needs a president’s signature to pass a bill into law. To date, U.S. presidents have vetoed more than 2,500 bills. Congress checks the president through the power to override a veto.

Congress also checks the president by approving or blocking the people chosen by the president to serve on the Supreme Court and the cabinet. Though the president is commander of the armed forces, only Congress can officially declare war. Congress also has the power to remove a president from office through a process called impeachment.

Try, Try Again
While it can be hard to override a veto, Congress can sometimes save a bill through a different process: revision. If Congress removes or changes aspects of the bill the president dislikes and manages to pass it again, the president may approve it on the next go-round.
The Constitution of the United States was drafted in 1787. It was the first written constitution of any nation. Among its many provisions, the Constitution established a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The Constitution also created a federal system, dividing power between the national government and the states.

President George Washington served as the first President, from 1789 to 1797. He was also one of the framers of the Constitution. The system of checks and balances ensures that no one branch of government becomes too powerful.

In 1942, Japanese Americans were interned in a camp in California. They were treated as enemies of the government, their homes and businesses were seized, and their businesses, farms, and homes were seized. The government forced Japanese American citizens from the West Coast and interned them in camps.
The Constitution gives the president broad powers. However, the president is not a king. The presidency is an elected position. Many of the president's actions are overseen by Congress and the federal courts.

The Constitution lists three requirements for the presidency. The president must be thirty-five or older, must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, and must have lived in the United States for fourteen years or more.

**Historic Actions of the Executive Branch**

While the executive branch does not make laws, the president can write executive actions. These are instructions from the president to the government. Some of these decisions change Americans' lives.

During the Civil War, for example, President Abraham Lincoln ordered that slaves “shall be . . . forever free.” And in 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which gave thousands of Americans jobs. WPA workers made roads, built schools, and planted trees.
Long examination by the Senate before they are confirmed.

Supreme Court nominees, for example, must always undergo a full hearing of the Senate. The Senate has the power to reject a President’s choice, or the Senate may accept the President’s choice even if there is serious doubt about their qualifications. The Senate overrides the President’s veto of a bill by a two-thirds vote.

But how does the Senate have the power to confirm or reject a nominee? The Senate has the power to confirm a nominee because it is the body of Congress that has the power to make laws. The President’s power to appoint a Supreme Court justice is a power granted to him by the Constitution. The Constitution gives the President the power to make appointments, but it does not give the President the power to make laws. Therefore, the President needs the power of Congress to make laws, and Congress needs the power of the President to make laws.

How Americans Choose a President

The United States is not a simple democracy. The United States is a representative democracy. The United States is a government in which all citizens make decisions together. Instead, it is a representative democracy. The citizen who wins the national popular vote in their state wins the national popular vote in their key state election. When the popular vote is closed, a person with fewer total votes can sometimes win enough electoral votes to carry the election. As of 2016, the United States has had five presidential elections who lost the popular vote. Sometimes, it is not always the case. When the popular vote is closed, a person with fewer total votes can sometimes win enough electoral votes to carry the election.

Electors usually follow the popular vote in their state. The President’s power is not to their state. It’s always the President’s power to make laws, and the President’s power to make laws is not to their state. The President’s power is to make laws for the whole nation. Therefore, the President needs the power of Congress to make laws, and Congress needs the power of the President to make laws.
Organizations in the Executive Branch

Many people in the executive branch help the president. For example, the executive branch includes a vice president. The vice president is elected along with the president. He or she is expected to take over if the president cannot continue with the presidency.

The executive branch also includes departments of people who oversee American schools, the military, and taxes, among other things. The leaders of these departments make up the president’s cabinet. The cabinet has grown since the United States’ early history. President George Washington’s cabinet had only four members. Now, the cabinet has more than a dozen.

What the President Does

The president has many powers. For example, the president commands the American military. She or he can send the military anywhere in the world. The president also has the power to pardon criminals who are guilty of federal crimes.

The executive branch is responsible for the United States’ relationships with other countries. The president chooses ambassadors who represent the United States abroad. He or she also has the power to create trade agreements with other countries. The president can send armed forces to help other countries and sign treaties—agreements of peace between nations. However, the U.S. Senate must approve the terms of the treaties. The president chooses Supreme Court justices, cabinet members, and agency leaders. Many of these choices must be approved by the Senate.

Follow the Leader

Sometimes the president dies or must leave office for some other reason. When this happens, the order of succession—who will replace the president—is as follows:

- Vice President
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Department heads, starting with the Secretary of State

Vice President Gerald Ford replaced Richard Nixon as president in 1974.

The U.S. ambassador to India (seated, center) and his wife perform service at a community kitchen during their visit to India’s Golden Temple in 2016.
Don't Wake the Mummy

Illustrated by Brock Nicol
Written by N. M. Ryan
Chapter One

"To speak the name of the dead is to make them live again," the tour guide whispered ominously. The class giggled at what they thought to be just another staged part of the tour.

"Throughout the tomb," he continued, "and especially when we enter the burial chamber, we must refer to the mummy as ‘The King’ or ‘Pharaoh.’ Is that understood?" The group members nodded their agreement as they quickly realized this was not another superstition. I knew the guide had been telling the truth because I had read about it on the Internet in preparation for our class trip. Now here we were, in Egypt, inside an actual pyramid, on our way down to the burial chamber to look at an actual mummy.

The bus finally pulled away, heading off to the next stop on our tour. Simon and I were so exhausted that we promptly fell asleep. We did not hear the excited chatter of the forty-eight other schoolchildren on the bus. We did not hear the tour guide’s preview of the upcoming tour, and we definitely did not hear his warning not to look directly into the eyes of the statue of Anubis. We continued to sleep peacefully as the bus carried us closer and closer to our next adventure.
Mrs. Crabwalk: "If we wanted to stay out of trouble with the most popular kids at school, once everyone experienced today. We knew we would become anxious about our escape. We knew all Simon and I sat together at the back of the bus."

"Mr. Crabwalk's secret if we wanted to stay out of trouble with everyone! He absolutely did not want to get in trouble with anyone!"

"Well, Simon had found out, but I absolutely did not want to get in trouble with Simon."

"Dr. Crabwalk: "Simon, what would you do without our help?""

"Simon?" I asked. "Honestly, sometimes I think you mean "Simon."

"I needed two kids at the back of the group to make them hear our names."

"Yes."

"And everyone obediently stood to the back of the bus."

"Come along children. Step lively, Mrs. Simon and I ran behind the tour bus, kid..."

"Simon and I sat together at the back of the bus."

"Oh to our left, we saw another tour group..."

"Mrs. Crabwalk: "If we wanted to stay out of trouble with everyone! He absolutely did not want to get in trouble with anyone!"

"Well, Simon had found out, but I absolutely did not want to get in trouble with Simon."

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"I needed two kids at the back of the group to make them hear our names."

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"And everyone obediently stood to the back of the bus."

"Come along children. Step lively, Mrs. Simon and I ran behind the tour bus, kid..."

"Simon and I sat together at the back of the bus."

"Oh to our left, we saw another tour group..."
“It says here that they pulled the mummy’s brain out through its nose.” Simon grinned at the grossness of it all. The guide hadn’t mentioned any of the details Simon was describing. I guess the guide thought it would be too scary for our fourth-grade class. I had to admit, it was pretty revolting, yet I found myself listening to Simon translate the entire mummification process.

“Yuck!” I wrinkled my face in disgust, turning away from the last picture on the wall just in time to see the last two students leaving the chamber. My revulsion was quickly replaced by my need to stay out of trouble, so I grabbed Simon by the shirt and dragged him toward the door. We waited for Mrs. Crabwalk to turn the other way, and then we successfully slipped into the back of the line.

Our classmates stomped and chattered their way up a wide flight of stairs, down a narrow corridor, and into the next chamber. Simon stopped to inspect every insect and object that crossed our paths. I had to drag him back to the line at least three times. Finally, we all crowded into a room where the walls were covered with images of the pharaoh and several gods. The guide motioned for everyone to gather around

Chapter Six

We had solved one problem, but we still had two more to go. First, we had to find our way out of the pyramid, and second, we had to sneak back into the group before Mrs. Crabwalk noticed we were missing. The map in the guidebook quickly led us through the chambers, down the corridors, and up the stairs into the hot desert air. But slipping back into the group undetected was not going to be as easy. We could see that Mrs. Crabwalk had already counted half of the students in the line.
Once we reached the next room, we grinned.

The guide finished his narrative on the life of the Pharaoh and made his way to the back of the group, so I decided to leave him alone. He stared close enough to the hieroglyphics on the walls. I already knew this story, but it was a hundred times more fascinating listening to it while looking at the actual hieroglyphics. I closed my eyes and let the images blend into an explanation of the relationship between the Pharaoh and his people.

In a red sarcophagus, you were kept.
lies.” The room went completely silent. The guide had captured everyone’s interest, even Simon’s. “Enter if you dare!” he shouted and then disappeared into the darkness of the burial chamber. Simon and I agreed it was all very theatrical, but pretty cool. We joined the line and walked, single file, into the tomb.

Exclamations of surprise echoed around the chamber as the red sarcophagus came into our view. This room was much smaller than the rest, and we all crowded around, smashing elbows to get a closer view as the guide slowly raised the lid to reveal the full-sized mummy inside. Shrieks arose from a group of girls who scooted to the back, vacating prime space in front. Simon and I squeezed our way toward the sarcophagus and looked in awe at the mummy.

A group of boys eagerly pushed themselves between us. I held my spot as long as I could, but there was just too much shoving. I finally managed to squeeze my way out of the tightly packed mass of bodies and went looking for Simon. He was sitting in the corner reading an ancient-looking book filled with hundreds of illustrations. I peered over his shoulder at page after page of strange pictures of pharaohs in boats on journeys to mysterious places.

“He’s back,” I whispered urgently, cramming my notebook into my pack as we got ready to initiate our plan. We waited until the mummy had descended the stairs before sprinting by him, back up the stairs, and into the corridor. I looked over my shoulder and saw the mummy coming after us.

“It worked. He’s following us, and he’s moving much faster. I guess he’s wide awake now,” Simon said. We raced down the stairs into the burial chamber and ducked into the annex room off to the left. Simon pulled the notebook from my pack and found the only page with writing. We waited and watched as the mummy grunted and stomped around the chamber, trying to find us. I signaled Simon to begin the chant.
The sun god.

"In some sort of solar-powered boat on his way to release the journey that King Amunraper II took.

I imagined it all... The shade...

I sat up and grabbed his arm. He didn't even look at me. Impatiently,

Grasping.

We're going to get in trouble with MRS.

The burial chamber to get him. 'Simon, come on. I'm going to get him.

'Simon? I shouted. From there, ran back to go.

'In the next room.' Everyone jumped up in the room. I jumped up in my bed already, let the tomb. Everyone knew saw over my shoulder to check on the others and saw

They're sneaking in the underworld... I asked. 'Where are they going?' I asked. "In..."

Chapter Two

Suddenly woke me up. I did the cramp too.

been sleeping for over 3,000 years and someone cramp. I guess I couldn't blame him. If I had the moment to enter the room and boy was he mummary and partly because the mummary chose mummary. And partly because I didn't like the thought of having to touch the mummary.

Of course, I hope he decides to crawl back into the sarcophagus before he falls asleep. Otherwise, would work out... until Simon added, "Oh"

Beginning to feel convinced that everything is to sneeze. I sounded simple enough. and I was there. I'll repeat the chant to make him go back.

First we have to leave the mummary back into the burial chamber. Simon said. Once he's
I dropped his arm and felt a look of horror spread over my face.

Simon was immediately apologetic. "I'm sorry, Amy. I didn't mean to keep us here so long. Don't worry. Maybe Mrs. Crabwalk won't notice our absence if we hurry."

"You said his name," I whispered.

"Whose name? Do you mean King Amenhotep?"

"Shhh. Stop saying it. Don't you know that if you speak the name of the dead, you make them live again?"

His eyes widened with comprehension. "Oh, no—I forgot." He slapped his forehead with the palm of his hand. "How could I be so stupid? I read about that, and it even mentions it here in this book," Simon said as he fumbled with the book. It flipped out of his hands and landed with a thud.

We both looked at the book lying on the dirt floor near the closed sarcophagus in front of us. For an entire minute, we didn't breathe or blink, but nothing happened. "I guess it really is just a superstition," I said with a sigh of relief. We headed for the door.

"That's it! The pictures in the ritual shaft. That's where I saw it. Thanks, Amy. That was good thinking." He ran ahead, leaving me all alone in the room with the mummy fast approaching.

"Wait for me!" I screamed, running after him.

Simon was already hard at work when I burst into the room. "Quick, Amy, write this down." I swung my backpack to the dirt floor and pulled out a notebook and pen. I wrote rapidly as he dictated the words from the wall. We were finished in no time.

"What's the plan, Simon?" I turned my head first one way and then the other as I tried to watch the doorway and Simon at the same time.
I hurried me... about to apologize when he jumped up and Simon about the guide's warning. I was just better and I realized I also had forgotten to tell Shouting at Simon didn't make me feel any

wouldn't be in this mess. Simon, "If you had been paying attention, we Simon... I'll go back to the guide's warning! "I grinned 

is the mummy slowly opened the lid of the red

CHAPTER THREE

The mummy was just able

Simon mumbled and started to pace about the

CHAPTER FOUR

Suddenly, I felt as if Simon wasn't able

Then, a low, screeching noise stopped us in our

...at the same time. I felt as if my feet had grown

 aroused and raced me to the ground. "Oh, we're

How are we going to solve this problem?

"How are we going to get in so much trouble? I meant.

Then a low, screeching noise stopped us in our

...into the room to get in.

The mummy exclaimed and ran back

Sarcophagus...

as the mummy slowly opened the lid of the red

tracks. We lurched back and watched in horror.

...at the same time. I felt as if my feet had grown

This can't be happening! "we both squeaked.

...at the same time. I felt as if my feet had grown

...at the same time. I felt as if my feet had grown

...at the same time. I felt as if my feet had grown
The sarcophagus was now completely open, and the mummy slowly sat up. He was directly between Simon and the doorway. Simon was trapped.

“Over here!” I yelled, distracting the mummy enough for Simon to escape. He grabbed the book and ran right by the mummy, pulling me out the door after him.

We sped down the stairs and hid behind one of the pillars at the far end of the next room. My heart was beating so fast, I could barely speak. “What...are...we...going...to...do...now?” I gasped.

“Don’t worry, I’ll figure it out. Just keep an eye out for the mummy while I search this book for answers,” he said. So I crouched down and peeked out from behind the pillar, waiting for the mummy to find us. “I think I found something,” he whispered. But it was too late. The mummy had entered the room and was coming down the stairs toward us.

“Save it for later. We have to get out of here now,” I insisted, yanking Simon up by the back of his collar and rushing him out of the chamber into the long narrow corridor.

“I don’t think he saw us,” I whispered. But I had spoken too soon. The mummy had entered the corridor and was heading toward us. We made a dash for the next chamber and hid behind another pillar in the back of the room. I resumed guard duty and kept an eye on the door.

Simon quickly flipped through the pages of the book, frantically trying to locate the answers he had just found. “DARN IT!” he shouted. “There’s a page missing from this book. This picture only tells us what happens after they make him a mummy. But I know I’ve seen the picture we need somewhere.”
Oil Spill
The Gulf Coast: Deep Trouble
The Offshore Drilling Debate

As long as the world depends on oil for energy, there will be pressure to look for new sources of oil. Many people oppose offshore drilling and the use of tanker ships to move oil across the oceans. They say the risks of oil spilling and leaking are not risks worth taking.

Many others argue that our growing energy needs make drilling through the ocean floor necessary. Scientists know that big pockets of oil lie beneath the ocean floor in many regions of the world. Those who favor offshore drilling believe that taking proper safety precautions will minimize the risks involved. But as the Deepwater Horizon accident and others like it show, we can never guarantee that large oil spills won’t happen.
Deep Trouble: The Gulf Coast Oil Spill - Level U

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13 Cleaning Up Oil Spills
12 Other Big Oil Spills
11 The Risks of Oil Rigs
9 Why Oil Spills Are Disasters
6 The Bigger Problem
4 Explosion Aboard the Deepwater Horizon

HOAGING Booms: Hoaing booms collected oil used to skim oil equipment are ships with special

Skimming: coated with oil that comes ashore

Power Washing: Power sprayers are used to

Microbes: Tiny, microscopic oil-eating organisms

Containment: Oil is spread over the spill. They eat and digest

Booms: Oil booms or long barriers to prevent the oil from spreading.

Chemicals: Chemicals that break the oil into microscopic droplets

Plane Lying Over Planes Lying Over
Cleaning Up Oil Spills

Trying to clean up oil spills is difficult and expensive. Cleaning up the spill caused by the Deepwater Horizon explosion will cost the company that owns the well billions of dollars. There is no easy way to remove oil from the environment once it’s been spilled. Authorities used a variety of methods to deal with the damage from the spill.

Methods of Cleaning Up Oil Spills

Absorption: Special towels are used to absorb oil that is coating sand and other material along the shore.

Burning: When conditions are fairly calm and the oil is fairly thick, it can be set on fire. Burning removes oil from the surface but fills the air with harmful black smoke.
an oil slick that covered 4,000 square miles. Gallons of oil were released into the water creating an oil slick that covered 4,000 square miles. However, the WORST oil spill ever created was the Exxon Valdez. Oil released from the ship's cargo killed over 100,000 animals and damaged the environment. Hundreds of thousands of animals died from contact with the oil and the effects of the spill. Some of the world's biggest oil spills have been caused by ships. Exxon Valdez in the Exxon Valdez spill. Some of the world's biggest oil spills have been caused by ships.

Other Big Oil Spills

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The Bigger Problem

The *Deepwater Horizon* accident was much worse than was first feared because the safety valve on the well failed. Safety valves on oil wells are designed to shut off the flow of oil in emergencies. But for some reason, the safety valve on the well beneath the *Deepwater Horizon* didn’t close. Because of that failure, about 60,000 barrels of oil leaked into the ocean each day. By May 3, the oil slick covered an area of 2,500 square miles — larger than the state of Delaware. By July 15 when the well was capped from the top, about 5 million barrels of oil had leaked into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Development Driller III rig that was chosen to drill the relief well is similar to the *Deepwater Horizon*.

The Risks of Oil Rigs

The work done by oil rigs always carries the risk of leaks and explosions. Fires, mechanical failures, and severe weather such as hurricanes can cause accidents at any time. Explosive natural gas often bubbles up from oil wells. If a natural gas cloud reaches the surface, a single spark can touch off a huge explosion. In addition, oil can leak from underwater pipes that carry oil from offshore wells to refineries on land.
Keep the box from working. Temperatures and high pressures at the seafloor with frozen crystals of natural gas. The cold water was deep, the box became blocked. Unfortunately, that would halt the oil away. Unfortunately, the box would be pumped out into larger ships. The idea was to build a large metal box to place over the leaking well. The oil that collected inside the Gulf Coast shores. Another solution was tried. As the first edges of the oil slick neared the valve, but all attempts to stop the leak failed. A switch that was supposed to close the safety valve. The small submarines were used to stop the leak. The small submarines were sent to the ocean floor to examine the damage and try to stop the leak. The oil slick was sent to the days, weeks, and months following the problems created by the leaking well in solving the problems created by the leaking well in the Gulf Coast.

Over one thousand people went to work on the box, but it didn't work. Workers tried to catch the oil leaking from the well in a big metal box.
Crew members work on an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

Plans were also made to drill relief wells next to the leaking well. The relief wells would connect with the original well and would be used to pump mud or concrete down the pipes to try to plug it. On September 16 a relief well finally reached the original well. Mud and cement were pumped into the well to seal it shut. On September 19 the well was declared plugged from the bottom for good.

Why Oil Spills Are Disasters

The harmful effects of oil spills become clear when the oil gets close to and reaches the shore. Oil spills can cause tremendous damage to marine life, the environment, and the economy. Countless birds, fish, and other animals can be killed as the oil reaches the areas where they hunt and live. Beaches and wetlands can become contaminated with toxic oil. Wildlife refuges that are home to rare animals can be destroyed.

Rare birds such as these brown pelicans off the Louisiana coast are threatened by the oil spill.
Amazon River
Adventure on the
Levelled Book V

A Reading A-Z Level V Levelled Book

Word Count: 125
Amazon River

Adventure

Illustrated by John Kaiser
Written by David Messner
“Well, I jumped,” her dad said. “And I hope it was worth it.”

Cammy looked up at the big boat as it chugged farther away. She could see her mom waving from the top deck. Cammy waved and blew kisses until she couldn’t see her mom anymore.

Then she turned to her dad and said, “It’s only about ten hours to Santarém, you know.”

“What do you have in the basket?” her dad asked. “Enough food for the both of us?”

“Let’s see... I’ve got bananas, manioc bread, and lots of mangoes. There are um, dois, três, quatro, cinco, seis, sete, oito, nove, and dez.”

Cammy’s dad smiled. “So you could learn a foreign language from natives, but not from your own father, eh?”

“No, Dad. Now I want to learn from you, too. Could you teach me to count up to twenty in Portuguese?”

“That depends on how well you canoe, my dear,” Cammy’s dad said as he relaxed his hands behind his head. “This trip was your idea.”
Chapter 7: Looking Up

Chapter 6: A World Away

Chapter 5: The First Night

Chapter 4: The Little River

Chapter 3: While the Boat Slept

Chapter 2: The Canoe People

Chapter 1: Hammock Life

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"To make clear, but I learned a lot of things."

"I fell off the boat. I didn't jump. She wanted to give him a pig, wet hot Canmy pulled her dad up into the canoe and couldn't breathe. But first help me into the canoe."

"That's what I wanted to ask you, he said, "What are you doing here?"

"Can you give me a lift, young lady?" he said.

A man's face slowly emerged from the water canoe's balance and looked down into the river that it almost tipped over. She regarded the something suspicious so hard next to Canmy very own daughter." he exclaimed. "You know that bag down to your feet Canmy Angha."

"Is it him? Is it him?" the woman asked.

out loud.

Jared looked through them and started laughing.

"Excuse me, he asked. "But can I look through those for a second?"

"Strange," he said. "I get looks like she has blond hair."

"Jared looked through his binoculars. That's
Johnnie and Jared watched from the top deck as a little boy with brown skin opened up the plastic bag. “I wonder what kind of house they live in,” Johnnie wondered out loud.

“It’s probably like that small wooden one,” said a man who was leaning on the rail. Johnnie looked over at him and nodded. Next to the man was a woman. She clutched a plastic bag in her right hand. “Excuse me, but are you going to throw that too?” Johnnie asked.

The woman looked at him and tried to smile. “Yes, but I’m just waiting for the right moment.”

“What’s inside?” he asked.

“A wish,” she said.

“Hey look, there comes another canoe person now!” Jared exclaimed.

From the upper deck they could see a person paddling hard toward the big boat. It looked like a small girl. She slapped her paddle into the water and waved her arms.

The woman stood on the middle rail and threw the bag as hard as she could.

The girl paddled to the bag and put it in the canoe. She opened it up and peered inside.

Chapter 1: Hammock Life

“Cammy, just try to say it once: Obrigada. It means ‘Thank you.’”

“Dad, I already told you! I don’t speak Portuguese, and I don’t want to learn.”

Cammy’s mom rolled her eyes. Most of the trip had been like this. For some reason, Cammy was not enjoying the adventure. Most twelve-year-olds would think a boat ride up the Amazon River was pretty cool.

Cammy poked at her food. “This is the third lunch in a row they’ve served this same fish. I’m getting tired of it.”
Do we get to get off?" Cammy asked.

"Tomorrow. That will be something new to look at," Sanford replied. "Tomorrow we're going to arrive at a town calledUnary."

"Well, Ms. Smarty Pants. Her mom began,
That was pretty positive, the Ombreana,"
"I saw one of those cool pink dolphins. There was a girl watching the sunsets. And yesterday morning and until now!" Come on, Dad. You know I like that there are only three days left.

"Huh?" Her dad asked. "Is there anything that you do like about this trip?"

"I'm not responsible. This trip was your idea," Cammy replied. "I'm holding you two accountable. I'm holding you two responsible."

"I got married. I'm holding you two accountable."

"Cammy yelled. "And did the mosquitoes of us."

"They must have paid money like the rest."

"Boat anyway?"

"Yeah, but for food there are ants in our food."

"It's a good thing we brought our own food."

"I don't know. "I just stepped on the deck of cookies you threw down."

"What do you suppose their life is like?"

"Where is your home?"

"For these nights. The big boat was getting close to the island. They had already slept in hammocks."

"But the parents had brought them down the river."

"The big boat had reached Manhattan, picked up new passengers and turned around to drop them off."

Chapter 2: Looking Up
Chapter 6: A World Away

March 30

This was my first full day here. My brain hurts from trying to communicate with them. I feel really tired. Last night my body was really itchy. I think there are fleas in my bed. And I kept thinking about my parents.

March 31

This morning Ixtola and I went to the garden and pulled up manioc roots. In the afternoon we saw a group of little monkeys up close! And then we found some bananas just growing on trees! Ixtola cut them down with her machete.

April 1

Today they gave me canoe lessons. Ixtola’s dad said to give me one of their canoes to go to Santarém. From there I can get back on a big boat. We can’t really talk to each other, but we use our hands until we understand. Ixtola’s little brothers taught me how to count to ten.

From her favorite tree, Cammy stared down the little river. Tomorrow she would get in the canoe and paddle downstream. She folded up the piece of paper that Ixtola had given her and looked back at the wooden house. This place didn’t seem so strange anymore. Cammy would miss Ixtola’s family, but she promised to return. Maybe she would show the rainforest to her own kids someday.
best air in the world.

Dad says it's because it's high in deep, deep, deep, because it's the
world. You can see forever. And the air here is kind of sweet.

Today was better. A Brazilian man had a soccer

March 26, 2002

soccer team has a tournament over the weekend.

My friend Brian is having a party on Friday, and our

here is my age! I wish I was back in Vancouver with

Not only am I getting ready already, but nobody

anything! I couldn't sleep very well in my hammock.

Today was our first day on the boat. My parents are

March 25, 2002

four six nights.

It's going to sleep in the hammock.

The boat, I'm in the middle of the Amazon.

Today we left Canada and landed in a city called

March 24, 2002

Cannay's family.

dinner. Each person had a name, just like in

very exotic. This was just a family talking after

seen on television, but I'm not sure why they did not seem

were the kind of exotic people that she had only

their faces, dirty fingernails, and bare feet. These

The family was slowly talking and had stopped

Then Cannay slowly looked around the room.

Getting fed by natives.

the boat. Tonight I fell asleep next to my parents on

persecuted last night. I fell asleep next to my parents on
Chapter 2: The Canoe People

On the following day the boat stopped in Santaréém, a medium-size town on the bank of the river. A Brazilian family boarded and hung their hammocks in the sleeping area. There was a girl about Cammy’s age. She had curly black hair and a big smile on her face.

“Hello, do you speak English?” the girl asked Cammy with a foreign accent.

“Yes,” answered Cammy. “And you are Brazilian? How did you learn English?”

Cammy looked up at her and smiled. “Cammy,” she said. “I’m Cammy.”

Ixtola helped Cammy to her feet and up the wooden steps. On the porch stood a short man with his arms crossed. His eyes studied Cammy distrustfully as she ducked under the doorway.

Inside it was dark except for a fire in the middle of the room. Shadows danced on the wooden walls. The two boys sat on the floor near the fire. The littlest girl helped a woman peel vegetables over a table. That woman had black hair with gray streaks in it. Her eyes were a deep, dark coffee color. She smiled at Cammy and motioned for her to sit. Cammy sat on the floor next to her friend, the paddler.

Ixtola’s mother handed them bowls containing something white that looked like soup. It had vegetables, leaves, fish, and other stuff in it. There were no spoons. Cammy closed her eyes and took a small sip. “Mmmm,” she sighed, opening her eyes. The entire family laughed. They were relieved that she liked the food.

After dinner, Cammy sipped her tea and watched everyone’s shadows dance on the walls. She also watched the smoke blow out of the window and into the Amazon sky. Wow, Cammy thought to
picked it up before it sank. The two boys, they paddled over to the bank and a while plastic bag into the water. It landed near Just then somebody from the lower deck threw

"These kids help them out. Those people are very poor. So the people on Gadbea answered. "It is kind of like a tradition. They are asking for things. Like food."

"What are they doing, "Canny asked.

They paddled hard against the water. They reached the side of the boat. They clapped their paddles hard against the water. When they other. Their skin was dark brown. When they was in one canoe and two young boys were in the canoe. Canny paddled toward the boat. A man

"Go see. Gadbea smiled. "Yes, sure," she said. "Let's"

"Cool. My name is Canny. It's nice to meet you. How do you want to check out the boat?"

"and learn English. My name is Gadbea. Canny. So I go to school with Canadian kids.

"My family live for one year in Toronto."

"repeated, "Canny. She put her hand on her chest and like those of an older woman." Canny, she said. The hand she felt was that of the oldest girl.

The rain started to feel cold and wet. There was almost completely dark. Canny had started When Canny felt a hand on her shoulder, the

Chapter 5: The First Night
Cammy rested her elbow on the railing and stared out at the canoe family. "I wonder what their lives are like," she said. "Do you think we could make a bag to throw to them?"

"Do you want to?" asked Gabriela.

"Yeah, let's go."

The two girls raced back to Cammy's hammock. Cammy emptied two plastic grocery bags and shook out the ants. They quickly filled each bag with fruit, crackers, and a can of soda. Cammy also put in a bracelet that she had made. Then they ran to the lower deck.

"Hey, look," pointed Gabriela, "there's another canoe coming."

A young boy and an older girl paddled hard to reach the big boat. Then they slapped their paddles against the water and stared up at the two girls.

Cammy and Gabriela threw their bags in close proximity to the canoe. The older girl paddled while the young boy scooped them up. He handed the bags back to the older girl. Cammy could see her pull out the bracelet. She held it in her palm and carefully examined it. Cammy squinted to see her face, but the canoe had already drifted too far away.

Cammy suddenly felt very afraid. Besides the house, she could not see any other signs of human existence. And the jungle was so thick that she could hardly see the sky. A big mosquito landed on her arm and started sucking her blood. She slapped at it frantically. "Ahhhh!" Another one landed on her neck. "Malaria!" she screamed, as her hands spun like an out-of-control windmill, slapping her body up and down.

Giggles came from the direction of the house. Four curious faces peeked out of the window. But when Cammy looked up, they ducked down. Their giggles turned into loud laughter.

That's when Cammy started to cry. She lay down on the ground in a ball and sobbed until her whole body trembled. Everything was different here, her parents were far away, and these weird kids didn't even speak her language. She was lost in the middle of the Amazon rainforest! Cammy closed her eyes and everything went blank.
The sky grew lighter purple and Cammy and him of the boat's course. The air still smelled like fresh rain. Cammy could see where the sun was going to rise. As she walked up to the top deck, she could hear her father's voice. "Everytime was silent except for the creak of the sails."

When the little boy stood up to the house, the stairs and led up their course. He touched the railing. Finally, a boy in a child's shirt ran down back inside. She could hear them whispering and talking. They were no houses in sight, but Cammy stepped back into the house.

Chapter 3: While the Boat Sank

The big fish and quickly ran into the house. Everyone else was still asleep, rocking quietly. She could see a thin line of light in the black and a faint streak of orange below. The following day was one that Cammy would never forget. The swaying of the hammock had put her to sleep.

The forest was like background music. The leaves rustled. There was no grass in the floor the walls, the porch, and the steps leading to a small house. It was all made of wood. The branches and leaves formed a thick green canopy overhead. Wings hung down to the water. The leaves were no houses in sight, but Cammy could hear him.

Next time: Why did the boy paddle the canoe toward the river?
looked across the water toward the trees, she spotteda small person paddling a canoe toward
the boat.

Cammy ran downstairs and quietly filled up
another plastic bag. Then she ran to the lower deck,
but the canoe was still not close enough. Then she
climbed to the upper deck. Maybe if she threw it
hard enough, the canoe person could reach the bag
before it sank.

Cammy stood up on the middle rail and pressed
her knees into the top rail for support. She cocked
her arm back, and then swung it forward with all
of her might. The plastic bag flew out into the river.
But Cammy's body leaned too far forward, and her
knees pivoted over the rail. She fell down, down,
down, into the Amazon River.

Cammy's body sank deep underwater. When
she finally surfaced, the boat was already fifty
meters away. "Heeeelp!" she screamed at the top
of her lungs. "Somebody help me!"

Cammy frantically swam in the direction of the
boat. But it continued to chug upstream while the
current carried her farther downstream. Nobody
was standing on the decks. Nobody had seen her
fall. The sun was not even up yet. The passengers
were still asleep in their hammocks.

Chapter 4: The Little River

Cammy felt two hands grab onto her
shoulders. Before she knew it, they had pulled her
up and into a canoe.

Suddenly she was resting on a huge fish,
almost as big as herself. It was cold, slimy, and
still breathing. "Ahhhhhh!" she screamed, and
jumped away from the fish. A little giggle came
from the back of the canoe.

Cammy turned around. The canoe's paddler
was a little boy no more than eight years old.
He had dark brown skin and straight black hair.
He wore a red shirt and blue shorts, and his feet
were bare. The boy stared at Cammy like she
was from another planet. Then he looked at the
fish and laughed again. Cammy studied him
distrustfully.