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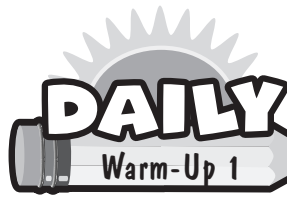
Daily Reading Practice

Grade

4



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Name _____

Date _____

LADYBUGS

Have you ever seen a small, red beetle with black dots on its back? These little insects are called ladybugs. These little insects are harmless to humans. A ladybug does not bite or sting humans. Ladybugs are also harmless to plants, and they do not carry diseases. But how did the ladybug get its name? There are many stories. One of these stories came from the Middle Ages. The crops were being eaten, and the villagers began praying. The red beetles with black dots came and ate the harmful insects. These beetles were named “the Beetles of Our Lady.” The name was shortened to lady beetles or ladybugs.

Since then, the ladybug has been known to bring good luck. There are many beliefs about ladybugs from all over the world. It has been said that if a ladybug lands on a young maiden’s hand, she will marry soon. In England, it has been said that if a farmer sees a ladybug, he will have a good harvest. Some people believe that the number of spots you see on the ladybug’s back will represent the number of children you will have.

Ladybugs today can still bring good fortune. If you have a ladybug in your garden, then you do not need to use insect poison to get rid of aphids. Aphids are tiny insects that are harmful to many plants. They suck the juice from the leaves of the plant. A ladybug can eat as many as 50 aphids in a day. Some people buy ladybugs to fight the aphids.

STORY QUESTIONS

- According to this reading passage, why might someone want to buy a ladybug?
 - They are more expensive than insecticides.
 - Ladybugs kill aphids that can be harmful to plants.
 - Ladybugs bring good luck.
 - Ladybugs will reproduce.
- This passage is mostly about . . .

a. aphids.	c. the anatomy of a ladybug.
b. good farming practices.	d. general information of ladybugs.
- According to the passage, what do some people believe will happen when a ladybug lands on the hand of a young maiden?

- According to the passage, what might ladybugs first have been called?

a. lady in waiting	c. the Beetles of Our Lady
b. lady buggle	d. bug of a lady



Name _____

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THE PANDA BEAR

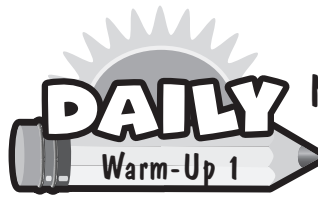
One of the most unusual bears known to man is the panda bear. Panda bears live in southwestern China. They live in misty forests of bamboo. There are two main types of pandas. They are the giant black-and-white panda and the red panda. They weigh anywhere from 175 to 275 pounds. They get anywhere from five to six feet in height. A newborn panda cub is about the size of a chipmunk. They are born blind and are completely helpless. They rely heavily on their mother. Once the baby panda leaves its mother, it will live all alone.

Pandas are active during both the day and at night. The most important plant in the life of a panda bear is bamboo. They spend about 12 hours of their day eating bamboo. That's a lot of bamboo! Pandas have special bones in their wrists that enable them to grab the stalks of the bamboo. Pandas will peel away the outer edge of the stalk and eat the soft inner portion of the bamboo. Their giant molars crush the bamboo stalks. The panda will also eat the bamboo leaves. Pandas have also been known to eat mushrooms, insects, grasses, fish, fruit, and rice.

Pandas move in a very slow, methodical manner. Unlike some bears, the panda bear does not hibernate. They live in a climate where they can be active and eating throughout the year.

STORY QUESTIONS

- A different title for this reading passage could be . . .
 - "Panda Paradise."
 - "China's Bear."
 - "All You Want to Know About Bears."
 - "Illegal Bear Hunting."
- Newborn panda cubs are not born . . .
 - being able to see.
 - blind.
 - the size of a chipmunk.
 - helpless.
- The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - justify keeping pandas in captivity.
 - inform the reader of how pandas are mistreated.
 - share general information about panda bears.
 - raise awareness of the shrinking of the panda population.
- If you wanted to find out more about pandas, you could . . .
 - read a book about how bears hibernate.
 - watch a television program about bamboo.
 - meet somebody who lives in China.
 - watch a television program about the different types of bears.



Name _____ Date _____

WALT DISNEY

Where is “the happiest place on earth”? Some say it is Disneyland! Do you know the person who created this amazing theme park? He was a man named Walt Disney. Walt Disney was a pioneer in motion pictures. He also created Mickey Mouse and the Disney World theme parks. Walt Disney received hundreds of awards from all over the world.

Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois. He was raised on a farm in Missouri with four other siblings. Walt’s parents, Flora and Elias Disney, encouraged his creativity and sketches and drawings. Walt sold his first sketches at the age of seven.

After serving some time in the Red Cross, Walt got a job as an advertising cartoonist. This was where he marketed and created his first animated cartoon. In 1925, Walt married Lillian Bounds. They had two daughters. Another important member of the family was brought to life in 1928. That was Mickey Mouse.

Walt perfected the combination of animation and sound. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was created in 1937. Since then, the Disney name has gone on to produce hundreds of animated movies.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What are the author’s feelings about Walt Disney?
 - indifferent
 - disapproves
 - unsure
 - admires
- Which sentence shows how the author feels about Walt Disney?
 - Walt married Lillian Bounds.
 - Disney was born in Chicago.
 - Walt Disney perfected the combination of animation and sound.
 - Walt got a job as an advertising cartoonist.
- Which sentence is not an example of the encouragement Disney received through the years?
 - He got a job at an advertising agency.
 - He invented Mickey Mouse.
 - His parents encouraged his creativity.
 - He received awards from all over the world.
- What is the meaning of word *pioneer* in this passage?
 - trailblazer of new ideas
 - worker
 - traveled across the plains
 - nomads



Name _____

Date _____

HELEN KELLER

Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to see or hear? When Helen Keller was 19 months old, she became very ill. Doctors expected her to die, but she survived. Helen's mother soon noticed that Helen was not responding when the dinner bell rang or when she waved her hand in front of Helen's face. It then became apparent that Helen's illness had left her blind and deaf. She was born on June 27, 1880 in Alabama, where she lived with her family. She was frustrated and confused. She didn't know what was going on in her world. Her parents knew that they needed help. They hired a tutor for Helen. Her name was Anne Sullivan.

Success didn't happen right away. But one day at the water pump, a breakthrough happened. Anne spelled the word *water* in Helen's hand. Helen began to catch on. Suddenly, her brain was on fire. She reached down to touch the ground, and Anne spelled the word *earth* in her hand. She continued pointing and learning. She learned to spell 30 words on that day.

By the age of 10, Helen had learned to speak by feeling her teacher's mouth when she talked. Some people couldn't understand Helen, but she kept trying. She learned to read French, German, Greek, and Latin in Braille. Braille is a way for people who can't see to read. Raised dots are used to represent letters and words. Soon Helen could read, write, and speak.

Helen Keller went on to give speeches all over the world. Most of the money she earned was given to the American Foundation for the Blind. She met 12 U.S. presidents, wrote a dozen books, and went to college. Helen Keller lived to be 87. She continues to inspire many people worldwide.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Helen Keller so successful in life?
 - a. People felt sorry for her and took pity on her.
 - b. She eventually got her vision and hearing back.
 - c. She learned to overcome obstacles and work hard.
 - d. She was able to meet 12 U.S. presidents and speak worldwide.
2. What can you learn about Anne Sullivan from reading this passage?
 - a. She traveled the world to give speeches.
 - b. She was diligent in her efforts with Helen Keller.
 - c. She was blind herself.
 - d. She was placed in an orphanage.
3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
 - a. Helen Keller was unable to overcome great obstacles to do great things.
 - b. Helen Keller didn't have to work hard to succeed.
 - c. Helen's parents made the right choice in hiring Anne Sullivan.
 - d. Blind people can be taught how to read Braille, but not deaf people.



Name _____

Date _____

MAN ON THE MOON

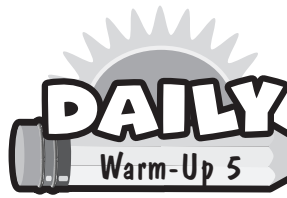
The space race was on to see which country would be the first to put a man on the moon. The U.S.S.R. had put the first satellite into space. It was called *Sputnik*. The United States was working hard to get a man on the moon. It was a tough goal. This had never been done before. After years and years of hard work, it finally happened.

Neil Armstrong was the first man ever to step on the moon. His famous words were, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” The date was July 20, 1969. Pictures and stories of this famous and historic event were found in newspapers around the world. There were pictures of the astronauts’ footprints on the moon. Millions of people watched the event on television.

Buzz Aldrin was also with Armstrong on the voyage to the moon. Each of them spent hours on the moon doing tests and taking samples. The surface of the moon was fine and powdery. There is little gravity on the moon, so the two men were able to walk and hop freely on the surface. They also posted the American flag on the moon. There is no wind on the moon, so their footprints might still be there!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What type of accomplishment was putting a man on the moon?
 - general accomplishment
 - sad accomplishment
 - difficult accomplishment
 - disappointing accomplishment
- What conclusions can be drawn about the first trip to the moon?
 - It was a mission fraught with arguments and disagreements.
 - It was a successful mission.
 - It was an experience never to be repeated.
 - It was an unorganized mission.
- Which of the following statements about the moon is not supported by information in the passage?
 - There is little gravity on the moon.
 - There is plenty of water on the moon.
 - The surface of the moon is fine and powdery.
 - Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon.
- What is the meaning of the phrase “one giant leap for mankind” as used in the passage?
 - It was a huge accomplishment and learning opportunity for humankind.
 - It was an example of their willingness to sacrifice for humankind.
 - Humankind would soon be making those same steps.
 - There was not a lot learned from the experience.



Name _____

Date _____

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

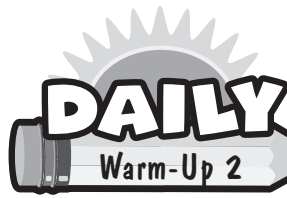
Perhaps the most famous battle of the Civil War was the one in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At the end of the battle, over 50,000 soldiers were wounded, missing, or killed. The Union and Confederate armies had each lost thousands of men. Many of the bodies were buried in shallow graves along the battlefield. The Union army wanted to do better than that.

The Union army was able to get land for a cemetery in Gettysburg. This cemetery was dedicated in November of that year. Edward Everett was asked to speak at the dedication. He was a great speaker of that time. President Abraham Lincoln was also asked to speak. He was the president during the Civil War.

On the day of the dedication, Mr. Everett spoke for two hours. When it was President Lincoln's turn, he spoke for two minutes. He didn't think it was a very good speech, but it went on to be considered one of the greatest speeches of all time. It became known as the Gettysburg Address. In his speech, Lincoln talked about the "new birth of freedom." His words inspired many people then, and they continue to inspire many people today.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - "Mr. Everett's Speech"
 - "The Dedication of the Cemetery"
 - "Lincoln's Famous Address"
 - "Union and Confederate Soldiers"
- What conclusions can be drawn about the battle of Gettysburg?
 - It was one of the deadliest battles of the Civil War.
 - It was a pivotal battle at the beginning of the war.
 - President Lincoln approved of the battle.
 - It was fought in a poor location.
- Which statement explains why President Lincoln's speech was so well received?
 - It inspired people to keep fighting.
 - It inspired people to go home and think.
 - It was used to encourage the wounded and dying soldiers.
 - It inspired people to think about their freedoms and reasons for fighting.
- What is the meaning of the phrase "new birth of freedom" in the passage?
 - It is the idea that we are connected and shouldn't pull apart.
 - It is a willingness to sacrifice and stick together.
 - It is the idea that there was a new idea of freedom coming to light.
 - It is the idea that you should never give up or turn away when times are tough.



Name _____ Date _____

THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

The adult brain weighs about three pounds. This doesn't seem like much, but it is one of the most important organs in the human body. The brain is made up of millions of nerve cells. These nerve cells tell the rest of the body what to do. Without a brain, we could not live. The spinal cord is connected to the brain. It runs from our neck down through our back. The spinal cord and the brain make up what is called the central nervous system.

The brain is like the body's computer. It controls body temperature and reminds us to breathe. The brain allows the body to have voluntary movement, thought, language, and reasoning. Different parts of the brain have different jobs. The brain tells us when we are hungry and thirsty. It also is responsible for memory and emotion.

Our brain relies on food to give it energy. You need to eat healthy foods to keep your brain and the rest of your body working right. Healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, cereals, grains, milk, and other dairy products are all important foods for us to eat. We also need to keep our brains active. Research has shown that the less active our brain is, the less we are able to remember and do. So keep thinking, moving, and doing. It's great for your brain.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, what do you think would happen if your brain was injured?
 - a. It would immediately double in size.
 - b. Our bodies might not be able to perform certain things.
 - c. The heart would begin to take over the body.
 - d. Doctors have not yet determined what happens in this case.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. to inform the reader about what happens when they are thinking.
 - b. to inform the reader about the connection between the heart and brain.
 - c. to inform the reader about how important healthy food is to the brain.
 - d. to share general information about the brain and the spinal cord and how they work.
3. Where can you find information about the spinal cord?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. not in the passage
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. first paragraph



Name _____

Date _____

EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

What do you know about Earth's atmosphere? Earth's atmosphere is a thin layer of gases that cover the outer edge of Earth. It is mostly made up of nitrogen and oxygen. There are other gases in the atmosphere as well. This layer of gases is very important. It protects Earth from extreme temperatures. The atmosphere also traps heated air. It protects Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. These rays can be very harmful.

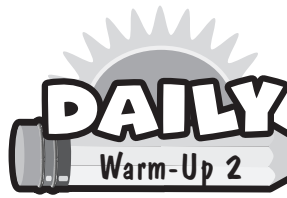
The atmosphere is about 300 miles thick. It slowly becomes thinner the farther it is from Earth and fades off into space. There isn't a real defined boundary between the atmosphere and space.

Oxygen in the atmosphere is important. Oxygen allows us to breathe. Without oxygen in the air, we would not be able to live. Some of the oxygen has changed over time. This is called the ozone layer. Some experts believe that humans have caused a hole in ozone layer.

The atmosphere is divided into five layers. The weather we experience on Earth takes place in the first layer. Weather happens because the atmosphere is constantly moving and changing.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where does the weather we experience on Earth take place?
 - a. in the atmosphere
 - b. in the first layer of the atmosphere
 - c. in the second layer of the atmosphere
 - d. in the ozone layer
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Without the atmosphere, what would happen to Earth?
 - a. It could not withstand the sun's ultraviolet rays.
 - b. There would be no weather patterns.
 - c. There would be less pollution.
 - d. The ozone layer would not have a hole in it.



Name _____ Date _____

LITTERING

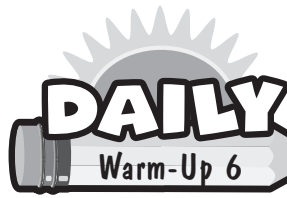
It is very sad to see litter on the highways or in parks and other public places. Littering is a big problem that needs to be stopped. There is no reason why people need to litter. Someone who litters is a lazy person. It means he or she is too lazy to get up and throw away his or her own trash.

Many things have been tried to stop people from littering. Laws have been passed to try to prevent littering. If someone is caught littering on the highway, he or she can be fined to pay for it. This seems to discourage some people, but certainly not everyone.

Littering can cause a lot of problems. Littering can be harmful to the wild animals that live in the parks and forests. Littering can kill animals or make them sick. Sometimes food is left with trash and other things. Wild animals eat this food, and then sometimes they get sick. Littering also looks bad. It's hard to enjoy nature when it is serving as a trash can for us!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about littering?
 - a. tolerant
 - b. pathetic
 - c. disgusted
 - d. annoyed
2. Which of the following sentences clarifies the how the author feels about littering?
 - a. This seems to discourage some people from littering.
 - b. It is very sad to see litter on the highways or in parks.
 - c. There should be a fine for everyone who litters.
 - d. Littering is more and more common today.
3. Which of the following is not an effect of littering?
 - a. Littering is harmful to animals.
 - b. Animals can get sick and die from litter.
 - c. Littering looks bad.
 - d. People can get paid if caught littering.
4. Who does the author blame for littering?
 - a. the audience
 - b. lazy people
 - c. wild animals
 - d. children



Name _____ Date _____

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Do you like to go school shopping each year? For many students, school shopping just isn't necessary. These students go to school where school uniforms are required. School uniforms are typically a white shirt with dark pants or a skirt. There is no need to check out the local ads for the new styles or trends—these children already know what they will wear on the first day of school long before it arrives.

Some people feel that uniforms are not a good idea. They think that children should be able to have a choice in what they wear. Wearing uniforms seems too strict. Bad behavior doesn't happen because of the clothes they are wearing. Uniforms can be a hassle. Some people feel that they are uncomfortable. It can be boring to wear the same thing every day.

On the other hand, many people agree with student uniforms. These people feel that uniforms make all students feel safe and comfortable. You don't have to worry about gangs when everyone is wearing the same uniform. Behavior improves when students wear a uniform and dress nicely. Uniforms can also be much cheaper than the latest fads. Some say that uniforms are easy to wear, and they are comfortable, too.

So what is your opinion?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the third paragraph about school uniforms?
 - a. School uniforms may be a good idea.
 - b. School uniforms show school spirit.
 - c. School uniforms can be expensive.
 - d. School uniforms are uncomfortable, but they keep the students in line.
2. What is one of the reasons presented in the passage that supports the idea that student uniforms improve student behavior?
 - a. Students are more comfortable in school uniforms.
 - b. There are winter and summer uniforms available.
 - c. Students can't wear gang-related clothing if school uniforms are the rule.
 - d. Students feel safe at school because the uniforms are protective gear.
3. Which statement shows that the author is trying to appeal to the parents in the audience?
 - a. Wearing uniforms seems too strict.
 - b. Uniforms can be much cheaper than the latest fads.
 - c. Uniforms are easy to wear and comfortable.
 - d. Uniforms can be a hassle.



Name _____

Date _____

THE RACE OF THE WOLVES

There once were two wolves named Sam and Seneca. Sam and Seneca did everything together. They would race around the forest, competing against each other constantly. One day Sam was racing as fast he could to get across the forest before Seneca. He dug his heels into the dirt and was as fast as the speed of lightning. Seneca was not far behind. She was mad that she was behind. She was growling as she ran. But alas, Sam won the race.

The following morning, the two challenged each other to another race. Seneca was not about to let Sam beat her this time. So she got up early and did a practice run. When the time of the race came, she felt fit and ready. A bird in the tree sounded the start of the race and the two were off. They were flying through the forest at dizzying speeds. For the first time, Seneca was outrunning Sam. She was gaining more speed as they raced, and Sam was getting upset.

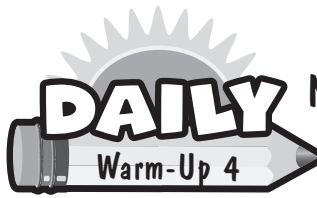
Up ahead on the trail was a family of quails. The proud parents were taking their little babies out for their first walk. They had no idea of the thunder and pounding just moments away.

As the wolves rounded the bend, Seneca could see the covey of quail. For a split second she chose to ignore them, but she could not. She skidded to a stop just in the nick of time. Sam came close behind her. He did not stop. He saw this as his chance to sail past Seneca. He narrowly missed the last little quail. At the end of the race, Sam questioned Seneca as to why she stopped. She confidently replied, "It's better to be safe than sorry."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is a "covey" of quail?
 - a. small group or family
 - b. organization
 - c. mass
 - d. hierarchy
2. How is Seneca's behavior an example of how it's better to be safe than sorry?

3. Which sentence shows that an accident was likely to occur?
 - a. They were flying through the forest at dizzying speeds.
 - b. He narrowly missed the last little quail.
 - c. She was gaining more speed as they raced and Sam was getting upset.
 - d. The proud parents were taking their little babies out for their first walk.



Name _____

Date _____

COOKING FOR TURKEY

There once was a chicken, a duck, and a goose. These three were the best of friends, but their best friend of all was Mr. Turkey.

One morning, Mr. Turkey awoke with the flu. He was sicker than he had ever been. He could barely breathe, and his feathers were all limp. Mr. Turkey's friends knew that he needed help and he needed it fast.

Each friend independently decided to help Mr. Turkey. The goose got a big pot and put it on the fire. She was going to cook a nice broth for Mr. Turkey.

The chicken also wanted to feed Mr. Turkey, but she had it in her mind to make a turnip pie. She was tickled when she saw the pot on the fire and threw her turnips in to boil.

The duck wanted to help Mr. Turkey as well. He came in and saw the pot on the fire and the turnips inside. He decided to add some cinnamon to the pot to make his sugary cinnamon tea. Each friend, in turn, came and added more ingredients to the pot. It wasn't long before Mr. Turkey hobbled into the room.

"What's that awful smell?" he asked. His three friends entered the room with hurt looks on their faces. They couldn't believe what their friend had said—until they too looked in the pot. With a laugh they all said, "I guess it's true. Too many cooks spoil the broth!"

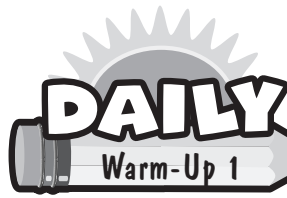
STORY QUESTIONS

- What does the word *independently* mean in the story?
 - artistic
 - separately
 - thoughtfully
 - organized
- Which paragraph contains Mr. Turkey's response to the boiling pot?

a. fifth paragraph	c. third paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. sixth paragraph
- Which of the following would make a good title for the story?

a. "Caring for Mr. Turkey"	c. "House Visit"
b. "Turkey, Goose, and Duck"	d. "Turkey Tea"
- Which of the following idioms goes with the story?

a. Never count your eggs before they hatch.	c. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
b. Wash your hands before dinner.	



Name _____ Date _____

CIVIL LOVE

Sweat was dripping down Mary's neck. It was the year 1864, and Mary was helping the wounded soldiers as they came into camp. It was the saddest thing she had ever seen. Most of the men were very young. Mary spent countless hours helping and healing. The hours were endless.

As Mary walked towards the back of the room, she quickly smiled at little Elizabeth. Elizabeth sat in the corner watching Mary's every move. She had gotten separated from her family. They were nowhere to be found. Mary had taken her in and cared for her like a daughter. She rocked the girl at night as she cried and cried for her momma. During the day, little Elizabeth was Mary's helper. She ran and got things as quickly as she could. She seemed to anticipate Mary's every need.

"Do you want to help me?" Mary asked the little girl.

"Me?" Elizabeth pointed to herself in surprise.

"Yes, you!" replied Mary. Mary asked Elizabeth to gather cloths to wipe the sweat and blood off the soldiers as they came in. Elizabeth hurried to the task, helping the soldiers.

The next morning the captain came in to say that Elizabeth's mother was found but that she wouldn't be able to arrive for few more days. Elizabeth shouted with glee. She was excited to be back with her mom. But for now, she had work to do.

"Come on, Miss Mary. We have work to do," Elizabeth said.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place during the Civil War?
 - a. The hours were endless.
 - b. It was the year 1864, and Mary was helping the wounded soldiers
 - c. The sweat was dripping down Mary's neck.
 - d. Most of the men were so young.

2. Which paragraph explains the circumstances in which Mary was living?

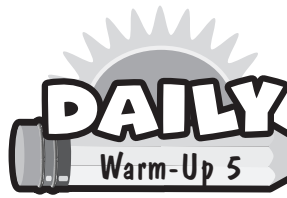
a. first paragraph	c. fourth paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. third paragraph

3. Who is the main character of the story?

a. Elizabeth's mother	c. Mary
b. Elizabeth	d. Captain

4. What is the meaning of the word *anticipate* as used in the story?

a. unbiased and disinterested	c. know in advance
b. impressed and appreciative	d. not care for



Name _____ Date _____

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln had been invited to speak at a dedication of a Civil War cemetery. The Civil War was still in the middle of being fought. Thousands and thousands of soldiers had been killed at Gettysburg, and land had been obtained to bury the dead.

Rebecca had read about the event in a local newspaper. She didn't live far from Gettysburg, and she wanted to go! She begged her parents for a week before they finally relented.

Early on November 19, Rebecca and her father took the quick trip to Gettysburg. She admired Lincoln's bravery and his courage. It had been a dream of hers to one day meet the president. This would be the day.

Rebecca didn't realize how long it would take. Mr. Everett, the first speaker, spoke for two hours. Rebecca thought she was going to die as she sat fidgeting in her seat.

Then it was time for President Lincoln. He rose from his seat and began his speech. Rebecca was enthralled. She loved his words about freedom. President Lincoln spoke for just two minutes. Rebecca couldn't believe it. She jumped out of her seat and ran to the stage. She just had to meet Mr. Lincoln. President Lincoln's bodyguard stopped her, but Mr. Lincoln beckoned her to join him for a minute.

Walking back to the wagon, Rebecca stared at her hand. "I'll never wash it, Dad, never." Her dad smiled and loaded her into the wagon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was it specifically that Rebecca liked about Mr. Lincoln?
 - a. She knew that he would remember her.
 - b. She liked him just because he was president.
 - c. She liked his words about freedom.
 - d. She thought he was nice looking.
2. What is the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Rebecca was finally able to meet President Lincoln.
 - b. Rebecca learned about the Civil War.
 - c. Rebecca was planning a trip to Gettysburg.
 - d. Rebecca begged her parents for permission.
3. What is the meaning of the word *fidgeting* in the fourth paragraph?

a. settling	c. bothering
b. unconcerning	d. squirming



Name _____

Date _____

SPELLING BEE

Miranda had studied the words for the spelling bee for two weeks straight. Each class in school was to send a student to participate in the school-wide spelling bee. Miranda had always been a good speller. She just had to make it to the school spelling bee.

“Encourage,” said her teacher, “encourage.”

“E—n—c—o—u—r—a—g—e.”

“That’s correct,” replied the teacher.

Miranda had made it through another round. The room seemed awfully hot. Her friend Patsy had just spelled a word wrong and had to sit down. Miranda gave her a smile across the room. Now it was just Miranda and Kevin. This was going to be close.

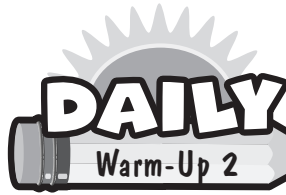
Kevin’s word was “accommodate.” He surprised Miranda and spelled it right. Miranda was up next, and her word was “obstinate.” “The boy was acting obstinate when he wouldn’t agree to clean his room.” Miranda didn’t know what the word meant, but she thought she could spell it. She made it through the first part of the word but had to pause for the ending. “Nate.” How would this word be spelled? Would it be “nat?” “Nate?” She just wasn’t sure.

Just then a picture of her little cousin Nate flashed into her mind. She was pushing him higher and higher on a swing. Before she could think anymore about it, Miranda blurted out the last part, “N-a-t-e.”

“That’s correct!” yelled her teacher. Everyone was happy that Miranda spelled the word right. Miranda looked up at the ceiling and said, “Thanks, Nate!”

STORY QUESTIONS

- Using the context clues, what does the word *obstinate* mean?
 - surprised
 - perplexed
 - stubborn
 - ferocious
- According to the passage, what trick helped Miranda spell the word correctly?
 - She remembered reading the word in a book.
 - Someone had missed the word right before she had.
 - Her teacher had helped her practice for the test.
 - She remembered how to spell her cousin’s name.
- What is the theme of the passage?
 - Being creative and using many resources can help you accomplish a task.
 - If you try hard enough, you can win.
 - It’s important to knock out your competition.
 - Having a large family can be helpful at times.



Name _____ Date _____

BAKE-SALE BLUES

Jesse, Milo, and Heidi had been planning all week to have a bake sale on Saturday. They had been so excited for the big day to arrive. Saturday arrived before they knew it. The table was ready. Jesse showed up bright and early with her homemade chocolate chip cookies. They were large cookies. Milo came next and he put his plate of cookies on the table. Heidi came riding up the street on her bike. She had her cookies in the basket of her bike.

They put up their sign and sat back to rake in the profits. Their first customer was four-year-old Sam from next door. He had a dollar to spend. Jesse, Milo, and Heidi unwrapped all the plates so Sam could take a look. To their astonishment, everyone had brought chocolate chip cookies! How were they going to be able to sell a lot of goodies if they were all the same things?

Milo was the first to speak. “What? I can’t believe this!”

Jesse said, “I told you guys I was going to make chocolate chip cookies. I didn’t know you were all going to copy me.”

“Copy you?” replied Heidi. “You just said you were making chocolate cookies.”

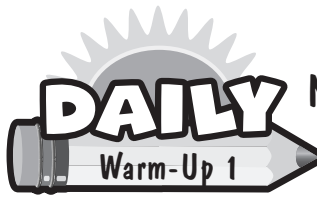
Milo added, “This is a disaster!”

“Relax,” interrupted Sam. “This isn’t such a big deal! Just change your sign. Change it to say nuts, oatmeal, or plain.”

The three kids looked at each other and grinned. Heidi went inside to get a marker to change the sign.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence shows how the children feel about the change of plans?
 - a. “This isn’t such a big deal!”
 - b. “I didn’t know you were all going to copy me.”
 - c. “What? I can’t believe this!”
 - d. The three kids looked at each other and grinned.
2. The second paragraph shares with the reader . . .
 - a. how to solve the problem.
 - b. what the problem was.
 - c. the disagreements between the children.
 - d. the relationship between the children.
3. Why is Sam’s idea a good one?
 - a. It makes the best of the situation.
 - b. They will be able to save all the cookies.
 - c. Sam always has good ideas.



Name _____

Date _____

THE CAVE

Jacob crawled on his stomach through the passageway in the cave. He was very anxious to see light at the end. It had been a long day. He was cold, hungry, and exhausted. As he crept along, questions were flooding through his mind. Would he ever see his family again? Was he going to make it out alive? He was sure that he could make it if he could just find light.

Just then, the noise at the back of the cave started again. The noise was louder than it ever was before. Jacob still couldn't decide what it was, but he wasn't about to wait and find out.

Jacob kept his head tucked low. He knew that if what made the noise could fly, he didn't want to get hit. Just then Jacob's hand hit against something rough. He spread his fingers wide and wiped them over the object. It was his flashlight! With excitement, he quickly and quietly turned it on. Jacob strained his eyes to look in the direction of the noise.

There was a large box dangling from the cave by a rope. Every time the box hit the side of the cave, it made a large noise. That was the noise Jacob had heard. But why was the box swaying? It finally occurred to Jacob that there was a slight breeze. If he followed the direction of the breeze, he could find his way out! With a smile on his face, Jacob worked his way to the entrance of the cave.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which word best describes how Jacob felt at the end of the story?
 - a. organized
 - b. relieved
 - c. annoyed
 - d. exhausted
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Another title for this passage could be . . .
 - a. "Jacob's Day in the Cave."
 - b. "Jacob's New Adventure."
 - c. "Jacob Attacks the Noise."
 - d. "Jacob Discovers the Noise."



Name _____ Date _____

IRONING BOARD SURFING

Charles had been looking forward to his summer vacation with his family. He was excited to go to the beach. His parents finally agreed to let his best friend Henry come along. Henry and Charles had been practicing their surfing on his mom's ironing board.

Despite the broken hinges and the goose egg on Henry's head, practicing had gone well. The six-hour drive to the beach passed quickly, as Charles and Henry had video game competitions.

They finally arrived at the beach and set up camp that night. Henry and Charles could hardly sleep. As the sun was peeking over the hills, the boys were trotting down the beach to catch some waves. As they paddled through the water and turned to catch a wave, they quickly learned that their ironing-board training was inadequate for the strength of the ocean.

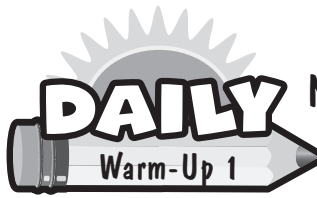
In their focus and concentration, the boys lost track of time. They decided to head in for lunch. Fighting the waves, they finally made it to shore. As they walked across the sand, they found themselves on strange beach they did not recognize. Charles' parents were nowhere in sight. There wasn't a single person on the beach.

"Whoa!" exclaimed Henry.

"What are we going to do?" moaned Charles.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the story, Henry and Charles are . . .
 - a. intelligent.
 - b. immature.
 - c. friends.
 - d. only children.
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Why was the ironing board not good for training?
 - a. It is heavier than a surf board.
 - b. It is not the right shape of the surf board.
 - c. The waves were too strong.
 - d. The ironing board was broken.



Name _____

Date _____

THE DISAPPEARING CAT

She just couldn't believe it. Heather had lost her cat. She was devastated. Heather called for her cat over and over, but there was no response. "Chuckles. Oh, Chuckles. Where are you?" Heather wondered if her cat had been stolen. It wasn't like Chuckles to stay away so long.

Chuckles wasn't like any other cat. She was a special cat. She could laugh. Well, at least she could laugh for Heather. Heather would take Chuckles up to her room and they would laugh for hours and hours. Heather had never been able to get Chuckles to laugh with anyone else. It was a special secret the two of them shared.

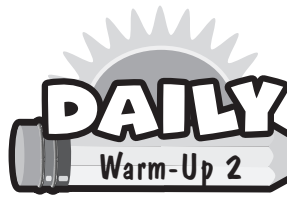
That night, Heather was watching a television show and laughing at all the jokes. She thought she heard someone else laughing, but when she turned the television down, she didn't hear anything. Later in the show she heard some more laughing. This time she knew it wasn't her imagination. She looked under her bed and under the dresser. No Chuckles. Just then, she got an idea. She went to the window and pressed her ear against the glass. Sure enough, she could hear someone or something laughing. She opened the window, and there sat Chuckles, giggling away at the jokes.

"Get in here, Chuckles," she said, "I sure have missed you."

Chuckles just grinned.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Chuckles and Heather shared a . . .
 - secret.
 - favorite treat.
 - funny joke.
 - bed.
- According to the passage, how did Heather find Chuckles?
 - She didn't find Chuckles, her mother did.
 - She set out some food for Chuckles.
 - She listened for the sound of laughter.
 - She told a bunch of jokes.
- A good way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - reread the entire passage.
 - skim the passage and determine the main idea
 - reread the third paragraph and search for clues.
- How did Chuckles get her name?
 - because of her special talent
 - because it was an easy name to say
 - because it was the name of the cat at the pet store
 - because the cat had learned to talk



Name _____ Date _____

WILL POWER

One Sunday, I was flipping through the ads with my mom. “Boring, boring,” I said. I flipped through the colorful pages. I got to the recreation pages. Then, I saw it! A trampoline! Wow! Then a rush of disappointment filled my body. It wouldn’t fit in our backyard.

Just to make sure, I went out in our backyard to check. It is REALLY long, but not very wide. It’s like a long creek, without any room. I then decided to measure the backyard. Thirteen feet! Yes! There was just one problem. Would our parents let us get it?

I rushed into the house. “Mama, Mama!” I yelled.

“What?” she asked.

“I measured the backyard and the trampoline will fit!” I shouted.

“Let’s go measure it,” she said. She went outside with me and I helped her measure the yard. Then my dad came out and my siblings begged them to get it. They replied that there just wouldn’t be room.

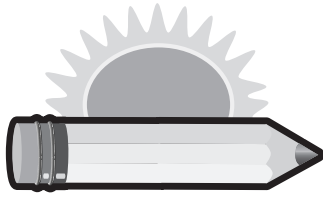
Later, my mom and dad had a “secret talk” about getting it. Before I knew what was happening, my mom was snapping her fingers and the yard was widening. That’s right, the yard began to grow.

The next day after school, when we got home, there was the trampoline waiting for us. It sure is nice to have a mom who has special powers.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. A theme to this story could be . . .
 - a. “Dreams granted.”
 - b. “Make a wish and it will come true.”
 - c. “If there’s a will, there’s a way.”
 - d. “Mom and Dad are the best.”
2. According to the passage, how did the mother make room for the trampoline?
 - a. She snapped her fingers.
 - b. She made plans to move.
 - c. She cut out a new section for the yard.
 - d. She rented a bulldozer.
3. A good way to find the answer to question #2 above is to . . .
 - a. try to remember.
 - b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
 - c. ask the author.
 - d. skim the passage searching for clues about the mother.



Answer Key

Nonfiction Passages Animals

Page 9 Ladybugs

1. b
2. d
3. She will soon marry.
4. c

Page 10 The Panda Bear

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

Page 11 Killer Whales

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

Page 12 The Sloth

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

Page 13 The Rattlesnake

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

Page 14 The Praying Mantis

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

Page 15 The Bison

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

Page 16 Flamingos

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 17 The Giraffe

1. b
2. a
3. c

Page 18 The Monarch Butterfly

1. b
2. c
3. d

Page 19 Desert Tortoise

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

Page 20 Clown Fish

1. a
2. d
3. b

Page 21 The Mountain Lion

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

Page 22 Gecko Lizards

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

Page 23 The Jellyfish

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

Page 24 The Wombat

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

Biography

Page 25 Walt Disney

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

Page 26 Helen Keller

1. c
2. b
3. c

Page 27 Babe Ruth

1. c
2. b
3. d

Page 28 Henry Ford

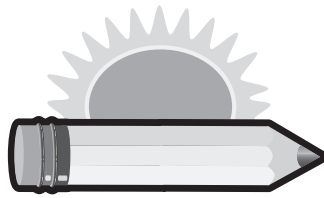
1. c
2. a
3. b
4. d

Page 29 Laura Ingalls Wilder

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

Page 30 Claude Monet

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



Answer Key

Page 31 Dr. Seuss

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

Page 32 John Glenn

1. b
2. c
3. d

Page 33 Abigail Adams

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

Page 34 Elvis Presley

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

Page 35 Eleanor Roosevelt

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

Page 36 Alexander Graham Bell

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

Page 37 John F. Kennedy

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

Page 38 Charles Lindbergh

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

Page 39 Oprah Winfrey

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

Page 40 Jesse Owens

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

American History

Page 41 Boston Tea Party

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

Page 42 Segregation

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

Page 43 Pearl Harbor

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

Page 44 Man on the Moon

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

Page 45 The Gettysburg Address

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

Page 46 The Star-Spangled Banner

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

Page 47 The New England Colonies

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 48 Ellis Island

1. d
2. c
3. c

Page 49 Alaska Becomes a State

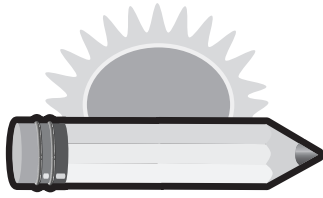
1. c
2. d
3. a
4. b

Page 50 Westward, Ho!

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

Page 51 Southern Plantations

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



Answer Key

Page 52 Women's Rights

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 53 The Dust Bowl

1. b
2. b
3. d

Page 54 Leisure Time in America

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

Page 55 I Have a Dream

1. b
2. b
3. c

Science

Page 56 Jupiter

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

Page 57 The Central Nervous System

1. b
2. d
3. d

Page 58 Mercury

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

Page 59 Uranus

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

Page 60 Earth's Atmosphere

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 61 Earthquakes

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 62 Amphibians

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

Page 63 The Ear

1. c
2. d
3. c

Page 64 Insects

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

Page 65 The Circulatory System

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

Page 66 The Muscular System

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

Page 67 Tornadoes

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

Page 68 Constellations

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

Page 69 Venus

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

Page 70 Asteroid Belt

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

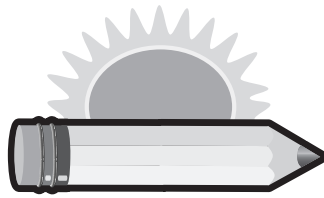
Page 71 The Oceans

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

Current Events

Page 72 Childhood Obesity

1. c
2. a
3. d



Answer Key

Page 73 Littering

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

Page 74 Teacher Selection

1. b
2. a
3. a

Page 75 Character Education

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

Page 76 Too Much TV!

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

Page 77 School Uniforms

1. a
2. c
3. b

Page 78 Enough Sleep

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 79 Amount of Homework

1. a
2. d
3. c

Page 80 Heavy Backpacks

1. c
2. b
3. c

Page 81 Cell Phones

1. d
2. c
3. d

Page 82 School Lunch Menu

1. b
2. b
3. a

Page 83 Quality of Children's Movies

1. a
2. d
3. b

Page 84 Extracurricular Activities

1. b
2. d
3. b

Page 85 Discipline at School

1. b
2. b
3. c

Page 86 Drug-Prevention Programs

1. d
2. a
3. b

Fiction Passages

Fairy Tales/Folklore

Page 89 Problem Solved!

1. c
2. c
3. a

Page 90 The Race of the Wolves

1. a
2. She is willing to exercise safety even if it means sacrificing something she wants.
3. a

Page 91 Good Aim

1. c
2. c
3. c

Page 92 Cooking for Turkey

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

Page 93 Coming Around Again

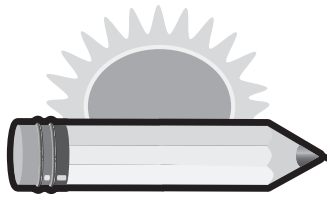
1. a
2. c
3. d
4. c

Page 94 The Cover

1. d
2. b
3. They would probably treat him with respect and friendship.

Page 95 Flamingo Foibles

1. d
2. a
3. b



Answer Key

Page 96 Housework

1. It meant that she needed to do her fair share of the work.
2. b
3. c

Page 97 Princess Problems

1. d
2. a
3. a

Page 98 Funny Frieda

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

Page 99 Early to Rise

1. c
2. d
3. b

Page 100 Practicing Patience

1. d
2. a
3. b

Page 101 Scrambled Eggs

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 102 In Need

1. b
2. c
3. c

Page 103 Perfection

1. c
2. a

3. They learned that if you practice hard enough, you can show improvement—even great improvement.

Page 104 Surprising Twist

1. c
2. c
3. c

Historical Fiction

Page 105 Civil Love

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

Page 106 Welcome Home

1. d
2. d
3. b

Page 107 You're Fired

1. d
2. d
3. d

Page 108 Baby Doll

1. Grace had a conversation about the doll with the man at the store.
2. b
3. c

Page 109 The Gettysburg Address

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 110 Maren's Wish

1. b
2. b

3. a

Page 111 The Uniform

1. d
2. b
3. b

Page 112 Refuge from the Storm

1. b
2. a
3. b

Page 113 Shot Heard Around the World

1. a
2. b
3. b

Page 114 Blast Off!

1. a
2. c
3. c

Page 115 Being Needed

1. c
2. d
3. b

Page 116 Over the Top

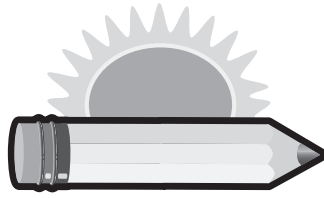
1. b
2. d
3. a

Page 117 Sacrifice Brings Blessings

1. d
2. b
3. b

Page 118 Sick of It

1. d
2. c
3. a



Answer Key

Page 119 Out of the Dust

1. c
2. d
3. d

Contemporary Realistic Fiction**Page 120 Spelling Bee**

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 121 Bake-Sale Blues

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 122 Overboard!

1. d
2. c
3. b

Page 123 Artistic Talent

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

Page 124 The Field Trip

1. b
2. a
3. b

Page 125 A Sudsy Day

1. b
2. d
3. b

Page 126 The Field Day

1. a
2. d
3. d

Page 127 Family Reunion

1. a
2. b
3. d

Page 128 Haunted Halloween

1. a
2. b
3. c

Page 129 Friends in the Morning

1. c
2. c
3. b

Page 130 The Attack at Midnight

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 131 Faded Memories

1. b
2. c
3. b

Page 132 Mystery Solved

1. b
2. d
3. a

Page 133 My Dog Ate It

1. a
2. b
3. d

Page 134 Ski Buddies

1. c
2. a
3. c

Page 135 I Spy!

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

Mystery/Suspense/Adventure**Page 136 The Cave**

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 137 Ironing Board Surfing

1. c
2. b
3. c

Page 138 April Fool's Day

1. c
2. a
3. b

Page 139 The Treasure

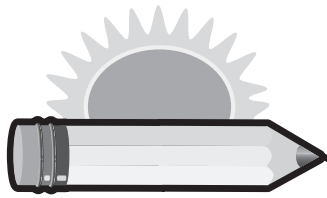
1. c
2. b
3. b

Page 140 The Chess Champion

1. a
2. b
3. d

Page 141 Here Comes the Dog!

1. c
2. b
3. c



Answer Key

Page 142 The Peeping Tom

1. d
2. b
3. a

Page 143 The Missing Shoe

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 144 The Mysterious Mail

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 145 The Stolen Bike

1. a
2. d
3. d

Page 146 Wild Things in the Closet

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

Page 147 The Secret Friend

1. b
2. c
3. b

Page 148 S.O.S.

1. a
2. c
3. d

Page 149 Puppy Love

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

Page 150 Alarming Discovery

1. c
2. d
3. d

Page 151 Racing for Friendship

1. b
2. b
3. c

Fantasy

Page 152 The Disappearing Cat

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

Page 153 Will Power

1. c
2. a
3. d

Page 154 Volleyball Venue

1. a
2. d
3. c

Page 155 Martian Madness

1. b
2. c
3. d

Page 156 The Quest

1. c
2. b
3. c

Page 157 Football Practice

1. c
2. b
3. b

Page 158 Computer Virus

1. c
2. a
3. b

Page 159 Fly Away Home

1. a
2. b
3. b

Page 160 Make a Wish

1. c
2. d
3. a

Page 161 The Legend

1. b
2. c
3. a

Page 162 The Toe Hair

1. b
2. b
3. d

Page 163 Open Up

1. d
2. b
3. c

Page 164 Grocery Shopping

1. b
2. a
3. d

Page 165 Touch and Go

1. a
2. d
3. a

Page 166 Round 'Em Up

1. d
2. b
3. a