

A New Mate

What would it be like to live in Australia?

1 “I think most of you have already met our new student, Gemma,” said Ms. Dimitri to her class. “As you know, she has recently moved here from Australia. I know you all have lots of questions about Australia, and Gemma has said she’d be happy to answer them. We can also try to give her an idea of what life is like here in Massachusetts.”

2 Gemma was a tall girl with thick, dark brown hair. She had pale blue eyes, and there was a dusting of freckles across her nose. She smiled shyly at the class. “I’m very happy to be here,” she said. “Everyone has been really nice to me. It feels like I’ve been here longer than a week already.”

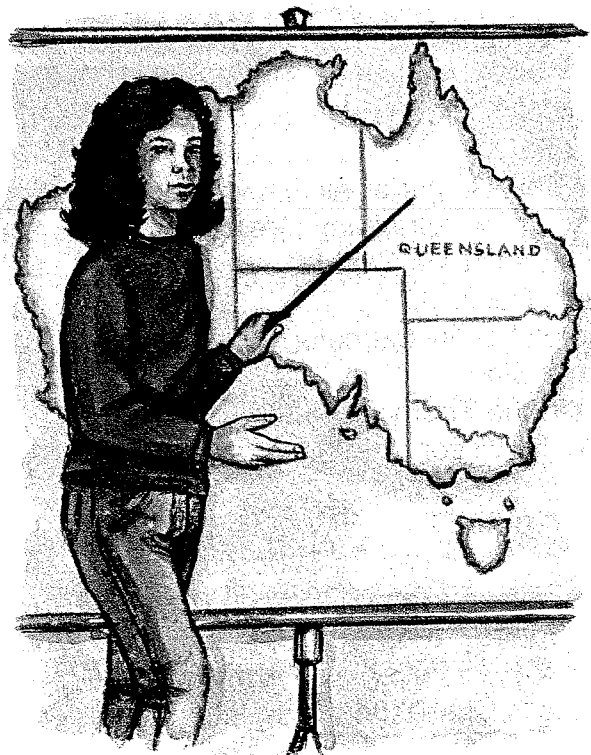
3 Ms. Dimitri smiled. “I’m glad to hear it. We’re excited to have you here, Gemma. Before we get started, why don’t you tell everyone where you lived in Australia.”

4 “My family lived in Queensland,” began Gemma. “It is one of Australia’s six states, and it’s located in the northeast part of the continent. Queensland is the second largest state in Australia. It’s a bit more than twice as big as Texas.”

5 “What is the weather like there?” asked Kayla. “Do you have cold, snowy winters like we do here?”

6 “Actually, because Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are the reverse of what they are in the United States,” said Gemma. “Queensland is in a tropical part of Australia, so it doesn’t get very cold. In January, which is summertime, it is in the 80s and 90s. In July, which is wintertime, it might be in the 60s. Queensland gets a lot of rain, and I won’t miss that at all. I can’t wait until it snows here this winter! I’ve never built a snowman or gone sledding before.”

7 “Queensland is near Australia’s Great Barrier Reef,” Ms. Dimitri told the class. “Gemma, can you tell us a little about it?”



8 Gemma nodded. “The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It lies off the coast of Queensland and is more than 1,200 miles long. It is home to all kinds of animal and plant life. It is an amazing place to go scuba diving.”

9 Vijay raised his hand. “Can you teach us how to say some words in Australian?” he asked.

10 “Most people in Australia speak English,” said Gemma. “But we do have some different words and expressions than you do in America. For example, the word for *friend* is *mate*. *Bonza* means *very good*. *Umbrella* is *broolly*, and *honest* is *fair dinkum*.”

11 “Is there another word or expression for *thank you*?” asked Ms. Dimitri.

12 “Yes, *ta* means *thank you*.”

13 “Gemma, you have given us an excellent idea of what it is like to live in Australia. *Ta*, Gemma. We’re so glad to have you in our class!”

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. just before the present time

_____ Par. 1

2. one half of Earth when divided by the equator

_____ Par. 6

3. opposite

_____ Par. 6

4. specific words or phrases

_____ Par. 10

In each row, circle the word that does not belong.

5. Australia Texas Massachusetts Ohio

6. freezing winter sledding tropical

7. broly bonza idea mate

Find the compound words from the selection that contain the words below.

8. north _____ Par. 4

9. summer _____ Par. 6

10. man _____ Par. 6

When you add an apostrophe (') and the letter s to a singular noun, it shows that a person or thing owns something. Fill in the blanks below with the possessive form of the word in parentheses.

11. Ms. _____ class is interested in learning about Australia. (Dimitri)

12. _____ seasons are different than the seasons in the United States. (Australia)

13. _____ family lived in Queensland. (Gemma)

Reading Skills

A **fact** is something that is known to be true. An **opinion** is what a person believes. It may or may not be true. Write **F** before the sentences that are facts. Write **O** before the sentences that are opinions.

- _____ Gemma moved to the United States from Australia.
- _____ Queensland is more than twice as big as Texas.
- _____ It would be exciting to visit Australia.
- _____ The weather in Australia is more enjoyable than it is in Massachusetts.
- _____ Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere.

6. What is the Great Barrier Reef?

7. What does *fair dinkum* mean?

Study Skills

Guide words are printed at the top of each page in a dictionary. The guide word at the left is the first word on the page. The guide word at the right is the last word on the page. Check each word that could be found on a page having the guide words shown in dark print.

1. **gown—grateful**

_____ grape _____ grasp _____ going

2. **mallet—mansion**

_____ manage _____ mall _____ maple

3. **reflect—relax**

_____ reef _____ reindeer _____ rehearse

Australia's Giant Toads

How did cane toads get to Australia, and why do people see them as such a pest?

1 Think about toads that you may have seen in the woods, on a hike, or at a zoo. How large do you think they were? Even the largest toads probably were not as big as the cane toad. This toad, native to South America and the Caribbean, can weigh as much as four pounds!

2 In 1935, sugar cane farmers in Australia were having a problem with two types of beetles that were destroying their crops. About one hundred cane toads were shipped to Australia from Hawaii. People hoped the toads would be a solution to the problem. Unfortunately, things turned out very differently than they had anticipated. The cane toads quickly became a more annoying pest than the beetles had ever been.

3 There are several things that make the cane toad so unusual. First of all, the cane toad has almost no natural predators. If the cane toad feels threatened, it will secrete a poisonous liquid. This liquid can kill children and small animals. It can even blind an adult for several hours.

4 The cane toad is also poisonous in all stages of its life. Fish normally feed on the eggs of frogs and toads, but even the eggs of the cane toad are poisonous. Each pair of cane toads can produce more than 30,000 eggs each season. Because many of the eggs and tadpoles are able to mature, the cane toad population can grow very rapidly.

5 This is exactly what happened in Australia. Without any predators, there were suddenly thousands of cane toads in the Queensland area. People might have been more tolerant if the animals had been successful in getting rid of the sugar cane beetles. It turned out, however, that the cane toads did not have any effect on the beetles, which could easily fly out of harm's way.

6 The Australians are not quite sure how to get rid of cane toads. In fact, they continue to spread across the continent. Cane toads eat many types of Australian wildlife. They can also be dangerous to pets and children. Even so, not everyone in Australia hopes that the plans to rid the country of these animals will be successful. Some people even leave food in their backyards or adopt the giant toads as pets!



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

1. originally from a particular place

_____ Par. 1

2. in danger

_____ Par. 3

3. to produce a liquid or other substance

_____ Par. 3

4. the number of people, plants, or animals in a specific place

_____ Par. 4

5. patient; accepting

_____ Par. 5

A **synonym** is a word that means the same, or almost the same, as another word. Find a synonym in the story for each of the words below.

6. irritating _____ Par. 2

7. grow up _____ Par. 4

8. quickly _____ Par. 4

The suffix **-ist** means *someone who does something*. For example, a *biologist* is *someone who studies biology*. Add **ist** to each base word below. Then, use each new word in a sentence.

9. art _____

10. violin _____

11. novel _____

Reading Skills

1. Do you think cane toads will continue to be a problem in Australia? Explain your answer.

2. Why were cane toads first brought to Australia?

3. Why are there so many cane toads in Australia if only one hundred or so were originally released?

4. Check the sentence that best states the main idea of the selection.

_____ Cane toads can weigh as much as four pounds.

_____ Cane toads do not have any natural predators in Australia.

_____ Cane toads were brought to Australia to eat sugar cane beetles, but they ended up becoming a dangerous pest.

Study Skills

1. If you wanted to learn more about the cane toads in Australia, check the subjects below you could use to find information in an encyclopedia.

_____ amphibians _____ Australia

_____ sugar cane _____ mammals

_____ nonnative species _____ toads

Aussie Animals

How are the animals in Australia different from those you might see where you live?

1 Gemma, Kayla, and Vijay were eating lunch on the small patio behind the school's cafeteria. Kayla and Vijay were asking Gemma questions about Australian animals. They couldn't believe that Gemma didn't think it was anything special to see a kangaroo hopping along the side of a road or grazing in a field.

2 "When you see something all the time," Gemma explained, "you hardly even notice it. Do you know how many times you've seen a squirrel, or a deer, or a raccoon in your life?"

3 "Of course not," said Vijay. "But seeing a kangaroo would be completely different."

4 Gemma laughed. "Not if you lived in Australia," she said.

5 "Is it true that a mother kangaroo carries her baby in her pouch?" asked Kayla.

6 "Sure," replied Gemma, pausing to take a bite of her sandwich. "Aussies call baby kangaroos *joey*s. They live in their mother's pouch until they grow a bit larger. Then, they can take care of themselves and keep up with the others in their group. Did you know that kangaroos can travel more than 30 miles per hour?"



7 "That's pretty fast!" exclaimed Vijay.

8 "Do any other animals carry their babies in a pouch?" wondered Kayla aloud.

9 "The koala and the wombat do," said Gemma. "They are marsupials like the kangaroo."

10 "I know what a koala bear is," said Vijay, "but what is a wombat?"

11 "Well, a koala isn't really a bear," Gemma explained. "People just call them that because they resemble a teddy bear. Koalas spend most of their lives sleeping. There is a type of tree called a *eucalyptus* (*yoo kah LIP tuss*) that grows in Australia. It's pretty much the only thing that koalas eat. They don't get much energy from the leaves, though, which is why they spend so much time sleeping."

12 "It sounds like they need a change in their diet," laughed Vijay. "Is the wombat similar to the koala and kangaroo?"

13 "The only real similarity is that it is a marsupial, too. Otherwise, the wombat looks like a beaver or a groundhog. It burrows underground and makes tunnels that are 10 to 15 feet long. Some people get wombats as babies and train them. I had a friend who had a very nice pet wombat named Gillian."

14 "Won't you miss the animals in Australia?" asked Kayla. "No one in Massachusetts has a wombat for a pet."

15 Gemma smiled. "I might miss them a little," she said, "but I've never seen snow. I never saw a real raccoon or a deer before I moved here. I also never saw a cardinal or a chickadee. I think Massachusetts is going to be a very interesting place to live."

16 "I guess it all depends on what you are used to," said Vijay. "But I'd take the animals of Australia over a deer any day of the week!"

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. an area next to a building that is often used for eating outdoors

_____ Par. 1

2. feeding on grass

_____ Par. 1

3. a type of mammal that carries its young in a pouch

_____ Par. 9

4. look like

_____ Par. 11

Words that are opposite in meaning are called **antonyms**. Read each word below. Then, write the letter of its antonym on the line beside the word.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 5. _____ true | a. shrink |
| 6. _____ grow | b. always |
| 7. _____ similar | c. different |
| 8. _____ never | d. false |

Underline the compound word in each sentence. Then, write the two words that make up each compound.

9. The babies of marsupials live in their mothers' pouches until they can take care of themselves.

10. The wombat makes its nest underground.

11. The wombat looks like a groundhog or a beaver.

Reading Skills

1. What are baby kangaroos called in Australia?

2. Why do koalas spend so much of their time sleeping?

3. What kind of pet is Gillian?

4. Why do you think a baby kangaroo lives in its mother's pouch for a while after it is born?

Study Skills

Write the name of the reference source you could use to find out the information in each question below.

encyclopedia	dictionary
atlas	

1. Where could you look to find the location of a particular city in Australia?

2. Where could you look to find the meaning of the word *burrows*?

3. Where could you look to find information about what kangaroos eat?

The First Australians

Who are the Aboriginal people of Australia?

1 The Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Australia. Archaeologists believe that they have lived in Australia for about 50,000 to 60,000 years! Today, they make up a little more than two percent of the population of Australia.

2 In the past, Aboriginal people were hunters and gatherers. This means that they survived by hunting, fishing, and gathering plants. They did not settle permanently in one place. Instead, they moved around the continent when they needed to refresh their supply of food. The Aboriginal people had, and still have, a strong respect for and connection to the land and nature. It influences almost every part of their culture, from food and shelter, to art and religion.

3 Things quickly changed for the Aboriginal people when Europeans began arriving in Australia in 1788. They brought diseases that the Aboriginal people had never been exposed to before. The Aboriginal people also had to fight for the land that was theirs. There were many years of difficult times. The Aboriginal people had to learn to live in a society that was very different from their ancestors'. They had to fight to keep their culture alive.

4 The situation started to improve for the Aboriginal people in the 1960s. They were finally given the right to vote. Later, the Australian government also began trying to make up for some of the unfair treatment the people had suffered. They returned some of the land to the Aboriginal people that had been taken from them more than a century before.

5 The contributions of Aboriginal people to Australia can be seen in many areas. For example, they created the boomerang, a curved piece of wood that has been used both as a weapon and for sport. Aboriginal rock paintings can be found in many areas of Australia. Some are believed to be 30,000 years old. The didgeridoo (*didge er ee DOO*) is a well-known Australian wind instrument. It is a straight trumpet made from a hollow piece of wood or bamboo. Some people believe it may be one of the world's oldest wind instruments.

6 The Aboriginal people are an important and valuable part of Australian society. Today, many still live a traditional lifestyle in the bush, or Australian wilderness. Others have become a part of modern-day Australian culture and live in cities around the country. Their influences can be found in many aspects of Australian life.



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

1. people who live in a particular place

_____ Par. 1

2. scientists who study past cultures

_____ Par. 1

3. for a long time

_____ Par. 2

4. has an effect on

_____ Par. 2

5. left open to harm without protection

_____ Par. 3

6. a period of 100 years

_____ Par. 4

In each row, circle the word that does not belong.

7. hunt fish settle gather
 8. fight struggle improve conflict
 9. hollow trumpet didgeridoo instrument
 10. Find the word with the suffix **-ist** in paragraph 1. Then, write the meaning of the word.

The suffix **-able** means *able to*. Add the suffix to the verbs below to form adjectives. Then, write a sentence with each adjective.

11. comfort _____

12. break _____

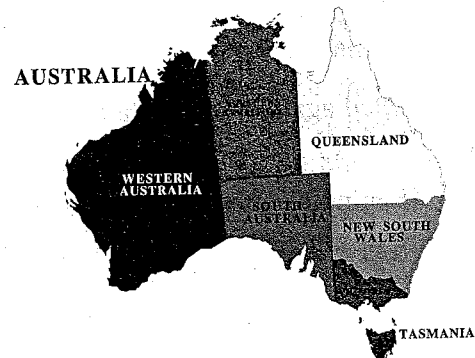
Reading Skills

1. Why did Aboriginal people move around instead of staying in one place?

2. What influences almost every part of the Aboriginal culture?

Study Skills

Use the map of Australia's six states and two territories to answer the questions that follow.



1. Which state is directly south of the Northern Territory?

2. Which state is east of the Northern Territory?

3. What is the name of the state that is the furthest south?

4. Which state is larger—Western Australia or New South Wales?

Shall We Dance?

Have you ever attended a dance performance?

1 “Gavin!” called Mr. Capshaw. “We’re ready to go. Are you coming?”

2 Gavin shuffled slowly down the stairs and joined his parents at the front door. “I’m ready,” he said with a sigh.

3 “This will be fun. I know you’ll enjoy the performance,” Mrs. Capshaw told her son. “Afterward, we might even get to go backstage and meet Dad’s friend from college. Joseph has one of the lead roles in the show,” she explained.

4 The Capshaws walked down the street toward the subway station. “I don’t even like ballet,” Gavin complained.

5 “Not all dance is ballet, Gavin,” said Mr. Capshaw. “The show we’re going to see tonight is modern dance. But there are many other kinds of dance, too—tap, jazz, break dancing, square dancing, the tango, the waltz. I’d like you to keep an open mind about this.”

6 Gavin sighed again. “Okay, Dad. I’ll do my best.”

7 About 45 minutes later, the Capshaws arrived at the theater. A woman wearing a bright red vest and carrying a flashlight helped them find their seats in the mezzanine. Gavin looked around him while he waited for the performance to begin. He couldn’t believe how many people there were in the theater. Gavin looked straight up at the ornate ceiling painted in gold, midnight blue, and maroon. Suddenly, the lights dimmed, and the audience began to clap.

8 Once the performance began, Gavin forgot all about the usher, his parents, the rest of the audience, and the ornate ceiling. He listened to the music and watched the dancers move. The performers made the moves look so easy, but he could tell it was much more difficult than it appeared. He leaned forward in his seat and tapped his toes in time to the rhythm of the music.

9 “Well, what did you think?” asked Gavin’s parents when the lights came back on.

10 “That was amazing. I’m so glad we came,” he replied.

11 “Come on, let’s go see if we can find Joseph,” said Mr. Capshaw, putting one arm around Gavin’s shoulders. The Capshaws made their way to a small hallway at the front of the theater. A moment later, they were shaking hands with Joseph and complimenting him on his performance.

12 “Is it a lot of work to prepare the show?” Gavin asked Joseph.

13 Joseph chuckled. “I’ve never worked so hard in my life,” he said, “but I’ve also never had so much fun. Are you a performer, Gavin?”

14 Gavin shook his head.

15 “Do you think dance is something you’d like to try?” asked Joseph. “You seem very enthusiastic about tonight’s show. The performing arts center is only a few blocks from here, and they offer a beginner’s class in modern dance. I know some of the teachers there. I’d be happy to introduce you if you’re interested.”

16 Gavin grinned. “When can I start?” he asked.



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. walked slowly, dragging the feet
_____ Par. 2
2. the main or most important part in a performance
_____ Par. 3
3. the lowest balcony in a theater
_____ Par. 7
4. decorated in a very detailed, complex way
_____ Par. 7

Words that have two middle consonants are divided into syllables between the consonants. For example, *pic/ture* or *bas/ket*. Divide the words below into syllables using a slash (/).

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 5. p e r f o r m | 7. o r n a t e |
| 6. t a n g o | 8. c e n t e r |

Read each word below. Then, write the letter of its synonym on the line beside the word.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 9. _____ walked | a. beat |
| 10. _____ began | b. strolled |
| 11. _____ rhythm | c. started |
| 12. _____ chuckle | d. laugh |

Reading Skills

1. Find one sentence that shows Gavin was not looking forward to going to the dance performance. Write it on the lines below.

2. What problem did Gavin have at the beginning of the story?

3. How did Gavin feel about the performance once it began?

Write **F** before the sentences that are facts.
Write **O** before the sentences that are opinions.

4. _____ Modern dance is interesting to watch.
5. _____ Joseph has one of the lead roles in the performance.
6. _____ The Capshaws took the subway to get to the theater.
7. _____ Gavin will be a good dancer.

Study Skills

A **table of contents** shows the chapters in a book and the page each chapter begins on. Use the table of contents below to answer the questions.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	History of Dance in America.....	2
Chapter 2	Types of Dance.....	21
Chapter 3	Stars of the Stage.....	39
Chapter 4	Most Popular Shows.....	52

1. What is the title of Chapter 2?

2. Which chapter contains information about the history of dance?

3. What is the title of the chapter that begins on page 39?

STOMP!

What kind of everyday objects could you use to make music?

1 You might have used pencils to tap a rhythm on your desk or noticed that the ringing sound of basketballs was almost like the beat to a song. But did you know that these sounds could be taken seriously as music and even performed onstage?

2 The dance and percussion group STOMP has taken everyday objects and turned them into instruments. The performers strap oil drums to their feet and smash trash can lids together. This creates an exciting rhythmic music and dance that is a hit all over the world.

3 STOMP was formed by British musicians Luke Cresswell and Steve McNichols. They met in the early 1980s when they were both working as buskers, the British term for street performers. Busking has a long tradition in England and is still a popular way for musicians and actors to share their talents. The performers have to be extra creative and enticing to be able to capture the attention of people who are walking by. Cresswell and McNichols were part of a busking group called *Pookiesnackenburgers* that became very popular throughout Britain. Eventually, they even had their own television show.

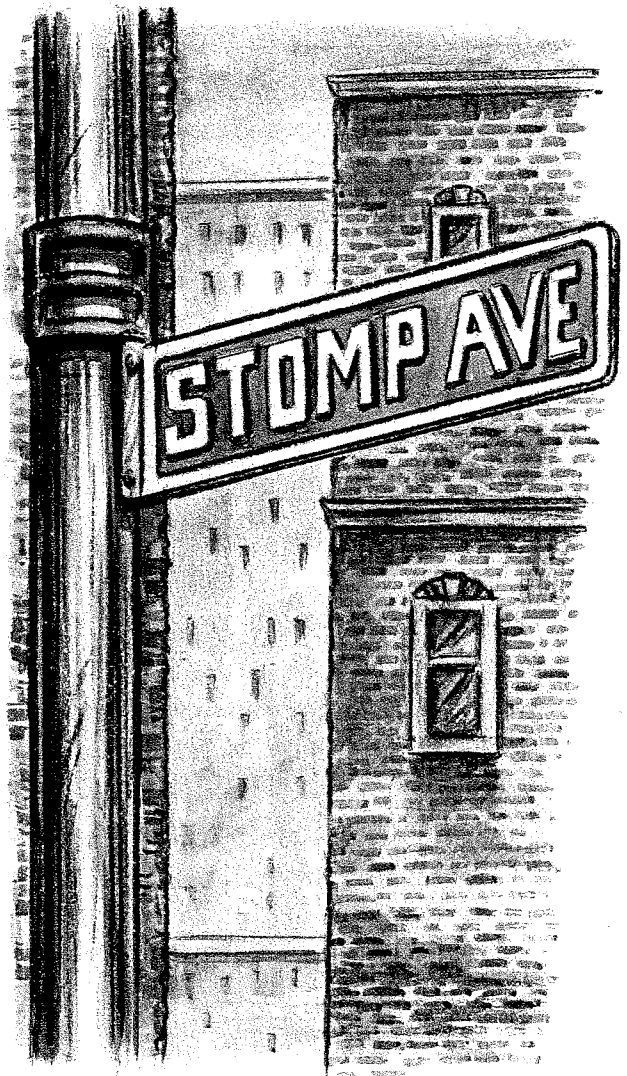
4 Cresswell was a drummer for the group. Because they performed on the street, he could not set up a traditional drum set. Instead, he wore one drum that hung around his shoulders. To be able to make a variety of sounds, Cresswell began beating on objects like lampposts and trash cans that were available wherever the group performed. This creative drumming formed the idea for STOMP.

5 STOMP made its debut at London's Bloomsbury Theater in 1991. The performers used one-of-a-kind instruments, such as brooms, empty water jugs, basketballs, and matchboxes to bang out rhythms. Wearing overalls and T-shirts, they danced around on a stage made to look like a closed warehouse. STOMP was an

instant success, winning many theater awards and drawing huge crowds.

6 In 1994, STOMP came to the United States and played at the Orpheum Theater in New York City. A decade later it is still playing there! To honor its ten-year anniversary, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg renamed the street outside of the theater STOMP Avenue.

7 STOMP has now toured all over the United States and most of the world. One reason STOMP is so popular is that anyone can enjoy it. There are no words or story. People from all cultures can understand it, regardless of the language they speak.



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

1. hitting things together to create a sound

_____ Par. 2

2. passing down ideas or ways of doing something

_____ Par. 3

3. tempting

_____ Par. 3

4. the first time something is seen; an introduction

_____ Par. 5

5. a period of ten years

_____ Par. 6

Check the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

6. STOMP is a hit all over the world.

_____ to strike or beat

_____ something very popular

7. The group called *Pookiesnackenburgers* had their own television show.

_____ a performance

_____ to display or allow to be seen

8. STOMP continues to draw large crowds.

_____ to make a picture of

_____ to attract

Find the compound words from the selection that contain the words below.

9. balls _____ Par. 1

10. day _____ Par. 2

11. lamp _____ Par. 4

Reading Skills

Write T before the sentences that are true. Write F before the sentences that are false.

- _____ The performers in STOMP use common objects and turn them into instruments.
- _____ Luke Cresswell, one of the founders of STOMP, played the trumpet.
- _____ There is a street called STOMP Avenue in New York City.
- _____ STOMP's first performance was at London's Bloomsbury Theatre.
- _____ STOMP was formed by two Latin American musicians.
- _____ In Britain, what does the word *busker* mean?

- _____ Why couldn't Luke Cresswell use a traditional drum set when he was performing?

Study Skills

1. Use the numbers 1–5 to put the words below in alphabetical order.

_____ rhythm

_____ rib

_____ rhinoceros

_____ ribbon

_____ riddle

The Best Hooper of All

How did Savion Glover bring tap dancing into the 21st century?

¹ What comes to mind when you think of tap dancing? You might picture a black-and-white movie with a performer dressed in a tuxedo. Tap dancing might not seem like something popular and modern. If that is how you picture tap, then you have never seen Savion Glover dance! This choreographer, dancer, director, and producer has changed the way people think about tap dancing today.

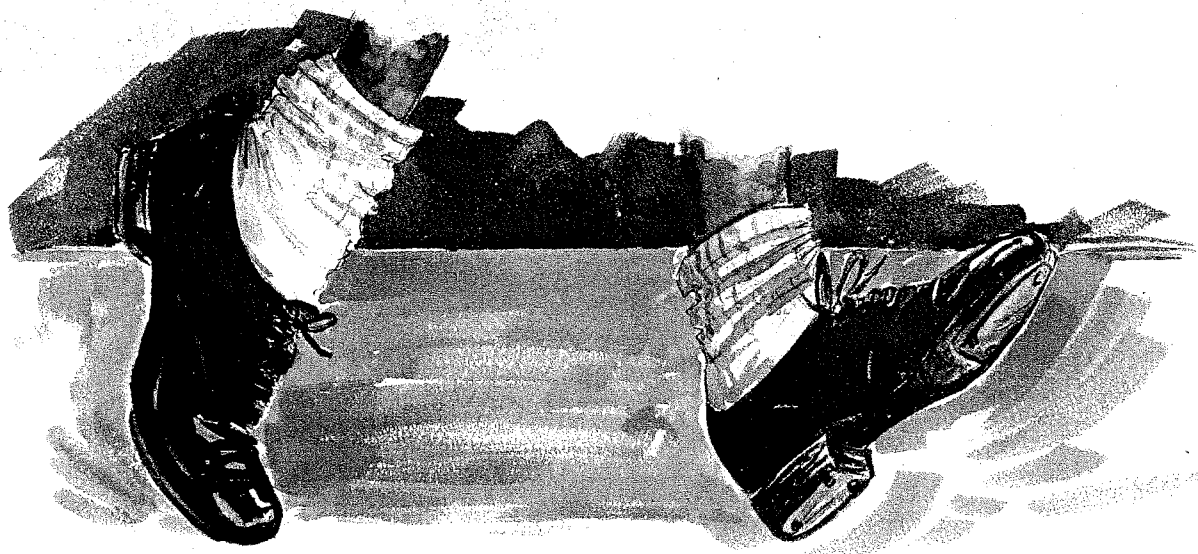
² Savion Glover was born in New Jersey in 1973. He showed a talent for drumming when he was only four years old, so he began going to school at the Newark Community School of the Arts. By the time he was seven, he had begun taking rhythm tap classes at the Broadway Dance Center in New York. Rhythm tap is a special kind of dance that uses all the parts of the foot to create sounds.

³ When Savion began taking tap lessons, his family could not afford the special shoes he needed. Savion had to wear a pair of cowboy boots to his first lesson! Just a few years later, Savion landed his first role in a Broadway performance, *The Tap Dance Kid*.

⁴ Savion continued working in a variety of areas. He learned much of what he knew about tap dancing from masters like Sammy Davis, Junior and Gregory Hines. He participated in other Broadway productions, and he even made a movie. Savion also became well-known for his recurring role on the children's television show *Sesame Street*.

⁵ In 1995, Savion choreographed and starred in a production called *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk*. The show, which followed African American history from the times of slavery through the 20th century, was extremely popular. People loved its energy. They were amazed at how the story could be expressed through dance. *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* won four Tony Awards, the highest honor a musical can receive. One of those awards was for best choreographer, Savion Glover.

⁶ The style of tap that Savion is best known for is often called *hoofing*, or street tap. It is a hard-hitting form of tap, and the movements are more acrobatic than those of traditional tap. Savion's work combines elements of jazz, funk, hip-hop, rock 'n' roll, and the blues to create something unique and exciting. People love to watch Savion's feet move. It is hard to keep up with them, but that is part of the fun in watching Savion Glover perform!



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

1. someone who directs the movements of a dance performance

Par. 1

2. experts

Par. 4

3. was a part of

Par. 4

Write the words from the selection that match the abbreviations below.

4. Jr. _____

5. NY _____

6. NJ _____

A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different spelling and meaning is a **homophone**. Circle the homophone that correctly completes each sentence below.

7. Savion's family could not afford a _____ of special tap dancing shoes. (pear, pair)

8. Savion wore cowboy boots to his first tap dancing _____. (lesson, lessen)

9. One movie Savion _____ was with director Spike Lee. (made, maid)

Reading Skills

1. Check the words that describe Savion Glover.

_____ energetic _____ motivated

_____ nosy _____ quiet

_____ enthusiastic

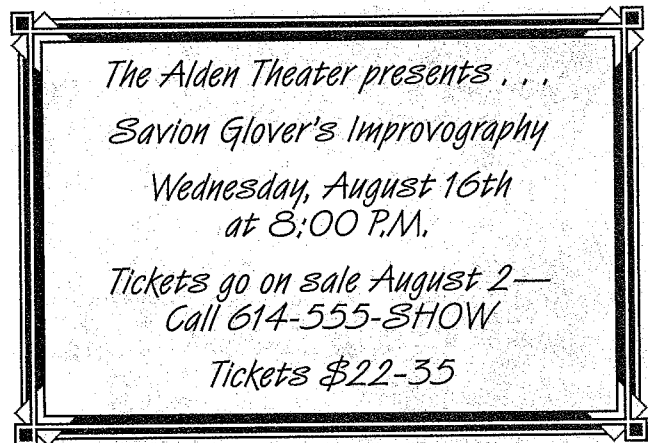
2. In what show was Savion's first professional performance?

3. What story did *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* tell?

4. Who did Savion study to become better at tap dancing?

Study Skills

Use the poster below to answer the questions that follow.



1. What is the price range for tickets to see *Improvography*?

2. What is the name of the theater that is hosting the performance?

3. What date do tickets go on sale?

Looking for Something Green

Will Fiona and Nora ever get used to living in the city?

1 Fiona and Nora stared out the window of the apartment. If they looked up State Street to the right, they could see several skyscrapers with shiny windows that glittered like jewels in the midmorning sun. If they looked down the street to their left, they could see a parking garage and an impressive looking building their mother had told them was the downtown library. Straight below them was a tangle of traffic that seemed to stretch as far as they could see. They could hear the honking of horns and the shouting of street vendors.

2 "It's so different here," sighed Fiona. "I miss our old farmhouse. When we looked out the window at home, all we could see were acres of green grass and trees. I don't think I can see a single green thing from this window in any direction."



3 "Well," said Nora, "that man is wearing a green jacket. And I see a green truck. Look! That woman is carrying a potted plant that has a lot of green leaves!"

4 Fiona gave her little sister a look. "You know that's not what I'm talking about," she said. "I just feel like everything here is made of stone and steel and glass. We don't even have a lawn or a tree that we can sit under and read. What if we wanted to have a cook-out like we used to do in our backyard? Where will Mom plant her flowers? What if we wanted to play ball?"

5 Mom walked into the room just in time to hear what Fiona was saying. "Okay, girls," said Mom. "I think it's time we went on a walk. We're going to go exploring. Our mission is to find ourselves a little piece of green space right here in the city."

6 "Mom," said Fiona, "I don't think there is any green space here. We live in the city now, not the country."

7 "Come on," said Mom, grabbing her daughters by the hand. "Let's see what we can find."

8 Fiona, Nora, and their mother walked past the vendors selling hot dogs and pretzels. They walked past the skyscrapers with shiny windows, the tangle of traffic, and the bustle of people in business suits. Suddenly, Fiona and Nora saw a bit of grass and a park bench. They turned the corner and began to grin. They saw an enormous grassy park filled with trees. There was even a pond with a fountain. A girl on a bicycle stopped to let two ducks waddle past her.

9 As Fiona, Nora, and Mom made their way toward the pond, Mom smiled and said, "What do you think, girls?"

10 Fiona and Nora smiled back. "We found our little piece of green in the city," said Nora.

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. makes a lasting feeling or image

Par. 1

2. areas of land that are each equal to 4,840 square yards

Par. 2

3. goal; purpose

Par. 5

4. people who sell things

Par. 8

5. to move around in a busy manner

Par. 8

A **simile** compares two things using the words *like* or *as*. Find the simile in paragraph 1, and write it on the line below.

6. _____

Compound words are divided into syllables between the two words that make the compound. For example, *play/ground*. Divide the words below into syllables using a slash (/).

7. f a r m h o u s e

8. b a c k y a r d

9. h o m e s i c k

Reading Skills

Read the descriptions below. Write **F** next to the phrase if it describes Fiona. Write **N** if it describes Nora.

1. _____ says she can't see anything green from the window

2. _____ feels like everything is made of steel, stone, and glass

3. _____ points out several green things on the street below

4. _____ says she misses their old farmhouse

5. _____ says they found their piece of green in the city

6. What do you think "green space" is?

7. What problem do Fiona and Nora have in this story?

8. Where do you think Fiona and Nora used to live before they moved to the city?

9. Nora points out three green things she can see from the window. What does Fiona mean when she says, "You know that's not what I'm talking about," to her sister?

Study Skills

The word you look up in a dictionary is called an **entry word**. An entry word is usually a base word. For example, if you want to find the meaning of *happier*, you would look up the base word *happy*. Write the entry word you would look for in a dictionary next to each word below.

1. glittered _____

2. honking _____

3. libraries _____

4. exploring _____

A Garden in the Clouds

Will Fiona and Nora find a place where they can have a garden in the city?

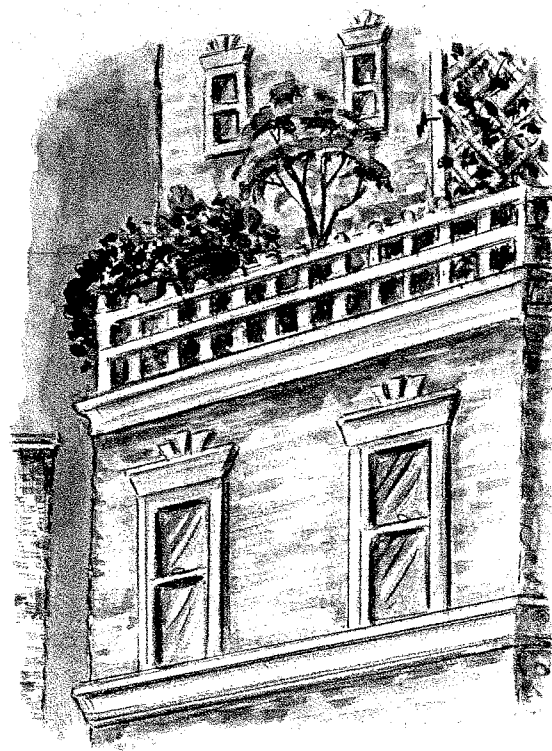
1 Fiona and Nora were becoming accustomed to life in the city. They were learning their way around, and they were discovering all kinds of exciting things. The best library they had ever been to was right across the street from their apartment. It had an enormous selection of books, and they had already made friends with Ms. Applebaum, one of the librarians. Sometimes, she put books aside that she thought Fiona and Nora might enjoy.

2 The sisters still missed some things about living in the country, but they had learned that they just needed to look a bit harder to find similar things in the city. After they had discovered the nearby park with their mother one day, they spent a lot of time there. They roller-bladed on the trail that ran around the perimeter of the park. Their dad made friends with the man who sold food for the ducks, and he always gave them an extra handful.

3 The one thing that Fiona and Nora still missed about their old farmhouse was having a place for a garden. Both girls had inherited their mother's green thumb. Last summer, they had grown so many tomatoes they were able to make enough spaghetti sauce to last most of the winter.

4 One afternoon, Fiona, Nora, and Mom decided to take a different route to the park. They liked to explore the side streets on their way there. Nora looked up when a large cloud passed overhead. She noticed something that looked like a tree on top of the building beside her.

5 "That looks like a tree on the roof!" she exclaimed. Fiona and Mom looked up. They couldn't see very well because they stood directly below the building. They walked a bit further down the street, and then they crossed over to the other side to get a better view.



6 "You're right, Nora," said Fiona. "I think there's actually a whole garden up there! I can see a trellis with some flowers creeping up it. And there are some more pots along the far side of the roof."

7 "It looks like they have a rooftop garden," said Mom. "I've heard of them, but I've never actually seen one before. People who live in cities sometimes use the space on the top of their buildings for gardening."

8 "Do you think we could start one on the roof of our building, Mom?" asked Fiona.

9 Mom smiled. "We'll have to check with the superintendent of our building first," she replied. "But I doubt it will be a problem. I've seen a sign for stairs leading to the roof. I've even seen a family taking a picnic dinner and a telescope up there."

10 Nora grinned. "Sometimes, you just have to look a little harder to find what you're looking for in the city."

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. used to or familiar with
_____ Par. 1
2. choice
_____ Par. 1
3. the area around something
_____ Par. 2
4. received from a relative
_____ Par. 3
5. a structure that supports climbing plants
_____ Par. 6
6. the landlord or manager of a building
_____ Par. 9

An **idiom** is a group of words that has a special meaning. For example, the idiom *hit the hay* means *go to bed*. Write the idiom from paragraph 3 on the line under its meaning.

7. a talent for growing plants

Read each word below. Then, write the letter of its antonym on the line beside the word.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 8. _____ enormous | a. different |
| 9. _____ exciting | b. tiny |
| 10. _____ same | c. summer |
| 11. _____ winter | d. boring |

Fill in the blanks below with the possessive form of the word in parentheses.

12. The _____ friendship made the girls feel at home. (librarian)
13. _____ talent for gardening had been passed on to Nora and Fiona. (Mom)

Reading Skills

1. Check the phrase that best describes the author's purpose.
_____ to tell a story about two sisters discovering rooftop gardens
_____ to persuade the reader to start a rooftop garden
_____ to share information about the best type of plants to use in a rooftop garden

Dialogue is what a character says. The words in dialogue are always in quotation marks.

2. On the line below, write the words that are dialogue in paragraph 5.

3. Check the word or words that best describe what type of selection this is.
_____ historical nonfiction
_____ folktale
_____ fiction
4. Do you think Mom will help the girls start a rooftop garden of their own? Why or why not?

Study Skills

Use a dictionary to help you divide these words into syllables.

1. apartment _____
2. enormous _____
3. spaghetti _____

Answer Key

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

- just before the present time
recently
- one half of Earth when divided by the equator
hemisphere
- opposite
reverse
- specific words or phrases
expressions

In each row, circle the word that does not belong.

- Australia Texas Massachusetts Ohio
- freezing winter sledding tropical
- broily honza idea mate

Find the compound words from the selection that contain the words below.

- north northeast
- summer summertime
- man snowman

When you add an apostrophe (') and the letter s to a singular noun, it shows that a person or thing owns something. Fill in the blanks below with the possessive form of the word in parentheses.

- Ms. Dimitri's class is interested in learning about Australia. (Dimitri)
- Australia's seasons are different than the seasons in the United States. (Australia)
- Gemma's family lived in Queensland. (Gemma)

Reading Skills

A fact is something that is known to be true. An opinion is what a person believes. It may or may not be true. Write F before the sentences that are facts. Write O before the sentences that are opinions.

- F Gemma moved to the United States from Australia.
- F Queensland is more than twice as big as Texas.
- O It would be exciting to visit Australia.
- O The weather in Australia is more enjoyable than it is in Massachusetts.
- F Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere.
- What is the Great Barrier Reef?
the largest coral reef in the world
- What does *fair dinkum* mean?
honest

Study Skills

Guide words are printed at the top of each page in a dictionary. The guide word at the left is the first word on the page. The guide word at the right is the last word on the page. Check each word that could be found on a page having the guide words shown in dark print.

- gown—grateful
grape grasp going
- mallet—mansion
manage mall maple
- reflect—relax
reef reindeer rehearse

3

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

- originally from a particular place
native
- in danger
threatened
- to produce a liquid or other substance
secrete
- the number of people, plants, or animals in a specific place
population
- patient; accepting
tolerant

A synonym is a word that means the same, or almost the same, as another word. Find a synonym in the story for each of the words below.

- irritating annoying
- grow up mature
- quickly rapidly

The suffix -ist means someone who does something. For example, a biologist is someone who studies biology. Add -ist to each base word below. Then, use each new word in a sentence.

- art artist

Reading Skills

- Do you think cane toads will continue to be a problem in Australia? Explain your answer.
Answers will vary.
- Why were cane toads first brought to Australia?
to eat the beetles that were destroying the sugar cane crops
- Why are there so many cane toads in Australia if only one hundred or so were originally released?
They lay many eggs and have almost no natural predators.
- Check the sentence that best states the main idea of the selection.
Cane toads can weigh as much as four pounds.
Cane toads do not have any natural predators in Australia.
Cane toads were brought to Australia to eat sugar cane beetles, but they ended up becoming a dangerous pest.

Study Skills

- If you wanted to learn more about the cane toads in Australia, check the subjects below you could use to find information in an encyclopedia.
amphibians Australia
sugar cane mammals
nonnative species toads

5

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

- an area next to a building that is often used for eating outdoors
patio
- feeding on grass
grazing
- a type of mammal that carries its young in a pouch
marsupials
- look like
resemble

Words that are opposite in meaning are called antonyms. Read each word below. Then, write the letter of its antonym on the line beside the word.

- d true a. shrink
- a grow b. always
- c similar c. different
- b never d. false

Underline the compound word in each sentence. Then, write the two words that make up each compound.

- The babies of marsupials live in their mothers' pouches until they can take care of themselves.
them selves
- The wombat makes its nest underground.
under ground
- The wombat looks like a groundhog or a beaver.
ground hog

Reading Skills

- What are baby kangaroos called in Australia?
joeys
- Why do koalas spend so much of their time sleeping?
They don't get much energy from the leaves of the eucalyptus tree.
- What kind of pet is Gillian?
a wombat
- Why do you think a baby kangaroo lives in its mother's pouch for a while after it is born?
so it has time to grow a bit larger in order to take care of itself and keep up with the others in the group

Study Skills

Write the name of the reference source you could use to find out the information in each question below.

encyclopedia	dictionary
atlas	

- Where could you look to find the location of a particular city in Australia?
atlas
- Where could you look to find the meaning of the word *burrows*?
dictionary
- Where could you look to find information about what kangaroos eat?
encyclopedia

7

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

- people who live in a particular place
inhabitants
- scientists who study past cultures
archaeologists
- for a long time
permanently
- has an effect on
influences
- left open to harm without protection
exposed
- a period of 100 years
century

In each row, circle the word that does not belong.

- hunt fish settle gather
- fight struggle improve conflict
- hollow trumpet didgeridoo instrument

Find the word with the suffix -ist in paragraph 1. Then, write the meaning of the word.
archaeologists: people who study archaeology

The suffix -able means able to. Add the suffix to the verbs below to form adjectives. Then, write a sentence with each adjective.

- comfort comfortable
- break breakable

Reading Skills

- Why did Aboriginal people move around instead of staying in one place?
They moved around when they needed a new supply of food.
- What influences almost every part of the Aboriginal culture?
nature

Study Skills

Use the map of Australia's six states and two territories to answer the questions that follow.

- Which state is directly south of the Northern Territory?
South Australia
- Which state is east of the Northern Territory?
Queensland
- What is the name of the state that is the furthest south?
Tasmania
- Which state is larger—Western Australia or New South Wales?
Western Australia

9

Answer Key

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

- walked slowly, dragging the feet
shuffled
- the main or most important part in a performance
lead
- the lowest balcony in a theater
mezzanine
- decorated in a very detailed, complex way
ornate

Words that have two middle consonants are divided into syllables between the consonants. For example, *picture* or *basket*. Divide the words below into syllables using a slash (/).

- p e r f o r m
- t a n g o
- o r n a t e
- c e n t e r

Read each word below. Then, write the letter of its synonym on the line beside the word.

- h walked a. beat
- c began b. strolled
- a rhythm c. started
- d chuckle d. laugh

Reading Skills

- Find one sentence that shows Gavin was not looking forward to going to the dance performance. Write it on the line below.
Possible answer: "I don't even like ballet," Gavin complained.

- What problem did Gavin have at the beginning of the story?
He did not want to go to the dance performance.
- How did Gavin feel about the performance once it began?
He thought it was interesting.

- Write F before the sentences that are facts. Write O before the sentences that are opinions.
- O Modern dance is interesting to watch.
 - F Joseph has one of the lead roles in the performance.
 - F The Capshaws took the subway to get to the theater.
 - O Gavin will be a good dancer.

Study Skills

A table of contents shows the chapters in a book and the page each chapter begins on. Use the table of contents below to answer the questions.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 History of Dance in America.....	22
Chapter 2 Types of Dance.....	21
Chapter 3 Stars of the Stage.....	39
Chapter 4 Most Popular Shows.....	52

- What is the title of Chapter 2?
Types of Dance
- Which chapter contains information about the history of dance?
Chapter 1
- What is the title of the chapter that begins on page 39?
Stars of the Stage

11

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

- hitting things together to create a sound
percussion
- passing down ideas or ways of doing something
tradition
- tempting
enticing
- the first time something is seen; an introduction
debut
- a period of ten years
decade

Check the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

- STOMP is a hit all over the world.
 to strike or beat
 something very popular
- The group called Pooliesnacknburger had their own television show.
 a performance
 to display or allow to be seen
- STOMP continues to draw large crowds.
 to make a picture of
 to attract

Find the compound words from the selection that contain the words below.

- balls basketballs
- day everyday
- lamp lampposts

Reading Skills

Write T before the sentences that are true. Write F before the sentences that are false.

- T The performers in STOMP use common objects and turn them into instruments.
- F Luke Crosswell, one of the founders of STOMP, played the trumpet.
- T There is a street called STOMP Avenue in New York City.
- T STOMP's first performance was at London's Bloomsbury Theatre.
- F STOMP was formed by two Latin American musicians.
- In Britain, what does the word busker mean?
street performer
- Why couldn't Luke Crosswell use a traditional drum set when he was performing?
because he played on the sidewalk

Study Skills

- Use the numbers 1-5 to put the words below in alphabetical order.

- 2 rhythm
- 3 rib
- 1 rhinoceros
- 4 ribbon
- 5 riddle

13

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

- someone who directs the movements of a dance performance
choreographer
- experts
masters
- was a part of
participated

Write the words from the selection that match the abbreviations below.

- Jr. Junior
- NY New York
- NJ New Jersey

A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different spelling and meaning is a homophone. Circle the homophone that correctly completes each sentence below.

- Savion's family could not afford a pair of special tap dancing shoes. (pear/pair)
- Savion wore cowboy boots to his first tap dancing lesson. (lesson/lessen)
- One movie Savion made was with director Spike Lee. (made/maid)

Reading Skills

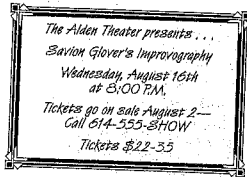
- Check the words that describe Savion Glover.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> energetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motivated
<input type="checkbox"/> nosy	<input type="checkbox"/> quiet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> enthusiastic	

- In what show was Savion's first professional performance?
The Tap Dance Kid
- What story did *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* tell?
history of African Americans
- Who did Savion study to become better at tap dancing?
Possible answers: Sammy Davis, Jr., Gregory Hines, masters of tap dancing

Study Skills

Use the poster below to answer the questions that follow.



- What is the price range for tickets to see *Improvography*?
\$22-35
- What is the name of the theater that is hosting the performance?
The Alden Theater
- What date do tickets go on sale?
August 2

15

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

- makes a lasting feeling or image
impressive
- areas of land that are each equal to 4,840 square yards
acres
- goal; purpose
mission
- people who sell things
vendors
- to move around in a busy manner
hustle

A simile compares two things using the words like or as. Find the simile in paragraph 1, and write it on the line below.

- windows that glittered like jewels
- Compound words are divided into syllables between the two words that make the compound. For example, *playground*. Divide the words below into syllables using a slash (/).

- farmhouse
- backward
- homekick

Reading Skills

Read the descriptions below. Write F next to the phrase if it describes Fiona. Write N if it describes Nora.

- F says she can't see anything green from the window

- F feels like everything is made of steel, stone, and glass
- N points out several green things on the street below
- F says she misses their old farmhouse
- N says they found their piece of green in the city
- What do you think "green space" is?
Answers will vary.
- What problem do Fiona and Nora have in this story?

Possible answer: They are not used to living in a big city.

- Where do you think Fiona and Nora used to live before they moved to the city?
Possible answer: on a farm in the country
- Nora points out three green things she can see from the window. What does Fiona mean when she says, "You know that's not what I'm talking about," to her sister?

Fiona uses "green" to mean trees, grass, and other plants, not just the color green.

Study Skills

The word you look up in a dictionary is called an entry word. An entry word is usually a base word. For example, if you want to find the meaning of *happier*, you would look up the base word *happy*. Write the entry word you would look for in a dictionary next to each word below.

- glittered glitter
- honking honk
- libraries library
- exploring explore

17