# Reading Comprehension



Fiona was having a bad day.



First, she couldn't find her favorite socks.





Then, she spent so long looking for another pair to match her outfit, she didn't have time to eat.



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# Reading Rochelle's Birthday Surprise

Read the story below and decide why Rochelle might have done what she did. Write your answer in the space provided.

It was Saturday, the day of Rochelle's birthday party, and she was so excited she could hardly keep still. She had spent the whole morning decorating her house with streamers and balloons. She had set the table with matching plates, cups and napkins. Best of all, she had baked and iced cupcakes for each of her friends, without anyone else's help.

Rochelle's little brother Remy was his usual bouncy self. "Happy birthday, Rochelle," he yelled, around the kitchen and waving a balloon he'd torn down from the wall, where Rochelle had taped it up.

"Calm down," she ordered. Remy's jumping was making the counters tremble and Rochelle feared her cupcakes would fall on the floor. "Get out of here, and quit tearing down my decorations or I won't give you the cupcake I made for you."

"I get a cupcake? Yay!" Remy shouted, bouncing around as boisterously as ever.

"Stop it, Remy, you'll ruin everything!" Rochelle wailed. Remy didn't stop. Finally, Rochelle picked up a cupcake. "This one was going to be yours," she told Remy, and threw it to the floor, where it landed upside down with a plop. Remy stopped bouncing, looked down at the cupcake, and began to cry.

Why did Rochelle ruin Remy's cupcake?

Reading

# Compare the Fairytales

Read the two fairy tales below. Each is from a different culture. What are the similarities between the two tales? What are the differences? Use the Venn diagram on the next page to list three similarities and three things that are different about each tale.

#### Fairy Tale #1:

Tong ago, in the land now known as Canada, there lived two native children, a sister and brother. They were orphans and had to care for themselves. This was especially difficult since the boy never grew bigger than a baby, no matter how old he got.



The sister loved her brother very much, and she made a bow and arrow especially for him to shoot. He learned to hunt wild snow birds for food, and soon he had enough bird skins to make himself a coat. It was a fine coat and the boy wore it with pride.

One day, the boy asked his sister, "Are there other people in the world? Mother told stories of people just like us, but I've never seen them." For as long as they had been on their own, the girl and boy had never met another soul. "Mother told me the same," said the girl. "She was born to faraway people, who raised her up when she was a girl like me." The boy decided to seek his mother's people.

He set off for his journey wearing his beloved coat of bird skins. But the sun was high and hot, and the boy's coat began to shrink. Soon, it was so tight that when the boy moved, the coat tore into pieces.

"I'll get you for this, sun!" said the boy His sister fashioned a snare out of a lock of her long, strong hair, and the boy snuck out before dawn to trap the sun. He placed his snare at the point on the horizon where the sun would rise and sat down to wait. Sure enough, as the sun began to rise, it was caught in the boy's trap.

"Who will free me from my bindings?" the sun implored the world's animals. First, Woodpecker tried, but its head grew red from the heat. To this day, woodpeckers have red heads. Finally the task fell to the mouse, who was the biggest and strongest creature of them all. The mouse began to gnaw at the snare and slowly, hair by hair, the mouse began to cut through it. Though its back was singed to ash, the mouse kept at its task. Finally, the mouse freed the sun from its bondage, but not

before the heat shrunk it to a fraction of its former size. When it began its task, the mouse was the largest of all animals. By the time it finished, it was the smallest. To this day, the mouse remains one of the tiniest animals, and its coat is still the color of ashes.



#### Fairy Tale #2:

nce upon a time, before the continent of Europe was given that name, there lived a couple who had no children. They wished every day for a child, even if he were no bigger than a hazelnut. At last, their wish was granted, and they had a child who was the

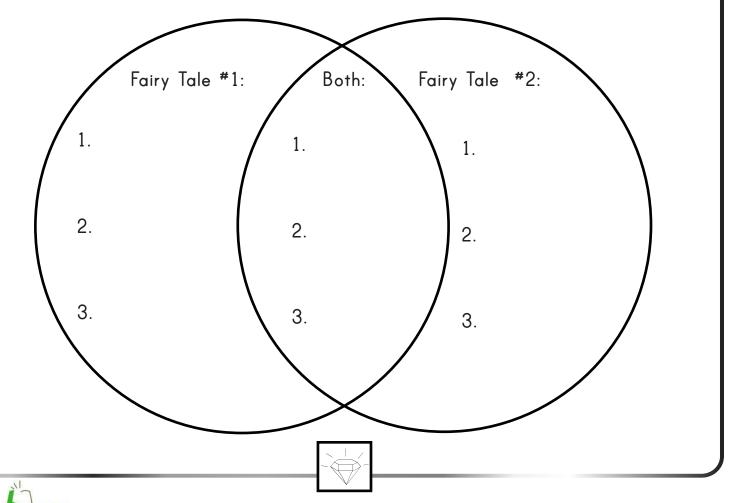
size of a hazelnut, just as they had said. They loved the child very much and they took excellent care of him.

When the hazelnut child turned fifteen, his parents asked what he would become, now that he was of an age to work. "I would like to be a messenger," said the child. His mother laughed and asked, "How can you possibly be a messenger? Your tiny feet would take an hour to carry you the distance anyone else could cover in a minute."

"Give me a message to carry," said the boy, "and see how quickly I return." So his mother told him to go to the house of his aunt in the neighboring village and bring back a comb. "I'll be back before you know," said the boy. His mother held the front door open for her son, and off he went on his journey. He found a man on horseback who was headed for the next town. The boy crept up the horse's leg, crawled under the saddle, and began to pinch the horse's back. Rearing up, the horse took of at breakneck speed and wouldn't slow down, no matter how hard the rider pulled at its reins. When they reached the neighboring village, the hazelnut child quit pinching the horse, and it slowed enough that the boy was able to climb back down its leg. His aunt was delighted to see him and gave him the comb he asked for.

The hazelnut child returned home on the back of another horse and presented his mother with the comb. "But how did you get home so quickly?" she asked. He did not answer her question, but only said, "You see, I told you messenger was the profession for me."

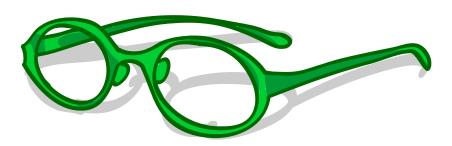
Using his newfound skill, the hazelnut child hitched a ride on a stork that was flying south for the winter and landed in a faraway country. There, he met the king, who was astonished this tiny creature who rode storks as if they were horses. The king was so taken with the hazelnut child that he gave the boy a diamond bigger than himself. The boy hitched the diamond to his stork and flew home, and he and his parents lived in peace and prosperity for the rest of their lives.



Reading

# Complete the Mystery

Read the two paragraphs below and decide what might happen next in the story. Underline the words or phrases that give you clues about the ending, and then write a paragraph concluding the story.



Jillian's bedroom was a terrible mess. Her pillows, usually on top of her neatly made bed, lay on the carpet in a heap. Jil-

lian had taken every coat out of her closet, turned the pockets inside out, and tossed them into a pile. Her shoes, which she kept tucked under her bed in a neat row, were strewn all around the floor. She had dumped the contents of her backpack out onto her bed and turned all the pockets in the backpack inside out, too. The dresser drawers were open, clothes spilling out of each one. Exasperated, Jillian plopped down on the rug and groaned.

Jillian's mother appeared at her door. "What's the matter," she asked, "and why is it so messy in here?"

"I can't find my glasses anywhere," Jillian complained. "I've looked everywhere I can possibly think of, and still, no luck. I'm all out of ideas, Mom. Do you have any?"

Concluding paragraph:

Reading

# The Kitten

Read the story below and decide why Rosie might have done what she did. Write your answer in the space provided.

Rosie wanted a kitten more than anything in the world. For months, she had dreamed of the day that she and her parents would go to the pound and adopt her brand new pet. But Rosie's mother insisted they wait until Rosie's birthday, which was still two months away. Rosie thought of kittens all day. She hoped hers would have blue eyes, fluffy fur, and a happy purr that Rosie would feel through her shirt when the kitten curled up on her chest.

Walking home from school one day, she passed a neighbor's house and noticed a big cardboard box on the porch. Curious, she ventured closer and saw her neighbor, Mrs. Spencer, lifting a fluffy kitten from the box! The words "Free Kittens" were written across the side of the box in big, black letters.

Mrs. Spencer saw Rosie eyeing the box and waved to her to come closer. "Your name is Rosie, isn't it? You live down the block." Rosie nodded and held her arms out for the kitten Mrs. Spencer was handing her to hold. It had blue eyes and its fur was as soft as Rosie had dreamed

it would be.

"Would you like to adopt that kitten?" asked Mrs. Spencer, smiling kindly. Before she knew what she was saying, Rosie blurted out, "Yes!"

"Is it alright with your parents?"

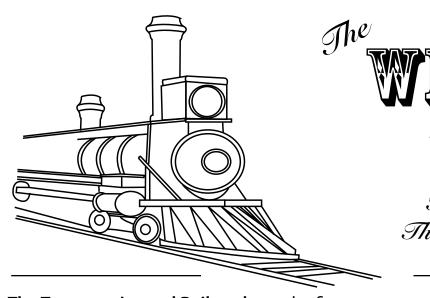
"It's fine. We've been planning to get a kitten for months."

Though it wasn't the whole truth, Rosie couldn't help herself.

She let Mrs. Spencer put the kitten into a little box, hand

her a can of food, and send her on her way.

Why didn't Rosie tell the truth?



WILD WEST

People and Events T hat Shaped the American West

From Omaha to Oakland: The Transcontinental Railroad

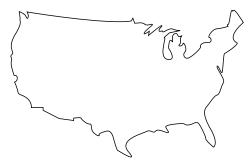
The Transcontinental Railroad was the first mass-transit project to connect the Eastern United States with the new West. As settlers began exploring the West, talk of starting a national rail service began, but politicians couldn't agree on a route, and were having trouble finding an easy way for the train to pass through the mountains of California. It was engineer Theodore Judah who finally found a safe passage through the Sierra Nevada. After that, the Gold Rush heated up and the idea of building an east to west railroad became a major goal. In 1862, President Lincoln approved funding for the building of a transcontinental railroad. Workers began building at both ends of the track and met in Promontory Point, Utah. The project was finished on May 10th, 1869, and workers celebrated by joining the two sets of track with a golden spike.

Though it made the settlement of the West much easier and more attractive, it did so at the expense of many people. The building of the railroads forced many Native Americans to move or change their way of life, and several of the laborers were Chinese and Irish immigrants who were paid unfairly low wages for their hard work. The topic remains the source of heated debate to this day.

Jun Fact:

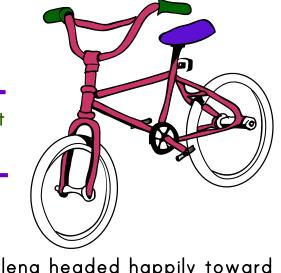
Modern highway Interstate 80 follows most of the transcontinental railroad's original route.

If you were in charge of deciding the transcontinental railroad's route, what would it look like? Where would the major stops be? Draw the tracks on the map and list your reasons for choosing the route on the lines below.



# Selena's Bicycle

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.



Selena asked her mother for permission
to ride her bike. When her mom said yes, Selena headed happily toward the front door.
——Matthew must have heard Selena's bike clatter to the ground, because before Selena knew it, he was there, helping her stand up.
——It was Sunday morning, and the sun was shining brightly. "What a perfect day for a bike ride!" Selena said to herself.
—— "Let's get you home," said Matthew, picking up Selena's bike and wheeling it toward the house.
——However, Selena wouldn't let Matthew's criticism stop her from going for a ride. So she headed outside, put her helmet on, and took off riding down the sidewalk.
——Suddenly, the neighbor's cat, Fishbone, dashed across Selena's path! She swerved to avoid hitting Fishbone and fell right off her bike.
——Selena's big brother, Matthew, sat in the living room playing a video game. "Where are you going?" he asked. When Selena told him, Matthew replied, "That's a boring idea," and went back to playing his game.
——Though she scraped her knee and walking hurt a little, Selena found herself smiling. Brothers and sisters may fight sometimes, Selena realized, but deep down, they will always love each other.



#### FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA

Junipero Serra was born in spain 1713. He became a Franciscan monk at age 16, and at age 36 he decided it was his calling to travel to the New World and be a missionary. He set sail with some other monks and arrived in California (now Mexico) in 1749 and was sent to serve as a missionary in the Sierra Madre. Soon, he was given the task of building missions in upper California, a land that very few people had visited before them. Father Serra established the first mission in San Diego in 1769 and went on to build 21 more all the way up the California coast to Sonoma. The work of Father Serra and his missionaries was the first major effort by outsiders to settle in the West coast.

Did you know? El Camino Real, or "The Royal Road", was a long road that connected the missions. Much of it is now rerouted by modern streets and highways, but you can still drive on a long portion of it in the San Francisco area.

#### WORD SCRAMBLE!

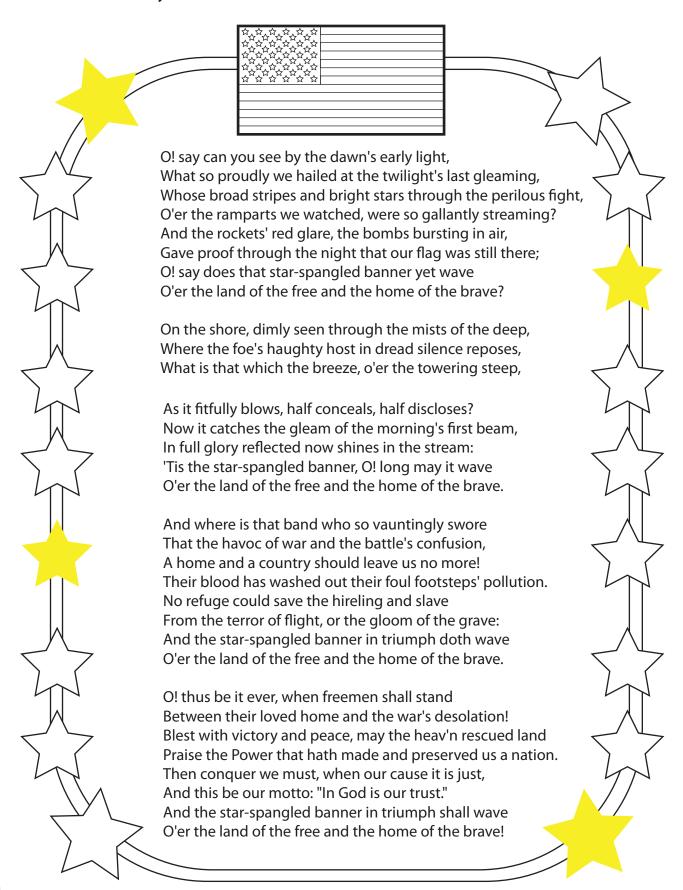
Can you unscramble the name of each mission?

1. San CRSLAO Borromeo de Carmelo	. 11. San OJES	
2. Nuestra Senora de la DDSOELA		
3. San TNONAOI de Padua	13. Santa ZUCR	
4. San GMIELU Arcangel	14. San JNUA UABTATIS	
5. San ILSU PBISOO de Tolosa	15. Santa AAABRBR	
6. La IPMRISUA Concepcion	PMRISUA Concepcion 16. San BNAUNEVETUAR	
. Santa EISN 17. San OFNEANRD Rey de Espana		
8. San CFROACNIS SAOOLN	_ 18. San IGALBRE Arcangel	
9. San RFALAE Arcangel	19. San AJUN CPISTORAAN	
10. San FACISORNC de Asis	20. San IUSL Rey de Francia	
N	21. San GDOIE de Alcala	



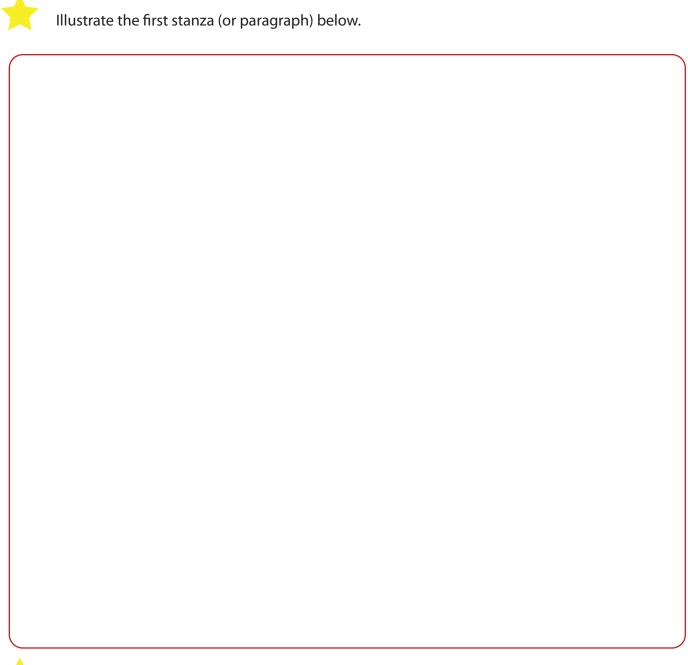
# **The Star Spangled Banner**

Read the lyrics of America's National Anthem. Follow the activities below.





Are there words in the song that you do not understand? Circle them. Then, look them up in the dictionary.





Now try to sing it out loud!

# The WILD WEST

People and Events
That Shaped the
American West



#### LEVI STRAUSS

Levi Strauss was a German immigrant who came to the U.S. in the mid-1800s to help his siblings, who owned a store in New York City. Once they heard about the gold discoveries in the West, his family decided to open a second store in the growing city of San Francisco to serve the miners that were settling there. In the 1870s, he met a tailor who was making special pants with metal pins in them to help the pants last longer in the rough conditions that the miners worked in. When the tailor bought his fabric from Strauss' store, he suggested they go into business together. They patented the style of pants and sold them in the Levi Strauss & Co. store in San Francisco, and they quickly became the store's best-selling item. Today, we call this style of pants simply "jeans". They are no longer worn for hard work – they are also a fashion staple around the world!

#### in your own words...

Levi Strauss was an immigrant who made one of the most famous American products – blue jeans. List three other famous immigrants you have learned about in school and what they contributed to American culture.

1			
2.			
3.			

Reading

# Complete the Mystery

Read the two paragraphs below and decide what might happen next in the story. Underline the words or phrases that give you clues about the ending, and then write a paragraph concluding the story.

Janie came in from recess with the rest of her class to find her teacher, Mr. Holmes, looking down at his desk and frowning. Janie took her seat along with the rest of the class, watching as Mr. Holmes walked to the front of the room. Slowly, the noise and bustle of students settling in and taking books from their backpacks died down. Mr. Holmes looked out at the kids and began to speak.



"What do you notice about my desk?" he asked. "Can anyone tell me what's different?" Janie looked at Mr. Holmes' desk, and suddenly she realized why he'd looked upset. Nibbles, the class hamster, was missing from her normal spot, along with her cage and the bag of hamster food that always sat on the corner of the desk. That's when Janie remembered that she had seen Doug standing beside the door at the start of recess, seeming to wait for everyone else to file out into the yard. She glanced under Doug's desk and noticed a strangely square lump beneath his jacket. Janie hesitated, and then slowly raised her hand.

#### Concluding paragraph:



#### Lunch time

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.



- Jimmy feels embarrassed and angry that he got in trouble.
- \_\_\_ Jimmy and Sean sit together at lunch, talking about their favorite basketball team.
- \_\_\_ In the lunch line, Sean accidentally cuts in front of Jimmy, and Jimmy pushes him.
- Before lunch, Jimmy is scolded for leaving his seat before the bell rings to end class.
- Sean feels better and asks Jimmy if he saw the basketball game on television last night.
- Sean looks hurt and surprised.
- Jimmy feels badly for hurting his classmate, and he apologizes.
- After lunch, the boys go out to the basketball court to play a game of one-on-one.







#### SAM BRANNAN

Sam Brannan traveled to California with a group of Mormon emigrants in 1846, where he was named the president of their group. Having run a newspaper in New York, he set up San Francisco's first newspaper, the California Star. He quickly bought and started many businesses in the growing city and supply stores in the gold fields up north, quickly making him California's first millionaire. It was said that by the mid-1800s, he owned about one-fifth of the entire city! The businesses he started helped San Francisco become the big city it is today. He is remembered for his theatrical personality and as one of the founding fathers of not only San Francisco, but of California and the West coast.

Fun Fract:
Brannan Street in San Francisco is named after him.

Brannan earned a lot of his money by selling supplies to miners at very high prices in cities and towns where the supplies were hard to find. Do you think it was fair him to do this? Why or why not?

#### Marnie and the Muffins

Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.

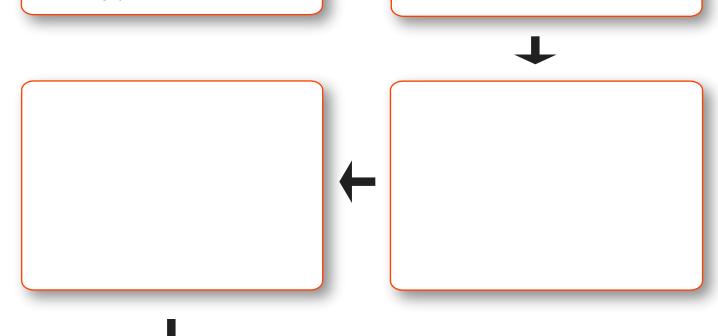


Marnie stood at the kitchen table, flour covering her arms and hands. She had spilled the flour, spilled the milk, and dropped the mixing spoon on the floor. Baking muffins was not as easy as she thought it was going to be.

"It's okay," said Marnie's mom. "Sometimes, baking can be messy. Here, use this one," she said, handing Marnie a new mixing spoon.

Marnie tried to mix the lumps out of the batter, but no matter how hard she tried, the lumps wouldn't go away.

"I could stir for a year, and this batter still wouldn't be smooth!" Marnie wailed. "I can't do this." She stomped off to her bedroom, closed the door, and began to cry.





Marnie's mom pulled on her oven mitts and carefully lifted the muffin tins out of the oven. The scent of cinnamon filled the air. Marnie's mom set the tins on top of the stove, and the two surveyed their work.

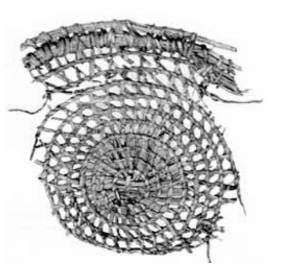
"They look delicious!" Marnie exclaimed. "Next time, let's bake a cake!"

#### THE SUNKEN VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

On the border between Oregon and Washington there is a small landlocked island called Sauvie Island. It is home to the Sunken Village, an old archaeological site that houses the remains of a village of Chinook Indians who lived there centuries ago.

According to Lewis and Clark, who first discovered the island, the Chinook may have lived there as early as 1250 AD, and thrived until about 1750 AD. They lived in a complex hunter-gatherer community with an extensive trading system. They called the island "Wapato Island", because of the abundance of Wapato potatoes that grew there. It was home to at least 6,000 Chinook Indians, who were mostly wiped out by disease. This particular village is nearly the only well-preserved site of cultural remains in the area, despite having

one of the highest population densities of Native Americans in the U.S.



Remains of a basket

Today, the site is called the "Sunken Village" because it is mostly buried beneath marshland. The whole island is prone to seasonal flooding and other dangers. A bridge was built in 1950 to provide better access to the mainland, but this access led to *looting* of the archaeological site. Additionally, *levees* that were built in the 1930s to limit flooding are now leaking and swamping the village even more. The National Parks Service recently listed the site as "threatened".

#### **VOCABULARY**

Hunter-gatherer: a way of living by hunting animals and gathering plants for survival.

Looting: to take what is not yours, esp. in a time of war or from an abandoned place.

Levees: a dam or embankment to help prevent flooding.

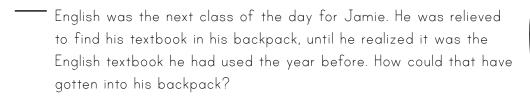
ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

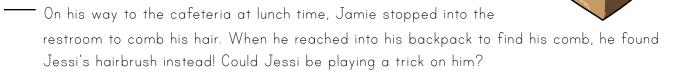
Archaeology is the study of ancient cultures by looking at artifacts and remains of villages like the Sunken Village. Do you think archaeology is an important science? Why do people bother to dig up and study ancient cultures?



# Crazy Monday!

# Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.





 On Monday morning, Jamie picked up his backpack from its spot beside the front door and
neaded out to catch the school bus. His sister Jessi, who was in the grade below his, picked
up her backpack from the same spot and followed Jamie to the bus stop.

- Frustrated, Jamie went to the cafeteria and sat down to eat his lunch. When he unwrapped his sandwich, instead of the peanut butter he expected, he found Jessi's favorite, tomatoes and cheese. Jamie's parents knew he didn't like tomatoes. Why would they have given him this sandwich?
- The first lesson of the morning was in Social Studies. When Jamie looked into his backpack for his Social Studies textbook, he couldn't find it anywhere. Luckily Jake, who sat at the desk beside him, let Jamie share his book.
- "While we're at it," said Jamie, "let me give you back your hairbrush. I don't know how it ended up in my backpack, but you may as well have it back." Jamie knew from Jessi's genuine look of surprise that Jessi was not responsible for her hairbrush having ended up in his backpack.
- As he was about to take a bite of the disappointing sandwich, Jamie saw Jessi marching toward him, looking as irritated as he felt. "Can we trade sandwiches?" she asked. "Whatever you have has got to be better than the peanut butter and jelly mom and dad gave me."
- As Jessi opened her backpack to put her brush away, Jamie began to notice how similar their backpacks looked. They were the same shade of blue and were the exact same size. Jessi must've noticed too, because they both exclaimed, "I've got your backpack!"



# **Yankee Doodle Song**

Read the lyrics of the Yankee Doodle Song, then complete the activities below.

Yankee Doodle went to town A-riding on a pony, Stuck a feather in his cap And called it macaroni

(Chorus:)

Yankee Doodle keep it up, Yankee Doodle dandy, Mind the music and the step, And with the girls be handy.

Fath'r and I went down to camp, Along with Captain Gooding, And there we saw the men and boys As thick as hasty puddin'.

(Chorus)

And there we saw a thousand men As rich as Squire David, And what they wasted every day, I wish it could be saved.

(Chorus)

The 'lasses they eat it every day,
Would keep a house a winter;
They have so much, that I'll be bound,
They eat it when they've mind ter.

(Chorus)

And there I see a swamping gun Large as a log of maple, Upon a deuced little cart, A load for father's cattle.

(Chorus)

(Chorus)

And every time they shoot it off, It takes a horn of powder, and makes a noise like father's gun, Only a nation louder. I went as nigh to one myself As 'Siah's inderpinning; And father went as nigh again, I thought the deuce was in him.

(Chorus)

Cousin Simon grew so bold, I thought he would have cocked it; It scared me so I shrinked it off And hung by father's pocket.

(Chorus)

And Cap'n Davis had a gun, He kind of clapt his hand on't And stuck a crooked stabbing iron Upon the little end on't

(Chorus)

And there I see a pumpkin shell As big as mother's bason, And every time they touched it off They scampered like the nation.

(Chorus)

I see a little barrel too, The heads were made of leather; They knocked on it with little clubs And called the folks together.

(Chorus)

And there was Cap'n Washington, And gentle folks about him; They say he's grown so 'tarnal proud He will not ride without em'.

(Chorus)

He got him on his meeting clothes, Upon a slapping stallion; He sat the world along in rows, In hundreds and in millions.

(Chorus)

The flaming ribbons in his hat, They looked so tearing fine, ah, I wanted dreadfully to get To give to my Jemima.

(Chorus)

I see another snarl of men
A digging graves they told me,
So 'tarnal long, so 'tarnal deep,
They 'tended they should hold me.

(Chorus)

It scared me so, I hooked it off, Nor stopped, as I remember, Nor turned about till I got home, Locked up in mother's chamber.

(Chorus)



Are there words in the song that you do not understand? Circle them. Then, look them up in the dictionary.

Choose one part of the song (called a "stanza") and illustrate it below.



Now sing it out loud!



#### **Reading Comprehension**

Selena's Bicycle
The Wild West: Father Junipero Serra
Lunch Time
Crazy Monday!

# Answer Sheet Selena's Bicycle

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.



- 2 Selena as ked her mother for permission to ride her bike. When her mom said yes, Selena headed happily toward the front door.
- \_\_\_\_\_\_Matthew must have heard Selena's bike clatter to the ground, because before Selena knew it, he was there, helping her stand up.
- 1 It was Sunday morning, and the sun was shining brightly. "What a perfect day for a bike ride!" Selena said to herself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Let's get you home," said Matthew, picking up Selena's bike and wheeling it toward the house.
- However, Selena wouldn't let Matthew's criticism stop her from going for a ride. So she headed outside, put her helmet on, and took off riding down the sidewalk.
- 5 Suddenly, the neighbor's cat, Fishbone, dashed across Selena's path! She swerved to avoid hitting Fishbone and fell right off her bike.
- Selena's big brother, Matthew, sat in the living room playing a video game. "Where are you going?" he asked. When Selena told him, Mat thew replied, "That's a boring idea," and went back to playing his game.
- Though she scraped her knee and walking hurt a little, Selena found herself smiling. Brothers and sisters may fight sometimes, Selena realized, but deep down, they will always love each other.

## ANSWERS

- 1. San CARLOS Borromeo de Carmelo
- 2. Nuestra Senora de la SOLEDAD
- 3. San ANTONIO de Padua
- 4. San MIGUEL Arcangel
- 5. San LUIS OBISPO de Tolosa
- 6. La PURISIMA Concepcion
- 7. Santa INES
- 8. San FRANCISCO SOLANO
- 9. San RAFAEL Arcangel
- 10. San FRANCISCO de Asis

- 11. San JOSE
- 12. Santa CLARA de Asis
- 13. Santa CRUZ
- 14.San JUAN BAUTISTA
- 15. Santa BARBARA
- 16. San BUENAVENTURA
- 17. San FERNANDO Rey de Espana
- 18. San GABRIEL Arcangel
- 19. San JUAN CAPISTRANO
- 20. San LUIS Rey de Francia
- 21. San DIEGO de Alcala

Reading

Answer Sheet

### Lunch time

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.



- \_\_\_\_\_ Jimmy feels embarrassed and angry that he got in trouble.
- Jimmy and Sean sit together at lunch, talking about their favorite basketball team.
- In the lunch line, Sean accidentally cuts in front of Jimmy, and Jimmy pushes him.
- Before lunch, Jimmy is scolded for leaving his seat before the bell rings to end class.
- Sean feels better and asks Jimmy if he saw the basketball game on television last night.
- 4 Sean looks hurt and surprised.
- \_\_\_\_\_\_ Jimmy feels badly for hurting his classmate, and he apologizes.
- After lunch, the boys go out to the basketball court to play a game of one on one.





# Reading Crazy Monday!

Number the sentences below to put them in order and form a story.

- English was the next class of the day for Jamie. He was relieved to find his textbook in his backpack, until he realized it was the English textbook he had used the year before. How could that have gotten into his backpack?
- On his way to the cafeteria at lunch time, Jamie stopped into the restroom to comb his hair. When he reached into his backpack to find his comb, he found Je ssi's hairbrush instead! Could Jessi be playing a trick on him?
- On Monday morning, Jamie picked up his backpack from its spot beside the front door and headed out to catch the school bus. His sister Jessi, who was in the grade below his, picked up her backpack from the same spot and followed Jamie to the bus stop.
- Frustrated, Jamie went to the cafeteria and sat down to eat his lunch. When he unwrapped his sandwich, instead of the peanut butter he expected, he found Jessi's favorite, tomatoes and cheese. Jamie's parents knew he didn't like tomatoes. Why would they have given him this sandwich?
- The first lesson of the morning was in Social Studies. When Jamie looked into his backpack for his Social Studies textbook, he couldn't find it anywhere. Luckily Jake, who sat at the desk beside him, let Jamie share his book.
- "While we're at it," said Jamie, "let me give you back your hairbrush. I don't know how it ended up in my backpack, but you may as well have it back." Jamie knew from Jessi's genuine look of surprise that Jessi was not responsible for her hairbrush having ended up in his backpack.
- As he was about to take a bite of the disappointing sandwich, Jamie saw Jessi marching toward him, looking as irritated as he felt. "Can we trade sandwiches?" she asked. "Whatever you have has got to be better than the peanut butter and jelly mom and dad gave me."
- As Jessi op ened her backpack to put her brush away, Jamie began to notice how similar their backpacks looked. They were the same shade of blue and were the exact same size. Jessi must've noticed too, because they both exclaimed, "I've got your backpack!"