

**A.W. James Elementary
School**

English Language Arts

Independent Learning
Packets

Grade 3

Student Name _____

MAKING A PIZZA

Name _____

Ricky was new in town, and it was hard to make friends. The kids at school were nice, but Ricky was shy. His birthday was coming up, and he was planning a big party with cake, ice cream, and a treasure hunt. He was worried. He wondered, 'What if none of the kids from school want to come?'

One week before his party, Ricky and his dad went to their favorite restaurant. Ben's Pizza made the best pizza in town. Ricky ordered a large slice with cheese and extra pepperoni. He loved every bite. When they finished, Ricky and his dad went to the counter to talk to the owner, Ben.

"How was the pizza?" Ben asked.

"It was an ooey-gooney mess!" Ricky said. "That means I liked it."

"Thank you!" said Ben.

Suddenly, Ricky got an idea. "Ben," he said. "Will you cook pizza for my birthday party?"

"Hold on, Ricky," said Ricky's dad. "Ben is very busy. He might not have time to make pizza for your party."

"But everyone will love his pizza!" said Ricky. "If we have it, I'll be the most popular boy in school."

"I know what to do," said Ben. "I won't cook pizza for your party. Instead, I'll show you how to make it yourself!"

That week, Ricky went to Ben's Pizza every day after school. Ben showed him how to combine flour, yeast, and water into a dough. Then, after the dough had time to sit, they pounded it down and rolled it as flat as a quarter. The most exciting part was when they got to throw the dough up into the air. Ricky couldn't wait to make the pizza for his party. He was confident that his classmates would come to his birthday party, now.



Rewrite this sentence correctly.

first ben showd the boy how to combin
flower, yeest, and wahtur to mak a douh

Fun Facts :

- 1) 36% of people think pizza is the perfect breakfast.
- 2) The month of October is national pizza month in the U.S.

1. Who suggested that Ricky should make his own pizza for the party?

- a) Ricky
- b) Ricky's dad
- c) Ben
- d) his friends

2. Why is Ricky worried in the beginning of the story?

- a) He is afraid none of the other kids at school will want to come to his birthday party.
- b) He doesn't know how to make pizza like Ben for his birthday party.
- c) He doesn't know if the other kids at school will want to have a treasure hunt at his birthday party.
- d) He is worried his dad won't take him to Ben's Pizza.

JOKE: What do you call a sleeping pizza? _____

3. What is this story mainly about?

- a) steps on how to make a pizza
- b) how Ricky learned to make pizza for his birthday party
- c) the new city Ricky moved into
- d) why Ricky had a difficult time making friends

4. Why does Ricky learn to make a pizza?

5. Divide these words.

finished

_____ + _____
base word suffix

showed

_____ + _____
base word suffix

LEMONS

1. What is one thing you learned from this passage? Underline it. Then, write it here.

I woke up early today. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than twenty lemon trees. My father has a job in town at the nearby post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees really help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So this means the lemon trees stay green all year-round. We have a huge grove of lemon trees.

My father once told me that California grows the most lemons out of any place in the world. Every morning, we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that size, they are ready to be picked.

They still are green when we pick them. Our job is to pick them and put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But actually, they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some lemons to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and on Sunday to pick all of the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town on those weeks.

One time, my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it could get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy that it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it.

2. Complete the chart by adding suffixes to the words. Write the final word in the box. Check spelling.

Root Word	Add Suffix	Word
promise	+ ed	
pick	+ ed	
want	+ ed	
taste	+ ed	

3. Choose the synonym for the underlined word.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time.

- a) cold
- b) friendly
- c) hot
- d) gigantic

JOKE: Why did the lemon go to the doctor? _____

Fill in the blanks and spell the words from the passage.

l _ m _ n s _____
p _ c k _____
b _ s _ e _ s _____
- e l l _ w _____
C _ l _ f o - n - a _____

Fill in the blanks with the correct verb tense.

picked **picking**

Lisa is outside _____ flowers for her mom.

A couple of minutes ago, my friend _____ up my pencil off of the ground.

4. Create a new title for this passage. What is it called? Why did you create that title?

Name _____

Name _____

THE EARTH, MOON, & SUN

From very far out in outer space, Earth appears to be a blue ball. Since water covers up three-fourths of Earth's outer surface, blue is the color we see most. The continents look brown. They look like islands floating in a big, blue sea. Also, white clouds wrap around the Earth. The Earth is shaped like a sphere, or a ball. It is 25,000 miles around.

Even though spaceships have traveled to the Moon, people cannot visit the Moon without wearing special suits. The Moon has no air or water. This means plants and animals can't live there. Astronauts first landed on the Moon in 1969. After that, astronauts have taken a total of six more trips to the Moon. They brought back Moon rocks. Scientists are still continuing to study them. There are holes, or craters, all over the surface of the Moon. Scientists think that meteorites smashed into the Moon and formed these holes.

The Sun is the closest star to Earth. A star is a hot ball of burning gas. The Sun looks very big because it is so close to Earth. But the Sun is really just a medium-sized star. Billions of far-away stars are much bigger than our Sun. The burning gases from the Sun are so hot that they warm the Earth from 93 million miles away. Every day scientists learn more information about the Earth, the Moon, and the Sun.

JOKE: When do astronauts eat their lunch?

Fill in the blanks and spell the words from the passage.

s p _ c e s h i _ s _____
_ u t e _ s p _ c _ _____
b _ l l _ o n s _____
s _ a r _____
M _ _ n _____
a _ r _____
w _ t e _ _____

1. Why is blue the color we see most when looking at Earth from outer space?

- a) Because most of the Earth is covered in land.
- b) Because the Sun's rays make the Earth look like it's blue.
- c) Because most of the Earth is covered in water.
- d) Because white clouds wrap around the Earth.

2. What is the main idea of this text?

- a) Plants and animals can't live on the Moon.
- b) Without the Sun we would have no heat or light.
- c) We know a lot about the Earth, Moon, and Sun, but there is still more to learn.
- d) From outer space, the Earth looks tiny, even though it is thousands of miles around.

3. List 3 questions about outer space that you are interested in learning more about.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. In what year did astronauts first land on the Moon?

- a) 1993
- b) 1969
- c) 25,000 years ago
- d) They have not yet.

Circle "T" if the sentence is true. Circle "F" if the sentence is false.

The Sun is not the closest star to Earth.	T	F
The Earth is 25,000 miles around.	T	F

PIANO LESSONS

Name _____

Katie loved to hear her older sister, Becca, play piano. Listening to the pretty notes and watching her fingers press the keys made Katie want to play, too. But every time she asked, her mom would tell her that it took hard work to learn to play the piano. Becca made it look easy. Katie was sure she could learn to play even though she was a few years younger, so she decided to show her mom she was ready for the big responsibility. She helped around the house by washing the dishes and cleaning.

"Mom, can I take piano lessons?" Katie asked.

"Yes, as long as you know that you have to practice every day," her mom said.

Katie was so excited. She could not wait to learn how to play "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." In no time, she thought, she would play as well as Becca.

Katie was happy and nervous for her first piano lesson. When she got there, she was surprised. Her teacher had flashcards and a book for her. Katie did not know there were so many other things to learn about the piano before you could begin to play. She had to learn each sound the piano makes. Then, she had to learn which key on the piano made each note. There were even Italian words she had to learn. Her teacher showed her everything she needed to learn before the next lesson. During her first lesson, she never even got to touch a key on the piano.

"Don't people get to play piano at piano lessons?" Katie wondered.

The next day, when Katie got home from school, her mom had her snack all ready. Katie ate it fast and began to run outside.

"Where are you going?" her mom asked.

"Outside to play with my friends," Katie said. "Bye mom!"

"Not so fast, you must study your piano flashcards," her mom said. "Then, you can play."

"But mom, everyone is playing at the neighborhood park today," Katie whined.

"Katie, this is what you wanted; you have to do your work first," her mom said sternly.


1. Who is the narrator of this story?
- a) Katie
 - b) Katie's mom
 - c) Becca
 - d) none of the above

2. How did Katie show her mom that she was responsible enough for piano lessons?
- a) She told her mom she was responsible.
 - b) She helped her mom with chores around the house.
 - c) She tried to learn to play the piano by watching her sister.
 - d) She asked Becca to tell mom that she was responsible.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb tense.
- showed showing
- His angry face _____ me he was impatient.
- My mom is _____ us how to clean with her cleaning products.

4. Find the word "sternly" in the story. Underline the sentence.
- What is the root word of sternly?
- a) stern
 - b) seriously
 - c) ly
 - d) harshly

5. The word "neighborhood" has two o's. Use the clues to figure out the double o words.
- 1) "feet" is the plural form of this word... _____
 - 2) a large hole lined with cement, filled with water, and used for swimming is called a... _____
 - 3) a tool that is used for eating, stirring, serving, or measuring is called a... _____

 JOKE: Where do pianists go for vacation?

Name _____

THE BARN MONSTER

As Jayden was getting ready for bed, he heard a loud screeching sound coming from the barn. Jayden did not know what was making such a noise, and he had trouble falling asleep. He was scared that there could be a monster in the barn. When he woke up the next morning, he went to the barn to see what was causing the terrible noise. Jayden was perplexed and could not figure out what would make such noise. That night after dinner, he got a flashlight and headed to the barn.

"Where are you going?" his father asked.

"I am going to find the monster in the barn that made so much noise last night," Jayden replied.

"If you are going to look for a monster, you might need some company," his dad said. He joined him.

Jayden shined his red flashlight into the dark barn but did not see anything. He called but nothing answered. He walked into the barn but still did not see a monster.

"What did this monster sound like?" his dad asked.

"It was a loud screeching noise," Jayden said, "and it was coming from the barn."

Jayden's dad began to laugh and he took the flashlight from him. Shining the flashlight up at the roof of the barn, Jayden and his dad saw a small, dark brown owl in the top of the roof.

"It was only a barn owl that you heard last night," his dad said smiling and they walked back inside.

Imagine that you had to tell a friend about this story in only two sentences. Can you do it and still include the important parts?

First, circle 4 adjectives in the passage. Then, write them in the boxes.

□ □ □ □

JOKE: What do you call an owl with a deep voice?

1. The noise Jayden heard the first night was...

- a) A barn owl flying
- b) A monster in the barn
- c) Jayden's dad
- d) a farmer

2. This passage is mostly about...

- a) Playing in a barn
- b) Dreaming of a monster
- c) Discovering the source of a strange sound
- d) Learning about different kinds of owls

3. Fill in the blanks. Use the following words:

monster barn
 owl flashlight
 screeching

My little sister is scared because she thinks a huge _____ is under her bed.

Tim looked around the dark room with a _____.

The farmer keeps his tractor beside the big _____.

At the playground, I heard a lady _____ at the top of her voice.

The _____ fluffed out its feathers.

4. Find the word "walked" in the story. Underline the sentence.

What is the root word of walked?

- a) ed
- b) ked
- c) walk
- d) talking

THE FLU

Name _____

Have you ever had the flu? If you have, you know how terribly miserable it can make your whole body feel. Many children will get the flu at some point during their school years. Each year from October to May, millions of people all across the United States come down with the flu. Kids get the flu most often. However, people in every age group, including teenagers, can catch it.

When you have the flu, you usually get a high fever, have a cough, feel very tired all day, and may have a sore throat as well. People with the flu often feel achy and extra tired. They also may lose their appetites. It can make you feel sick for a few days or for as long as one entire week. Sometimes, it can be hard to tell if you have the flu or a cold, but if you have the flu, you usually have a higher fever and feel much worse. The flu is a type of virus, which means medicine will only help out for the symptoms such as the cough and fever. For most kids, the flu comes and goes, but for some, it can be a serious sickness.

Most of the time, kids get the flu in the winter. This is because germs spread more easily when kids are inside or in settings like school buildings and classrooms. The best way to prevent yourself from getting the flu is to wash your hands often, keep your hands to yourself, and go to your doctor for the flu shot or mist.

1. Re-read this part of the story.

The flu is a type of virus, which means medicine will only help out for the symptoms such as the cough and fever.

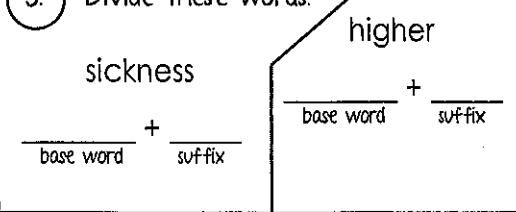
What does symptoms mean?

- a) colds
- b) viruses
- c) medicines
- d) signs

2. Which of the following WOULD NOT help you in preventing the flu?

- a) keeping your hands to yourself
- b) washing your hands often
- c) getting the flu shot
- d) shaking the hands of classmates

3. Divide these words.



► Fill in the blanks and spell the words from the passage.

g _ r m s _____
 - l u _____
 w i n _ e _ _____
 - e v e r _____
 - o _ t o r _____

► Circle "T" if the sentence is true.
 Circle "F" if the sentence is false.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| The flu is a very rare disease. | T | F |
| People with the flu often feel achy and extra tired. | T | F |
| Most of the time, kids get the flu in the winter. | T | F |
| Teenagers cannot catch the flu. | T | F |

4. Why is the flu most easily spread in the winter?

- a) Because kids are inside in places like classroom settings
- b) Because kids are outside playing in the cold
- c) Because there is less daylight during winter days
- d) Because kids usually wash their hands less in the winter

► JOKE:

- Knock, knock!
- Who's there?
- Atch.
- Atch who?
- _____

HUMMINGBIRDS

Name _____

Hummingbirds are unique birds. Hummingbirds are birds that are found only in the Americas, mainly in South America. They are the smallest of all birds and weigh less than a penny. Most of them are 7.5 - 13 cm (or 3 - 5 inches) in length. The Bee Hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world, at just 5 cm (or 2 inches). The largest hummingbird is the Giant Hummingbird reaching over 20 cm (or 8 inches).

Unlike most birds, hummingbirds have iridescent feathers. Iridescent feathers are feathers that glitter and shine in the sunlight. Hummingbirds are often dazzling combinations of greens, reds, and blues. Others are mixtures of violet, orange, golden, or silver. All hummingbirds have long bills that can insert into flowers. Some hummingbirds have special bills to fit into specific flowers. Hummingbirds are also unique because they are the only birds that can fly backwards.

In addition, hummingbirds are unique among bird species because they drink nectar from flowers. You can attract hummingbirds to your yard with special feeders that are filled with sugar water. These feeders are usually bright red in color because hummingbirds are attracted to the color red.



First, circle 4 adjectives in the passage. Then, write them in the boxes.



Fill in the blanks and spell the words from the passage.

f _ o w _ r _ _____
 n _ c _ a _ _____
 b _ _ d s _____
 r _ d _____
 - r i _ _ s _ e n t _____



Use the passage to write the word next to its definition.

_____ a type of bird that is unique
 _____ feathers that glitter and shine in the sunlight
 _____ the largest hummingbird



Circle "T" if the sentence is true. Circle "F" if the sentence is false.

Hummingbirds are unique because they drink nectar from flowers.
 Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red.

T F
 T F

1.

What color are most hummingbird feeders? Underline where you found this answer in the passage.

2.

What do hummingbirds eat?

- a) insects
- b) the story doesn't say
- c) flower nectar
- d) flowers

3.

Compared to other birds, hummingbirds are...

- a) heavier
- b) larger
- c) about the same size
- d) lighter

JOKE: Why do hummingbirds hum?

4.

How are hummingbirds unique?

5.

Find the word "filled" in the story. Underline the sentence.

What is the root word of filled?

- a) file
- b) ed
- c) fill
- d) fling

ANIMAL BATHS

Name _____

Have you ever thought about how animals stay clean? In order to wash yourself, you need to take a bath or shower. Animals need to keep clean, too. How do animals clean themselves?

Cats lick themselves in order to keep their fur clean. Elephants take baths just as much as you do. But instead of hopping into a tub, they walk into a river or lake. Pigs also like to roll around in the water. This helps keep them stay clean and cool. If there is no clean water around, they will roll in mud. They do this to cool off on a hot day. Pigs do not really like mud. Instead, they are happier in a nice, clean pond. Bats have a funny way to groom. They lick their thumbs to clean their ears. Do you know how polar bears clean themselves? They use the snow around them to stay clean.

Some animals take baths in dust instead of in water. The wombat is an Australian animal with lots of fur. To become clean, it first lies down. Then, it scoops sand all over itself. Birds clean themselves in many ways. Sometimes they wash in the water. That's why some people put birdbaths in their front yard. At other times, birds take dust baths, just like wombats do. Birds also use their beaks to keep their feathers clean. They use their beaks the same way might you use a comb. Sometimes a bird has itchy bugs in its feathers. Birds also use ants to help them clean off the bugs. A bird will lie down on an ant nest. Then the ants will crawl on the bird. The ants make a kind of bug spray on the feathers. Then the itchy bugs die.

Birds take baths in something else, in addition to dust and ants. Some birds take what is called "smoke baths." This means they sit down on chimneys to become clean. They do so by waving their wings in the smoke. Have you ever thought about the different ways that animals stay clean? Does this make you wonder about other animals?

1. Name 2 animals that take dust baths.

2. What's a pig's favorite way to get clean?

- a) It takes a bath in clean water.
- b) The story doesn't say.
- c) It licks itself.
- d) It rolls in nice, thick mud.

3. A bird uses its beak like a person uses a...

- a) tub
- b) comb
- c) lake
- d) shower

4. Think about the way a pet or animal that you know takes a bath. How is it like and different from the way that people take baths?

JOKE: How does a mouse feel after it takes a shower?

Fill in the blanks.

- Some animals take baths in _____ instead of water.
- Birds also use _____ to help them clean off the bugs.

5. List 3 animals that are in the passage.

Circle "T" if the sentence is true. Circle "F" if the sentence is false.

- Some animals take baths in dust instead of in water.
- Some birds take "smoke baths."

T F
T F

Writing Sample # 1 Chuck E. Cheese's

Chuck E. Cheese's is bad for you but is great. I wish I could go there every day! Oh well. It's fun going to Chuck E. Cheese's because of the extraordinary food and spectacular arcade. I can't wait to win some more prizes next year at Chuck E. Cheese's.

Chuck E. Cheese's food is excellent! Their pepperoni pizza is mouthwatering. The salads are great, with diced tomatoes. The selection of veggies is endless and very good. The macaroni has a special ingredient in it. Well, it seems to. The food is scrumptious at Chuck E. Cheese's.

Once a year, my family goes to Chuck E. Cheese's. It's a popular place. Chuck E. Cheese's is a nice place to go because of the tasty food and the awesome arcade.

While you're waiting for your food, the arcade makes time fly. You have to buy coins, and each arcade game is only 1 coin. And if you do well, you get lots of tickets to buy fun stuff. So it's not wasting your money, parents! The motor games, such as the snowmobile, four-wheeler, motorcycle, car, and many more, are great. The arcade is great while waiting for your food.

Three Levels of Government

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



There are three different levels of government: local, state and federal. Each level of government has its own elected officials who have specific jobs to do. Adult American citizens have a voice in all three levels of government. Their voice is their vote.

Local government is the level that is closest to the community. People in the neighborhood elect a mayor and city council members. Town meetings allow the people to bring their concerns to their elected leaders. The mayor and city council members pass laws. The laws affect the city and the people who live there.

State government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for all the people within one state. The people of the state elect a governor and representatives who handle business for the state. Special state departments handle issues for the state. They protect the health and safety of state citizens.

The federal government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for the people in the United States. The people of the United States elect a president, senators, and representatives. These officials handle business that affects the whole country. The federal level of government is able to do some things the other levels cannot. It can print money. It can negotiate with other countries. It can declare war on another country.

Each level of government has specific officials and duties. The people entrust their power to their leaders. It is their responsibility to protect the interests and safety of the people.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What are the three levels of government?

2) How does the average person have a voice in government?

3) Which level of government has the ability to print money?

4) Which level of government has a governor?

5) Which level of government is closest to the community?

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Name: _____
Key

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) What are the three levels of government?
local, state and federal

2) How does the average person have a voice in government?
with a vote

3) Which level of government has the ability to print money?
the federal government

4) Which level of government has a governor?
the state government

5) Which level of government is closest to the community?
the local government