

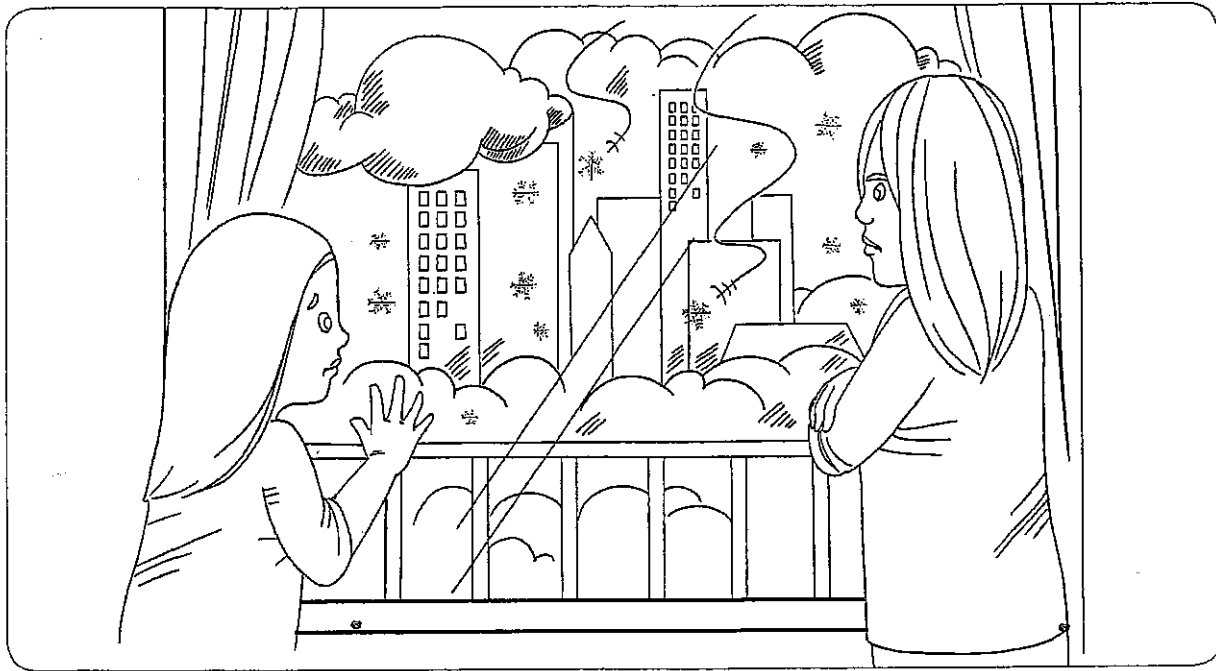
**A.W. James Elementary
School**

Science & Social St.

Independent Learning
Packets

Grade 3

Student Name _____



Read the passage. Then answer questions 1–10.

A New World

- 1 Home is like a dream these days, Palma thought. She remembered her village on the Philippine island of Panay with a dull ache. That was home. She had lived near Tapaz, where the palm trees grew wild and the weather was either muggy and warm or rainy. People rode motorbikes to get around, sometimes with a whole family piled aboard one bike. Shops and homes were open and inviting. No one wore long-sleeved shirts. The smell of cook smoke hung in the air, as did the fragrance of flowers. Friends and family laughed and played together in the evenings.
- 2 Then Palma moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where everything was strange. People lived all crammed together in a loud, bustling, tall city. They seemed to rush all the time, driving about in large cars. Ads flashed colorful pictures, music played, buses honked, and traffic lights changed over and over (red, green, yellow, red, green, yellow in a never-ending cycle).



- 3 Palma and her grandmother had left Tápaz in October to live with her aunt and uncle, who had moved to Minneapolis many years before. The village had been at its hottest when they left. Insects buzzed all the time, and people stayed inside during the scorching afternoons.
- 4 It was so different here! The weather was cold—colder than Palma had ever known. The air was like the inside of a refrigerator. Her breath was frosty in the mornings. She had to wear heavy coats and scarves, and still her nose and the tips of her ears got cold. Palma often stayed inside where it was warm, watching her favorite movie over and over again. It was about the Chinese heroine Mulan, whose father was getting old. Mulan pretended to be a boy so she could join the army in her father's place.
- 5 One afternoon the sky clouded over completely, and it grew even colder. Palma pointed at the sky and asked Aunt May, "What's happening?"
- 6 Aunt May laughed. "You'll see, *mija*."
- 7 The clouds seemed to hang lower, and the sky grew darker as Palma watched from the window. The heater ticked on often. She was grateful for its warmth. Just when Palma thought the sky would burst, white flakes began to fall from above.
- 8 "Auntie!" Palma cried in surprise.
- 9 Aunt May came in from the kitchen and looked out the window. She smiled. "Ah, now it is time. Come along."
- 10 Together, they bundled up in their warm clothes and walked out of the apartment to the sidewalk. By now, the white flakes were drifting down faster and thicker. Palma had never seen anything like it! She held out her hand, and a flake landed in the center of her palm. It was so small and light that she did not feel it until it melted.
- 11 "What is it called?" she asked.

- 12 "Snow," Aunt May answered. "It happens when rain gets very cold and freezes in the sky. Then it falls to Earth as soft, delicate flakes. Sometimes so many flakes fall that the snow piles up on the ground, and it might stay there all winter."
- 13 They watched the snow for several quiet minutes. People rushed about on the street as usual. None of them seemed to think the snow was strange. Palma made a little whining noise. Her eyes welled with tears.
- 14 "What is it, *mija*?" Auntie asked.
- 15 "I don't like it here. It is cold and strange, and now we have snow. I miss my friends and my village. I want to go home."
- 16 Auntie was quiet for a moment, thinking. Then she said, "I know that it is hard to move to a new place. It was hard for me, too. Remember the story of Mulan, though. She was brave and courageous for the good of her family. Your family lives here now. Can you be brave and courageous for us, too?"
- 17 Palma thought about it. "Yes," she decided finally, "I can do that."
- 18 She and Aunt May stood and watched the snow for a bit longer before they went back inside. The snow was falling faster, and it made everything seem quiet and peaceful. This new world was still strange to her, but she decided that it could be beautiful as well.



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1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

Part A Read this sentence from paragraph 13.

Palma made a little whining noise.

Why did Palma make a whining noise?

- A She was upset.
- B She was hurt by the snow.
- C She was practicing her English.
- D She was copying the sound of people rushing by.

Part B Which sentence from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- A They watched the snow for several quiet minutes.
- B People rushed about on the street as usual.
- C None of them seemed to think the snow was strange.
- D Her eyes welled with tears.

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2. This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

Part A Read this sentence from the passage.

People lived all crammed together in a loud, bustling, tall city.

What is the meaning of the word bustling?

- A noisy
- B busy
- C large
- D boring

Part B Choose two phrases from the passage that help you understand the meaning of the word bustling.

- A all crammed together
- B driving about
- C rush all the time
- D red, green, yellow
- E colorful pictures

3. Why didn't Palma like living in Minneapolis?

- A She thought the people there were always angry.
- B She wanted to move to a city in a different state.
- C She was used to living in a village that was very different.
- D She was worried that she would have to return to her home.



continued

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4. How does Palma change by the end of the story? Check the box for the three details that tell what she is like at the end.

- She no longer misses her village in the Philippines.
- She has learned to accept the idea of snow.
- She will make the best of her new home for the sake of her family.
- She is going to forget about her friends back in the Philippines.
- She will stop watching movies on TV and start playing outside more.
- She realizes that things that seem strange at first can also be beautiful.

5. How did Palma copy the actions of the Chinese girl Mulan?

- A She decided to act for the good of her family.
- B She decided to run away from home.
- C She joined the army in her father's place.
- D She started packing to get ready to return home.

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6. Choose three sentences from the passage that show how Palma felt about being in Minneapolis. Check the box next to each of your answers.

- Home is like a dream these days, Palma thought.
- Then she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where everything was strange.
- Together, they bundled up in their warm clothes and walked out of the apartment to the sidewalk.
- Aunt May came in from the kitchen and looked out the window.
- The weather was cold—colder than Palma had ever known.
- Auntie was quiet for a moment, thinking.



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7. Choose three things Palma noticed about Minneapolis that were different from her home in the Philippines. Check the box next to each thing you choose.

- The smell of cook smoke hung in the air.
- The palm trees grew wild.
- The air was like the inside of a refrigerator.
- The heater ticked on often.
- Whole families rode on motorbikes.
- No one wore long-sleeved shirts.
- There were buses and traffic lights.

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8. Why did Palma's aunt mention Mulan to her? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

9. As the snow is falling, what does Auntie see when she looks at Palma? Describe Palma at that moment from Auntie's point of view. Include at least two details from the passage.



Spider Webs & Glass

by ReadWorks

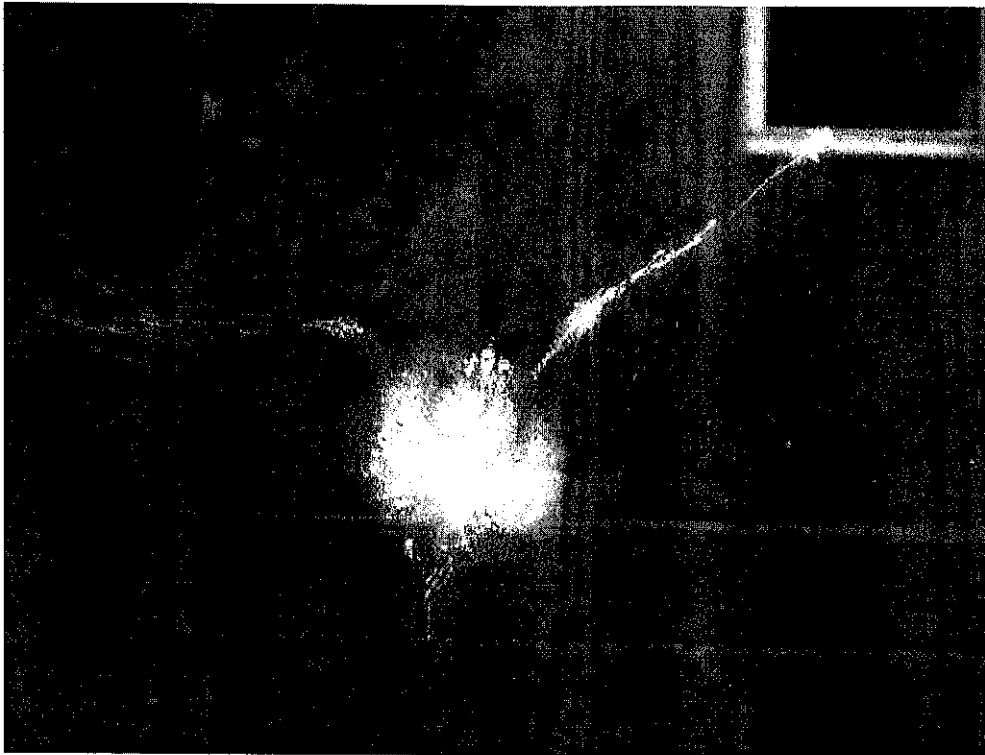
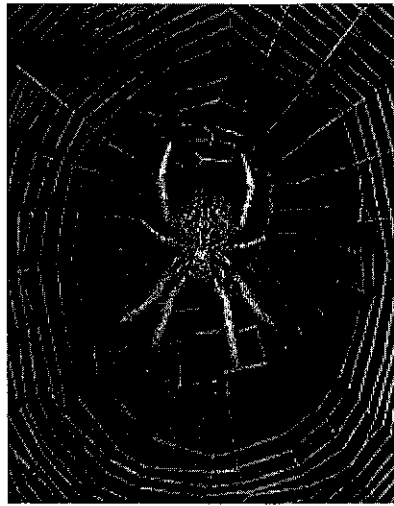


Photo Credit: Erich Ferdinand, CC BY 2.0

Photograph of window marking left from bird crash

Birds in flight can sometimes fly into clear glass windows. It can be hard for birds to see that the clear window is solid. As a result, birds will not know to avoid the window and will fly into it, dying or getting hurt at impact. A German company, Arnold Glas, believed that they could help address that problem. They believed they could create windows that would be visible to flying birds. The inspiration for this design came from a spider web. The certain kind of spider's web reflects UV light. While humans cannot see this type of light, birds can. As a result, birds avoid flying into the web. This keeps the spider's web protected and unharmed.



Adam.inglis84, CC BY-SA 3.0

Photograph of the orb-weaver spider

Arnold Glas tested how birds reacted to their new spiderweb-inspired window glass. They compared that to how birds reacted to normal window glass. During these studies, nets were placed in front of these two different types of glass. Birds were encouraged to fly towards the glass. Even when birds did fly towards the glass, the net would protect them from direct impact. Researchers found that in of the cases, birds avoided flying into the new type of window glass.

A famous lookout tower in England has recently replaced their windows with this new type of window. About 300 bird species fly past this tower when they are migrating, so the owners wanted to protect the birds from clear windows. Many tourists also visit this tower, so the new glass windows were ideal because the UV light is invisible to humans.



Photo Credit: Alan Murray-Rust, CC BY-SA 2.0

Photograph of the Lindasfarne Lookout Tower

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1. According to the text, what can birds see that humans cannot?

- A. UV light that is reflected by a certain kind of spider web
- B. clear glass windows found in people's homes and buildings
- C. lookout towers built in England
- D. objects that are very bright and colorful

2. What problem does the text describe?

- A. Birds sometimes migrate to areas that are filled with humans.
- B. Birds in some parts of the world are losing their habitats and don't have enough food.
- C. Birds in flight can sometimes fly into clear glass windows because they cannot see them.
- D. Birds are destroying spider webs because they are unable to see the UV light they reflect.

3. Read the following sentences from the text.

" A German company, Arnold Glas, believed that they could help address that problem. They believed they could create windows that would be visible to flying birds. The inspiration for this design came from a spider web. The certain kind of spider's web reflects UV light. While humans cannot see this type of light, birds can. As a result, birds avoid flying into the web. This keeps the spider's web protected and unharmed."

What can be concluded about the Arnold Glas windows?

- A. They reflect UV light birds cannot see.
- B. They reflect UV light humans can see.
- C. They reflect UV light spiders cannot see.
- D. They reflect UV light birds can see.

4. Arnold Glas created spiderweb-inspired glass as a way to prevent birds from flying into windows.

Based on the information in the text, what can be concluded about the effectiveness of this solution?

- A. It was effective all of the time in stopping birds from flying into the windows.
- B. It was effective most of the time in stopping birds from flying into the windows.
- C. It was never effective in stopping birds from flying into the windows.
- D. It was effective only a third of the time in stopping birds from flying into the windows.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Birds in flight can sometimes fly into clear glass windows because they cannot see that they are solid.
- B. Arnold Glas compared how birds react to their new spiderweb-inspired window glass to the way birds react to normal window glass.
- C. About 300 bird species fly past a tower in England when they are migrating, so the owners wanted to protect the birds from clear windows.
- D. Glass inspired by spider webs that reflect UV light birds can see was created to prevent birds from flying into windows.