

Name: _____ Date: _____

THIRD GRADE–READING (READ3_1)

Many thousands of years ago, people did not have books. They had other ways to pass on messages. Read the story to find out about some of these ways, and then answer the questions that follow.

The Story of Books

by Harry Ellwood

Getting the Message Across

A long, long time ago, people tried to think of different ways to pass on messages to each other. The first people lived in caves. They sometimes drew pictures on the cave walls to tell stories. We can still see some of these pictures today.

In Africa, some people sent messages by beating drums. Different rhythms had different meanings. The ancient Greeks used a shiny piece of metal to flash messages using the sun's rays.

How Writing Began

Then people invented writing. Some people, such as the Egyptians, used pictures to represent words. We call this kind of writing hieroglyphics.

Later, people began to write using an alphabet. They wrote a different symbol for each sound in their language. We call these symbols the letters of the alphabet. There are many different kinds of alphabets in the world today.

From Clay to Paper

Finding something to write on wasn't always as easy as it is today. In the early days, people tried writing on slabs of clay. Then they baked the clay. Sometimes it broke, and the writing could not be read.

People also tried cutting letters into stone. This was hard work—and just imagine carrying a stone block to school with your homework written on it!

Then, in Egypt, people discovered that a plant called *papyrus* could be made into thin sheets for writing on. (You can see where we get our word paper.)

The Egyptians rolled up long sheets of paper and attached wooden rods to the ends. These were called *scrolls*. Later, someone had the idea to cut the scrolls into pieces and tie the pieces together down one side.

And that's how the first book was made!

1. Who used a shiny piece of metal to flash messages using the sun's rays?

- A. Greeks
 - B. Africans
 - C. Egyptians
 - D. cave people
-

2. How are books and scrolls alike?

- A. Both were invented by Egyptians.
- B. Both are made from paper.
- C. Both were invented by Greeks.
- D. Both are used for writing on clay.

3. The Egyptians rolled up long sheets of paper and attached wooden rods to them to make

- A. books.
- B. newspaper.
- C. pictures.
- D. scrolls.

Moving to a new home is sad if you have to leave a pet behind. Read this story about Faith and her pet, Josefina, and then answer the questions that follow.

from **The Josefina Story Quilt**

by Eleanor Coerr

It was May 1850. Faith was excited. They were going to California in a covered wagon. "Please," Faith asked Ma, "can I take Josefina?"

Josefina was her pet hen and Faith loved her. She liked the way Josefina snuggled in her arms. She liked the way Josefina followed her around. Ma was baking bread for the long journey. "Ask your Pa," she said.

Pa and Faith's brother, Adam, were loading the wagon. "Please, Pa," Faith said, "please can I take Josefina?"

"There is no room in the wagon for pets," Pa said.

"That isn't fair," said Faith. "Adam can bring his colt."

"A colt is not a pet," said Pa. "A colt can carry a load of corn. . . ."

Faith's eyes filled with tears. She ran back to the house. Ma sat down in the rocker and held Faith on her lap. "We all must leave things behind," she said gently. "I love this rocker, but there is no room for it in the wagon." Faith gulped down her sobs.

"I have looked after Josefina since she was a little chick," she said. "What will happen to her?"

"Perhaps a neighbor will take her," said Ma. . .

Early in the morning the wagon was ready. It had blue trim and a white cloth roof. Ma stood back to admire it. "A big flowerpot on wheels!" she said. "Isn't it beautiful?"

Faith did not answer. She was worried about Josefina.

"Did you pack the food?" Ma asked Pa. "And my kitchen things?" Pa nodded. "Then that is everything except the bedding," said Ma. Faith thought sadly, "And Josefina."

4. Which kind of animal was Josefina?

- A. a cat
- B. a hen
- C. a dog
- D. a colt

5. Which did Ma have to leave behind?

- A. her colt
- B. her rocker
- C. her flowerpot
- D. her kitchen things

6. How did Faith feel when the wagon was ready?

- A. She was tired from loading the wagon.
- B. She was scared of riding in the wagon.
- C. She was worried about leaving Josefina.
- D. She was excited about going to California.

Here is a funny story about a boy who told everyone he had a pet alligator. Read the story about "Frederick's Alligator," and then answer the questions that follow.

from **Frederick's Alligator**

by Esther Allen Peterson

One morning Frederick said to his mom, "I have a pet lion in my closet. We are pals, and he will eat you up if you ever punish me."

"Sure, Frederick," said his mom. "Now finish your breakfast or you will be late for school."

As Frederick was leaving for school, he saw the mailman coming up the sidewalk. "I have a timber wolf in my basement," he said. "He likes to eat mailmen, so be very careful if you go into our house."

"Sure, Frederick," said the mailman. "Why don't you put his name on the mailbox?"

When Frederick got to school, he said, "I have a grizzly bear in my attic. He can tear a man or beast into a hundred pieces in just one minute."

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "Now *please* take your seat."

That day on the way home from school, Frederick went to the river to look for wild animals. But all he found was a dead fish, an egg sticking out of the mud, and an old shoe box.

He put the egg in the shoe box and packed it with mud and leaves. Then he carried it home and hid it under his bed.

Frederick looked at the egg every day. One morning it moved. Then it began to crack. Finally it hatched.

"Yonk, yonk," it said.

When Frederick put the alligator on the floor, it yawned. Then it tried out its wobbly legs.

Frederick put the alligator in a pan of water, hid it under his bed, and went downstairs.

"I have a baby alligator under my bed," said Frederick.

"That's nice," said his mom. "I hope your lion doesn't eat it."

On the way to school Frederick saw the mailman. "I have a baby alligator under my bed."

"That's nice," said the mailman. "Now your timber wolf has a playmate."

When Frederick arrived at school he said, "I have a baby alligator under my bed. Can I bring him in for show-and-tell?"

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "And bring your grizzly bear, too."

The next morning Frederick put his alligator in the shoe box and carried it downstairs.

"Frederick!" said his mom. "You *do* have an alligator!"

7. Which animal did Frederick say liked to eat mailmen?

- A. his grizzly bear
- B. his lion
- C. his timber wolf
- D. his tiger

8. What did Frederick say he had in his closet?

- A. an alligator
- B. a timber wolf
- C. a lion
- D. a grizzly bear

9. A COMPOUND word is a new word made up of two other words. Which of the following is a compound word?

- A. hundred
- B. minute
- C. grizzly
- D. downstairs

Remember the story called The Three Billy Goats Gruff? In the story, three goats walk over a bridge. A troll is under the bridge. He wants to eat the goats. The first two goats tell him to wait, because the bigger goat is coming. But when the biggest goat comes, he hits the troll and gets away. The troll gets nothing to eat.

Poor Old Troll is the same story, but it is told by the troll. Read it, and then answer the questions that follow.

Poor Old Troll

by Alvin Granowsky and Morton Botel

Just look at my face! Would you guess that I was once a handsome troll? I'm black and blue all over. And who knows how many broken bones I have! After what that crazy goat did to me, I'm lucky to be alive!

And why did that crazy goat beat me up? Because I tried to be friendly, that's why!

You see, I used to live under a bridge five miles from here, and whenever anyone crossed over my bridge, I always said, "Hi, how are you doing?" You know, it was the friendly thing to do.

Well, one day Little Billy Goat Gruff came trotting over my bridge. So I said to him in that friendly way I have, "Hi, little goat. How are you doing?"

And he said, "Hi, Mr. Troll. I'm doing fine! I'm going over to the hillside to eat the grass."

So I said, "How'd you like me to eat you up?" Just joking and all. I mean, trolls don't *really* eat goats. Little Billy Goat Gruff told me to wait for Middle Billy Goat Gruff because he was bigger and

there'd be more of him to eat. Well, I like to go along with a joke, so I told Little Billy Goat Gruff to trot along up the hillside. I'd wait and eat his bigger brother. Soon Middle Billy Goat Gruff came along.

"Hi, Middle Billy Goat Gruff," I said to him with my friendly smile, "How are you doing?"

And he said, "Hi, Mr. Troll. I'm doing fine! I'm going over to the hillside to eat the grass." So I said, "How'd you like me to eat you up?" Just joking, like with his little brother.

Then Middle Billy Goat Gruff told me to wait for Big Billy Goat Gruff because he was even bigger and there'd be more of him to eat. So I played along with his joke.

"Trot along up the hillside!" I called to Middle Billy Goat Gruff. "I'll wait to eat your bigger brother!"

Soon Big Billy Goat Gruff came along. And let me tell you that goat is big! Why, the whole bridge shook under his footsteps.

"Hi, Big Billy Goat Gruff," I said to him. "How are you doing?" And I smiled in a real friendly way, exactly as I did with his brothers.

"Hi, Mr. Troll," he said. "I'm doing fine! I'm going over to the hillside to eat grass."

So I said, "How'd you like me to eat you up?" Still joking, of course, like with his brothers.

And Big Billy Goat Gruff said, "Come right on up!"

Well, I thought to myself, this Big Billy Goat Gruff is as friendly as me! So I hopped up onto the bridge to get to know him better.

Just to be funny, I said, "Now I'm going to eat you up!" Then, just to give him a laugh, I tried to put on a mean face. That's hard for a sweet, friendly troll like me to do. Really, do I look like I could be mean to anyone?

Well, I started to walk toward Big Billy Goat Gruff with my hand out. I was going to shake hands, *not* hit him.

Then the next thing I know—

POW! WHAMMO! WHALLAPAZOO!

—that crazy goat is hitting me with his horns and kicking me with his feet!

"Leaping bullfrogs!" I yelled. "Let me out of here! This goat's crazy."

So I leaped off the bridge and into the water and swam away. Trolls are good swimmers to begin with, but I could have beaten a shark *that* day!

Now I live under this bridge. I'm still my old friendly self, but I don't joke too much when anybody crosses my bridge. And if it's a goat, I don't joke at all. They've got no sense of humor!

10. How does Mr. Troll describe himself?

- A. He is sweet and friendly.
- B. He is crazy.
- C. He is handsome.
- D. He is big and strong.

11. Which word from the story contains three syllables?

- A. anybody
- B. friendly
- C. handsome
- D. whenever

12. Which word is NOT correctly divided into syllables?

- A. broken; bro ken
- B. hillside; hill side
- C. brother; bro ther
- D. little; li ttle

Johnny's Room

"JOHNNY!!!!!!"

Oh no—that's Mama yelling!

Is it your dirty sock mountain she has been smelling?

Could it be your room is a mess?

Johnny, please do confess!

Baseball cards stuck to banana peels hiding with cracker crumbs under the clothes pile

Dust bunnies, crumbled paper, crayons and toy critters line Johnny's sticky, sloppy mile

Mama is mad and standing with her shovel!

Where are you Johnny—boy are you in trouble!

"JOHNNY!!!!!!"

Mama yells again, and this time Johnny finally appears

She hands him the big shovel, and smiling she says, "Start digging through your mess, my dear!"

13. When does Johnny finally appear before his mother?

- A. after she yells once
- B. after she yells twice
- C. after Johnny has the shovel
- D. after Johnny confesses

14. What mood is Mama in when she is standing with her shovel?

- A. angry
- B. happy
- C. sad
- D. pleased

15. What has Mama been smelling?

- A. dust bunnies
- B. crayons
- C. dirty socks
- D. crackers

16. What did Johnny do?

- A. He broke some toys in the room.
- B. He forgot to clean his room.
- C. He left crackers out on his floor.
- D. He came home late for dinner.

Protecting the Pandas

by Robin L. Santos

The wind whistles down the cold, snowy mountains in China. All is quiet in the bamboo forest below. Suddenly—CRUNCH, CRACK, SNAP! A bearlike creature appears out of the bamboo. For hours, the animal munches on one bamboo shoot after another. Then slowly, it lumbers over to a hollow tree, squeezes itself in, and falls fast asleep.

Many people recognize this animal by its white and black markings. Do you? It's a giant panda! Giant pandas have lived in the mountains of China for thousands of years. But now these special creatures are in danger of dying out. Some scientists say there are fewer than 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild in China.

Pandas in Danger

Pandas need a lot of food to survive. They sometimes eat fish and small rodents. But their main food is bamboo. A panda can eat up to 85 pounds of bamboo in just one day!

Long ago, finding bamboo was easy for pandas. China had many bamboo forests. But people have cut down more and more of these forests to make room for villages and farms. So pandas are losing their homes and their food. Sometimes the pandas starve.

Another danger for pandas is poachers. *Poachers* are people who hunt and kill animals, even though it is against the law. Poachers hunt pandas. Then they sell their skins in foreign countries for lots of money.

People Helping Pandas

Many people from around the world are working to help save giant pandas. Some people in China have set up special areas, called reserves, where the pandas can be safe.

On the reserves, workers try to protect pandas from poachers. They also stop villagers from cutting down bamboo forests. Sometimes workers buy land from villagers who live on the reserves. Then they can plant more bamboo for the pandas.

More bamboo forests and fewer poachers should help more pandas survive in the future.

17. The MAIN food pandas eat is

- A. mice.
- B. bamboo.
- C. fish.
- D. rice.

18. How many syllables are in the word *villagers*?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

19. Which word means the OPPOSITE of the word *fewer*?

- A. more
- B. stop
- C. add
- D. less

20. Which word sounds the same as *main*?

- A. mine
- B. man
- C. may
- D. mane

Read this selection from the book Mieko and the Fifth Treasure. Then answer the questions that follow.

from **Mieko and the Fifth Treasure**

by *Eleanor Coerr*

*Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. Japanese calligraphy uses two special tools. One is an **inkstick**, which is a smooth stick made of dry, hard color. Another is an **inkstone**, a small, rough stone. A person pours water on the inkstone and rubs the inkstick in the water to make ink. Look for all three words in this story about Mieko and her five treasures. Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.*

"Mieko, come down to breakfast!" Grandma's cheery voice floated up from the kitchen. "It's time you got out of bed."

But Mieko was not in bed. She was sitting very still and feeling very sorry for herself.

"In a minute," she called back.

Mieko stared at the art supplies lined up on the red lacquer chest. Her art teacher, Mr. Araki, had called them "the four treasures." There was a fine sable brush, an inkstick, an inkstone shaped like a lily pond, and a roll of rice paper. Mieko had used them to paint Japanese word-pictures. Calligraphy was what she liked to do more than anything else in the world.

Mr. Araki had also told her, "Mieko, you are one of the lucky few who are born with the fifth treasure—beauty in the heart. When you paint, that beauty flows from your heart to your hand, to the brush, and out onto the paper. With lots of practice, you will surely become a great artist."

Mieko didn't really understand what beauty in the heart meant, but she knew that she was never so happy as when she had a brush in her hand, with every stroke getting better.

21. How does Mieko feel at the beginning of the story?

- A. cheery
- B. hungry
- C. sleepy
- D. unhappy

22. What time of day is it when this story begins?

- A. early morning
- B. afternoon
- C. evening
- D. night

23. Mr. Araki says Mieko is lucky because she has

- A. art materials.
- B. beauty in the heart.
- C. time for practice.
- D. a quiet place to work.

24. What did Mieko like to do more than anything else?

- A. read books
- B. listen to music
- C. dance
- D. paint

25. Which word has three syllables?

- A. baskets
- B. firewood
- C. wildflowers
- D. anybody

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THIRD GRADE–READING(READ3_1)

(Answer Key)

1. Greeks
2. Both are made from paper.
3. scrolls.
4. a hen
5. her rocker
6. She was worried about leaving Josefina.
7. his timber wolf
8. a lion
9. downstairs
10. He is sweet and friendly.
11. whenever
12. little; li ttle
13. after she yells twice
14. angry
15. dirty socks
16. He forgot to clean his room.
17. bamboo.
18. 3
19. more
20. mane
21. unhappy
22. early morning
23. beauty in the heart.
24. paint
25. wildflowers