

THIRD GRADE-READING (READ3_3)

Casey's Braces
by Deb Manske

Kevin stopped sharpening his pencil. Sarah stopped practicing subtraction at the board. Wendy stopped reading aloud. Ms. Jacobs looked up from her book. Everyone stared at Casey.

Casey stood in the classroom doorway. She knew they were all looking at the thing on her head. She wanted to run away from all the stares. But Ms. Jacobs called her.

"Come in, Casey. Your mother phoned and told me about your surprise."

Casey came slowly into the room.

"Sit here beside me," said Ms. Jacobs. "You and I have stories to tell!"

Casey sat. Ms. Jacobs put an arm around her.

"I bet you feel uncomfortable right now," Ms. Jacobs said. "Well, I think you were very brave to come to school wearing your new headgear."

Casey had been afraid everyone would think she looked silly. But now Ms. Jacobs sounded so kind and understanding. And no one was giggling anymore. Casey started to feel better.

"It does look silly," Casey said. "It doesn't feel too great either. Know what else? I can't chew gum for six months!"

"I know how that feels," said Ms. Jacobs. "When I got my braces, I had to stop eating taffy!"

"You had braces?" asked Kevin.

"I sure did!" Ms. Jacobs said. "I'll show you some pictures to prove it!"

She passed her pictures around.

"You'll never guess what my nickname was," Ms. Jacobs said.

"Tinsel teeth?" David Anderson tried.

"Metal mouth?" asked Wendy.

Ms. Jacobs walked to the board. In big white letters, she wrote "Jawbreaker Jacobs." Under the name, she taped a picture of herself wearing braces. Then she reached for her camera.

"Casey, you are the first student in our class to have braces," said Ms. Jacobs. "I want to tape a picture of you next to mine."

1. Ms. Jacobs knew about Casey's braces before Casey came to school because

- A. she saw Casey at home.
- B. Casey told her.
- C. Casey's mother told her.
- D. she received a letter from Casey.

2. What was Ms. Jacob's nickname?

- A. Jawbreaker Jacobs
- B. Tinsel Teeth
- C. Metal Mouth
- D. Foil Face

3. Who had to stop eating taffy?

- A. Casey
- B. Ms. Jacobs
- C. Wendy
- D. Kevin

4. Where was Ms. Jacobs going to put Casey's picture?

- A. on the blackboard
- B. on the door
- C. on her desk
- D. on her backpack

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!"

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

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

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

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

7. 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

8. Which word from the story has four syllables?

- A. basement
- B. pieces
- C. alligator
- D. animals

Finding a fossil is fun, and so is making one. Read the directions on how to do it and then answer the questions that follow.

Activity: Make Your Own Fossil

Finding a real fossil is terrific! Fossils are rocks that contain the imprint of bones, shells, or leaves that existed thousands—maybe even millions—of years ago. You may not find a real fossil very often—or ever. But you can make your own fossil. Here are directions for making your own fossil.

You will need:

- 1 small bag of plaster of Paris (ask at a hardware store)
- Water
- 1 empty coffee can
- 1 old aluminum pie or cake pan
- Something to stir with (like a paint-stirring stick)
- Some small objects to press into your fossil (shells, leaves, stones, buttons, bottle caps, even your hand will do)
 - A piece of picture-hanging wire (if you want to hang your fossil on the wall)
- A cup

How to do it:

1. Spread newspapers on the floor or table where you are going to work. (This can get messy!)
2. Collect your "fossil objects."
3. Pour a cup of plaster of Paris into the coffee can.
4. Stir in enough water until it looks like thick pancake batter, following the directions on the box.
5. Pour the plaster of Paris mixture into the aluminum pan.
 6. Place your fossil objects on the plaster and press down firmly.
 7. If you want to hang your fossil on the wall when it's dry, twist a piece of wire into a loop and stick it into the top of the mold.
8. Wait 5 minutes, then carefully remove the objects.
9. Let the plaster dry, remove it from the pan, and **YOU HAVE MADE A FOSSIL!!**

If you can't get plaster of Paris, you can also make a fossil with clay.

9. The word *imprint* from the first paragraph means

- A. shape.
- B. pieces.
- C. color.
- D. stones.

10. Which would NOT be good to use to make a fossil?

- A. a chicken feather
- B. dead leaf
- C. a piece of paper
- D. fish bones

11. Someone might read this story to

- A. find a project for science class.
- B. learn how to make plaster of Paris.
- C. discover where to look for fossils.
- D. find out how fossils form in nature.

12. When making a fossil, the coffee can is used to

- A. wash the pie pan.
- B. pour the water.
- C. hold the fossil objects you collect.
- D. mix the plaster of Paris.

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."

13. Which kind of animal was Josefina?

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

14. Which did Ma have to leave behind?

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

15. 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.

In this story, Benny wants to buy a present for his grandfather. Read it to find out what happens to Benny and then answer the questions that follow.

A Present for Grandfather

by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Benny Alden had a dollar. "Tomorrow is Grandfather's birthday," he told his dog, Watch. "But I don't know what to get him." Watch wasn't much help. He was busy chasing a squirrel. Grandfather saw Benny on the steps. "Let's go to the shopping center," he said. Benny leaped up. Great! He could buy Grandfather a present!

As they drove down the street, Benny said, "There's Michael. Can he come, too?" Michael was Benny's friend. Michael asked his mother and was back in a flash.

Grandfather parked the car in front of the shopping center. There was a barbershop, a bank, a bakery, and a gift shop on one of the blocks.

"I need a haircut," said Grandfather.

"We'll be in the gift shop," Benny said.

Benny took Watch outside. "Wait here," he said.

Back inside, he saw a brass pen set. "That's neat," said Michael.

"It would look nice on Grandfather's desk," Benny agreed. Then he saw the price tag. "Twenty dollars! I only have one dollar!"

A furry blur hopped up and down outside the window. The blur was Watch. "Watch doesn't like it out there," said Michael.

"I'll talk to him," said Benny. When he went outside, Watch ran down the sidewalk. Benny chased his dog. "We can't play now!" he scolded.

Benny took Watch back to the gift store. "Sit," he said. But Watch wouldn't sit.

Benny found a box for Watch to stand on. "Now you can see us."

Benny went into the store again.

Michael held out a key ring. "This only costs one dollar," he said.

"It's not very special," Benny said. "But it's all I can afford." He reached into his pocket and pulled out...nothing! "My dollar!" He cried. "It's gone!"

16. Why didn't Benny buy the brass pen set?

- A. It cost too much.
- B. His dollar was gone.
- C. It was not a good gift.
- D. He had to chase after his dog.

17. How much money did Benny have to spend on Grandfather's present?

- A. one dollar
- B. two dollars
- C. five dollars
- D. twenty dollars

18. Which word has three syllables?

- A. bakery
- B. outside
- C. scolded
- D. chasing

Ferdinand is eager to reach the ocean in this story, "The Shell." Read the story to find out why, and then answer the questions that follow.

from **The Shell**

by Paul Koning

"Can you hear it?" asked Ferdinand, holding the huge conch shell up to his sister's ear. His eyes were wide with excitement.

"No," said Julia, leaning away from him on the long seat in the back of the minivan. "Leave me alone."

Big sisters can be a real pain. And Ferdinand ought to know, because he has two of them.

He put the shell to his own ear. He heard a mighty rushing sound and imagined huge waves breaking on a deserted beach.

The family was headed for the ocean right now, and Ferdinand could not wait to catch his first glimpse of the sea. He had read about it in so many stories and, of course, he'd seen pictures of it on TV. But this was his first chance to actually see it, jump in it, smell the salty air, and watch the seagulls bank and wheel in the sky. There aren't too many oceans in North Georgia, their father always says, and then he tells a long story about grandpa's fishing boat off the coast of Veracruz.

19. The word *glimpse* in the last paragraph MOST LIKELY means

- A. touch.
- B. smell.
- C. sight.
- D. thought.

20. From the story we know that Ferdinand enjoys

- A. reading stories.
- B. teasing his sisters.
- C. eating conch stew.
- D. going to visit his grandpa.

21. Which tells the reader that Julia is older than Ferdinand?

- A. She wants to be alone.
- B. She is annoyed by Ferdinand.
- C. She still remembers Veracruz.
- D. She is called a "big sister."

22. Where did the family live?

- A. on a beach
- B. on a boat
- C. in Veracruz
- D. in North Georgia

Some animals are little and cute, some animals are big and brave, and some animals are dirty! Read the story about a very dirty animal and then answer the questions that follow.

Dirty Henry

by Lucy Dickens

Henry never looked neat. Even when Lily brushed him, he still looked wild and wooly. As soon as Lily turned her back, Henry ran off with his friends and got dirty.

He jumped into muddy ponds, played hide and seek at the farmer's, searched the trash for tasty bones, dug for rabbits in burrows, and always rolled in the blackberry patch at the bottom of the garden before he came in for supper.

One day, Lily and her mother met him in the garden. "You're not coming in until Miss Pink has given you a shampoo and haircut!" scolded Lily's mother.

Lily dragged Henry to Miss Pink's. Henry looked at Miss Pink. "I do like a challenge!" she exclaimed to Lily. "Come back in two hours."

She grabbed Henry and plunged him into a sink full of hot soapy water. Just as Henry started to recover from the shock, Miss Pink turned a cold shower over his head.

At last, Henry was swept up into a warm, dry towel and rubbed all over. He even opened his eyes again. But there was worse to come.

Miss Pink whipped out a large brush and started pulling at the tangles and knots in Henry's hair. And when that was finished, she started to cut his hair with a snip! snap! snip!

Henry watched his hair fall to the floor in chunks. Then she put what was left of his hair into curlers and popped him under the hairdryer. Henry closed his eyes once more.

When Henry dared to open his eyes again, he blinked. "There!" stated Miss Pink with satisfaction. "Don't you look nice!"

But when Lily arrived to take him home, Henry wouldn't look at her. He slunk down the street.

He wouldn't come out from under his favorite chair for supper.

But when no one was looking, Henry came out and ran into the garden. And that's where Lily found him—in the blackberry patch, rolling on his back.

"Oh, Henry!" she said as she hugged him. "I like you better when you're happy and dirty!"

23. Where did Henry like to roll on his back?

- A. in the sink
- B. under the hairdryer
- C. on his favorite chair
- D. in the blackberry patch

24. What kind of writing is "Dirty Henry"?

- A. poetry
- B. nonfiction
- C. folktale
- D. fiction

25. Which happened LAST in the story?

- A. Lily hugged Henry.
- B. Lily took Henry home.
- C. Miss Pink cut Henry's hair.
- D. Lily and her mother met Henry in the garden.

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(Answer Key)

1. Casey's mother told her.
2. Jawbreaker Jacobs
3. Ms. Jacobs
4. on the blackboard
5. his timber wolf
6. a lion
7. downstairs
8. alligator
9. shape.
10. a piece of paper
11. find a project for science class.
12. mix the plaster of Paris.
13. a hen
14. her rocker
15. She was worried about leaving Josefina.
16. It cost too much.
17. one dollar
18. bakery
19. sight.
20. reading stories.
21. She is called a "big sister."
22. in North Georgia
23. in the blackberry patch
24. fiction
25. Lily hugged Henry.