

Name: _____

Date: _____

FIFTH GRADE-READING (READ5_2)

The Invention of Earmuffs

Chester Greenwood suffered more than most from the problem of cold ears. He grew up in Farmington, Maine, where the winters are long and severe. Everyone's ears were cold there, but Chester's ears, which would turn from vivid red to purple to deathly white to an alarming deep blue, were the talk of the town.

In the winter of 1873, Chester Greenwood got a pair of ice skates for his fifteenth birthday. Eager to try them out, he raced down to the pond and onto the ice, but within minutes a harsh wind sent him running back home with his ears already white and red and ready to turn blue.

People wore socks, boots, gloves, hats, and all kinds of insulated clothing to keep all the parts of the body warm, but the ears, stuck there on the side of the head and exposed to the elements, were a special problem. So on the next day, Chester came up with an idea: he tied a heavy wool scarf around his head, hoping it would keep his ears warm, so he could try skating again. On his way to the pond, his ears were quite snug and warm, but the wool scarf was so itchy that again he had to turn back.

On the third day, Chester tried something different. He made oval loops out of baling wire and asked his grandmother, who lived with the family, to sew pieces of beaver fur on one side of the loops and black velvet on the side that would fit against his ear. She then sewed a wire connecting the loops to Chester's cap.

Chester Greenwood tested his fur-covered ear flaps in the outdoor winter cold, and they worked! His ears remained a healthy shade of pink, and for the rest of the winter Chester skated in comfort. The Farmington neighbors, who had always been interested in his colorful ears, were now more interested in his new-fashioned ear flaps. They wanted a pair of warm ear flaps, so Greenwood's mother and grandmother were soon spending all their spare time cutting, sewing, and bending wire to fill orders.

By the time Chester Greenwood was nineteen, he had improved his design with a flat steel spring to fit over the head and keep the flaps in place, and Greenwood's Ear Protectors were selling throughout New England with people commonly referring to them as "earmuffs." Although two patents had previously been issued—one to William P. Ware in 1858 for an "ear, cheek and chin muff," and one to C. Sedgewick in 1872 for another ear-protecting device—apparently neither invention caught on. Greenwood's earmuffs were much more successful, and he patented his design in 1877. Chester Greenwood is remembered to have said, "I believe perfection has been reached."

The earmuff business prospered, and Greenwood next devised a machine to manufacture his ear protectors, and he opened a factory in town. Farmington soon became the earmuff capital of the world, home of "Greenwood champion ear protectors for use in cold weather." Chester Greenwood went on to become the town's leading citizen.

1. The first paragraph of this article tells about Chester's problem. This is a clue to the reader that later in the article the reader will learn about

- A. other people's problems.
 - B. Chester's solution.
 - C. others people's opinions.
 - D. Chester's family.
-

2. The author reports that people in 1873 wore hats, but ears were a special problem. Which must have been true about hats in 1873?

- A. They were not well insulated.
 - B. They were large and unattractive.
 - C. They did not cover ears.
 - D. They covered ears better than hats today.
-

3. Which was the main reason Chester needed earmuffs?

- A. to help him skate better
 - B. to make money for him
 - C. to impress the neighbors
 - D. to prevent frostbite
-

4. Which is the main reason Chester's earmuffs were so successful?

- A. They were stiff but warm.
 - B. They were bulky and furry.
 - C. They were warm and comfortable.
 - D. They were furry but stiff.
-

The Magic Turtle

by Alvin Schwartz

Here is the story of a "magic" trick with a turtle. You will probably catch on quickly . . . read about someone who did not.

The candy store was owned by Madame Perrier and her husband, Louis. They lived in an apartment above the store with six goldfish and a small turtle no more than an inch across.

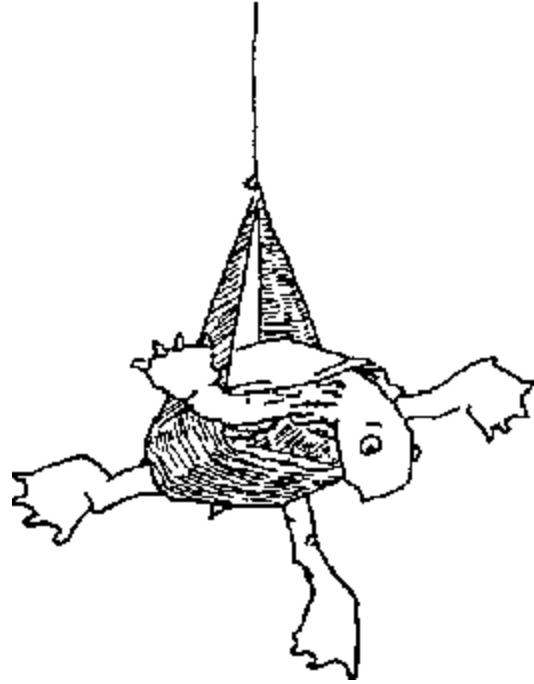
Madame kept the fish and the turtle in a fish tank on a sill outside the kitchen window. Several times a day, she fed them bread crumbs and talked to them about the weather, the store, the candy, whatever was on her mind.

3 A boy named Jack lived in the apartment just above the Perriers. On warm spring nights, he would lean out his open window and watch Madame feed her pets, and eavesdrop as she talked to them.

4 One evening, as he was watching and listening, he had an idea. It seemed so silly that he laughed. But then he thought, Madame would not mind. She would think it was funny.

The next day, Jack bought five turtles at a pet shop. They all looked just like Madame Perrier's turtle, except that they were larger. They ranged in size from about two inches across to about six inches across. He also bought some cheesecloth and wire and a bamboo fishing pole.

That night, Jack made a small scoop net with the cheesecloth and wire and attached it to the fishing pole. Early the next morning, before anyone else was awake, he reached



When Madame Perrier saw the turtle, she got very excited. "It's *twice* as big as it was yesterday!" she told Louis. The next morning, Jack removed the two-inch turtle and replaced it with a four-inch turtle. It had doubled in size again! When Madame saw it, she ran to the telephone and called everybody she knew.

8 The following morning, while the Perriers slept, Jack removed the four-inch turtle and replaced it with a turtle that was five inches across. *That* caused a sensation. All day long, people in the neighborhood came to see the magic turtle, then went out and told others. The crowd got so large a policeman was sent to keep order. Soon a reporter arrived to interview Madame and take her picture with the turtle. Madame was going to be famous!

9 Jack decided not to replace the five-inch turtle with his six-inch turtle. The tank did not seem large enough. He also was afraid that Madame could not stand the shock. Instead, he

out of his kitchen window with the scoop net and removed Madame's turtle from the tank. He put it in a bucket of water. Then he replaced it with a turtle that was two inches across or twice as large.

not stand the shock. Instead, he decided to make the turtle smaller once more.

Early the next morning, Jack replaced the five-inch turtle with a three-inch turtle. Of course, when Madame discovered what had happened, the excitement continued. Still more people came to see the turtle, and the reporter came back to interview her again.

11The next morning, Jack replaced the three-inch turtle with the one-inch turtle Madame owned at the beginning. That night, he put away the dip net and the bamboo pole. He took his five turtles to the park and let them loose in a stream. On the way home, he stopped in to see Madame's turtle. It was away for a while, at the zoo, she said. A scientist was studying its strange behavior.

Adapted from *As I Remember Him* by Hans Zinsser. Copyright 1940. Published by Little, Brown and Company.

-
5. Why did Jack's trick with the turtle so easily fool Madame Perrier?
- A. Madame paid little attention to the turtle.
 - B. The turtle tank was outside the window.
 - C. Madame did not know much about turtles.
 - D. Jack used truly magic turtles.
-
6. What does the word *eavesdrop* mean?
- A. listen secretly
 - B. laugh to himself
 - C. have an idea
 - D. fall down
-
7. What is the author's purpose in writing this story?
- A. to give the reader information about turtles
 - B. to show the reader how to do a magic trick
 - C. to entertain the reader with a funny story
 - D. to teach the reader a lesson about believing what you see
-

8. Which did Jack do when he decided his trick was making too much excitement?
- A. He called a scientist.
 - B. He stopped in to see Madame's turtle.
 - C. He told Madame about his trick.
 - D. He put back a smaller turtle.

Edna St. Vincent Millay published this poem in 1917. Read the poem and think about how the poet feels as she is sitting on the hill.

Afternoon on a Hill

I will be the gladdest thing
Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers
And not pick one.
I will look at cliffs and clouds
With quiet eyes,
Watch the wind bow down the grass,
And the grass rise.
And when lights begin to show
Up from the town,
I will mark which must be mine,
And then start down!

-
9. How does the poet know when it is time to leave the hill?
- A. the wind blows harder
 - B. the flowers close up
 - C. the rain comes
 - D. the lights come on

-
10. How does the poet feel about being on the hill?
- A. joyful

- B. sad
C. fearful
D. hopeful
-
11. Why will the poet "touch a hundred flowers/And not pick one?"
A. She does not like flowers.
B. She does not want to change the hill.
C. She is afraid to pick them.
D. She does not have time to pick them.
-
12. What does the poet mean by the words *when the lights begin to show*?
A. Nighttime is beginning.
B. A fireworks show is starting.
C. The sun is rising in the sky.
D. Fireflies are blinking.
-

Since Hanna Moved Away

by Judith Viorst

The tires on my bike are flat.

The sky is grouchy gray.

At least it sure feels like that

Since Hanna moved away.

Chocolate ice cream tastes like prunes.

December's come to stay.

They've taken back the Mays and Junes

Since Hanna moved away.

Flowers smell like halibut.

Velvet feels like hay.

Every handsome dog's a mutt

Since Hanna moved away.

Nothing's fun to laugh about.

Nothing's fun to play.

They call me, but I won't come out

Since Hanna moved away.

-
13. This passage is an example of
- A. an essay.
 - B. a drama.
 - C. poetry.
 - D. a folk tale.
-
14. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. discuss.
 - B. examine feelings.
 - C. inform.
 - D. provide humor.
-
15. What is the MAIN feeling in this passage?
- A. sadness
 - B. happiness
 - C. loneliness
 - D. nervousness
-

The Shopping Trip

Characters: Dad
Matt, a ten-year-old boy
Chris, Matt's eight-year-old sister

Scene 1 [The snack aisle of a grocery store. Dad, Matt and Chris are looking at soft drinks and snacks.]

Dad: What do you want for snacks this week? Chips? Crackers? Candy?

Chris: We haven't tried these Cheesee Treats yet. And look at this new kind of pop—Fizzy Fruit. It says it has five percent juice. Should we try it, Matt?

Matt: To tell you the truth, Chris, I'm really tired of that stuff. Now that I am trying out for the junior track team, I'm starting to pay attention to what athletes eat. Cheesee Treats aren't real cheese, just a fatty snack with

cheese flavoring sprayed on. And sure, Fizzy Fruit has five percent juice, but the other ninety-five percent is just like regular pop—sugar water, artificial flavoring, and fizz. Sometimes I feel like those people who make snacks are trying to fool us.

Chris: What do you mean, trying to fool us?

Matt: Oh, they put a healthy name like "cheese" or "fruit" on their product, but they don't put healthy things in their product. You have to look very closely to see what is really in what you're eating.

Dad: Matt, you seem to know a lot about food suddenly. Where did all this knowledge come from?

Matt: Well, I got interested when the coach started talking about good nutrition as a way to become a better athlete. So I got some books from the library, and started paying attention to the nutrition articles in the newspaper and magazines. But some really useful information is on the labels right on the packages. You can find out how much fat and salt is in a product just by checking the label.

Chris: Does this mean that you don't like snack food anymore? Are you going to quit eating it always? I thought you loved this stuff.

Matt: Oh, I still like it, and I'll probably have pop at parties and eat chips and other snacks every so often. I just don't think it's smart to eat it all the time.

Dad: Well, I'm glad you're thinking about what you eat. But that still leaves us with a problem—what should we have for you to snack on at the house?

Scene 2 [The produce section of the same grocery store.]

Matt: I think that we can find something good here!

Dad: We certainly have a lot of things to choose from. Should we go for fruits or vegetables?

Matt: I want to have some salads for lunch, so let's get lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, celery, and sprouts. And these baby carrots and some cut-up broccoli make good snacks.

Chris: Well, I really like apples, grapes, and peaches. Can we get some of those?

Matt: I can't believe you said that, Mrs. Cheesee Treats and Fizzy Fruit!

Chris: Hey, I want to try out for junior track in a few years, too. I'm just going to start getting ready now!

[All laugh]

-
16. This passage can BEST be described as
- A. an essay.
 - B. a drama.
 - C. nonfiction.
 - D. a folk tale.

-
17. The author probably wrote this passage to
- A. explain the layout of grocery stores.
 - B. describe what a balanced diet should be.
 - C. make people think about their food choices.
 - D. show how a brother and sister care about each other.
-
18. Why does Matt call Chris "Mrs. Cheese Treats and Fizzy Fruit"?
- A. because Chris makes those items
 - B. because Chris is buying those items
 - C. because Matt wants Chris to buy those items
 - D. because Matt is surprised Chris wants something else
-

Planting Peach Trees

To plant a peach tree you will need: shovel

bare-root peach tree

fertilizer

water hose

tree stake and tie

Visit a nursery in the springtime to select a peach tree that is good for your area and take it to the planting spot.

Dig a hole more than twice as deep as the tree's roots with the shovel. Mix the fertilizer with the soil from the hole. Make a cone out of the soil in the bottom of the hole so that this will support the tree's roots.

If any roots on the tree are broken, cut them off just above the break. Put the tree into the hole and make sure that the roots make a fan over the cone of soil. The tree should be planted deep enough so the graft, where the young tree is joined to the roots, is two to four inches above the surface of the soil. Add or take out soil until it is just right.

Fill the hole with more of the dirt and fertilizer mixture. When the hole is almost full, fill it with water and let it settle into the soil. Put the support stake in six to ten inches from

the trunk and tie the tree to it.

Make sure you water the tree every week. It will soon sprout leaves, but it will take several years before it will produce peaches.

-
19. In which book would you MOST LIKELY find this passage?
- A. *Our Earth*
 - B. *Let's Recycle*
 - C. *Dynamic Roses*
 - D. *Springtime Gardening*
-
20. This passage was written to
- A. persuade the reader to plant a peach tree.
 - B. discuss the importance of planting peach trees.
 - C. inform the reader of the correct way to plant a peach tree.
 - D. examine why people plant peach trees a certain way.
-
21. According to the passage, how deep should you dig the hole for the tree?
- A. six to ten feet deep
 - B. two to four inches below ground
 - C. more than two times as deep as the tree's roots
 - D. deep enough to cover just above the broken tree roots
-
22. What will happen if you water the tree every week?
- A. It will grow quickly.
 - B. It will soon sprout leaves.
 - C. It will soon produce seeds.
 - D. It will require more fertilizer.
-

from *Shark Rescue*

by Tandi Jackson

Maria waved to her family as the ferry pulled out of Luganville harbor. The trip to Malekula could be long and uncomfortable, but Maria had been looking forward to it all term. After a year of school and exams, she was going to enjoy her vacation. "Even if I have to help my cousins in the gardens, there will still be plenty of time for fun," she thought.

Searching for a seat on the crowded ferry Maria stepped over boxes of canned meat, chickens in cages, bananas, and clusters of coconuts that cluttered the deck. At last, she found a place to sit next to a woman with a baby in her arms and another

small child clinging to her skirt.

Maria smiled at the child and held out her hand to him. "How about sitting on my knee?" she asked kindly.

The small boy buried his head in his mother's skirt.

"Tavita's very shy," laughed his mother. "We live at Aulua, but we've been visiting Tavita's grandmother at Luganville. Now, I can't wait to get home." She looked anxiously at the darkening sky. "I hope we are not going to run into bad weather. Sometimes, the seas can be very rough."

"Well, we may as well get comfortable," said Maria, putting her bags under the seat. "It's going to be a long night."

Used by permission of Wright Group Publishing

-
23. Which pair of words from the passage does NOT rhyme?
- A. shy/sky
 - B. seat/meat
 - C. smiled/child
 - D. crowded/canned

-
24. To which city is Maria going for vacation?
- A. Aula
 - B. Tavita
 - C. Malekula
 - D. Luganville

-
25. This passage
- A. tells a story.
 - B. explains something.
 - C. persuades the reader to do something.
 - D. describes a person or thing.

Copyright (c) 2002 by The Riverside Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.

FIFTH GRADE-READING(READ5_2)

(Answer Key)

1. Chester's solution.
2. They did not cover ears.
3. to prevent frostbite
4. They were warm and comfortable.

5. Madame did not know much about turtles.
6. listen secretly
7. to entertain the reader with a funny story
8. He put back a smaller turtle.
9. the lights come on
10. joyful
11. She does not want to change the hill.
12. Nighttime is beginning.
13. poetry.
14. examine feelings.
15. sadness
16. a drama.
17. make people think about their food choices.
18. because Matt is surprised Chris wants something else
19. *Springtime Gardening*
20. inform the reader of the correct way to plant a peach tree.
21. more than two times as deep as the tree's roots
22. It will soon sprout leaves.
23. crowded/canned
24. Malekula
25. tells a story.