3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Lemonade Stand



Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 157 words | Characters and their choices

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Zara and her little brother Omar wanted a new soccer ball. It cost twenty dollars, but their piggy bank held only six. “Let’s open a lemonade stand,” said Zara.

2 On Saturday morning they squeezed lemons, stirred in sugar and painted a bright sign. By ten o’clock they had sold eight cups. Then dark clouds rolled in, and rain began to pour. Everyone hurried indoors.

3 Omar’s shoulders **drooped.** “Nobody wants cold lemonade in the rain,” he sighed. Zara looked at their **soggy** sign and thought hard. Then she smiled. “Maybe nobody wants cold lemonade. But I bet they want something warm.”

4 Mom helped them make a big pot of hot cocoa, and Zara painted a new sign: WARM COCOA FOR RAINY DAYS. Soon neighbors with umbrellas lined up at the **porch.** By evening, the piggy bank held twenty-three dollars.

5 That night, Omar tossed the new ball into the air. “You never give up,” he told his sister.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Lemonade Stand: questions

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why did Zara and Omar open a lemonade stand?

(a) to buy a soccer ball (b) to help a neighbor (c) to win a contest

2. What problem did they have?

(a) the sign fell down (b) they ran out of lemons (c) rain kept people away

3. Which word best describes Zara?

(a) creative (b) lazy (c) shy

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

☐ Zara thought of selling hot cocoa.

☐ Omar tossed the new ball into the air.

☐ Rain began to pour.

☐ Zara and Omar painted a sign.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Lemonade Stand: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

drooped	very wet
soggy	a covered space outside a front door
porch	hung down in a sad way

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

How did Zara solve the problem? What does that tell you about her?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Lemonade Stand

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) to buy a soccer ball
2. c) rain kept people away
3. a) creative

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 3, 4, 2, 1

1. Zara and Omar painted a sign.
2. Rain began to pour.
3. Zara thought of selling hot cocoa.
4. Omar tossed the new ball into the air.

3 Word meanings

drooped: hung down in a sad way

soggy: very wet

porch: a covered space outside a front door

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

She sold warm cocoa instead of cold lemonade on the rainy day. It shows she is creative and does not give up.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Bats



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 167 words | Main idea and key details

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly. Their wings are made of thin skin stretched between long finger bones. There are more than 1,400 kinds of bats, and they live on every continent except Antarctica.

2 Many people think bats are blind, but that is not true. All bats can see. Many bats also use **echolocation** to find food in the dark. A bat makes high squeaks that bounce off objects and come back as echoes. By listening to the echoes, the bat can tell exactly where a moth is flying.

3 Bats are a big help to people. A single bat can eat hundreds of small insects in one night, including mosquitoes. Other bats drink **nectar** from flowers and carry pollen from plant to plant, just like bees. Some fruit-eating bats drop seeds that grow into new trees.

4 During the day, most bats sleep upside down in caves, trees or old buildings. When winter comes, some bats **hibernate,** and others fly to warmer places.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Bats: questions

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.**

1 Circle the best answer

1. What are bat wings made of?

(a) feathers and bones (b) skin over finger bones (c) hard plates like a shell

2. How do many bats find food in the dark?

(a) by following other bats (b) by smelling the moon (c) by listening to echoes

3. What is the main idea of the passage?

(a) bats are amazing helpers (b) bats live only in caves (c) all bats are blind

2 True or false? Circle one.

All bats are blind. True False

Some bats carry pollen from flower to flower. True False

Bats live on every continent except Antarctica. True False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Bats: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

echolocation	sleep through the winter
nectar	the sweet juice inside flowers
hibernate	finding things by listening to echoes

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Why are bats a big help to people? Give two reasons from the text.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Bats

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) skin over finger bones
2. c) by listening to echoes
3. a) bats are amazing helpers

2 True or false

False: All bats are blind.

True: Some bats carry pollen from flower to flower.

True: Bats live on every continent except Antarctica.

3 Word meanings

echolocation: finding things by listening to echoes

nectar: the sweet juice inside flowers

hibernate: sleep through the winter

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

They eat lots of insects, and they carry pollen and drop seeds so new plants and trees can grow.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

Grandpa's Garden

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 144 words | Central message

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 In April, Grandpa gave Ayaan a packet of tomato seeds. "Plant them, water them and wait," he said. Ayaan pushed the seeds into a pot of soil and watered them carefully.

2 The next morning, he ran outside to look. Nothing. The morning after that, still nothing. "Seeds are boring," Ayaan **grumbled. "Patience,"** said Grandpa, sipping his tea. "Good things grow slowly."

3 After a week, tiny green **sprouts** poked through the soil. Ayaan moved the pot to the sunniest spot on the porch and watered it every evening. The **sprouts** grew into tall plants with yellow flowers, and the flowers turned into small green tomatoes.

4 In July, the tomatoes were finally red. Ayaan picked the biggest one and shared it with Grandpa. It was the sweetest tomato he had ever tasted. "Was it worth the wait?" asked Grandpa. Ayaan grinned. "Every single day of it."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

Grandpa's Garden: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What did Grandpa give Ayaan?

a tomato seeds | b a watering can | c a flower pot

2. Why did Ayaan say that seeds are boring?

a he wanted to play | b nothing grew right away | c the seeds were too small

3. What is the lesson of the story?

a good things take time | b always eat vegetables | c gardens need rain

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

- [ ] Ayaan shared a red tomato with Grandpa.
- [ ] Ayaan planted the seeds.
- [ ] Ayaan said that seeds are boring.
- [ ] Tiny green sprouts came up.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

Grandpa's Garden: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

grumbled	waiting calmly without getting upset
patience	new young plants
sprouts	complained in a low voice

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What lesson did Ayaan learn? Use details from the story.

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Grandpa's Garden

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) tomato seeds
2. b) nothing grew right away
3. a) good things take time

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 4, 1, 2, 3

1. Ayaan planted the seeds.
2. Ayaan said that seeds are boring.
3. Tiny green sprouts came up.
4. Ayaan shared a red tomato with Grandpa.

3 Word meanings

grumbled: complained in a low voice

patience: waiting calmly without getting upset

sprouts: new young plants

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

He learned that good things take time. He waited from April to July, and the tomato was worth the wait.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Water Cycle



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 153 words | Steps in a process

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 The water you drink today may be millions of years old. That is because Earth uses the same water again and again. Water keeps moving between the land, the sea and the sky. This journey is called the water cycle.

2 First, the sun warms water in oceans, lakes and even puddles. The warm water turns into a gas called water vapor and rises into the air. This step is called **evaporation.**

3 High in the sky, the air is cold. The water vapor cools and turns back into tiny drops of water. The drops gather together and make clouds. This step is called **condensation.**

4 When the drops in a cloud grow too big and heavy, they fall to the ground as rain, snow, sleet or hail. This is called **precipitation.** The water flows into rivers, lakes and oceans, or soaks into the ground. Then the sun warms it again, and the cycle starts over.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Water Cycle: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What makes water evaporate?

a the heat of the sun | b strong wind | c cold air

2. What do tiny drops of water make in the sky?

a lightning | b rainbows | c clouds

3. What happens right after condensation?

a precipitation | b the sun rises | c evaporation

2 True or false? Circle one.

Earth gets brand-new water every day.	True	False
Water vapor is water in the form of a gas.	True	False
Snow and hail are kinds of precipitation.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Water Cycle: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

evaporation	when a gas cools and turns into drops of water
condensation	water that falls from clouds
precipitation	when water turns into a gas

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Explain the three steps of the water cycle in order.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Water Cycle

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the heat of the sun

2. c) clouds

3. a) precipitation

2 True or false

False: Earth gets brand-new water every day.

True: Water vapor is water in the form of a gas.

True: Snow and hail are kinds of precipitation.

3 Word meanings

evaporation: when water turns into a gas

condensation: when a gas cools and turns into drops of water

precipitation: water that falls from clouds

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

First the sun heats water and it evaporates. Next the vapor cools and condenses into clouds. Then the water falls as precipitation.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The New Kid



Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 144 words | Characters' feelings

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 On his first day at Oak Hill Elementary, Yusuf stood by the classroom door, holding his backpack tight. Everyone already had friends. Nobody looked up when the teacher said his name.

2 At lunch, he sat alone at the end of a long table. He opened his lunch box and **stared** at his sandwich. He missed his old school and his old friends.

3 Then a girl with a **sketchbook** sat down across from him. "I'm Maya," she said. "Is that a dinosaur on your backpack?" Yusuf nodded. "It's a stegosaurus. I like drawing them." Maya's eyes lit up. "I draw them too! Want to see?"

4 For the rest of lunch, they **traded** drawings and laughed about a T. rex with tiny arms trying to clap. When the bell rang, Yusuf walked back to class beside Maya. His backpack did not feel quite so heavy anymore.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The New Kid: questions

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. How did Yusuf feel at the start of the story?

(a) excited and silly (b) lonely and nervous (c) angry and loud

2. How did Maya start talking to Yusuf?

(a) she asked him to play (b) she asked about his bag (c) she shared her lunch

3. What did Yusuf and Maya have in common?

(a) they had red backpacks (b) they both draw dinosaurs (c) they were both new

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

☐ Yusuf sat alone at lunch.

☐ Maya asked about his backpack.

☐ Yusuf stood by the classroom door.

☐ Yusuf walked back to class with Maya.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The New Kid: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

stared	gave one thing for another
sketchbook	a book of blank pages for drawing
traded	looked at something for a long time

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What does the last sentence mean: "His backpack did not feel quite so heavy anymore"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The New Kid

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) lonely and nervous
2. b) she asked about his bag
3. b) they both draw dinosaurs

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1, 4

1. Yusuf stood by the classroom door.
2. Yusuf sat alone at lunch.
3. Maya asked about his backpack.
4. Yusuf walked back to class with Maya.

3 Word meanings

stared: looked at something for a long time

sketchbook: a book of blank pages for drawing

traded: gave one thing for another

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

It means Yusuf felt happier and less worried, because he had made a friend.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Owls



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 160 words | Key details and word meanings

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Owls are birds of **prey,** which means they hunt other animals for food. Most owls hunt at night. They are nocturnal, so they sleep during the day and wake up when the sun goes down.

2 An owl's eyes are very large, and they help it see in **dim** light. But an owl cannot move its eyes the way you can. Instead, it turns its whole head. Some owls can turn their heads about three-quarters of the way around!

3 Owls also have amazing hearing. Many owls have one ear a little higher than the other. This helps them tell exactly where a sound is coming from, even under snow. Their soft, fringed feathers let them fly almost silently, so mice and other small animals do not hear them coming.

4 Owls swallow small **prey** whole. Later, they cough up the bones and fur they cannot **digest** in a small bundle called a pellet. Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Owls: questions



Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What does nocturnal mean?

(a) awake at night (b) living in water (c) awake during the day

2. Why does an owl turn its whole head?

(a) its neck is stiff (b) it cannot move its eyes (c) it is looking for its nest

3. What is an owl pellet?

(a) a bundle of bones and fur (b) a soft feather (c) an owl egg

2 True or false? Circle one.

Owls can move their eyes the way people do.	True	False
Soft feathers help owls fly quietly.	True	False
Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Owls: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

prey	an animal that is hunted for food
dim	break down food in the body
digest	not bright

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

How do an owl's body parts help it hunt at night? Give two examples.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Owls

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) awake at night
2. b) it cannot move its eyes
3. a) a bundle of bones and fur

2 True or false

False: Owls can move their eyes the way people do.

True: Soft feathers help owls fly quietly.

True: Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.

3 Word meanings

prey: an animal that is hunted for food

dim: not bright

digest: break down food in the body

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

Its big eyes help it see in dim light, its ears help it find sounds, and its soft feathers let it fly quietly.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Library Detective



Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 153 words | Story events and clues

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Noor loved Fridays, because Friday was library day. This week she wanted the book about the giant squid. But when she reached the shelf, its space was empty.

2 "Someone must have checked it out," said Mr. Diaz, the librarian. He typed on his computer and **frowned.** "That's **odd.** It says the book is still here."

3 Noor decided to be a detective. She looked on the cart of returned books. Not there. She checked the reading corner and under the beanbags. Not there either. Then she remembered that every library book has a number on its **spine.** The squid book's number was 594.

4 Noor walked along the shelf, reading the numbers: 591, 592, 593 … 599. There it was, tucked between two books about whales! Someone had put it back in the wrong place. Mr. Diaz laughed. "Every book has its own address," he said. "Thank you for helping this one find its way home."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Library Detective: questions

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can find answers in the text. Look back at the story to check.**

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why did Noor love Fridays?

(a) there was no school (b) it was library day (c) it was pizza day

2. Where did Noor find the book?

(a) next to the whale books (b) on the cart of returns (c) under a beanbag

3. What helped Noor find the book?

(a) the number on its spine (b) a note from a friend (c) the color of its cover

2 Put the events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, 4.

☐ Noor found the book next to books about whales.

☐ Mr. Diaz checked his computer.

☐ Noor looked under the beanbags.

☐ Noor found an empty space on the shelf.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · FICTION

The Library Detective: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

frowned	made an unhappy or puzzled face
odd	strange
spine	the edge of a book you see on a shelf

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Mr. Diaz mean when he said, "Every book has its own address"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Library Detective

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) it was library day
2. a) next to the whale books
3. a) the number on its spine

2 Order of events

Numbers as printed, top to bottom: 4, 2, 3, 1

1. Noor found an empty space on the shelf.
2. Mr. Diaz checked his computer.
3. Noor looked under the beanbags.
4. Noor found the book next to books about whales.

3 Word meanings

frowned: made an unhappy or puzzled face

odd: strange

spine: the edge of a book you see on a shelf

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

Every book has a number that shows exactly where it belongs on the shelf, like a house has an address.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

How Plants Make Food



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 139 words | Cause and effect

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Animals have to find their food, but green plants make their own. They use sunlight, water and air. This amazing process is called **photosynthesis.**

2 A plant's roots take in water from the soil. The water travels up the stem to the leaves. At the same time, tiny holes in the leaves let in a gas from the air called **carbon dioxide.**

3 Leaves are green because they contain chlorophyll. Chlorophyll catches energy from sunlight. The plant uses this energy to turn water and **carbon dioxide** into a kind of sugar. The sugar is the plant's food, and it helps the plant grow.

4 **Photosynthesis** also makes **oxygen,** which the plant lets out into the air. People and animals need **oxygen** to breathe. So every time you see a green leaf, remember that it is busy making food and helping you breathe!

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

How Plants Make Food: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What three things does a plant use to make food?

(a) sunlight, water and air (b) seeds, flowers and bees (c) soil, rocks and wind

2. What makes leaves green?

(a) sugar (b) chlorophyll (c) oxygen

3. Why is photosynthesis important for people?

(a) it keeps us warm
(b) it makes rain fall
(c) it makes oxygen we breathe

2 True or false? Circle one.

Green plants make their own food.	True	False
Water enters a plant through its flowers.	True	False
Photosynthesis makes oxygen.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

How Plants Make Food: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

photosynthesis	a gas in the air that people and animals breathe
carbon dioxide	the way plants make food from sunlight
oxygen	a gas in the air that plants take in

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What would happen to a plant kept in a dark closet? Use the text to explain.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: How Plants Make Food

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) sunlight, water and air
2. b) chlorophyll
3. c) it makes oxygen we breathe

2 True or false

True: Green plants make their own food.

False: Water enters a plant through its flowers.

True: Photosynthesis makes oxygen.

3 Word meanings

photosynthesis: the way plants make food from sunlight

carbon dioxide: a gas in the air that plants take in

oxygen: a gas in the air that people and animals breathe

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

It could not make food, because it needs sunlight for photosynthesis. It would stop growing and die.

Scan for more free practice

3RD GRADE READING

My reading log

Name _____ Date _____

I read every passage, answered the questions and colored my stars.

Passage	Read it	Questions	Date
The Lemonade Stand	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Bats	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Grandpa's Garden	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Water Cycle	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The New Kid	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Owls	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Library Detective	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
How Plants Make Food	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Super Reader

This certificate is proudly awarded to

_____

for reading and answering questions on all 8 3rd grade passages

_____ Date

_____ Signed