The Bridge That Fell

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 200 words | Theme

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

1. Hamza had spent two whole weeks building a bridge out of craft sticks and glue for the school science fair. It was long and smooth, and he had painted it bright red. The rule was simple: the bridge had to cross a gap between two desks and hold as many pennies as possible.

2. On testing day, Hamza set his bridge across the gap. Ms. Rivera dropped in the pennies one by one. Ten. Twenty. Thirty. Then, with a loud crack, the bridge folded in the middle, and pennies **scattered** across the floor. A few kids **giggled.** Hamza's face burned.

3. That night he wanted to throw the pieces away. Instead, his older sister Sana asked, "Where did it break?" Hamza looked closer. The sticks had bent right in the center, where nothing was holding them up. Sana pulled up pictures of real bridges. Many of them were made of triangles.

4. Hamza **rebuilt** his bridge with triangles along both sides. It was not as pretty, but when he tested it at home, it held two hundred pennies. At the fair the next week, he won second place. On his poster he wrote: "My first bridge failed. Here is what it taught me."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Bridge That Fell: 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 the first bridge break?

(a) the middle was weak (b) the glue was still wet (c) it was painted red

2. How did Sana help Hamza?

(a) she bought new sticks (b) she rebuilt the bridge (c) she asked where it broke

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) bridges should be red (b) mistakes can teach us (c) winning is everything

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

☐ Hamza won second place.

☐ Sana showed him pictures of bridges.

☐ Hamza built a red bridge.

☐ The bridge broke during the test.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Bridge That Fell: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

scattered	○	○	spread out in many directions
giggled	○	○	laughed in a silly way
rebuilt	○	○	built again

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Hamza write on his poster? Why do you think he chose those words?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Bridge That Fell

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the middle was weak
2. c) she asked where it broke
3. b) mistakes can teach us

2 Order of events

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

1. Hamza built a red bridge.
2. The bridge broke during the test.
3. Sana showed him pictures of bridges.
4. Hamza won second place.

3 Word meanings

scattered: spread out in many directions

giggled: laughed in a silly way

rebuilt: built again

4 Written answer (sample)

He wrote that his first bridge failed and that it taught him something. He wanted to show that a mistake helped him learn and do better.

Scan for more free practice

Sharks

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 183 words | Main idea and key details

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

1 Sharks have swum in Earth's oceans for more than 400 million years. That means they were here long before the dinosaurs. Today there are more than 500 kinds of sharks, from the dwarf lantern shark, which could fit in your hand, to the whale shark, the biggest fish in the world.

2 A shark's skeleton is not made of bone. It is made of **cartilage,** the same bendy material that is in your nose and ears. **Cartilage** is lighter than bone, which helps sharks swim without sinking. Sharks also have rows of teeth. When a tooth falls out, another one moves forward to take its place. Some sharks use thousands of teeth in a lifetime.

3 Many people are afraid of sharks, but sharks **rarely** attack humans. Around the whole world, sharks bite only about 70 to 100 people in a year. People, on the other hand, catch millions of sharks every year.

4 That is a problem, because sharks keep oceans healthy. As **predators,** they eat sick and weak fish, which helps fish groups stay strong. Scientists say that protecting sharks also protects the ocean.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Sharks: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. What is a shark skeleton made of?

(a) bone (b) shell (c) cartilage

2. Why is cartilage helpful to sharks?

(a) it is harder than bone (b) it keeps them warm (c) it is lighter than bone

3. What is the main idea?

(a) sharks have no teeth
(b) sharks keep oceans healthy
(c) sharks are dangerous

2 True or false? Circle one.

Sharks lived on Earth before the dinosaurs.	True	False
The whale shark is the biggest fish in the world.	True	False
Sharks bite millions of people every year.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Sharks: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

cartilage ○	○ not often
rarely ○	○ animals that hunt other animals
predators ○	○ bendy material like the kind in your nose

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Why do scientists say that protecting sharks also protects the ocean?

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Sharks

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) cartilage

2. c) it is lighter than bone

3. b) sharks keep oceans healthy

2 True or false

True: Sharks lived on Earth before the dinosaurs.

True: The whale shark is the biggest fish in the world.

False: Sharks bite millions of people every year.

3 Word meanings

cartilage: bendy material like the kind in your nose

rarely: not often

predators: animals that hunt other animals

4 Written answer (sample)

Sharks are predators that eat sick and weak fish. This keeps fish groups strong, so the whole ocean stays healthy.

Scan for more free practice

The Snow Day Plan

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 180 words | Characters and their actions

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

1 When Bilal looked out the window, the whole street was buried under a foot of snow. School was closed! He and his little brother Zayd grabbed their sleds and raced to the door.

2 Then Bilal noticed something across the street. Mr. Kim, their neighbor, was standing on his porch with a cane, staring at his snowy driveway. He usually walked to the grocery store every morning, but today he could not even reach the sidewalk.

3 Bilal looked at his sled, then at Mr. Kim. "Sledding can wait," he told Zayd. The boys borrowed two shovels from the garage. They worked for an hour, scraping and lifting until their arms **ached** and their cheeks turned pink. Zayd sprinkled salt on the steps so they would not be **slippery**.

4 When they finished, Mr. Kim came down his clear path with a wide smile. He **insisted** they come inside for hot cocoa, and he told them stories about sledding as a boy in Korea. That afternoon, the brothers finally went sledding. Bilal decided it was the best snow day he had ever had.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Snow Day Plan: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why was Mr. Kim staring at his driveway?

(a) he could not get out (b) he lost his dog (c) he wanted a snowman

2. What does Bilal's choice show about him?

(a) he is shy (b) he is lazy (c) he is kind

3. Why did Zayd sprinkle salt?

(a) to melt the sled hill (b) to stop people slipping (c) to feed the birds

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

☐ The boys grabbed their sleds.

☐ The boys shoveled the driveway.

☐ Bilal noticed Mr. Kim on his porch.

☐ The brothers went sledding.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Snow Day Plan: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

ached	○	○ hurt in a dull way
slippery	○	○ said firmly that something must happen
insisted	○	○ smooth and easy to slide on

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Bilal said it was the best snow day he had ever had. Why do you think he felt that way?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Snow Day Plan

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) he could not get out
2. c) he is kind
3. b) to stop people slipping

2 Order of events

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

1. The boys grabbed their sleds.
2. Bilal noticed Mr. Kim on his porch.
3. The boys shoveled the driveway.
4. The brothers went sledding.

3 Word meanings

ached: hurt in a dull way

slippery: smooth and easy to slide on

insisted: said firmly that something must happen

4 Written answer (sample)

He felt good about helping Mr. Kim, he heard great stories over hot cocoa, and he still got to go sledding.

Scan for more free practice

The Wright Brothers

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 177 words | Explaining events in order

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

1 For thousands of years, people dreamed of flying like birds. Two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, finally made it happen. Wilbur and Orville Wright owned a bicycle shop, where they learned how to build machines that were light, strong and **balanced.**

2 The brothers spent hours watching birds. They noticed that birds twist the tips of their wings to turn and stay **balanced.** The Wrights designed wings that could twist the same way. Next, they built their own wind tunnel to test more than 200 wing shapes.

3 They needed a place with strong, steady winds and soft sand for landings, so they traveled to the beaches near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. For three years they practiced with **gliders,** which are aircraft with no engine.

4 On December 17, 1903, they were ready. Orville lay on the lower wing of the Wright Flyer as its engine roared. The plane lifted off the ground and flew for 12 seconds, traveling 120 feet. It was the first controlled flight of a **powered** airplane. Later that day, Wilbur flew 852 feet in 59 seconds.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Wright Brothers: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. What did the brothers learn from birds?

(a) birds twist their wingtips (b) birds flap very slowly (c) birds fly only in wind

2. Why did they go to Kitty Hawk?

(a) to watch sea birds
(b) to sell bicycles
(c) steady wind and soft sand

3. How long was the very first flight?

(a) three years (b) 59 seconds (c) 12 seconds

2 True or false? Circle one.

The Wright brothers owned a bicycle shop.	True	False
A glider has a big engine.	True	False
Wilbur flew farther than Orville's first flight.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Wright Brothers: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

balanced	○	○ moved by an engine
gliders	○	○ steady and not tipping over
powered	○	○ aircraft that fly with no engine

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

List three things the Wright brothers did before their first flight.

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Wright Brothers

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) birds twist their wingtips
2. c) steady wind and soft sand
3. c) 12 seconds

2 True or false

True: The Wright brothers owned a bicycle shop.

False: A glider has a big engine.

True: Wilbur flew farther than Orville's first flight.

3 Word meanings

balanced: steady and not tipping over

gliders: aircraft that fly with no engine

powered: moved by an engine

4 Written answer (sample)

They watched birds and designed wings that could twist, tested wing shapes in a wind tunnel, and practiced with gliders at Kitty Hawk.

Scan for more free practice

The Map in the Attic

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 183 words | Making inferences

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

1. On a rainy Saturday, Layla and her cousin Adam were helping Grandpa clean the attic. Behind a stack of old suitcases, Adam found a folded piece of paper, yellow and soft with age. It was a hand-drawn map of Grandpa's backyard.

2. In one corner was a drawing of a tree, a small X and the words "Ten steps toward the fence." Layla's eyes grew wide. "Grandpa, is this a treasure map?" Grandpa **adjusted** his glasses and laughed quietly. "Why don't you find out?"

3. The rain had stopped, so the cousins hurried outside. The tree on the map was now **enormous,** and its roots had pushed up the grass. They counted ten steps toward the fence and started digging with garden trowels. After a few minutes, Adam's trowel hit something hard.

4. It was a rusty tin box. Inside were a marble, a baseball card, a photo of a boy with a gap-toothed grin and a note: "To whoever finds this: be **curious.** Love, Omar, age 10." Layla looked up. Grandpa's name was Omar, and he was smiling the same gap-toothed smile.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Map in the Attic: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Where did Adam find the map?

(a) in a tin box (b) behind old suitcases (c) under the tree

2. Why was the tree so much bigger?

(a) it was a new tree (b) the map was wrong (c) many years had passed

3. Who buried the tin box?

(a) Grandpa, as a boy (b) a stranger (c) Layla and Adam

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

☐ The cousins dug near the fence.

☐ Grandpa said, “Why don’t you find out?”

☐ Adam found a map in the attic.

☐ Layla figured out who wrote the note.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Map in the Attic: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

adjusted	○	○	moved to fix or improve
enormous	○	○	wanting to learn and explore
curious	○	○	very, very big

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

How did Layla figure out that Grandpa buried the box? Use clues 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: The Map in the Attic

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) behind old suitcases
2. c) many years had passed
3. a) Grandpa, as a boy

2 Order of events

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

1. Adam found a map in the attic.
2. Grandpa said, “Why don’t you find out?”
3. The cousins dug near the fence.
4. Layla figured out who wrote the note.

3 Word meanings

adjusted: moved to fix or improve

enormous: very, very big

curious: wanting to learn and explore

4 Written answer (sample)

The note was signed by Omar, age 10, and Grandpa’s name is Omar. The boy in the photo had the same gap-toothed smile as Grandpa.

Scan for more free practice

Earth's Layers

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 193 words | Describing with details

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

1 If you could slice Earth in half like a peach, you would see that it is made of **layers.** Scientists have never dug all the way down. The deepest hole ever drilled goes less than 8 miles into the ground. Instead, they learn about Earth's insides by studying how earthquake waves travel through it.

2 We live on the crust, the thin, rocky outer layer. Under the oceans, the crust can be only about 5 miles thick. Under tall mountains, it can be more than 40 miles thick. Compared with the whole planet, the crust is as thin as the skin of an apple.

3 Below the crust is the **mantle,** the thickest layer. It is about 1,800 miles thick and made of hot rock. The rock moves very slowly, like thick, warm putty, and this movement can **shift** the crust above it.

4 At the center is the core. The outer core is liquid metal, mostly iron and nickel. The inner core is a solid ball of metal. It is about as hot as the surface of the sun, but the huge weight of everything above presses it so tightly that it stays solid.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Earth's Layers: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Which layer do we live on?

(a) the crust (b) the core (c) the mantle

2. How do scientists study the inside?

(a) by slicing peaches (b) by digging to the core (c) with earthquake waves

3. Why is the inner core solid?

(a) it is very cold (b) it is made of ice (c) it is pressed so tightly

2 True or false? Circle one.

The mantle is the thickest layer.	True	False
The outer core is solid rock.	True	False
The crust is thinner under the oceans.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Earth's Layers: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

layers	○	○ the thick layer of hot rock under the crust
mantle	○	○ parts that lie one on top of another
shift	○	○ move a little

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Compare the outer core and the inner core. How are they alike, and how are they different?

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Earth's Layers

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the crust
2. c) with earthquake waves
3. c) it is pressed so tightly

2 True or false

True: The mantle is the thickest layer.

False: The outer core is solid rock.

True: The crust is thinner under the oceans.

3 Word meanings

layers: parts that lie one on top of another

mantle: the thick layer of hot rock under the crust

shift: move a little

4 Written answer (sample)

Both are made of metal and are very hot. The outer core is liquid, but the inner core is solid because it is pressed so tightly.

Scan for more free practice

The Tryout

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 195 words | Theme

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

1 Idris had practiced all summer for the soccer tryouts. He wanted to be a **striker,** the player who scores goals. But on tryout day, his shots kept flying over the net, and his legs felt like jelly. When Coach Patel read the list of players, Idris's name was not on it.

2 He walked home slowly, kicking a stone. "Maybe I'm just not good at soccer," he told his dad. Dad thought for a moment. "Or maybe you haven't found your spot yet. At tryouts, you stopped three balls that were headed into the net. That was the best thing anyone did all day."

3 Idris had not even noticed. The next morning he asked Coach Patel if he could try out as a goalkeeper. Coach agreed to watch him at practice. Idris **dove,** caught and blocked shot after shot, his gloves slapping the ball away from the goal.

4 Two weeks later, Coach Patel added one more name to the team list: Idris, goalkeeper. At the first game, Idris saved a **penalty** kick, and his teammates cheered his name. He had not become the player he planned to be. He had become the player the team needed.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Tryout: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why was Idris not picked at first?

(a) he forgot his gloves (b) he was late (c) his shots missed the net

2. What had Dad noticed?

(a) Idris was tired (b) Idris scored a goal (c) Idris blocked three balls

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) strikers are the best (b) find what you are good at (c) never give up soccer

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

- [ ] Idris tried out as a striker.
- [ ] Idris tried out as a goalkeeper.
- [ ] Idris talked with his dad.
- [ ] Idris saved a penalty kick.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Tryout: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

striker ○	○ a free kick given after a foul
dove ○	○ the player whose job is to score goals
penalty ○	○ jumped forward with arms out

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What does the last line mean: "He had become the player the team needed"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Tryout

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) his shots missed the net
2. c) Idris blocked three balls
3. b) find what you are good at

2 Order of events

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

1. Idris tried out as a striker.
2. Idris talked with his dad.
3. Idris tried out as a goalkeeper.
4. Idris saved a penalty kick.

3 Word meanings

striker: the player whose job is to score goals

dove: jumped forward with arms out

penalty: a free kick given after a foul

4 Written answer (sample)

Idris did not become a striker, but he found a job he was great at, and it helped his team.

Scan for more free practice

Monarch Butterflies

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 177 words | Sequence and cause and effect

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

1 Every fall, millions of orange and black monarch butterflies do something amazing. Monarchs from the eastern United States and Canada fly south to the mountain forests of central Mexico. Some travel as far as 3,000 miles, to a place they have never been before.

2 A monarch's life begins as a tiny egg laid on a milkweed plant. The caterpillar that hatches eats only milkweed leaves. After about two weeks, it forms a **chrysalis,** and inside, its body changes completely. About ten days later, an adult butterfly comes out.

3 Most monarchs born in summer live only a few weeks. But the monarchs that hatch at the end of summer are different. They can live up to eight or nine months, long enough to fly to Mexico, rest through the winter in huge **clusters** on fir trees, and begin the trip north in spring.

4 Monarchs need our help. Milkweed is disappearing from many fields and roadsides, and caterpillars cannot **survive** without it. Planting milkweed in a garden or schoolyard is one simple way to help these amazing travelers.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Monarch Butterflies: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. What do monarch caterpillars eat?

(a) only milkweed leaves (b) flower nectar (c) any green leaves

2. Where do eastern monarchs go?

(a) deserts in Arizona (b) forests in Mexico (c) the coast of Canada

3. Why do monarchs need help?

(a) winters are too short (b) they fly too far (c) milkweed is disappearing

2 True or false? Circle one.

Monarch caterpillars eat many kinds of plants.	True	False
Monarchs that hatch at the end of summer live longer.	True	False
Planting milkweed can help monarchs.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Monarch Butterflies: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

chrysalis	○	○ groups packed close together
clusters	○	○ stay alive
survive	○	○ the hard case where a caterpillar changes

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Explain how a monarch changes from an egg into a butterfly.

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Monarch Butterflies

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) only milkweed leaves
2. b) forests in Mexico
3. c) milkweed is disappearing

2 True or false

False: Monarch caterpillars eat many kinds of plants.

True: Monarchs that hatch at the end of summer live longer.

True: Planting milkweed can help monarchs.

3 Word meanings

chrysalis: the hard case where a caterpillar changes

clusters: groups packed close together

survive: stay alive

4 Written answer (sample)

It starts as an egg on milkweed. A caterpillar hatches and eats milkweed, then forms a chrysalis. Inside, its body changes, and an adult butterfly comes out.

Scan for more free practice

4TH GRADE READING

My reading log

Name _____ Date _____

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

Passage	Read it	Questions	Date
The Bridge That Fell	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Sharks	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Snow Day Plan	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Wright Brothers	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Map in the Attic	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Earth's Layers	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Tryout	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Monarch Butterflies	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	

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 4th grade passages

_____ _____

Date Signed