5TH GRADE READING · FICTION

The Robot Contest

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 200 words | Comparing characters

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

1 Maya and Jonah had been best friends since kindergarten, but building a robot together was turning out to be harder than either of them **expected.** The Regional Robot Challenge was only three days away, and their robot still could not pick up a single block.

2 Maya liked to plan. She filled her notebook with neat drawings and lists, and she wanted to test every part before moving on. Jonah liked to build. He grabbed parts, snapped them together and figured things out as he went. Each of them thought the other was doing it wrong.

3 On Wednesday night, the arm fell off for the fourth time. Jonah threw down his screwdriver. "Your plans take forever!" Maya crossed her arms. "Your guessing breaks everything!" They sat in silence until Maya's little brother wandered in, picked up her notebook and asked, "Why don't you just build her drawing?"

4 Maya and Jonah looked at each other. Maya's drawing showed a **gripper** with two curved fingers, and Jonah knew exactly how to make it work. By bedtime, the robot was lifting blocks **smoothly.** On Saturday, it finished second out of twenty teams. "Next year," Jonah said, "you draw, and I build." Maya grinned. "Deal."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Robot Contest: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. How is Maya different from Jonah?

(a) she likes to guess (b) she dislikes robots (c) she likes to plan first

2. Who gave them the idea that helped?

(a) their teacher (b) Maya's little brother (c) another team

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) robots are too hard (b) always work alone (c) we do best together

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

- [ ] The robot could not pick up blocks.
- [ ] Maya's brother asked a question.
- [ ] The robot finished second.
- [ ] The arm fell off for the fourth time.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Robot Contest: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

expected	easily, without stopping
gripper	the part of a robot that holds things
smoothly	thought something would happen

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Compare Maya and Jonah. How did their differences help them in the end?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Robot Contest

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) she likes to plan first
2. b) Maya's little brother
3. c) we do best together

2 Order of events

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

1. The robot could not pick up blocks.
2. The arm fell off for the fourth time.
3. Maya's brother asked a question.
4. The robot finished second.

3 Word meanings

expected: thought something would happen

gripper: the part of a robot that holds things

smoothly: easily, without stopping

4 Written answer (sample)

Maya likes to plan and Jonah likes to build. When Jonah built Maya's drawing, they used both strengths, and the robot worked.

Scan for more free practice

Coral Reefs

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 193 words | Two main ideas

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

1 Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, yet about one quarter of all ocean animals depend on them. Fish, turtles, sea stars and sharks find food and shelter among the reef's branches and caves. For this reason, scientists often call coral reefs the rain forests of the sea.

2 A reef may look like colorful rock, but it is built by animals. Each coral is a **colony** of tiny animals called polyps. A polyp builds a hard cup of **limestone** around its soft body. Over thousands of years, billions of these cups pile up to form a reef. The largest, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, stretches for about 1,400 miles.

3 Corals get most of their food from tiny algae that live inside their bodies. The algae also give corals their bright colors. When ocean water becomes too warm, however, the corals push the algae out and turn white. This is called coral bleaching. If the water stays hot for too long, the corals can starve and die.

4 Around the world, people are working to protect reefs by cutting pollution, protecting reef fish and even growing young corals in underwater **nurseries.**

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Coral Reefs: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why are reefs called rain forests of the sea?

(a) they are full of trees (b) many animals live there (c) it rains on them

2. What are polyps?

(a) small plants (b) a kind of fish (c) tiny animals

3. What causes coral bleaching?

(a) too many fish (b) winter storms (c) water that is too warm

2 True or false? Circle one.

Corals are plants. **True** **False**

The algae give corals their bright colors. **True** **False**

The Great Barrier Reef is about 1,400 miles long. **True** **False**

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Coral Reefs: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

colony	a hard rock made from shells and skeletons
limestone	places where young things are grown
nurseries	a large group living together

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

This passage has two main ideas. What are they? Give one detail for each.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Coral Reefs

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) many animals live there

2. c) tiny animals

3. c) water that is too warm

2 True or false

False: Corals are plants.

True: The algae give corals their bright colors.

True: The Great Barrier Reef is about 1,400 miles long.

3 Word meanings

colony: a large group living together

limestone: a hard rock made from shells and skeletons

nurseries: places where young things are grown

4 Written answer (sample)

Coral reefs are home to many ocean animals, such as fish and turtles. Reefs are in danger from warm water, which causes bleaching.

Scan for more free practice

5TH GRADE READING · FICTION

The Night of the Storm

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 200 words | Figurative language

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

1 The storm arrived just after dinner. The wind howled around Grandpa's farmhouse like a hungry wolf, and rain drummed on the roof. Then, with a pop, the lights went out. The whole house was as dark as the inside of a closed fist.

2 Amir felt his heart race. He had never liked the dark, and the farm was miles from the nearest town. "Grandpa?" he whispered. A match scratched, and a small flame **bloomed** in the blackness. Grandpa lit an old oil lamp, and the kitchen glowed like a slice of sunset.

3 "Storms are just the sky clearing its throat," Grandpa said, settling into his chair. He pulled a dusty board game from the cupboard. As the thunder **grumbled,** they played round after round, and Grandpa told stories about the blizzard of his childhood, when snow had swallowed the barn up to its roof.

4 Somewhere in the middle of the third game, Amir realized he was laughing. The wind was still howling, but it sounded farther away now, like a dog barking in another town. When the lights **flickered** back on, Amir was almost disappointed. "Can we turn them off again?" he asked. Grandpa chuckled and blew out the lamp.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Night of the Storm: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. "Howled like a hungry wolf" is a...

(a) fact (b) simile (c) question

2. How did Amir feel at first?

(a) scared (b) bored (c) sleepy

3. Why was Amir almost disappointed?

(a) he was having fun (b) the lamp broke (c) the game was over

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

- [ ] Grandpa lit an oil lamp.
- [ ] They played a board game.
- [ ] The lights came back on.
- [ ] The lights went out.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Night of the Storm: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

bloomed ○	○ opened up and spread like a flower
grumbled ○	○ went on and off quickly
flickered ○	○ made a low, unhappy sound

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Find one simile in the story. What two things does it compare, and what does it help you picture?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Night of the Storm

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) simile

2. a) scared

3. a) he was having fun

2 Order of events

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

1. The lights went out.
2. Grandpa lit an oil lamp.
3. They played a board game.
4. The lights came back on.

3 Word meanings

bloomed: opened up and spread like a flower

grumbled: made a low, unhappy sound

flickered: went on and off quickly

4 Written answer (sample)

Sample: “The wind howled like a hungry wolf.” It compares the wind to a wolf and helps me picture a loud, scary sound.

Scan for more free practice

The Moon Landing

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 202 words | Relationships between events

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

1 In 1961, President John F. Kennedy set a bold goal: the United States would land astronauts on the moon and bring them safely home before the end of the 1960s. At the time, no American had even **orbited** Earth. Reaching the moon would take eight years, thousands of workers and a giant leap in technology.

2 NASA built the Saturn V, a rocket taller than a 30-story building. Engineers designed a spacecraft in three parts: a command **module** where the crew would live, a service **module** with fuel and supplies, and a lunar **module** that could land on the moon and lift off again.

3 On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Florida with Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard. Four days later, while Collins circled the moon in the command **module,** Armstrong and Aldrin landed the lunar **module,** called the Eagle. Armstrong stepped onto the dusty surface and said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for **mankind."**

4 The astronauts collected rocks, set up experiments and planted a flag. Then they rejoined Collins and returned to Earth, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24. Kennedy's goal had been met, with five months to spare.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Moon Landing: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. What goal did Kennedy set in 1961?

(a) send a robot to Mars (b) land people on the moon (c) build a space station

2. Who stayed in the command module?

(a) Michael Collins (b) Buzz Aldrin (c) Neil Armstrong

3. Why did the lunar module matter?

(a) it could land and lift off (b) it splashed down (c) it carried the fuel

2 True or false? Circle one.

Apollo 11 launched from Florida.	True	False
Buzz Aldrin was the first person on the moon.	True	False
The goal was met before the end of the 1960s.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Moon Landing: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

orbited	○	○ all people
module	○	○ one part of a spacecraft
mankind	○	○ traveled in a path around a planet or moon

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Explain how Kennedy's goal in 1961 led to the events of July 1969.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Moon Landing

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) land people on the moon
2. a) Michael Collins
3. a) it could land and lift off

2 True or false

True: Apollo 11 launched from Florida.

False: Buzz Aldrin was the first person on the moon.

True: The goal was met before the end of the 1960s.

3 Word meanings

orbited: traveled in a path around a planet or moon

module: one part of a spacecraft

mankind: all people

4 Written answer (sample)

His goal pushed NASA to build the Saturn V and a three-part spacecraft. Eight years later, Apollo 11 used them to land on the moon.

Scan for more free practice

The Secret Ingredient

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 206 words | Theme

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

1 Every Saturday, Zain helped his uncle at the bakery on Elm Street. Uncle Tariq's bread was famous. People lined up before sunrise for his golden loaves, and Zain was sure there was a secret ingredient hidden somewhere in the kitchen.

2 This Saturday, Uncle Tariq let Zain make a batch by himself. Zain measured the flour, salt, yeast and water exactly as the recipe said. He **kneaded** the dough for two minutes, put it in a bowl and waited. After ten minutes, he peeked. The dough hadn't changed. He shoved it into the oven anyway.

3 The loaves came out flat and as heavy as bricks. Zain's face fell. "I used the same recipe," he said. "What's the secret?" Uncle Tariq smiled and handed him an apron. "Watch."

4 Uncle Tariq **kneaded** his dough for ten full minutes, folding and pressing until it was smooth and **springy.** Then he covered the bowl with a towel and left it alone for an hour while it slowly doubled in size. "The secret ingredient," he said, sliding perfect loaves onto the rack, "is time. Good bread can't be **rushed,** and neither can most good things." The next Saturday, Zain set a timer and waited. His bread was the first to sell out.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Secret Ingredient: 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 Zain's first bread flat?

(a) he forgot the salt (b) the oven broke (c) he rushed the dough

2. What was the secret ingredient?

(a) time (b) sugar (c) butter

3. What is the theme of the story?

(a) good things take time (b) bakers wake up early (c) follow every recipe

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

☐ Zain's bread sold out first.

☐ Uncle Tariq showed him how to knead.

☐ Zain measured the ingredients.

☐ Zain baked the dough too soon.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Secret Ingredient: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

kneaded	○	○ done too quickly
springy	○	○ pressed and folded dough with your hands
rushed	○	○ bouncing back when pressed

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Uncle Tariq mean when he said, "Good bread can't be rushed, and neither can most good things"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Secret Ingredient

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) he rushed the dough
2. a) time
3. a) good things take time

2 Order of events

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

1. Zain measured the ingredients.
2. Zain baked the dough too soon.
3. Uncle Tariq showed him how to knead.
4. Zain's bread sold out first.

3 Word meanings

kneaded: pressed and folded dough with your hands

springy: bouncing back when pressed

rushed: done too quickly

4 Written answer (sample)

He meant that patience matters. Bread needs time to rise, and many things in life need time and care to turn out well.

Scan for more free practice

Layers of the Rain Forest

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 199 words | Text structure

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

1 Tropical rain forests cover only about six percent of Earth's land, but more than half of the world's kinds of plants and animals live there. Scientists describe a rain forest in four layers, from the treetops down to the ground. Each layer gets a different amount of sunlight, so each one is home to different living things.

2 The **emergent** layer is made of the tallest trees, which poke out above the rest of the forest. Eagles build nests here, and butterflies flutter in the bright sun and strong wind.

3 Just below is the **canopy,** a thick roof of leaves and branches. The **canopy** catches most of the sunlight, and it is the busiest layer of all. Monkeys, toucans and tree frogs live here, and many of them never touch the ground.

4 Under the **canopy** is the understory, where it is shady and still. Plants here have giant leaves to catch what little light gets through. Jaguars rest on branches, and snakes wait quietly for prey. Last comes the forest floor, which is dark and **damp.** Only about two percent of the sunlight reaches it. Fallen leaves rot quickly here, and insects, mushrooms and worms turn them back into soil.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Layers of the Rain Forest: 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 is the busiest?

(a) the understory (b) the canopy (c) the forest floor

2. Why do understory plants have big leaves?

(a) to stay dry (b) to hide from monkeys (c) to catch the little light

3. How is the passage organized?

(a) top layer to bottom (b) oldest to newest (c) problem and solution

2 True or false? Circle one.

Most of the sunlight reaches the forest floor.	True	False
The emergent layer has the tallest trees.	True	False
Some canopy animals never touch the ground.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Layers of the Rain Forest: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

emergent	○	○ a roof of leaves and branches
canopy	○	○ a little wet
damp	○	○ coming out above the rest

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Choose two layers. How are they different? Use details 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: Layers of the Rain Forest

1 Circle the best answer

1. b) the canopy

2. c) to catch the little light

3. a) top layer to bottom

2 True or false

False: Most of the sunlight reaches the forest floor.

True: The emergent layer has the tallest trees.

True: Some canopy animals never touch the ground.

3 Word meanings

emergent: coming out above the rest

canopy: a roof of leaves and branches

damp: a little wet

4 Written answer (sample)

Sample: The canopy is bright and busy, with monkeys and toucans. The forest floor is dark and damp, and only about two percent of the sunlight reaches it.

Scan for more free practice

The Garden on the Roof

Name _____ Date _____

Fiction | 219 words | Characters and setting

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

1 The roof of the Parkview Apartments was nothing but gray gravel, a few broken chairs and a lot of pigeons. Leo had lived in the building his whole life, and he had never once seen anyone go up there except to fix the air conditioner.

2 That changed the day his class planted bean seeds in paper cups. Leo's bean grew so fast that it outgrew its cup in a week. "Where can I plant it?" he asked his mom. Their apartment had no yard, no porch and only one sunny window. Leo looked up at the ceiling and had an idea.

3 It took a month of asking. Leo wrote a letter to the building manager, collected **signatures** from neighbors and promised to clean up every week. Finally, the manager agreed. Mrs. Okafor from the third floor **donated** wooden boxes. Mr. Reyes brought soil in his truck. Even grumpy Mr. Bell, who never said hello, showed up with a tray of tomato **seedlings.**

4 By August, the gray roof had turned green. Beans climbed strings, sunflowers nodded in the breeze, and neighbors who had passed each other in the hallway for years now shared tomatoes and stories. Mr. Bell even laughed sometimes. "Funny," he told Leo one evening, watering his plants. "I had to climb six floors to meet my neighbors."

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Garden on the Roof: 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 Leo need a place to plant?

(a) his class needed a garden (b) his mom wanted flowers (c) his bean outgrew its cup

2. How did Leo convince the manager?

(a) he wrote a letter (b) he asked his teacher (c) he fixed the roof

3. How did Mr. Bell change?

(a) he became friendlier (b) he moved away (c) he stopped gardening

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

- [ ] The roof turned green.
- [ ] Leo planted a bean seed in a cup.
- [ ] Neighbors brought boxes and soil.
- [ ] Leo wrote a letter to the manager.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

The Garden on the Roof: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

signatures	○	○ gave something to help
donated	○	○ young plants grown from seeds
seedlings	○	○ names written by hand

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What did Mr. Bell mean when he said, "I had to climb six floors to meet my neighbors"?

3 Draw your favorite part of the story.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Garden on the Roof

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) his bean outgrew its cup

2. a) he wrote a letter

3. a) he became friendlier

2 Order of events

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

1. Leo planted a bean seed in a cup.
2. Leo wrote a letter to the manager.
3. Neighbors brought boxes and soil.
4. The roof turned green.

3 Word meanings

signatures: names written by hand

donated: gave something to help

seedlings: young plants grown from seeds

4 Written answer (sample)

He had lived near his neighbors for years without knowing them. The roof garden finally brought them together.

Scan for more free practice

Power from the Sun and Wind

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 217 words | Reasons and evidence

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

1 Most of the electricity in the United States is made by burning coal and natural gas. These fuels formed underground over millions of years, so once we use them up, they are gone. Burning them also releases gases that pollute the air and warm the planet. That is why more and more power now comes from two **sources** that will never run out: the sun and the wind.

2 Solar panels are made of special cells that turn sunlight directly into electricity. They can sit on rooftops, cover huge fields or even power a calculator. Wind turbines work differently. Their giant blades catch the wind and spin a **generator,** much like a pinwheel turning a tiny motor.

3 Both **sources** have challenges. The sun does not shine at night, and the wind does not always blow. To solve this problem, engineers store extra electricity in huge batteries. They also connect power lines from many places, so when it is calm in one area, power can flow in from a windy one.

4 Supporters point to strong **evidence** that these **sources** are worth it. They make no air pollution while they run, and the cost of solar and wind power has dropped sharply in the past fifteen years. In many places, they are now among the cheapest ways to make electricity.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Power from the Sun and Wind: questions

Name _____ Date _____

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

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why will coal and gas run out?

(a) they formed very slowly (b) people dislike them (c) they are too heavy

2. How does a wind turbine work?

(a) it soaks up sunlight
(b) its blades spin a generator
(c) it burns gas

3. Which is evidence they are worth it?

(a) they work only at night (b) panels are heavy (c) their cost has dropped

2 True or false? Circle one.

Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.	True	False
Wind turbines work best when the air is still.	True	False
Batteries can store extra electricity.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

Power from the Sun and Wind: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

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

sources	○	○ a machine that makes electricity
generator	○	○ places something comes from
evidence	○	○ facts that show something is true

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

The author says solar and wind power are worth it. Give two reasons or pieces of evidence 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: Power from the Sun and Wind

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) they formed very slowly
2. b) its blades spin a generator
3. c) their cost has dropped

2 True or false

True: Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.

False: Wind turbines work best when the air is still.

True: Batteries can store extra electricity.

3 Word meanings

sources: places something comes from

generator: a machine that makes electricity

evidence: facts that show something is true

4 Written answer (sample)

They make no air pollution while they run, and their cost has dropped so much that they are now among the cheapest ways to make electricity.

Scan for more free practice

5TH GRADE READING

My reading log

Name _____ Date _____

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

Passage	Read it	Questions	Date
The Robot Contest	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Coral Reefs	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Night of the Storm	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Moon Landing	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Secret Ingredient	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Layers of the Rain Forest	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
The Garden on the Roof	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	
Power from the Sun and Wind	☆ ☆ ☆	☐	

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 5th grade passages

_____ _____

Date



Signed