

What's Good about Mud?

Rain makes good things happen. Animals have water to drink. Trees and flowers grow. The ground turns to mud.

It's fun to play in mud. But mud has many uses, too. Pigs like to roll in mud. It keeps them cool on hot days. Some birds use mud to make nests. Some fish and frogs can live in mud.

People use mud to build houses. They make blocks out of mud. They let the blocks dry. Then they build a house.

Mud is used to make other things, too. Some fine dishes start out as mud. So do many statues.

Some people put mud on their face. They let it dry. Then they wash it off. Their face feels clean and smooth.

Not everyone should KEEP OUT OF THE MUD!

How Well Did You Read?

Read the sentences about the story. Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 Pigs roll in mud to get warm.
- 2 Birds sometimes use mud to make their nests.
- 3 Some houses are made of mud blocks.
- 4 Mud is bad for your face.
- 5 Some lovely things start out as mud.

Learn about Words

A $m + et = met$

Say the word *met*. Listen to the sound of *et*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter to *et* to make a word. Write the word.

1	p	
2	l	
3	s	+ et
4	w	
5	y	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 I made a ____ of dishes out of mud.
- 7 My mud blocks aren't dry ____.
- 8 Mother won't ____ me play in the mud.
- 9 My ____ pig likes to roll in the mud.
- 10 My feet got ____ in the mud.

Silly Shoes

Two men were walking down the street. One was going *this* way. One was going *that* way.

"After you," said one man. "After *you*," said the other. But they couldn't get by each other. Their shoes were too long!

Many, many years ago, people used to wear silly shoes. First there were long shoes. They were as long as your leg! People could hardly walk in them. What silly shoes!

Soon a law was made. It said, "No more long shoes."

Then people made wide shoes. They thought wide shoes looked great. Maybe they did. But the streets got crowded. And wide shoes were hard to walk in.

A second law was made. It said, "No more wide shoes. Shoes that *keep* us from walking are silly. No more silly shoes."

And that was that!

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 The two men couldn't get by each other because their shoes were too wide.
- 2 The first silly shoes were wide shoes.
- 3 The long shoes were as long as your leg.
- 4 The first law said, "No more long shoes."
- 5 The second law said, "No more wide shoes."

Learn about Words

A $l + ot = lot$

Say the word *lot*. Listen to the sound of *ot*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter to *ot* to make a word. Write the word.

1	g	
2	h	
3	l	+ ot
4	n	
5	p	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 My dad ____ me a new pair of shoes.
- 7 I liked them a ____.
- 8 But on a summer day, they were too ____ to wear.
- 9 So I hid them in a cooking ____.
- 10 My dad did ____ like what I had done.

Beth's First Swim Meet

Beth was happy—and afraid. Her first swim meet was today. She had practiced many days. Could she win? Would she even finish?

The swimmers were on the starting blocks. Beth's family was watching her.

"Swimmers ready!" the starter called. "On your mark, get set, go!"

The racers dived into the pool. That is, all but Beth. She saw her little sister Jill. Jill was near the end of the pool. She couldn't swim. But she wanted to race, too. She was about to dive.

"Jill, don't dive!" Beth yelled. Their mother ran to Jill and stopped her.

"Oh, thank you, Beth," her mother said. "I watched you. I didn't watch Jill. I'm sorry you didn't get to race."

"That's all right," Beth said. "Jill is safe. I'll try next time."

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 Beth was afraid she wouldn't win the meet.
- 2 Beth was the first one to dive into the pool.
- 3 Jill fell into the pool because Beth wasn't watching her.
- 4 Beth didn't race because she wanted to help her little sister.
- 5 At the end of the story, Beth knew she could race another time.

Learn about Words

- A** $sk + y = sky$
Say the word *sky*. Listen to the sound of *y*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *y* to make a word. Write the word.

1	cr	
2	fl	
3	m	+ y
4	tr	
5	wh	

- B** Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.
- 6 I know ____ Beth didn't win the race.
 - 7 Jill will ____ to learn how to swim.
 - 8 "Jill is ____ sister," Beth said.
 - 9 Jill began to ____ when Beth yelled at her.
 - 10 Beth wanted to ____ through the water.

The Big, Big Picture

Once the sky at night was black. But then a great man painted the sky. His name was Ram.

At first, Ram made small pictures.

"These pictures are nice," people said.

Ram sighed. "They're not big enough," he said.

Then he made a large picture. He painted it on the side of a house.

People were pleased. But Ram was sad. He wished to paint a *larger* picture.

So one night he took a pot of gold paint. He climbed to the top of a mountain. He began to paint bright lights all over the black sky. We call these lights *stars*. Then Ram painted one big ball of light.

Some nights you can see all of it. Some nights you can't. We call it the *moon*.

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 At the beginning of the story, the sky was black.
- 2 Ram liked to paint small pictures.
- 3 Ram was pleased after painting a picture on the side of a house.
- 4 Ram painted the sky because he liked bright lights.
- 5 This story is about how the stars and the moon came to be.

Learn about Words

A b + all = ball

Say the word *ball*. Listen to the sound of *all*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter to *all* to make a word. Write the word.

1	c	
2	f	
3	h	+ all
4	t	
5	w	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Ram was a very ____ man.
- 7 Ram wanted to paint a picture on a large ____.
- 8 Ram walked down the ____ to the front door.
- 9 "What do you ____ the lights in the sky?" Ram asked.
- 10 Ram was afraid he would ____ over his pot of paint.

The Echo

Bea found out about an echo last spring. She was staying with her grandmother. Her grandmother lived in the mountains. Each day, Bea climbed one of the mountains. She called, "My name is Bea. I want someone to play with."

The echo came back. MY NAME IS BEA. I WANT SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.

One day Bea called, "My name is Bea."

She heard, MY NAME IS JIM.

Bea was surprised. But she still called out. "I want someone to play with."

ME, TOO, she heard.

Bea looked. She saw something gold and brown far off. She walked up to it. It was a boy in gold and brown clothes.

"Hello," he said.

"Hello," she said.

They played together all day. Bea was glad that Jim wasn't an echo after all.

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 Bea was staying with her aunt.
- 2 One day Bea's words did not come back to her.
- 3 Bea saw something gold and brown far off.
- 4 Bea was sad at the end of the story.
- 5 This story is about a girl who finds a friend.

Learn about Words

A s + ell = sell

Say the word *sell*. Listen to the sound of *ell*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *ell* to make a word. Write the word.

1	b	
2	f	
3	sm	+ ell
4	t	
5	w	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Grandmother would ring a ___ for breakfast.
- 7 Bea loved the ___ of grandmother's breakfasts.
- 8 Bea ___ as she was climbing the mountain.
- 9 "Please ___ me a story, grandma," Bea said.
- 10 Grandmother got her water from a ___ in the ground.

Hard Times

One day Scott's father came home from work. He said, "I lost my job."

Mother said, "Well, it will be hard. But we just won't buy lots of things. We'll get by. You'll get a new job soon."

"Sure," Scott said. "I'll help with the garden. We can *grow* some of our food." He gave his father a hug.

Each day, Scott's father looked for work. He didn't have much luck.

Then he and Scott started to play ball. They talked about good times.

"You make me feel good, Scott," father said.

One day father said, "The pet store has a job. But the pay isn't good."

"Take the job," mother said. "You love animals."

So father took the job. He said, "Now I have a job I like, thanks to both of you!"

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 Scott wanted to help grow food because his family did not have much money.
- 2 Scott's father found work right away.
- 3 Scott made his father feel bad.
- 4 Scott's father got a job in a pet store.
- 5 Scott's father was happy at the end of the story.

Learn about Words

A sm + all = small

Say the word *small*. Listen to the sound of *all*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter to *all* to make a word. Write the word.

1	b
2	c
3	f
4	t
5	w

+ all

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Scott played ____ with his father.
- 7 Scott's father got a phone ____ from the man at the pet store.
- 8 Is Scott as ____ as his father?
- 9 "Don't ____ down in the garden and get hurt," mother said.
- 10 The ____ around Scott's garden was made of wood.

What Is It?

Try to guess what I'm thinking about. It has four letters and starts with the letter *t*.
You can be on it or behind it, but you can't touch it.
What is it?
It can fly, but it has no wings. What is it?
You can have it, but it's never yours. What is it?
You can save it, but you can't put it into a box.
What is it?
You can spend it, but you'll still have it. What is it?
It's always there, but it does not take up any room.
What is it?
Sometimes there's too much of it. Sometimes there's not enough. What is it?
Once it's lost, you can never get it back. Yet there's always more of it. What is it?
Have you guessed that it's . . . *time*?

How Well Did You Read?

This story is a riddle. Do you know what *t* ____ is?
Read the sentences about the story. Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 You can touch *t* ____.
- 2 *T* ____ can fly with no wings.
- 3 You can save *t* ____.
- 4 You'll still have *t* ____ if you spend it.
- 5 You can get *t* ____ back if it's lost.

Learn about Words

A $p + ay = \text{pay}$

Say the word *pay*. Listen to the sound of *ay*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *ay* to make a word. Write the word.

1	m
2	pl
3	s
4	st
5	w

 + ay

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Will you ____ a game with me?
- 7 You ____ have the next turn, Lee.
- 8 Mother let us ____ up late to see games.
- 9 Is this the right ____ to the game store?
- 10 Don't ____ your word before it's your turn.

Someone to Play With

Mike had a new ball. He wanted to play catch.

Mike went to his sister Joan. "Will you play catch with me?"

"I can't," Joan said. "I'm drawing this picture for mother. Her birthday is soon."

Mike found his father. He was making a cake. "This is for your mother's birthday," he said. "What are you giving her?"

Mike didn't know. He wanted to play catch. Then he thought of something.

On her birthday, mother got some nice things. She got two things from Mike. One was a small dog of wood that he had made. The other was a ball.

"Why did you give her that ball?" asked Joan.

"Maybe she will play catch with me," Mike said.

"Sure," said mother. And she tossed the ball to Mike.

How Well Did You Read?

Read each question. Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 Did Joan play catch with Mike?
- 2 Did Mike want his father to play catch with him?
- 3 Did Mike give his mother a picture?
- 4 Did Mike's mother want to play catch with Mike?
- 5 Did Mike feel happy at the end of the story?

Learn about Words

A $l + ot = lot$

Say the word *lot*. Listen to the sound of *ot*. Look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *ot* to make a word. Write the word.

1	g	
2	h	
3	n	+ ot
4	p	
5	sp	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Mike ____ a new ball.
- 7 There was a small, brown ____ on the ball.
- 8 Mike played ball on a very ____ day.
- 9 "I'm ____ going to catch the ball," Mike said.
- 10 The ball flew into the cooking ____.

Monkey Keeps Quiet

Lion loved bananas. But he didn't want the other animals to know. After all, lions eat meat. Not bananas.

Each day Monkey picked some bananas. He would climb on Lion's back. They would run off and hide in the tall grass. There they would eat the bananas.

But Monkey always talked too much. Monkey would cry, "Lion, you're too fast! Help, I'll fall! I can't stay on. Please slow down."

Lion couldn't stand all this noise. One day he said, "Don't talk today."

"But—"

"Not a word," Lion said. So Monkey didn't talk.

Lion went on. At last they reached a good hiding place.

"That's good, Monkey," Lion said. "You didn't say a word."

"I wanted to," Monkey said. "I wanted to say something when I dropped the bananas back there."

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 Lion told the other animals he loved bananas.
- 2 Monkey and Lion hid so the other animals wouldn't see them eating.
- 3 Monkey and Lion ate bananas in the tall grass.
- 4 The bananas were gone at the end of the story because Monkey was afraid to talk.
- 5 This story is about a monkey who did just what he was told to do.

Learn about Words

A b + all = ball

Say the word *ball*. Listen to the sound of *all*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *all* to make a word. Write the word.

1	c	
2	f	
3	sm	+ all
4	t	
5	w	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Monkey could ___ off of Lion's back.
- 7 Monkey climbed up high in a ___ tree.
- 8 Lion jumped over the ___.
- 9 Lion let Monkey eat the ___ bananas.
- 10 Monkey would ___ Lion for help.

I See You!

The sign read DRINK THIS AND TURN INVISIBLE.
"What kind of drink is that?" Wilma asked the boy behind the stand.

"If you drink it, no one will see you," he said.
Wilma handed him some money. She had a glass. The drink seemed like water.

"Where did she go?" the boy said with a smile. He looked right past Wilma.

Wilma ran home. She ran up to her father. She shouted, "Boo!"

Her father looked right at her. "Go and wash your hands," he said.

"You can't see me," Wilma said. "I'm invisible."
Her father smiled. "Maybe so," he said. "But I see a pair of hands."

Wilma looked. Her hands *did* need washing.
The next afternoon when she met the boy, he laughed. "I see you!" he said. He gave Wilma her money back.

How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 Wilma thought she was invisible because she had the drink.
- 2 The drink seemed like orange juice.
- 3 Wilma knew her father could see her because he saw her hands.
- 4 Wilma never got her money back.
- 5 This story is about a girl who thought she was invisible.

Learn about Words

A h + ook = hook

Say the word *hook*. Listen to the sound of *ook*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter or group of letters to *ook* to make a word. Write the word.

1	b	
2	br	
3	c	+ ook
4	l	
5	t	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 Wilma ____ a drink from the glass.
- 7 Wilma's father wanted to ____ dinner.
- 8 Wilma read a ____ before dinner.
- 9 "Wilma, please ____ at your hands," her father said.
- 10 "The water in the ____ is cold," Wilma said.

Wishing

My house is big enough for lots of people. It's as big as a castle. It has many rooms. Too many to count.

My room is the nicest. I have a huge bed. A dinosaur could sleep in it.

The kitchen is big enough for giants. You can cook ten dinners at once. Guess who washes the dishes. Not me.

There are lots of pets at my house. I have a lion. I have two tigers. I have a horse. I want a kangaroo.

My garden has many trees. It has pretty flowers. It has a tall fence. Six sheep keep the grass cut.

There is a big field behind my house. Maybe a monster lives there. But I've never seen it.

My house is a dream house. I wish it were a real one.

How Well Did You Read?

Read the sentences about the story. Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 Lots of people could live in my house.
- 2 I have counted the rooms in my house.
- 3 I have a tiger for a pet.
- 4 I have sheep because they keep the grass cut.
- 5 My house is a real house.

Learn about Words

A w + et = wet

Say the word *wet*. Listen to the sound of *et*. Then look at the letters in the box below. Add each letter to *et* to make a word. Write the word.

1	g	
2	y	
3	m	+ et
4	p	
5	s	

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits best in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 I ____ some friends out walking.
- 7 Who wants a kangaroo for a ____?
- 8 I'll ____ the table for dinner.
- 9 I've never ____ seen the monster.
- 10 Will I ever ____ my wish?

Why the Cat Always Washes

One day a cat was sitting on her tail. She saw a mouse running around the room.

"Oh, good," she said. "Here comes my dinner."

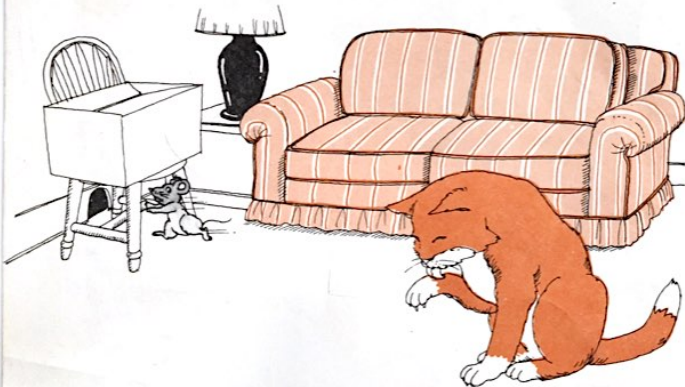
"Wait!" said the mouse. "You should always clean your face before you eat. You should wash your feet. You should smooth your whiskers."

The cat felt very bad. So she cleaned her face and washed her feet. Then she smoothed her whiskers.

But the mouse was bright and fast. He ran under a chair and then to his house.

"Oh!" the cat said. "The mouse got away! That was silly of me!"

Now the cat always eats first. Then she washes.



How Well Did You Read?

Read each sentence below. Write *yes* if it tells what happened in the story. Write *no* if it does not.

- 1 The cat saw a mouse running around the room after she sat down.
- 2 The cat cleaned her face before she saw the mouse.
- 3 The cat smoothed her whiskers.
- 4 The mouse ran under the box after he went to his house.
- 5 Now the cat knows when to eat and when to wash.

Learn about Words

A $l + et = let$

Look at each row of letters below. Add one letter from each row to the **dark letters**. Make a word. Write the word.

- | | | |
|---|---------|------|
| 1 | t, w, c | |
| 2 | l, r, f | |
| 3 | g, x, k | + et |
| 4 | q, t, s | |
| 5 | r, p, z | |

B Look at the words you made. Which one fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 The cat _____ the mouse trick her.
- 7 The mouse didn't let the cat _____ near him.
- 8 Someone had _____ a box on the chair.
- 9 The mouse wasn't a _____.
- 10 The cat's face was _____ with water.