



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### The Nest Builders

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

A long time ago, the magpie was the only bird that knew much about nest building. One day the other birds came to her and asked her to teach them how to make nice nests. She told them to stand in a circle, and then she began to show them how it was done. The first thing she did was to get some mud and make a little round cake of it. "How very easy!" said the thrush. "Now I know all that is to be learned about nest building." She flew away to her home in the meadows; the magpie then took some slender twigs and laid them across and around the cake of mud. "That is all I need to learn," said the blackbird, flying away in great haste. Then the magpie put another layer of mud on top of the twigs. "Oh," cried the owl. "Who would need a better nest than that?" But the magpie went on working. After beating down the mud into the right shape, she took some more twigs and wound them loosely around the outside. "That suits me," said the sparrow; "and I'll go and make a nest just like it." And sparrows are still satisfied with untidy nests made of a daub of mud and a few sticks thrown around them. Then the magpie brought straw and soft feathers and lined the nest with great care, so that it would be a nice place to sit in. And so it happened that all the birds learned something from the magpie, but not one of them had the patience to stay until she had finished her lesson. The last bird that came was the turtle dove, but she took no notice of what the magpie had been doing. While the magpie was putting the last touches to her beautiful nest, she ended her lesson. "What's the use of trying to teach people who think they already know everything?" she said. And that is how it happens that the different kinds of birds build their nests in so many different ways. The magpie never tried to teach them again; and, indeed, they were very well content; for each one believed that there was nothing more to be learned.

Answer each question.

1. Why did the other birds come to the magpie?
2. What did the thrush learn?
3. Why did the blackbird fly in haste and did she learn anything?
4. Did the other birds learn the whole lesson?
5. Why was magpie angry at the dove?
6. What happened then?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### A LESSON IN MANNERS

By James Baldwin

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

One morning there was a loud knock at Dean Swift's door. The servant opened it. A man handed her a fine duck and said, "Here's a present for the Dean. It's from Mr. Boyle." Without a word, he walked away. Mr. Boyle was a sporting neighbor and he was an admirer of Dean Swift. The next time, the man brought a quail. "Here's something else for the Dean," he said roughly, and tossed it into the servant's arms. "That fellow has no manners," she said. "The next time he comes," said the Dean, "let me know, and I will go to the door." It was not long until the man came with a present. The Dean went to the door. "Here's a rabbit from Mr. Boyle," said the man. "See here," said the Dean in a stern voice, "that is not the way to deliver a message. Just step inside and make believe that you are Dean Swift. I will go out and make believe that I am bringing him a present." "I'll agree to that," said the man; and he stepped inside. The Dean took the rabbit and went out. Then he knocked gently at the door. The door was opened by the man. The Dean bowed and said, "If you please, sir, Mr. Boyle's compliments, and he wishes you to accept this fine rabbit." "Oh, thank you," said the man very politely. Then, he offered the Dean a shilling. "And here is something for your trouble." The lesson in manners was not forgotten; the man was always very polite when he brought his presents. And the Dean always gives the man a "tip" for his trouble. Jonathan Swift, often called Dean Swift, was famous as a writer. Among other books he wrote "Gulliver's Travels."

Answer the questions.

1. Why did a man come at the Dean Swift's home?
2. Who had sent the presents?
3. What did he do when the man came with a present?
4. How did the Dean Swift teach him manners?
5. Who was Dean Swift and why he was famous?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### THE LARK AND THE FARMER

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

In a field of wheat there was a Lark's nest, and in the nest there were four young Larks almost large enough to fly. One morning when the mother Lark was going out for something to eat she said to her little ones: "The wheat is now ripe enough to be cut, so keep wide awake, and when I come home tell me all that you hear." The little Larks promised that they would do so. She was hardly out of sight when the Farmer who owned the field came with his son. "John," he said, "it is time that this wheat was cut. Go to our neighbors and ask them to come tomorrow and help us." When the old Lark came home the young ones told her what they had heard; and they begged her to move them out of the field. "There is no hurry," she said. "If he waits for his neighbors he will have to wait a long time." The next day while the mother Lark was away, the Farmer and his son came again. "John, did you ask the neighbors to come?" said the Farmer. "Yes, sir," said John, "They all promised to be here early." said the Farmer, "since our neighbors have failed us, we must call in our kinsfolk and ask them to come tomorrow and help us." The young Larks told their mother all about it. "Mother," they said, "Our wings are strong enough; let us fly away right now." "Don't be in a hurry," said the mother. "If the Farmer waits for his kinsfolk, the wheat will not be cut tomorrow." She went out again the next day. Towards noon the Farmer and his son came into the field. "The grain is so ripe that it is all falling down and going to waste and since neither our friends nor our kinsfolk will help us, we must do the work ourselves. Let us go home and get everything ready, so that we can begin before sunrise in the morning." The old Lark came home quite early that day, and the little Larks told her what they had heard. "Now, indeed, it is time for us to be off," she said. "Shake your wings and get ready to fly; for when a man makes up his mind to do a thing himself, it is pretty sure to be done."

Answer each question.

1. Where was the nest of the Larks and how many young Larks were there?
2. What did the mother Lark ask the young ones to do?
3. Were the young Larks frightened and what they said to their mother?
4. What did the Mother Lark reply?
5. Why did the farmer depress and what did he say to his son?
6. What did the mother Lark say to the little Larks?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### An Empty Purse

By Sara Orne Jewett

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Little Miss Debby Gaines was counting the days to Christmas; there were only three, "I've got to step fast to carry out all my plans," she said to herself. Miss Debby was sewing as fast as she could, mending a warm old petticoat. She heard a knock at the door, "Come in!" she said. "Mrs. Rivers!" Mrs. Rivers seated herself. "What are you doing something pretty for Christmas?" she asked. "I thought I'd give it to old Mrs. Bean, this would make her real comfortable," answered Miss Debby, "Presents aren't anything unless the heart goes with them." Early on Christmas morning Miss Debby woke up and could hardly wait to eat her little breakfast before she got out her best bonnet and Sunday cloak to begin her Christmas errands. Old Mrs. Bean was coming out of the kitchen, when her friend wished her a merry Christmas. "Miss' Bean; a warm petticoat I've fixed up nice, you can put it right on and feel the comfort of it," said Miss Debby. "You are real kind," she said eagerly. Miss Debby went to the heart of the town again. Christmas was on Tuesday that year. Miss Debby Gaines came to a large house; a man-servant opened the door. "I wish you a happy Christmas!" she said. "Dear Miss Debby! Come and sit down! Mrs. Wallis said, "I'm glad somebody wanted to see me," said Mrs. Wallis and gave Miss Debby an excellent cup of tea. She was like a good angel as she sat there smiling. So Miss Debby came back to her little home again. She lighted her lamp, and saw on the table a great package with a note beside it; the note was from Mrs. Rivers. "Something you said the other day," Miss Debby read, "and you must feel that my heart goes with these presents that I send you first with love." Miss Debby's face shone with joy and this was the way that Miss Debby's Christmas came to its happy end.

#### Answer each question.

1. What was Miss Debby doing?
2. How did she get ready on Christmas morning?
3. Where did she go first and what did she give?
4. Did Mrs. Wallis enjoy Miss Debby's company?
5. What did she see when she lighted the lamp in her house?
6. How do you celebrate Christmas?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### Eggs and a Bunny

**Read the passage. Then answer each question.**

Easter Sunday was a cloudy but festive day in Memorial Park for about hundred kids from local orphanages. An Easter egg hunt started at 10 a.m., when a fire engine blasted its horn. Boys and girls, ranging in age from 2 to 6, dashed throughout the park. One little girl, Amanda, found her first egg less than a minute after the horn blew. She sat down and eating it piece by piece. When she finished, she went to hunt for another egg.

Meanwhile Jeff, one of the older boys, filled his basket to overflowing. He asked one of the firemen to hold it for him, and then took off running for more candy eggs. Two little toddlers saw a candy egg at the same time, and they both bent over to pick it up. They banged heads, and both of them sat down bawling.

By 11 a.m., the search was over. Most of the kids were exchanging it with others, or eating it. But then the fire engine horn blasted again, a fireman on a bullhorn told everyone to gather around, because a special guest had arrived. Once everyone was settled, the Easter Bunny climbed down out of the fire engine. The Bunny was 6'6 inches tall. Most of the kids cheered and ran toward him. The Easter Bunny hugged the kids, and they hugged him.

The festivities ended about 3 p.m., when the orphans climbed into the buses for the return trip home. Most of them said they had a fun time.

**Answer the Questions.**

1. Why were the kids gathered in Memorial Park?
2. What did Amanda do with the egg?
3. What did Jeff ask of one of the firemen?
4. What happened with the two toddlers?
5. What did the Easter Bunny do with the kids?
6. When did the festivities end?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### Bird Legs Nelson

By Joyce Hansen

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

As Nelson walked to Queensbridge Middle School he vowed that that he'd put an end to the torment. Big Reggie, known as Big, was the tormentor in school; he had a big mouth also. With Nelson, it started when Big saw him in gym class wearing shorts. "What's your name? Bird Legs Nelson." The name stuck to Bird Legs by popular demand. The bell rang, and the boys headed for the gym. They quickly changed into their gym shorts and Nelson knew that the insult was on its way when Big looked him. "Hey, Bird Legs, I know why your head's so big and your legs so skinny," Big fired first. Nelson walked out of the locker room into the gym without saying a word. Nelson was a superb basketball player. He'd practiced his bank shots and could bounce the ball off the backboard at an angle that made the ball drop right into the basket. "I want to go on the other team, coach," he told the gym teacher. Nelson played like a champion. After the game, the teacher locked the door. One of the players realized, "Hey, we're locked out here in the school yard," he said. Nelson saw a space though between the locked gates and called the others. He easily slipped through the opening. Big squeezed through the opening too, but he got stuck. "Hey, man, get me some help." Tears rolled down Big's face. Nelson waved goodbye. "Lose some weight." Nelson stopped then gave one, last hard push and Big was free. Big rubbed his leg and limped to the back door. Nelson owned the name, Bird Legs. When he was on the basketball court during games kids from his school yelled, Go, Bird Legs! Go Bird Legs!

Answer each question.

1. Who was Big Reggie?
2. Was Nelson a superb basketball player?
3. What did happen when the game was over?
4. Who did get stuck and how did Nelson help him?
5. Did Nelson own the name 'Bird Legs'?

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## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### Around the World in Eighty Days

By Jules Verne

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Mr. Phileas Fogg lived, in 1872, at No. 7, Saville Row, in Burlington Gardens. He was one of the most noticeable members of the Reform Club, about whom, little was known, except that he was a polished Englishman. He talked very little. His sole pastimes were reading the papers and playing whist. He often won at this game. Phileas Fogg lived alone in his house in Saville Row. A single domestic suffices to serve him. He breakfasted and dined at the club, in the same room, at the same table, and went home at exactly midnight, only to retire at once to bed. At exactly half-past eleven Mr. Fogg would, according to his daily habit, quit Saville Row, and repair to the Reform. A rap at this moment sounded on the door of the apartment and the dismissed servant, appeared. "The new servant," said he. A young man of thirty advanced and bowed. "You are a Frenchman, I believe," asked Phileas Fogg, "and your name is John?" "Jean, replied the newcomer, "Jean Passepartout, I've had several trades in England." "Passepartout suits me," responded Mr. Fogg. "You know my conditions?" "Yes," said Passepartout. "Now from this moment, twenty-nine minutes after eleven, a.m., this Wednesday, 2nd October, you are in my service." Phileas Fogg got up took his hat and went off. It was his new master going out. Passepartout remained alone in the house in Saville Row.

Answer each question.

1. Who was Phileas Fogg and where did he live?
2. What was the routine of Phileas Fogg?
3. What was the name of the newcomer and why he did he come?
4. What did Phileas Fogg say to Passepartout?
5. Who did remain alone in the house in Saville and why?
6. Give your opinion about Phileas Fogg.