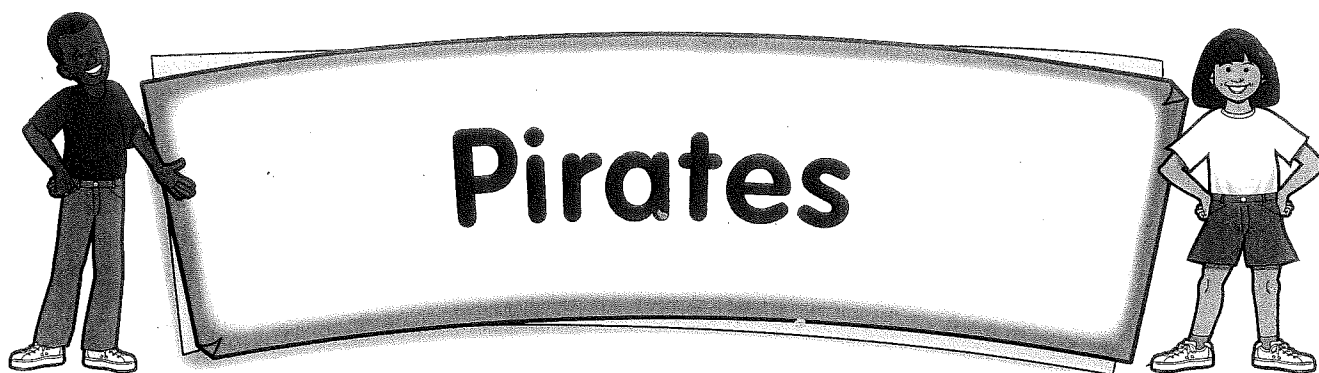


A lion was suddenly awakened from sleep by a mouse 10
running over his face. He got up angrily with a disgusted look 22
on his face. He caught the mouse and was about to kill him 35
when the mouse pleaded with him in a tiny voice, "If you 47
would only let me go, I would be sure to repay your kind act." 61
The lion laughed and thought for a moment. He then 71
decided to let the mouse go. 77

It happened soon after this that the lion was captured by 88
some hunters who tied him to the ground with strong ropes. 99
The mouse, hearing the lion's roar, came and gnawed off the 110
ropes with his teeth. Setting the lion free, he exclaimed, 120
"You laughed at the idea that I would ever be able to help you, 134
never thinking that you would get something in return for your 145
favor. Now you know that even a little mouse can help a big 158
lion." 159

The moral of the story is this: No act of kindness, no 171
matter how small, is ever wasted. 177



Ships, treasures, and battles were all a part of life for pirates hundreds of years ago. Pirates sailed along trade routes. They attacked ships and ports and stole the goods that they could use.

Pirates decided together which ships to attack. They only chose ships that they thought they could defeat easily. They fired warning shots at the ship. Then, as they sailed closer to the ship, the pirates threw iron balls at it to damage it. When the pirates got close enough, they jumped on board. Then they threatened the victims with guns and swords. The pirates looted the ship. They took everything of value—food, clothes, jewels, coins, sails, and tools. When they were finished, the pirates returned to their own ship. They sailed away quickly and divided the goods equally among themselves.

By the 1700s, laws against pirates became stricter. Many pirates were captured. Some were put to death. Others were let go if they promised to give up being pirates. Though some pirates continued to rob ships, most piracy had ended.



In what seemed like an instant, the wind changed direction and picked up speed. A gust of air lifted the spinning wind into a tall vortex. A tornado formed on the horizon. Swirling and spinning, the tornado moved across the open field toward our town.

Newscasters warned people to stay inside their homes, in the basement. My family and I played cards, trying to take our minds off the disaster headed our way. Still, even as we laughed and enjoyed our card game, we all knew the tornado was getting closer and closer. My dad kept the radio on so we would know how far away the tornado was.

Moments later, the tornado ripped through our neighborhood. Four homes were completely destroyed. Broken glass, pieces of wood, and other objects covered the roads. A thunderstorm followed with heavy wind and rain. After the storm ended, people came out of their homes to look at the damage. Incredibly, no one was hurt. Our home looked as though nothing had happened! Still, the tornado left a big mess.



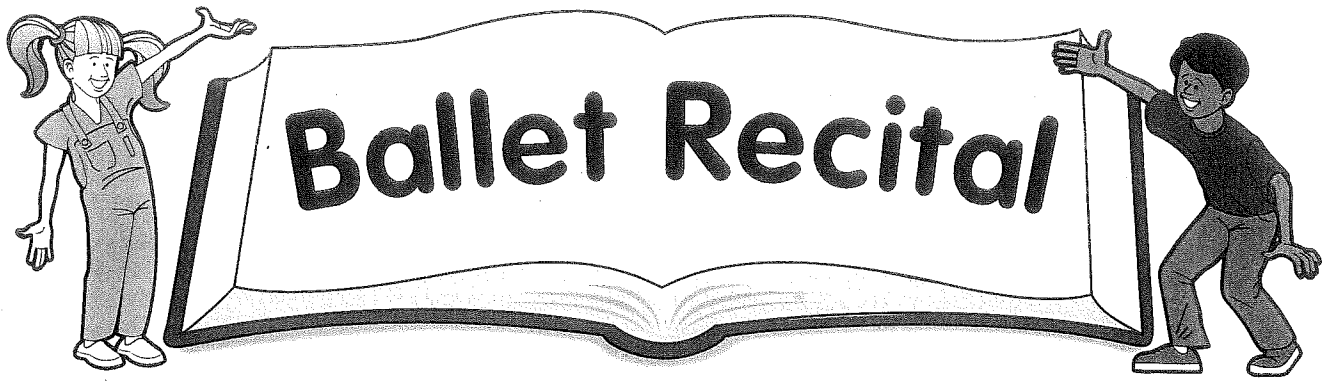
Mountains are a fascinating part of the Earth's 8
landscape. However, the mountains on Earth have not always 17
been the amazing wonders that they are today. Long ago, the 28
surfaces of mountains were flat. 33

Mountains are formed from the movement of the Earth's 42
layers as they shift over time. These layers are affected by 53
forces that cause them to tilt, shift, lift up, or even collide with 66
one another. As a result, one of four different kinds of 77
mountains can form: volcanic, folded, fault-block, and dome. 86
The process of forming mountains is very slow. In fact, the 97
Earth's plates are shifting all the time, and people rarely feel 108
the movements at all. However, the force of the movement is 119
strong enough to have created some of our largest mountain 129
ranges. 130

The air is much cooler in the mountains. Many mountains 140
get a lot of snow in the winter. People often go to the mountains 154
to ski or to sled. In the summer, many people like to hike or 168
climb the mountains. 171



The wagon wheels clattered over the dusty plains.	8
Emma wiped the sweat from her forehead and wished that	18
there was shade to rest under. It had been three days since	30
she had even seen a tree. She knew there would be no	42
wood for a fire again tonight.	48
The trail guide shouted back to the rest of the wagon	59
train. Emma was relieved that it was finally time to stop and	71
set up camp. She watched her father drive their wagon into	82
the circle that would keep them safe during the night. Then it	94
was time to get to work. Emma helped her mother shake the	106
dust out of the blankets and quilts. Then she and her brother	118
milks the cows and fetched water from the nearby stream.	128
Buffalo chips were gathered and used to start the campfire.	138
After supper, Emma lay on her blanket under the stars.	148
She picked the farthest star she could find in the sky and	160
named it "Pacific." That's where they were headed, to the	170
Pacific Ocean, and she couldn't wait to get there.	179



Tina tied her hair into a ponytail and put on her costume and ballet slippers. As she stood in front of the mirror and practiced spinning on her toes to prepare for her performance, she began to feel waves of nervousness. Her mom called to her to tell her that it was time to go.	11 22 33 42 55
Tina and her mom drove to the ballet studio. Tina had butterflies in her stomach. What if she forgot the steps to her dance? What if something happened to the music? When Tina arrived at the studio, she saw that her friends were just as nervous and excited as she was. Tina and her friends helped each other practice.	66 78 88 100 110 114
When it was time for the recital to begin, Tina took a deep breath. She and her friends waited excitedly behind the curtain for the music to start. Finally, they danced onto the stage, remembering to concentrate on every step. They spun, jumped, twirled, and dipped. The audience clapped and cheered. When the dance was over, Tina and her friends bowed. Tina's mom took them all out for ice cream to celebrate.	126 136 147 156 164 174 185 186