

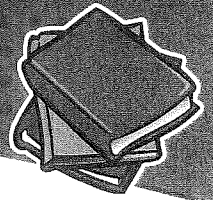
Lucky Dog



- A homeless dog was living in my neighborhood. I saw him wandering up and down the streets every day after school. He would go to the park and greet everyone, wagging his tail. He was pretty scrawny, so I knew he was looking for food.
- I asked my dad if we could try to feed him. My dad agreed, as long as I bought the food. I used my allowance and stocked up on dog food.
- I started bringing dog food to him in the park every morning. When he saw me, he would bounce around, barking excitedly. After he ate, he would let me pet him.
- But then the dog did not show up in the park for a week, and we couldn't find him anywhere.
- I asked my dad if he would drive me to the animal shelter. He agreed, and when we got there, we found the dog in a small cage. He was really happy to see me!
- Lucky for him, we took him home with us. So, of course, we named him Lucky.
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Monarch Butterflies



The monarch butterfly is an amazing creature. Its orange and black wings are a familiar summer sight in most of the U.S. But the monarch is a special butterfly. It is the only butterfly that truly migrates. Millions travel up to three thousand miles each fall.

Monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains fly to mountains in Mexico. Those west of the Rockies fly to California.

They fly south to escape the cold weather. The Mexican government has set aside land in the mountains west of Mexico City as their winter home.

Only those butterflies born in the fall make the trip. The ones that fly south have never done it before. They are the great-grandchildren of those who flew north. It is still a mystery how they find the same places their ancestors found. Often they pick the same trees. So many will land on a tree that it seems to bloom with butterflies.

Scientists believe monarchs use the sun to guide them south. Still, no one knows how they find a place they have never seen.



Show and Tell



Ben turned his room upside down trying to find something to bring to class for Show and Tell. He looked over at his pet parrot, Eddie. The bird was just sitting in his cage, staring at Ben.

“Do you have any ideas, Eddie?” asked Ben. The bird let out a loud squawk. Ben laughed. “I didn’t think so.”

But Ben was stumped. It seemed that he had already brought everything he owned to share with the class. There was the baseball his favorite player had signed for him. He remembered that everyone had liked the model airplane he made. And just last week, he had shared his coin collection with the class. What was left?

Just then, Eddie said, “Hello. How are you?”

“That’s it!” Ben cried excitedly.

The next day, he introduced the parrot to his friends at school. Eddie said “Hello” every time anyone said hello to him, and everyone laughed. His parrot was such a big hit that it was going to be hard to top him for the next Show and Tell!

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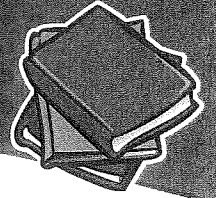
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Caves



Caves are kind of spooky places. They are very dark, and strange creatures live in them. Even so, lots of people love to explore them.

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Caves are formed over thousands of years. Most caves are made by water wearing away rock. Waves crashing against cliffs can create caves near the coast. Sometimes there are caves at the bend of a river. Some caves have streams running through them.

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Inside, caves are cool and damp.

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Caves make ideal homes for many animals. Thousands of bats can live in a single cave. They look like a black cloud flying out at dusk. Cave swallows build nests on rocky ledges.

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Bears find caves to be good places to hibernate. Early humans also made homes in caves. Caves gave them shelter from weather and animals.

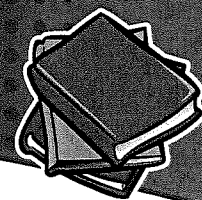
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There are animals that live only in caves. They live in darkness. Most are blind because their eyes are useless. Some have no eyes at all. Blind salamanders and fish are found in some deep caves. Cave fish cannot see. They sense things to eat that are moving around them.

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Life in the Middle Ages

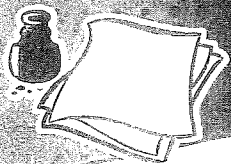


Life was hard in the Middle Ages. Of course, there were kings and queens and knights, but most people were poor. They made their living as farmers. Some people were even slaves.

The land the farmers worked on did not belong to them. It belonged to a rich man. These landowners were often princes or kings. Much of the crops and animals the farmers raised went to the landowners. In return, they were supposed to protect the farmers from invaders or famine. Most of the time, they didn't do this.

Very few ordinary people went to school to learn to read and write. As soon as possible, kids began to work. Children helped in the fields or took care of younger ones. Becoming a teenager meant leaving home. Most became apprentices to a skilled master. They worked for many years to learn a trade such as weaving or carpentry.

Because there was no real medicine, people died young. Babies often died at birth. Most kids never knew their grandparents. People only lived until they were about 40 years old.

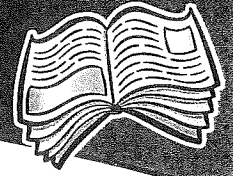


Rain, Rain, You Can Stay



Yesterday it rained. It was dark and cold and gray.	10
All day long I sat inside and wished the rain away.	21
But the rain fell hard outside, and the wind sure did blow.	33
I wished to play outside but sadly couldn't go.	42
What to do when stuck inside on a cold and rainy day,	54
When the sun has gone to hide and no one is around to play?	68
Then I had a thought that it's not as bad as it looks,	81
When I have my imagination and lots and lots of books!	92
I read about a dragon and a prince who saves the day.	104
I went to the moon in a spaceship that flew me far away.	117
I sailed across the ocean and met kids in another land.	128
And when they needed help, I was happy to lend a hand.	140
I came across monsters in a land made of snow and ice.	152
They looked so mean and scary but were really very nice.	163
I visited more places than you could ever believe,	172
Thanks to my imagination and the rain that wouldn't leave.	182

The Play



Every year, Great Valley School put on the play *The Wizard of Oz*. Sandy was excited because she was going to be Dorothy. Her friend Mike was playing the lion. It was really hard to remember all the lines. Sandy was afraid she would forget them on the stage. She practiced with Mike every day for a month.

Finally, the big day arrived. When Sandy woke up that morning, she was in a panic. She didn't remember a single line! She worried about it all day.

Just before the play, Sandy put on her Dorothy costume. She still looked pretty scared. Mike was already in his lion suit. He took one look at Sandy and said, "Let's go over our lines one more time."

As she began saying them to Mike, she suddenly could remember them all! She was so glad that Mike was in the play, too.

On the stage, whenever Sandy almost forgot a line, she just looked at Mike. Then she remembered. Afterward, everyone said she was the best Dorothy ever. Sandy just laughed and said, "Thanks to Mike!"



Teaching Grandma



I have heard people talking on the news about kids my age being part of something called “The Net Generation.” They mean that we are children who were born during a time when technology was changing. We use the Internet every day. We love to send e-mail! I think I know what the news people are talking about.

My grandma came to visit last week. She saw me playing on the family computer in the living room. I was sending instant messages to one of my friends, but Grandma didn’t have any idea what I was doing. She asked me to explain.

My grandma has taught me a number of things in my life, from how to make an apple pie to how to sew a button back on a pair of pants. Since Grandma is usually the one showing me how to do something new, it was really strange yet fun to teach her something. By the end of her lesson, Grandma was sending instant messages to her grandson across the country!

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