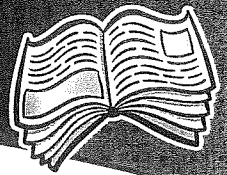


On the Job



On Take-Your-Daughter-to-Work-Day, Maria went with her dad to the animal hospital where he is a veterinarian. Maria loves animals, so she was very excited to help her dad at work.

The first thing Maria did was check on the animals that had stayed at the hospital overnight. She made sure they had plenty of food and water. After the pets were picked up by their owners, Maria cleaned out their cages.

Maria helped her dad weigh the animals and take their temperatures. She gave a treat to every cat and dog she saw.

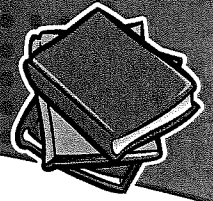
“This is fun,” Maria thought. “Maybe I could be a veterinarian.” But Maria knew there were also sad times. Some animals were so sick they couldn’t be saved. Her dad had to put them to sleep.

On the way home, Maria asked her dad how he got through the sad days. “Well, Maria,” he said, “I’m just happy that we can make most of them better. There are many more good days than there are bad days.”

“That’s true,” Maria thought. “I could probably deal with that. I could be a veterinarian.”



Hibernation



How long could you sleep? Until noon? A whole day? How about three months? Some animals can! They hibernate all winter. They are asleep, but it is not like our sleep. Most hibernating animals won't wake up if you move them or make loud noises.

Bears, skunks, and chipmunks are among the animals that hibernate. Hibernation lets these animals survive when it is cold and food is hard to find. Animals that hibernate need a safe place to spend the winter. Bears go into dens. Chipmunks have burrows, where they also store food.

Hibernators prepare for the long winter sleep all fall. They eat a lot more food during this time to store as fat. This extra fat keeps them alive while they are hibernating.

Like us, animals eat food that turns into energy. This energy keeps our brains working and our hearts beating. It also keeps our bodies warm.

Hibernating animals conserve energy very well. As the weather gets cold, their body temperature falls. Their heart rates and breathing slow down, too. All of this saves energy for the long sleep.



The Talent Show



The school talent show was coming up, and Tina had been practicing her song every day for over a month now. Her dad would play the piano as Tina sang along. When her dad was too busy, Tina would play the piano herself.

The morning of the talent show, Tina woke up to find that she had lost her voice! After all that practice, her throat was really sore, and now she could barely talk, much less sing.

She wanted to cry. She had been looking forward to this show for so long.

She wrote something on a piece of paper and handed it to her dad. It said, "I lost my voice. I can't sing in the show tonight!"

Her dad tried to make her feel better. "Don't worry, Tina. We'll think of something." And they did.

Tina had become really good at playing the piano while she practiced her song. At the show, she played the song she had planned to sing, and the audience cheered loudly when she was done. Tina was so happy that she had a chance to perform after all.

Ghost Story



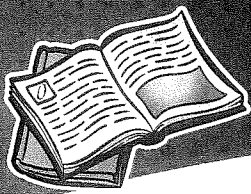
Kelly invited her best friend, Jessica, to spend the night at her house. They decided it would be fun to watch a scary movie.

Kelly made some popcorn and turned off the lights in her bedroom. The girls crawled into their sleeping bags, and the movie started. They covered their eyes during the scariest parts. At one point, Jessica screamed and jumped, knocking the popcorn over. Kelly laughed at her friend.

When the movie was over, they turned off the lights to get ready for sleep. Suddenly, they heard a loud crash in the backyard. The girls giggled nervously, saying they must have just imagined it. Then they heard the crash again.

Kelly got a flashlight, and she and Jessica went outside to find out what had made the noise. Jessica said, "I hope it's not a ghost!" Just then, they heard another crash.

Kelly shined her flashlight in the direction of the sound. She laughed. "There's our scary ghost!" A raccoon had knocked over some trash cans while looking for food. It ran away when it saw the girls. Jessica said, "From the way he looked at us, he thought we were the ghosts!"



The Big Purple House



John swung the bat as hard as he could. He watched the ball fly right through the upstairs window of the big purple house!

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Some kids believed the house was haunted. It was hidden behind tall trees and thick bushes. John often heard a dog barking inside. It sounded like a big, mean dog. Now John had to knock on the door and apologize for breaking the window.

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He took a deep breath as he climbed the steps and knocked on the door. An old lady opened the door. She was holding his baseball.

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“I’m sorry I broke your window. I’ll pay for it,” John said.

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The old lady smiled. “Why don’t you come by and visit me after school for a week instead? Fluffy and I could use the company more than the money.”

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The “big, mean dog” was just a tiny, furry white dog named Fluffy. John pet her, and the dog licked his face.

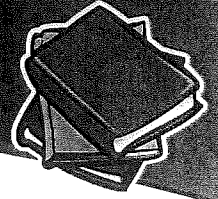
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John visited every day for a week. He enjoyed himself so much that he continued visiting the old lady, and the two of them—and Fluffy—became very good friends.

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Life in Colonial Times



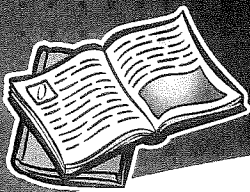
Compared to today, life was hard for children in colonial times. Back then, children were seen as small adults when they were only six. Young kids were expected to do real work.

Small boys often went hunting to help feed the family. Farm boys fed the cows, horses, and chickens. At nine, most boys were sent off to learn a trade. They could work for a cooper, who made wooden barrels. A blacksmith taught them to make pots, horseshoes, and other metal objects.

At home, girls spun wool on a spinning wheel. They used a loom to weave the thread into cloth. Almost all clothes were homemade. Soap and candles were usually made at home, too. This work was done by girls.

There was little time in their lives for fun. When there was time to play, children played with homemade toys. Corncobs made great building logs. Corn husk and rag dolls were favorite toys.

Even though kids don't do the same hard work today, they still play some of the same games. Children in colonial times played tag and hopscotch. Another game called Rounders was a lot like the baseball children play today.



Archie's Big Day



“You can do it, Archie!” Chris and Sara cheered for their big brown dog, Archie, as she ran through a bright orange tunnel. For the last six months, the brother and sister had been training Archie for a dog competition.

The competition would test the dog’s ability to run up and down ramps, weave between sticks, and jump through hoops. It would also test the dog owner’s ability to give the dog commands.

“Good girl!” Sara yelled. Archie cleared two jumps in a row. The dog that raced just before Archie had knocked one of the bars down on the second jump, but Archie did it perfectly. She even seemed to be smiling as she ran! “This one will be close, Sara,” Chris said.

He looked toward the clock as Archie neared the end of the course. Archie was the final dog to compete, and so far, the best time was one minute and twenty-seven seconds. The clock ticked one minute and nineteen seconds, twenty seconds...Archie dashed across the finish line! She won with a time of one minute and twenty-two seconds!

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Roller Coasters



Roller coasters are crazy, but I won't complain!	8
I love to ride and ride them again and again!	18
The lines can stretch out for miles and miles, While people stand waiting in dozens of aisles.	27
While you wait, you can have drinks and snacks: Lemonade, chocolate, hot dogs, and even cracker jacks.	44
But you should be careful with what you eat— Being sick on a roller coaster is not a treat!	61
Finally, you make it through the longest of lines. You sit down in that first car and feel so fine.	71
The safety bar fits snugly across your lap. You have to make sure to take off your cap.	80
The ride lurches forward, and you start up the hill. Boys and girls start to giggle, prepared for a thrill.	91
The coaster has climbed to the highest of heights. When it races down, your belly drops 30 flights.	99
You are flying so fast, you soar through the air. When you loop the loop, it is quite a scare!	109
Before you know it, the ride comes to a stop. You think of that first climb...and reaching the top!	119
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