



The New Guy in Town



In summer, Josh thought the new kid next door was pretty weird. Aaron was skinny and wore his hair all spiked up. But one day, Josh decided to go over and talk to him anyway.

Aaron was in fifth grade, too, but he wasn't a sports fanatic like Josh. What Aaron was into was music.

Aaron went inside to get his guitar. He sat on the front steps and played song after song. Soon Josh was accompanying him by singing along. In a few weeks, Aaron had taught Josh how to play, too, and Josh's dad bought him a guitar.

In September, Josh was anxious for school to start. On the first day, he ate lunch with Matt and Rob, his best friends. He had really missed them over the summer.

"Did you guys see that weird new kid—the one with the spiked-up hair?" asked Matt.

"Weirdo alert," Rob whispered as Aaron approached them.

At first, Josh tried to ignore Aaron, but he couldn't avoid him when he stood waiting for Josh to say hello.

Finally, Josh said, "Guys, meet Aaron, a great musician who taught me to play guitar."

By October, the four boys had formed a band. Rob had even spiked his hair.



History Project



Mrs. Carol's students took part in a history project. They dressed up as famous people and talked about their lives as if they were those people. Four children with the best history grades gave their speeches in front of the whole school.

Dressed up as Davy Crockett, Kenny said, "I was born in Tennessee, but I served and fought in the Texas Revolution. I was one of the heroes who fought in the Battle of the Alamo."

Next, it was Jennifer's turn. She was Harriet Tubman. "I was born into slavery, but I escaped when I was 29 years old. I helped about 300 other slaves by leading them to freedom along the Underground Railroad."

Kathy was Susan B. Anthony. She said, "I was very important in the women's rights movement of the 19th century. Even though I did not live to see it, my efforts helped women get the right to vote."

Scott dressed up as Martin Luther King Jr. He said, "I worked for equal rights for African Americans. I gave my famous 'I Have a Dream' speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C."

Everyone clapped when they were finished, agreeing that all four students had done a great job.

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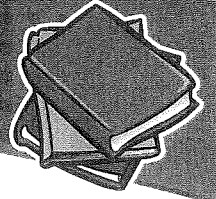
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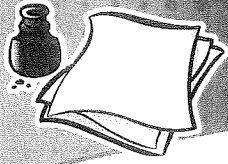
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Rain Forests



Tropical rain forests are green with trees and alive with all sorts of animals and insects. These tropical rain forests are only found near the equator. They circle the Earth like a belt. You can find them in South America, Africa, and Asia. The Amazon in South America is the biggest rain forest in the world.	13 25 39 51 56
Rain forests provide the Earth with fresh water in the form of rain. Plants there also help provide some of the Earth's oxygen.	69 79
Tropical rain forests are always warm and wet. There are no cold winters or hot summers. Instead, rain forests have wet and dry seasons. Temperatures average over 80 degrees. There is always a lot of rain in the wet season. Anywhere from 80 to 400 inches can fall in a year! In the Amazon rain forest, it might rain for 250 days out of the year.	91 103 117 132 145
Only about two percent of the land on Earth is rain forest. Even so, they are home to two-thirds of the plant and animal species. At least one-third of all bird species are found in the Amazon rain forest.	159 173 186
Billions of insects also live there. There may be 50 million species of insects living in the rain forests. Every day, plants and insects never seen before are found in tropical rain forests.	199 212 219



O Captain! My Captain!



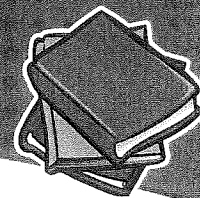
By Walt Whitman

(Written on the death of Abraham Lincoln)

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,	9
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,	21
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,	33
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;	44
But O heart! heart! heart!	49
O the bleeding drops of red,	55
Where on the deck my Captain lies,	62
Fallen cold and dead.	66
O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;	76
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,	89
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,	100
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;	111
Here Captain! dear father!	115
The arm beneath your head!	120
It is some dream that on the deck,	128
You've fallen cold and dead.	133
My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,	144
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,	157
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,	169
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;	180
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!	187
But I with mournful tread,	192
Walk the deck my Captain lies,	198
Fallen cold and dead.	202



The Dog Explorer



A big dog named Seaman helped Lewis and Clark explore the American West. Seaman was a Newfoundland dog. He belonged to Captain Meriwether Lewis. Lewis may have bought Seaman in Philadelphia before the trip. No one really knows.

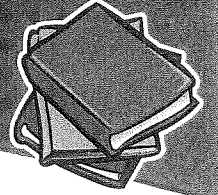
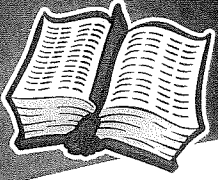
During the trip, Lewis wrote about Seaman in his journal. The dog was a great help to the men. Seaman retrieved squirrels and geese the explorers hunted for food. He protected the camp by barking and warning of grizzly bears nearby. One night he chased away a buffalo trampling through camp.

It was a long, hard journey for Lewis and Clark and their crew. The journey was dangerous for Seaman, too. Once, he was bitten very badly by a beaver. Lewis was afraid his dog would die. When the men were almost starving, Lewis was afraid they would eat Seaman.

Seaman was very valuable to his owner. A Shawnee Indian once offered Lewis three beaver pelts for the dog. Lewis said, "No," and wrote in his journal, "Of course, there was no bargain."

Along the way, Lewis named a creek after his dog. No one knows what happened to Seaman. He probably made the journey home with Lewis. Historians say his collar ended up in a museum in Virginia in 1814.

School in Japan



In many ways, Japanese schools are like American schools, but there are several differences.	11
In Japan, the school year begins in April, with short holidays in spring and winter. Summer vacation is about one month long.	14
Almost all students walk to school. Children often meet in groups and walk to school together. Some children must wear helmets on the way to school. As soon as they arrive, they take off their shoes and put on slippers.	26
Elementary school students have homerooms, but many go to different rooms for each subject. Between classes, there is a short break.	36
Japanese students study many of the same subjects as American children do. There are classes in social studies, science, math, and Japanese. Students in Japan also study ethics. In ethics class, they learn about being responsible and kind.	47
Lunch is picked up in the cafeteria and taken back to homeroom to eat. Students assigned to lunch duty wear masks while serving food to other students to avoid spreading germs.	59
When classes finish, students gather for one more chore: cleaning. Students scrub sinks and floors; then they dust and sweep. At the end of each day, the students bow and thank their teacher.	74
After school, some students go home to play with friends or watch TV. Others, however, attend “cram” school in the afternoon. These special schools prepare students for entrance exams to the best schools.	76
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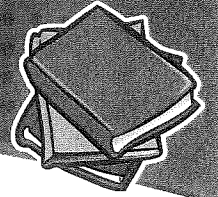
The Field Trip



Jay's class was going on a field trip to the natural history museum.	13
Jay was most excited about seeing the dinosaur bones. He had heard that there was a complete T. rex there. He couldn't wait to see that!	26
Before they got on the school bus, Mrs. Peters, Jay's teacher, said, "Okay, boys and girls, as you get on the bus, please hand me your permission slips."	51
Jay opened his backpack. After a few minutes of searching, he realized he had left the permission slip in his bedroom. He told Mrs. Peters what happened. She said, "I'm sorry, Jay, but you have to stay here. I cannot let you come if you don't have your permission slip."	65
Jay was so disappointed. He stayed behind and helped out in the principal's office. He put the teachers' mail in their mailboxes and did other jobs.	67
At the end of the day, Jay's mom picked him up at school. He explained to his mom what had happened. When she saw how upset he was, she drove straight to the museum, and the two of them explored it on their own. They had a great time, and the next day, Jay was able to talk with his classmates about all he had seen.	78
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Who Invented That?



Have you ever wondered who invented something? After all, just about everything we use was thought up by somebody.

For example, crayons were invented by Edwin Binney and C. Harold Smith. The two men owned a paint company. They decided to mix paint colors with wax. The wax sticks they made could be used for drawing. Crayons were first sold by Crayola® in 1903.

Sneakers were invented in the United States and became popular in the 1900s. They were called sneakers because they were quiet when you walked. Leather shoes sometimes squeaked. If you wore sneakers, no one could hear you coming.

Thomas Adams invented chewing gum using a product from trees called chicle. He was trying to make artificial rubber, but it wasn't working. One day he popped some chicle in his mouth and began chewing. If he added flavor, he thought, he could sell it. In 1871, Adams gum went on sale in drugstores.

Silly Putty® was invented by James Wright in 1943. It came about by accident. Wright was also trying to make artificial rubber. Instead, he created a substance that could bounce and stretch. Silly Putty® was first sold in toy stores in 1949 and was a huge success.

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