READING - GRADE 2

Reading Comprehension

12 passages for 2nd grade, with questions



Six stories and six true passages, written for this book,
each with four questions answered from the text.
Three are tick the box, one is a short written answer.
Topics: bees, penguins, the moon, frogs, the water cycle.

Answers at the back for the grown-up.

US Letter - black ink only - grade 2, ages 7-8

Name _____ Date _____

The Lost Library Book

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Maya could not find her library book anywhere. It was due back on Friday. She looked under her bed and behind the sofa, but it was not there. Then she remembered reading it in the car on the way to Grandpa's house. Maya called Grandpa, and he looked on the back seat of his car. The book was there, under a blanket. Grandpa drove it over that evening, and Maya returned it to the library on Friday morning, right on time.

1. **When was the book due back?**

   ☐ Monday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Friday

2. **Where had Maya been reading the book?**

   ☐ in the car ☐ in the bath ☐ at school

3. **What was the book under?**

   ☐ a pillow ☐ a blanket ☐ a coat

4. **Who found the book?**

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

How Bees Make Honey

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Honeybees visit flowers to drink a sweet juice called nectar. A bee stores the nectar in a special part of its body, like a little bag, and flies back to the hive. Inside the hive, other bees pass the nectar from one to another. Then they put it into wax cells and fan it with their wings. The fanning dries out the water, and the nectar slowly turns thick. When it is ready, the bees close each cell with a lid of wax. Now it is honey.

1. **What is the sweet juice in flowers called?**

   - [ ] pollen
   - [ ] nectar
   - [ ] wax

2. **Where do bees put the nectar?**

   - [ ] in wax cells
   - [ ] in the soil
   - [ ] in leaves

3. **How do bees dry the nectar?**

   - [ ] They fan it with their wings.
   - [ ] They put it in the sun.
   - [ ] They bury it.

4. **What do bees use to close each cell?**

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Name _____ Date _____

Leo's First Bike Ride

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Leo got a new blue bike for his birthday, but he was afraid to ride it. His big sister Ana held the back of the seat while he pedaled slowly down the sidewalk. Leo wobbled, and once he fell onto the grass. He wanted to stop, but Ana said everyone falls at first. They tried again. This time Leo kept pedaling and looked straight ahead. When he turned around, Ana was standing far behind him, waving. He had been riding by himself.

1. **What color was the bike?**

   - [ ] red
   - [ ] blue
   - [ ] green

2. **Who held the back of the seat?**

   - [ ] his dad
   - [ ] his friend
   - [ ] his sister Ana

3. **Where did Leo fall?**

   - [ ] onto the grass
   - [ ] into a puddle
   - [ ] onto the road

4. **What did Leo find out when he turned around?**

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Name _____ Date _____

Why Leaves Change Color

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

In spring and summer, most leaves are green because of something inside them called chlorophyll. The leaf uses chlorophyll and sunlight to make food for the tree. In the fall the days get shorter and cooler, so the tree stops making food. The green color fades away. Then we can see yellow and orange colors that were hiding in the leaf all along. Some leaves also make new red colors. Finally, the leaves dry up and fall to the ground.

1. **What makes leaves green?**

   - [ ] water
   - [ ] chlorophyll
   - [ ] soil

2. **What does a leaf use to make food?**

   - [ ] chlorophyll and sunlight
   - [ ] rain and wind
   - [ ] snow and ice

3. **Why does the tree stop making food in the fall?**

   - [ ] The days get shorter and cooler.
   - [ ] It gets too hot.
   - [ ] The birds eat it.

4. **Name one color that was hiding in the leaf.**

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Name _____ Date _____

The Class Garden

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Mr. Diaz's class planted a garden behind the school. Each child chose one seed to plant. Priya planted sunflower seeds, and Ben planted beans. Every morning two children watered the garden before class started. After two weeks, small green shoots came up. Ben's beans grew fast and climbed up a stick. Priya's sunflowers grew slowly, but by June they were taller than Mr. Diaz. The class picked the beans and had a bean salad party.

1. **Where was the garden?**

   - [ ] behind the school
   - [ ] on the roof
   - [ ] in a park

2. **What did Priya plant?**

   - [ ] beans
   - [ ] carrots
   - [ ] sunflower seeds

3. **When did the children water the garden?**

   - [ ] every evening
   - [ ] every morning
   - [ ] once a week

4. **What kind of party did the class have?**

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Name _____ Date _____

Penguins

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Penguins are birds, but they cannot fly. Their wings work like flippers, and they are very good swimmers. Most penguins live in the southern half of the world, and some live in very cold places like Antarctica. A thick layer of fat and tightly packed feathers keep them warm. Penguins eat fish, squid and tiny sea animals called krill. On land they waddle, or they slide on their bellies across the ice, which is faster than walking.

1. **Can penguins fly?**

   - [ ] yes
   - [ ] no
   - [ ] only at night

2. **What do their wings work like?**

   - [ ] flippers
   - [ ] legs
   - [ ] tails

3. **What keeps penguins warm?**

   - [ ] fat and feathers
   - [ ] a fire
   - [ ] thick fur

4. **Name one thing penguins eat.**

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Name _____ Date _____

The Snow Day

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

When Jada woke up, everything outside was white. The radio said there would be no school because of the snow. Jada put on her coat, hat, scarf and boots and ran outside with her brother Sam. They rolled three big balls of snow and stacked them up. Sam found two stones for eyes, and Jada used a carrot for the nose. By lunchtime their fingers were cold, so they went inside for hot soup. From the window they could see their snowman smiling.

1. **Why was there no school?**

   ☐ because of a holiday ☐ because of the snow ☐ because the bus broke

2. **Who went outside with Jada?**

   ☐ her brother Sam ☐ her mom ☐ her friend

3. **What did they use for the nose?**

   ☐ a stone ☐ a stick ☐ a carrot

4. **What did they eat for lunch?**

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Name _____ Date _____

The Water Cycle

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The water on Earth moves around in a cycle. When the sun warms a lake or the sea, some water turns into a gas called water vapor and rises into the air. This is evaporation. High up, the air is cold, so the vapor turns back into tiny drops that make clouds. When the drops get big and heavy, they fall as rain or snow. The water runs into rivers and back to the sea, and the cycle starts again.

1. **What warms the water in a lake?**

   ☐ the moon ☐ the sun ☐ the wind

2. **What is it called when water turns into a gas and rises?**

   ☐ evaporation ☐ melting ☐ freezing

3. **What do tiny drops of water make high up?**

   ☐ clouds ☐ rivers ☐ rocks

4. **How does the water come back down?**

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Name _____ Date _____

Owen Helps Out

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Mrs. Park lives next door to Owen. She is eighty years old and walks with a cane. One windy Saturday, Owen saw that her trash can had blown over and paper was flying across her yard. He asked his dad if he could help. Together they picked up every piece and put the lid back on tightly. Mrs. Park came out and thanked them. The next day she brought Owen a plate of warm cookies to say thank you.

1. **How old is Mrs. Park?**

   - [ ] sixty
   - [ ] seventy
   - [ ] eighty

2. **What day was it?**

   - [ ] Saturday
   - [ ] Sunday
   - [ ] Monday

3. **What had blown over?**

   - [ ] a chair
   - [ ] a trash can
   - [ ] a tree

4. **What did Mrs. Park bring Owen?**

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Name _____ Date _____

The Moon

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The moon is about one fourth as wide as Earth. It does not make its own light. We see it because sunlight bounces off it. As the moon travels around Earth, we see different amounts of its lit side, so it seems to change shape. It takes about a month to go from a full moon back to a full moon. There is no air on the moon, so there is no wind and no weather. Astronauts first walked on the moon in 1969.

1. **Does the moon make its own light?**

   ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ only in winter

2. **Why can we see the moon?**

   ☐ Sunlight bounces off it. ☐ It is on fire. ☐ Stars light it up.

3. **About how long from one full moon to the next?**

   ☐ a week ☐ a month ☐ a year

4. **In what year did astronauts first walk on the moon?**

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Name _____ Date _____

A Surprise for Mom

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Nina and her dad wanted to surprise Mom on her birthday. While Mom was at work, they baked a chocolate cake. Dad measured the flour and sugar, and Nina cracked the eggs and stirred. The cake came out a little flat on one side, but it smelled wonderful. Nina made a card with a drawing of their family and a big yellow sun. When Mom came home at six o'clock, they shouted surprise. Mom laughed and said it was the best cake ever.

1. **What kind of cake did they bake?**

   ☐ vanilla ☐ chocolate ☐ lemon

2. **Who cracked the eggs?**

   ☐ Nina ☐ Dad ☐ Mom

3. **What was on the card?**

   ☐ a cat ☐ a drawing of their family ☐ a flower

4. **What time did Mom come home?**

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Name _____ Date _____

Frogs Grow Up

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

A frog starts life as a tiny egg in a pond. The egg hatches into a tadpole, which has a long tail and breathes with gills, like a fish. As the tadpole grows, it first gets back legs and then front legs. Its tail slowly gets shorter, and it starts to breathe with lungs. After about three months, it climbs out of the water as a small frog. Grown frogs eat insects, which they catch with their long, sticky tongues.

1. **Where does a frog lay its eggs?**

   - [ ] in a pond
   - [ ] in a tree
   - [ ] in the sand

2. **What does an egg hatch into?**

   - [ ] a fish
   - [ ] a tadpole
   - [ ] a frog

3. **Which legs grow first?**

   - [ ] front legs
   - [ ] back legs
   - [ ] all at once

4. **How do frogs catch insects?**

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ANSWERS

Reading Comprehension, Grade 2

For the grown-up.

Sheet 1: Friday in the car
a blanket Grandpa

Sheet 2: nectar in wax cells
They fan it with their wings. a lid of wax

Sheet 3: blue his sister Ana
onto the grass he had been riding by himself

Sheet 4: chlorophyll chlorophyll and sunlight
The days get shorter and cooler. yellow

Sheet 5: behind the school sunflower seeds
every morning a bean salad party

Sheet 6: no flippers
fat and feathers fish

Sheet 7: because of the snow her brother Sam
a carrot hot soup

Sheet 8: the sun evaporation
clouds as rain or snow

Sheet 9: eighty Saturday
a trash can warm cookies

Sheet 10: no Sunlight bounces off it.
a month 1969

Sheet 11: chocolate Nina
a drawing of their family six o'clock

Sheet 12: in a pond a tadpole
back legs with their long, sticky tongues