

Name _____

Date _____

Strawberry Summer

Last summer I visited my grandparents who live on a farm in Indiana. I had never visited a farm before, and I was looking forward to learning all about it. We drove up a long, winding lane to a tall, old farmhouse. Grandfather and Grandmother came to the car and greeted me with hugs. That evening Grandmother informed me my first project would be picking strawberries. I was so excited I could scarcely sleep.

Early the next morning, Grandfather and I prepared to go to the field. From the barn, we carried heavy boxes in which to pack the strawberries for the market. Then we each chose a large tin pail and walked quietly, with pails swinging, to the edge of an endless green field.

Grandfather said with a smile, "The trick to lasting through the morning is to eat fewer strawberries than you can carry. Now, I will start with this row and you start with the next row. As you pick, gently place your strawberries in the pail to prevent bruising. Remember, Emily, to pick only those berries that are red."

Well, bright red strawberries were everywhere, bursting with color! Many were hiding behind fat, green leaves, where drops of water were sparkling in the early morning sun. I picked my first strawberry and popped it into my mouth. I decided I had never tasted anything as wonderful as a farm-fresh strawberry.



We both filled our pails five times and carefully packed the strawberries for the market. As we carried the boxes to the farmhouse, I wondered what my next project would be.

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Name _____

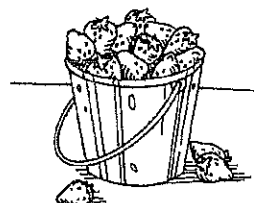
Date _____

Directions

Rewrite each sentence. Use a word with the same meaning from the Word List in place of the underlined words.

Word List

prevent scarcely bursting endless
project prepared informed bruising



1. Grandmother told me what I would be doing. _____

2. My first thing to do would be picking strawberries. _____

3. I was so excited I could barely sleep. _____

4. Grandfather and I got ready to go to the field. _____

5. We walked to the edge of the very long green field. _____

6. The strawberries were very full with color. _____

7. We were gentle with the strawberries to keep them from getting hurt.

8. I could not stop myself from eating the first strawberry I picked! _____

Name _____

Date _____

Aunt Kate's Cottage

Lana and her family were packing the car. Today was the first day of summer vacation. Every year, for as long as Lana could remember, her family had gone to the lake for the whole summer. Lana's Aunt Kate owned a cottage there. She always had invited Lana's family to stay with her for the summer.

Lana loved to go to visit her aunt's cottage. It was surrounded by fir trees that were full of birds and their nests. Lana and her brother would spend all day swimming and fishing. At night they would cook dinner over a fire and tell stories by the lake.

As Lana looked out of the car window, she was both happy and sad. She was looking forward to spending the summer at the lake, but this would be their last summer there. Aunt Kate had decided to sell the cottage. She told the family she would keep it until the end of the summer. Then she was putting the cottage up for sale. Lana would miss the lake and the cottage very much. She promised herself that this summer would be the best summer of all at the lake.



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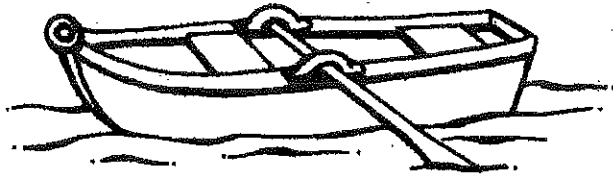
Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. Where are Lana and her family going?
 - a. to the lake
 - b. to school
 - c. around the country
 - d. into the city
2. What do Lana and her brother do all day?
 - a. hike
 - b. fish and swim
 - c. sit under the trees
 - d. watch birds
3. Why is Lana sad?
 - a. She cannot buy the cottage.
 - b. It is not summer vacation.
 - c. The lake is far away.
 - d. It is to be her last summer at the cottage.
4. What does Lana promise to do this summer?
 - a. play in the water each day
 - b. make it the best summer of all
 - c. help Aunt Kate with the chores
 - d. cook dinner every night
5. What might happen so that Lana can visit the cottage next year?
 - a. Lana might catch many fish.
 - b. Lana's parents might decide to buy the cottage.
 - c. Lana might not enjoy the lake.
 - d. Lana might meet the new owners.



Name _____

Date _____

Emergency!

Kenny looked forward to Thanksgiving Day every year. His grandpa always came to visit. Grandpa would share stories with Kenny, and they would laugh and talk for hours.

One year, after the family had eaten their Thanksgiving meal, Kenny's parents and his brother went to see a movie. Kenny and his grandpa thought about what they could do during the afternoon.

"I know," Kenny said. "Let's play football! I need a lot of practice."

"That sounds like fun," answered Grandpa. "Find the football, and I'll meet you in the yard."

Kenny and Grandpa passed the football back and forth many times. They practiced passing and catching. Suddenly, as Grandpa reached to catch a pass, he fell down.

"Grandpa, what's wrong?" asked Kenny.

"I stepped in a hole and tripped, Kenny," Grandpa answered slowly. "I think I broke my ankle. You will need to call for help."

Kenny hurried into the house to make the call. Beside the telephone he saw a list of telephone numbers. He carefully dialed the number next to the word *emergency*. A man's voice answered at the other end. He asked Kenny several questions and Kenny answered each one.



An ambulance and Kenny's parents arrived at almost the same time. Kenny could see that Grandpa was in good hands.

"We are glad that you were here to help Grandpa," Kenny's parents said. "We are proud of you for taking such good care of him."

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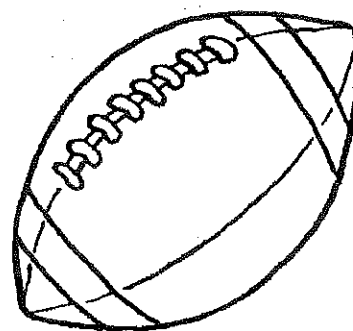
Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. Why does Kenny like Thanksgiving Day?
 - a. He enjoys all the food.
 - b. He likes to watch football.
 - c. He spends time with Grandpa.
 - d. He reads stories.
2. What do Kenny and his grandpa decide to do?
 - a. play football
 - b. go to a movie
 - c. eat again
 - d. talk
3. How does Kenny's grandpa help Kenny?
 - a. Grandpa cooks the Thanksgiving meal.
 - b. Grandpa feeds Kenny.
 - c. Grandpa helps Kenny practice football.
 - d. Grandpa throws the football too far.
4. How does Kenny help Grandpa?
 - a. He calls for help.
 - b. He listens to Grandpa.
 - c. He asks the neighbors for help.
 - d. He calls his parents.
5. What do you think Kenny told the person on the phone?
 - a. that his grandpa is visiting for Thanksgiving
 - b. that he likes to play football
 - c. that his grandpa needs help, Kenny's name and address
 - d. that Thanksgiving Day is his favorite holiday



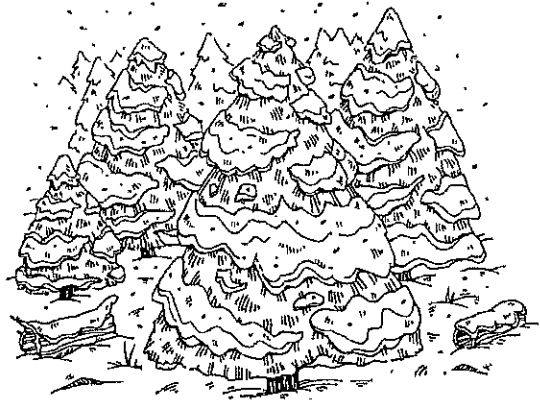
Winter Words

One snowy afternoon, Andrew and his classmates stood staring out the window, wishing they could go outside. Mr. Kline, their new teacher, watched the students for a few minutes. Suddenly, he thought of an idea.

“What do you see falling from the sky?” Mr. Kline asked.

“Why, it’s snow!” answered Andrew. “Haven’t you seen snow before?” he asked curiously.

“I have seen snow, but snow is not always the same. I think we need different words to describe the different forms of snow that fall from the sky,” replied Mr. Kline.



“I read that the Eskimos have many different words for snow,” Andrew added. “How should we decide what to call our different forms?” he wondered.

“We can start by thinking about the beginning of the winter season. When winter begins, and it is not really cold, snow mixed with rain falls. We call it *sleet*. As the weather becomes colder, sleet freezes on the street. We could call it *slice*,” suggested Mr. Kline.

“Let me try!” Andrew said eagerly. “When snow is soft and dry, it feels like powder on your nose. We could call it *snowder*!”

“That’s great!” replied Mr. Kline. “Are there any more suggestions?” he asked. The students spent the rest of the afternoon making up new words for snow.

Go on to next page.

Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Choose the word that best fits each sentence. Write the word in the blank.

1. Andrew and his _____ looked out the window.
friends classmates teacher
2. "Haven't you seen snow before?" he asked _____.
cautiously foolishly curiously
3. They thought about the beginning of the winter _____.
season seaside reason
4. The class thought of words to _____ snow.
stop describe decide
5. Mr. Kline says snow falls in different _____.
directions days forms
6. Snow mixed with rain is called _____.
sleet steep ice
7. Andrew _____ told the teacher his idea.
angrily eagerly finally
8. Mr. Kline asked for more _____.
sugar suggestions students



Name _____

Date _____

Snow Angel

Susan tied a wool scarf around her neck and put on her mittens. She opened the door and a blast of cold air hit her face. Susan did not mind. She dragged her feet through knee-deep snow to the road and started walking slowly to school.

Susan blew and watched her breath form a cloud in the air. She looked around her and thought the snow sparkled like a million tiny diamonds. The morning was silent, and Susan felt peaceful as she walked down the road. Ahead of her, Susan saw two boys having a snowball fight. She did not want to be hit, so she turned to cut across the field behind the school. Once again she was walking in snow that reached her knees.

Suddenly, she fell face forward into the snow. Susan pushed herself up and looked down at the mark she had left in the snow. This gave her an idea. She turned around and fell backward in a clean, untouched area of snow. Then she opened and closed her arms and legs a few times. Carefully, Susan stood up without ruining her design. She had made an angel in the snow. Susan reached down and wrote: *Susan was here.* Then she brushed the snow off her coat and walked into the school.



Go on to next page.

Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. How do you know there is a lot of snow on the ground?
 - a. Susan wears a scarf and mittens to school.
 - b. The snow sparkles like tiny diamonds.
 - c. Cold air hits Susan's face.
 - d. Susan walks through knee-deep snow.
2. What does the snow look like to Susan?
 - a. a million tiny diamonds
 - b. fluffy white clouds
 - c. powder
 - d. a cloud of cold air
3. Why does Susan walk through the field behind the school?
 - a. It is a shortcut.
 - b. Boys are throwing snowballs in the road.
 - c. She wants to make an angel in the snow.
 - d. She wants to write a note in the snow.
4. What does Susan make in the snow?
 - a. a snowball fight
 - b. tiny diamonds
 - c. an angel
 - d. a snowman
5. How does Susan feel about the snow?
 - a. She enjoys the snow.
 - b. She does not like the snow.
 - c. She does not notice the snow.
 - d. She thinks snow is messy.



Name _____

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Four Seasons

Everyone knows there are four seasons. They are winter, spring, summer, and fall. But the seasons mean different things to people in different parts of the world.



In the northeast of the United States, the seasons change greatly. Summer is a time for going to the beach. The temperature is usually between 70 and 90 degrees. In the fall, the nights cool down quickly. Leaves turn brilliant colors and fall from the trees. Students go back to school. The winter brings freezing rain and snow. The temperatures can fall below zero. Driving can be very dangerous and sometimes impossible. There are many fun outdoor sports to do. It is also very nice to stay inside near a roaring fire! Spring comes slowly. The days get longer and warmer. Spring flowers grow. The birds return from the south.

Near the equator, the seasons barely change at all. Winter, spring, summer, and fall are all hot and often humid. People's habits do not change from one season to the next.

The motion of the earth around the sun causes the seasons. The earth spins as it moves in its orbit. It is also tilted. The northern half of the earth tilts toward the sun in summer. It tilts away from the sun in winter. That causes the extreme changes in the seasons. It also changes the lengths of the days. They are shorter in winter and longer in summer. The equator is always close to the sun. The days are always about 12 hours long.



The lengths of the days and the temperature of the air during the seasons affect animals and people. For example, birds know that it is time to lay their eggs in the spring. This is because of the longer days. Think about the ways in which the seasons affect you.



Go on to next page.

Name _____

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Directions

Read each clue. Choose a word from the Word List that fits each clue. Write the words in the puzzle.

Word List

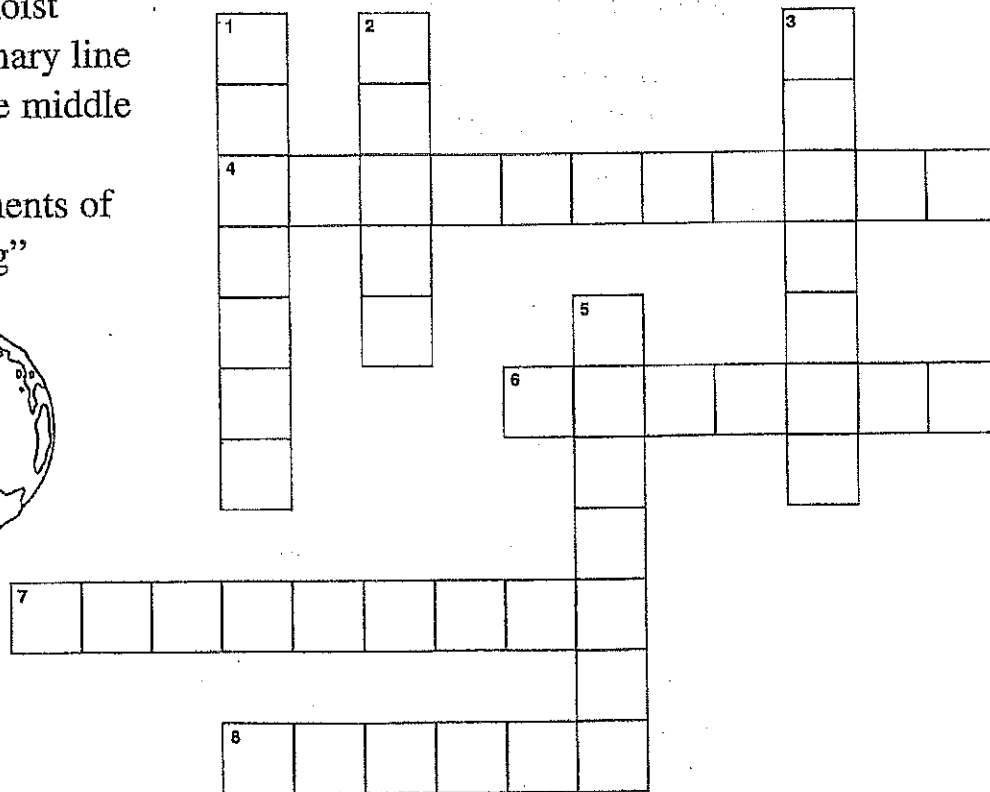
seasons temperature brilliant equator
humid habits extreme lengths

ACROSS:

4. degrees of warm or cold
6. four parts of each year, often marked by weather changes
7. very bright
8. things people do regularly

DOWN:

1. very much one way or another
2. hot and moist
3. the imaginary line around the middle of Earth
5. measurements of "how long"



Name _____

Date _____

Leaf Leaping

The children looked out the window at the brightly-colored leaves twirling and drifting to the ground. Soon, the ground was lost under a sea of yellow, red, and orange leaves.

Jenny, Paul, and Mike rushed outside and raked the leaves into one large pile. Wanting to get a good run, Jenny started from the corner of the house and ran past the maple tree toward the pile. Just before jumping she took a deep breath and then landed in the leaves. Laughing, she stood up with leaves stuck to her sweater and hair. All three of them raked the leaves back into a pile for the next runner. Mike and Paul each took turns jumping in the leaves.

Suddenly, Jenny ran up and threw a handful of leaves at Mike. Mike grabbed a handful to throw back at Jenny. Soon Paul was throwing leaves, and a leaf war had begun. Before long, the pile of leaves was once again spread all over the lawn. Instead of raking the leaves again, they decided to go inside and rest.



Go on to next page.

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. What does the phrase "the ground was lost under a sea" mean?
 - a. The ground sinks into the ocean.
 - b. Leaves hide the ground.
 - c. Leaves look like waves.
 - d. It is covered with water.
2. Jenny starts her run from the corner of the house because _____.
 - a. she wants to get away from Mike
 - b. she needs to hold her breath
 - c. the leaves are falling from the tree
 - d. she wants to get a good run
3. How do the leaves get all over the lawn again?
 - a. The children jump in the leaves.
 - b. They fall from the trees.
 - c. The children throw them at each other.
 - d. The wind carries them.
4. When the children finish playing leaf war, they _____.
 - a. go inside
 - b. rake up the leaves again
 - c. jump into the leaves
 - d. watch the leaves fall
5. What time of the year is it in the story?
 - a. winter
 - b. spring
 - c. summer
 - d. fall



Name _____

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A Bear Scare

Beaver talked his friend Skunk into going camping in the woods. Beaver had camped many times, but this would be Skunk's first camping trip. Beaver was an expert camper and told Skunk that he would set up their campsite.

Skunk tried to help, but he could not find anything that he could do right. Beaver cut down trees for shelter and for firewood. Then Skunk knocked over the stack of firewood. They went to catch fish for dinner, and Beaver caught a fish. Skunk only caught an old tin can. Skunk decided he was a terrible camper and wanted to stay for only one night.

During the night, Beaver and Skunk woke up when they heard a loud noise. A fierce growl came from the bushes near the shelter. Beaver was terribly frightened. Skunk told Beaver not to worry and crawled out of the shelter. Skunk carefully walked toward the noise.

"Who is there?" asked Skunk.

"GROWL!" something answered.

Skunk quickly turned and sprayed the bushes with his horrible-smelling spray. Suddenly their friend Bear came out of the bushes coughing. Beaver and Skunk scolded Bear for scaring them. Beaver invited Skunk to go camping with him on every camping trip.

Skunk was pleased. "I might be a good camper after all," Skunk thought to himself as he fell asleep.



Go on to next page.

Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. Who goes on his first camping trip?
 - a. Beaver
 - b. Skunk
 - c. Bear
 - d. Skunk's friend
2. Why does Skunk dislike camping?
 - a. He cannot do anything right.
 - b. Beaver does everything.
 - c. It is scary.
 - d. Skunk becomes homesick.
3. Who makes the noise that wakes Skunk and Beaver?
 - a. Skunk
 - b. Beaver
 - c. the wind
 - d. Bear
4. What does Beaver think about Skunk?
 - a. Skunk is very brave.
 - b. Skunk is a bad camper.
 - c. Skunk is not brave.
 - d. Skunk knows how to fish.
5. What is something else that Skunk might be good at doing on a camping trip?
 - a. mountain climbing
 - b. collecting berries
 - c. sledding
 - d. building a cabin



Name _____

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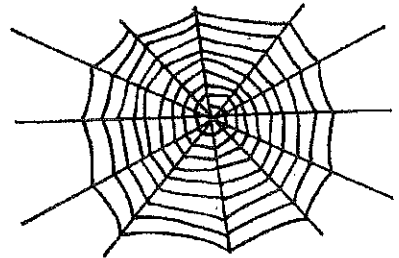
Best Friends

Sarah Spider and Beth Bee were best friends. They lived in the same garden and had been friends since they were babies. Sarah was a very talented spider. Her mother had taught her how to spin the most beautiful webs. When she was spinning webs, she was as graceful as a ballerina. Friends often came to watch her spin because she made it look so simple. Artists often came to see the patterns she made in her webs. Sarah was unaware of all the attention. She just loved to spin webs. Her friend Beth was very proud of Sarah's skill. Sometimes, however, Beth felt sad because she did not think she could do anything as well as Sarah.

One day Beth decided to help Sarah spin a web. Beth touched a thread and she became trapped. When she tried to pull free, she tangled a thread around her wings. She ruined the web, and she felt terrible.

Sarah carefully set Beth free. Then they went to their favorite tomato plant to talk.

"How did you get trapped in my web?" Sarah asked. "You frightened me because you could have hurt yourself."



"I am so sorry," Beth cried. "I wanted to spin a web like you do. You spin webs so well, and I don't do anything well."

"There are many things that you could do," Sarah replied. "We will write a list. Then you can choose one thing, and we will find out how to do it!"

The two friends talked all afternoon. They wrote a long list. Then Beth chose one new thing to learn how to do.

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Name _____

Date _____

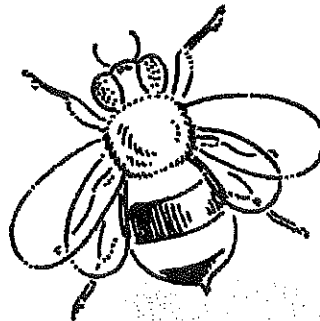
Directions

Read each sentence. Choose a word from the Word List that has the same meaning as the word or words in bold print. Write the word on the line.

Word List

patterns graceful ballerina simple
unaware talented Artists tangled

1. Sarah was a very **gifted** spider. _____
2. She moved in a **smooth and flowing** way. _____
3. Beth thought she looked like a **dancer**. _____
4. **Creative people** came to see Sarah's webs. _____
5. They liked the **repeating designs** that she made. _____
6. Sarah was **not aware** of all the attention. _____
7. She made it look so **easy**. _____
8. Beth tried to help, but she was **mixed up** in the web. _____



Name _____

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Just Plain Newton

Newton was a pig. He lived in a pigpen on a farm with many other pigs. Newton looked like the other pigs he knew. This made Newton feel plain and ordinary. Newton wanted to be special. He decided he needed to act differently from the other pigs to be special. So, when the rest of the pigs ate out of the trough, Newton put his food on a plate. When the other pigs relaxed in the mud, Newton would not get himself dirty.

The other pigs did notice Newton, but not in the way that he wanted. Instead of thinking Newton was special, the other pigs made fun of him. They also stopped playing with him.

One day Newton realized acting differently did not make him special. His friends had liked him before he started acting differently. So, Newton went back to his old ways, and soon all the pigs were playing with him again.



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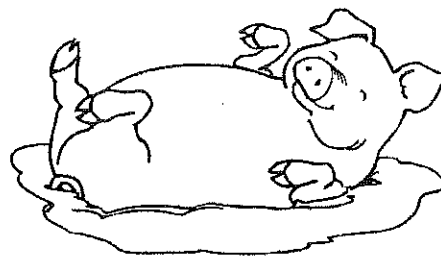
Name _____

Date _____

Directions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. Why does Newton feel plain and ordinary?
 - a. He does not like the way he looks.
 - b. The other pigs tell him he is plain.
 - c. He looks like the other pigs.
 - d. He cannot do anything special.
2. To be special Newton decides to _____.
 - a. act differently
 - b. look differently
 - c. run away
 - d. ignore his friends
3. When the other pigs eat from the trough, Newton _____.
 - a. eats from the trough, too
 - b. refuses to eat
 - c. is first in line
 - d. eats off a plate
4. To be special Newton needs to _____.
 - a. practice his manners
 - b. be himself
 - c. change his habits
 - d. learn new skills
5. What does Newton learn about himself?
 - a. He is just like the other pigs.
 - b. He likes to eat off a plate.
 - c. He does not like mud.
 - d. He is special without acting differently.



Name _____

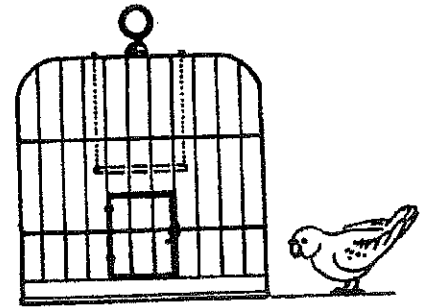
Date _____

Trading Places

A little bird sat on the windowsill. He looked longingly into the house at a bird in its cage. The cage seemed to be such a pleasant place. It had a swing for exercise, a round reflecting mirror, and a little bell that made a sweet sound. There was always water in one dish and food and treats in another. The little bird thought it looked like a wonderful place to live.

Meanwhile, the bird in its cage looked at the world outside his window. He wondered what it would be like to fly free in the sky and land wherever he wanted. He wished he could see what lay beyond his neat backyard and the fence that surrounded it. His people were kind, but he couldn't help feeling the urge to fly out the window and be free.

One day, the people left both the window and the cage door open. The caged bird decided this was his chance. He quickly flew out the window and into the world beyond. At the same time, the free bird flew from the windowsill into the cage. At first, both birds were thrilled. But soon the house bird missed his cage. It was frightening outside! He wasn't sure where to look for food. Besides, the worms and bugs that the other birds were eating almost ruined his appetite! The outside bird felt trapped in the cage. His heart began to beat wildly. All he could think about was getting back outside!



At the first opportunity, both birds returned to their old ways. Now the caged bird looked at the world with new eyes. It was beautiful, but he was happy to look from his perch in the cage. As for the outside bird, he no longer wished to be in the cage. He could hardly believe that he had almost given up his precious freedom for that little space!

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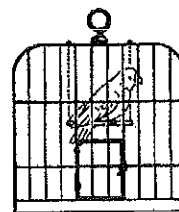
Date _____

Directions

Rewrite each sentence. Use a word with the same meaning from the Word List in place of the underlined words.

Word List

freedom opportunity reflecting longingly
pleasant precious appetite urge



1. The bird on the windowsill looked with longing at the cage in the house.

2. The cage looked like a nice place to live. _____

3. The cage had a showing back a picture mirror. _____

4. The caged bird had the wanting to go outside. _____

5. The birds traded places at the first chance. _____

6. The house bird's hunger was ruined when he saw what the other birds ate.

7. The caged bird knew that his home was dear to him. _____

8. The outside bird loved his choice to go wherever he wanted. _____
