

Blacker's Bulletin #22

Khan Academy: This week in math we will be working on two-step word problems, reviewing polygons and taking a quiz. Let me know if you are having any trouble connecting with our classroom on Khan Academy.

Distance Learning Packets: Our packets this week include a Reading Menu, cursive practice pages, a graphic organizer for practicing the reading focus skill, a leveled reader, a Daze passage and a vocabulary practice page. Again this week, we will use the leveled reader for fluency practice and skill practice.

Fluency Practice: This means repeated reading out loud of the first section of the text. Please read out loud with your student each day from the leveled reader, pages two through five. Repeated reading of the same passage builds reading fluency.

Skill Practice: This week we are practicing identifying the story structure and naming the elements. Elements of story structure include characters, setting, problem, events and solution. Please support your student with completing the story map identifying the story elements you find in the leveled reader.

Homework

1. Khan Academy math assignments
2. Read leveled reader pages 2-5 each day out loud
3. Finish leveled reader at least once
4. Complete graphic organizer "Story Map: Story Structure"
5. Reading Menu 27
6. Daze #15
7. Vocabulary Spelling City Lesson 21 assignments

- or -

- Target Vocabulary practice page
8. Cursive
9. Read at least 20 minutes each day

READING MENU 27

After reading, choose 1 question and circle it. Questions 1-6 are best for fiction stories and questions 7-9 are best for nonfiction books. Record your answer to the question in complete sentences.



1. Which character from the story reminds you of a character from another story that you have read? Why?	2. Retell the three events that you think are the most important events in the story.	3. If you have not read the ending, how do you predict the problem will be solved?
4. What do you think the author wants you to learn from this story? Give evidence from the text.	5. What genre is the story that you are reading? How do you know?	6. Choose two characters from the story and explain their relationship. How do they feel about one another?
7. Write three questions that you can answer about your topic after reading. Include answers.	8. What text feature did you use while reading? How did it help you to better understand the text?	9. What part of the text was hard to understand? What strategies did you use to help you to comprehend?

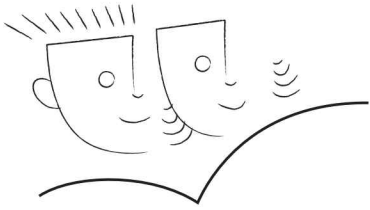
SELF CHECK

- ☐ I answered the entire question that I chose.
- ☐ I wrote in complete sentences.
- ☐ I used evidence and examples from the text to support my answer.
- ☐ I edited my work to make sure that it makes sense.

Name: _____

Book Title: _____ Book Author: _____

	0	1	2
Completion	Question is not answered.	Question is partially answered.	Answer is complete.
Sentences	Answer is not in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences and part of the question is used in the answer.
Thoughtfulness	Answer shows little effort or thought.	Answer shows limited thought.	Answer is thoughtful.
Text Evidence	Answer does not include text evidence.	Answer has limited use of text evidence.	Answer is supported with significant text evidence.
Editing	Answer has many errors.	Answer has some errors.	Answer has very few errors.



Name: _____

Practice 1

After playing in the dirt, Sam went

home
summer
was

 to wash her hands.

Practice 2

On her way home, she

chair
sleep
saw

 an ice cream truck.

© 2011 All rights reserved



C: _____

I: _____

AS: _____

Being a Plumber

When people wake up and prepare for the day ahead, they expect to have hot and cold water.

When they are ready to brush their

happens
teeth
few

, they turn on the faucet for

people
also
cold

 water. Warm water

makes for a

treatment
comfortable
completely

 bath or shower. Clean water flows into the

connect
clean
sink

, shower, or tub. Then it

drains down and out through the

well
pipes
washing

.

A hundred years ago very few

toilet
case
people

 had hot and cold running water.

Lines
Most
Bath

 people had an

outhouse in the

tank
are
backyard

. Very few had indoor toilets. They had to

sewer
pump
go

 water from a well. If they

very
wanted
prepare

 hot water, they had to pump

run
cold
home

 water and then heat it on the

how
stove
when

.

Plumbers are the workers who make

all
need
running

 water possible. Plumbers know how to

single
connect
coming

all the pipes and valves that

ago
bring
make

 water into a home. They also

carry
valves
know

 how to get the wastewater out

of the

turn
plumbers
house

 to the sewer. These sewer pipes

ground
teeth
carry

 wastewater to the treatment plant.

Water

is
faucets
hot

 also brought to our homes through

outhouse
there
pipes

. These pipes are buried in the

ground
pipes
amount

 along the streets. When a new

split
not
house

 is built, the city installs a

might
water
hundred

 meter, a branch

pipe, and a cut water years-off valve near the house. The water branch just meter measures the amount of water that
city is get used in the house. The plumber apartment uses will the branch pipe to connect a supply ahead do line. The cut-off
 valve lets a plumber running if turn off all of the water bring emergencies coming into the house in case of emergencies wanted two.
 Inside the house, the single line valve supply coming in is split into two. One of these brought lines fix feeds water
 into the hot water house tank day. From there, pipes go to all the hot meter other water faucets in the house. The
problem other ready line feeds water to all the plant cold lets-water faucets and to the toilets.
 Plumbers Backyard Tub know how to provide people with the workers water expect they need for cooking, cleaning, and
sink washing start. Sometimes a part of the plumbing in a feeds possible house or an apartment breaks. A toilet time might pump
 start to run water all the time breaks shower. A faucet might not turn off drains heat completely. When that happens, it is
 time to sometimes call provide the plumber, who will know just what to cooking faucet do to fix the problem.





Name _____

Mother's Day takes
place on the second
Sunday in May.

☐

Letter formation

☐

Spacing

☐

Line use

☐

Punctuation





Name _____

What do you and
your family do
for your mom?

☐

Letter formation

☐

Spacing

☐

Line use

☐

Punctuation





Name _____

It's a nice gesture
to bring her
breakfast in bed.



☐ Letter formation ☐ Spacing ☐ Line use ☐ Punctuation



Name _____

Moms also love
homemade cards
or gifts.



☐ Letter formation ☐ Spacing ☐ Line use ☐ Punctuation

Name _____ Date _____

Story Map: Story Structure

An Unwelcome Visitor
Graphic Organizer 11

Title *An Unwelcome Visitor*

Characters	Setting
Elizabeth, Charlie, Nora, Pa, Uncle Henry	the prairie
Plot Events	

Target Vocabulary

Life on the Prairie
Target Vocabulary

Write a Target Vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

1. A light wind can cause leaves to _____.
2. A _____ is a flat area covered with grass.
3. A road can become _____ after it rains.
4. A bee makes a _____ noise.
5. A dirty rug can be _____ to clean it.
6. A cat might _____ its food before eating it.
7. A dog might _____ a ball for its owner.
8. The dishes _____ loudly as he washed them.
9. A day filled with hard tasks can be _____ for some people.
10. A baby _____ at the toy with his fist.

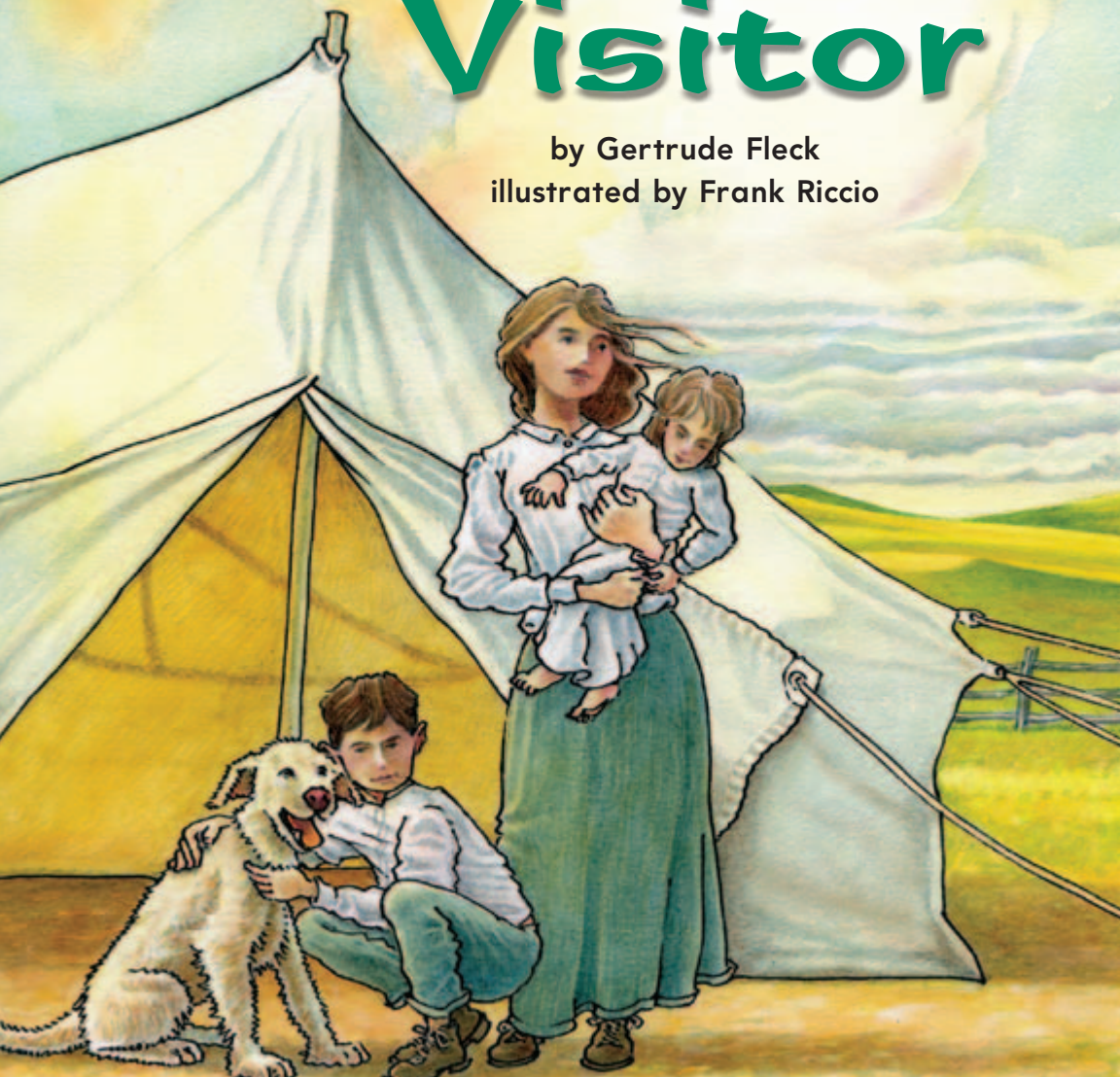
Vocabulary

prairie
slick
fetch
clattered
sniff
rough
batted
thumped
buzzing
rustle





An Unwelcome Visitor

by Gertrude Fleck
illustrated by Frank Riccio

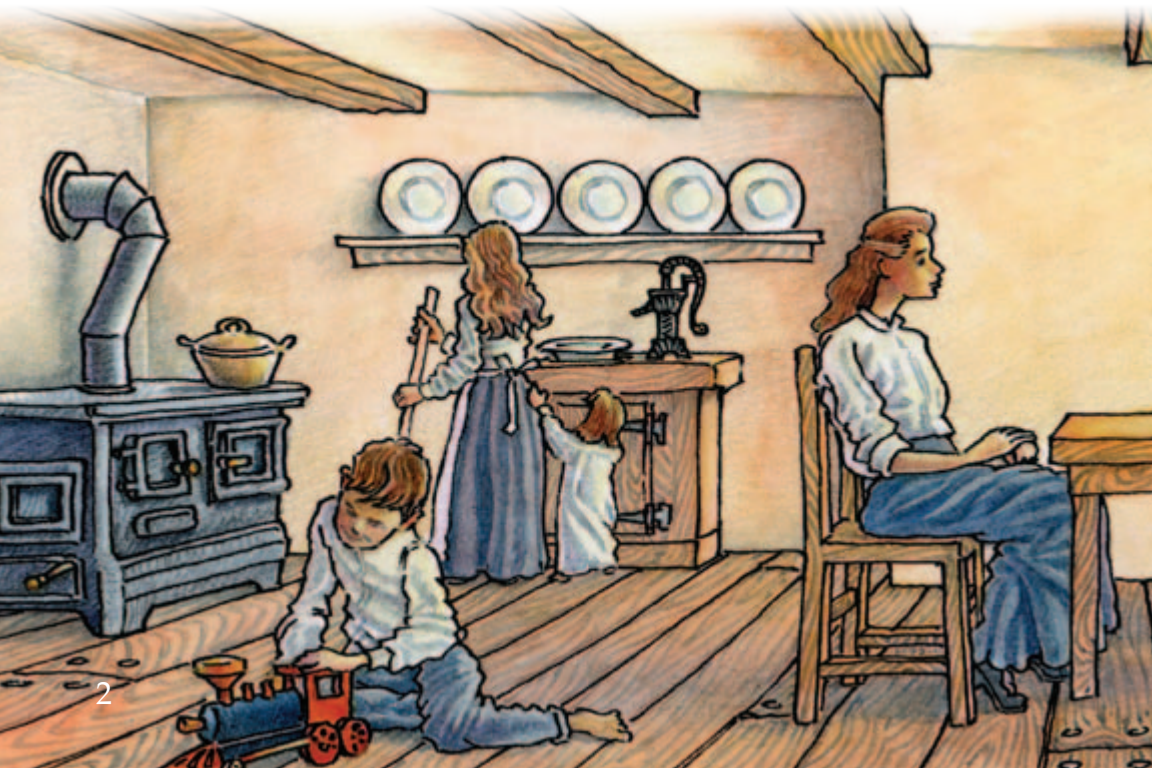


HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

 During the winter, Mama, Pa, Uncle Harry, and Aunt Minnie talked about moving from the eastern part of the United States to the prairie. Elizabeth and Charlie, the oldest children, listened eagerly to the conversations. But Nora, barely two, was too young to understand the discussions.

 “We own a tiny farm here in the East, but for ten dollars we could buy enough land on the prairie to have a huge farm!” said Pa.


Uncle Harry added, “Here, our soil is hard as nails. But I’ve heard people say that everything grows in the rich prairie soil.”




By spring, the adults had decided to move. Charlie chattered excitedly about moving because he was eager to see the wildlife out west. Elizabeth wasn't sure she wanted to move. She'd miss Grandma, Grandpa, and her friends. She'd miss their house. On the other hand, it might be exciting to move. Elizabeth wondered, "What will life on the prairie be like?"

The family filled trunks with pots, pans, clothing, and other items they would need. Pa sold their farm animals and said, "We'll buy new **livestock** when we reach the prairie."




 On moving day, Mama became ill and was too sick to travel. “You’ll all have to go without me,” she said sadly.

“Not me!” said Aunt Minnie. “I’ll remain with you and nurse you until you’re better. When you’re healthy, we’ll join the others.”


 “We’ll send a letter to let you know where we have settled,” said Pa. “Then you can write to tell us what train you’ll be on. We’ll go and fetch you at the train station.”

Uncle Harry and Pa loaded the trunks into Grandpa’s wagon. Then Grandpa drove them and the children to the train station.



 Elizabeth cried as she waved good-bye, but Nora and Charlie were too excited to feel sad. They were looking forward to their first train ride.

The train clattered past towns, woods, farms and homes. It crossed bridges and chugged across the prairie. Elizabeth thought the prairie seemed like a sea of tall, rough grass. Finally, they reached their stop.

 After they climbed off the train and collected their belongings, Pa and Uncle Harry bought a wagon, oxen, beds, and other **provisions**. Then they bought a couple of cows, some chickens, and a dog.

“I’m naming him Buddy,” said Charlie. He threw his arms around Buddy’s neck, and the dog licked Charlie’s face.

During the day, the family traveled across the prairie. At night, they built a campfire and slept under the stars, the rustle of grasses **lulling** them to sleep.

At last Pa and Uncle Harry found the perfect location for their new home. They pitched the tent where a gentle hill would protect it from the wind. Pa said that location would be especially helpful in winter when strong winds **raged** like a herd of angry bulls **galloping** across the prairie.

They were fortunate to be near a stream so they could fetch water for cooking, washing, and cleaning. A **grove** of small trees, including fruit trees, grew along the stream.





“One day, Uncle Harry and I will chop down some of the trees and build a log cabin,” said Pa. “We have a lot of work to do before that happens, so until then, we’ll live in our tent.”

The family worked hard all spring. Pa and Uncle Harry cleared land so they could plant. They hitched the oxen to a steel plow with a curved blade. As the oxen pulled, the blade cut through the tough, dense roots of the grasses. Pa and Uncle Harry cut the sod into large blocks and stacked them to build a barn.




Elizabeth had seen pictures of houses made of sod. She didn’t think she would want to live in a house with walls and a ceiling made of earth, grass, and roots. She didn’t want dirt falling into her food as she ate. Elizabeth was glad that Pa wanted to build a log cabin.


Next, Pa and Uncle Harry planted potatoes, carrots, peas, beans, cabbage, and corn. Pa said, “Elizabeth and Charlie, it will be your job to tend the garden. Nora can help, too.”




Everyone had chores to do. Charlie milked the cows and gathered eggs from the hens. Elizabeth cooked, cleaned, and looked after Nora. The children also tended the garden. Buddy chased deer, rabbits, and other animals out of the garden, and he guarded the chickens, too. In addition to farming, Uncle Harry and Pa hunted and fished. Sometimes Charlie helped them.

 One afternoon, Charlie proudly displayed his catch. He said, “This slick fish almost slipped away while I was putting it in the net.”


Spring passed quickly into summer. One day Pa went to town, and he came back with a letter from Mama. He said, “Mama writes that she’s better now. She and Aunt Minnie are coming in August.”

 The next morning, Pa announced, “Today Uncle Harry and I will chop down some trees to build a cabin. While we’re gone, Elizabeth is in charge, and you other children must obey her.”

After Pa and Uncle Harry left, Buddy trotted over to guard the chickens, and the children went to weed the garden. Along the way, Nora stopped to sniff some wildflowers. The honeybees were already hard at work, buzzing around the flowers.


 Elizabeth batted at the mosquitoes as she worked in the garden. She watched Nora like a hawk, too. She didn't want her sister to wander away and disappear into the prairie.

"Are the mosquitoes pestering you as much as they're bothering me?" Elizabeth asked Charlie, who was weeding nearby.

 "They're only a little pesky," said Charlie. As he stooped to pull a weed, he heard something rattle noisily and wondered, "What's that sound?"


Elizabeth remembered a **vibrating** sound she'd heard previously in the woods behind their former home. It was a rattlesnake, and its poisonous bite was deadly!




 Quick as lightning, Elizabeth dashed to Charlie, yanked him off his feet, and ran with him to the safety of their tent.

“Let me go!” yelled Charlie. “You’re hurting me!”

“Stay right here!” ordered Elizabeth as she dumped Charlie on a bed. Immediately, she raced back outside, scooped up Nora, and then ran back to the tent as though chased by wolves. Elizabeth’s heart pounded as she clutched Nora and huddled next to Charlie on the bed.

 “That rattling was a rattlesnake. Its bite can kill,” explained Elizabeth, gasping. “Keep a lookout, and holler if the rattler **slithers** into the tent!”




 After a while, Elizabeth calmed down. She sang lullabies, and soon Nora fell asleep.


“I’d better fix lunch,” said Elizabeth, getting slowly off the bed.

Elizabeth began cooking when suddenly Charlie’s terrified voice startled her, “The rattlesnake’s in the tent!”


The rattlesnake was like a long, wavy ribbon rapidly slithering toward the bed. How could Elizabeth get rid of the dangerous creature?

 **Instinctively**, Elizabeth grabbed the broom that was leaning against the table. She grasped it tightly with both hands and thumped it against the dirt floor. The rattlesnake paused, and Elizabeth ran toward it. She pushed it with the broom and swept the rattlesnake out of the tent. Immediately the rattlesnake slithered to the safety of the tall prairie grasses.



 “Don’t worry, the snake’s disappeared,” said Elizabeth soothingly, and she patted Charlie’s back until he stopped sobbing.

Later, when Pa and Uncle Harry returned from chopping down trees, Charlie raced to greet them. “A huge rattlesnake crawled into the tent, but Elizabeth swept it away. She wasn’t scared at all! Elizabeth saved Nora and me,” said Charlie.

 Pa hugged Elizabeth and said, “You’re my very brave daughter!”

Uncle Harry said, “We’ll build the cabin quickly. Then you’ll have a door to close, and you won’t have any more unwelcome visitors bothering you.”



Responding



TARGET SKILL Story Structure

How do Elizabeth's actions contribute to the story's events? Copy and fill in the chart below.

Characters: Elizabeth, Charlie, Nora, Pa, Uncle Harry	Setting: the prairie
Plot Events: ?	



Write About It

Text to Text Think about another brave character you have read about in a book or story. Write a paragraph telling how Elizabeth is like that character.



TARGET VOCABULARY

batted
buzzing
clattered
fetch
prairie

rough
rustle
slick
sniff
thumped

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

galloping
grove
instinctively
livestock
lulling

provisions
raged
slithers
sod
vibrating



TARGET SKILL

Story Structure Name the setting, characters, and plot in a story.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify As you read, find a way to clear up what doesn't make sense to you.



GENRE Historical fiction is a story that takes place in a real period of history.