New Year Celebrations

Karenea woke up in the forest. She was all alone. When she tried to remember what happened the night before, all she could recall was playing a hiding game with her brother.

She stood up and looked around. The sun had just come up. Karenea wiped the sleep from her eyes. She remembered a little bit—her family was camping near the river, listening to the sounds of the forest. When she got up, she knew how to find her way back.

Questions:
1. What did Karenea wake up in the forest?
2. Where did the squirrel go after Lisa got out of the car?
3. Why did the squirrel freeze in the middle of the road?
4. Do you like driving at night? Why? Why not?
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Lisa was driving along the highway at night when something ran in front of her car. She slammed on the brakes and the tires screeched to a halt.

She jumped out of the driver's seat to see what happened. A little brown squirrel stood on the road. It was not hurt, but it was frozen with shock. Lisa was shocked, too.

After a minute, the squirrel blinked and ran into the brush on the side of the road. Lisa was relieved that it was unharmed.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What did Lisa do when something ran in front of her car?

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2) Where did the squirrel go after Lisa got out of the car?

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3) Why do you think the squirrel froze in the middle of the road?

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4) Do you like driving at night? Why/Why not?

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Kerenza woke up in the forest. She was all alone. When she tried to remember what had happened the night before, all she could recall was playing a hiding game with her brother.

She stood up and looked around. The sun had just come up. Kerenza wiped the sleep from her eyes. She remembered a little bit more. Her family was camping near the river!

Kerenza listened to the sounds of the forest. When she heard running water, she knew how to find her way back.

1) When did Kerenza wake up?

2) Why do you think Kerenza woke up in the forest?

3) Why do you think the water helped Kerenza find her way back?

4) Do you like camping? Why/Why not?
Manuel visited his cousin for New Year’s Eve. They went to the harbor to watch the fireworks. Manuel had never seen so many people crammed into the one place. There were food stalls, face painters, live music and wandering circus acts!

At midnight, it was time for the fireworks. Manuel and his cousin held their phones to the sky to take pictures of the sparkly display. Smoke blew everywhere!

After it was over, Manuel and his cousin shouted, “Happy New Year!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What did Manuel do on New Year’s Eve?

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2) What things did Manuel see at the harbor?

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3) Why do you think there was so much smoke in the sky?

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4) Do you like fireworks? Why/Why not?

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THE Story of ALEX

My name is Alex Ryan. I am eleven years old. I have a little sister named Reese and a big brother named Christopher. We live in Cedar Springs with my mom and dad.

At school, I am good at math and science. I love to draw, paint and sing in the choir. I have lots of great friends, but my best friend is Charlie Ting. We shoot hoops at lunch.

When I grow up, I would like to be a doctor. I would love to work in a children's hospital.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Who are the people in Alex’s family?
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_________________________________________________________________
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2) What would Alex like to do when he grows up?
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_________________________________________________________________
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3) Why do you think Alex gets along with Charlie Ting?
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4) Do you like math and science? Why/Why not?
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The cruise ship sailed into the harbor. It was a huge white vessel called *Princess of the Waves*. Four thousand people could stay on the ship. There were two movie theaters, twenty restaurants, numerous pools and spas, tennis courts, two running tracks and lots of shops.

The ship was on its way to Hawaii. It would stop at all the islands. Tourists would be able to snorkel, scuba dive, jet ski and swim. The voyage would last two weeks.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What is the *Princess of the Waves*?

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____________________________________

2) What can tourists do on the Hawaiian islands?

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3) Why do you think the ship has so many activities onboard?

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4) Do you think it would be expensive to stay on the *Princess*? Why/Why not?

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THE Landscape PAINTINGS

Gian took her mom to an art class. The class was in a shop in the mall. All the students were given easels, paintbrushes, cups of water, tissues and palettes of paint.

The teacher showed the class how to paint a dry landscape. They used lots of reds, oranges, yellows, browns and blacks. The picture included a dead tree, a sun and a cactus.

At the end of the class, Gian and her mom had two paintings to take home. They decided to hang them in the study.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What equipment were all the students given?

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2) Where did Gian and her mother hang the paintings?

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3) Why do you think they used red, orange, yellow, brown and black paint?

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4) Are you good at drawing landscapes? Why/Why not?

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Elton discovered a door in a tree. He stared at it for a long time. Why was there a little red door with a brass knocker built into the side of his grandfather’s oak tree?

Nervously, Elton knocked on the door. He stood back to wait. Almost at once, the door creaked open. Standing inside the tree trunk was an elf!

“Hello!” the elf said politely. “Do come inside for a snack.” But Elton had already run back to his grandfather’s house!

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What did Elton think was strange about the tree?

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________________________________________________________________________

2) Where did Elton go when the elf greeted him?

________________________________________________________________________

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3) Why do you think Elton ran away from the elf?

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4) Do you think the elf was dangerous? Why/Why not?

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"You have to see this!" Dani yelled, dragging Trey from the breakfast table. Trey had never seen his sister so agitated. After running through the fields, their feet stopped when they came to a fence. Trey’s mouth dropped open. A massive shimmering castle was sitting in the middle of the meadow. "Where did it come from?" cried Trey. "I don’t know," said Dani. "It appeared overnight."

The two children walked through the gate toward the castle.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Why was Dani so agitated?

________________________________________________________________________

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2) Where was the shimmering castle?

________________________________________________________________________

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3) What do you think happened after the children reached the castle?

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4) Would you like to live in a castle? Why/Why not?

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Mrs. Reynolds took her twin sons, Adam and Jeremy, to the aquarium. Their first stop was the touch pool. Adam touched a stingray and Jeremy touched a starfish. Then they went into the glass tunnel to see the sharks and colorful tropical fish.

After stopping by the seahorse tanks, Mrs. Reynolds and her boys attended the turtle show. They learned all about protecting the cute creatures from litter and pollution. They even visited the turtle hospital!

“Well, that’s it,” said the twins. “We’re going to be marine biologists!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) Who went to the aquarium?

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2) What did they see at the aquarium?

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3) Why do you think litter and other pollution can hurt turtles?

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4) Would you like to work in an aquarium when you grow up? Why/Why not?

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The elixir was locked in the tower in the middle of the city. Ray stared at the high brick walls and wondered how he could sneak past the seven guards. He knew he had to try. His sister’s life depended on it. She had been poisoned by the evil Queen Magda. The queen was jealous of his sister’s intelligence.

Ray waited until the guards were talking before leaping onto the bricks. His fingers and toes found cracks in the wall to hold on to. He climbed into the tower and stole the elixir!

And when he finally gave it to his sister, she recovered instantly.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What had happened to Ray’s sister?

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2) How did Ray get the elixir?

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3) Why do you think the passage is called ‘The Nimble Thief’?

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4) Do you think Queen Magda will be punished? Why/Why not?

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PAMELA, the TEACHER

Pamela Gerson is a teacher. She works with students at Flinders Elementary School. She currently teaches third grade, but she has also taught first grade, second grade and fifth grade during her ten-year career.

Pamela’s favorite part of being a teacher is helping students gain confidence. She loves when children show fearlessness and creativity. She doesn’t like when they are mean to each other. She believes all students have a right to learn.

Pamela wishes that everyone loved their job as much as her!

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Where does Pamela teach?

____________________________________

____________________________________

2) What is Pamela’s favorite part of being a teacher?

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3) Why do you think Pamela believes all students have a right to learn?

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4) Would you like to be a teacher? Why/Why not?

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“Get up, Mike!” called Mom. “You’re going to be late!”
Mike blinked and sat up in bed. He glanced at the clock on his bedside table. Oh no! It was already seven o’clock!
In panic, Mike jumped out of bed, dressed in his red shirt and shorts and brushed his teeth. But when he looked around for his shoes, he couldn’t see them anywhere.
“Mom!” he yelled. “I can’t find my soccer boots!”
“You left them in the car,” she replied. “They’re caked with mud. Come on! Let’s go! Maybe you can clean them before the game.”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) Why was Mike in a panic?

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2) Where were Mike’s soccer boots?

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3) Why do you think his soccer boots were in the car?

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4) Do you like playing sport? Why/Why not?

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The wind stung Kayla’s eyes. She sat on the beach and looked out at the pink horizon. It was hard to believe that a year had gone by since her mom passed away.

Kayla bit her lip. She missed her mom’s laugh and how she used to sing in the shower. She missed her warm hugs and goodnight kisses. She even missed her mom’s perfume.

“Are you ready to go?” a male voice called.

Kayla wiped her face and stood up. At least she still had Dad. He was a lot sadder since Mom had died, but they looked after each other.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What had happened in Kayla’s life one year ago?

2) What did Kayla miss about her mom?

3) Why do you think Kayla bit her lip as she thought about her mom?

4) Do you like to read sad stories? Why/Why not?
Nell's grandmother was moving houses. She was going to take all the boxes in the attic to the dump. Nell asked if she could sort through the boxes. Her grandmother agreed.

That afternoon, Nell climbed the stairs to the attic. It was dark and dusty, but she switched on the light. Boxes littered the hardwood floor. She spent hours rummaging through their contents. There were old toys, clothes, books and photographs. One of the photographs was of her grandmother as a girl.

“Look, Gran!” Nell cried. “You can’t throw this out!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) What was Nell's grandmother planning to do with the boxes from the attic?

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____________________________________

2) What did Nell find in the attic?

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3) Why do you think Nell spent hours looking through the boxes?

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4) Do you like looking at old photographs? Why/Why not?

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DO Dragons EXIST?

I thought dragons didn’t exist, but now I’m not so sure. It happened last summer. I’d been camping with my parents by Whittaker Falls. In the middle of the night, there was a noise. I’m not sure why I wasn’t terrified, but I slipped out of my tent and wandered toward the river. Swimming in the dark water was the largest and scaliest beast I’d ever seen. It saw me and I saw it. With a dip of its head, the creature blew a puff of smoke and water out of its mouth.

Was it a dragon? I’m still not positive. Yet I can’t help thinking that magical creatures may not be fictional after all.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Why did the narrator slip out of her tent?

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2) What did the narrator see in the river?

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3) Why do you think the narrator used to believe that dragons didn’t exist?

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4) Do you believe in magical creatures? Why/Why not?

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Mrs. Beaver chewed through the trunk of the tree. With a great crash, the tree fell across the flowing creek. She called to her family. Mr. Beaver and the two little beavers began to gather sticks and branches to build the dam.

After a lot of working together; finally, the dam was complete. The water was contained on one side. The beavers scrambled inside their lodge. They used grasses and twigs to construct the living areas.

Before long, the lodge was comfortable and warm.

“Great job, everyone!” said Mrs. Beaver.

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**Answer the questions in complete sentences.**

**1) How did the beavers build the dam?**

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**2) Who was going to live in the lodge?**

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**3) Why do you think Mrs. Beaver said, “Great job, everyone!”**

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**4) Do you like helping your family? Why/Why not?**

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Clunk! George dropped his shovel and wiped the sweat from his eyes. Panting, he took a sip of water. He’d been digging a hole in his grandpa’s back garden when the metal had struck something solid.

George reached into the hole. Something was lodged in the dry soil. He cleaned some of the dirt off the object. It was white and smooth. It was a large bone!

The next day, scientists from the museum came to dig in the garden. They uncovered the fossil of a huge dinosaur! George couldn’t believe it. How amazing that a T-Rex had once lived in his grandpa’s backyard!

**Answer the questions in complete sentences.**

1) **What did George find in the garden?**

2) **Who came to help George dig out the fossil?**

3) **How do you know that George used a lot of energy digging in the garden?**

4) **Do you like learning about dinosaurs? Why/Why not?**
“I hate you!” Jack screamed at his big sister, Karly. “I wish you would disappear into thin air!”

All at once, the floor shook and a blue spark zagged through the room. Karly’s eyes opened wide and she vanished in a puff of smoke. Jack nearly fainted. Had he really caused his sister to disappear?

“No!” he yelled. “I didn’t mean it! I wish Karly would come back!”

The floor shook again, and Karly reappeared in front of him. Her clothes were blue, and she had a look of bewilderment on her face.

“It was the weirdest thing,” she said. “I think I was invisible!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Why did Jack almost faint?

2) What happened before Karly reappeared?

3) Why do you think Jack was angry at Karly in the beginning?

4) Would you ever tell someone that you wish they’d disappear? Why/Why not?
Jonas was a ballroom dancer. He was ten years old and had been dancing since he was five. His dance partner’s name was Gracie. Gracie was his cousin. She was nine years old and had great rhythm!

In July, Jonas and Gracie entered the Riverdell Ballroom Dancing Competition. The prize was a trip to sunny Jamaica.

When it was time to perform, Gracie became nervous. She didn’t want to go onstage. Instead of getting angry, Jonas hugged his cousin.

In the end, Gracie and Jonas performed brilliantly. They came third.

“Thanks for being kind to me,” Gracie told Jonas. “You’re the best!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) How long had Jonas been a ballroom dancer?

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________________________________________________________________________

2) What did Jonas and Gracie do in July?

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3) Why do you think Gracie became nervous at the competition?

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4) Would you have been disappointed with Gracie? Why/Why not?

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Francis sat on the park bench. He broke off a little piece of bread and tossed it into the pond. The ducks fought over the food. There was squawking and flapping and lots of splashing.

After he’d finished feeding the ducks, Francis looked at the children playing on the slide. He missed his grandchildren. He’d had to move to the United States when his wife had fallen ill.

Suddenly, his phone beeped. Francis glanced at it and smiled. It was a message from his granddaughter. It was full of emojis and updates about her life in Canada. It made Francis forget all about the ducks.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What did the ducks do when Francis threw the piece of bread?

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2) Why did Francis miss his grandchildren?

________________________________________________________________________

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3) Why do you think Francis smiled when he saw his granddaughter’s message?

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4) Do you like feeding ducks? Why/Why not?

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SYNONYMS for the Story

**Directions:** Write six words from your story in the dark boxes. Underneath, write some synonyms (similar vocabulary) for the words.

**TITLE OF THE READING PASSAGE:**

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PREDICTING the Past

Directions: Draw and label three events that happened prior to the story taking place.

TITLE OF THE READING PASSAGE:

1

2

3
CREATING a Worksheet

Directions: Create a worksheet to accompany your reading passage.
Allow someone to complete it.

TITLE OF THE READING PASSAGE:
THE ALMOST ACCIDENT
1. Lisa slammed on the brakes. When the car came to a halt, she jumped out of the driver’s seat to see what had happened.
2. The squirrel ran into the brush on the side of the road.
3. The squirrel likely froze in the middle of the road because it was scared of the noise, the movement and the headlights.
4. Answers will vary.

LISTENING TO THE FOREST
1. Kerenza woke up in the morning. I know this because the passage states that the “sun had just come up”.
2. She might have been playing the hiding game with her brother and fell asleep in her spot.
3. The water likely helped Kerenza to find her way back because she remembered that her family was camped by the river.
4. Answers will vary.

THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS
1. Manuel went to the harbor with his cousin to watch the fireworks on New Year’s Eve.
2. He saw so many people crammed into the one place. There were food stalls, face painters, live music and wandering circus acts. He also saw the fireworks later that night.
3. There was likely a lot of smoke in the sky because there were many fireworks set off.
4. Answers will vary.

THE STORY OF ALEX
1. Alex has a mother, a father, a little sister named Reese and a big brother named Christopher.
2. Alex would like to be a doctor. He would like to work in a children’s hospital.
3. It is likely that Alex gets along with Charlie Ting because they both enjoy “shooting hoops” at lunch.
4. Answers will vary.

PRINCESS OF THE WAVES
1. The Princess of the Waves is a huge, white cruise ship.
2. Tourists would be able to snorkel, scuba dive, jet ski and swim.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
THE LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS
1. All the students were given easels, paintbrushes, cups of water, tissues and palettes of paint.
2. They hung the paintings in the study.
3. I think they used red, orange, yellow, brown and black paint because they were painting dry landscapes.
4. Answers will vary.

ELTON AND THE ELF
1. There is a little red door with a brass knocker built into the side of his grandfather’s oak tree.
2. Elton ran back to his grandfather’s house.
3. I think Elton ran away from the elf because he was frightened to find a magical being living inside a tree.
4. Answers will vary.

THE EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT
1. Dani was agitated because she wanted to show Trey the castle, and he was eating his breakfast.
2. The shimmering castle was in the middle of a meadow.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

FUN AT THE AQUARIUM
1. Mrs. Reynolds went to the aquarium with her twin sons, Adam and Jeremy.
2. They saw stingrays, starfish, sharks, tropical fish, seahorses and turtles.
3. I think that turtles can get caught in litter (e.g. plastics) and they can die. Toxic chemicals from pollution in the water can also make turtles sick or may kill their food sources.
4. Answers will vary.

THE NIMBLE THIEF
1. Ray’s sister had been poisoned by the evil Queen Magda, who was jealous of Ray’s sister’s intelligence.
2. When the guards were talking, Ray climbed the wall to get into the tower.
3. I think it is called “The Nimble Thief” because Ray needed to be very nimble to climb into the tower. He was also a thief because he stole the elixir.
4. Answers will vary.
PAMELA, THE TEACHER
1. Pamela teaches at Flinders Elementary School.
2. Pamela's favorite part of being a teacher is helping students gain confidence.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

THE MISSING SHOES
1. Mike was in a panic because it was already seven o’clock. His mother called him and said that he would be late… and he couldn’t find his soccer boots.
2. Mike’s soccer boots were in the car.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

KAYLA WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
1. One year ago, Kayla’s mother had died.
2. She missed her mom’s laugh and how she used to sing in the shower. She missed her warm hugs and goodnight kisses. She even missed her mom’s perfume.
3. I think she bit her lip because it prevented her from crying.
4. Answers will vary.

THE OLD PHOTOGRAPH
1. She was going to take all the boxes in the attic to the dump and throw them out.
2. Nell found old toys, clothes, books and photographs. One of the photographs was of her grandmother as a girl.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

DO DRAGONS EXIST?
1. The narrator was camping with her parents. She heard a noise, which made her slip out of her tent to investigate.
2. The narrator saw a large and scaly beast. It was swimming in the river. It let out a puff of water and smoke.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
BUILDING THEIR NEW HOME
1. Mrs. Beaver chewed through the trunk of a tree to make it fall across the creek. Her husband and children helped her to add sticks, branches, grasses and twigs.
2. Mrs. Beaver, Mr. Beaver and the two little beavers were going to live in the lodge.
3. I think that she said, “Great job, everyone!”, because the whole family had worked as a team to build the lodge.
4. Answers will vary.

THE HIDDEN SURPRISE
1. George found a large bone. It was part of a larger skeleton of a T-Rex.
2. Scientists from the museum came to help him dig out the fossil.
3. I know this because he “dropped” the shovel, wiped sweat from his brow, panted and took a sip of water.
4. Answers will vary.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR
1. Jack almost fainted because he was shocked when Karly disappeared into thin air after he wished that she would.
2. Before Karly reappeared, Jack wished that she would come back. Just before she did, the floor shook.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

JONAS AND GRACIE
1. Jonas has been dancing for five years.
2. In July, Jonas and Gracie entered the Riverdell Ballroom Dancing Competition. They came third in the competition.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

FRANCIS AT THE PARK
1. The ducks fought over the food. There was squawking and flapping and lots of splashing.
2. Francis missed his grandchildren because they lived in a different country. Francis had moved to the United States when his wife became ill.
3. It is likely that he smiled because he was happy to hear from his granddaughter. He probably liked knowing the updates and thought the emojis were funny.
4. Answers will vary.
Dear Buyer,

The following pages contain duplicates of some pages in this packet. These pages have been altered to contain UK/Australia/NZ spelling. For any other spelling alterations, please contact me at isla.hearts.teaching(at)gmail.com with your username, date of purchase and spelling request.
Lisa was driving along the highway at night when something ran in front of her car. She slammed on the brakes and the tyres screeched to a halt.

She jumped out of the driver's seat to see what happened. A little brown squirrel stood on the road. It was not hurt, but it was frozen with shock. Lisa was shocked, too.

After a minute, the squirrel blinked and ran into the brush on the side of the road. Lisa was relieved that it was unharmed.

**Answer the questions in complete sentences.**

1) What did Lisa do when something ran in front of her car?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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2) Where did the squirrel go after Lisa got out of the car?

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3) Why do you think the squirrel froze in the middle of the road?

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4) Do you like driving at night? Why/Why not?

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THE New Year CELEBRATIONS

Manuel visited his cousin for New Year’s Eve. They went to the harbour to watch the fireworks. Manuel had never seen so many people crammed into the one place. There were food stalls, face painters, live music and wandering circus acts!

At midnight, it was time for the fireworks. Manuel and his cousin held their phones to the sky to take pictures of the sparkly display. Smoke blew everywhere!

After it was over, Manuel and his cousin shouted, “Happy New Year!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What did Manuel do on New Year’s Eve?

2) What things did Manuel see at the harbour?

3) Why do you think there was so much smoke in the sky?

4) Do you like fireworks? Why/Why not?
My name is Alex Ryan. I am eleven years old. I have a little sister named Reese and a big brother named Christopher. We live in Cedar Springs with my mum and dad.

At school, I am good at maths and science. I love to draw, paint and sing in the choir. I have lots of great friends, but my best friend is Charlie Ting. We shoot hoops at lunch.

When I grow up, I would like to be a doctor. I would love to work in a children’s hospital.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Who are the people in Alex’s family?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2) What would Alex like to do when he grows up?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think Alex gets along with Charlie Ting?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4) Do you like maths and science? Why/Why not?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
The cruise ship sailed into the harbour. It was a huge white vessel called *Princess of the Waves*. Four thousand people could stay on the ship. There were two movie theatres, twenty restaurants, numerous pools and spas, tennis courts, two running tracks and lots of shops.

The ship was on its way to Hawaii. It would stop at all the islands. Tourists would be able to snorkel, scuba dive, jet ski and swim. The voyage would last two weeks.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What is the *Princess of the Waves*?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2) What can tourists do on the Hawaiian islands?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think the ship has so many activities onboard?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4) Do you think it would be expensive to stay on the *Princess*? Why/Why not?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Gian took her mum to an art class. The class was in a shop in the mall. All the students were given easels, paintbrushes, cups of water, tissues and palettes of paint.

The teacher showed the class how to paint a dry landscape. They used lots of reds, oranges, yellows, browns and blacks. The picture included a dead tree, a sun and a cactus.

At the end of the class, Gian and her mum had two paintings to take home. They decided to hang them in the study.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) What equipment were all the students given?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

2) Where did Gian and her mother hang the paintings?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think they used red, orange, yellow, brown and black paint?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

4) Are you good at drawing landscapes? Why/Why not?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
Mrs Reynolds took her twin sons, Adam and Jeremy, to the aquarium. Their first stop was the touch pool. Adam touched a stingray and Jeremy touched a starfish. Then they went into the glass tunnel to see the sharks and colourful tropical fish.

After stopping by the seahorse tanks, Mrs Reynolds and her boys attended the turtle show. They learned all about protecting the cute creatures from litter and pollution. They even visited the turtle hospital!

“Well, that’s it,” said the twins. “We’re going to be marine biologists!”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) Who went to the aquarium?

2) What did they see at the aquarium?

3) Why do you think litter and other pollution can hurt turtles?

4) Would you like to work in an aquarium when you grow up? Why/Why not?
PAMELA, the TEACHER

Pamela Gerson is a teacher. She works with students at Flinders Woodson Primary School. She currently teaches Year 3, but she has also taught students in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 during her ten-year career.

Pamela’s favourite part of being a teacher is helping students gain confidence. She loves when children show courage and creativity. She doesn’t like when they are mean to each other. She believes all students have a right to learn.

Pamela wishes that everyone loved their job as much as her!

Answer the questions in complete sentences.
1) Where does Pamela teach?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

2) What is Pamela’s favourite part of being a teacher?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think Pamela believes all students have a right to learn?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

4) Would you like to be a teacher? Why/Why not?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
“Get up, Mike!” called Mum. “You’re going to be late!”

Mike blinked and sat up in bed. He glanced at the clock on his bedside table. Oh no! It was already seven o’clock!

In panic, Mike jumped out of bed, dressed in his red shirt and shorts and brushed his teeth. But when he looked around for his shoes, he couldn’t see them anywhere.

“Mum!” he yelled. “I can’t find my soccer boots!”

“You left them in the car,” she replied. “They’re caked with mud. Come on! Let’s go! Maybe you can clean them before the game.”

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) Why was Mike in a panic?

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2) Where were Mike’s soccer boots?

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think his soccer boots were in the car?

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4) Do you like playing sport? Why/Why not?

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KAYLA will always REMEMBER

The wind stung Kayla’s eyes. She sat on the beach and looked out at the pink horizon. It was hard to believe that a year had gone by since her mum passed away.

Kayla bit her lip. She missed her mum’s laugh and how she used to sing in the shower. She missed her warm hugs and goodnight kisses. She even missed her mum’s perfume.

“Are you ready to go?” a male voice called.

Kayla wiped her face and stood up. At least she still had Dad. He was a lot sadder since Mum had died, but they looked after each other.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) What had happened in Kayla’s life one year ago?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2) What did Kayla miss about her mum?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think Kayla bit her lip as she thought about her mum?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4) Do you like to read sad stories? Why/Why not?

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________________________________________________________________________
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Mrs Beaver chewed through the trunk of the tree. With a great crash, the tree fell across the flowing creek. She called to her family. Mr Beaver and the two little beavers began to gather sticks and branches to build the dam.

After a lot of working together; finally, the dam was complete. The water was contained on one side. The beavers scrambled inside the lodge. They used grasses and twigs to construct the living areas.

Before long, the lodge was comfortable and warm.

“Great job, everyone!” said Mrs Beaver.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1) How did the beavers build the dam?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

2) Who was going to live in the lodge?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

3) Why do you think Mrs Beaver said, “Great job, everyone!”

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

4) Do you like helping your family? Why/Why not?

____________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
THE ALMOST ACCIDENT
1. Lisa slammed on the brakes. When the car came to a halt, she jumped out of the driver’s seat to see what had happened.
2. The squirrel ran into the brush on the side of the road.
3. The squirrel likely froze in the middle of the road because it was scared of the noise, the movement and the headlights.
4. Answers will vary.

LISTENING TO THE FOREST
1. Kerenza woke up in the morning. I know this because the passage states that the “sun had just come up”.
2. She might have been playing the hiding game with her brother and fell asleep in her spot.
3. The water likely helped Kerenza to find her way back because she remembered that her family was camped by the river.
4. Answers will vary.

THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS
1. Manuel went to the harbour with his cousin to watch the fireworks on New Year’s Eve.
2. He saw so many people crammed into the one place. There were food stalls, face painters, live music and wandering circus acts. He also saw the fireworks later that night.
3. There was likely a lot of smoke in the sky because there were many fireworks set off.
4. Answers will vary.

THE STORY OF ALEX
1. Alex has a mother, a father, a little sister named Reese and a big brother named Christopher.
2. Alex would like to be a doctor. He would like to work in a children’s hospital.
3. It is likely that Alex gets along with Charlie Ting because they both enjoy “shooting hoops” at lunch.
4. Answers will vary.

PRINCESS OF THE WAVES
1. The Princess of the Waves is a huge, white cruise ship.
2. Tourists would be able to snorkel, scuba dive, jet ski and swim.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

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THE LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS
1. All the students were given easels, paintbrushes, cups of water, tissues and palettes of paint.
2. They hung the paintings in the study.
3. I think they used red, orange, yellow, brown and black paint because they were painting dry landscapes.
4. Answers will vary.

ELTON AND THE ELF
1. There is a little red door with a brass knocker built into the side of his grandfather’s oak tree.
2. Elton ran back to his grandfather’s house.
3. I think Elton ran away from the elf because he was frightened to find a magical being living inside a tree.
4. Answers will vary.

THE EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT
1. Dani was agitated because she wanted to show Trey the castle, and he was eating his breakfast.
2. The shimmering castle was in the middle of a meadow.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

FUN AT THE AQUARIUM
1. Mrs Reynolds went to the aquarium with her twin sons, Adam and Jeremy.
2. They saw stingrays, starfish, sharks, tropical fish, seahorses and turtles.
3. I think that turtles can get caught in litter (e.g. plastics) and they can die. Toxic chemicals from pollution in the water can also make turtles sick or may kill their food sources.
4. Answers will vary.

THE NIMBLE THIEF
1. Ray’s sister had been poisoned by the evil Queen Magda, who was jealous of Ray’s sister’s intelligence.
2. When the guards were talking, Ray climbed the wall to get into the tower.
3. I think it is called “The Nimble Thief” because Ray needed to be very nimble to climb into the tower. He was also a thief because he stole the elixir.
4. Answers will vary.

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PAMELA, THE TEACHER
1. Pamela teaches at Flinders Woodson Primary School.
2. Pamela’s favourite part of being a teacher is helping students gain confidence.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

THE MISSING SHOES
1. Mike was in a panic because it was already seven o’clock. His mother called him and said that he would be late... and he couldn’t find his soccer boots.
2. Mike’s soccer boots were in the car.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

KAYLA WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
1. One year ago, Kayla’s mother had died.
2. She missed her mum’s laugh and how she used to sing in the shower. She missed her warm hugs and goodnight kisses. She even missed her mum’s perfume.
3. I think she bit her lip because it prevented her from crying.
4. Answers will vary.

THE OLD PHOTOGRAPH
1. She was going to take all the boxes in the attic to the dump and throw them out.
2. Nell found old toys, clothes, books and photographs. One of the photographs was of her grandmother as a girl.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

DO DRAGONS EXIST?
1. The narrator was camping with her parents. She heard a noise, which made her slip out of her tent to investigate.
2. The narrator saw a large and scaly beast. It was swimming in the river. It let out a puff of water and smoke.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
BUILDING THEIR NEW HOME
1. Mrs Beaver chewed through the trunk of a tree to make it fall across the creek. Her husband and children helped her to add sticks, branches, grasses and twigs.
2. Mrs Beaver, Mr Beaver and the two little beavers were going to live in the lodge.
3. I think that she said, “Great job, everyone!”, because the whole family had worked as a team to build the lodge.
4. Answers will vary.

THE HIDDEN SURPRISE
1. George found a large bone. It was part of a larger skeleton of a T-Rex.
2. Scientists from the museum came to help him dig out the fossil.
3. I know this because he “dropped” the shovel, wiped sweat from his brow, panted and took a sip of water.
4. Answers will vary.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR
1. Jack almost fainted because he was shocked when Karly disappeared into thin air after he wished that she would.
2. Before Karly reappeared, Jack wished that she would come back. Just before she did, the floor shook.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

JONAS AND GRACIE
1. Jonas has been dancing for five years.
2. In July, Jonas and Gracie entered the Riverdell Ballroom Dancing Competition. They came third in the competition.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

FRANCIS AT THE PARK
1. The ducks fought over the food. There was squawking and flapping and lots of splashing.
2. Francis missed his grandchildren because they lived in a different country. Francis had moved to the United States when his wife became ill.
3. It is likely that he smiled because he was happy to hear from his granddaughter. He probably liked knowing the updates and thought the emojis were funny.
4. Answers will vary.
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