



The City School

PAF Chapter

Prep Section

Class – 7

Worksheets for Intervention Classes (1st Term)

ENGLISH

COMPREHENSION # 1

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the given questions.

The man with the bullhorn encouraged the runners as they made their way up the hill. “Two hours, fifteen minutes, forty seconds . . .” His deep, amplified voice boomed toward us. It was mile 17 of the marathon. “Hey, great stride!” a bearded spectator yelled to me. He clapped loudly. “You’re looking strong. Keep going— go, go, go!”

You betcha I’m looking strong, I thought, as I followed my younger sister, Laura. I just got started. She had been diligently clocking eight-minute miles since the race had begun downtown. Initially in the middle of a pack, which was several thousand people, she had been steadily passing other runners for the past 10 miles or so. We were now on the relatively steep rise to the St. Cecelia Bridge. Once we crossed, we would begin heading back into town, running along the east side of the Rincon River. Laura had asked me to run the most difficult section of the marathon with her. Not having trained for anything more challenging than a brisk walk, and with no experience running in organized events, I figured I might be good for two or three miles.

Despite our running in tandem, we were taking different approaches to the event. Laura was on an aggressive tack, maneuvering quickly through the slowing pack of runners. She began calling out, “On your left, sir,” and “Excuse me,” as she doggedly yet gracefully attacked the rising slope approaching the bridge. Keeping up with her was no small feat. On one hand, I felt like saying to her, Wait up! On the other hand, I knew that a timely finish would be a personal record for her.

Up ahead, steel drums were playing. A group of percussionists was pounding out rhythms, chanting, and encouraging us with their music and smiles. Crossing the bridge, I recalled the advice in the Marathon Handbook to be sure to spit off of the steely span. During my preview of the route, it had seemed like a juvenile thing to do. But now it seemed like a fine idea, and I spat magnificently over the side of the bridge.

“I read the handbook, too!” trumpeted a triumphant woman behind me, who also let loose over the side of the bridge. We had now initiated a chain reaction of subsequent bridge spitters. It was quite a sight, but I had other things to occupy my attention, namely the back of Laura’s jersey.

Easing off the bridge, and heading south on Avila Boulevard, Laura and I found our pace together again. Here we could hang to the left of the group and enjoy some brief conversation. “You keeping up okay?” she asked. Being her older brother, and therefore unable to admit weakness, I nodded convincingly.

“Hey, Lee!” yelled a waving man on the sidewalk. Immediately pleased that my marathon efforts had been recognized by someone I knew, I waved back and reflected on the importance of wearing tie-dyed clothing to a road race of this size. It made it a lot easier to be spotted!

The town marathon is a “people’s” marathon in that it tends to be a family affair, with the runners and spectators creating a festival atmosphere. The crowds are demonstrably vocal and supportive all day, which means a lot to the participants. I managed to run six miles before bowing out, and Laura finished the entire race in under four hours.

I now pride myself on telling people that I ran in a marathon. The distinction between having run a marathon and having run in a marathon seems unimportant. If pressed, however, I'll admit that I only ran one-fourth of one.

Inspired by this year's experience, I plan to walk the course—really fast—next year. It's not because I'm jealous of my sister's accomplishment. This is not some silly sibling rivalry in which I must do whatever she does. Rather, Laura got free cookies at the finish line, and the promise of that will lead me to any goal.

1. This story is told from the point of view of:

- a. Laura.
- b. Lee.
- c. both Laura and Lee.
- d. an unidentified, third-person narrator.

2. Read these sentences from the story.

Laura was on an aggressive tack, maneuvering quickly through the slowing pack of runners. She began calling out, "On your left, sir," and "Excuse me," as she doggedly yet gracefully attacked the rising slope approaching the bridge.

Below are four definitions of tack. Which one probably means the same as the word is used in this section of the passage?

- a. a sharp-pointed nail
- b. something that attaches
- c. a sticky or adhesive quality
- d. a zigzag movement

3. Why was Lee glad he wore a tie-dyed shirt?

- a. It helped people locate him easily.
- b. The shirt brought him good luck.
- c. It added to the festival atmosphere.
- d. The shirt was a favorite of Laura's.

4. What part of the marathon does Laura ask Lee to run?

- a. the last six miles
- b. the downhill section
- c. the most difficult section
- d. the last two to three miles

5. At next year's marathon, Lee plans to:

- a. run half of the course.
- b. beat his sister Laura.
- c. walk the race really fast.
- d. improve his time.

6. Which of the following words best describes Laura as she is presented in this passage?

- a. competitive
- b. foolish
- c. comical
- d. carefree

7. The author wants the reader to think that Lee:

- a. is too aggressive.
- b. has little self-confidence.
- c. has a future as a runner.
- d. is a good-natured brother.

8. Lee tells Laura that he's keeping up okay because:

- a. he doesn't want her to think he can't keep up with her.
- b. he is always lying to her.
- c. he really is doing okay.
- d. he wants to motivate her.

9. What happened immediately AFTER Lee spit over the side of the bridge?

10. Why did the author write this story?

11. Identify any 5 Connectives used in the passage.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

COMPREHENSION # 2

Direction: Read the passage carefully and answer the given questions.

Did you know that some people don't do their reading assignments? It's shocking, but it's true. Some students don't even read short texts that they are assigned in class. There are many reasons for this. They may be distracted or bored. They may be unwilling to focus. They may be unconfident readers. Whatever the reason, it has to stop today. Here's why. Reading stimulates your mind. It is like a workout for your brain. When people get old, their muscles begin to deteriorate. They get weaker and their strength leaves them. Exercise can prevent this loss. The same thing happens to people's brains when they get older. Brain power and speed decline with age. Reading strengthens your brain and prevents these declines.

You can benefit from reading in the near-term too. Reading provides knowledge. Knowledge is power. Therefore, reading can make you a more powerful person. You can learn to do new things by reading. Do you want to make video games? Do you want to design clothing? Reading can teach you all this and more. But you have to get good at reading, and the only way to get good at something is to practice. Read everything that you can at school, regardless of whether you find it interesting. Reading expands your vocabulary. Even a "boring" text can teach you new words. Having a larger vocabulary will help you better express yourself. You will be able to speak, write, and think more intelligently. What's boring about that?

Do not just discount a text because it is unfamiliar to you. Each time you read, you are exposed to new ideas and perspectives. Reading can change the way that you understand the world. It can give you a broader

perspective on things. It can make you worldlier. You can learn how people live in far away places. You can learn about cultures different from your own. Reading is good for your state of mind. It has a calming effect. It can lower your stress levels and help you relax. You can escape from your troubles for a moment when you read, and it's a positive escape. The benefits of reading far outweigh those of acting like a doofus. So do

yourself a favor: the next time you get a reading assignment, take as much as you can from it. Squeeze it for every drop of knowledge that it contains. Then move on to the next one.

After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?

- a. Reading is exciting.
- b. Reading strengthens your mind.
- c. Age affects the body in many ways.
- d. Working out keeps your body in shape.

2. Why does the author think that you should read books that are boring?

- a. You will eventually grow to love them if you read them enough.
- b. You will get better grades in reading class.
- c. You will make your teacher very happy.
- d. You will learn new words.

3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?

- a. Reading can benefit you.
- b. You can learn to program video games or design clothing by reading.
- c. You can learn amazing things and become a better person by reading.
- d. Knowledge is power.

4. Which is not a reason given by the author why students fail to complete reading assignments?
- a. Students may be bored.
 - b. Students may be distracted.
 - c. Students may be unwilling to focus.
 - d. Students may be tired.
5. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
- a. He is trying to persuade students to do their reading work.
 - b. He is teaching people how to become better readers.
 - c. He is explaining why people don't do their reading work.
 - d. He is entertaining readers with facts about the mind and body.
6. Which best describes the author's tone in the first three sentences?
- a. Surprised
 - b. Sarcastic
 - c. Informative
 - d. Irate
7. Which of the following is not one of the author's main points?
- a. Reading broadens your perspective and makes you a better person.
 - b. Reading is a relaxing activity with positive mental side effects.
 - c. Reading helps you perform on tests and get into selective schools.
 - d. Reading keeps your mind in shape and prevents losses due to age.
8. Which is not one of the author's arguments in the fifth paragraph?
- a. Reading gives you a broader perspective on the world.
 - b. Reading changes the way that you understand the world.
 - c. Reading helps prepare you for your job in the real world.
 - d. Reading teaches you about distant lands and cultures.
9. Why does the author believe that reading is good for your mind state?
- a. It has a calming effect.
 - b. It can lower your stress levels.
 - c. It can help you relax.
 - d. All of these
10. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
- a. Reading: Good for the Mind in Many Ways
 - b. Reading: The Key to a Successful Academic Future

c. Reading: Improve Your Vocabulary While Being Entertained

d. Reading: The Best Way to Improve Your Writing Skills

11. Why does the author believe that reading boring or unfamiliar books can be helpful for readers?

Use the text in your response.

12. Why does the author describe reading as a "positive escape"? In what ways is reading positive?

Use evidence from the text to support your response.

COMPREHENSION # 3

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the given questions.

Have you ever heard the sound of a hummingbird? They make a buzzing noise when they fly. They make this noise because they beat their wings so fast. They beat their wings up to 80 times a second. All that

flapping makes a lot of noise. That's why we call them hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds fly in a unique way. They move their wings so fast that they can hover. This means that they can stay in one spot in the middle of the air, like a helicopter. Sometimes they fly or hover upside down. They are the only bird that flies backward.

Hummingbirds are small. One type called the bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny. They are just a little bit bigger than bees. I guess that's where they get their name. Bee hummingbirds build tiny nests. They use cobwebs and bits of bark to make their homes. Their homes are only an inch around. This is big enough for their eggs though. Their eggs are smaller than peas. People have found these tiny nests on a clothespin.

Hummingbirds move fast. It takes lots of energy to move as fast as they do. This means that they need to eat a lot of food. Their favorite food is nectar, a sweet liquid inside of some flowers. They drink more than their own weight in nectar daily. They have to visit hundreds of flowers to get enough nectar to live. They can only store enough energy to survive through the night. They live on the edge.

Hummingbirds don't use their long beaks like straws. They have a tongue just like you. They use their tongues for eating. They flick their tongues in and out of their mouths while inside of flowers. They lap up nectar. Flowers give them the energy that they need.

Hummingbirds help flowers too. They get pollen on their heads and bills when they feed. Flowers use pollen to make seeds. Hummingbirds help pollen get from one flower to the next. This helps flowers make

more seeds. More seeds means more flowers. More flowers means more food for hummingbirds. Isn't it nice how that works out?

After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why are they called hummingbirds?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. They are very light | b. They sing when they fly |
| c. Their wings make a humming sound | d. Their song sounds like humming |

2. How do hummingbirds eat?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. They drink nectar through their beaks like a straw. | b. They chew up flower petals with their beaks. |
| c. They use their heads and bills to eat pollen. | d. They lap up nectar with their tongues. |

3. How do hummingbirds help flowers?
- a. They drink nectar.
 - b. They eat pollen.
 - c. They bring pollen from one flower to the next.
 - d. They plant seeds.
4. According to the text, which does the bee hummingbird use to make nests?
- a. straw
 - b. concrete
 - c. bark
 - d. sticks
5. Which best describes the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
- a. Hummingbirds move fast.
 - b. Hummingbirds like to eat nectar.
 - c. Hummingbirds use lots of energy and eat often.
 - d. Hummingbirds drink their own weight in nectar every day.
6. Which statement about bee hummingbirds is not true?
- a. Bee hummingbird eggs are smaller than peas.
 - b. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny.
 - c. Bee hummingbirds have built nests on clothespins.
 - d. Bee hummingbirds do not grow larger than bees.
7. What is unique about the way that hummingbirds fly?
- a. They can fly faster than any other bird.
 - b. They can fly longer than any other bird.
 - c. They can fly forward and backward.
 - d. They can only fly for a few seconds at a time.
8. Why do flowers need pollen?
- a. Flowers eat pollen.
 - b. Pollen attracts hummingbirds.
 - c. Hummingbirds eat pollen.
 - d. Flowers use pollen to make seeds.
9. Which title best describes the main idea of this text?
- a. Bee Hummingbirds: The World's Smallest Bird
 - b. Pollination: How Birds and Flowers Work Together
 - c. Hummingbirds: Unique and Uniquely Helpful
 - d. Interesting Facts About Birds
10. How do flowers and hummingbirds benefit each other? Refer to the text to support your answer.

Q2 Write a letter to an old friend. Assume you have been out of touch for a very long time. To break the ice & restore the once strong bond between old friends assume possible details & invite him/her to your elder brothers wedding.

Q3. Comparative essay: Galaxy Note 8 vs Iphone X. (Focus on three hardware features & Three software features)

Q4. Write a descriptive essay about your favorite tourist attraction.

Q6. Write an account of your most memorable day be it good or bad.

Q7. Write a persuasive essay on the topic:

" Why E-books are preferable over printed books? "

Direct and Indirect speech

Ex. A: Complete the sentences in reported speech. Note whether the sentence is a request, a statement or a question.

1. He said, "I like this song."

2. "Where is your sister?" she asked me.

3. "I don't speak Italian," she said.

4. "Say hello to Jim," they said.

5. "The film began at seven o'clock," he said.

6. "Don't play on the grass, boys," she said.

7. "Where have you spent your money?" she asked him.

8. "I never make mistakes," he said.

9. "Does she know Robert?" he wanted to know.

10. "Don't try this at home," the stuntman told the audience.

Ex. B: Which of the verb from the box can we put in the blank spaces below so that they make sensible sentences?

Asked	begged	told	advised
Requested	ordered	urged	reminded

1. The accused man _____ the magistrate not to send him to prison. He promised to reform.
2. Sometimes I forgot to take my P.E clothes to school but my mother _____ me in the morning, so I did not forget them.
3. The shop assistant _____ us not to buy the hi-fi set because it was an old model and spare parts were not available.
4. Mary is rather shy, but her friends _____ her to enter the beauty competition. They felt sure that she would win.
5. The old watchman _____ the robbers not to hurt him.
6. The road was flooded, so policeman _____ us not to try to drive through the water. He _____ us turn round and take another route.
7. I _____ my brother not to touch the wet paint but he forgot and put his hand on the door.
8. A policeman _____ Mr. Lee to move his car because it was blocking the entrance to somebody's house.
9. I _____ my brother not to turn the light out until I had finished my work.
10. The doctor _____ my grandfather not to worry about the operation. He said it was only a minor one.

Verbs (Tenses)

Ex. A: Identify the Tense in the following sentences.

1. I shall answer the letter to-night.
2. I knew he was there for I had seen him come.
3. I am hoping to get a holiday soon.
4. We have heard a strange story.
5. I have been living here fro months.
6. She loves to eat ice-creams.
7. If he was guilty, his punishment was too late.
8. It has been raining all night.
9. He takes, but little pride in his work.
10. I wish my brother were here.
11. The king had never before led his troops in the battle.
12. The farmer is cutting the corn which has ripened.
13. It has just struck ten.
14. He has been sleeping for five hours.
15. I had written the letter before he arrived.

Ex. B: Choose the correct verb form from those in brackets.

1. The earth _____ round the sun. (move, moves, moved)
2. My friend _____ the Prime Minister yesterday. (see, have seen, saw)
3. I _____ him only one letter up to now. (sent, have sent, send)
4. She _____ worried about something. (looks, looking, is looking)
5. It started to rain while we _____ tennis. (are playing, were playing, had played)
6. He _____ fast when the accident happened. (is driving, was driving, drove)
7. I _____ English for five years. (study, am studying, have been studying)
8. He _____ out five minutes ago. (has gone, had gone, went)
9. She _____ unconscious since four o' clock. (is, was has been)
10. I know all about that film because I _____ it twice. (saw, have seen, had seen)
11. The town _____ its appearance completely since 1980. (is changing, changed, has changed)
12. Here are your shoes; I _____ them. (just clean, just cleaned, have just cleaned)
13. The headmaster _____ to speak to you. (wants, is wanting, was wanting)
14. Look! The sun _____ over the hills. (rises, is rise, is rising)
15. He _____ T.V most evenings. (watches, is watch, is watching)
16. I _____ Rahim at the zoo. (saw, have seen, had seen)
17. When I _____ my dinner, I went to bed. (had, have had, had had)
18. We _____ our breakfast half an hour ago. (finished, have finished, had finished)

Phrasal Verbs

Read the passage about one person’s difficulty in waking up on time. Then answer the questions that follow.

For his whole life, Nick has never been able to **get up** early. When he was in elementary school, his mother would set the alarm clock for 6:00 AM, but it would not **wake him up**. When Nick was in high school, his alarm clock would **go off**, but he simply **turned it off** and **went back** to sleep. Every morning his father would shout, “**Come on**, Nick! You’re going to be late.” The shouting did not help, however. On a few days, Nick would **show up** two hours late! Nick knew that his school would not **put up with** this situation much longer. His parents were frustrated, but they could not **give up**.

One day Nick’s mom **came across** a blog on the Internet where people were sharing their stories about oversleeping and different solutions they had **come up with** to solve their problems. After **going over** a few of these stories and realizing there could be an underlying health issue, Nick’s mother **made up** her mind that the best advice was to **look for** a sleep specialist on the Internet. After **checking out** several websites, Nick’s mom **found out** about a specialist for her son’s condition. She **called him up** and left a message. The next day, the doctor **called her back** to talk about Nick’s situation. Now the family is **counting on** him to help solve Nick’s problem.

1. Give the meaning of all the phrasal verbs written in bold, in the passage.

2. Use any 5 of these phrasal verbs in your sentences.

Participle as adjectives

Choose the correct adjective from the bracket.

1. I am so (relaxed / relaxing) that I don't want to move.
2. I find horror films really (frightened / frightening) and not at all fun to watch.
3. Sometimes I get really (frustrated / frustrating) when I can't express myself well in English.
4. We were stopped by a man with a knife who took our money. It was (terrified / terrifying).
5. The program was really (interested / interesting).
6. She was (overwhelmed / over whelming) when everyone cheered and we gave her presents.
7. If I feel stressed, I find taking a bath is often (relaxed/ relaxing).
8. My nephew was (amused / amusing) by the clown.
9. I thought her idea was absolutely (fascinated / fascinating) .
10. The journey was (exhausted / exhausting) ! Twelve hours by bus!
11. The film was so (depressed / depressing) ! There was no happy ending for any of the characters.
12. We are going in a helicopter? How (excited/ exciting)
13. It's okay, it's only me. Don't be (alarmed/ alarming)
14. She looked very (confused / confusing) when I told her we had to change the plan.
15. My niece is (terrify/ terrified) of dogs.

Ex. B: Tick the correct answer.

1. This treatment is really great. It makes me feel so _____.
- relaxed
 - relaxing
2. I didn't like that movie. I thought it was too _____.
- depressed
 - depressing
3. He wasn't _____ with my response.
- satisfied
 - satisfying
4. What an _____ situation!
- embarrassed
 - embarrassing
5. I can't talk anymore because I'm really _____.
- tired
 - tiring
6. My grandmother's ankles were _____ from walking so much.
- swelled
 - swollen
7. Most of the fans were _____ with the concert.
- disappointing
 - disappointed
8. This is _____ news!
- excited
 - exciting

Homophones

Ex. A: Insert each pair of homophones correctly in the spaces in the following sentences.

The daring _____ swam out to the _____ which was moored some distance from the shore. (buoy; boy)

1. The grass on the race _____ is rather _____. (course; coarse)
2. We shall have to buy a new _____ for the boat before we advertise it for _____. (sail; sale)
3. The cross-country runner vaulted over the _____ in fine _____. (style; stile)
4. Mother _____ Sandra had bought a _____ dress. (knew; new)
5. Everyone started to _____ as the full-back kicked the _____ into the crowd. (bawl; ball)
6. The _____ of both liners were tiered after their long Mediterranean _____. (cruise; crews)
7. The _____ of directors were _____ by the chairman's long speech. (bored; board)
8. Janet _____ Joan a bottle of violet _____. (scent; sent)
9. The children told _____ father that _____ was a holiday on Friday. (there; their)

Ex. B: Rewrite each sentence below, using the correct word in place of the one misspelt.

1. The children watched the plain take off from the runway.

2. Some people prey every night and morning.

3. The burglar had nerves of steals.

4. The old gentleman had a little hare on top of his head.

5. There is an excellent cereal on television.

6. We took the shortest root to London.

7. Judy asked for another peace of cake.

8. We waited an our for hour dinner.

9. Wilson had just eaten a large current bun.

10. Ann likes to peal every apple she eats.

11. A good housewife is careful to avoid waist.

12. The full-back had a strained mussel and was unable to play.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Ex. A: Each of these lines contain rhyming words. Add two more rhyming words to each line.

1. Hard Card Guard _____
2. Pair Mare Wear _____
3. Date Wait Great _____
4. Buy Cry Sigh _____
5. Must Crust Dust _____
6. Clean Green Machine _____
7. Brain Plane Reign _____
8. Sleigh Stay Pray _____
9. Coat Note Float _____
10. Breed Plead Recede _____

Ex. B: Fit these five pairs of rhyming words into their proper places in the ten lines of poetry which follow.

Spray	best	cheery	light	snow
day	rest	a weary	night	blow

Into the sunshine, full of _____,
Leaping and flashing from morn till _____!
Into the moonlight, whiter than _____,
Waving so flower-like when the winds _____!
Into the starlight, rushing in _____,
Happy at midnight, happy by _____!
Ever in motion, blithesome and _____,
Still climbing heavenward, never _____!
Glad of all weathers, still seeming _____,
Upward or downward motion thy _____.

Ex. C: Write the verse of the poetry, inserting the words below in their correct places.

Plain by battle eye rain ditches cattle witches

Faster than fairies, faster than _____

Bridges and houses, hedges and _____.

And charging along like troops in a _____,

All through the meadows the horses and _____;

All the sights of the hill and the _____

Fly as thick as driving _____;

And, ever again, in the wink of an _____

Painted stations whistle _____.

LITERATURE

Direction: Read the passages carefully and answer the following questions.

Chapter 1

He thought about it for quite a while and then opened the envelope, but just to be polite.

"ONE GENUINE TURNPIKE TOLLBOOTH," it stated—and then it went on:

"EASILY ASSEMBLED AT HOME, AND FOR USE BY THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER TRAVELED IN LANDS BEYOND."

"Beyond what?" thought Milo as he continued to read.

"THIS PACKAGE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

"One (1) genuine turnpike tollbooth to be erected according to directions.

"Three (3) precautionary signs to be used in a precautionary fashion.

"Assorted coins for use in paying tolls.

"One (1) map, up to date and carefully drawn by master cartographers, depicting natural and man-made features.

"One (1) book of rules and traffic regulations, which may not be bent or broken."

And in smaller letters at the bottom it concluded: "Results are not guaranteed, but if not perfectly satisfied, your wasted time will be refunded."

Following the instructions, which told him to cut here, lift there, and fold back all around, he soon had the tollbooth unpacked and set up on its stand. He fitted the windows in place and attached the roof, which extended out on both sides and fastened on the coin box. It was very much like the tollbooths he'd seen many times on family trips, except of course it was much smaller and purple.

"What a strange present," he thought to himself. "The least they could have done was to send a highway with it, for it's terribly impractical without one." But since, at the time, there was nothing else he wanted to play with, he set up the three signs,

SLOW DOWN APPROACHING TOLLBOOTH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR FARE READY

HAVE YOUR DESTINATION IN MIND

and slowly unfolded the map.

As the announcement stated, it was a beautiful map, in many colors, showing principal roads, rivers and seas, towns and cities, mountains and valleys, intersections and detours, and sites of outstanding interest both beautiful and historic.

The only trouble was that Milo had never heard of any of the places it indicated, and even the names sounded most peculiar.

"I don't think there really is such a country," he concluded after studying it carefully. "Well, it doesn't matter anyway." And he closed his eyes and poked a finger at the map.

"Dictionopolis," read Milo slowly when he saw what his finger had chosen. "Oh, well, I might as well go there as anywhere."

He walked across the room and dusted the car off carefully. Then, taking the map and rule book with him, he hopped in and, for lack of anything better to do, drove slowly up to the tollbooth. As he deposited his coin and rolled past he remarked wistfully, "I do hope this is an interesting game, otherwise the afternoon will be so terribly dull."

1) List the things Milo found in the package.

2) Why did Milo find the present strange?

3) What were the signs about?

4) Describe the Map he found in the package.

5) "I do hope this is an interesting game, otherwise the afternoon will be so terribly dull." Explain.

Chapter 2

Once through the tollbooth, Milo finds himself speeding along a country highway. He is shocked to discover that the tollbooth was no toy at all. Since it is a beautiful day on the road, he continues on his trip. Before long, he arrives at Expectations where an excitable little man rushes up to his car. The Whether Man, has a habit of saying everything three times. In response to Milo's questions about how to reach Dictionopolis, the Whether Man talks nonstop about navigation and the weather.

Milo presses on, leaving Expectations. The road gets increasingly curvy and repetitive. Bored by the seemingly endless circles, Milo's mind begins to wander and he becomes very drowsy. The car also seems to tire and grinds to a halt. As he sits, almost asleep, a distant voice informs Milo that he is in the Doldrums.

After looking around, Milo realizes there is a tiny man sitting on his shoulder who changes color to match it. He then notices a number of little people around him hiding like chameleons. They introduce themselves as the Lethargians and describe their idle lives in the Doldrums, explaining that thinking and laughing are both outlawed.

Suddenly a large dog with a clock for a body comes running up, frightening the Lethargians away. The watchdog whose job it is to make sure nobody wastes time, suspiciously asks Milo what he is doing in the Doldrums. When Milo replies that he is "just killing time," the watchdog becomes furious and tells Milo that the only thing worse than wasting time is killing it. He tells Milo that if he wants to leave the Doldrums he only needs to do the opposite of what got him there. Since Milo drifted into the Doldrums by not thinking, he concentrates on thinking and his car begins moving. Soon he is back on his way to Dictionopolis with the watchdog.

1) What was the Whether man's response to Milo's question about reaching Dictionopolis?

2) How did Lethargians look like?

3) Who helped Milo get out of the doldrums?

4) What was the job of watchdog?

5) Explain the following line.

"He was shocked to discover that the tollbooth was no toy at all."

Chapter 3

"When my brother was born, the first pup in the family, my parents were overjoyed and immediately named him Tick in expectation of the sound they were sure he'd make. On first winding him, they discovered to their horror that, instead of going ticktickticktick, he went tocktocktocktocktock. They rushed to the Hall of Records to change the name, but too late. It had already been officially inscribed, and nothing could be done. When I arrived, they were determined not to make the same mistake twice and, since it seemed logical that all their children would make the same sound, they named me Tock. Of course, you know the rest—my brother is called Tick because he goes tocktocktocktocktock and I am called Tock because I go tickticktickticktick and both of us are forever burdened with the wrong names. My parents were so overwrought that they gave up having any more children and devoted their lives to doing good work among the poor and hungry."

"But how did you become a watchdog?" interjected Milo, hoping to change the subject, as Tock was sobbing quite loudly now.

"That," he said, rubbing a paw in his eye, "is also traditional. My family have always been watchdogs—from father to son, almost since time began.

"You see," he continued, beginning to feel better, "once there was no time at all, and people found it very inconvenient. They never knew whether they were eating lunch or dinner, and they were always missing trains. So time was invented to help them keep track of the day and get places when they should. When they began to count all the time that was available, what with 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in an hour and 24 hours in a day and 365 days in a year, it seemed as if there was much more than could ever be used. 'If there's so much of it, it couldn't be very valuable,' was the general opinion, and it soon fell into disrepute. People wasted it and even gave it away. Then we were given the job of seeing that no one wasted time again," he said, sitting up proudly. "It's hard work but a

noble calling. For you see"—and now he was standing on the seat, one foot on the windshield, shouting with his arms outstretched—"it is our most valuable possession, more precious than diamonds. It marches on, it and tide wait for no man, and—"

At that point in the speech the car hit a bump in the road and the watchdog collapsed in a heap on the front seat with his alarm again ringing furiously.

"Are you all right?" shouted Milo.

"Umphh," grunted Tock. "Sorry to get carried away, but I think you get the point."

As they drove along, Tock continued to explain the importance of time, quoting the old philosophers and poets and illustrating each point with gestures that brought him perilously close to tumbling headlong from the speeding automobile.

1) Why was the watchdog named Tock?

2) Why do you think time was invented?

3) Why did Tock excuse Milo?

4) R.T.C "Sorry to get carried away, but I think you get the point."

5) What did Tock explain as Milo continued driving?

Chapter 4

"Just about," replied the bee with a hint of pride in his voice. "You see, years ago I was just an ordinary bee minding my own business, smelling flowers all day, and occasionally picking up part-time work in people's bonnets. Then one day I realized that I'd never amount to anything without an education and, being naturally adept at spelling, I decided that—"

"BALDERDASH!" shouted a booming voice. And from around the wagon stepped a large beetlelike insect dressed in a lavish coat, striped pants, checked vest, spats, and a derby hat. "Let me repeat—BALDERDASH!" he shouted again, swinging his cane and clicking his heels in mid-air. "Come now, don't be ill-mannered. Isn't someone going to introduce me to the little boy?"

"This," said the bee with complete disdain, "is the Humbug. A very dislikable fellow."

"NONSENSE! Everyone loves a Humbug," shouted the Humbug. "As I was saying to the king just the other day—"

"You've never met the king," accused the bee angrily. Then, turning to Milo, he said, "Don't believe a thing this old fraud says."

"BOSH!" replied the Humbug. "We're an old and noble family, honorable to the core—*Insertions Humbugium*, if I may use the Latin. Why, we fought in the crusades with Richard the Lion Heart, crossed the Atlantic with Columbus, blazed trails with the pioneers, and today many members of the family hold prominent government positions throughout the world. History is full of Humbugs."

"A very pretty speech—s-p-e-e-c-h," sneered the bee. "Now why don't you go away? I was just advising the lad of the importance of proper spelling."

"BAH!" said the bug, putting an arm around Milo. "As soon as you learn to spell one word, they ask you to spell another. You can never catch up—so why bother? Take my advice, my boy, and forget about it. As my great-great-great-grandfather George Washington Humbug used to say—"

"You, sir," shouted the bee very excitedly, "are an impostor—i-m-p-o-s-t-o-r—who can't even spell his own name."

"A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt intellect," roared the Humbug, waving his cane furiously.

Milo didn't have any idea what this meant, but it seemed to infuriate the Spelling Bee, who flew down and knocked off the Humbug's hat with his wing. "Be careful," shouted Milo as the bug swung his cane again, catching the bee on the foot and knocking over the box of W's.

"My foot!" shouted the bee.

"My hat!" shouted the bug—and the fight was on.

The Spelling Bee buzzed dangerously in and out of range of the Humbug's wildly swinging cane as they menaced and threatened each other, and the crowd stepped back out of danger.

"There must be some other way to—" began Milo.

And then he yelled, "WATCH OUT," but it was too late.

There was a tremendous crash as the Humbug in his great fury tripped into one of the stalls, knocking it into another, then another, then another, until every stall in the market place had been upset and the words lay scrambled in great confusion all over the square.

The bee, who had tangled himself in some bunting, toppled to the ground, knocking Milo over on top of him, and lay there shouting, "Help! Help! There's a little boy on me." The bug sprawled untidily on a mound of squashed letters and Tock, his alarm ringing persistently, was buried under a pile of words.

1) What caused confusion in the market?

2) What was the story shared by Spelling bee about herself?

3) What background did Humbug share about himself?

4) Why was Humbug considered to be a dislikable fellow?

5) R.T.C. "A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt intellect,"

Chapter 5

The spilled letters get all mixed up, and, as a result, sentences don't make sense. Someone shouts, "Done what you've looked" instead of "Look what you've done." The letters are cleaned up, and Officer Shrift, an extremely short and wide policeman, arrives. He questions everyone and tells Milo to turn off Tock's alarm, which is ringing. He lists their crimes as causing confusion, "upsetting the applecart, wreaking havoc, and mincing words." The officer says he is also the judge and gives Milo the shortest sentence he knows: "I am." He then takes Milo and Tock to the jail and tells them he will be back in six million years.

In jail, Milo and Tock meet a *which*, not a *witch*, named Faintly Macabre. She tells them that she once was in charge of "choosing which words were to be used for all occasions." She hung up signs all over that said, "Brevity is the soul of wit." She kept changing the sayings on the signs until finally she ended up with, "Silence is golden." This made talk stop, and words were no longer sold. For this, the king sent her to jail where she has remained for years. There was no replacement which, so people started using as many words as they wanted to. Milo pledges to help her when he is released from jail, but she tells him that only "the return of Rhyme and Reason" can help her. **not sponsor**

1. Why did Milo go to prison?

2. Who was a prisoner with Milo? Describe her.

3. What kind of witch was she? What was her job before prison?

4. Why is the Which in dungeon?

5. What did she tell Milo about Rhyme and Reason?

Chapter 6

Faintly Macabre tells the story of how the Kingdom of Wisdom was built by a prince who arrived by ship on the Sea of Knowledge. The prince had two sons, and when they were older he told them to grow the kingdom. One son built Dictionopolis and the other son "went north to the Mountains of Ignorance and built Digitopolis." They were the cities of words and numbers. The two brothers were "suspicious and jealous. Each one tried to outdo the other." They argued over which was more important—words or numbers.

The king had always wanted a daughter. One day, he discovered a basket holding two baby girls with golden hair. He named them Rhyme and Reason, and he and the queen raised them as their own. After the king died, the two sons were responsible for taking care of the two princesses. The sons became known as Azaz the Unabridged, who was the king of Dictionopolis, and the Mathemagician, who was the ruler of Digitopolis. The princesses had the ability to "settle all controversies fairly and reasonably," and people came from other lands to ask for advice. The two sons sought their advice as well, since the Princess of Sweet Rhyme and the Princess of Pure Reason could solve any problem. The princesses decided that words and numbers were of equal importance, declaring that both kingdoms should live in peace. This angered the two brothers, and they banished the princesses to the Castle in the Air, leaving the kingdom with "neither Rhyme nor Reason."

Faintly Macabre tells Milo and Tock that they can leave jail whenever they want, and shows them the button on the wall that opens the door. They escape and are invited to the royal palace by the king's advisers.

1. Who are Rhyme and Reason?

2. How is the Which ever going to be free of the dungeon?

3. How do Milo and Tock escape the dungeon?

Chapter 7

Milo and Tock arrive at the palace and notice that it looks like a book. The other guests are the people previously seen in the market place. When Officer Shrift sees Milo, he is surprised that six million years have passed so quickly. King Azaz the Unabridged arrives and asks Milo to entertain everyone. Milo says he can't do anything entertaining, and the king tells him that his cabinet members are all able to perform. The duke makes "mountains out of molehills," the minister "splits hairs," the count "makes hay while the sun shines," the earl "leaves no stone unturned," and the undersecretary "hangs by a thread." Milo responds that he can count to a thousand, which disgusts the King, who cares only about words.

Milo is asked to decide the menu for dinner. First he asks for a light meal, and platters filled with lights are served. Then he asks for a square meal, and plates appear that are "heaped high with steaming squares of all sizes and colors." The guests in turn are asked to speak, and each one mentions foods. The Humbug says turkey, the Spelling Bee says hamburgers, and the king names French dishes. The waiters appear carrying the foods mentioned by the guests. Milo tells the king that he didn't know he would be eating his words. The guests feel sorry for Milo so they throw suggestions at him, offering him delicacies like a rigmarole, ragamuffin, synonym bun, and his "just desserts." The guests get wild, and when the duke says it is "in one ear and out the other," he tries to push his words through the earl's head. The count shouts, "Out of the frying pan into the fire" and burns himself.

When it's time for dessert, the king explains that the pastry chefs in "the half bakery" are creating "half-baked ideas." The dessert carts are filled with half-baked or unrealistic ideas such as "the earth is flat," "the moon is made of green cheese," and "everything happens for the best."

1. What did the palace of Dictionopolis look like?

2. Describe King Azaz.

3. During the banquet, why did everyone give a speech about food?

4. How were they served?

5. What happened after they finished their meal?

Chapter 8

All that he would have to do," continued the worried bug, "is travel through miles of harrowing and hazardous countryside, into unknown valleys and uncharted forests, past yawning chasms and trackless wastes, until he reached Digitopolis (if, of course, he ever reached there). Then he would have to persuade the Mathemagician to agree to release the little princesses—and, of course, he'd never agree to agree to anything that you agreed with. And, anyway, if he did, you certainly wouldn't agree to it.

From there it's a simple matter of entering the mountains of Ignorance, full of perilous pitfalls and ominous overtones—a land to which many venture but few return, and whose evil demons slither slowly from peak to peak in search of prey. Then an effortless climb up a two-thousand-step circular stairway without railings in a high wind at night (for in those mountains it is always night) to the Castle in the Air."

He paused momentarily for breath, then began again.

After a pleasant chat with the princesses, all that remains is a leisurely ride back through those chaotic crags whose frightening fiends have sworn to tear any intruder limb from limb and devour him down to his belt buckle.

And, finally, after the long ride back, a triumphal parade (if, of course, there is anything left to parade) followed by hot chocolate and cookies for everyone." The Humbug bowed low and sat down once again, very pleased with himself.

I never realized it would be so simple," said the king, stroking his beard and smiling broadly.

Quite simple indeed," concurred the bug.

It sounds dangerous to me," said Milo.

Most dangerous, most dangerous," mumbled the Humbug, still trying to be in agreement with everybody.

Who will make the journey?" asked Tock, who had been listening very carefully to the Humbug's description.

A very good question," replied the king. "But there is one far more serious problem.

What is it?" asked Milo, who was rather unhappy at the turn the conversation had taken.

I'm afraid I can tell you that only when you return," cried the king, clapping his hands three times. As he did so, the waiters rushed back into the room and quickly cleared away the dishes, the silver, the tablecloth, the table, the chairs, the banquet hall, and the palace, leaving them all suddenly standing in the market place.

Of course you realize that I would like to make the trip myself," continued Azaz, striding across the square as if nothing had happened; "but, since it was your idea, you shall have all the honor and fame."

But you see—" began Milo.

Dictionopolis will always be grateful, my boy," interrupted the king, throwing one arm around Milo and patting Tock with the other. "You will face many dangers on your journey, but fear not, for I have brought you this for your protection."

He drew from inside his cape a small heavy box about the size of a schoolbook and handed it ceremoniously to Milo.

In this box are all the words I know," he said. "Most of them you will never need, some you will use constantly, but with them you may ask all the questions which have never been answered and answer all the questions which have never been asked. All the great books of the past and all the ones yet to come are made with these words. With them there is no obstacle you cannot overcome. All you must learn to do is use them well and in the right places."

Milo accepted the gift with thanks and the little group walked to the car, still parked at the edge of the square.

You will, of course, need a guide," said the king, "and, since he knows the obstacles so well, the Humbug has cheerfully volunteered to accompany you."

Now see here," cried the startled bug, for that was the last thing in the world he wanted to do.

You will find him dependable, brave, resourceful, and loyal," continued Azaz, and the Humbug was so overcome by the flattery that he quite forgot to object again.

I'm sure he'll be a great help," cried Milo as they drove across the square.

I hope so," thought Tock to himself, for he was far less sure.

Good luck, good luck; do be careful," shouted the king, and down the road they went.

Milo and Tock wondered what strange adventures lay ahead. The Humbug speculated on how he'd ever become involved in such a hazardous undertaking. And the crowd waved and cheered wildly, for, while they didn't care at all about anyone arriving, they were always very pleased to see someone go.

1) What difficulties might Milo and Tock face in reaching Digitopolis?

2) Where were the little princesses kept?

3) What did King Azaz give Milo as a gift?

4) Why did King Azaz ask Humbug to accompany Milo and Tock?

5) How did King Azaz praise Humbug?

CHAPTER 9

Simple," he said proudly. "I'm Alec Bings; I see through things. I can see whatever is inside, behind, around, covered by, or subsequent to anything else. In fact, the only thing I can't see is whatever happens to be right in front of my nose."

Isn't that a little inconvenient?" asked Milo, whose neck was becoming quite stiff from looking up.

It is a little," replied Alec, "but it is quite important to know what lies behind things, and the family helps me take care of the rest. My father sees to things, my mother looks after things, my brother sees beyond things, my uncle sees the other side of every question, and my little sister Alice sees under things."

How can she see under things if she's all the way up there?" growled the Humbug.

Well," added Alec, turning a neat cartwheel, "whatever she can't see under, she overlooks."

Would it be possible for me to see something from up there?" asked Milo politely.

You could," said Alec, "but only if you try very hard to look at things as an adult does."

Milo tried as hard as he could, and, as he did, his feet floated slowly off the ground until he was standing in the air next to Alec Bings. He looked around very quickly and, an instant later, crashed back down to earth again.

"Interesting, wasn't it?" asked Alec.

"Yes, it was," agreed Milo, rubbing his head and dusting himself off, "but I think I'll continue to see things as a child. It's not so far to fall."

"A wise decision, at least for the time being," said Alec. "Everyone should have his own point of view."

"Isn't this everyone's Point of View?" asked Tock, looking around curiously.

"Of course not," replied Alec, sitting himself down on nothing. "It's only mine, and you certainly can't always look at things from someone else's Point of View. For instance, from here that looks like a bucket of water," he said, pointing to a bucket of water; "but from an ant's point of view it's a vast ocean, from an elephant's just a cool drink, and to a fish, of course, it's home. So, you see, the way you see things depends a great deal on where you look at them from. Now, come along and I'll show you the rest of the forest."

He ran quickly through the air, stopping occasionally to beckon Milo, Tock, and the Humbug along, and they followed as well as anyone who had to stay on the ground could.

"Does everyone here grow the way you do?" puffed Milo when he had caught up.

"Almost everyone," replied Alec, and then he stopped a moment and thought. "Now and then, though, someone does begin to grow differently. Instead of down, his feet grow up toward the sky. But we do our best to discourage awkward things like that."

"What happens to *them*?" insisted Milo.

"Oddly enough, they often grow ten times the size of everyone else," said Alec thoughtfully, "and I've heard that they walk among the stars." And with that he skipped off once again toward the waiting woods.

- 1) How did the boy introduce himself?

2) How did Alec's family see things?

3) How did Milo try to copy Alec?

4) How did Alec share different point of views pointing to a bucket of water?

5) Did everyone in the forest grow the same way?

Chapter 10

"It should be," was the reply; "we've been practicing since the world began." And, reaching down, the speaker picked Milo off the ground and set him on the music stand. "I am Chroma the Great," he continued, gesturing broadly with his hands, "conductor of color, maestro of pigment, and director of the entire spectrum."

"Do you play all day long?" asked Milo when he had introduced himself.

"Ah yes, all day, every day," he sang out, then pirouetted gracefully around the platform. "I rest only at night, and even then *they* play on."

"What would happen if you stopped?" asked Milo, who didn't quite believe that color happened that way.

"See for yourself," roared Chroma, and he raised both hands high over his head. Immediately the instruments that were playing stopped, and at once all color vanished. The world looked like an enormous coloring book that had never been used. Everything appeared in simple black outlines, and it looked as if someone with a set of paints the size of a house and a brush as wide could stay happily occupied for years. Then Chroma lowered his arms. The instruments began again and the color returned.

"You see what a dull place the world would be without color?" he said, bowing until his chin almost touched the ground. "But what pleasure to lead my violins in a serenade of spring green or hear my trumpets blare out the blue sea and then watch the oboes tint it all in warm yellow sunshine. And rainbows are best of all—and blazing neon signs, and taxicabs with stripes, and the soft, muted tones of a foggy day. We play them all."

As Chroma spoke, Milo sat with his eyes open wide, and Alec, Tock, and the Humbug looked on in wonder.

"Now I really must get some sleep." Chroma yawned. "We've had lightning, fireworks, and parades for the last few nights, and I've had to be up to conduct them. But tonight is sure to be quiet." Then, putting his large hand on Milo's shoulder, he said, "Be a good fellow and watch my orchestra till morning, will you? And be sure to wake me at 5:23 for the sunrise. Good night, good night, Good night."

With that he leaped lightly from the podium and, in three long steps, vanished into the forest.

"That's a good idea," said Tock, making himself comfortable in the grass as the bug grumbled himself quickly to sleep and Alec stretched out in mid-air.

And Milo, full of thoughts and questions, curled up on the pages of tomorrow's music and eagerly awaited the dawn.

1) How did the man on the music stand introduce himself?

2) What would happen if he stopped playing orchestra?

3) When did the piano player rest?

4) At what time did Chroma ask Milo to wake him up?
