



**DISTANCE LEARNING PACKET**

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**READING**

## READING DAY I

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Spider and the Honey Tree: Folktale from Africa**

Once there lived a little girl who was known far and wide for finding the best fruits and good things to eat in the bush. There was also a spider who was very crafty, as well as lazy. One day the spider asked the girl if he could come along as she foraged for food. The girl told him that he could join her if he promised to keep her secrets, and the spider agreed. Shortly thereafter, the girl led him to a small plum tree that no one else knew about. Immediately the spider pushed her aside and ate all of the delicious plums himself. Irritated but hoping this was a one-time occurrence, the girl walked on until she came to a hidden grove of banana trees. As soon as the spider set his eyes on the yellow bananas, he pushed the girl aside again and ate every single one of them. Realizing the spider was a trickster, the girl walked farther into the bush until she came to a tree with golden honey. The spider couldn't see the honey but the girl assured him that it was inside the hole of the bark. The spider climbed in and feasted on the honey until there was no more. Hobbling to the hole in the bark, he realized that he was too large to fit through the hole and was stuck inside the tree. The girl told the spider that he would have been perfectly able to get out of the tree if he wasn't so selfish. The spider pleaded with the girl and cried alligator tears to show how sorry he was, but the girl saw through this and knew he was sorry for being caught, and not sorry for being selfish. The girl turned and walked away, telling the spider goodbye as she walked through the bush to a grove of orange trees.

1. Which characteristics describe the spider? Cite text evidence to support your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How much of the honey did the spider eat? Cite text evidence to support your answer.

## READING DAY 2

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### The Grocery Store

Mrs. Thompson used to be a nurse when she was younger. Now she was retired and on her own. Her husband of 47 years had passed away last year and she lived in a modest home with a little Yorkshire puppy she named Dapper.

On grocery day, Mrs. Thompson drove a mile to the Save Mart store and walked each aisle, looking at all of the things she might make for the week and putting items into her cart to purchase and take home. On this particular grocery trip, Mrs. Thompson noticed a teenager in the bread aisle, who was completely dressed in black. He had several piercings and tattoos as well. As Mrs. Thompson walked past the boy, she averted her eyes and found the kind of wheat bread she always bought and dropped it into the cart. Walking to the checkout, Mrs. Thompson loaded her items to be scanned and then purchased.

Walking into the parking lot, Mrs. Thompson quickly found her old car and popped the trunk, to load the groceries for home. She started to grab the last bag when it ripped open and all of the contents fell to the ground and scattered. Some of the cans even went under the car next to hers. As she sighed, knowing how difficult it would be for her to get all of them, the teenager she had seen in the store walked towards her and offered to help. He picked up each item gently and handed each one to her as she placed them into her trunk. He even crawled under the car next door to hers to retrieve the last of her groceries. When he finished, Mrs. Thompson thanked the teenager sincerely and smiled to herself, appreciating the kindness shown.

1. What is the theme of this story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Summarize the story in two to three sentence.

# READING DAY 3

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Not Invited

Characters: Mom, Michaela, Cameron

{Michaela is walking home from the bus stop and is upset because she hasn't been invited to Sophia's birthday party}

Michaela: (sounding sad) Mom, I'm home.

Mom: Hi, sweetheart. You seem a little down. What's the matter?

Michaela: You know the party I told you about? The one for Sophia? I guess she invited everybody except me.

Mom: I'm so sorry. I know you must feel really badly about that. (turning to Cameron who hasn't heard the conversation and is coming through the front door) Son, hurry and get your things so I can take you to soccer.

Cameron: (looking at Michaela) What's wrong with you? Did your pet rock die? (smiling and walking upstairs)

Michaela: That's not even funny, dork. (walking to her room to put books away)

Mom: (irritated but not mad) Ok, guys, that's enough.

{The next week on Saturday, the day of the party}

Mom: Cameron, are you ready to go? You're going to Dylan's house to play basketball, right?

Cameron: Well, I called Dylan and told him I couldn't make it. I was wondering if you and Michaela and I could go to the movies instead. Kind of thought we needed some family time, right Michaela?  
(Michaela hugs him)

1. What is the theme of this drama?

2. Summarize this drama in two or three sentences.

## READING DAY 4

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Snowbirds

One day I heard my mom talking about my grandparents and she said that they were snowbirds.

I had never heard this term before, so I asked her what it meant. She explained that they lived in

New York City when the weather was warm but when the weather started to get cold, my grandparents

traveled to their second home in Destin, Florida. They were just like birds that migrated south for the winter, snowbirds!

We don't live in New York City, but I have visited my grandparents there for spring break. They live in an apartment in the middle of downtown. Instead of walking up to their front door, you go inside the apartment building and there's a doorman who lets you through the entryway and up the elevator to their apartment on the 17th floor. Once you go inside, it doesn't really feel like an apartment anymore but just feels like their home. It is full of old sofas with lots of cozy pillows, knick-knacks on tables, books crowding the shelves, and family pictures everywhere the eye can see. It has a certain smell too. Not a bad smell but just an old smell. Like a museum that's been around for a long time.

My favorite thing to do with my grandparents is to visit them when they live in Destin for the winter. When we have winter break each year, that's usually where we go. They have a one story, tiny house about three blocks from the beach with these huge palm trees in the front. When you walk through the door, their home is full of big flowery sofas, with lots of soft pillows, seashell decorations, bowls of hard candies on the coffee table, and stacks of books everywhere. The best part though is the basket full of beach toys, waiting for us to use.

1. Compare: How are the settings alike?

2. Contrast: How are the settings different?

# READING DAY 5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading: Nature Camp

Our fifth grade class goes to Nature Camp for four days every spring. We store our luggage under the bus and then find our seats for the three hour drive. Once we get there, we're greeted by the camp supervisor who explains camp rules and tells us what to expect for the next few days. Our first class is botany and we meet our docent who explains about the way plants get oxygen and water for photosynthesis. The best part was this goofy song that we got to sing together. Now that it's stuck in my head, I'll never forget how photosynthesis works.

The next day we went into the forest and learned about biodiversity. I didn't realize that having lots of different plants and animals in an ecosystem was such a good thing. Once we talked about the food webs that were present in the forest, it made more sense to me. We did an activity where we counted the number and type of trees in a small area and determined if that area was healthy or not.

When that class was over, I was ravenous. I think I climbed the hill in record time to make it to the cafeteria for lunch. Once we sat down, we were served a meal of hamburgers and potato wedges with fruit, and it was the most delicious meal I can remember! After eating so much, we all felt a little sluggish and moved more slowly as we made our way to the next outdoor lesson: survival skills!

Use context clues to determine the words below. Circle the letter with the correct definition.

- |             |            |                |                          |
|-------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Docent   | A. Teacher | B. Custodian   | C. Parent Helper         |
| 2. Sluggish | A. Smart   | B. Energetic   | C. Tired and slow moving |
| 3. Ravenous | A. Tired   | B. Very hungry | C. Very sad              |

## Language: Perfect Verb Tense

The three perfect verb tenses show that an action is already completed. Although these are all in the past, their forms are called past, present, or future. Look to the helping verb for clues to tense (have, had, will have).

Look at the underlined verb tense and write PA for Past, PR for Present, and F for Future.

1. \_\_\_\_ When my dad drove us to the mall, I knew we had been to that store before.
2. \_\_\_\_ I think that my mom has finished painting the kitchen.
3. \_\_\_\_ My best friend's teacher had been worried about him when he was sick.
4. \_\_\_\_ I believe that all of the basketball players have left the basketball court.
5. \_\_\_\_ We will have seen them at the back to school dinner.
6. \_\_\_\_ They had finished eating before the awards banquet started.

Write a sentence using one of these perfect verb forms: have seen, had seen, will have seen. Circle the perfect verb tense in the sentence you write.

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