



**DISTANCE LEARNING PACKET**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**ELA**



# Day 1 6th gr.

Fiction: Fairy Tales/Folklore



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BUYER BEWARE

Once there was a young lad. He walked each day to the marketplace to sell his wares. It was a hard life, but the young lad had no complaints. He worked from sun-up until sun down. He knew that one day his hard work would pay off.

One day, as the young lad made his way to the marketplace, he could see a large wagon filled with goods. The young lad set down his bundle of baskets. Greed began to fill his heart.

"I could buy these flowers and sell them for a higher price. The land is barren, and I know I could sell them quickly," he thought.

So with that, the young lad offered his bundle of goods in exchange for the flowers. The young lad and the seller made their deal.

The young lad made his way to the marketplace. He laid out his flowers and waited for the ladies to come purchase his flowers. But the heat of the sun took its toll on the flowers, and without any water nearby, they soon wilted. The young lad realized his mistake. He looked over at the man selling his goods.

The next day, the young lad saw the man with a wagon full of fruit. The man asked the young lad if he wanted to trade. The young lad saw money in the man's eyes and said simply, "It is better to work for my fortune than to wish it away."

## STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *wares* as used in the passage?
  - a. fruits and vegetables
  - b. merchandise
  - c. pots and pans
  - d. none of the above
2. What can you learn about the young lad in this story?
  - a. He took pity on his fellow sellers.
  - b. He is very good with animals.
  - c. He learned his lesson.
  - d. He wants to open a new store.
3. What is the moral of the story?
  - a. There is no such thing as quick and easy wealth.
  - b. It is better to give than receive.
  - c. One for all and all for one.
  - d. The early bird gets the worm.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MASKING THE ODOR

There once was a farmer who had over a hundred cows. He milked them each day and set them out into the pasture at night. His neighbor, a banker, had just moved in next door. The banker wanted to move to the country to enjoy the views.

On the first night, the banker sat outside to enjoy the sunset. He could scarcely breathe. The stench from the cows was so great. Disgusted, he went indoors. The next evening, he tried to enjoy the sunset again but was forced to go back inside because of the smell.

He finally decided that the farmer would have to go. The banker had a lot of money, so he offered to buy the farm.

“Yes, I will sell you the farm, but it will take me at least a week to sell the cows and take care of them. Would you be willing to wait a week?” asked the farmer.

The banker decided he could do that. At the end of the week, the banker approached the farmer again. The farmer wondered if they could wait until his visiting brother left. The banker consented. A month passed. The farmer approached the banker hesitantly to see if he still wanted the farm.

“Why, no,” replied the banker. “You keep it.”

The farmer smiled to himself. He knew that by making the banker wait, it would allow time for the banker to get used to the awful smell of the cows.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which paragraph states the conflict in this story?
  - a. second paragraph
  - b. first paragraph
  - c. third paragraph
  - d. fifth paragraph
2. What is the conflict or problem of this story?
  - a. The farmer doesn't know how to keep away the smell.
  - b. The farmer is worried about offending the banker.
  - c. The farmer's cows are extra smelly.
  - d. The banker is unhappy with the smell of the cows.
3. What is the meaning of the word *hesitantly* as used in the passage?
 

a. dejectedly	c. decidedly
b. offensively	d. cautiously

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER 1**

**The Parts of Speech**

(pages 2-29)

Day 2  
6th  
Gr.

**Finding Nouns**

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

◆ Underline the nouns in each sentence.

1. Coral comes from an animal in the ocean that is known as a coral polyp.
2. The polyp can be smaller than a fingernail.
3. The polyp secretes a chemical to form a skeletal "house."
4. When a polyp dies, a new generation grows on the skeleton.
5. Millions of these skeletons form reefs of coral.
6. The reefs grow in the shallow oceans near the equator.
7. Reefs provide homes to billions of creatures.
8. Living reefs host one of every four species that live in the ocean.
9. At half an inch a year, colonies of coral grow slowly.
10. Commercial fishers, chemical runoff, and the aquarium industry are destroying the beauty of the reefs.

## CHAPTER 1 The Parts of Speech (pages 2–29)

### Finding Common and Proper Nouns

**Nouns** may also be classified as common and proper nouns. A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, or thing.

◆ Underline the nouns in each sentence. Above each one, label *C* for common noun or *P* for proper noun. (A date is considered a proper noun.)

1. Franz Joseph Haydn was born in Rohrau, Austria.
2. "Papa" Haydn was one of the greatest composers of the classical period.
3. Mozart and Beethoven were influenced by Haydn's development of the sonata form.
4. Young Haydn studied in Vienna, a city in Austria.
5. In 1762, Haydn entered the service of Prince Nicolaus, who helped Haydn develop as a composer.
6. The prince gave Haydn a huge musical staff.
7. Haydn's schedule included daily performances of chamber music and four weekly performances.
8. For these occasions Haydn composed new works.
9. Haydn's fame spread, first to Vienna and then throughout Europe.
10. His most famous choral work is entitled *The Creation*.

# Day 3/6th Gr.

Nonfiction: Animals



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE OCTOPUS

The word *octopus* means eight feet. That is how the octopus got its name. The octopus is an animal that has eight arms that extend from the center. It eats small crabs and scallops along with fish, turtles, and crustaceans. It is even known to eat other octopuses. The octopus is able to catch its prey with its long arms. It then bites the prey and poisons it with a nerve poison. This poison softens the flesh and the octopus is then able to suck the flesh of the animal out of its shell or outer covering.

The octopus can mostly be found hunting during nighttime. Some people fear the octopus, but there is only one octopus that has been known to have a poison that is strong enough to kill a person. This is the Australian blue-ringed octopus.

Along with its eight arms, the octopus has a head with two eyes on either side. It has very good eyesight. The octopus does not have hearing. Each arm has suction cups in two rows. These suction cups help the octopus hold things. It is true that if the octopus loses an arm it will grow back. The octopus also has blue blood.

The octopus lives in dens and crevices of the ocean floor. This protects the octopus from its main predator, the moray eel. It also provides a place for the octopus to lay its eggs. The octopus can squirt black ink as a defense against its enemies.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading this passage, what can you infer about why the octopus would squirt black ink?
  - a. The octopus is trying to show dominance.
  - b. The octopus uses the ink to hide from its predators.
  - c. The black ink brings good luck.
  - d. The octopus squirts black ink to scare the predator.
2. This passage is mostly about . . .
  - a. the description of and eating practices of the octopus.
  - b. how an octopus eats.
  - c. anatomy of the octopus.
  - d. how the octopus defends itself.
3. What is the meaning of the word *extend* as used in the passage?
  - a. ingest
  - b. spread
  - c. ignore
  - d. arrange



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TOUCAN

What do you know about the colorful bird called the toucan? Did you know that this bird comes from South America? It is found living in small flocks in the rain forest. This bird does not fly very well. It manages to get around by hopping from tree to tree. The toucan lives in holes in the tree. It makes a croaking sound.

The toucan has brightly colored feathers that are very light. The toucan has four toes on its feet. Two of the toes face forward, and two of the toes face backwards. This helps the toucan grasp the branch of the tree easily and hold on. A large bill protrudes from the front of the toucan. The bill is larger than the toucan's head and is a third of the size of the toucan. The average toucan reaches 20 inches in length. The male toucan is a little bit larger than the female, but unlike many other birds, they have very similar coloration.

Living in the rain forest, the toucan eats mostly fruit but it also eats insects, bird eggs, and tree frogs. The fruit is eaten whole and then the toucan will regurgitate the seeds back up. This allows the seeds to continue growing in the rain forest.

The female toucan lays up to four eggs at a time. These eggs are laid in the holes of the trees where the toucans live. The male and female work together to incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
  - a. "Toucan Paradise."
  - b. "The Rain Forest's Bird."
  - c. "All You Want to Know About the Toucan."
  - d. "Illegal Killing of the Toucan."
2. The author wrote this passage to . . .
  - a. justify keeping the toucan in captivity.
  - b. inform the reader of how toucans are mistreated.
  - c. share general information about the toucan.
  - d. raise awareness of the shrinking numbers of toucans in the rain forest.
3. If you wanted to find out more about toucans, you could . . .
  - a. read a book about how toucans eat.
  - b. read a book about the animals of the rain forest.
  - c. meet somebody that lives in South America.
  - d. watch a television program about the rain forest.



**CHAPTER 1**

**The Parts of Speech**

(pages 2-29)

Day 4  
6th gr.

**Capitalizing Proper Nouns**

◆ Write each sentence and capitalize the proper nouns.

1. mozart and haydn were friends in vienna.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. haydn also taught beethoven.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. On new year's day in 1791, haydn arrived in england.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. haydn wrote twelve symphonies for london, which are called *the london symphonies*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. One of haydn's compositions is entitled *the seasons*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER 1****The Parts of Speech***(pages 2-29)***Finding Nouns**

◆ Underline the nouns in each sentence below.

1. Huge snowdrifts caused Jim Maxwell to arrive late at the auction on a cold day in December.
2. He arrived as a group of horses were being loaded into a truck headed for a slaughterhouse.
3. As Jim watched, he noticed Cassidy, a horse that had worked nine years on a farm.
4. The horse was in bad shape; his ribs stuck out, and mud covered his coat.
5. Jim paid the dealer a few dollars and returned to his family.
6. Because the children showed Cassidy so much affection, he soon fattened up and looked like a new animal.
7. With great sadness Jim had to sell him ten months later to a neighbor, Dr. Mason Adams.
8. Cassidy, however, did not like the idea of new quarters at all.
9. That night, he jumped a fence, ran across a field, wandered through gardens and yards, and returned to Jim.
10. After higher fences did not stop Cassidy, Jim bought him back.

Day 5  
6th Gr.

Fiction: Mystery/Suspense/Adventure



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BEE WARE!

Kirk and Trent were working on their beehive merit badge one afternoon in the middle of the summer. It would be nice for the boys to finally take off their bee netting. They had one last stack of boxes to go. By this time, the chore had become routine. Kirk would send the smoke in to confuse the bees and Trent would begin gathering as much honey as he could.

The accident happened simply enough. It almost seemed unbelievable. As Trent was using his hot knife to scrape the beeswax off the top, he noticed a bee inside his bee netting. At least it looked like a bee. Trent panicked and pulled on his netting to get the bee out. His instinct proved to be a grave mistake. As the netting came down, the bees swarmed up and all over Trent's face and neck.

Trent dropped the bee knife and took off screaming with a trail of bees behind him. Kirk was stunned and at a loss for what to do. Trent was getting stung all over. Kirk raced to Dr. Owen, his scout leader, who was over helping another group of scouts.

"Dr. Owen. Dr. Owen. You've got to come help! Trent is in the lake and he is getting stung by tons of bees!" Mr. Owen raced to the lake and jumped in to help Trent. He got Trent on the ground and administered medicine. It was a good thing Dr. Owen was a family doctor as well as a scout leader!

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *administered* as used in the passage?
  - a. gave
  - b. organized
  - c. trusted
  - d. used
2. According to the passage, what was Trent trying to do when he pulled the netting down?
  - a. He was hanging on tight to the bee knife.
  - b. He was fighting the bees that were swarming around him.
  - c. He wanted to get the bee out that had gotten inside the netting.
  - d. He was tired of doing the bee thing and was ready to call it quits.
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
  - a. reread the entire passage.
  - b. reread the second paragraph and determine the main idea.
  - c. reread the last two paragraphs.
  - d. skim the passage and look for clues.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROCKS

Brett cinched his rope a little tighter around his waist and maneuvered his left foot into his next hold position. The sun was beating down on his neck.

"How are you doing down there?" called Evan from up above.

"Doing well, thanks," replied Brett.

Evan had been teaching Brett how to rappel and rock climb all summer long. Evan had been doing it for years. The exhilaration that came from being at the top of the mountain or rock was worth more than the risk for Brett. But he knew that any-minute, a rope could slip and he would be a goner.

Evan continued to climb higher and in the process sent a few small rocks down on Brett. Brett closed his eyes to avoid getting hit. As he opened his eyes he heard a loud yell and he saw Evan's body flash in front of him.

"Oh, no!" thought Brett. "Evan has fallen."

Brett froze and didn't know what to do next. He could still hear Evan yelling, so he knew that was a good sign. Brett heard Evan smash up against something. At least he had broken his fall. Nothing but silence came from below.

"Hey Ev?" asked Brett. "Are you okay?"

"Uhhhhhh," moaned Evan.

Brett knew that he had to get down and help Evan. He was scared. Thoughts of Evan's instructions went through his mind. Brett inched his way down closer and closer to Evan. He could still hear Evan moaning. Oh, if he could just go faster!

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which word best describes how Brett was feeling at the beginning of the passage?
  - hesitant and concentrating
  - happy and content
  - relieved and tired
  - stressed and overwhelmed
- Which sentence explains the problem in the story?
  - Brett's an expert rock climber.
  - Brett is worried that he won't be as good as Evan.
  - Evan has fallen and needs Brett's help.
  - Brett doesn't know how to rock climb.
- What is the meaning of the word *maneuvered* as used in the passage?
  - driven
  - aligned
  - moved
  - realized