

## Answer Key

Books were everywhere, and Mrs. Tuttle, the person responsible for the books, was getting frantic. Her predicament started in October when (odd, hair, **she**) found the book supply running low.

(Her, That, **Mrs.**) Tuttle was a very organized person. (**She**, Even, Only) ordered more books immediately, requesting that (**they**, more, all) be delivered by air. Air mail (cup, **was**, just) always the speediest way to receive (mail, **books**, cloud). By November, it was obvious that (morning, uniform, **someone**) messed up somewhere. She was sure (age, get, **she**) had not ordered this many books!

(**As**, By, He) usual, flocks of birds delivered the (show, **books**, lemon). Mrs. Tuttle would find the birds (disregard, waiting, **gathered**) on the steps of her library (her, **in**, the) the morning. Each bird would flap (one, saw, **its**) wings and remove the leather bound (**books**, around, caught) tied to its legs by straps (was, to, **of**) ribbon. They would wait for her (it, **to**, or) unlock the doors with her skeleton (dew, less, **key**). Some days they were not patient, (low, **and**, had) they would peck holes in her (bead, gift, **socks**). She would end up shouting, "Stop! (do, **I**, as) am moving as quickly as I (way, **can**, but)!"

Mrs. Tuttle was usually cool and (necklace, abruptly, **composed**), but now she was beside herself (hues, **with**, way) worry. She did not have enough (black, once, **room**) in her library for this many (middle, **books**, path).

"That's it! I've had enough! Someone (**will**, deny, true) have to call off these birds," (box, **Mrs.**, all) Tuttle screamed one afternoon. A flock (had, so, **of**) flamingos with packs of dictionaries had (back, **just**, held) stumbled through the doors. She marched (lost, best, **over**) to the telephone, dialed, and waited. (**She**, Page, Back) tapped her foot in annoyance.

"Hello, (gift, black, **this**) is Mrs. Tuttle from the library. (Outside, **Someone**, Pasture) will have to call off this (attention, stockings, **multitude**) of birds. I have more than (someone, **enough**, already) books."

"You can never have enough (**books**, share, black)," said the person who answered the (cheerless, completely, **telephone**). The voice sounded different to Mrs. (woman, **Tuttle**, clouds), as if the speaker had a (**beak**, lost, sugar).

"I have stacks of books here (explain, **taller**, mundane) than I am," Mrs. Tuttle huffed.

(White, **Just**, Soon) then a hummingbird fluttered by her (intricate, dreamed, **shoulder**) carrying a tiny book of poems. (Told, They, **Mrs.**) Tuttle gave the bird one of (that, **her**, saw) sternest looks, but instead of flying (where, many, **away**), the bird began to chirp and (**sing**, when, calm). Mrs. Tuttle sighed and slowly hung (bow, **up**, far) the receiver.

"My, you're pretty," she (ash, **told**, slice) the hummingbird. "Can you help me (fantasized, surrounds, **straighten**) out this mess?"

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## Answer Key

Bridget Baxter lived in a black and white world. Her stockings were black and white (**striped**, shrimp, looking), her school uniform was black and (fresh, **white**, sugar) checkered, and her father's automobile was (fruit, cereal, **black**). Her hair was an odd shade (by, as, **of**) gray and so were her eyes, (more, **ears**, food), and feet.

It seemed that Bridget (the, hair, **was**) the only one in her world (up, **who**, was) noticed the problem. Everything seemed boring (egg, **and**, cool) mundane in shades of black and (brown, broad, **white**). Bridget dreamed of something more. She (**fantasized**, breakfast, gathering) of a world in color, even (rapidly, **though**, another) she couldn't explain to anyone exactly (these, **what**, lunch) color was all about.

"It's just (frequent, predicted, **different**)," she told her grandmother one morning (**over**, long, girl) a cup of foggy tea with (on, so, **a**) lump of colorless sugar and a (onion, **slice**, bites) of uninspiring lemon.

"It's uplifting and (gathering, especially, **wonderful**). If only I could show you (own, most, **the**) ideas I have in my head."

"(By, In, **I**) thought the same thing when I (try, **was**, were) your age too, Bridget," her grandmother (**told**, want, hear) her. "It's best to focus on (words, cold, **your**) homework, dear, and get your head (have, **out**, nest) of the clouds."

That night, Bridget (practice, hesitantly, **attempted**) to focus on the black and (taste, going, **white**) pages of her books, but she (humans, **failed**, another). Instead, she slipped outside where the (book, list, **sky**) was the cheerless color of ashes (yet, **and**, new) walked across the empty pastures and (**paddocks**, flapjack, meatball). Bridget disregarded her surroundings until she (your, fill, **was**) completely lost. Then she noticed a (frown, **black**, winter)-caped woman waiting in the middle (by, **of**, so) her path.

"Are you the one (lazy, twigs, **that's**) looking for something more?" the woman (toast, place, **asked**).

Bridget was about to deny the (onion, wants, **truth**) when she saw something around the (feeder, **woman's**, thing) neck that caught her attention. It (all, **was**, were) a color that Bridget had never (going, hoard, **seen**) before.

"Do you like it?" the (please, black, **woman**) asked. She pulled back her hair (**and**, fill, told) showed Bridget her necklace. Then she (squirrel, depends, **stopped**) abruptly and held an intricate box (spun, over, **out**) to Bridget. "Take it," she said. (Eye, **The**, Out) box was filled with colorful beads (can, **of**, do) all different shades and hues.

"Go (**on**, for, may) with you now," the woman shouted, "(then, own, **and**) share your gift."

Bridget swung around (your, **and**, stew) then turned back. "Thank you," she (behind, caught, **shouted**), but the woman had already vanished (full, as, **and**) the pasture was black

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once again. (**Bridget**, Necklace, Children) clutched her box with excitement and (rely, look, **ran**) all the way home to show (will, **her**, are) grandmother.

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## Answer Key

After supper one evening, while Harry was exploring the forest, he came upon something extraordinary. A squirrel's nest that once rested (shadow, suspect, **snugly**) between the branches of one of (did, **the**, yet) towering maples had fallen to the (**ground**, truly, enjoy). It was tangled in a heap (I, lay, **of**) broken branches and blackened leaves. Harry (here, **was**, far) ready for the worst as he (experience, **cautiously**, renovated) approached the nest, but instead of (so, **a**, or) disaster, he got a surprise.

When (was, how, **he**) crouched down to inspect the abandoned (close, over, **nest**), something brown and frizzy flew up (am, **in**, use) his face. It scrambled around his (**neck**, mean, them), raced down his back like lightening, (are, rats, **and**) then shoved itself snugly in his (confine, **pocket**, quietly).

Harry thought about digging his hand (akin, **into**, take) his pocket and pulling out the (treatment, certainly, **trembling**) creature, but he decided not to. (May, Save, **The**) squirrel was obviously frightened. For whatever (choose, **reason**, subdued), it felt protected in Harry's pocket (**so**, not, me) he let it stay there as (my, of, **he**) hiked home.

When he got home, (punish, **Harry**, basic) slammed the front door behind him (play, only, **and**) scrambled past his parents. He pounded (do, **up**, for) the spiral staircase to his quiet (silence, deserve, **bedroom**).

"Oh, I do wish you'd slow (from, **down**, past) and stop banging through the house," (two, **his**, be) mother shouted up at him.

"Sorry, (**Mom**, loud, you)," Harry said half-heartedly over his (comprehend, absolutely, **shoulder**) as he shut and locked himself (by, **in**, to) his bedroom. As soon as he (than, room, **was**) alone, he reached gently into his (cannot, **pocket**, mocking). He expected the squirrel to race (so, deal, **out**) of his hand and hide under (**the**, with, did) bed, but instead the little critter (used, room, **just**) sat in Harry's palm and stared (of, **at**, its) him. The squirrel scrunched up its (wrong, more, **black**) nose and sneezed, and Harry laughed.

(They'd, **Harry's**, Needs) laugh must have frightened the squirrel (solitude, someone, **because**) it flew out of his hand. (My, Be, **It**) literally soared up to the curtain (strong, **valance**, symbol) above his window and angrily chattered (deal, **down**, self) at him. Then it fell from (may, new, **the**) valance and slipped between the dusty (again, little, **books**) Harry had on his shelf and (**looked**, escape, options) for a place to build a (mere, only, **nest**).

To this day, Harry's mom still (capitol, **doesn't**, strange) know her son keeps a flying (torment, **squirrel**, infants) for a pet, but she does (**often**, than, much) wonder why all the nuts and (spoiled, absolute, **crackers**) in the house seem to disappear.

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## Answer Key

I did absolutely nothing wrong, yet here I lay. I am in my own bedroom, (seemed, minutes, **staring**) at the shadow of my swaying (late, fine, **foot**). This experience is certainly not the (effort, **first**, until) of its kind, and I truly (school, **suspect**, surprise) it won't be the last. I'm (discovered, detention, **absolutely**) sick and tired of this kind (as, her, **of**) maltreatment. I used to thoroughly enjoy (for, **my**, she) renovated room, but recently it's become (by, or, **a**) symbol of dread and boredom. It's (**a**, at, I) place I'd rather not occupy.

Somebody (am, on, **is**) certainly going to incur my wrath. (Yell, **That**, Early) somebody may have to be an (sympathy, substitute, **imaginary**) scapegoat. I'm not strong enough to (about, **deal**, later) with someone who can fight back. (Us, **I**, An) don't want to be mean, but (**my**, to, vet) options are extremely limited.

My bedroom (that, room, **has**) no television. I have only a (hitch, **small**, wife) CD player with a mere handful (as, to, **of**) CDs. Of course, I cannot play (often, **them**, need) because I don't get to choose (**which**, phone, finish) CDs to play. So I'm sentenced (as, by, **to**) lie here in subdued silence.

For (time, **some**, week) strange reason I cannot comprehend, someone (instead, summer, **decided**) to punish me and confine me (out, **to**, or) this bedroom. Most of my close (**acquaintances**, superstition, encouragement) remain outside the room. I am (pursuing, procedure, **convinced**) most of them are laughing at (here, own, **and**) mocking me. Perhaps they should be (betrayal, **confined**, excursion) like caged rats with absolutely nothing (by, **to**, so) do except for quietly read the (**same**, long, tree) obnoxious magazines over and over again. (So, Can, **If**) they wanted to punish me, they (rare, **have**, exit) certainly succeeded. The solitude is much (trek, beret, **more**) than punishment. It is more akin (as, far, **to**) torment.

Whatever did I do to (bouquet, **deserve**, faculty) this treatment? I really don't understand. (Auction, Drive, **Scream**) out loud a little. Use a (yet, **bad**, own) adjective or two. Big deal! Of (atlas, dying, **course**), if they took care of my (**basic**, potato, effect) needs, I'd be as content as (your, true, **the**) next fellow.

Oh, they say that (to, **I'm**, see) somewhat selfish and perhaps a bit (jubilant, textile, **spoiled**). I'd like them to take a (kiln, **walk**, labor) in my shoes and then tell (sick, not, **me**) how they'd enjoy being eighty-four (who, with, **and**) treated like a helpless infant.

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I got the usual wake-up call from my mom at exactly 5:45 a.m. After I rested my eyes for (plaid, ally, **what**) seemed like only a minute or (**two**, drag, her), she called to me again.

"You'd (plaza, anthem, **better**) be getting up right now or (donor, polka, **you'll**) be late!"

I slowly walked to (done, **the**, was) bathroom to take my morning shower, (altar, **only**, peril) to find a huge spider sitting (by, so, **on**) my washcloth! After a few minutes (**of**, to, is) taunting the spider, I managed to (eyed, **wash**, pour) it down the drain.

My bug (proceed, **hunting**, biscuit) efforts made me late for breakfast. (Of, To, I) somehow managed to eat my cereal (has, now, **and**) make it to school on time. (Know, **The**, Far) day went fine until fifth period, (**when**, come, this) to my surprise, I discovered that (we, so, **an**) Air Force colonel was substituting for (to, but, **my**) English teacher. I spent the entire (bisect, **period**, tyrant) in silence under the watchful eye (I, do, **of**) a Persian Gulf vet.

During sixth (tongue, **period**, liquid), I remembered that I had detention (**for**, bus, off) not finishing my math homework. I (late, bloom, **also**) remembered that I forgot to tell (how, **my**, to) mom about my detention. I decided (as, if, **to**) give her the bad news by (child, **e-mail**, labs). I hoped the e-mail might soften (**her**, you, were) up. A phone call from my (trout, **math**, pore) teacher later that day, however, removed (my, own, **any**) sympathy my mother may have had (rare, **for**, land) me. Detention seemed to drag on (bombard, emblem, **forever**). I had homework to do but (**couldn't**, limited, transfer) force myself to do it.

When (to, or, I) got off the late bus, I (proceed, **braced**, leisure) myself for my mother's wrath. I (canyon, genius, **found**) her in the den, and to (as, if, **my**) surprise, she didn't yell as loud (we, **as**, up) I thought she would. After she (**was**, how, this) done yelling at me, she told (to, see, **me**) that my guitar lesson was canceled (all, end, **for**) the evening. I took some comfort (by, **in**, at) this news because I knew I (global, cinch, **could**) continue to torture her with "Purple (riot, **Haze**, veto)" and "Layla" for another week.

Dinner (rural, word, **went**) off without a hitch. I ate (remembered, **everything**, mysterious) on my plate. After dinner I (**went**, glow, civil) to my room to catch my (religion, financier, **favorite**) TV show, only to discover that (by, **a**, so) special speech by the president's wife (upon, my, **was**) on instead. I decided to go (**to**, as, fun) bed early that night. I was (**glad**, came, mock) the day was finally over!

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## Answer Key

Imaginary friends are good to have around. They come in especially handy when (**you're**, rodent, wedge) the new kid in class and (valuable, sabotage, **everyone**) ignores you.

After I moved to (runners-up, saxophone, **Watercress**), Indiana, nobody in my fourth grade (flirt, **class**, cargo) knew my first name was Jason (new, even, **for**) a week straight. The teacher even (special, **printed**, fourth) it in bold letters across the (**blackboard**, fundamental, responsible) my first day in attendance. If (of, so, **I**) hadn't been best friends with Sigmund, (as, **I**, to) might not have made it through (word, care, **that**) trying first week at my new (satisfying, **elementary**, minestrone) school when everyone shouted, "Hey you!" (**to**, as, by) get my attention.

Sigmund is my (guarantee, monogram, **imaginary**) friend. Only I can observe his (muffle, clinic, **antics**). Sigmund has fuzzy, purple ears that (saliva, **stick**, rodeo) out like teacup handles from both (rural, **sides**, varied) of his shaggy head. He also (**has**, are, new) a mouth filled with lots of (monotonous, **sparkling**, guardian) white teeth. His paws are the (word, **size**, long) of trash can lids, but his (rural, told, **eyes**) are thoughtful and gentle. Sigmund purrs (cane, phone, **when**) he is content, and he cries (bass, **big**, stew), indigo tears when he is upset.

(**Although**, Vigilante, Recommend) I am the only one who (name, **can**, was) see Sigmund, anyone can hear him. (Bold, Been, **Even**) though he is a little shy, (sculptor, **Sigmund**, civilian) does cause a commotion at times (best, week, **due**) to his large size. For example, (to, **if**, so) Sigmund knocks over a stack of (**books**, urban, recent) or trips over a desk, people (with, still, **near**) him would be able to hear (when, **the**, two) commotion he caused. Last week, Sigmund (**was**, like, gone) dancing around in the front of (out, to, **the**) room while the teacher taught us (play, **how**, over) to divide. Suddenly he spun around (see, but, **and**) accidentally ran into the chalkboard. He (chronic, muscle, **caused**) a lot of anxiety when the (relate, **other**, major) kids heard his loud crash but (**couldn't**, gesture, choice) see him. Several students looked at (have, **each**, new) other and whispered, "What was that?"

(Year, Team, **The**) teacher told us it was probably (near, **only**, last) a minor earthquake and continued on (tears, **with**, shy) her lesson. Only I knew Sigmund (**was**, can, calm) the cause.

Even now that everyone (rouge, scheme, **knows**) my first name is Jason and (or, so, **I**) have a group of friends my (chef, **own**, lost) age, I'm still friends with Sigmund. (Is, **I**, By) just don't explain why I smile (narration, universal, **sometimes**) during the most boring classes.

Imaginary friends are good to have around. They come in especially handy when **(you're, rodent, wedge)** the new kid in class and **(valuable, sabotage, everyone)** ignores you.

After I moved to **(runners-up, saxophone, Watercress)**, Indiana, nobody in my fourth grade **(flirt, class, cargo)** knew my first name was Jason **(new, even, for)** a week straight. The teacher even **(special, printed, fourth)** it in bold letters across the **(blackboard, fundamental, responsible)** my first day in attendance. If **(of, so, I)** hadn't been best friends with Sigmund, **(as, I, to)** might not have made it through **(word, care, that)** trying first week at my new **(satisfying, elementary, minestrone)** school when everyone shouted, "Hey you!" **(to, as, by)** get my attention.

Sigmund is my **(guarantee, monogram, imaginary)** friend. Only I can observe his **(muffle, clinic, antics)**. Sigmund has fuzzy, purple ears that **(saliva, stick, rodeo)** out like teacup handles from both **(rural, sides, varied)** of his shaggy head. He also **(has, are, new)** a mouth filled with lots of **(monotonous, sparkling, guardian)** white teeth. His paws are the **(word, size, long)** of trash can lids, but his **(rural, told, eyes)** are thoughtful and gentle. Sigmund purrs **(cane, phone, when)** he is content, and he cries **(bass, big, stew)**, indigo tears when he is upset.

**(Although, Vigilante, Recommend)** I am the only one who **(name, can, was)** see Sigmund, anyone can hear him. **(Bold, Been, Even)** though he is a little shy, **(sculptor, Sigmund, civilian)** does cause a commotion at times **(best, week, due)** to his large size. For example, **(to, if, so)** Sigmund knocks over a stack of **(books, urban, recent)** or trips over a desk, people **(with, still, near)** him would be able to hear **(when, the, two)** commotion he caused. Last week, Sigmund **(was, like, gone)** dancing around in the front of **(out, to, the)** room while the teacher taught us **(play, how, over)** to divide. Suddenly he spun around **(see, but, and)** accidentally ran into the chalkboard. He **(chronic, muscle, caused)** a lot of anxiety when the **(relate, other, major)** kids heard his loud crash but **(couldn't, gesture, choice)** see him. Several students looked at **(have, each, new)** other and whispered, "What was that?"

**(Year, Team, The)** teacher told us it was probably **(near, only, last)** a minor earthquake and continued on **(tears, with, shy)** her lesson. Only I knew Sigmund **(was, can, calm)** the cause.

Even now that everyone **(rouge, scheme, knows)** my first name is Jason and **(or, so, I)** have a group of friends my **(chef, own, lost)** age, I'm still friends with Sigmund. **(Is, I, By)** just don't explain why I smile **(narration, universal, sometimes)** during the most boring classes.

## Answer Key

In the old spider's spare time, she knitted coverings for all the animals of the forest. For the moose and his family, (**she**, old, very) knitted the warmest mosses into snug-(clothes, handful, **fitting**) vests. The moose family repaid her (for, **with**, need) the horns they dropped in winter. (You, Make, **Now**) the old spider weaves her webs (shears, history, **amongst**) their fallen horns, and she doesn't (how, **go**, try) hungry.

For the wolves, she entwined (**her**, for, the) own spider silk with soft whiffs (at, **of**, so) mist—a very delicate procedure. Now (you, can, **the**) wolves are invisible when they streak (complete, **across**, cordial) the moonlit fields. They repaid her (as, to, **by**) taking their pack across the valley (sign, idol, **when**) the group howls. Now the old (impeach, **spider's**, corridor) sleep isn't disturbed.

When the field (**mice**, siege, navel) requested clothes for winter, the old (omelet, **spider**, slogan) made them cloaks out of oak (**leaves**, opaque, sketch) trimmed with dandelion fuzz. The mice (silent, cloaks, **repaid**) the old spider with news that (I, **a**, of) blizzard was coming.

After the snow, (if, to, **a**) sly wolverine came knocking on the (okra, bat, **old**) spider's door requesting protection from the (peril, **cold**, donor). She conjured a muffler, as black (**as**, for, in) the night, trimmed with lace from (this, time, **her**) own web. In repayment, the sly (adjustment, **wolverine**, dietician) warned her that the blackbirds were (invalid, pertain, **hungry**) and were gathering in the trees (sponge, **above**, always). That night a blackbird pecked at (old, **the**, all) old spider's window. The crafty spider (steal, **looked**, stares) into the gleaming eyes of the (**bird**, webs, their). She was busy working on webs (out, horn, **for**) the spring.

"I hear you make (patience, surgeon, **clothes**) for the animals," the bird said, (increase, **watching**, dexterity) the old spider work. "You must (howl, **help**, lace) me. My feathers are no protection (**against**, stunned, dimming) this bitter wind. I need you (for, by, **to**) weave a cape for me to (plaza, **cover**, steer) my feathers." The spider considered the (supplement, interfere, **blackbird's**) request.

"What is your name?"

"Raven," (**he**, out, as) said. "If you weave a cape (so, come, **for**) me, I shall repay you quite (allegiance, politician, **generously**)."

"Then I shall make you a (upon, lose, **cape**)," she replied.

She worked long into (you, **the**, was) night, intricately braiding spools of her (night, door's, **black**) spider silk and the fur from (architect, intrigue, **cattails**). Raven came to retrieve the cape (by, **in**, no) the morning. He shuddered with delight (so, **as**, it) he pulled it over his black (spoonful, incredible, **shoulders**).

"Now, what do you demand of (is, at, **me**)?"

"Only a ride on your broad (**shoulders**, injection, dismayed)," the wise spider replied.

In the old spider's spare time, she knitted coverings for all the animals of the forest. For the moose and his family, **(she, old, very)** knitted the warmest mosses into snug-**(clothes, handful, fitting)** vests. The moose family repaid her **(for, with, need)** the horns they dropped in winter. **(You, Make, Now)** the old spider weaves her webs **(shears, history, amongst)** their fallen horns, and she doesn't **(how, go, try)** hungry.

For the wolves, she entwined **(her, for, the)** own spider silk with soft whiffs **(at, of, so)** mist—a very delicate procedure. Now **(you, can, the)** wolves are invisible when they streak **(complete, across, cordial)** the moonlit fields. They repaid her **(as, to, by)** taking their pack across the valley **(sign, idol, when)** the group howls. Now the old **(impeach, spider's, corridor)** sleep isn't disturbed.

When the field **(mice, siege, navel)** requested clothes for winter, the old **(omelet, spider, slogan)** made them cloaks out of oak **(leaves, opaque, sketch)** trimmed with dandelion fuzz. The mice **(silent, cloaks, repaid)** the old spider with news that **(I, a, of)** blizzard was coming.

After the snow, **(if, to, a)** sly wolverine came knocking on the **(okra, bat, old)** spider's door requesting protection from the **(peril, cold, donor)**. She conjured a muffler, as black **(as, for, in)** the night, trimmed with lace from **(this, time, her)** own web. In repayment, the sly **(adjustment, wolverine, dietician)** warned her that the blackbirds were **(invalid, pertain, hungry)** and were gathering in the trees **(sponge, above, always)**. That night a blackbird pecked at **(old, the, all)** old spider's window. The crafty spider **(steal, looked, stares)** into the gleaming eyes of the **(bird, webs, their)**. She was busy working on webs **(out, horn, for)** the spring.

"I hear you make **(patience, surgeon, clothes)** for the animals," the bird said, **(increase, watching, dexterity)** the old spider work. "You must **(howl, help, lace)** me. My feathers are no protection **(against, stunned, dimming)** this bitter wind. I need you **(for, by, to)** weave a cape for me to **(plaza, cover, steer)** my feathers." The spider considered the **(supplement, interfere, blackbird's)** request.

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"Now, what do you demand of **(is, at, me)**?"

"Only a ride on your broad **(shoulders, injection, dismayed)**," the wise spider replied.

## Answer Key

Jean led her sister Annabelle and her brother Kevin into the foothills of the mountains. There were rumors of extraordinary things (astronomer, **happening**, eighteen) near the creek by the mountains. (Led, Out, **All**) of the children in the hollow (atlas, effect, **heard**) stories about a character named Johnny (**Rabbit**, baffle, empire). The children said he would sit (the, **on**, a) the porch of his rundown old (basis, **cabin**, exile) and scare off visitors. They said (by, in, **if**) you stopped to visit Johnny Rabbit, (as, **he**, to) would try to frighten you away. (Foot, **Many**, Name) of the neighborhood children spoke of (foothill, benefit, **monsters**) in the pond near his house. (Lasso, Rarely, **Johnny**) Rabbit kept the monsters to make (**people**, linen, tyrant) stay away. There were also tales (bonus, thief, **about**) his mean dogs, the dangerous poison (her, **ivy**, two) that he planted around his house, (**and**, his, old) the trained bees that would sting (jealous, **anybody**, tornado) who tried to trespass on his (endeavor, turquoise, **property**).

Jean did not believe these stories (by, near, **and**) intended to find out the truth (so, **of**, in) the matter. Jean led her little (**sister**, trample, prism) and brother further into the woods. (Were, That, **They**) walked for half an hour, and (proceed, **finally**, biceps) came to an old shack in (so, or, **a**) clearing. A sign on the fence (care, **read**, tune), "No Trespassing." Jean looked past the (**fence**, fiber, they) and saw an old man sitting (by, as, **in**) a rocking chair on the front (bonus, **porch**, along). At first, Jean was a little (explanation, tournament, **frightened**). Then she said, "Hello there."

"Hello," (**the**, all, off) man responded. "What do you want?"

"(By, So, **I**) just wanted to meet you," said (proud, will, **Jean**) holding her brother's and sister's hands.

"(Need, **Just**, Tree) a second," said the man. He (off, **told**, knew) his old bloodhound to go inside (kept, by, **the**) house. Jean walked to his porch (came, off, **and**) sat down with Kevin and Annabelle. (Sit, **The**, This) man had two big front teeth (near, **and**, his) twitched his mouth like a rabbit. (**Jean**, List, Wood) found out his name was Johnny (her, book, **and**) he had lived in this house (also, saw, **his**) whole life. He raised carp in (as, **the**, come) pond of his farm, often had (textile, **rabbits**, biscuit) for supper, and liked to eat (**honey**, exit, lines). Jean learned that he was a (**nice**, thief, scar) man and that all the rumors (item, wrote, **about**) him were false. After a nice (stay, **talk**, from), Jean, Kevin, and Annabelle walked away, (legible, **noticing**, rebelled) the bee hive near Johnny's front (away, tried, **gate**).

"He was a very nice man (wrench, chain, **after**) all," said Jean to her sister (out, **and**, nor) brother. "I guess we tend to (**fear**, snow, toad) those things we don't understand."

Jean led her sister Annabelle and her brother Kevin into the foothills of the mountains. There were rumors of extraordinary things (**astronomer, happening, eighteen**) near the creek by the mountains. (**Led, Out, All**) of the children in the hollow (**atlas, effect, heard**) stories about a character named Johnny (**Rabbit, baffle, empire**). The children said he would sit (**the, on, a**) the porch of his rundown old (**basis, cabin, exile**) and scare off visitors. They said (**by, in, if**) you stopped to visit Johnny Rabbit, (**as, he, to**) would try to frighten you away. (**Foot, Many, Name**) of the neighborhood children spoke of (**foothill, benefit, monsters**) in the pond near his house. (**Lasso, Rarely, Johnny**) Rabbit kept the monsters to make (**people, linen, tyrant**) stay away. There were also tales (**bonus, thief, about**) his mean dogs, the dangerous poison (**her, ivy, two**) that he planted around his house, (**and, his, old**) the trained bees that would sting (**jealous, anybody, tornado**) who tried to trespass on his (**endeavor, turquoise, property**).

Jean did not believe these stories (**by, near, and**) intended to find out the truth (**so, of, in**) the matter. Jean led her little (**sister, trample, prism**) and brother further into the woods. (**Were, That, They**) walked for half an hour, and (**proceed, finally, biceps**) came to an old shack in (**so, or, a**) clearing. A sign on the fence (**care, read, tune**), "No Trespassing." Jean looked past the (**fence, fiber, they**) and saw an old man sitting (**by, as, in**) a rocking chair on the front (**bonus, porch, along**). At first, Jean was a little (**explanation, tournament, frightened**). Then she said, "Hello there."

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"He was a very nice man (**wrench, chain, after**) all," said Jean to her sister (**out, and, nor**) brother. "I guess we tend to (**fear, snow, toad**) those things we don't understand."

# Answer Key

Joan walked along the dingy, stone corridor. The sound of her footsteps was (bureau, fiesta, **almost**) deafening in the silence. She paused (calendar, **briefly**, foliage) as she reached the entrance to (grew, spy, **the**) cave. As she peered inside, she (cashier, hallway, **noticed**) a glow coming from a small, (woodcut, **raised**, gourmet) wooden platform located near the center (**of**, as, now) the cave. Stretching across the surface (so, by, **of**) the platform was the long sought (virus, rural, **after**) Golden Sword. Its gem-studded handle (candidate, **radiated**, sacrifice) light throughout the cave.

Joan's heart (watchful, mustang, **pounded**) as she gazed upon the ancient (**relic**, major, weight). She knew it belonged to many (saliva, rodent, **heroes**), including Daniel the Dragon-Killer. Almost (monarch, graphics, **everyone**) knew the tale of his noble (cinch, **deeds**, clinic).

Long ago, an evil dragon roamed (**Joan's**, whim, muffle) homeland. He roamed the land for (word, **many**, lost) years. Daniel heard of a Golden (urban, **Sword**, chef) and decided to search it out. (Choice, Riot, **After**) finding it, he used the sword's (vague, **magic**, choir) to defeat the dragon and save (homeland, guarantee, **countless**) lives. Becoming a hero, however, changed (**him**, was, she) forever because he eventually abandoned his (magnify, register, **homeland**) and was never seen again. Daniel (rodent, **became**, global) a legend. After a century passed, (vigilante, mischief, **children**) still dreamed of becoming a hero (riot, **just**, same) like him.

Joan dreamed of becoming (by, **a**, so) heroine as well. Most of her (reclaim, fungus, **friends**) grew up and started families of (**their**, molar, waltz) own, while Joan spent the majority (by, so, **of**) her time practicing with her sword. (Was, **She**, Gone) could not outgrow her childhood dream. (**She**, Too, Near) desperately desired to become a heroine.

(Flirt, **Joan**, Seen) had already decided what quest would (go, to, **be**) hers. She learned of a Silver (global, chrome, **Knight**) who terrified many people living in (my, **the**, an) land far to the west. She (venom, yield, **would**) destroy him and restore truth and (**justice**, revival, gradual) to the people. To carry out (mock, fuel, **her**) plan, she needed the Golden Sword.

(Find, **Joan's**, Keep) quest for the Golden Sword was (schedule, moderator, **difficult**). Many dangers lurked in the enchanted (meddle, unison, **forest**) surrounding the cave. Despite the dangers, (upon, **Joan**, from) succeeded. As she grasped the sword, (gem, was, **she**) could feel magic quivering within its (recent, canyon, **handle**). With the Golden Sword, she encountered (**and**, the, new) defeated the Silver Knight.

Joan continued (came, long, **with**) other acts of heroism for many (chasm. mock, **years**). She became famous throughout the entire (minute, **kingdom**, relation), and as she had desired, she (versus, **became**, cinema) a legend. Eventually, she returned the (**Golden**, chemist, method) Sword to its resting place where (to, by, **it**) would wait for the next hero (so, as, **to**) discover it.

Joan walked along the dingy, stone corridor. The sound of her footsteps was **(bureau, fiesta, almost)** deafening in the silence. She paused **(calendar, briefly, foliage)** as she reached the entrance to **(grew, spy, the)** cave. As she peered inside, she **(cashier, hallway, noticed)** a glow coming from a small, **(woodcut, raised, gourmet)** wooden platform located near the center **(of, as, now)** the cave. Stretching across the surface **(so, by, of)** the platform was the long sought **(virus, rural, after)** Golden Sword. Its gem-studded handle **(candidate, radiated, sacrifice)** light throughout the cave.

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Joan continued **(came, long, with)** other acts of heroism for many **(chasm. mock, years)**. She became famous throughout the entire **(minute, kingdom, relation)**, and as she had desired, she **(versus, became, cinema)** a legend. Eventually, she returned the **(Golden, chemist, method)** Sword to its resting place where **(to, by, it)** would wait for the next hero **(so, as, to)** discover it.

## Answer Key

Michael enjoyed sailing on the sea more than anything else. The feel of the wind through (see, the, **his**) hair while it filled the ship's (**sails**, flame, black), the chop of the ocean beneath (saw, **him**, and), and the deep navy color of (her, was, **the**) waters were just some of the (constant, **reasons**, rusted) for his love of the sea.

(Exposed, Dungeon, **Michael**) remembered always having a fascination with (more, **the**, by) sea. He grew up on the (**shores**, sleep, rubies) of the Atlantic in the state (by, on, **of**) Maine. From the moment he was (sea, too, **old**) and strong enough to haul up (to, **a**, in) net, he was allowed to go (as, **on**, am) the boat with his father in (**the**, far, old) evenings.

Michael's great-great-grandfather had (wait, **been**, next) a sea-faring captain. He had owned (sea, still, **his**) own ship and made a run (their, **from**, eggs) the New York harbor to the (golden, conceal, **Orient**) and to Calcutta every year. He'd (**brought**, whisper, satisfy) back spices, the richest of silks, (ape, out, **and**) teacups so fine you could see (how, can, **the**) tea through the china. Best of (new, **all**, add), he'd brought back stories of his (constantly, **adventures**, invisible) on the high seas. Out of (can, try, **all**) his treasures, the stories were the (room, away, **most**) important. Only the stories remained intact (is, **as**, go) the years flew by.

On his (**eighteenth**, accidental, fireplaces) birthday, Michael inherited the old, silver (purchase, **compass**, waiting) that once belonged to his great-(grown, high, **great**)-grandfather. The compass was tarnished and (slept, **dented**, dragon), yet amazingly, its silver arrow still (observe, chopping, **pointed**) true north.

After his high school (relatives, concealing, **graduation**), only one route of education interested (observed, golden, **Michael**). He wanted to study the sea (arm, **and**, his) its creatures. He hadn't realized, however, (away, **that**, worn) there would be so many sea-(**related**, jewelers, stacking) careers to choose from. He could (go, as, **be**) an oceanographer and study the vast (smoke, middle, **oceans**). He could be a marine specialist (some, **and**, try) study the characteristics of different marine (curled, **animals**, beyond). Or he could be a fisherman (**like**, need, fine) his father and his father before (babe, **him**, see). Fishing was an occupation that went (come, **back**, far) for generations in his family.

Now, (by, **as**, be) a grown man with a boat (**of**, no, to) his own, Michael would sometimes find (through, **himself**, purchase) on the deck of his ship (creature, different, **thinking**) of his life with the sea. (In, Or, **It**) was then that he would slip (more, **the**, can) old compass out of the pocket (am, at, **of**) his wet slicker, study it under (tea, day, **the**) stars, and remember just exactly where (on, **he**, so) came from.

Michael enjoyed sailing on the sea more than anything else. The feel of the wind through **(see, the, his)** hair while it filled the ship's **(sails, flame, black)**, the chop of the ocean beneath **(saw, him, and)**, and the deep navy color of **(her, was, the)** waters were just some of the **(constant, reasons, rusted)** for his love of the sea.

**(Exposed, Dungeon, Michael)** remembered always having a fascination with **(more, the, by)** sea. He grew up on the **(shores, sleep, rubies)** of the Atlantic in the state **(by, on, of)** Maine. From the moment he was **(sea, too, old)** and strong enough to haul up **(to, a, in)** net, he was allowed to go **(as, on, am)** the boat with his father in **(the, far, old)** evenings.

Michael's great-great-grandfather had **(wait, been, next)** a sea-faring captain. He had owned **(sea, still, his)** own ship and made a run **(their, from, eggs)** the New York harbor to the **(golden, conceal, Orient)** and to Calcutta every year. He'd **(brought, whisper, satisfy)** back spices, the richest of silks, **(ape, out, and)** teacups so fine you could see **(how, can, the)** tea through the china. Best of **(new, all, add)**, he'd brought back stories of his **(constantly, adventures, invisible)** on the high seas. Out of **(can, try, all)** his treasures, the stories were the **(room, away, most)** important. Only the stories remained intact **(is, as, go)** the years flew by.

On his **(eighteenth, accidental, fireplaces)** birthday, Michael inherited the old, silver **(purchase, compass, waiting)** that once belonged to his great-**(grown, high, great)**-grandfather. The compass was tarnished and **(slept, dented, dragon)**, yet amazingly, its silver arrow still **(observe, chopping, pointed)** true north.

After his high school **(relatives, concealing, graduation)**, only one route of education interested **(observed, golden, Michael)**. He wanted to study the sea **(arm, and, his)** its creatures. He hadn't realized, however, **(away, that, worn)** there would be so many sea-**(related, jewelers, stacking)** careers to choose from. He could **(go, as, be)** an oceanographer and study the vast **(smoke, middle, oceans)**. He could be a marine specialist **(some, and, try)** study the characteristics of different marine **(curled, animals, beyond)**. Or he could be a fisherman **(like, need, fine)** his father and his father before **(babe, him, see)**. Fishing was an occupation that went **(come, back, far)** for generations in his family.

Now, **(by, as, be)** a grown man with a boat **(of, no, to)** his own, Michael would sometimes find **(through, himself, purchase)** on the deck of his ship **(creature, different, thinking)** of his life with the sea. **(In, Or, It)** was then that he would slip **(more, the, can)** old compass out of the pocket **(am, at, of)** his wet slicker, study it under **(tea, day, the)** stars, and remember just exactly where **(on, he, so)** came from.

## Answer Key

Mr. Huffman, a man who lived at the end of Simon's street, had dragon-like features. He had green, glowing eyes and (can, too, **dry**), scaly hands. His house had four (cursive, **chimneys**, dangling) that were constantly smoking, even in (pry, bar, **the**) middle of July. His windows were (dragon, **smudged**, decline) black with soot and smoke.

The (**other**, single, taught) kids on the block told Simon (even, **that**, call) Mr. Huffman and all of Mr. (sometime, untamed, **Huffman's**) relatives were dragons. Simon didn't know (by, so, **if**) he believed the rumors about Mr. (barrette, wonder, **Huffman**). Last week he'd observed the old (**man**, car, back) stacking firewood next to his stone (raised, bright, **house**). He'd looked tired and worn out (as, a, **to**) Simon. "Aren't dragons supposed to be (fundamental, **invincible**, monologue)?" wondered Simon. "If Mr. Huffman was (by, **a**, or) dragon, why did he seem to (**have**, that, lost) such a hard time stacking firewood?"

"(All, **He**, One) needs all that wood," whispered Ned (slippers, **Swampett**, someone), Simon's next-door neighbor. "Dragon babies (down, look, **won't**) hatch unless their eggs are constantly (take, look, **kept**) exposed to open flames."

Simon thought (**about**, divide, still) Ned's explanation the next day as (go, as, **he**) watched Mr. Huffman chopping more wood. (Wonton, Asked, **Could**) it be true that the old (far, **man**, bad) was concealing dragon eggs in his (**basement**, schedule, narrator)?

"He's got a dungeon full of (match, **rubies**, under)," whispered Shelia Swampett, Ned's sister, while (feet, tied, **they**) watched Mr. Huffman climb in his (better, **rusted**, smile) sedan and drive away. "He's going (do, as, **to**) the jewelers now to purchase more (**rubies**, color, between). Did you know that baby dragons (one, **eat**, far) rubies, Simon?" asked Shelia.

When Mr. (January, Gesture, **Huffman**) returned, he had a jeweler's box (worry, **tucked**, least) under his arm. When he accidentally (rehearsal, **stumbled**, muscular) and dropped it on his way (on, or, **up**) his front walk, Simon saw the (groomed, middle, **glimmer**) of rubies in the afternoon sunshine.

(**Simon**, Those, Never) decided he would satisfy his curiosity. (By, **He**, So) waited for Mr. Huffman to leave (words, still, **again**), and then he snuck over to (less, **the**, two) house and slipped through a smudged (cracked, prepare, **basement**) window.

There he found a room (fill, bird, **with**) four fireplaces. In the middle of (**the**, you, can) room was a golden nest. In (was, here, **the**) nest was a pile of baby (winter, **dragons**, stayed) sleeping in a lethargic heap. The (pointed, curler, **dragons**) were black and smoke curled from (**their**, agreed, cackle) nostrils. Placed next to them was (by, **a**, no) bowl filled with rubies—their favorite (them, long, **meal**).

Mr. Huffman, a man who lived at the end of Simon's street, had dragon-like features. He had green, glowing eyes and **(can, too, dry)**, scaly hands. His house had four **(cursive, chimneys, dangling)** that were constantly smoking, even in **(pry, bar, the)** middle of July. His windows were **(dragon, smudged, decline)** black with soot and smoke.

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## Answer Key

Ms. Pringle was the strangest teacher at Eastbrook Elementary. Everyone agreed, including the students, teachers, (**janitors**, knuckle, engraved), and even the principal.

Ms. Pringle's (three, dented, **laugh**) sounded like a cackle. Her hairdo (out, **was**, sad) like a dust ball perched on (over, it, **the**) top of her head. It was (turned, **frizzy**, ground) and golden. She favored bright colors, (**and**, off, into) sometimes under the cuffs of her (yard, carrot, **pants**), her students saw that her socks (called, tore, **didn't**) match.

One day, Sammy raised his (left, **hand**, soon) and Ms. Pringle called on him.

"(So, **Ms.**, By) Pringle," Sammy said. "Do you know (cube, **that**, with) your socks are mismatched and your (store, **shoes**, ring) are untied?"

"Oh," Ms. Pringle said (brother, cleared, **bending**) down hastily to take a look. "(So, As, **I**) guess you're right, Sammy. You see, (to, **I**, no) have better things to do than (**worry**, final, order) about whether my socks match or (is, to, **my**) shoes are tied."

On Thursday, Ms. (Newman, Brother, **Pringle**) came to class in slippers and (but, **the**, was) students were flabbergasted to see that (much, **her**, onto) hair was still twisted in curlers. (Say, More, **She**) had only one earring dangling from (eye, was, **her**) left earlobe, but she wasn't the (**least**, store, caught) bit worried when Tony pointed out (but, day, **the**) missing earring to her.

Ms. Pringle (gone, **left**, along) the single earring in all morning. (Ride, Why, **She**) taught the students how to divide (inside, cement, **during**) math class and about England and (waiting, wedged, **France**) during history class. She taught them (**how**, Ruby, and) to make a cursive letter B. (Help, All, **She**) also took all their pictures for (by, **a**, to) bulletin board she was decorating.

All (but, **day**, all) long she lost curlers. They rolled (tore, cold, **from**) her golden hair, off her desk, (try, **and**, new) down between the aisles where her (retrieved, **students**, sparkle) sat in wonder. By the end (**of**, as, in) the afternoon, her hair was one (closer, young, **curly**), untamed mess. But when Angie offered (if, we, **Ms.**) Pringle a barrette to clip it (that, near, **back**), she declined.

"I have better things (**to**, on, by) do," she announced to her students. "(Was, **Now**, For), let's see. We were talking about (content, **squids**, inside)."

"What better things do you have (as, up, **to**) do?" someone asked. Ms. Pringle looked (go, far, **up**) and smiled. A curler rolled between (just, **her**, was) feet.

"Why, teach you, of course," (carrots, **replied**, settled) Ms. Pringle.

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## Answer Key

One day, Victoria was walking home from the grocery store with a brown bag on each hip when a sparkle caught her eye. The sparkle came from a slightly (school, **dented**, bushes) ruby ring wedged tightly in a (solar, **crack**, girls) of the cement sidewalk. After much (scribble, surrounded, **muttering**) and three scraped knuckles, she retrieved (**the**, was, all) ring and held it in the (were, room, **palm**) of her hand.

Some words were (knuckles, **engraved**, sidewalk) on the inside of the ring's (system, drawing, **golden**) band, but the ring was so (rise, **worn**, jump) and bent that Victoria could not (room, upon, **read**) them. Victoria slipped the ring on (**her**, saw, now) thumb. Feeling quite content, she skipped (him, you, **all**) the way home. When she got (about, **there**, class), her youngest brother Roger was waiting (or, **in**, go) the yard with a picture he (**colored**, morning, gigantic) for her.

"Why, you're so sweet, (turns, fiery, **Roger**)," Victoria said patting her brother on (saw, **the**, ice) cheek as she spoke. She was (began, rooms, **about**) to say more, but there was (I, a, so) poof of smoke. When the smoke (steams, unusual, **cleared**), Victoria saw that Roger had turned (**into**, each, with) a sugar statue. Victoria stepped closer (by, now, **and**) saw that her brother was one (chalk, **solid**, write) piece of sugar crystal. Rogers's mouth (when, **was**, call) open as if he wanted to (right, house, **speak**). Just then, Victoria's other brother, Newman, (**came**, how, soon) out onto the back stoop.

"What (why, **are**, need) you doing, Victoria?" Newman asked. "Mom (draw, **needs**, reply) the carrots and sesame seeds you (smoke, circle, **picked**) up at the grocery store in (before, roof, **order**) to finish dinner. I'll come and (our, **get**, mean) them from you."

Newman crossed the (sweet, **yard**, you) to his sister, wondering why she (**didn't**, arrive, stop) answer. His eyes finally settled on (**Roger**, Mars, hoop). "What happened to him?"

"Really, Newman, (as, too, **are**) you as cold and insensitive as (or, **an**, by) ice cube?" Victoria asked. "I called (this, were, **him**) sweet and he turned..." Victoria gasped (to, **as**, we) the groceries she was passing to (believe, planet, **Newman**) fell to the ground. Newman had (every, begin, **turned**) into a statue of ice, his (sew, **two**, the) surprised eyes starring up at her.

(As, **In**, So) an instant, Victoria realized the ring (**she**, now, but) wore was cursed. She tore it (one, day, **off**) her thumb and threw it into (for, bag, **the**) street. As soon as the ring (she, **was**, new) off her thumb, her brothers began (an, **to**, up) revive. She no longer wondered why (**someone**, window, belongs) left that ring on the sidewalk (as, do, **by**) the grocery store.

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## Answer Key

"You won't believe what I saw this morning!" Chen exclaimed at the breakfast table. "Just before the sun came up, (on, me, **a**) spaceship landed on the roof of (saw, **the**, too) house next door. It stayed for (didn't, **about**, green) 15 minutes and then flew away. (**Do**, Why, Toy) you think our new neighbors are (window, **aliens**, escape)?"

"No, I'm sure it was just (do, up, **a**) dream, Chen," his mother said. But (like, going, **Chen**) wasn't so sure.

When he arrived (in, **at**, of) school, Chen learned that his class (set, **had**, you) a new teacher. The new teacher's (have, such, **name**) was Mrs. Ling. Chen thought she (**behaved**, bedroom, bright) very strangely.

"How are all my (brainy, about, **human**) boys and girls today?" Mrs. Ling (unnecessary, **questioned**, moderator) the class. "Today I will teach (say, now, **you**) all about my, I mean OUR, (pulled, **solar**, bunch) system. I will draw a sketch (to, **of**, as) the solar system on the chalkboard (with, all, **for**) everyone."

Mrs. Ling then picked up (**the**, air, far) chalk, but instead of raising it (so, by, **to**) write on the chalkboard located right (humans, window, **behind**) her, she crossed the room and (semisweet, **attempted**, horrified) to scribble on the window.

"Oh," (saw, **she**, much) said when Kim Sung pointed out (come, mean, **that**) the window was not the chalkboard. "(To, **Ah**, You), yes, here is the chalkboard. Now (as, **I**, a) will draw our solar system."

Then (**Mrs.**, the, near) Ling began to draw many loops (for, was, **and**) circles on the blackboard. She drew (by, so, **a**) fiery sun and the planets Mercury, (opens, **Venus**, around), Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, (calm, **and**, but) Pluto. Everyone expected her to stop (coyote, okra, **after**) drawing the tiny, cold planet at (far, long, **the**) edge of the solar system. Instead, (**she**, when, new) drew a gigantic planet surrounded by (nudge, serial, **hoops**) of fire.

"What planet is that?" (saw, roof, **Kim**) Sung asked. "We don't have a (shorts, **planet**, coaxed) like THAT in our solar system."

"(By, **Of**, To) course not," Mrs. Ling replied nastily (so, or, **as**) she erased the unusual planet. "I (what, this, **just**) drew it to see if you (for, **all**, our) were paying attention, and you were! (Far, **You**, Saw) are a wonderful class of human (**boys**, that, call) and girls."

Later that night, while (calm, **Chen**, book) was walking home from school, he (new, **saw**, had) Mrs. Ling walking down the sidewalk (nervous, concert, **toward**) him. Chen was about to jump (bugs, over, **into**) the bushes and hide, but Mrs. (**Ling**, brow, such) turned and walked up to the (ask, **door**, more) of the house next to Chen's (green, **house**, rather). Oddly enough, it was the same (sketch, novel, **house**) the spaceship had landed on the (black, long, **night**) before!

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## Answer Key

One night Jessie caught a jarful of lightning bugs and set them on her nightstand to use as a night light as she fell asleep. These lightning bugs weren't ordinary lightning (**bugs**, book, face). Regular lightning bugs have neon green (cordial, slogan, **bubbles**) on the rear part of their (laugh, **bodies**, grade). These lightning bugs had miniature light (naval, senior, bulbs) that gave off a green glow. (Topped, **Regular**, Ignores) lightning bugs have rather squinty black (**eyes**, arm, want) and tiny brains. These lightning bugs (when, find, **wore**) black spectacles and had large brains. (More, **They**, Time) all carried a little backpack on (seats, this, **their**) backs filled with books and maps. (Hospital, **Although**, Whispers) they were trapped in a jar, (calm, **they**, many) waited quietly for Jessie to fall (trimmed, **asleep**, weaves) before they started to speak.

"What (**do**, up, is) you think she's doing over there?" (turtle, ignore, **asked**) one lightning bug named Ryan. "Do (may, far, **you**) think she's sleeping yet? I never (pesters, **realized**, accident) humans have such gigantic eyebrows."

"Her (orchestra, **breathing**, sculpture) is slow and regular, so I'd (you, now, **say**) she's asleep," said another lightning bug (crying, tease, **named**) Billy.

"Oh, look, she's drooling," said (**a**, my, I) bug named Herman. "When we get (far, late, **out**) of here, let's trap her in (so, **a**, by) jar and see how she likes (or, if, **it**)."

Herman was by far the brightest (signature, **lightning**, confession) bug of the bunch.

"Come on, (overdo, **Herman**, omelet)," said Billy, as he helped the (idle, **team**, nice) of lightning bugs unscrew the lid (so, to, **of**) the jar. "Let's escape!"

Soon the (sentimental, corporation, **lightning**) bugs were out of the jar (**and**, saw, new) in the wide-open air of (**Jessie's**, compete, conveyed) bedroom. Some of the bugs quickly (ignore, **darted**, sudden) out of the window as soon (if, **as**, up) they got the chance, but Herman (jar, fall, **and**) Ryan lingered around Jessie's pillow.

"I (despite, seemed, **wonder**) what she's dreaming about?" murmured Herman.

"(Your, **She's**, Now) probably dreaming about the kind of (**animal**, regular, longer) she's going to capture next time," (pause, call, **said**) Ryan. "Why don't you wake her (far, **up**, at) and ask her, Herman?"

"Let's go. (Last, Stow, **Let's**) go," prompted the other lightning bugs (sign, near, **from**) outside.

"One moment," said Herman. He (**studied**, accident, braids) Jessie's ears and then pulled something (will, now, **out**) of his backpack. He gave Jessie (do, so, **a**) pair of neon green earrings and (far, **told**, came) his friends, "I want to give (with, **her**, now) something to remember us by because (well, two, **she**) didn't hurt us. She was only (carrot, nontoxic, **curious**)."

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"Oh, look, she's drooling," said (**a, my, I**) bug named Herman. "When we get (**far, late, out**) of here, let's trap her in (**so, a, by**) jar and see how she likes (**or, if, it**)."

Herman was by far the brightest (**signature, lightning, confession**) bug of the bunch.

"Come on, (**overdo, Herman, omelet**)," said Billy, as he helped the (**idle, team, nice**) of lightning bugs unscrew the lid (**so, to, of**) the jar. "Let's escape!"

Soon the (**sentimental, corporation, lightning**) bugs were out of the jar (**and, saw, new**) in the wide-open air of (**Jessie's, compete, conveyed**) bedroom. Some of the bugs quickly (**ignore, darted, sudden**) out of the window as soon (**if, as, up**) they got the chance, but Herman (**jar, fall, and**) Ryan lingered around Jessie's pillow.

"I (**despite, seemed, wonder**) what she's dreaming about?" murmured Herman.

"(**Your, She's, Now**) probably dreaming about the kind of (**animal, regular, longer**) she wants to capture next time," (**pause, call, said**) Ryan. "Why don't you wake her (**far, up, at**) and ask her, Herman?"

"Let's go. (**Last, Stow, Let's**) go," prompted the other lightning bugs (**sign, near, from**) outside.

"One moment," said Herman. He (**studied, accident, braids**) Jessie's ears and then pulled something (**will, now, out**) of his backpack. He gave Jessie (**do, so, a**) pair of neon green earrings and (**far, told, came**) his friends, "I want to give (**with, her, now**) something to remember us by because (**well, two, she**) didn't hurt us. She was only (**carrot, nontoxic, curious**)."

## Answer Key

Peter Perkins is the school bully and everybody is tired of his teasing. Everybody including Will Weston, who is (dancing, **already**, sensible) six feet tall and very good (by, **at**, no) basketball. Peter Perkins teases Will because (also, soon, **Will**) is as skinny as a weed. (Or, To, **He**) also laughs at Will's bright red (down, **hair**, toss) and freckles. Peter Perkins calls Will (shield, **carrot**, tricks) head and beanpole whenever the teacher (real, gone, **isn't**) listening. Will just ignores Peter and (bunny, magic, **tries**) to memorize his spelling words or (**complete**, ignition, southern) his math assignments.

Will isn't the (dump, upon, **only**) person that Peter Perkins goes after. (Hinder, **There's**, Lucky) Molly May who's in third grade (more, **and**, sure) as shy as a turtle. Molly (the, new, **May**) has long black hair that she (bright, intend, **weaves**) into braids and a pair of (confidence, **spectacles**, identifying) trimmed in gold. Molly loves to (toss, **read**, bent). She reads on the way to (**the**, far, too) cafeteria, in the gym, and on (low, red, **the**) bus. Peter Perkins pesters Molly from (his, **the**, will) back seat of the bus, calling (six, man, **her**) book face and worm brain from (red, **the**, also) back seat.

One afternoon, Peter Perkins (**was**, call, fan) mocking people out on the playground (to, so, **as**) always. Suddenly, he lost his balance (she, **and**, soon) toppled off the seesaw. Now it (mad, saw, **was**) everyone else's turn to point and (dinner, **laugh**, still) and whisper and tease. When Peter (grade, more, **stood**) up, his face was streaked with (first, meet, **tears**) and he was cradling his right (was, **arm**, dad). It seemed that no one was (their, **going**, nearly) to help him, but suddenly Molly (but, so, **and**) Will appeared.

Molly saw Peter fall (stage, throw, **while**) sitting under a tree reading her (just, **book**, also), and Will saw Peter's accident from (out, **the**, can) basketball court. Molly and Will helped (**Peter**, balls, have) to the nurse's office. The nurse (food, long, **took**) one look at Peter's arm and (outfitting, occupation, **announced**), "It's broken. Looks like you're going (by, **to**, as) the hospital, young man."

Peter looked (just, **down**, need) at his sneakers so no one (downy, from, **could**) see he was crying.

"Here," Molly (more, place, **said**), handing him her handkerchief. "I broke (up, **my**, to) arm in second grade. It's not (down, **that**, have) bad, really. You get to choose (**what**, cute, paws) color cast you want."

"If the (after, these, **nurse**) says it's okay, Molly and I (were, **will**, slam) ride along with you," Will said. "(we, a, I) broke my arm last summer."

"Okay," (Enough, **Peter**, Where) sniffled. He was sure glad Molly (door, by, **and**) Will decided to be nice to (saw, **him**, how) despite all of the mean things (if, or, **he**) had done to them.

Peter Perkins is the school bully and everybody is tired of his teasing. Everybody including Will Weston, who is **(dancing, already, sensible)** six feet tall and very good **(by, at, no)** basketball. Peter Perkins teases Will because **(also, soon, Will)** is as skinny as a weed. **(Or, To, He)** also laughs at Will's bright red **(down, hair, toss)** and freckles. Peter Perkins calls Will **(shield, carrot, tricks)** head and beanpole whenever the teacher **(real, gone, isn't)** listening. Will just ignores Peter and **(bunny, magic, tries)** to memorize his spelling words or **(complete, ignition, southern)** his math assignments.

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"Okay," **(Enough, Peter, Where)** sniffled. He was sure glad Molly **(door, by, and)** Will decided to be nice to **(saw, him, how)** despite all of the mean things **(if, or, he)** had done to them.

## Answer Key

Radcliff didn't like being a rat. He had gray fur with brown (surprised, amazement, **splotches**) and a limp, cold tail that (the, all, **was**) always getting slammed in doors. His (down, **left**, they) ear had been caught in a (explained, situation, **mousetrap**), and only his right ear remained. (Apparent, **Radcliff**, Emotions) thought he would have a better (**life**, coin, made) if he were a rabbit.

Radcliff (still, holding, **wanted**) to be a rabbit so badly. (Grateful, **Everyone**, Through) knows rabbits have more fun than (pay, knew, **rats**). Rabbits get pulled out of top (hand, **hats**, floor). Rabbits have cute, wriggly noses and (**perfect**, honesty, catches) ears. They have soft, downy coats (lay, one, **and**) very fluffy cotton-ball tails too. (Find, **They**, More) can hop, they have their own (someone, thinks, **holiday**), and they get far more time (so, **on**, as) a stage than rats.

One afternoon (**while**, small, inside) down in his dingy, damp rat (when, pile, **hole**), Radcliff decided to transform himself into (or, to, **a**) rabbit. He made himself rabbit ears (saw, **out**, try) of several sticks and an old (store, **white**, money) T-shirt that someone had thrown away. (By, Is, **He**) also made himself a puffy, bunny (both, came, **tail**) out of old cotton balls. Then (to, **he**, no) climbed up out of his hole (but, **and**, not) went into the sunshine. Luckily enough, (**the**, way, for) first person Radcliff met while out (as, of, **on**) the sidewalk was a magician.

"Oh, (they, **what**, told) a lovely rabbit," the magician said (no, if, **as**) he bent down to stroke Radcliff's (dollars, **bristly**, someone) back. "Why, you're just the rabbit (a, or, **I**) need to star in my magic (lost, them, **show**)."

Radcliff was overjoyed when the magician (woman, **picked**, weren't) him up and stowed him in his (call, **top**, for) hat. On stage later that evening, (**the**, saw, how) magician pulled Radcliff out of his (who, **hat**, pay) and received a robust applause. Radcliff (top, **did**, out) a little tap-dancing number that (purpose, counter, **brought**) down the house.

"You were wonderful," (far, had, **the**) magician told Radcliff after the show. "**(No**, By, It) one even realized you weren't a (they, knew, **real**) rabbit."

Radcliff was heartbroken. He was (kind, **sure**, coin) the magician thought he was a (floor, prove, **real**) bunny. What if the magician intended (so, **to**, by) toss him out on the street (**and**, him, out) find himself an authentic bunny? Fortunately (loss, of, **for**) Radcliff, that didn't happen. Instead, the (complaint, sinister, **magician**) made Radcliff dinner and they practiced (stars, **magic**, again) tricks until midnight. When the magician (how, **was**, last) tucking Radcliff into bed, he smiled.

"(**Tomorrow**, Anything, Customer) we have another show," he said, "(her, **and**, new) I will be the only magician (if, to, **in**) the city with a magic rat."

Radcliff didn't like being a rat. He had gray fur with brown (**surprised, amazement, splotches**) and a limp, cold tail that (**the, all, was**) always getting slammed in doors. His (**down, left, they**) ear had been caught in a (**explained, situation, mousetrap**), and only his right ear remained. (**Apparent, Radcliff, Emotions**) thought he would have a better (**life, coin, made**) if he were a rabbit.

Radcliff (**still, holding, wanted**) to be a rabbit so badly. (**Grateful, Everyone, Through**) knows rabbits have more fun than (**pay, knew, rats**). Rabbits get pulled out of top (**hand, hats, floor**). Rabbits have cute, wriggly noses and (**perfect, honesty, catches**) ears. They have soft, downy coats (**lay, one, and**) very fluffy cotton-ball tails too. (**Find, They, More**) can hop, they have their own (**someone, thinks, holiday**), and they get far more time (**so, on, as**) a stage than rats.

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"**(Tomorrow, Anything, Customer)** we have another show," he said, "**(her, and, new)** I will be the only magician (**if, to, in**) the city with a magic rat."

## Answer Key

Shelly and Ricky strolled down the aisle of the large, all-purpose store. They weren't looking for anything in (**particular**, hesitated, nationality) and were in no hurry to (nest, **find**, line) it. As they turned the corner (made, here, **into**) the paper aisle, Shelly saw a (steal, **small**, grass) coin purse lying on the floor. (Black, Rolls, **There**) was only one other customer nearby, (**so**, by, on) without looking inside the coin purse, (Winter, Looks, **Shelly**) asked the woman if it was (join, **hers**, many). The woman quickly took a look (so, **at**, as) the coin purse and answered negatively.

(All, Him, **The**) coin purse was small and had (in, of, **a**) zipper. It was the kind of (**purse**, words, frown) a child would carry to the (watch, along, **store**). Thinking it was a child's purse, (eye, can, **and**) hoping to find some identification inside, (other, **Shelly**, women) and Ricky unzipped the purse. Expecting (if, **to**, he) find nickels and dimes, they were (**totally**, prepared, though) surprised when Shelly pulled out two (are, **one**, how) hundred dollar bills and several ones!

(No, **If**, Or) the purse held only coins, Shelly (won, has, **and**) Ricky would have turned it in (squirrel, evening, **without**) question. But holding two hundred dollars (up, **in**, do) their hands made them catch their (while, going, **breath**) and think again. All kinds of (predicted, special, **thoughts**) raced through their minds as they (rolling, **looked**, halves) at each other with the money (up, **in**, of) their hands. There was no identification (**inside**, putting, feeder) or out, so there was no (done, to, **way**) to prove who owned it. It (worry, **would**, acorn) be very easy to walk out (do, by, **of**) the store with the money, and (as, **no**, ton) one would know. They both wanted (**the**, you, but) money. They both needed the money. (Can, **But**, Far) they both knew it would be (seeds, **wrong**, hoard) to keep the purse.

When they (cold, grow, **went**) to the counter with their find, (are, day, **the**) cashier's amazement was apparent. She couldn't (another, **believe**, summer) someone would turn in a lost (sharp, **purse**, going) with that much money. As Shelly (**gave**, fill, join) her name and explained the situation, (but, saw, **the**) cashier interrupted saying, "A young woman (prepare, **reported**, explain) this coin purse missing. She had (lost, **just**, that) cashed her pay check. She'll be (as, to, **so**) grateful for your honesty!"

As Shelly (own, new, **and**) Ricky left the store, their faces (**reflected**, practice, something) their mixed emotions of pride and (identification, interpretation, **disappointment**). They were sad they couldn't keep (out, had, **the**) money, but they also knew they (try, **had**, new) done the right thing.

Shelly and Ricky strolled down the aisle of the large, all-purpose store. They weren't looking for anything in **(particular, hesitated, nationality)** and were in no hurry to **(nest, find, line)** it. As they turned the corner **(made, here, into)** the paper aisle, Shelly saw a **(steal, small, grass)** coin purse lying on the floor. **(Black, Rolls, There)** was only one other customer nearby, **(so, by, on)** without looking inside the coin purse, **(Winter, Looks, Shelly)** asked the woman if it was **(join, hers, many)**. The woman quickly took a look **(so, at, as)** the coin purse and answered negatively.

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## Answer Key

The black squirrel worked all summer long gathering acorns and lining her nest with tufts of grass. She groomed her bristly black tail (now, **and**, for) practiced jumping from branch to branch.

"(Shakily, Graceful, **Looking**) good," the gray squirrel would holler (go, **up**, on) at the black squirrel whenever he (bristly, glaring, **watched**) her practice. "You should join the (**circus**, breath, finger) or something. Then you wouldn't have (as, of, **to**) worry about stocking food for winter (by, if, **or**) gathering twigs for your nest."

"You (across, **should**, lights) worry about your own food and (were, felt, **nest**)," she told him as she paused (it, **to**, he) frown down at him from a (sounded, sonata, **swaying**) branch. "You run around on the (**ground**, instead, herself) all day and steal your food (left, many, **from**) the human's bird feeder. A squirrel (more, then, **can't**) rely on humans to provide food (hit, **all**, can) winter. Just you watch. In the (stages, **middle**, before) of January, the humans will forget (**to**, of, now) fill the feeder. Then all you (like, **lazy**, held) animals that depend on the feeder (nerves, **during**, bright) the summer are going to be in (hundred, swelled, **trouble**)."

The gray squirrel cracked another sunflower (down, care, **seed**) between his sharp teeth.

"That'll never (ebbed, **happen**, awkward)," he said. "Those humans fill the (came, walk, **bird**) feeder every week."

"Mark my words, (no, **Mr.**, if) Gray Squirrel," she said. "You will (**wish**, mind, went) you had prepared for winter like (or, **me**, you)."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," said the gray (clumsily, **squirrel**, overtake), rolling his eyes behind the black (applause, determine, **squirrel's**) back. "Oh look, they're putting out (like, wood, **more**) seeds and orange halves. See you (person, **around**, stomach)."

Just as the black squirrel predicted, (has, **the**, too) bird feeder was full all through (**December**, terrible, complete), but when January rolled around, the (hand, shock, **blue**) jays finished all the seed and (was, her, **the**) feeder stayed empty for a week. (New, **The**, Our) black squirrel was well fed and (down, **warm**, bars) with her hoard of acorns and (walk, told, **cozy**) nest, but the gray squirrel was (making, across, **hungry**) and cold. In a week's time, (own, **the**, tow) gray squirrel lost all of his (crying, **winter**, present) fat. He was especially skinny and (**gruff**, whole, blank) the evening he knocked on the (lurch, **black**, loud) squirrel's door.

"Please let me in," (an, to, **he**) squeaked. "I have no nest and (by, or, **no**) food. I should have prepared for (almost, **winter**, nerves) in the fall just like you (**said**, flew, deep)."

"You're quite right," the black squirrel (died, more, **said**). "If you're going to stay with (who, **me**, up), you can shell the nuts."

The black squirrel worked all summer long gathering acorns and lining her nest with tufts of grass. She groomed her bristly black tail (**now, and, for**) practiced jumping from branch to branch.

"(**Shakily, Graceful, Looking**) good," the gray squirrel would holler (**go, up, on**) at the black squirrel whenever he (**bristly, glaring, watched**) her practice. "You should join the (**circus, breath, finger**) or something. Then you wouldn't have (**as, of, to**) worry about stocking food for winter (**by, if, or**) gathering twigs for your nest."

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## Answer Key

The bright lights glaring down on the stage were making Holly sweat. It wasn't her nerves that had (**her**, car, old) hands all clammy, she told herself. (By, No, **It**) was just the heat in the (impressed, stampeding, **auditorium**).

She had been standing offstage for (window, **nearly**, winked) an hour now, and her hands (trip, **kept**, herd) sweating more and more. Wiping them (**on**, up, do) her skirt didn't seem to be (weight, threw, **doing**) any good. She decided to try (bus, **not**, one) to think about it and to (were, class, **take**) deep breaths instead.

Today was the (was, **day**, act) of Holly's first piano recital. It (**was**, but, now) being held in a huge auditorium (said, soon, **with**) at least two hundred people present. (Can, **The**, Over) young man currently on stage was (anything, winked, **playing**) a sonata. He was almost finished (all, **and**, the) Holly was next on the program. (Pat, Too, **The**) thought of walking across the stage (brown, **made**, they) her stomach lurch.

"Just calm down," (can, **she**, saw) told herself. "You've practiced this piece (as, to, **a**) thousand times. You could play it (to, be, **in**) your sleep." Somehow this idea distracted (**her**, any, now) until the pianist before her left (too, for, **the**) stage and the applause died down.

(Sixth, **Holly**, Until) felt every eye on her as (were, **she**, not) walked shakily to the grand piano. (Saw, One, **The**) clicking of her heels across the (twenty, face, **stage**) sounded unbearably loud to her until (**she**, for, pan) self-consciously sat down and placed (new, had, **her**) hands on the keys.

For a (forehead, children, **terrible**) moment, her mind went blank and (great, **panic**, about) threatened to overtake her. "I can't (if, **do**, in) it!" she thought. She felt like (excite, pressed, **crying**) until she forced herself to take (if, by, **a**) deep breath, clear her mind, and (lions, **begin**, class) to play.

Her fingers awkwardly played (now, **the**, trip) first few bars, and her fingers (**felt**, jump, grand) numb, like little blocks of wood, (windows, pushing, **clumsily**) clunking down on the keys. Then (how, **she**, can) hit a sour note.

Holly's back (parasite, struggling, **stiffened**) in shock, and suddenly her hands (clap, **flew**, said) across the keys with a confidence (**born**, tent, them) of sheer determination. The music swelled (now, too, **and**) ebbed and flawlessly came to an (**end**, pull, sky).

Holly felt her whole body vibrate (were, today, **with**) the force of the enthusiastic applause (other, pair, **that**) followed her performance. She smiled and (lucky, **bowed**, fifth) gracefully. Her earlier panic was completely (assistant, **forgotten**, suspicion).

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"Just calm down," **(can, she, saw)** told herself. "You've practiced this piece **(as, to, a)** thousand times. You could play it **(to, be, in)** your sleep." Somehow this idea distracted **(her, any, now)** until the pianist before her left **(too, for, the)** stage and the applause died down.

**(Sixth, Holly, Until)** felt every eye on her as **(were, she, not)** walked shakily to the grand piano. **(Saw, One, The)** clicking of her heels across the **(twenty, face, stage)** sounded unbearably loud to her until **(she, for, pan)** self-consciously sat down and placed **(new, had, her)** hands on the keys.

For a **(forehead, children, terrible)** moment, her mind went blank and **(great, panic, about)** threatened to overtake her. "I can't **(if, do, in)** it!" she thought. She felt like **(excite, pressed, crying)** until she forced herself to take **(if, by, a)** deep breath, clear her mind, and **(lions, begin, class)** to play.

Her fingers awkwardly played **(now, the, trip)** first few bars, and her fingers **(felt, jump, grand)** numb, like little blocks of wood, **(windows, pushing, clumsily)** clunking down on the keys. Then **(how, she, can)** hit a sour note.

Holly's back **(parasite, struggling, stiffened)** in shock, and suddenly her hands **(clap, flew, said)** across the keys with a confidence **(born, tent, them)** of sheer determination. The music swelled **(now, too, and)** ebbed and flawlessly came to an **(end, pull, sky)**.

Holly felt her whole body vibrate **(were, today, with)** the force of the enthusiastic applause **(other, pair, that)** followed her performance. She smiled and **(lucky, bowed, fifth)** gracefully. Her earlier panic was completely **(assistant, forgotten, suspicion)**.

## Answer Key

On Thursday morning, the children in Mr. Randall's fifth grade class were very excited and difficult to control. Thursday was their field trip. Mr. (happens, **Randall**, suspect) wiped the sweat off his forehead (now, **and**, too) smiled at his assistant teacher, Miss (dinner, chair, **Peach**), as all twenty-four students waited (so, at, **by**) the curb, clutching their brown-bag (**lunches**, imagined, animals) and craning their necks to see (far, not, **the**) yellow school bus.

"Everyone in single (farm, **file**, among) now. No pushing or shoving," Mr. (Monday, **Randall**, popcorn) called to the students as they (grandstand, overwhelm, **clambered**) into the bus like a herd (be, on, **of**) stampeding elephants.

Mr. Randall's students believed (from, **they**, call) were the luckiest class in the (**entire**, pieces, dinner) school because their field trip was (went, along, **more**) exciting than any other. Even some (as, **of**, by) the sixth graders agreed they were (most, **very**, crowd) lucky. Today Mr. Randall's class was (heard, drift, **going**) to the circus!

When the bus (**pulled**, remind, unfold) in front of the circus tent, (rapidly, moments, **several**) students pressed their faces against the (our, **bus**, even) windows and exclaimed, "Wow!" Several others (distinct, stinky, **couldn't**) say anything at all. They were (rivalry, **staring**, handed) at the pair of lions a (**woman**, itself, scent) was leading around by a leash.

(Good, **Once**, None) inside the tent, the students were (it, **so**, he) impressed with the surroundings that they (anything, elephant, **listened**) to every word Mr. Randall said. (Tent, Raced, **When**) he told them to sit down, (into, **they**, near) sat down. When he told them (on, **to**, be) speak in whispers, they spoke in (**whispers**, pressed, Saturday) for the rest of the show. (Bet, I, **No**) one threw spitballs. No one jumped (bay, **out**, far) of their seats. The children in (as, of, **Mr.**) Randall's fifth grade class were, for (walk, **once**, will), perfectly behaved.

Mr. Randall glanced over (**at**, or, low) Miss Peach and winked.

"Happens to (**them**, big, neat) every time," he whispered.

A bunch (top, **of**, is) clowns buzzed around in a pink (had, **car**, for) in the middle of one of (out, all, **the**) rings in the center of the (smell, fish, **tent**), and the children's eyes opened as (will, **wide**, goad) as saucers. Then fifteen clowns climbed (his, ate, **out**) of the car, and the students (pocket, **clapped**, suspect) as loudly as they could. When (**it**, me, no) was time for the trapeze act, (and, **the**, now) students held their breath. When the (colorful, tripping, **elephants**) came out, they said, "Oh" and "(No, **Ah**, At)." On the bus on the way (pile, barn, **home**), the students chatted excitedly about the (donuts, shown, **circus**). What a great field trip!

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# Answer Key

The circus was coming to town, and everyone wanted to go to the show to see the spectacle. Tickets were hard to obtain because (all, his, **the**) show was practically sold out.

When (the, guy, **Dad**) came home from the office, he (that, **said**, need) nothing about the upcoming circus. None (to, **of**, as) us kids suspected a thing as (**dad**, men, new) ate his dinner and watched the (command, toward, **Monday**) Night Football game.

The football game (sword, **rolled**, castle) along, and the whole family watched (can, old, **the**) rivalry unfold. It was a good (over, **game**, warm). Suddenly, Dad got up from his (**chair**, could, train), went to his coat, and pulled (road, **five**, food) little pieces of paper out of (nay, **his**, one) pocket. He quietly handed us each (by, **a**, so) piece of paper. They were circus (healthy, soldier, **tickets**)!

"Next Saturday we will be going (of, it, **to**) the circus," he said. "It will (on, **be**, is) great."

Before we went, I imagined (they, **what**, wear) we would see at the circus. (**First**, Lifts, Trees), we would park our car close (at, **to**, in) the colorful tents and walk to (bag, **the**, pan) very first mini-donut stand we (scare, invade, **could**) find. Mini-donuts are excellent and (whereupon, retreating, **absolutely**) must be eaten at a circus. (I, an, or) heard it's a rule. Next we (cloth, **would**, swing) walk to the colorful big top (packs, **while**, corner) eating our donuts. The circus smells (strong, quiet, **would**) drift through the air and the (time, delay, **scent**) of fresh popcorn would be overwhelming. (**There**, Carry, Train) always is something new to see (saw, **too**, how). Going to the circus gave us (be, **a**, no) wonderful chance to be together. I was excited!

On (Abraham, princess, **Saturday**), we arrived at the circus! First (fold, knew, **came**) the clowns! One clown had a (**goofy**, blast, apart) nose. Moments later a funny multi-colored (packed, much, **clown**) raced into the grandstand, took my (most, came, **dad's**) hat, and ran off with it. (**The**, Far, New) clown went back into the center (about, news, **ring**), tripping over the ring itself, and (barns, **jumped**, mighty) into his little blue circus car. (For, Can, **The**) car drove rapidly out of the (list, **ring**, when) and out of the circus tent (**with**, well, tree) my dad's hat.

I looked at (so, **my**, to) dad. All my family could do (far, **was**, low) roar loudly with laughter. Everyone around (be, as, **us**) laughed hysterically because they all saw (old, down, **the**) clown steal my dad's hat. Shortly (journeyed, **afterward**, soldiers), there was a tremendous ruckus by (bag, **the**, try) other end of the tent and (**the**, way, low) car came in again. It went (swung, train, **super**) fast and nearly hit an elephant (by, if, **on**) its way back to the center (lose, **ring**, call).

"Where is Dad's hat?" I wondered. (Bar, **The**, Can) car stopped and out came one (blast, talks, **clown**), then another, and then another. Fourteen (village, compete, **clowns**) piled out of the car, and (men, **the**, new) last one that climbed out was (country, **wearing**, command) Dad's hat.

The circus was coming to town, and everyone wanted to go to the show to see the spectacle. Tickets were hard to obtain because **(all, his, the)** show was practically sold out.

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## Answer Key

The King commanded that all young men report to his castle. He needed to build an army (**of**, by, to) men and train them to fight. (No, **A**, If) new challenge to the kingdom threatened (hook, much, **from**) across the sea, and the King (repair, **wanted**, panics) to be prepared. The command from (had, saw, **the**) King was carried throughout the land (**to**, my, as) every corner of his kingdom.

Young (driveway, watched, **Abraham**) was a healthy boy, very big (the, **for**, has) his age, and very strong. He (teach, operate, **worked**) beside his father in the fields (taken, **where**, thing) he was able to lift two (major, soggy, **bales**) of hay at one time. He (**could**, house, boots) cut down a small tree with (red, old, **one**) swing. He had a reputation in (you, **his**, new) village as being honest, strong, and (leafy, wasn't, **quiet**). When Abraham received the command from (one, **the**, too) King, he responded immediately. He packed (time, **food**, hand), a blanket, and warm clothing in (or, **an**, so) old bag and swung it over (ore, can, **his**) shoulder. He bid his father farewell (was, now, **and**) journeyed off down the road towards (**the**, her, for) King's castle.

Abraham arrived days later (tell, look, **with**) many other men. He received new (manner, coasted, **clothes**) and a sword. The King's men (farewell, **trained**, branches) Abraham to compete in battle. They (second, **showed**, grunt) him how to use his sword (**and**, wet, all) demonstrated fighting techniques. The King's men (trail, walls, **later**) fed the soldiers and let them (to, my, **go**) to bed, whereupon they fell, exhausted, (upon, **into**, once) a deep sleep on the soft (old, **hay**, sew) of the barns.

In the morning, (dad, pan, **the**) soldiers awakened to the blast of (collapse, **trumpets**, telephone). Invaders landed the night before and (pour, most, **were**) headed to the castle to take (sure, **over**, well) the country. The King commanded his (**new**, had, day) army to defend the country. The (lift, **men**, clay) lined up, tired and scared, unsure (**of**, on, to) how to fight the invading band (**of**, or, so) men.

Abraham led the men into (**battle**, respond, stared). He swung his sword like he (place, works, **swung**) his ax, and the invaders fell (that, **like**, call) trees. He lifted men over his (when, like, **head**) and threw them the way he (words, **threw**, could) bales of hay. The invading forces (whom, knew, **were**) scared off by Abraham's mighty feats. (Room, **They**, Gone) quit fighting and retreated to their (among, **boats**, those). They never tried to invade the (hundred, totally, **kingdom**) again. Abraham's bravery saved his country. (Teacher, Believe, **Abraham**) was awarded the medal of bravery (top, **and**, her) was named a knight of the (remember, **kingdom**, removed).

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## Answer Key

During a thunderstorm last November, a tree fell on our house and our roof collapsed. My dad isn't very good with (lands, **house**, flung) repairs, so we had to call (by, **a**, or) carpenter.

The day after the storm, (on, to, **my**) dad and I waited for the (patiently, definite, **carpenter**) outside on our driveway. We were (**both**, fish, damp) tired after spending most of the (which, cause, **night**) trying to save our belongings. Our (funny, tower, **house**) no longer had much of a (tree, **roof**, star), and it had rained all night.

(Would, **After**, Night) a few minutes, a white van (**with**, bone, wind) "Carlson's Carpentry" painted in red letters (so, if, **on**) its side-door panels turned into (ice, **our**, day) driveway and coasted toward us. My (minutes, barely, **father**) and I were wet, tired, upset, (was, **and**, got) about to be surprised.

The carpenter (**who**, had, not) climbed out of the white van (before, **wasn't**, bare) at all the repairman we were (crossword, returned, **expecting**). Instead, an old woman stepped onto (big, **our**, out) wet driveway. Her hair was in (toward, **curlers**, stepped), and she had a pair of (warning, usual, **safety**) goggles resting on top of her (year, plan, **head**). She shook my dad's hand in (I, **a**, be) no-nonsense manner, and with a (that, **frown**, nook), she turned to look at our (**house**, until, update).

"Now I see why you were (up, so, **in**) such a panic on the telephone," (the, **she**, for) said to my father. "This place (start, open, **needs**) some major work."

The tree that (see, **had**, our) fallen on our house was at (**least**, which, fall) two hundred years old. Its branches (her, off, **and**) leafy sections had completely destroyed our (puzzle, **living**, branch) room and breakfast nook. I didn't (chuckle, straight, **believe**) for one second that this little (did, **old**, not) woman was going to remove the (**tree**, then, eggs) and reconstruct the walls of our (water, **house**, bucket). I could tell my dad wasn't (slid, **sure**, hole) either. He stared at the old (stand, felt, **woman**) in her work boots and carpenter's (hope, night, **pants**). He was totally amazed.

"My name's (**Harriet**, thermos, seventy) Carlson," she told us. "But I (your, turn, **only**) respond to Harry."

"Sure thing," my (wet, **dad**, who) muttered.

"Now where's my chainsaw?" said (plans, upon, **Harry**).

"Are you sure," my dad said following (windy, **after**, damp) her in his bathrobe, "that you (**should**, walleye, argues) operate such heavy machinery, Mrs. Carlson?"

"(**That's**, Would, Lunch) Harry," she grunted as she hefted (him, was, **the**) chainsaw in one hand and stalked (at, **up**, in) the driveway. "No one's called me (saw, one, **Mrs.**) Carlson since my teaching days. This (down, about, **here's**) my second career choice."

## Answer Key

The rest (as, **of**, am) her words were lost in the (**roar**, legs, come) of the chainsaw as we watched (at, no, **in**) disbelief as she started to work. (Down, **From**, More) then on, I remembered that first (proceeding, examination, **impressions**) aren't everything.

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## Answer Key

The Minnesota ice fishing season began on a damp day with a bone-chilling wind. But a little inclement weather was (the, and, **not**) enough to spoil my seventy-eight-(with, **year**, that)-old Grandpa's plans! He got up (cornhusk, stopped, **earlier**) than usual and had a big (exercise, **breakfast**, vegetable) of bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, and (**orange**, friend, knuckle) juice. Having organized his fishing gear (his, you, **the**) night before, he only had to (much, **grab**, kids) a thermos of hot coffee before (watched, sprout, **heading**) out on the ice in hopes (so, **of**, in) landing a big walleye.

Grandpa had (of, to, **a**) lot of patience and sat on (can, let, **his**) bucket patiently for an hour without (it, **a**, on) single bite. Jeff went down to (closet, **check**, over) on Grandpa and see if he (pumpkin, toast, **needed**) anything. It was so cold that (good, Igor, **Jeff**) could barely stand there for a (**few**, him, odd) minutes of chatting before returning to (had, but, **the**) house with an update on Grandpa's (stopping, **progress**, whizzed). Dad felt bad that the fish (couch, coffee, **weren't**) biting. As he looked out the (looked, **window**, anyone), he said with a gasp, "Oh (**no**, of, up)!"

Quickly, he opened the window and (**yelled**, sprouts, stand) out a warning. "Dad!" he shouted. "(As, To, **Be**) careful! The ice might crack beneath (was, **you**, ear)."

But Grandpa had hearing problems, and (he, is, **in**) turning his head toward the window, (all, **the**, and) bucket slid towards the hole in (see, **the**, her) ice. Dad waited until Mom (just, **came**, skin) into the room. She did not (notice, **think**, belly) Grandpa's situation was very safe. She (over, **went**, him) over to the window and yelled, "(thinking, turnip, **Grandpa**)! Get off the bucket."

Again, Grandpa (you, who, **did**) not hear her. Everyone agreed that (**Grandpa**, noticed, inflate) could fall in the water without (pelican, decayed, **getting**) hurt, but he would definitely be (grow, nose, **cold**) and wet, which would make him (denial, **crabby**, squall). Mom and Dad started to argue (time, **over**, need) who should go outside and tell (**Grandpa**, advisor, increase) to come in soon.

"Oh, for (imperfect, stunned, **goodness**) sake," said Grandma, putting down her (incredible, **crossword**, eggplant) puzzle and getting up from the (them, **sofa**, have). She flung open the window and (mother, potato, **yelled**), "Bob, LUNCH!"

And with that, Grandpa (**safely**, growing, school) stood straight up, put down his (days, **pole**, from), and walked up the hill. Shortly (beyond, **after**, maybe) Grandpa was in the house, he (nothing, potato, **looked**) at the empty table and asked, "(Seemed, Weekend, **Where's**) lunch?" Mom and Dad looked at each other with disbelief.

The Minnesota ice fishing season began on a damp day with a bone-chilling wind. But a little inclement weather was **(the, and, not)** enough to spoil my seventy-eight-**(with, year, that)**-old Grandpa's plans! He got up **(cornhusk, stopped, earlier)** than usual and had a big **(exercise, breakfast, vegetable)** of bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, and **(orange, friend, knuckle)** juice. Having organized his fishing gear **(his, you, the)** night before, he only had to **(much, grab, kids)** a thermos of hot coffee before **(watched, sprout, heading)** out on the ice in hopes **(so, of, in)** landing a big walleye.

Grandpa had **(of, to, a)** lot of patience and sat on **(can, let, his)** bucket patiently for an hour without **(it, a, on)** single bite. Jeff went down to **(closet, check, over)** on Grandpa and see if he **(pumpkin, toast, needed)** anything. It was so cold that **(good, Igor, Jeff)** could barely stand there for a **(few, him, odd)** minutes of chatting before returning to **(had, but, the)** house with an update on Grandpa's **(stopping, progress, whizzed)**. Dad felt bad that the fish **(couch, coffee, weren't)** biting. As he looked out the **(looked, window, anyone)**, he said with a gasp, "Oh **(no, of, up)!**"

Quickly, he opened the window and **(yelled, sprouts, stand)** out a warning. "Dad!" he shouted. "**(As, To, Be)** careful! The ice might crack beneath **(was, you, ear).**"

But Grandpa had hearing problems, and **(he, is, in)** turning his head toward the window, **(all, the, and)** bucket slid towards the hole in **(see, the, her)** ice. Dad waited until Mom **(just, came, skin)** into the room. She did not **(notice, think, belly)** Grandpa's situation was very safe. She **(over, went, him)** over to the window and yelled, "**(thinking, turnip, Grandpa)!** Get off the bucket."

Again, Grandpa **(you, who, did)** not hear her. Everyone agreed that **(Grandpa, noticed, inflate)** could fall in the water without **(pelican, decayed, getting)** hurt, but he would definitely be **(grow, nose, cold)** and wet, which would make him **(denial, crabby, squall)**. Mom and Dad started to argue **(time, over, need)** who should go outside and tell **(Grandpa, advisor, increase)** to come in soon.

"Oh, for **(imperfect, stunned, goodness)** sake," said Grandma, putting down her **(incredible, crossword, eggplant)** puzzle and getting up from the **(them, sofa, have)**. She flung open the window and **(mother, potato, yelled)**, "Bob, LUNCH!"

And with that, Grandpa **(safely, growing, school)** stood straight up, put down his **(days, pole, from)**, and walked up the hill. Shortly **(beyond, after, maybe)** Grandpa was in the house, he **(nothing, potato, looked)** at the empty table and asked, "**(Seemed, Weekend, Where's)** lunch?" Mom and Dad looked at each other with disbelief.

## Answer Key

Trevor spent so much time in front of the television playing video games and watching MTV that his mother thought he was turning into a vegetable.

"Trevor," she said to her son (**one**, his, our) morning over French toast, "you have (at, of, **to**) stop spending so much time sitting (or, **on**, by) the couch watching TV. You're turning (took, spend, **into**) a couch potato."

Trevor's father agreed. "(Own, **Too**, Was) much television isn't good for anyone," (it, **he**, of) said.

"Whatever," Trevor muttered under his (center, **breath**, wheels) as he retrieved his skateboard from (two, set, **the**) closet and whizzed off to school. (The, Use, **All**) of his friends watched just as (**much**, with, cart) television as he did, and nothing (old, tie, **was**) wrong with them.

Maybe it was (axle, **just**, gone) because his mother had him thinking (couch, play, **about**) kids turning into vegetables, but he (suggest, **started**, breath) to notice odd things about his (trouble, **friends**, himself).

Igor Wagner watched TV all night (be, as, **on**) school days and all day and (power, **night**, still) on weekends. Trevor noticed that Igor (for, **had**, now) the nose of a turnip, and (fly, **the**, far) skin around his knuckles was brown (**and**, old, own) looked like potato skins.

Molly Santana (fields, **played**, apple) video games all the time, and (off, **she**, saw) seemed to be growing curly grapevines (off, with, **out**) of her head, sprouting bean sprouts (how, long, **out**) of her ears, and taking on (so, **an**, be) eggplant-shaped body.

Then Trevor noticed (fine, **that**, tried) his own skin was the color (**of**, to, in) cornhusks and that he was starting (by, so, **to**) grow a belly like a pumpkin.

(**After**, Didn't, Know) school, Igor and Molly stopped him (side, calm, **near**) the cafeteria.

"Do you want to (upon, **come**, late) over to my house?" Molly asked. "(No, As, I) just rented a new video game. (Or, **We**, By) can play it all night!"

"No, (**let's**, when, laid) go to my place," Igor said. "(Same, Know, **This**) weekend is movie madness on cable. (Or, **My**, Who) mom will make us pizza and (grazed, across, **popcorn**), and we won't even have to (tie, **get**, more) up off the couch. It'll be (nervous, history, **awesome**)!"

Trevor patted his pumpkin stomach and (deluxe, lumber, **picked**) up his skateboard. He was going (by, **to**, as) need to spend a lot of (near, **time**, you) outdoors exercising in the fresh air (**to**, be, is) get back in shape.

"No, I (front, **think**, fresh) I'll take a rain check, guys," (or, **he**, if) told them and whizzed away quickly.

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## Answer Key

Looking at John Cobb standing next to his racers with his helmet on inspired me and my friend Marty to build our own go-cart. (In, **We**, By) were going to make history. We took a board from Dad's lumber (book, **pile**, when). The board measured two inches thick (to, it, **by**) twelve inches across and eight feet (have, very, **long**). Next we took apart my brother's (**wagon**, inches, bound) for its wheels and sturdy axles. (Be, Is, **To**) attach the wheels, we laid the (step, **axles**, sock) on the board and drove 16-(began, stack, **penny**) nails into one-inch centers on (find, **both**, flap) sides. Then we bent them over (an, our, **the**) steel axle. We also built a (days, **seat**, from) out of an old orange crate.

(**Finally**, Speaker, Wheels) we had a basic go-cart. (If, No, **It**) was nothing fancy, but with a (said, **fine**, foot) set of wheels, plenty of grease, (was, for, **and**) some kid-power or a good (that, **hill**, just), she would fly!

We decided this (**machine**, marched, frantic) would be a deluxe model, including (requests, skeleton, **steering**). To achieve steering control, we concentrated (and, **the**, air) nails at the center of the (speed, lumber, **front**) axle. You could accomplish a left (of, **or**, is) right turn by sitting on the (slow, **board**, pretty) and placing your feet against the (tiny, **axle**, help) on both sides near the wheels (**and**, the, may) using a reasonable amount of pressure.

(On, **It**, Up) was Marty's great idea to tie (off, **the**, too) go-cart to the white horse (sound, stern, **named**) Old Blue that grazed in the (basic, these, **field**) across the street. When Marty introduced (new, **the**, one) horsepower idea, I became a little (straight, **nervous**, tapped). It didn't take long for me (as, am, **to**) suggest that he should be the (peach, **first**, canoe) test driver.

We fastened a rope (an, **to**, tie) Old Blue's neck, and Marty climbed (messed, herself, **aboard**) and tied himself in with a (**do**, my, be)-it-yourself seatbelt. Old Blue had (on, **no**, of) trouble pulling a piece of wood (screamed, **through**, obvious) the field of hay. Marty was (responsible, requesting, **determined**) to ride as far as he (along, deluxe, **could**). He was doing well until Old (**Blue**, beak, could) jumped a ditch, sending the go-(hung, **cart**, call) airborne. When it hit the ground (to, **on**, be) the other side of the ditch, (far, sew, **the**) wheels came off completely.

When I (**reached**, library, nervous) Marty, he didn't look very good. (Up, **It**, No) took me a few minutes to (that, have, **help**) him get out of the smashed (by, **go**, of)-cart. Luckily, Marty was able to (tied, legs, **walk**) home. I did not go with (**him**, you, can) though. I thought it would be (very, **best**, burn) for Marty to explain what happened (if, is, **on**) his own.

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