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**A1+**

**GREAT** **AT**  
**READING**  
**COMPREHENSION**

**BOOK 3**



**Booklet**

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## THE THINGS I LOVE

1. Listen and read the poem: 

A butterfly dancing in the sunlight,  
 A bird singing at the window,  
 The whispering **pin**es along the alley,  
 The restless **sea** at sunset,  
 The gigantic **mountains** in the distance,  
 A beautiful **tree**,  
 The rain upon the roof,  
 The smell of apples, new and ripe,  
 The sun at early dawn,  
 A child picking up shells on the beach,  
 The sound of a shady **river**,  
 A little boy flying a kite,  
 A little girl humming a tune,  
 A woman with her smiling **baby**,  
 A man whose eyes are kind and wise,  
 Young people who are hopeful and brave –  
 When all is said, I do love the most  
 A little home full of love,  
 Where there's kindness, peace, and rest.

Adapted from *The Things I Love*, by Scottie McKenzie Frasier

## 2. Which of the following two words best describe this poem?

rhyming    sad    honest    funny    peaceful    nonsense

## 3. Find words or phrases in the poem that mean:

a. an opening in the wall or roof, usually covered with glass

b. the time of day when the sun rises

c. singing a song very softly

d. relaxation



4. Circle the correct answer. In the poem, the word **pin**es refers to:

- fruits      flowers      trees

5. Write the words from the poem that describe the following things:

..... pines	..... mountains
..... sea	..... tree
..... river	..... baby

6. Which of the three senses – sight, hearing or smell – do the following phrases address?

- a. A butterfly dancing
- b. A bird singing
- c. Rain upon the roof
- d. Apples, newly ripe
- e. The sun at early dawn
- f. A girl humming a tune

sight

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. Match the words to their opposites:

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. restless | a. shout    |
| 2. whisper  | b. unafraid |
| 3. hopeful  | c. mean     |
| 4. afraid   | d. calm     |
| 5. wise     | e. hopeless |
| 6. kind     | f. foolish  |



8. Find the odd one out! Cross out the word that doesn't belong in each series.

- |             |          |            |                 |
|-------------|----------|------------|-----------------|
| a. child    | woman    | man        | <del>bird</del> |
| b. helpful  | apple    | unafraid   | wise            |
| c. kindness | conflict | peace      | rest            |
| d. flying   | singing  | whispering | humming         |

9. What is the thing the poet loves the most?

.....

10. Circle the three essential things for having a loving home according to the poet.

- peace      resentment      kindness      hatred      rest

# THE RED ROSE AND THE CACTUS



## 1. Read the story:

It's a warm spring day. A red rose is blooming *slowly* in the forest.

A pine tree admires the rose:

"I would like to be as beautiful as you."

Another tree says to the pine: "Dear friend, don't be sad. We each **have** our own **strengths**."

The red rose says *proudly*: "Clearly, I am the most beautiful flower!"

A sunflower **overhears**: "Remember, we all shine in our own way."

The rose laughs. "Everyone **gazes** at me in admiration. I'm the best!" The red rose notices a cactus. "He's so ugly! All **thorns** and completely useless!"

The pine tree says, "Beauty is not just in appearance. You, too, have thorns."

"Don't compare my thorns to his spikes!"

The trees *quietly* observe: "You're so proud and foolish."

Every day, the red rose is rude to the cactus. But the cactus is calm and offers advice: "Every living thing has a purpose. Beauty isn't everything."

Summer arrives. The rose is starting to bend, drying out in the sun. One morning, it sees some **sparrows** around the cactus. The birds poke their beaks into the cactus and fly away refreshed.

Curious, the red rose asks the pine tree, "Why are the birds drinking from the cactus?"

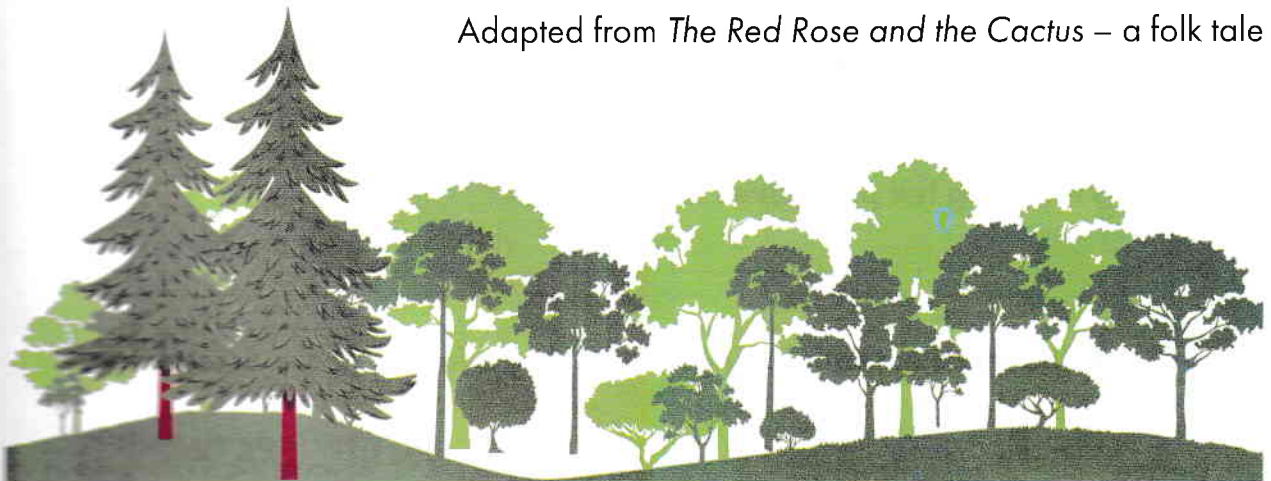
"He *gladly* gives them water. He doesn't want to see them suffer in the dry season."

**Stunned**, the red rose asks, "The cactus has water?"

"Yes. If you ask him for help, the sparrows can water you."

*Ashamed*, the rose asks for help. The kind cactus agrees. Soon, the sparrows bring water to the rose. The rose realises its mistake.

Adapted from *The Red Rose and the Cactus* – a folk tale



**2. Write one of the words in bold type from the story to match the definitions below. Use context clues.**

- a. a small sharp spike on a plant: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. a quality that gives someone an advantage: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. a small, common brown and grey bird: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. hear what others are saying by accident: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. very shocked or surprised: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. look at something with interest: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Circle two plants that do NOT appear in the story.**

rose      sunflower      lily      cactus      violet

**4. Find in the text:**

- a. how the rose is blooming: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. how the trees observe: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. how the cactus gives its water: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. how the rose asks for help: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Why is the pine tree sad?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Who says what? Write R for the rose, P for the pine, S for the sunflower and C for the cactus:**

- "I am the most beautiful flower!" \_\_\_\_\_
- "I would like to be as beautiful as you." \_\_\_\_\_
- "We all shine in our own way." \_\_\_\_\_
- "He's so ugly!" \_\_\_\_\_
- "Beauty isn't everything." \_\_\_\_\_

**7. How does the rose speak after it laughs? Circle one answer.**

- a. in an annoyed and offended way
- b. in a proud and foolish way

**8. Read and write TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).**

- a. A sunflower admires the beautiful blooming rose.
- b. The rose is the only beautiful plant in the forest.
- c. The rose says its thorns cannot be compared to the cactus's spikes.
- d. The red rose is very polite to the cactus.
- e. In summer, the rose suffers because it doesn't have water.
- f. At the end of the story, the cactus refuses to help the rose.



**1. Listen and read the poem:** 

January brings the snow,  
 Our **feet** and **fingers** freeze, you  
 know?

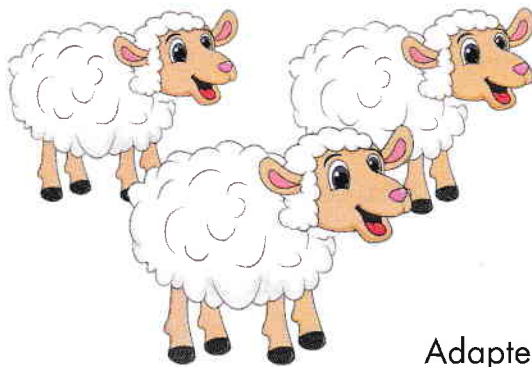
February brings the rain,  
 Melts the frozen lake again.

March brings winds loud and chill,  
 Moves the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet,  
 Spreads daisies at our feet.

May brings flocks of pretty **lambs**,  
 Skipping by their woolly mums.

June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
 Fills the children's **hands** with poppies.



Hot July brings cooling **showers**,  
**Apricots** and summer flowers.

August brings the crops of **corn**,  
 Then the farmers take it home.

Warm September brings the fruit,  
 Apples, pears, and plums so good.

Fresh October brings the sun;  
 When we gather nuts it's fun.

Cold November brings grey skies,  
 And huge, delicious apple pies.

Chill December brings cold feet,  
 Blazing fire and a **Christmas** treat.

Adapted from *The Garden Year*, by Sara Coleridge

**2. Write short answers for the following questions.**

- a. Which month does the poet think is windy? .....
- b. Which month brings the crops of corn? .....
- c. What do the farmers do with the corn? .....
- d. Which month makes the frozen lake melt? .....
- e. What flowers does June bring? .....



**3. Circle the word that is NOT a flower.**

daffodil    rose    daisy    lamb    primrose    tulip    lily

**4. Find in the poem:**

- a. a young farm animal: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. a famous holiday: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. a summer fruit: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. a type of cereal: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. three parts of the body: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Circle what the word *showers* means in the poem.**

- a. short summer rain
- b. bathroom appliances that spray water so you can wash yourself

**6. Which word does NOT mean a type of fruit?**



apple    pear    corn    plum



**7. When can one see flocks of lambs?** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. When can you get a Christmas treat?** \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Write which month from the poem brings:**

- a. grey skies \_\_\_\_\_
- b. the primrose \_\_\_\_\_
- c. the snow \_\_\_\_\_
- d. apple pies \_\_\_\_\_
- e. cooling showers \_\_\_\_\_

**10. In the poem, which months are special because of the flowers?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**11. When is your birthday?** \_\_\_\_\_

**12. What happens during your birthday month according to the poem?**

\_\_\_\_\_