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GREAT AT
READING
COMPREHENSION

BOOK 4



Booklet

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ALPHABET POEM

1. Read the poem. Then match each picture to the corresponding word in bold type.



A fell and hurt his **Arm** on a bit of wood.

B said, "My **Boy**, do not cry, it cannot do you good!"

C said, "A **Cup** of hot Cocoa can't do you any harm."

D said, "A **Doctor** should come in, and he will cure the arm."

E said, "An **Egg** mixed with milk will quickly make him well."

F said, "A **Fish**, if fried, can cure just with its smell."

G said, "**Green Grapes** are sweet, the best of cures they hold."

H said, "His **Hat** should be kept on, save him from the cold."

I said, "Some **Ice** on his head will make him better soon."

J said, "Some **Jam**, if spread on bread, or given on a spoon."

K said, "A **Kangaroo** is here. Come and see!"

L said, "A **Lamp** at night will help us make some tea."

M said, "A **Mango** or two might give him satisfaction."

N said, "Some **Nuts**, salty and fresh, might be a good attraction."

O said, "An **Owl** might make him laugh, if it's dressed in pink."

P said, "Some **Poetry** might be read aloud, to make him think."

Q said, "A **Queen** could visit him. And bring him his mail."

R said, "Some **Rats** might make him move, if he grabs them by their tail."

S said, "A **Song** we should all sing, it will make him laugh!"

T said, "A **Tomato** would be good, if sliced or cut in half."

U said, "The **Uniform** he wears at school and a pretty pin!"

V said, "I'll stand on a chair, and play the **Violin!**"

W said, "Some sparkling **Water** cold, some toys and a ball!"

X said, "Santa Claus at **Xmas** would be the best of all!"

Y said, "Some **Yoghurt** mixed with honey would make him heal faster!"

Z said, "Or listen to this **Zebra**, who is a healing master!"

Adapted after *Alphabet Poem*, by Edward Lear

2. Circle why you think the author wrote this poem. Multiple answers.

- to inform to entertain to teach to give advice

3. Find in the poem and write down:

- a. three body parts (not only human):
- b. five animals:
- c. two types of fruit:
- d. a toy:
- e. a musical instrument:
- f. four drinks:
- g. two types of clothes:

4. Circle the cure that is NOT mentioned in the poem:

- an egg a kangaroo a crocodile some poetry a zebra some ice

5. Circle the correct answer. Sparkling water has:

- lemon bubbles no bubbles the colour green a bad smell

b. Read the poem again and give short answers to the questions below.

- a. Who will cure the arm?
- b. Whose smell can cure the boy?
- c. Why should the boy keep his hat on?
- d. How many mangoes might give him satisfaction?
- e. Which animals might make him move?
- f. Which cure might make him laugh?
- g. Which cure must be sliced or cut in half?
- h. Which are the best cures, according to the poem?

7. Which word rhymes with master in the poem?

8. Match the words to their definition.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| a. hot cocoa | 1. to cut something into thin, flat pieces |
| b. cure | 2. a shorter word for Christmas |
| c. Xmas | 3. sweet drink made with chocolate /cocoa and milk |
| d. slice | 4. something that makes you feel better when you're sick |
| e. pin | 5. a short, thin piece of metal with a sharp point at one end and a round head at the other |

9. Which cure from the poem would make you feel better if you were sick? Why?

.....

.....

LETTERS TO LEO

1. Listen and read the text: 

Dear Leo,

Welcome to your new home, apartment 10B! You are now an official member of the Rossi family... and guess what? You are the first ever Rossi DOG. So, congratulations. You made it. We weren't going to get a dog because of my father. I kept saying, I WANT A DOG! But no dog. Because of my father. HE DOES NOT LOVE DOGS. I understand why. It has to do with being brave. See, some fathers are BIG and BRAVE. My father is TALL, but he isn't that brave. Sometimes he pretends to be. But I know the truth. I know he is secretly afraid of things. Such as bugs, tall ladders, and the ocean with high waves. And large dogs. HE MIGHT BE AFRAID OF ALL DOGS. EVEN LITTLE CUTIES LIKE YOU. That's why you must be a good boy, Leo. Just do everything I say every day, and there... my father won't be afraid of dogs anymore! We will all live happily ever after.

Your truest friend,
Love you, Leo!
Annie

Also. I made you a little workbook.

HOW TO BE A GOOD DOG:

1. Be cheerful, not grumpy.
2. Pretend my father is your best friend, even though your best friend is ME.
3. Don't waste food, and don't make faces if you don't like the food.
4. Watch baseball on TV with my father. Support the team called the Yankees. It's important.
5. No jumping on the neighbours.
6. No loud barking in apartment 10B. In case of an EMERGENCY (like a scary robber), you may bark and BITE a lot.

This is the longest letter I have ever written, and my hand hurts! But don't worry, Leo. I promise to write you shorter letters. With lots of secrets! I will read you all my letters late at night. Just you and me!

Adapted and abridged from *Letters to Leo*, by Amy Hest

2. Read the text again and give short answers to the questions below:

- a. Who is writing the letter?
- b. Who is Leo?
- c. Which member of the Rossi family was always against having a dog?
.....
- d. How does Annie describe her father?
- e. Is Leo allowed to waste food?
- f. Which American baseball team is mentioned in the story?
- g. When is Leo allowed to bark?

3. Circle the correct answer. Annie's family lives in apartment:

10A 10B 10C

4. Circle the one thing Annie's father is **NOT secretly afraid of:**

tall ladders bugs large dogs mice high ocean waves

5. Rewrite Annie's instructions for Leo in DOs and DON'Ts, using clues from her letter.

DOs	DON'Ts
<i>Be cheerful.</i>	<i>Don't be grumpy.</i>

6. Have you got a pet? If, yes, what is it?

.....

7. Write a short message to your (imaginary) pet.

.....

THE FAIRY TALE FAN CLUB: LEGENDARY LETTERS COLLECTED BY C.C. CECILY



1. Read the text:

C.C. CECILY - SENIOR SECRETARY
THE FAIRY TALE FAN CLUB
PO BOX 1, FAIRY LAND AVE, FAIRY LAND (ONCE UPON A TIME)
FAR, FAR AWAY

As well as “fan” letters, I also take care of the communications in the Magical Kingdom. So, if you want to know more about your favourite fairy tale characters, this is the right **book**. And if you have any questions, why not write to me? Maybe your letter will appear in the next volume.

Little Red Riding Hood

Our first letter is from Ira to Little Red Riding Hood.

*Dear Little Red Riding Hood (I'm sorry, I don't know your real name),
How can you be eaten by a **wolf** and survive? Also, how is it possible to think a wolf is an old woman? One is terrible and scary, and the other is a wolf.
Just kidding, ha-ha! But it didn't sound realistic to me. I know the difference between a person and a wolf! Anyway, I hope you're feeling OK now. I bet it was super weird for you.*

*Yours sincerely,
Ira (aged 9)*

PS: How “little” are you?

Here's what our fairy tale friend answered:

*Dear Ira,
Thank you for your letter. I am fine now. But I don't want to be eaten by a wolf again! I understand why you thought some of the things in the story didn't sound “realistic”. Why did I think a wolf was my **grandmother**? Think about this! Isn't it weird that a wolf was talking to me?
I told my grandmother that if she wants **cupcakes** again, she can buy them at the supermarket!*

*Love,
Little Red Riding Hood*

PS: (Re: your PS) Less “little” than I used to be.

Adapted and abridged from

The Fairy Tale Fan Club: Legendary Letters Collected by C.C. Cecily, by Richard Ayoade

2. What is C.C. Cecily's job?

.....

3. Who does she work for?

.....

4. What is the address of her office?

.....

5. Which fairy tale character is the first letter addressed to?

.....

6. Does Ira know the fairy tale character's real name?

7. What type of dessert did Grandma want?

.....

8. Circle the things that are impossible in Ira's opinion.

- a. to meet a wolf in the woods
- b. to be eaten by a wolf and survive
- c. to think a wolf is an old woman






9. Tick (✓) the thing Ira is interested in when asking: **How "little" are you?**

- a. how old Little Red Riding Hood is
- b. how tall Little Red Riding Hood is
- c. how much Little Red Riding Hood weighs

10. One of the following words is **NOT** a synonym of terrible. Underline it.

horrible delightful creepy scary spooky

11. These emojis match parts of the story. Based on the text, write a true sentence for each.

-  (wolf)
-  (cupcake)
-  (grandma)
-  (book)
-  (Little Red Riding Hood)

WHAT KATY DID



1. Listen and read the text:

"And now, Katy, it's your turn," said Cecy. "Tell us what you're going to be when you grow up."

"I'm not sure," replied Katy. "Beautiful, of course, and good if I can. And I'd like to have a large house and a pretty garden. You could all come and live with me, and we would play in the garden. We would have machines to fix socks, to clean and put things in order. We wouldn't have to do anything we didn't want to! That's what I'd like to be. But now I'll tell you what I will do."

"Isn't it the same thing?" asked Cecy.

"Oh, no!" replied Katy. "It's different. Because I want to do something important. I don't know what yet, but when I'm grown up, I will find out. Maybe I will have a boat and save people's lives. Or maybe I will be a nurse in the hospital. Or I'll fight a battle and ride on a white horse. I'll wear **armour** and a helmet on my head and carry our country's **flag**. Or if I don't do that, I'll paint pictures, or sing, or sculpt... **sculpt** – what is it? You know – make figures in **marble**. And when Aunt Izzie sees them and reads about me in the newspapers, she will say: *The dear child! I always knew she would be an amazing person.*"

"Oh, Katy! How beautiful it will be!" said Clover.

"I don't believe the newspapers would be so silly as to print things about you, Katy Carr," said Elsie in a mean way.

"Yes, they will!" said Clover.

Adapted and abridged from *What Katy Did*, by Susan Coolidge

2. What are the names of the four girls in the dialogue?

.....

3. Katy dreams of having:

- a. a large house and a pretty garden
- b. a farm with animals
- c. a shop that sells cakes

4. To which word in bold type from the text do the definitions refer to?

- a. metal clothing that once protected soldiers during battles =
- b. making figures out of marble or stone =
- c. a piece of material with the national colours of a country =
- d. a type of stone used to make statues / figures =

5. Circle the correct answer. Katy says she would like to:

- a. be famous for something important
- b. stay home and do nothing
- c. travel but not do anything important

6. Elsie's comment about the newspapers is meant to be:

- kind
- encouraging
- mean
- serious

7. Fill in the blanks to complete Katy's reply.

"I want to do something I don't know what yet, but when I'm, I will find out."

8. Katy imagines doing these things when she grows up (list two):

1.
2.

9. Write the opposite of each word from the text.

beautiful



important



silly



good



large



.....

10. How would you describe Katy's personality?

- practical and realistic
- imaginative and ambitious
- lazy and uninterested

11. Do you think Katy's dreams are realistic or just fantasy? Why?

.....

12. Draw two things Katy plans to do in the future and complete the sentences.

When Katy grows up, she wants to 	When Katy grows up, she wants to
---	---