

5th Grade Reading and Comprehension

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble

***printed downloads

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

**printed downloads

The Muffin Friend by Daniel Pinkwater

Have your child read up to page 25. Discuss the elements so far. Identify characters, setting, and problem. Ask your child to predict the solution to the problem before reading further. Continue reading.

Discuss what type of literature it is. Is it an adventure, biography, mystery? How did the author get his idea for the story?

This author often writes about outrageous characters or situations.

The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins by Dr Suess

Have your child read this aloud to you. If you need to take a couple of days that is fine. Have your child imagine what happened when Bartholomew got home that night. Have your child write about that night's events in an epilogue to the story.

Betsy and Tacy by Maud Heart Lovelace

***printed download

Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder

***printed download

Addies Dakota Winter by Laurie Lawlor

***printed download

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

**printed download

The Trumpet of the Swan by EB White

**printed download

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

**printed download

To Walk the Sky Path by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

**print download

Circle of Gold by Candy Dawson Boyd

**print download

And Now Miguel by Joseph Krumbold

Carry on Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham

The day it rained forever by Virginia Gross

Dear America series: A Journey to the new World by Kathryn Lasky

When will this war be over? by Barry Denenburg

The winter of red snow by kristiana Gregory
 Dinosaurs before dark by mary pop Osborne
 The Egypt game by zilpha keatley snyder
 Four babies by anne fine
 Gentle ben by walt morey
 The girl who loved wild horses by paul goble
 Henry reed, inc. by keith Robertson
 A horse came running by meindert de jong
 I am regina by sally m keehn
 Johnny tremain by esther forbes
 Just the two of us by jan Greenberg
 Mother earth, father sky: poems of our planet selected by jane yolen
 Mr revere and I by Robert Lawson
 My Life with the Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall
 Mystery of the Plumed Serpent by Barbara Brenner
 Nothing is Impossible: The story of Beatrix potter by Dorothy aldiss
 Old yeller by fred Gipson
 The phantom tollbooth by Norton juster
 Pippi longstocking by astrid lindgren
 Poetry for young people by Robert frost
 Rascal by sterling north
 Sam ellis's island by Beatrice siegel
 Sarah, plain, and tall by patricia maclachlan
 Shades of gray by Carolyn reeder
 Sing me a story: metropolitan opera's book of opera stories for children by jane Rosenberg
 Smoky the cowhorse by will james
 Songs for survival compiled by nikki siegen-smith
 Through the looking glass by lewis carroll
 The water babies by Charles kingsley
 A wrinkle in time by Madeleine L engle
 The yearling by marorie k rawlings

Make a record sheet of all the books she has read to keep in her folder or on cardstock on the wall.

Title	Author	Main idea	rating

**Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
(later in year)**

****printed PDF be selective on printed pages**

The War with Grandpa by Robert Kimmel Smith

****printed page**

Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. C

2. There is going to be a lot of short chapters in this book because Pete thinks short chapters make a book go faster.

3. Pete's Grandpa can't use the guest room permanently because it is up two flights of stairs and he has a bad leg and could not get there without difficulty.

4. Disgusting means very strong distaste; sickening dislike.

5. The last item to be moved out of Pete's bedroom was his bed.

6. Pete feels like his bedroom belongs only to him because it had been his room since he was born.

7. Answers will vary.

8. Pictures will vary.

DISCUSSION: Pete thinks his room is worth fighting for, what would the reader think was worth fighting for?

LESSON 2

1. Grandpa compares Pete's growing to the springing up a weed.

2. B

3. The Secret Warrior is the name Pete uses in his war with Grandpa.

4. A fanatic is a person having unduly strong and unreasonable beliefs about something.

5. A

6. Pete's grandfather has changed from being a fun, lively, happy person to a sad, moping person.

7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 3

1. A

2. Pete's friends think he has lost the war because he keeps talking about how nice his grandfather is and how he doesn't want to do anything bad to him.

3. B

4. Meander means to wander along in an aimless way.

5. The first trick that Grandpa plays on Pete is to take all of the Monopoly game pieces.

6. Answers will vary.

7. C

8. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. The phrase egg me on means to try to get someone to do something, almost like a dare.

2. C

3. The characteristics of Grandpa that should be underlined are strong and fixer

4. Diabolical means devilish or cruel.

5. Answers will vary. One reason Grandpa is not moping around is he is too busy trying to think up tricks to play on Pete.

6. Pete loved the day he spent fishing with his Grandpa. He said he would never forget it.

7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. Pete had to brush his teeth with his finger because Grandpa had taken his toothbrush.

2. Grandpa's solution to the bedroom problem is for him to make the basement into an apartment for himself.
3. C
4. Retaliation means to return like for like; to reply in action by a similar one.
5. The correct order is 3, 4, 1, and 2.
6. Answers will vary. Pete and Grandpa come up with a good alternative to fighting -talking. Discuss with the students why that is a good solution. Are there other choices?
7. Answers will vary.

Mr Poppers Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater

Chapter 1- Stillwater

Language Arts

Vocabulary –

Calcimine – a white wash made of whiting, or zinc white, with glue and water, for ceilings and walls.

Expedition – a journey or voyage for a definite purpose.

Bungalow – a small house or cottage, usually with one or one and a half stories.

Absent-minded – Not paying attention to one's surroundings because the mind is preoccupied with other matters.

Comprehension Questions –

1. What kind of work does Mr. Popper do? (House painter)
2. Why was Mr. Popper always absent-minded? (Always dreaming of far away places)
3. How many children did Mr. and Mrs. Popper have? (Two)
4. What did Mr. Popper wish he were instead of a house painter? (A scientist)
5. What was Mrs. Popper worried about, come fall? (Not having enough money)

Creative Writing –

Mr. Popper had wanted to travel the world, seeing exciting places. Have your child create a travel brochure trying to convince Mr. Popper to come visit your town. What exciting things might one see in your town? Anything your town is known for? Have your child write brief descriptions and draw pictures

Geography/Map Skills –

Mr. Popper had wanted to see the world, hunting tigers in India, climbing the peaks of the Himalayas, diving for pearls in the South Seas, and visiting the Poles. Get out a world map with your child and locate these places. Review or introduce the seven continents, Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica, North America,

South America, and Europe. What continents are the places Mr. Popper wants to visit on?

Different Kinds of Maps--

There are various kinds of maps and globes, each one with a specific use. A map shows a place from above. Different maps include world, state, and local maps, resource maps showing the things people make or grow in a certain area, a landform map which shows mountains, rivers, lakes, and oceans, and route maps which show the way to get to certain places. A book of maps is called an atlas. There are features that most maps have in common. Introduce to your child the different parts of a map, having him locate the following:

Title – the title of the map tells you where the map is about.

Compass Rose – A compass rose helps you tell the direction. North is always at the top.

Map Key – Contains symbols that tell you what products are produced, kind of work people do, areas of special interest, capitals and cities, and/or what landforms exist in the place on the map.

Scale – The scale tells you how many miles in the real world equal a certain distance on the map. The scale will help you to know distances between cities.

Globes are three-dimensional maps in the shape of a sphere. They are divided into two halves, called the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, by the Equator. There are lines that run parallel to the equator called lines of latitude, which help you locate places north and south of the equator. Another important line on the globe is called the Prime Meridian. It is the imaginary line that goes from the North Pole to the South Pole. This line divides the world into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. On each side of the Prime Meridian are curved lines called lines of longitude. They measure how far east or west a place is. Have your child locate all these various lines on a globe.

Chapter 2- The Voice in the Air

Language Arts

Vocabulary -

Spectacles – Eyeglasses

Comprehension Questions –

1. What did Mr. Popper think was the nicest part of the Antarctic? (Penguins)
2. What kind of pet did the Popper family currently have? (Goldfish)
3. Explain how penguins check to see if it is safe to go in the water for food.

Social Studies

South Pole –

Mr. Popper was reading a book called Antarctic Adventures. If you look at the very bottom of a globe you will see the Antarctic Circle. Within this circle lies the continent Antarctica and the South Pole. Antarctica is almost entirely covered by a vast sheet of ice, and actually contains 90% of the world's ice and snow.

Nobody ever lives there permanently due to the extreme cold but scientists who study the animals and weather patterns visit it. Most of the continent isn't owned by anybody, but England, France, Australia, and New Zealand claim portions.

National Geographic Magazine –

Mr. Popper liked the National Geographic Magazine. The National Geographic Society, a group of scientists that has sent research expeditions all over the world since 1888, started this magazine. Their headquarters are in Washington, DC. The magazine is a monthly periodical that has extensive coverage of the expeditions, including those of Admirals Robert Peary and Richard Byrd into the Polar Regions. If you have access to a National Geographic Magazine, look through it with your child.

Penguins

The most unique thing about these birds is that they don't use their wings to soar above the earth. Instead, they use them to fly through the water. They also get around by hopping, sliding, or walking. Can your student think of any other birds that are "flightless?"

There are 17 different types of penguins in the world. Most live in the cool waters of the world's southern oceans. They like to live close to other penguins. Groups of penguins are called colonies and they vary in size from 400- 40,000. Each breed is unique in its own way

Chapter 3- Out of the Antarctic

Language Arts

Vocabulary -

Meekly – gently, mildly, kindly

Receipt – a written acknowledgement of payment for or delivery of goods

Debris – scattered fragments or remains

Pompous – marked by exaggerated self-importance

Comprehension Questions –

1. What was delivered to Mr. Popper's home?
2. Describe how it was packed.
3. What did Mr. Popper think the bathroom tile reminded the penguin of?
4. What did Mr. Popper name the Penguin?

Creative Thinking and Comprehension (Journal or Discussion) -

What does the word curious mean? How do you know the penguin is curious?

What is your student curious about? Make a list.

Chapter 4- Captain Cook

Vocabulary -

Solemnly - seriously

Bore – drill

Comprehension Questions –

1. What did the penguin eat that upset Mrs. Popper? (The goldfish)
2. Where did the penguin fall asleep? (In the ice box)
3. What do penguins make their nests out of? (Pebbles and stones)

Social Studies

Captain Cook -

Captain James Cook was an English explorer that lived from 1728 to 1779. He was commissioned by England to explore Antarctic waters. His expeditions were notable because of their remarkable health records. Cook insisted on proper hygiene and diet and only one sailor died in the three-year expedition. Cook was killed in an argument over a stolen boat in 1779.

Science

Penguin Diets

The children try to figure out what to feed Captain Cook. What do penguins like to eat? Penguins eat food they find in the ocean— various kinds of fish (sardines, anchovies, etc.), crustaceans such as krill, and squid. Would shrimp be a food fit for a penguin? Yes, it would!

Even though they all eat from the ocean, different breeds of penguins' diets vary. Adelie penguins dart through the water moving their heads side to side while gobbling small fish, krill, and opossum shrimp.

Chapter 5- Troubles with a Penguin

Vocabulary –

Ice Box – refrigerator

Indignantly – righteously angry

Remodeled – to make over or anew

Comprehension Questions –

1. What did Mr. Popper pay the serviceman with? (Two five dollar bills)
2. What did the serviceman do to the icebox? Explain each step.
3. What happened when the serviceman spotted Captain Cook? (Ran away throwing tools and slamming the door)

Chapter 6- More Troubles

Vocabulary –

Municipal – pertaining to a town or city or its local government

Ordinance – a law of a municipal body

Comprehension Questions –

1. Where did Mr. Popper call to obtain a license for Captain Cook? (City Hall)
2. Act out Mr. Popper's phone call with City Hall.

Social Studies

City Government

Mr. Popper tries to find the city ordinance concerning penguins, and he calls City Hall about getting a license. Explore your local government with your

student. Do you have a town board? A mayor? Who do you contact if you have a concern? If you want to add on to your house, do you need a building permit? There are various divisions of city government including police and fire departments, street department, water & sewer departments, parks & recreation departments, health department, etc. If possible, set up field trips and visit some of these places.

Chapter 7 – Captain Cook Builds a Nest

Vocabulary -

Idle – not engaged in work

Rookery – a breeding place for sea birds, seals, etc.

Comprehension Questions –

1. What was the result of Captain Cook's trips through the house? (a collection of many things for his rookery)
2. From memory, name ten items Captain Cook had in his rookery.
3. What do you think Mr. Popper is going to do with a few yards of clothesline?

Chapter 8 - Penguin's Promenade

Vocabulary -

Reasonable - sensible

Derby – stiff felt hat with a curved, narrow brim

Graciously – kindly; politely

Tripod – article having three feet or legs

Bystander – an onlooker

Comprehension Questions –

1. What did Mrs. Callahan think Captain Cook was? (Anteater; South Pole goose)
2. What did the photographer think Captain Cook was? (Pelican; Dodo)
3. Where did Mr. Popper take Captain Cook to escape the crowds? (Into the barbershop)

Writing- Hooks

At the end of the chapter, we are left with a hook-- something that grabs the reader, pulls them in, and leaves them wanting to read more! What makes you curious about the statement at the end of the chapter ("The man who kept the barbershop had, up to this time, been a very good friend of Mr. Popper's.")? Point out hooks as you notice them in other books that you read with your student. As your student matures, encourage him to use this technique in his own writing.

Social Studies

Occupations

Pharmacist- A pharmacist fills prescription drug orders. The orders are from doctors for their ill patients. They also give information about those drugs and make sure that patients understand the instructions for using the drugs.

Cameraman - Someone who operates a camera for the purpose of filming video or television productions.

Newspaper Reporter- Under the direction of an editor, a newspaper reporter gathers facts about current events through interviews, investigations, and observations and write stories describing the events and the effects of those events.

Photographer- Photographers use combinations of cameras, films, lenses, filters, and lighting to create pictures. This job requires an understanding of camera operation, lighting, and the properties of film and paper. There are different kinds of photography-- portrait, commercial (take pictures for sales purposes), news, and scientific. Scientific Photographers require a lot of training in science as well as in photography; they use special equipment like microscopes for producing photos of very tiny items.

Barber- A barber's main job is cutting hair and trying to please the customer who is having his hair cut.

Science

Dodo Birds

Someone mistakes Captain Cook for a Dodo Bird. Does your student know what that is? Dodos are extinct birds that were, at one time, found on an island in the Indian ocean. They were as big as turkeys and closely related to pigeons and doves; they were flightless, lived on the ground, and ate fruit.

Chapter 9 – In the Barber Shop

Vocabulary -

Lather – suds formed by soap

Unwearyingly – tiredly

Comprehension Questions –

1. Was Captain Cook a welcomed guest at the barbershop? Why or why not?
2. What did Captain Cook do on the steps?
3. Why was Mr. Popper all untidy by the time he got home?

Chapter 10- Shadows

Language Arts

Vocabulary –

Curator – a person in charge of a museum or institution

Rotogravure – the process of printing photographs from cylinders etched from plates and run through a rotary press

Mopey - gloomy

Sympathetic – feeling for another’s sufferings

Stupor – when your senses or faculties are greatly dulled

Comprehension Questions

1. What were Captain Cook’s symptoms of illness?
2. What did the curator of the aquarium think might be the cause?
3. Who is Greta?

Social Studies

Occupations

Veterinary Doctor- Veterinarians deal with animal medical problems. They treat and diagnose animal diseases as well as work to prevent the spread of animal diseases. Most veterinarians work in private practices and treat pets such as cats and dogs. Some other veterinarians specialize in larger animals (like horses).

Chapter 11- Greta

Language Arts

Creative Thinking and Comprehension (Journal or Discussion) -

Is Mr. Popper's solution for keeping the penguins a good or practical idea (windows open in November in a blizzard?) How would you keep two penguins? (and possible babies)

Vocabulary

tremendous- causing dread, awe, or terror

amused- to be pleased, entertained, or humored

Science

Snow –

What did you think of all the snow inside the house? Do you know how snow is formed? Snow is formed when ice crystals in a cloud bump into each other and stick together. If the temperature of the air below the cloud is cold enough, snow falls. If the ground temperature is not cold enough, the snow will melt. All snowflakes have six sides, and some snowflakes have as much as 100 ice crystals. You will never find two snowflakes that are alike. Decorate a notebook page with cut out snowflakes, and describe in your own words how snow is formed.

Art

Contrast

Why did Mr. Popper choose to use white paint on the penguins' backs? Why not dark blue paint or green paint? He chose white so that it would stand out and be easily read, so that the colors would contrast with one another. Dark blue or green would be too hard to see.

Contrast is a principle of art. It is the arrangement of opposite elements in order to create visual interest, excitement, or drama. There are many different ways to create contrast-- you can use color, texture, and even shape.

White and black provide the greatest degree of contrast. Complementary colors (red/green, blue/orange, yellow/purple) also highly contrast with one another.

Review the complementary colors with your student. You may even want to make a color wheel to explain complementary colors.

Discuss different textures that can be used in art works that would contrast one another (rough and smooth). Discuss different shapes that would contrast with one another (large and small). Encourage your student to use contrast the next time he creates a masterpiece.

Chapter 12- More Mouths to Feed

Vocabulary

expensive- having a high price

credit- an amount or sum that a bank or company will let a person use

astonished- struck with wonder or sudden surprise

droll- having an odd or amusing quality

toboggan- to slide as if on a sled

spar- a pole

solemn- serious

Chapter Titles

Authors use chapter titles in various ways. Chapter titles give readers clues as to what is coming next. Predict what is going to happen in this chapter based on the chapter title.

Science

Breeding Habits/Lifecycle of Penguins

Once a year penguins leave the sea and return to the place they were born. Male and female penguins call to each other and pair up. A burrow is prepared or a simple nest is prepared using feathers, grass, or rocks. The female penguin lays one or two eggs each time she nests (but never ten eggs- the Atwaters included this in the book in order to have a fun, humorous story). Penguins (both male and female) have a patch for incubation (known as a brood-patch); this is a special patch that is placed on the eggs when the penguin sits on them; this special patch releases just the right amount of heat to incubate the eggs. In an Adelie penguin, the patch is only the size of one egg. Adelie females usually lay the eggs and then go out to sea for six weeks to feed.

At first, on the inside of the egg, you would see the yolk and a little red blob. After ten days, it begins to take shape. After about two months, the chick chips its way out of the shell using an egg tooth on the end of its beak.

Applied Math

Credit

Credit is an agreement to receive goods or services now and to pay for them at a later date. What did Mr. Popper buy on credit?

There is a benefit to credit. You are able to receive something right away; however, there is also a price to pay. When you buy something on credit, there is usually an extra fee added on. This is known as interest or a finance charge.

Different families have different views on credit. Discuss your own family beliefs. Discuss the dangers of spending money you don't have. Is it wise to use credit to buy something? Is it ever necessary? Make sure your student has a solid understand of the differences of wants and needs. For example, you may want a new television or gaming system, but is it necessary to survival? (No.) Would it be wise to buy this on credit? What if someone in your family needs to go to the doctor, but you don't have the cash to pay for it? Is it okay to use your credit card in this situation?

Social Studies

History: Famous People

The names of the penguins are interesting. It says that Mr. Popper had always been a great reader and that helped in deciding the names. Who are the names referring to? Does your student recognize any of the names? Do some research together to see if you can figure out who is who on the list. Or, give your student a little bit of background information about each famous person and let him choose one to investigate further.

Can your student imagine becoming the Queen of England at age 18? [Learn more about Queen Victoria](#)

Robert Falcon Scott was a British Royal Naval officer who led two expeditions to the Antarctica -- the Discovery Expedition in 1901-1904 and the Terra Nova Expedition in 1910-1913. [Learn more about Robert Falcon Scott](#)

Who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492? Christopher Columbus! [Learn more about him and what he found.](#)

Sailing around the entire world sounds exciting, doesn't it? The first man to do this was Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer. [Learn more about Magellan.](#)

Chapter 13- More Worries

Social Studies

Training Animals

Animal training is teaching animals specific responses to specific conditions. For instance, if you want your dog to learn to shake your hand, you give him a signal, show him what to do, and reward the behavior. Given time, he will perform the act when he sees the signal. Successful animal training requires patience and repetition on the part of the trainer. People train animals for different reasons, but the most common include companionship (this includes pets- housebreaking, learning to walk on a leash, teaching a parrot to talk, etc.), detection (police dogs), protection (watch dogs), and entertainment.

What is the reason Mr. Popper trains his penguins? Entertainment! Many different kinds of animals are used for entertainment. Can your student think of some different ways animals are used in entertainment? This includes circus animals, marine animals at zoos, and even animals used in television and movies.

Learn more about one of the following:

Lipizzaner Horse Shows

Cormorants are trained to catch fish; the Chinese have been training these birds for over 1,200 years.

Falconry raptors (birds of prey) are trained to hunt game

Lion taming

Military Dolphin

Elephant Training

Dog Training
Circus Animals
Science

Penguin Anatomy

It is noted in this chapter that the penguins already have costumes—little black and white tuxedos. It's important for a penguin to be black and white. When a penguin is cold, it can turn it's back to the sun and absorb heat!

Penguins' contrasting colors are also important for hiding from predators. They are designed with a special defense called countershading. When swimming, a penguin's white front blends with the sunlight making it difficult to be seen from below. It's black back blends in with dark waters making it difficult to be seen from above.

As you learned in chapter 2, penguins come in all different sizes, but they all have the same basic shape—long body covered in feathers, big head, thick neck, short wedge-shaped tail, webbed feet for swimming, and stumpy legs. Since they swim instead of fly, their wings are called flippers. Waterproof feathers are important for trapping air; this keeps a penguin warm in freezing cold waters. A penguin stays waterproof thanks to its oil gland under its tail. A penguin pushes the oil through its feathers with its beak (this is known as preening).

Penguins also have big beaks that are lined with rubbery spikes which aid in gripping slippery food.

Penguins have the special ability to drink salty seawater and then ooze the salt out from their special nostrils that act like inbuilt water filters.

Vocabulary

fare- the money a person pays to travel by public transportation

perform- to do something requiring special skill

portable- possible to carry or move about

Chapter 14- Mr. Greenbaum

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Vocabulary

transfer- to change from one vehicle or transportation line to another

conference- a meeting for discussion or exchange of opinions

protest- a complaint, objection, or display of unwillingness or disapproval

politely- showing consideration and courtesy

Chapter 15- Popper's Performing Penguins

Vocabulary

rehearsal- a private performance or practice session in preparation for a public appearance

audience- a group that listens or watches

dignified- showing importance

semicircle- an object or arrangement of objects in the form of a half circle
sparring- to box or make boxing movements with the fists for practice or in fun
indulge- to allow oneself the pleasure of having or doing something

Look at a map with your student and find Oregon. Find Maine. Using an atlas, let your student determine the mileage or find a route. Why did Mr. Greenbaum choose these two states as his reference points? He was basically saying that the penguins would be seen from coast to coast.

Geography-Seattle

The first stop for Popper's Performing Penguins is Seattle. Does your student know where to find this U.S. city?

Seattle is the largest city in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States, and is found in Washington State. It is a place where many different kinds of people live; it is culturally diverse. Even though Seattle is a large city, it is beautiful; its nickname is the "Emerald City" because of all the evergreen trees found in the surrounding area. There is also beauty in the surrounding mountains (Olympic and Cascade) as well as the waters of the Puget Sound.

Seattle is known as a rainy city with a moderate climate and has a reputation for heavy coffee consumption with many coffee companies being founded or based in Seattle—Starbucks, Seattle's Best Coffee, and Tully's.

If your student would like to know more about Seattle, encourage him to research one or more of the following:

~The Great Seattle Fire of 1889 & Underground Seattle

~The Klondike Gold Rush (which made Seattle a major transportation center)

~Pike's Place Market

~Space Needle

Chapter 16- On the Road

Vocabulary

fender- a guard over a wheel of an automobile, motorcycle, or bicycle

annoyed- to disturb or irritate especially by repeated acts

berth- a place to sleep on a ship or train

ecstatic- a state of being beyond reason and self-control

novelty- something new or unusual

temptation- the state of being tempted especially to do something wrong!

Social Studies

Occupations on the Train

We are introduced to various train occupations in this chapter. Can your student remember some of the titles? (porter, brakeman, conductor). Learn about a few train occupations if your student shows interest.

Locomotive Engineers-

These are the men who make the train move!

~Before and after each run, engineers check for mechanical problems.

~They drive the trains moving controls and brakes and monitoring gauges and

meters along the way.

~In order to maintain a safe railroad, engineers must stay alert, communicate with a variety of people including conductors and traffic control.

~Engineers have to be able to take orders.

~They must have a working knowledge of railroad rules, train signals, and speed limits.

~Locomotive Engineers must know their trains well; different trains accelerate, brake, and react differently depending on the number of cars on the train and how many cars are empty versus how many are loaded.

Brakemen-

These are the men who put the trains together and take them apart again!

~They work under the direction of conductors and do the physical work of adding and removing cars at railroad stations as well as assembling and disassembling trains in the railroad yards.

~Due to new technology, most railroads are phasing this job out.

Railroad Conductors-

These are the men who keep things organized and running right!

~Freight train conductors organize the activity of the trains; they review schedules, switching orders, way bills, and shipping records to obtain cargo loading and unloading information. They also keep a record or log of the journey.

~Passenger train conductors ensure passenger safety as well as passenger comfort. They collect tickets and are in charge of the crews that provide customers with boarding, porter**, maid, and meal services.

~Conductors and engineers have to communicate about the train's route, the timetable, and the cargo. Conductors receive instructions by radio throughout the trip; they will be told when to pull off and let another train pass, they will be given track condition information, etc.

**a porter is a person employed to carry luggage and supplies; he works with the conductor

Chapter 17- Fame

Vocabulary

shrill- to make a high sharp piercing sound

mischief- trouble

irritable- someone who is impatient or on the edge of being angry

guilty- having done wrong

nuisance- an annoying or troublesome person, thing, or way of doing something

Art

Advertising

The basic purpose of advertising is to get the consumer (the people who are going to buy goods) to buy a particular product.

For your older student, you may want to introduce these basic goals of

advertising:

1. To provide information – anything that lists ingredients or facts about the product; this helps the consumer make a choice about whether or not this product is a good fit
2. To create or change an image about a particular product
3. To trigger an action – to get you to go out and buy; this includes any sales ad, rebate, or “this weekend only!” kind of deal
4. To assure and persuade consumers (it really is THE best!)
5. To reinforce and to remind the consumer to go and buy

Look through some magazine ads with your student. Discuss the target audience. Discuss the goals of the ad. Is the ad making true claims? Teach your student to evaluate the advertisement. Point out some slogans (“Kid Tested. Mother Approved” or “I’m Lovin’ It!”). With an older student, discuss the dangers of believing everything that advertisements tell us.

Chapter 18- April Winds

Vocabulary

vexed- to bring trouble, distress, or worry to

hoarse- having a rough voice or not being able to speak

warrant- a legal paper giving an officer the power to carry out the law

shudder- to tremble with fear or horror

Penguin Predators

Would a seal really eat a penguin? A leopard seal would! They hide under ice and wait for penguins. Penguins are hunted by a variety of sea animals including sharks, orcas, and sea lions. Young penguins have even more to worry about; a seabird such as a gull, skua, or giant petrel will snatch a young penguin and eat it for lunch. Talk about food chain

Chapter 19- Admiral Drake

Vocabulary

bail- the deposit of money needed to temporarily free a prisoner

salary- money paid at regular times for work or services

droop- to sink, bend, or hang down

outwit- to get the better of by cleverness

dismal- very gloomy and depressing

corridor- a long hallway or passageway

reception- a social gathering

“easy street”- someone who doesn’t have to worry about earning money because they have enough to live off of for a long time

Creative Thinking and Comprehension (Journal or Discussion) -

Mr. Popper has an important decision to make concerning the penguins. If you were Mr. Popper, what would you do with the penguins? Why?

Chapter 20- Farewell, Mr. Popper

Vocabulary

haggard- very thin especially from great hunger, worry, or pain

voyage- a journey especially by water from one place or country to another

gangplank- a movable bridge from a ship to the shore