

Skills-Based Reading

READING LEVEL 2

REM 950

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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INTRODUCTION

These engaging stories and activities are designed to capture student interest as they build valuable vocabulary, comprehension, and thinking skills. Most of the selections range from mid-first to late second on the Fry Readability scale.*

Each story features vocabulary words to be introduced prior to reading. Teachers may choose to complete the Vocabulary Match with students or assign it along with the questions. Students can also alphabetize the vocabulary words or use them in original sentences.

The questions following each selection are labeled according to the primary skills they target. Stories may be used sequentially or according to their targeted skills.

The "Try This!" provides a simple research question for students desiring an extra challenge.

*Readability scales are useful as long as one realizes their limitations. Results are approximate guidelines only, with a minimum margin of error of (+ or -) 1.5 grade levels. In other words, a story measured at a second grade readability level could easily be suitable for both first and third graders. Another limitation is that two different readability scales can be applied to the same sample, yet yield widely varied results. In spite of the inexact nature of readability scales, we at Remedía use them because they measure word and sentence length, both valid predictors of readability. At the same time, we realize that these scales are not designed to measure every other factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. We are also aware of the variance in standards and expectations set for each grade level. What is first grade material in one school may be second grade in another. At Remedía we strive to take all these factors into consideration as we develop and revise materials. We leave the rest in your capable hands. Regarding readability, you - and your students - will be the final judge.

CONTENTS

The Big Dipper	1
Rock Breaker	3
Glowing Eyes	5
Plant Rocks	7
Earth's Brightest Star	9
A Mixed-Up Animal	11
Plants on Your Food	13
Lady Liberty	15
Fastest Swimmer	17
Let Freedom Ring	19
Happy Animals	21
Anchor Ice	23
Aesop	25
The Two Crabs	27
Spanish Moss	29
The Stars and Stripes	31
The Buried City	33
Mona Lisa	35
John Phillip Sousa	37
Puerto Rico	39
Canada	41

WORD LIST

con • nect

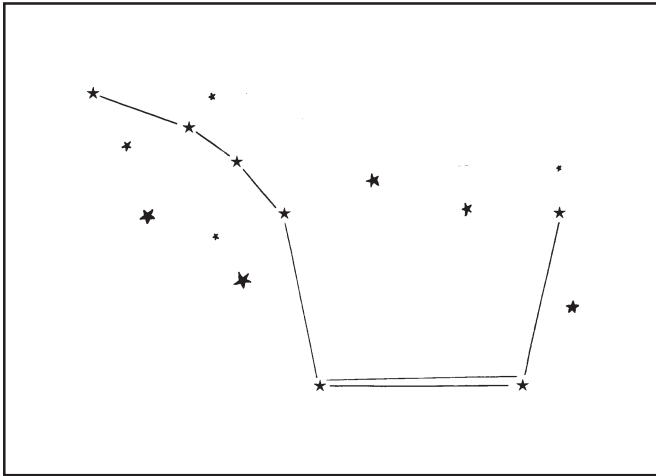
fixed

dip • per

form

The Big Dipper

Did you know that some stars make pictures in the sky? There is one picture that is easy to find.



The stars in the sky are fixed. That means they do not move away from each other. Some stars make shapes. They are like dot-to-dot

drawings. If you connect the stars with lines, you can make a picture.

One picture in the sky is the Big Dipper. Seven bright stars make its shape. Four stars form the cup. Three stars make the handle. Can you tell why it is called the Big Dipper?

Vocabulary Match. Draw lines to match each word with its meaning.

connect

stays in one place

form

cup with a long handle

fixed

to make something

dipper

join together

TRY THIS!

Pictures in the sky are called *constellations*. The Big Dipper is part of a larger constellation called *Ursa Major* (Latin). Use a dictionary or encyclopedia to find the meaning of *Ursa Major*.

Name _____

The Big Dipper

GETTING THE FACTS

1. What is the name of one picture in the sky?

2. What are the two parts of the Big Dipper?

COMPARING

3. Some stars make shapes that are like what? _____

LOCATING THE ANSWER

4. Write the sentence that tells how many stars form the Big Dipper.

ANALOGIES

5. Arm is to body AS _____ is to cup.

MAKING INFERENCES

6. Why is it called the Big Dipper? _____

FACT OR OPINION

7. Write F if the sentence is fact. Write O if it is opinion.

_____ The Big Dipper is a picture in the sky (constellation).

_____ The Big Dipper is the best constellation.

_____ The Big Dipper has a cup and a handle.

Rock Breaker

Lichen (1st " ken) is a plant that can be found all over the world. It grows on trees, rocks, and the ground.



Lichen is a strange plant. It is really two plants in one. One plant makes food. The other finds water.

WORD LIST

share
tan • gled

ac • id
soil

Then they share these things with each other.

Lichen looks like a tiny bunch of tangled hair. It does not need soil to grow. It can grow in rocks. Lichen can turn rocks into soil. It sends out an acid through its tiny hairs. The acid eats into the rock. This makes the rock break into small pieces. Little by little, it becomes new soil.

Vocabulary Match. Draw lines to match each word with its meaning.

share

twisted; snarled

tangled

a strong chemical

acid

the ground or earth in which plants grow

soil

to give part of something to another

TRY THIS!

Look up *lichen* in an encyclopedia. Write the names of the two plants that form lichen.

Name _____

Rock Breaker

GETTING THE FACTS

1. What is lichen? _____
2. What do these plants share with each other?

3. How does lichen make soil out of rocks? _____

COMPARISON / CONTRAST

4. How is lichen different from other plants? _____

MAKING INFERENCES

5. Why is lichen a strange plant? _____

SEQUENCE

6. Number these events in the order they happen.
_____ The acid eats into the rock.
_____ Lichen grows on a rock.
_____ The rock breaks down into soil.
_____ Acid comes out of the plant.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS/EVALUATING INFORMATION

7. Do you think the lichen breaks up the rock quickly? Why or why not?

