

# IN THE NEWS!

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## VOLUME ONE

REM 1997

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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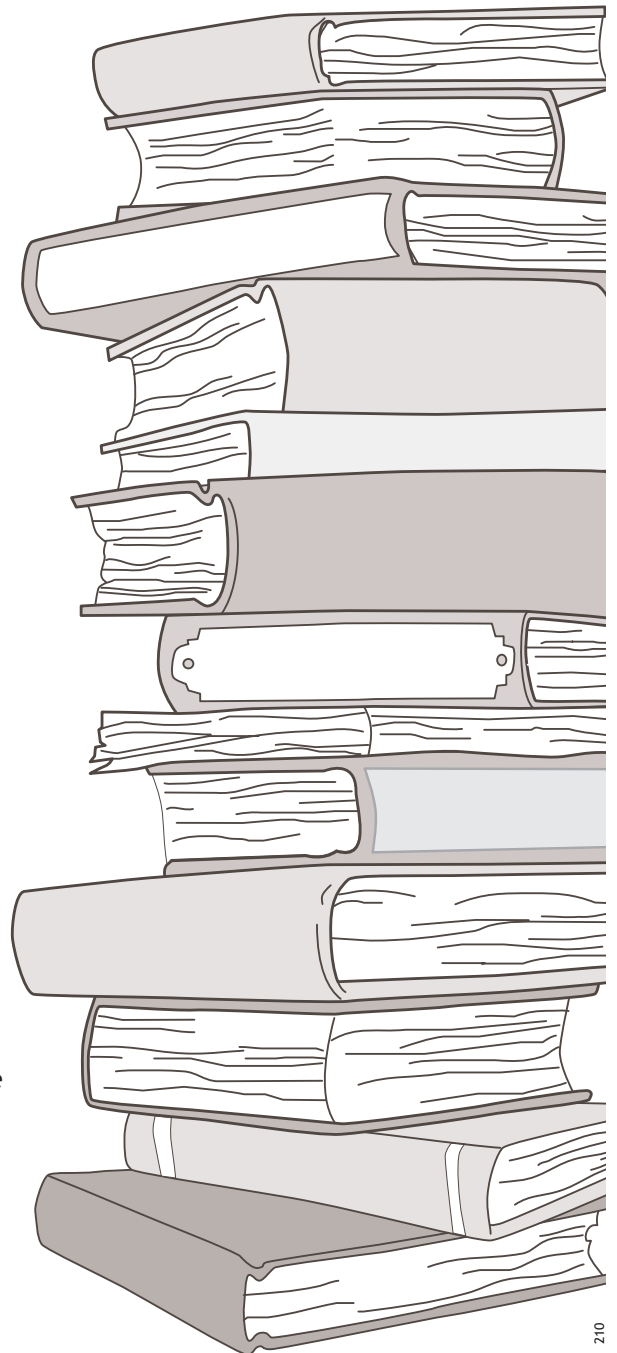
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# INTRODUCTION

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Selected news articles from newspapers and periodicals published in the United States over the past few years are the focus of the stories in this high interest reading comprehension book. Questions following each story are designed to improve specific reading skills.

A bonus "Use the News" activity provides an opportunity for learners to expand their comprehension, vocabulary, and writing abilities.

In addition, a "Just the Facts" form is included which requires students to "dig" for the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why) in the article.

The interest level for this book is 3rd grade and up. Reading ability is on the 3rd-4th grade level. An answer key is provided.

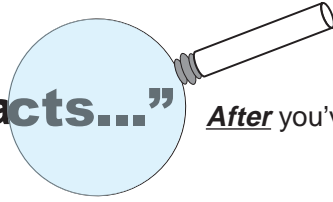
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Name \_\_\_\_\_



## “Just the Facts...”

*After* you've read the news article and answered the questions... use this page to “dig up” more facts about the article.

1. **What** is the name of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **What** is the main idea of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **When** did the events in this story take place?

*(BE CAREFUL! — Some stories do not mention an actual date or may list more than one)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Who** or what does this story tell about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Where** did the events in this story take place?

*(BE CAREFUL! — Some stories do not mention an actual location or may list more than one.)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Why** do you think this story made the news? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **What** did you learn from this story? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **What** new word did you learn from this story? \_\_\_\_\_

**Use** the word in a new sentence. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Use the News



Find an article in your local newspaper. Read the article. Answer the following questions about your article. Attach your article to this sheet.

1. **What** happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **When** did it happen? \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Where** did it happen? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Who** was there? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **What** other facts did you learn from the article? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **What** is the name of the newspaper in which you found this article? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. On **what** date was it printed? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is this a morning paper or an afternoon paper? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE DAILY NEWS



( KENTUCKY, 1997 )

Carnivals have been fun for people for many years. People love the games and the rides. The earliest carnival was in ancient Egypt. The Egyptians held a feast. They honored their god Osiris.

In 1997, carnivals still take place. They may include games, sideshows, and rides.

## Riding High

The games are played on the midway. A couple of them are the ring toss and the coin toss. Winners receive prizes. Sideshows are displays like the bearded woman and the dog-face boy. They are usually fake. Mostly people love the rides. Some like the gentle motion of the merry-go-round. Others like the speed of the roller coaster.

This summer, 20 new roller-coaster rides will open around the country. Try the Chang at Kentucky Kingdom. That is, if you like flying upside-down. This roller coaster has no seats. Everyone stands for

an exciting race through space. The tallest loop rises 121 feet high.

Six Flags Magic Mountain also has one of these new coasters. Superman: The Escape is the tallest and fastest coaster ever built. The structure for this ride looms 415 feet tall. The cars reach 100 miles per hour. That takes just seven seconds. That's not all. Thrill seekers are weightless for 6.5 seconds!

Each new generation of kids loves the carnival rides. The rides get taller, faster, and more exciting each year.

1. Underline the name of the tallest and fastest roller coaster.
2. **What** does the word "weightless" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **How** many new roller coasters opened in 1997? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name two amusement parks that have new roller coasters. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Why** do people stand when riding the Chang? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **How** long does it take Superman: The Escape to reach 100 miles per hour?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

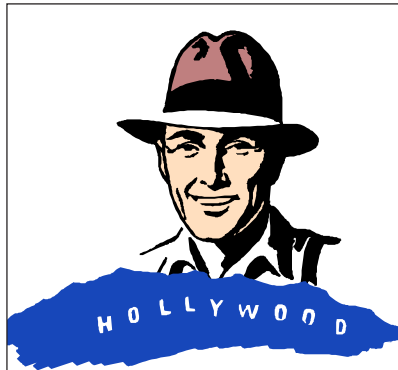
**News Report:** On the back of this paper, tell about a carnival you attended.

# THE DAILY NEWS

## Mr. Stewart Goes to Hollywood

(HOLLYWOOD, 1997)—James Stewart brought pleasure to a lot of people. He starred in many films. He made some serious movies. He also made some funny ones. One is about a rabbit. The rabbit's name is Harvey. Harvey is six-feet tall. He is also invisible. Stewart plays Elwood P. Dowd. Dowd is the only one who can see or hear Harvey. He talks to the rabbit. The other people in the film think this is a very odd way to behave.

Stewart's movies were not always cheered. His first film was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." This film made a lot of people angry. The movie was shown in 1939 in Washington, D.C. One-third of the audience walked out. They were "hopping" mad. Some people thought the movie made all



senators look dumb. One senator declared, "It stinks."

In 1947, "It's a Wonderful Life" played on the silver screen. Now, this movie usually shows on TV at Christmastime. The story takes place in Bedford Falls. George Bailey feels that his life has been wasted. He thinks everyone would have been better off if he had never been born. He meets an angel named Clarence. The angel helps George to see how bad life would

have been without him. A greedy, cruel, old man would have owned the town. A very ill child would have died from the wrong medicine. His brother would have drowned if George had not been there to save him. George learns that his life made others' lives better.

Stewart was not just an actor. He was an air force pilot in World War II. He flew a number of missions. He was honored as a hero. Jimmy was given the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, seven battle stars, and more. He was a brigadier general.

Jimmy has passed away. Still, he will live forever in his movies. He was a gentle man with pleasing ways. He had a lanky body and pleasant face. Stewart charmed people all over the world.

*"...it's been a darn wonderful life..."* —James Stewart (1908-1997)

1. Circle the names of two of Jimmy Stewart's movies.
2. Underline the sentence that tells **what** one senator declared.
3. Write the name of the angel that helped George.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In **what** war was Stewart an air force pilot? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Underline the sentence that tells about Stewart's medals.

**News Report:** Spencer Tracy was another famous actor. Find his name in an encyclopedia. On the back of this paper, write two paragraphs about him.

# THE DAILY NEWS

## Flying High... In a Boat

(MIAMI,1998) — To look at this craft, you might think it is an airplane. If you look closer, you will see that it is really a flying boat.

The Flarecraft has been in development for nine years. It uses the ground-effect, which means that air bounces up off a flat surface. The push of the air is increased as it comes up under the wings. The push causes the craft to lift off the water. The boat glides just above the surface on a cushion of air.

This odd-looking vessel has two engines. A water-jet drive allows the operator to steer the boat out of the harbor. The

second engine is an airplane engine. This second engine has enough power to get and keep the boat flying.

Once the craft is above the surface, it flies over the water at about 16 feet high. It can reach speeds up to 105 miles per hour. This boat with wings needs some of the same skills as flying an airplane. A trained aircraft pilot is the best person to drive it.

Models of this boat with wings are being tested this year. Some boats may be used at resorts. Some might be used to travel between islands. The cost is from \$200,000 to \$550,000 for a boat that can



seat five people. The flying boat for personal use is being worked on. It will be quite awhile before it is ready to sell.

1. **What** paragraph tells about the ground-effect? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Write the word in paragraph 1 that tells **what** the boat looks like.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. On **what** does the boat glide? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **How** fast can this flying boat go? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Complete this sentence. A trained \_\_\_\_\_ pilot is the best  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. **How** high above the water does the flying boat travel? \_\_\_\_\_
7. **How** many engines does the Flarecraft have? \_\_\_\_\_ Name them:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**News Report:** Name two ways this boat could be used. How would you use it?