

Annie! Come here!
 Look at this picture in the family album.
 Look, it's you,
 Eating apple pie.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **a** that makes the **short a** sound.
2. Circle the word **Eating**. Write another word for **Eating**. _____
3. What is in the family album: **pie** or **pictures**? _____
4. Is the writer of the poem excited or bored? _____

Day #1

On a day rainy and gray,
 Amy and Kate stay inside to play.
 They wear aprons and paint all day,
 Until the rain goes away.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **a** that makes the **long a** sound.
2. What is the opposite of **inside**? _____
3. Put a line under all words that rhyme with **gray**.
4. Why can't they play outside? _____

Day #2

The elves like to do each exercise.
 They touch their toes and reach for the skies.
 So exhausted was Elmer Elf,
 He couldn't even climb up to his shelf!

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **e** that makes the **short e** sound.
2. Underline the word **exhausted**. Write another word for **exhausted**. _____
3. Do you hear the **b** at the end of **climb** or is it silent? _____
4. Where does Elmer Elf live? _____

Day #3

Paint a picture on an easel,
 Of a single bee,
 Or paint two, or even three,
 By a leafy tree.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **e** that makes the **long e** sound.
2. How many bees is a **single** bee? _____
3. Which three words rhyme? _____
4. Where might the bees live? _____

Day #4

Carly's Play Dough Recipe

Mix 1 cup flour and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt.

Add 1 cup water.

Add 1 teaspoon cooking oil.

Add 2 teaspoons cream of tartar.

Mix well. Ask parent to heat it on the stove.

Let it get cold.

Play!

1. Draw a line to match the type of sound with the word that has that sound.

ask	long e
heat	short a
well	short e
play	long a

2. What is the opposite of **cold**? _____
3. Where would be a good place to make this recipe? _____
4. How will parents help with this recipe? _____

5. Does the writer of this recipe think the last step is exciting or boring? _____

Who Lives at Your House?

Hi, my name is Carly. We have a lot of living things at our house. Some of the living things are people. Some of the living things are animals.

1. The title asks a question. Answer it. _____

2. Who is writing this story? _____
3. Do you think Carly is a **girl** or a **boy**? _____
4. What kind of living things are at Carly's house? _____

Day #1

There are four people in my family. I have a mom, a dad, and a sister named Jamie. We have three pets in our family. We have two cats and one dog. We have seven living things at our house.

1. How many people live at Carly's house? _____
2. How many animals live at Carly's house? _____
3. Are there more **animals** or more **people**? _____
4. How many living things are there in all? _____

Day #2

I live in a house with my family. We live in the country. We have a big backyard. Some people who live near us have horses and cows. We don't have any horses or cows. We have a vegetable garden.

1. Where does Carly live: the **city** or the **country**? _____
2. Where do you think she plays: her **backyard** or a **park**? _____
3. List three things you can find in the country. _____

4. What does Carly **not** have at her house? _____

Day #3

My cousin lives in the city. He lives in an apartment. He doesn't have a backyard, animals, or a garden. His neighborhood has a lot of tall buildings. He lives near a park.

1. Where does Carly's cousin live: the **city** or the **country**? _____
2. Where do you think he plays: a **backyard** or a **park**? _____
3. List three things you can find in the city. _____

4. What does Carly's cousin **not** have at his house? _____

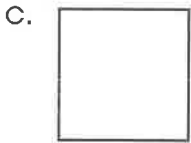
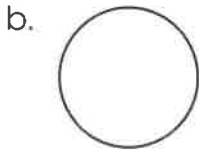
Day #4

1. Preview the text below. The title usually tells you what the story is about. Predict what this story will be about.
- _____

Soccer

Carly thinks it is fun to exercise. Her favorite sport is soccer. She plays on a soccer team. Soccer is played on a field shaped like a rectangle. You move a black and white ball to a goal.

2. What is Carly's favorite sport? _____
3. A soccer field is shaped like a...



You cannot use your hands to move the ball. You have to kick the ball with your feet. You can also hit the ball with your knee, elbow, or head! Soccer is Carly's favorite sport.

4. When you play soccer you **cannot** hit the ball with your...
- a. head.
 - b. elbows.
 - c. hands.
5. What is your favorite sport or game? _____

In an instant,
An inchworm inches near.
In an instant,
It can disappear.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **i** that makes the **short i** sound.
2. Write another word or two words for **disappear**. _____
3. About how long is an inchworm? a. 1 inch b. 1 foot c. 1 mile
4. Is an **instant** a long time or a short time? _____

Day #1

Otter likes to play
With many things
Like olives, octagons,
And big, round rings.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **o** that makes the **short o** sound.
2. What is an **octagon**? a. number b. shape c. car
3. What month starts with the **short o** sound? _____
4. Is Otter **serious** or **playful**? _____

Day #2

Oh, I like my overalls,
New or old, striped or bold.
Overalls are great to wear.
I own four pairs, and I won't share!

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **o** that makes the **long o** sound.
2. What is the opposite of **like**? _____
3. Line 2 has two words that are opposites. What are they? _____
4. How many overalls does the writer own? _____

Day #3

An umbrella goes up.
An umbrella goes down.
People hide under umbrellas
All over town.

1. Read or listen to the poem. Circle each letter **u** that makes the **short u** sound.
2. What is the opposite of **under**? _____
3. This poem has two opposite words. What are they? _____
4. When do you put up an umbrella? _____

Day #4

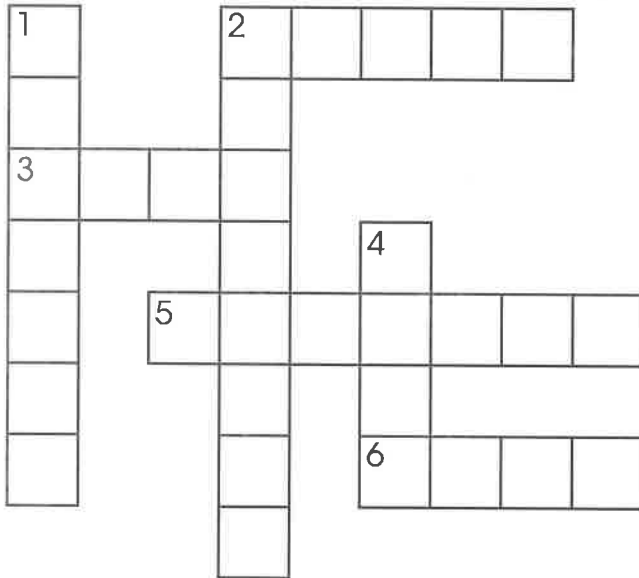
Weather Puzzle

Across

2. Strong wind with rain or snow
3. Drops of water that fall to the earth
5. Loud noise that comes after lightning
6. Moving air

Down

1. Very strong wind that makes a cloud shaped like a funnel
2. Light from the sun
4. Soft, white flakes



1. Draw a line to match the type of sound with the word that has that sound.

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| soft | long o |
| funnel | short i |
| snow | short o |
| wind | short u |

2. Which words in the Word Bank have a **short u**? _____

3. What kind of weather from the Word Bank is your favorite? _____

4. Which word from the Word Bank could be called a **funnel cloud**? _____

5. Use the clues and the words in the Word Bank to finish the puzzle.

A Picnic

One sunny day, Mrs. Ant said, "Let's go to the park for a picnic."

"Good idea," said Mr. Ant. "Families will be eating there."

1. What kind of animal is this story about? _____
2. The Ants went to the park for a picnic because...
 - a. the park was pretty.
 - b. families eat in the park.
3. What kind of weather is it? _____
4. Do ants really talk? _____ This clue tells us this story is not _____.

Day # 1

"Can we go now?" asked Art Ant. "I am hungry."

"I don't want to go," said Amy Ant.

1. Who are the Ant kids? _____
2. Art Ant wanted to go because...
 - a. he could play in the grass.
 - b. he was hungry.
3. Do all the Ants want to go to the park? _____
4. Who does not want to go? _____

Day # 2

"Why not?" asked Mrs. Ant.

"Last time we did not find any food," Amy said.

"This time we might find lots of food," said Art.

1. Does Amy say why she didn't want to go? _____
2. Amy Ant didn't want to go because...
 - a. sometimes people don't leave food.
 - b. sometimes people step on ants.
3. Has an ant ever crawled on your food? _____
4. What would you do to an ant on your food? _____

Day # 3

Everyone followed Mrs. Ant to the park. They walked under a picnic table. The four ants sat down. Then they all looked up. They waited.

1. Did the Ants pack any food for the picnic? _____
2. The Ant family sat under the picnic table and looked up...
 - a. to watch the sky.
 - b. to wait for food to drop down.
3. So who packed the food the Ants will eat? _____
4. Do you think they got food this time? _____

Day # 4

The Weather

The weather is strange,
Because it can change,
From hot to cold so fast.
The wind can blow,
Or it will snow,
But that will never last.

2. Why is the weather strange? _____

The weather is fun,
When up goes the sun,
But not when clouds fill the sky.
Snow and ice,
Are not so nice,
Coming down on the fly.

3. What kind of weather does the writer like? _____

Dry or wet,
You can bet,
The weather will
Always change!

4. Does the weather change a lot where you live? _____

5. What problems can weather cause? _____

Turkeys

Turkeys are large birds. They have long tails. Wild turkeys are mostly brown.

- Which word has an **e** with a **long e** sound? a. turkeys b. they
- What is the opposite of **wild**: **tame** or **crazy**? _____
- Have you ever seen a wild turkey? _____
- What color are wild turkeys? _____

Day # 1

Turkeys live in the woods. They sleep in trees at night. They eat berries, nuts, and seeds.

- Which words have an **e** with a **long e** sound? _____

- Berries, nuts, and seeds are all parts of **plants** or **animals**? _____
- Listen to or read the paragraph. Is the **gh** in **night** silent? _____
- What do turkeys do in trees? _____

Day # 2

Mother turkeys are called hens. Hens build nests on the ground. They lay spotted eggs. The eggs hatch in about one month.

- List all the **th** words in this paragraph. _____
- What is a **hen**? _____
- This paragraph is mostly about...
 - hens and eggs.
 - eggs and bacon.
 - turkeys as parents.
- How long before a turkey egg hatches? _____

Day # 3

People like to eat turkey meat. They really like to eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

- Circle all the words with a **th**.
- Underline the words **really like**. Write another word for **really like**. _____
- Do you like to eat turkey meat? _____
- On what holiday do many people eat turkey? _____

Day # 4

Bird Beaks

All birds have beaks. The beaks of birds are shaped differently because of the food they eat.

The roseate spoonbill is a bird that has a spoon beak. It is shaped like a spoon to scoop up shellfish and water insects found in shallow water.

Birds such as sparrows and finches have cracker beaks. These are strong, short beaks that can crack the hard shells of seeds that they like to eat.

Hérons have spear beaks. This beak is long and pointed so that the birds can catch fish and frogs along the shore.

Flamingos like to eat plants and shellfish. They have strainer beaks. These beaks are long and curved. They have combs that strain out the mud and keep the flamingos from swallowing it.

1. Circle all the **th** words in this story. Which one has a **long e** sound? _____
2. What is a **strainer beak**? _____
3. How many types of beaks are used to find food in the water? _____
4. Draw a line to match the type of beak a bird uses with the food it catches.

cracker beak	fish and frogs
strainer beak	seeds
spoon beak	shellfish and water insects
spear beak	shellfish and plants
5. Jayson does not live near water. Which kind of beak will he see most often?
 - a. cracker beak
 - b. strainer beak
 - c. spoon beak
 - d. spear beak

Name _____

Manatees

Manatees are sometimes called sea cows. They are mammals. They must come to the water's surface to breathe air.

1. What does the title say this story is about? _____
2. What are **manatees**? _____
3. How do manatees get air? _____
4. What is another name for a manatee? _____

Day # 1

The West Indian manatee lives along the coast of Florida. It is shy and gentle. Manatees are herbivores. This means that they eat only plants. Baby manatees are called calves. They drink their mother's milk like all mammals.

1. What word better describes a manatee: **mean** or **sweet**? _____
2. What is an **herbivore**? _____
3. What are baby manatees called? _____
4. What do manatee calves eat? _____

Day # 2

Habitat is the place where something lives. Habitat is the space that has food, water, air, and shelter. The manatee habitat is changing so fast that manatees are in danger. They are on the endangered animals list.

1. What is a **habitat**? _____
2. What is your habitat? _____
3. What four things does a habitat need? _____
4. Is there a problem with the manatee's habitat? What? _____

Day # 3

Pollutants are harmful things that are sometimes in the water. They can cause manatees to become sick and weak. Manatees must have clean, warm water to live.

1. In this paragraph, what is a danger to manatees? _____
2. What happens to manatees when their water is polluted? _____
3. Who do you think puts pollutants in water: **people** or **plants**? _____
4. What can you do to help keep the water clean for manatees? _____

Day # 4

1. Preview the text below. What does the title say this story is about?
- _____

Wart Hogs

Wart hogs live in Africa. Wart hogs get their name from the **warts**, or bumps, on their faces. They look a lot like pigs.

2. How did the wart hog get its name? _____

Wart hogs have **tusks**, or long pointed teeth. The tusks stick out from the sides of their mouths. They use the tusks to **root**, or dig up the ground looking for food. They eat almost anything.

3. For each sentence, write a word from the paragraph that could take the place of the bold words.

Wart hogs have **pointed teeth**. _____

Wart hogs **dig for food in the ground**. _____

Wart hogs also use their tusks to fight. They usually do not choose to fight. They will **flee**, or run away, with their tails sticking up in the air. They hide in **thickets**, or bushes, in the day and come out at night to eat.

4. For each sentence, write a word from the paragraph that could take the place of the bold words.

Wart hogs live in **bushes**. _____

Wart hogs **run away** from danger. _____

5. Does a wart hog sound like a beautiful animal? Why or why not? _____
- _____

Trading Toys

John has three trucks, two balls, and one bear to trade. John wanted a car. Steve has one bear, seven balls, and two cars. John gave Steve two balls and one gray truck. Steve gave John one green car.

1. Circle words that start with **gr**. Which one has a **long a** sound? _____
2. What is another word for **trade**: **swap** or **sell**? _____
3. Who are the characters in this story? _____
Are they boys or girls? _____
4. How many cars does Steve have at the end? _____

Day # 1

Pat has four bears. She has one baseball and one jump rope. Terry has six dolls. She also brought five bears. Terry gave Pat two dolls. Pat gave Terry one baseball.

1. What word sounds like **two**: **toe** or **too**? _____
2. What kind of thing are the characters trading: **tools** or **toys**? _____
3. Who are the characters in this story? _____
Are they boys or girls? _____
4. How many toys did Terry bring to trade? _____

Day # 2

Name This Character

He climbed up and up the water spout. The rain fell and washed him out. Later, he climbed again.

1. Which word rhymes with **climbed**: **timed** or **bed**? _____
2. When the character is washed out, what does that mean?
a. He fell off the water spout. b. He had a nice bath.
3. Which character from a song is this about: the **Muffin Man** or the **Itsy Bitsy Spider**? _____
4. What is the character's problem? _____

Day # 3

Name This Character

He was very hungry and very big. He wanted to eat three little pigs. He tried to blow their houses down.

1. Which word has **gr** in the middle? _____
2. Write one word that means the same as **very big**. _____
3. Which fairy-tale character is this about?
a. the Big Bad Wolf b. the Boy Who Cried Wolf
4. What is the character's problem? _____

Day # 4

The Lion and the Mouse

After eating a big meal, a lion took a nap. He woke up. Something ran across his back! He put out his big paw. It was a little mouse.

The mouse squeaked, "I am too small to be a good meal. Please let me go!"

"No!" roared the lion.

"Let me go. Someday I will help you," said the little mouse.

The lion laughed. "What could a tiny mouse do for a great big lion?" But he was not hungry, so he let the mouse go.

The next day, the mouse heard a roar for help.

Hunters had trapped the lion. He was in a big net. The little mouse ran to the lion. She chewed the net with her sharp teeth. She chewed and chewed. The lion was free!

"Thank you," said the lion.

The lion and the mouse became good friends.

1. Find one word that has a **gr** and a **long a** sound. Write it. _____
2. Find a word in the story that means the same thing as **little**. Write it. _____
3. Who are the characters in this story? _____
Are they **kids** or **animals**? _____
4. Did the lion let the little mouse go because **he was kind** or because **he was not hungry**? _____
5. What was the mouse's problem? _____

What was the lion's problem? _____

Farmer Mack

Mack is a farmer. He has an important job. He grows food that we eat. Mack grows wheat and oats. He also takes care of the animals on his farm. Mack works hard. He gets up early every day. He works until it is dark.

- Who is this story about? _____
- What does he do for a job? _____
- What does he farm? plants animals both
- How do you know that Mack works hard?
 - He grows wheat and oats.
 - He gets up early and works late.

Day # 1

Mack loves helping the young plants grow. He smiles as he works. In the fall, he harvests his crops. The wheat is made into bread. The oats are made into cereal.

- When does Mack harvest his crops? _____
- What do **you** do in the fall? _____
- Does the wheat that Mack grows become **bread** or **lasagna**? _____
- How do you know that Mack likes being a farmer?
 - He smiles as he works.
 - He harvests his crops.
 - He grows oats for cereal.

Day # 2

Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider and sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

- What kind of writing is this: **poem** or **letter**? _____
- Who is it about? _____
- Is she eating pasta? _____
- Circle **True** or **False**. Little Miss Muffet is not afraid of spiders. **True** **False**

Day # 3

Mary Lou French sat on a bench,
Munching a sandwich and chips.
When Tarantula spied her and climbed up beside her,
She told him to take a long trip!

- Who is in this poem? _____
- What is Tarantula: **poisonous spider** or **fuzzy kitten**? _____
- What is Mary Lou eating? _____
- Circle **True** or **False**. Mary Lou French is not afraid of spiders. **True** **False**
How do you know? _____

Day # 4

1. Have you used a telephone before? _____ Do you know who invented the telephone?
- _____

Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell did many great things. We know him most for inventing the telephone. But Alexander had many other talents. He could play music by ear when he was a very young boy. He taught music and speech. He also taught the deaf just as his father in Scotland did.

2. Was Alexander Graham Bell musical? _____

While Alexander was teaching, he became interested in electricity. He and his friend Thomas Watson did many experiments before he invented the telephone.

3. Did Alexander give up easily when he was trying to invent the telephone? _____
Explain your answer. _____

Alexander stayed busy after inventing the telephone. He created a research laboratory for the deaf. He invented an electric probe used by doctors. He worked on ways to locate icebergs by using echoes. He did many experiments with kites.

4. Did Alexander work with the deaf his whole life, or only when he was young?
- _____

5. Find the six words in the box that best describe Alexander. Circle them.

creative

clumsy

busy

afraid

strong

funny

talented

hard-working

mean

smart

musical

uncaring

Barker's Big Problem

Barker wished she was the biggest dog on the block. Every time Barker saw Bruiser, she hung her head. "I'll never be that big," she thought. "What good is a little dog? A big dog can carry newspapers. She can chase away pesky cats."

1. Which word is a compound word? a. wished b. biggest c. newspapers
2. What other word could you write instead of **pesky**? a. annoying b. darling?
3. Is Barker **happy** or **jealous**? _____
4. What does Barker wish for? _____

Day # 1

One day, Barker padded along the sidewalk. "Help," someone cried. Barker ran to check out the problem. Bruiser stood nearby.

1. Circle the compound words.
sidewalk problem someone nearby
2. In the story, what other word could you use instead of **padded**? _____
3. Barker runs to the sound of someone asking for help. What does that tell you about Barker's character? _____
4. Who does Barker see at the scene of the problem? _____

Day # 2

"A boy is caught in the bushes on the other side of the wall," Bruiser said. "There's a small hole, but I can't wriggle through."

1. Do you pronounce the **w** at the beginning of **wriggled**? _____
2. What does it mean that the boy is caught in the bushes: has **he grabbed the bushes** or have **the bushes grabbed him**? _____
3. What is Bruiser's problem? _____
4. What do you think happens next? _____

Day # 3

Barker trotted through the hole. She tugged on the branches wrapped around the child's ankle. She got the boy free. "Thank you," cried the boy. The boy hugged Barker and patted her head.

1. Do you pronounce the **w** at the beginning of **wrapped**? _____
2. What word could you use instead of **tugged**: **snipped** or **pulled**? _____
3. What is the main idea of this story?
a. Barker learned only little dogs can help people.
b. Barker learned both big and little dogs can help people.
4. How do you think Barker feels about her size now? _____

Day # 4

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

Who is Jackie Joyner-Kersey? Is she a wrestler? Is she a writer? No! She is a world class track star. Jackie Joyner-Kersey loves to compete in track events. She runs, jumps hurdles, throws a shot put (a metal ball), and throws the javelin (a long spear). She won many Olympic medals. She is a very good athlete.

Jackie has asthma. This is an illness that makes it hard for her to breathe. When you have asthma, it is hard to take a breath and get air in your lungs. Coughing and wheezing are also a part of asthma. Asthma makes it very hard for Jackie to run and jump. Jackie did not let asthma stop her from competing and winning races. She worked hard. She is known as the greatest multi-event athlete in women's track history!

1. Circle the words with a **w** you don't pronounce.

wrestler

world

wheezing

writer

2. What is a **javelin**? _____
3. What is the main idea of this story?
- a. Some athletes have asthma.
 - b. Track athletes work hard.
 - c. Jackie Joyner-Kersey didn't let asthma stop her from competing and being the best.
4. Underline the two sentences that tell you why having asthma makes it hard to be a track athlete.
5. What does this story tell us about Jackie's character: that she is **determined** or that she is **lazy**? _____

The clock showed midnight. Two mice friends sat in their home. They talked about the things they wanted to do. One wanted to eat all the cheese in the world. The other wanted to break all the mice traps in the world.

1. Where does this story happen? _____
2. When does this story happen? _____
3. What do you call more than one mouse? _____
4. Do you think the mice can really do what they are talking about? _____
Why or why not? _____

Day # 1

Juan and Don went to school early in the morning. They sat at their desks. The teacher read a book about dolphins. Then Juan and Don wrote books of their own.

1. Where does this story happen? _____
2. When does this story happen? _____
3. Who are the people in this story? _____
4. Do you write books at school? _____
What do you write about? _____

Day # 2

The year is 3010. Rae and Raphael zoom into space. Their spaceship moves faster than the speed of light. They race toward the moon.

1. Where does this story happen? _____
2. When does this story happen? _____
3. Where are Rae and Raphael going? _____
4. Would you like to go to the moon? _____
Why or why not? _____

Day # 3

Chester was hungry. He ran down the tree trunk. He pawed at the dead leaves. He wanted the nut he had hid yesterday. He dug and dug. It wasn't there! He looked at all the other trees. Now, where did he hide that nut?

1. Where does this story happen? _____
2. When does this story happen? _____
3. What is Chester? dog bluejay squirrel
4. What did Chester lose? _____

Day # 4

1. Preview the text below. Where do you think this story will take place?

It's a Special Place

Maggie is at Grandma's house. She loves the kitchen.

2. What did you find out about the special place? _____

Pretty curtains with dots hang on the windows. The walls are bright yellow. There is a table with six chairs. Many cupboards hold dishes, pots and pans, and food.

3. What is pretty about the kitchen? _____

Grandma has magnets in her kitchen. They are so colorful. Maggie loves to look at them. She also loves to watch Grandma bake. She makes many good things. Right now Grandma is frosting a cake.

4. What two things does Maggie love to watch in the kitchen? _____

5. Describe a place that is special to you. (Example: I love my basement stairs because they are dark and have lots of spider webs.) _____
