

Dear Upcoming 4th Graders,

Happy Summer! I know you all worked so hard this past year in third grade and are ready for a nice and relaxing summer vacation. As you're relaxing, I do hope you continue to dive into chapter books while you're enjoying summer.

This summer, I have assigned a mini-comprehension packet for you to work on. Of course, please enjoy the sunshine, trips to the pool, playing outside, and all the fun things that come with summer vacation. My goal is for you to spend a few minutes each week on completing the assignment. Each assignment is a short passage (fiction or nonfiction) and then varying comprehension activities.

The timeline below is only a suggestion. Please do what works for you - but please do not wait until the end of August to start working on the assignment.

July 5th - Week 1: Independence Day  
July 12th - Week 2: Puffin Migration  
July 19th - Week 3: Water Slides  
July 26th - Take a break! :)  
August 2nd - Week 4: Summer Olympics  
August 9th - Week 5: Swim Lessons  
August 16th - Week 6: Lemonade Stand  
August 23rd - Week 7: Fireflies  
August 30th - Week 8: Back to School Shopping

When responding to the "Comprehension Practice" questions, remember to go back into the passage. Try to underline the answers right in the passage to help! Your responses to the "Think and Respond" questions should be two complete sentences. Remember capital letters and punctuation! Double check to make sure your handwriting is nice and neat. This will count for an ELA grade in September! :)

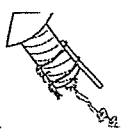
I can't wait to see you in fourth grade! Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. White



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Independence Day



The Fourth of July not only commemorates the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but also the birth of a new nation, the United States of America. Before the Declaration was signed, there were thirteen colonies controlled by Great Britain. The signed document was sent to King George in England, explaining why the colonists were revolting. The colonies had to fight the Revolutionary War from 1775-1783 in order to gain full independence from Great Britain. Today, the Fourth of July is celebrated with parades, barbecues, and fireworks.

## Comprehension Practice

1. What is the Fourth of July also known as?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many colonies were controlled by Great Britain?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the war that the colonies fought?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How is Independence Day celebrated today?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Practice

Use the context clues in the passage to help you determine the meaning of the underlined word. Circle your answer.

1. The signed document was sent to King George in England, explaining why the colonists....  
a. book      b. story      c. contract
2. Today, the fourth of July is celebrated with parades, barbecues, and fireworks.  
a. mourned      b. glorified      c. ignored
3. The Fourth of July not only commemorates the anniversary of the Declaration of...  
a. forgets      b. discards      c. observes

## Think and Respond

How does your family celebrate Independence Day?

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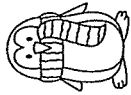
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Puffin Migration



Every spring and summer, you can travel to Bar Harbor, Maine to watch the nesting puffins. Saved from near extinction by Project Puffin, Atlantic puffins have been able to make their annual migration to Egg Rock safely to breed, nest, and raise their chicks. Egg Rock is a sanctuary for the puffins. No one is allowed on the island during the months they live there. Tourists are allowed to board ferry boats that circle the island to observe these once-endangered sea birds. Over a hundred pairs of mating puffins live on Egg Rock thanks to Project Puffin.

## Comprehension Practice

1. Where can you watch nesting puffins?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who saved the Atlantic puffins from near extinction?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is Egg Rock?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think people are not allowed on the island when the puffins are there?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Language Practice

Write the letter of the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word on the left. Use context clues from the reading passage to help you.

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| _____ extinction | a. temple      |
| _____ near       | b. journey     |
| _____ migration  | c. examine     |
| _____ observe    | d. elimination |
| _____ sanctuary  | e. close       |

## Think and Respond

What else do you think can be done to protect the Atlantic puffins?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Water Slides



I had never ridden down Torpedo before. Just looking up at someone sliding down was enough to make my knees quiver and my hands sweat. It had a vertical leap that plunged you into a dark tunnel and then launched you into a pool at the end. Most of my friends raved about how amazing a ride down Torpedo was. It was time to face my fear. Smitty had challenged me to ride Torpedo twice in a row and win a giant hot fudge sundae- his treat. Could I muster up enough courage? The day arrived and Torpedo stared me in the face. The time to ride was now or never.

## Comprehension Practice

1. What is "Torpedo" in the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What challenge did Smitty make?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is meant by "Torpedo stared me in the face"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Language Practice

Write the letter of the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word on the left. Use context clues from the reading passage to help you.

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| _____ quiver   | a. bravery |
| _____ vertical | b. steep   |
| _____ plunged  | c. build   |
| _____ muster   | d. dropped |
| _____ courage  | e. shake   |

## Think and Respond

How do you get over something you are extremely afraid of?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer Olympics



The modern day Summer Games have been held every four years since 1894. The original games were held in ancient Greece. Held in Olympia, Greece, there was only one race, and it was called the Stade. Only men were allowed to participate, and the winner received a crown made of olive leaves. Today, the Summer Games host about forty-two sports for both men and women. Winners are awarded with medals. Over 200 different countries participate in the Summer Games. It is a great privilege and honor for a country to be chosen to host the Summer Games.

## Comprehension Practice

1. Where were the original Summer Games held?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How often are the Olympic Summer Games held?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many sports are hosted in today's Summer Games?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many countries participate in the Summer Games?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Practice

Use the context clues in the passage to help you determine the meaning of the underlined word. Circle your answer.

1. The original games were held in ancient Greece.

- a. modern      b. old      c. recent

2. Today, the Summer Games host about forty-two sports for both men and women.

- a. ignore      b. avoid      c. manage

3. It is a great privilege and honor for a country to be chosen to host the Summer...

- a. opportunity      b. punishment      c. loss

## Think and Respond

What do you think is the most interesting sport to watch in the Summer Games? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

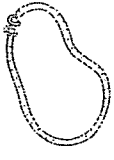
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Swim Lessons



Swim lessons aren't my favorite summer activity. In fact, I wish my parents hadn't signed me up for them at all. Dad was adamant about learning to swim well because it was an important life skill. If I complained about getting water in my nose or how cold the temperature of the water was, I wouldn't receive any sympathy. Despite wanting to mope about taking swim lessons, I knew I had to stop complaining and go. I arrived at the town pool for the first lesson. Curling my toes along the side of the pool, I put on my secret weapon—a nose plug!

## Comprehension Practice

1. Why was Dad adamant about swim lessons?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the "secret weapon"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the complaining will not help?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Practice

Use the context clues in the passage to help you determine the meaning of the underlined word. Circle your answer.

1. Dad was adamant about learning to swim well because it was an important life skill.  
a. unsure      b. serious      c. sad
2. Despite wanting to mope about taking swim lessons, I knew I had to stop complaining...  
a. sulk      b. cheer      c. talk
3. I arrived at the town pool for the first lesson.  
a. slept      b. left      c. reached

## Think and Respond

What is something else that people don't like to do, but know that it is important?

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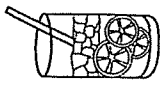
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# Lemonade Stand



Running a successful lemonade stand isn't very difficult if you follow some basic tips. First, be sure to scout out a location where plenty of thirsty customers will pass by you. Second, prepare your lemonade in advance and make sure to have plenty of ice and cups. Third, consider the price per cup. If you charge too little, you won't make a profit. If you charge too much, you may lose customers. Most importantly, remember good customer service. Be friendly and polite to your customers and they will come back, perhaps with more thirsty customers!

## Comprehension Practice

1. Why is location important in running a lemonade stand?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you need besides lemonade?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is good "customer service" as described in the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Language Practice

Write the letter of the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word on the left. Use context clues from the reading passage to help you.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| _____ difficult | a. kind        |
| _____ plenty    | b. recognize   |
| _____ consider  | c. enough      |
| _____ profit    | d. challenging |
| _____ friendly  | e. income      |

## Think and Respond

What other things can you do to make sure you have a successful lemonade stand?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fireflies



Not actually a fly at all, fireflies are beetles and can be found all over the world. Fireflies create a light inside their abdomen using a combination of oxygen which they take into their bodies, and a special substance in their bodies called luciferin. The light is powerful, efficient, and produces hardly any heat at all. Scientists believe that fireflies light up as a defense mechanism to predators to let them know they don't taste very good. They also light up as a way to attract other fireflies. Fireflies enjoy warm and damp climates and may be seen on a summer night.

## Comprehension Practice

1. Where can fireflies be found?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do fireflies create light inside their abdomen?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do scientists believe fireflies light up?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of climate do fireflies enjoy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Practice

Write the correct synonym and antonym from the group of words to match the given vocabulary words.

harm      material      useless  
protection      nothing      competent

Vocabulary word	synonym	antonym
efficient		
defense		
substance		

## Think and Respond

Do you think a firefly would make a good pet? Why or why not?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Back To School Shopping



That time of year seemed to creep back into my Sunday newspaper again. Everywhere I looked, I spotted advertisements for back to school sales. Knowing what that meant made me cringe. Soon, Mom would pile us all in the car with our teacher supply lists. I wondered why she didn't let us shop online and avoid the crowds in the malls and department stores. Mom had a certain glimmer in her eyes when she mentioned back to school. I think she actually enjoyed planning for me and my siblings to head back. Until then, I'd rather start a revolt!

## Comprehension Practice

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was excited about school starting again?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does the author feel about going back to school? How can you tell?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Language Practice

Write the letter of the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word on the left. Use context clues from the reading passage to help you.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| _____ creep   | a. rebellion |
| _____ cringe  | b. sneak     |
| _____ avoid   | c. sparkle   |
| _____ glimmer | d. cower     |
| _____ revolt  | e. escape    |

## Think and Respond

How do you feel about going back to school at the end of summer?

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