

Session 1

Directions Read the story “Rabbit’s New Coat.” Then do Numbers 1 through 9.

Rabbit’s New Coat

by Clare Mishica

Rabbit listened to her friend Bluebird sing. She looked at his bright blue feathers. “You’re lucky,” Rabbit said. “I cannot sing, and I have such plain brown fur.”

“I like your fur,” said Bluebird.

“It’s not as fancy as your feathers,” complained Rabbit. “My fur is dull and drab. It’s not nearly as bright and pretty as your feathers.”

Rabbit thought about her ordinary brown fur all morning. She thought about it while she nibbled some grass. She thought about it while she napped in the shade of a bush. She thought about it when she hopped over some blueberries. Then Rabbit had an idea.

Rabbit rolled over and over in the blueberries. The juicy berries made blue spots on her fur. Rabbit smiled. Now she had a fancy, blue-spotted coat.

Rabbit hopped through the meadow. She wanted to show off her new blue-spotted fur. She found Bluebird and showed him the bright blue spots that decorated her fur.

“How beautiful,” said Bluebird.

Suddenly, a fox jumped out from behind a bush.

“I like your spots, too,” he growled. “I’m hungry, and now you cannot hide from me!”

Rabbit ran away as fast as she could and hid under a bush.

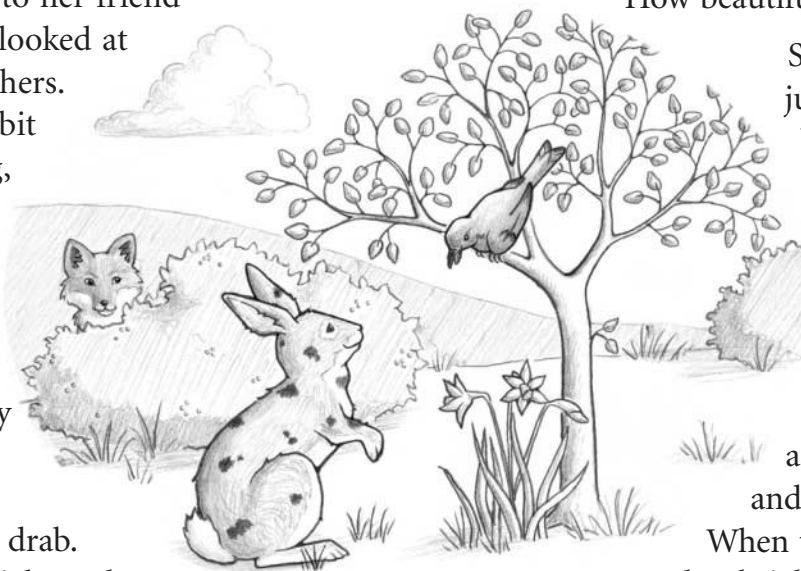
When the fox came by, he saw her bright blue spots in the bush and chased after her. Rabbit ran and ran. She slipped into a hole under some tree roots. The fox couldn’t reach her. Rabbit trembled as she waited and waited. Finally, the hungry fox left.

“Are you okay?” asked Bluebird, flying down from a high tree branch.

“Yes,” said Rabbit. Then she hopped over to a big puddle. Rabbit rolled over and over in the puddle and washed off all her blue spots.

“You’re lucky you have a brown coat,” said Bluebird. “It helps you hide from the fox.”

“Yes,” agreed Rabbit. “I love my brown coat, too!”

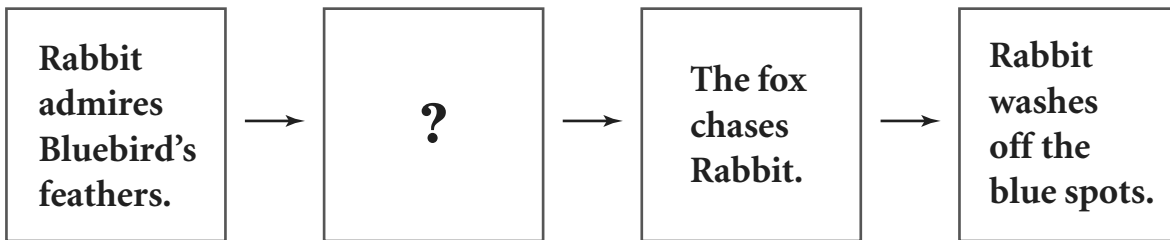


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1 This passage is mainly about

- running away from fears
- being happy with yourself
- improving your appearance
- making friends with enemies

2 Here is a time line of what happens in the passage.



Which of these events belongs in the empty box?

- The fox gets tired of waiting.
- Rabbit rolls over in the blueberries.
- Rabbit says she likes her brown fur.
- The fox cannot reach Rabbit in the hole

3 Which of these best describes how Rabbit feels about Bluebird at the beginning of the passage?

- confused
- frightened
- jealous
- upset

4 Read this dictionary entry.

slip v. 1. to lose one's balance. 2. to move smoothly and quickly.
3. to make a mistake. 4. to move out of place or position.

Now read these sentences from "Rabbit's New Coat."

Rabbit ran and ran. She slipped into a hole under some tree roots.

Which meaning of slip is used in the sentence?

- definition 1
- definition 2
- definition 3
- definition 4

5 Why does the fox say, "I like your spots, too"?

- He wants to be friendly.
- He can see Rabbit better.
- He admires beautiful things.
- He has spots on his own coat.

6 Why can't the fox catch Rabbit?

- He is too hungry to chase Rabbit.
- He is too tired to keep up with Rabbit.
- He cannot reach Rabbit when she is hiding in a hole.
- He cannot see Rabbit when she is hiding under a bush.

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7 What would probably happen if all the rabbits in the meadow had bright blue spots?

- Foxes would not chase rabbits.
- Rabbits would not be afraid of foxes.
- It would be harder for rabbits to see foxes.
- It would be easier for foxes to find rabbits.

8 What does Rabbit learn by the end of the passage?

- Foxes are not good hunters.
- It is good that her fur is plain.
- Bushes are not good hiding places.
- It is good that she can find blueberries.

9

Think about a time when you changed your mind about someone or something. How was your experience similar to Rabbit's feelings about her brown fur? Use information from the passage and your own experience to support your answer.

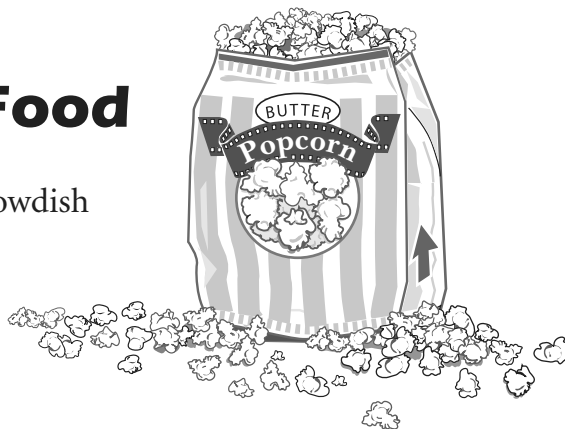
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Directions

Read the passage “Popcorn: The Inside-Out Food.” Then do Numbers 10 through 17.

Popcorn: The Inside-Out Food

by Lynea Bowdish



Almost everyone knows that popcorn is tasty, healthy, fluffy, and fun. What you may not know is that before you can eat it, it has to be inside out!

How Popcorn Pops

Uncooked popcorn has a hard shell. But inside the shell is a soft center with a small amount of water in it. That water—plus some heat—is the magic formula for turning a hard popcorn kernel inside out.

When the popcorn is heated, the water inside turns to steam. The steam expands until the pressure cracks the shell open. The soft center fills with air and POP! The popcorn has turned inside out and is 30 to 40 times its original size!

Now the popcorn is soft enough to eat. Not only does it taste good, but plain popcorn is also good for you. It contains protein that gives your body energy.

Popcorn History

Popcorn is one of the oldest kinds of corn. Native Americans used it as food and decoration hundreds of years ago. When

Native Americans shared the fluffy food with English settlers in America, the settlers weren't sure what to do with it. They decided to put it in their soup!

The settlers' children later tried popcorn for breakfast, eating it with sugar and cream. That was probably the first breakfast cereal. Sometimes it was served for dinner with butter and salt.

Popcorn Today

Today, our country grows most of the world's popcorn. It has become a favorite snack at movie theaters, amusement parks, and sports events. The average American eats about 68 quarts of popcorn every year.

Popcorn can be yellow or white. It can be in the shape of a mushroom, a butterfly, or a ball. It can be plain or coated with candy. But it always has to be inside out!

10 This passage is an example of nonfiction because

- it talks about the past
- it tells facts about a topic
- it does not have a rhyme pattern
- it does not use a lot of descriptions

11 What does the passage say is most special about popcorn?

- It has to be hot to taste good.
- It has to turn inside out to be eaten.
- It can be served with butter and salt.
- It can be eaten with sugar and cream.

12 The author would most likely agree that popcorn

- is best used for decorations
- is best when served in soup
- is healthiest when served plain
- is healthiest when coated with candy

13 Which of these statements would best fit in the section “How Popcorn Pops”?

- Popcorn is a popular treat.
- Breakfast cereals have a long history.
- Heat and pressure can change objects.
- Popcorn comes in all sizes and shapes.

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14 Which of these happens right after popcorn is heated?

- The center fills with air.
- The popcorn turns inside out.
- The water inside turns to steam.
- The popcorn is soft enough to eat.

15 Read this sentence from the passage.

Uncooked popcorn has a hard shell.

The word uncooked means

- not cooked
- cooked again
- cooked wrong
- not able to be cooked

16 The part of the passage called “Popcorn Today” tells mostly about

- snacks that people like to eat
- how popular popcorn is in America
- the history of popcorn in this country
- what happens when popcorn kernels pop

17 Which of these sentences from the passage is not a fact?

- Almost everyone knows that popcorn is tasty, healthy, fluffy, and fun.
- Popcorn contains protein that gives your body energy.
- Today, our country grows most of the world’s popcorn.
- Popcorn can be yellow or white.

STOP 



Session 2

Directions Read the passage “High Adventure.” Then do Numbers 18 through 26.

High Adventure

by Claudia Cangilla McAdam

Alice couldn't believe her good luck! Her family's friend, Carl Banks, had invited her to go for a weekend ride in his rainbow-colored hot air balloon named “High Adventure.”

Saturday arrived with perfect weather for ballooning. There was snow on the ground, but gentle winds blew across the field.

“If you're ready to go, hop in the gondola,” Carl told Alice, pointing toward the large basket attached to the huge balloon. Alice smiled and climbed in the basket. Carl used the flame from a propane tank to heat the air inside the balloon. With a loud “whoosh,” the balloon filled up with warm air. Finally, the balloon stretched skyward, lifted the basket and its two passengers off the ground, and began to float away.

“Here we go,” shouted Carl.



Alice watched her parents shrink as the balloon rose. Cars on the ground soon looked like toys. “High Adventure” lifted up and over the trees of a forest. Carl and Alice used the two-way radio to talk to her parents, who followed the balloon in a “chase” truck on the ground.

The balloon sailed silently over the forest and fields. Carl explained how the burner and the balloon's flaps worked. The only other sound was the blast of the flames whenever Carl turned on the burner to heat the air inside the balloon. Alice found the flight peaceful and exciting at the same time.

After an hour, Carl decided to land on a snowy field. They were still moving swiftly when the gondola thudded onto the ground and bumped along the snow. Suddenly, the basket groaned and tipped on its side. It scooped up some snow that sprayed Alice. Then a big bounce sent Carl flying from the basket and onto the ground. Just as quickly, the basket groaned and turned upright and began to rise into the air.

Alice peered over the edge of the basket and saw a surprised Carl looking up in disbelief. I could jump, she thought briefly, but she quickly changed her mind when she saw how far up she had risen.

The chase truck had just pulled up, and Carl ran to it to grab the two-way radio.

“Alice, can you hear me?” Carl shouted through the radio.

“Yes, help! Help!” Alice cried back into her radio.

“Don’t worry. I’ll talk you down,” Carl said. “Just do what I tell you to do.”

Alice followed Carl’s instructions to lower the balloon, but each time it got close to the ground, she panicked and fired the burner too long. The extra hot air lifted the balloon up again.

Carl could see the balloon drifting back toward the forest. “Alice, you’ve got to land now,” he yelled. “Here’s what you do. Give it gas, count to two, and pull the top flap rope that I showed you.”

Alice followed his directions and pulled the rope. The flap released. As hot air rushed out, the balloon floated gently down. Alice held on tightly as the gondola dragged along the snow. Finally, Carl and the ground crew grabbed the basket. The bumping stopped. Alice leaped over the edge of the basket onto the ground.

“Whew,” she said with a relieved smile, “now I see why you called it ‘High Adventure!’”

18 The main purpose for reading a passage like this is probably to

- discover how dangerous flying can be
- learn about the life of a famous person
- enjoy a story about a girl who has an adventure
- get information about how to fly a hot air balloon

19 How does Alice feel at the beginning of the passage?

- confused
- excited
- satisfied
- scared

20 Read this sentence from the passage.

They were still moving swiftly when the gondola thudded onto the ground and bumped along the snow.

In this sentence, swiftly means they were moving

- at a fast rate
- in short bursts
- with quick turns
- in an unsafe manner

21 What problem did Alice have during her hot air balloon ride?

- She was left alone to land the balloon.
- The flaps on the balloon would not release.
- The weather made the balloon hard to control.
- She did not know how to work the two-way radio.

22 Read this sentence from the passage.

Alice peered over the edge of the basket and saw a surprised Carl looking up in disbelief.

In this sentence, peered means about the same as

- fell
- leaped
- looked
- reached

23 Why did Carl yell, “Alice, you’ve got to land now”?

- He wanted to take her on another flight.
- A winter storm was quickly approaching.
- The propane tank was running out of fuel.
- The balloon was moving toward the forest.

24 Alice is able to land the balloon because she

- follows Carl’s directions
- has been on many flights
- waits for the wind to shift
- has watched how Carl lands it

25 Read this sentence from the passage.

Suddenly, the basket groaned and tipped on its side.

The author uses the word groaned because

- the passengers in the basket made groaning sounds
- the noise the basket made sounded like a person groaning
- the wind made groaning sounds as it blew over the basket
- the people on the ground groaned when they saw what was happening

26 How does Alice probably feel at the end of the passage?

- angry
- calm
- grateful
- sad

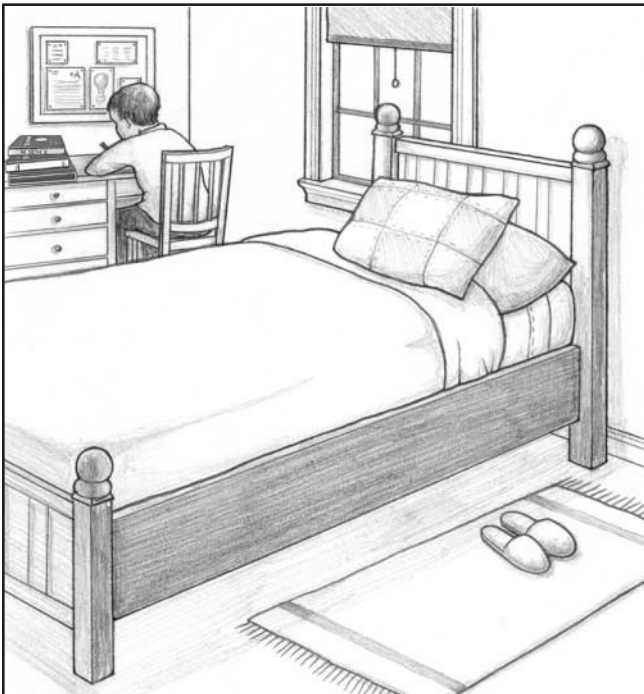
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Directions

Read “Ed and Fred.” Then do Numbers 27 through 34.

Ed and Fred

by Mark Merfeld



Ed and Fred were born the same day,
Went to the same school, lived in the same
town,

But, as they grew up, they acted in ways
As different as “up” is to “down.”

Ed was the one who woke up too late,
Grabbed his clothes from a pile on the floor,
And, though his first class began at eight,
It was 8:10 before he ran out the door.

Fred, on the other hand, got up at dawn,
Made his bed and washed his shirt,
Ate a good breakfast and was gone,
Arriving at school on time and alert.

Ed turned in papers all wrinkled and bent,
And spotted with stains of drinks and treats.
Classmates could tell by the colors and scent
The last meal that Ed had tried to eat!

Fred's work was typed and neatly covered,
His papers required no edits.
It wasn't long before the teacher discovered
Fred had turned in a year's extra credit!

When Ed got home he watched TV,
Then played ball until it was dark.
He postponed his chores quite easily
As long as there were kids in the park.

Fred went to the library after school,
Then hurried along his way.
It was his job and the household rule
To walk the dog each day.

Ed came home with a tired smile
And fell on his bed all muddy.
Fred had finished his walk of a mile
And already had started to study.

Ed's mom looked in and pulled at her hair,
Then screeched like ten violins,
"Who would believe that the two boys in there
Are not only brothers, but twins?"



Go On ►

27 Which of these best describes Ed and Fred?

- They act in silly ways.
- They act in opposite ways.
- They prepare well for school.
- They try to do too many things.

28 Which of these lines from the poem tells the most about the kind of person Ed is?

- Ed and Fred were born the same day,
- Grabbed his clothes from a pile on the floor,
- Made his bed and washed his shirt,
- Ed came home with a tired smile

29 Read these lines from the poem.

He postponed his chores quite easily
As long as there were kids in the park.

What does the word postponed mean?

- delayed
- enjoyed
- finished
- rushed

30 Which of these words best describes Fred?

- brave
- carefree
- responsible
- sloppy

31 Look at this chart.

Rhyming Words in "Ed and Fred"		
late ↓ eight	bent ↓ scent	dawn ↓ ?

The word that best fits in the last box is

- day
- gone
- shirt
- town

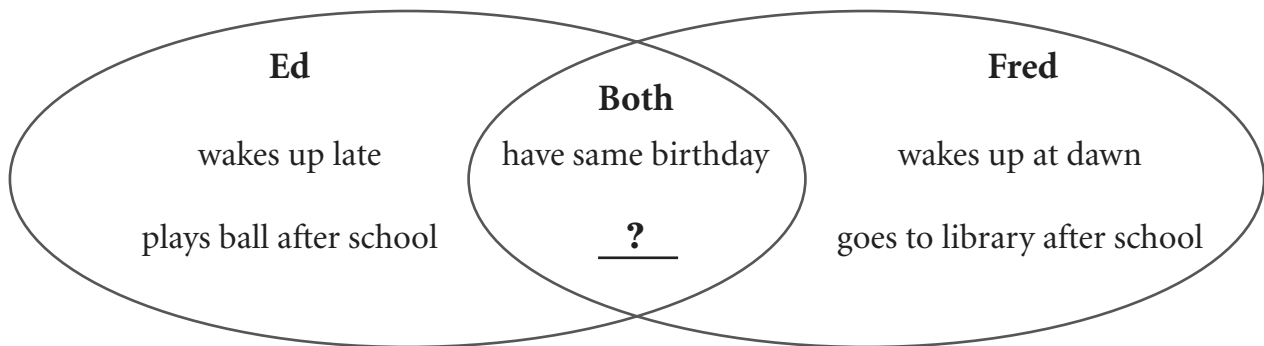
32 Read the first section of the poem again.

Ed and Fred were born the same day,
Went to the same school, lived in the same town,
But, as they grew up, they acted in ways
As different as “up” is to “down.”

Which of these lines could replace the last line in this section and still fit in the poem?

- As different as night is to day.
- As different as a smile and a frown.
- That made them seem like a pair of clowns.
- As if they were starring in the very same play.

33 Look at the Venn diagram that shows some ways that Ed and Fred are alike and different.



Which of these belongs on the line for both?

- walk the dog
- forget to do chores
- turn in schoolwork
- eat a good breakfast

Session 3

Directions Read the passage “Caring for a Pet Rat.” Then do Numbers 35 through 45.

Caring for a Pet Rat

by Holly Beckstead

Pity the poor pet rat.

For 150 years he has been bred to be loving, clean, and friendly, yet many people still confuse him with his meaner cousin—the wild rat. Instead of Mickey Mouse, they think of a dirty rat in a cave or tunnel.

But pet rats are not the same as wild rats. They are not dirty, diseased, or mean. In fact, pet rats are clean, smart, and playful. That’s why rat lovers find they make excellent pets.

With patience and care, a young rat can be taught to come when you call. It can also be taught to do tricks like stand up or find its way through a maze.

Rats are not difficult to care for, but they do have certain needs. The following is a brief guide to caring for your pet rat.



Food and Water

A rat will eat just about any food a person will eat. However, a pet rat should be given food that keeps it healthy. Packaged rat food is the easiest to use. Seeds, grains, and cereals can also be fed to your rat. You can give your rat healthy treats like fresh fruit or vegetables, too.

A rat’s teeth are constantly growing, so rats like to gnaw or grind their teeth together. You should give your pet rat something hard to chew on, like a carrot or dog biscuit. A raw rib bone or even a piece of hard wood will help the rat take care of its teeth.

Do not give your rat too much meat, peanuts, or other foods with a lot of fat in them. You also should not give your rat junk food like candy or chips.

Make sure you give your rat fresh water daily. It is best to buy your rat a water bottle with a tube. Rats may drink water out of a bowl or a shallow cup, but they will also spill it and soak the bedding in their cage.

Shelter

An adult rat should have a large enough cage to give it room to move around. Metal or strong plastic cages are good. All cages should have a solid floor with a bedding of soft paper, wood chips, shavings, or cat litter. The bedding should be changed two to three times a week to prevent it from smelling. Rats like to be clean and spend a great amount of time each day grooming themselves and each other. The first thing a rat does when it wakes up is stretch, yawn, and groom.

To add some fun, put cardboard toilet paper rolls or plastic pipes in the cage. Your rat will love exploring these and will rest and sleep in them, too.

Love and Care

Rats are social animals that like to be with people and with other rats. They are playful and smart enough to play games like tag, tug-a-war, and peek-a-boo. They need time out of their cage every day to explore and play with their owners.

As with all pets, caring for a rat is a responsibility. They need food, water, a clean home, and a loving companion to play with. If you just want a pet to look at—buy a goldfish. But if you're looking for a pet that is friendly, smart, and easy to care for, then a rat may be a good choice for you.

35 This passage is an example of

- a play
- fiction
- a poem
- nonfiction

36 Which question about pet rats could you answer by reading this passage?

- How long do pet rats sleep?
- Where can you get a pet rat?
- How do pet rats care for their young?
- How can you make a pet rat cage more fun?

Go On ►

37 Read this sentence from the passage.

All cages should have a solid floor with a bedding of soft paper, wood chips, shavings, or cat litter.

Solid means about the same as

- colorful
- firm
- hollow
- smooth

38 Look at the chart.

What Rats Eat	
Healthy Foods for a Pet Rat	Unhealthy Foods for a Pet Rat
seeds	candy
grains	peanuts
dog biscuits	?

Which of these best completes the chart?

- apples
- carrots
- dry cereals
- potato chips

39 The author suggests putting toilet paper rolls or plastic pipes in the cage so the rat will have a place to

- store food
- explore and rest
- hide from enemies
- stay warm and dry

40 According to the passage, why is it best to buy your rat a water bottle with a tube?

- A bottle with a tube is easiest to refill.
- Rats spill less water from a bottle with a tube.
- A bottle keeps the water colder than a bowl does.
- Rats find it too difficult to drink water out of a bowl.

41 Which idea from the passage best supports the author’s statement that rats are “social animals”?

- Rats stretch and yawn when they wake up.
- Rats like to gnaw or grind their teeth together.
- Rats like to be with people and with other rats.
- Rats will eat just about anything a person will eat.

42 Read this sentence from the passage.

The following is a brief guide to caring for your pet rat.

Which word means the *opposite* of brief as it is used in this sentence?

- dull
- little
- long
- tall

43 Read this sentence about pet rats.

A rat likes to have a sleeping box such as a flowerpot or empty coconut shell.

In which section of the passage would this statement best fit?

- in the introduction under the title “Caring for a Pet Rat”
- in the section under “Food and Water”
- in the section under “Shelter”
- in the section under “Love and Care”

44 The author would most likely agree that

- everyone should have a pet rat
- goldfish make better pets than rats
- wild rats can be good pets if they are fed well
- rats make excellent pets for responsible owners

