

THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER AND THE PAIL

Once upon a time, a farmer's daughter went into the barn to milk the cows. She carried with her a pail that was much larger than the one she usually used. She was surprised and excited to see that the cows had enough milk to fill the large pail. She put the pail on her head, but this pail was so heavy that it took her a while to balance it. Once she did, she set forth along the road to the dairy.

As she walked, she thought about the riches that milk could bring her. "I will be able to make a great deal of cream with all of this milk," she said. "I will use the cream to make butter, which I can take to the market and sell. With the money I make from selling the butter, I will be able to buy some eggs that will hatch into chicks. When my chicks mature into chickens, they will lay more eggs and eventually I will have an enormous poultry farm."

- 3 "People will envy me for the amount of money my poultry farm will earn. Then I will sell it to someone and I will be rich. Once I am extremely rich, I will buy myself the most beautiful dress in the world! My dress will have real jewels sewn onto the front and a matching hat and parasol. Everyone in town will look at me in my new clothes and envy my remarkable beauty! Polly, my friend, will be especially jealous and will point at me in awe—but I won't care. I will simply toss my head back. . . ."

The farmer's daughter was so caught up in her daydream that she actually tossed her head back. When she did, the pail toppled off her head and her precious milk spilled onto the road. She tried to scoop up some of the milk and put it back into the pail, but it was no use. The milk was gone.

The farmer's daughter cried all the way home. As soon as she arrived, she told her mother what had happened. She explained how she had lost the milk. Now she would not be able to make cream. Without the cream she would not be able to make butter and she would not be able to sell the butter to buy eggs. With no eggs, she would not have chickens and would never have her own poultry farm. If she couldn't sell the farm, she would not be rich. She would not have enough money to buy the most beautiful dress, hat, and parasol in the world!

- 6 "Now, now," the girl's mother said and hugged her. "I hope you learned a lesson from this. **Never count your chickens before they hatch.**"

3. What does the word **extremely** mean in paragraph 3?

- A very
- B carefully
- C about to be
- D somewhat

It might be helpful to go back to the passage and read the sentences around the sentence shown above. Remember that the girl needs a lot of money to buy her dress, so answer choice A is a good answer. You can eliminate answer choice B, *carefully*, because it really doesn't have anything to do with being rich. And the girl would have to already be rich to buy the dress, so answer choice C is not the best answer. Answer choice D, *somewhat*, makes sense, but again, the girl plans on being really rich. Answer choice A is the best answer.

4. How does the girl's mother **MOST LIKELY** feel when the girl tells her that she has spilled the milk?

- A unhappy
- B angry
- C worried
- D pleased

Rereading the end of the passage will help you answer this question. The girl's mother probably isn't happy that she spilled the milk, so answer choice A would be a good answer. The girl's mother doesn't seem to be angry (answer choice B) because she is very kind to the girl. The mother might be worried (answer choice C), but we can't tell this from the passage. She probably isn't pleased that her daughter spilled the milk (answer choice D). Answer choice A is the best answer.

Literary Short Passage Set

Read the story "The Wish Fish." Then answer questions 8 through 11.

The Wish Fish

by Frances Mann

1 Today, I am a simple fisherman. But would you believe I was once a rich man, with a pretty, if demanding, wife and a house as grand as any castle? It's true. My story began with my catching a golden fish in my net one morning many years ago.

2 "Good fisherman, do not eat me!" cried the fish, much to my surprise. "Release me, and anything you wish, I will grant."

3 As I was quite hungry at that particular moment, I said, "With humble thanks, oh fish, a loaf of bread would please my stomach."

4 With a flourish and swish, the fish leapt into the air and said, "Your wish is granted, kind fisherman." Into the water he splashed, and suddenly, sitting beside me was a beautiful loaf of bread. Pleased, I took it home.

5 When I told my wife my story, she astonished me with her reply. "Have you no sense at all? Why, without your silly sympathy, that fish would have been dead! Go back and tell him we want to be rich." She started to walk away, then turned back and said, "Tell him we wish to be lord and lady of the manor!"

6 Feeling embarrassed, I returned to the fish and explained what my wife had requested. He seemed disappointed, but once again said, "Your wish is granted, kind fisherman."

7 Upon my return, I found my small hut replaced by a fine stone house, with servants running to and fro. My wife was standing on the balcony, dressed in silk. She looked down at me with some distaste and said, "Go now, take a bath, and you may join me," and then she waved me away.

8 For many months, my wife was content with the riches granted us. For my part, I fished every day as I had always done. One day, she sent for me. "You know, husband, if not for your mercy, that fish would have been our dinner. Why should I live as the wife of a lowly lord? Go back to your fish, and tell him I wish to be the queen."

9 "Wife," I said, and quickly corrected myself, "Your ladyship, I believe that request would be better heard from you," I said, bowing deeply and hiding a touch of panic. With a great huff, she arose and stormed out of the manor. I followed as she made her way to the sea.

8 Read the summary of the passage. Then answer Parts A and B.

(1) A fisherman catches a talking fish. (2) The fish promises to grant wishes in exchange for his freedom. (3) In time, the fisherman's wife wants another wish. (4) She asks the fish to make her a queen. (5) A huge fish scares away the fisherman's wife, and the fisherman happily returns to his simple life.

Part A

The summary needs one more sentence to be complete. Which sentence would be **best** to add to the summary?

- A** During the morning, the fisherman catches the golden talking fish with his net.
- B** The fisherman's wife makes him take a bath before she will let him join her in their new house.
- C** The fisherman wishes for a loaf of bread, but his wife makes him go back and wish for riches.
- D** The fish swipes at the fisherman's wife with his fin and gives her a threatening look.

Part B

Where is the **best** place in the summary to put the sentence from Part A?

- A** between sentences 1 and 2
- B** between sentences 2 and 3
- C** between sentences 3 and 4
- D** between sentences 4 and 5

10 Part A

Which event from the passage causes the fish to take back all its gifts?

- A** The fisherman's wife wishes to be lady of the manor.
- B** The fisherman wishes to be a king.
- C** The fisherman's wife wishes to be a queen.
- D** The fisherman refuses to speak to the fish anymore.

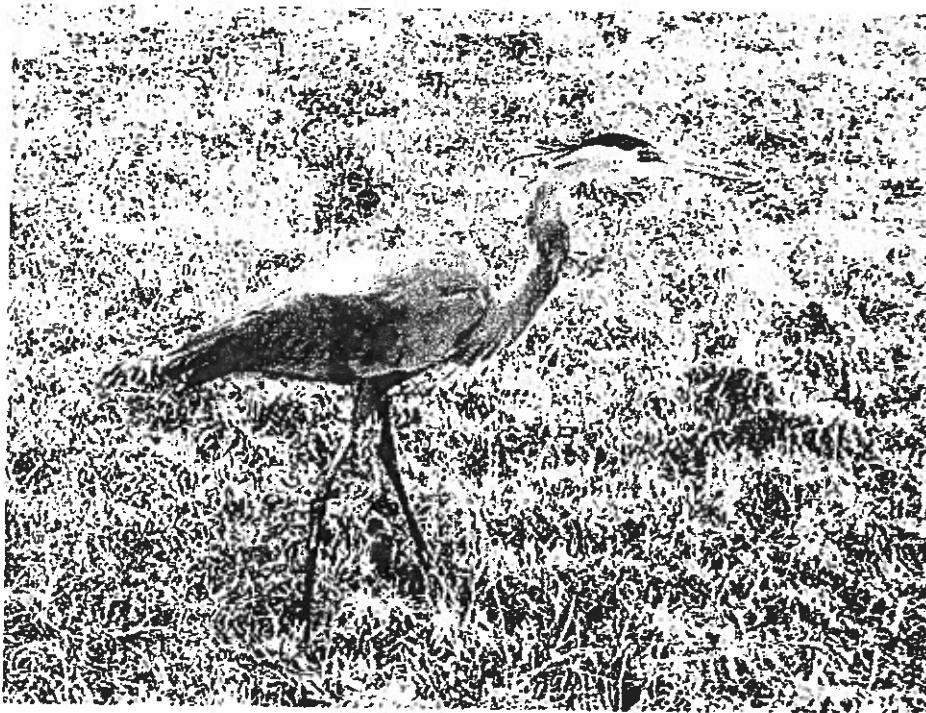
Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A** "Tell him we wish to be lord and lady of the manor!" (paragraph 5)
- B** "Upon my return, I found my small hut replaced by a fine stone house, with servants running to and fro." (paragraph 7)
- C** "Your ladyship, I believe that request would be better heard from you," I said, bowing deeply and hiding a touch of panic." (paragraph 9)
- D** "Show yourself! I wish to be the ruler of all I see!" (paragraph 10)

Keep Looking

by ReadWorks



By the time they parked, paid the station meter, bought their train tickets, and stepped onto the long silver train, it was 10:24 a.m. Luckily the second car was almost empty. They plopped down into the cool maroon and navy leather seat, happy they had made it.

Just as Netty's mom let out a sigh of relief, a bell, sounding like an old telephone, rang for a few seconds solid. The train jerked backwards, then jolted forward towards New York City. In a few hours they would be home with Daddy and their pup!

The last three days had been filled from morning to night with people speaking about math. Her mom had taken Netty upstate to the Hudson Valley for a big meeting with math teachers from all over the country. The math teachers were meeting to share their teaching styles and learn from each other, like a huge, math-y show-and-tell.

Netty's mother was very popular at the meeting. People were very excited to meet her and seemed to know a lot about the beautiful shapes she made using a special kind of math called "geometry." Netty's mother made big, colorful stars with lots of points out of paper or metal. Some of her shapes even looked like gigantic snowflakes. Many of them were on display at the meeting. Netty loved seeing the crowds of math teachers looking amazed and talking excitedly about her mother's stars.

Netty nodded yes.

"Well, have you ever seen a blue heron?"

Netty shook her head no.

"Oh, you're in for a treat, my friend," he sang.

Then he whistled, "They're kind of like a pelican or stork minus all the white."

Then he pointed out the window, his own eyes widening as he looked into the passing trees.

"Just keep looking out there about ten feet up into the trees. That's where they build their nests -up high where no one can touch them."

Netty and her mom looked out, almost expecting to see nests everywhere among the trees. After a few minutes of searching the branches together they still didn't see anything, though. All they saw were the trees themselves, growing higher than some city buildings out of a patch of swampy waters.

The conductor said, "Keep looking. They're out there."

That was the end of his routine with them, so he made his exit into the neighboring car to entertain more passengers.

While Netty kept searching the woods for a blue heron, her mother took out a camera in case they did actually see something. She had only just removed the lens cover when Netty saw it.

"Look!" Netty cried, pointing up at a large nest, high up on an approaching tree.

As it came closer, Netty saw the nest, and in it the largest, most beautiful bird she had ever seen. Its beak was slender and long, its body lean and covered in a shiny brown, grey, and blue coat of feathers.

It stared at them as the train passed by. Netty felt as if it was staring right at her. Maybe it was. Maybe it thought the train was some kind of nest on wheels and Netty some kind of freshly hatched chick whose mother fed her math instead of worms.

Netty's mother instantly flipped on her camera and started snapping *Click! Click! Click!* went her shutter as the proud mama bird guarding her nest floated out of sight.

"I think I got one with you both!" Netty's mother crowed with her own pride.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Netty see from the train window?

- A. a pup
- B. a pelican
- C. a stork
- D. a Blue Heron

2. Where does most of this story take place?

- A. at a meeting for math teachers
- B. on a train
- C. at Grand Central Station
- D. in Brooklyn

3. Netty and her mother are hoping to see a Blue Heron from the train.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. "The train was leaving at 10:26 a.m., so Netty and her mother had to dash back out onto the platform into a less crowded car when they realized there were no seats in the first one."
- B. "When the conductor waddled over to take their tickets, though, he must have no longer felt like a duck. He didn't quack once at Netty or her mother."
- C. "While Netty kept searching the woods for a Blue Heron, her mother took out a camera in case they did actually see something."
- D. The following week Netty came home from school one afternoon and found an envelope sitting next to her bed. She opened it to discover a stunning photograph of Netty and the Blue Heron."

4. How does Netty feel when she sees the Blue Heron?

- A. excited and amazed
- B. worried and scared
- C. sad and disappointed
- D. tired and bored

8. What does the Blue Heron look like when Netty sees it?

9. What does Netty do after a few minutes of looking for a Blue Heron and not seeing one?

10. Why might the author have chosen "Keep Looking" as the title of this story? Explain your answer using evidence from the passage.

The Circus Comes to Town

by ReadWorks



Donald Seastrunk never feared the jugglers until they upgraded from bean bags to bowling pins. By the movie theater, after a movie let out, excited crowds gathered around the most skilled jugglers, whose silk vests were as blue as the sky. Winking and smiling, the jugglers performed astonishing feats: dozens of balls in the air at once; nifty, behind-the-back and through-the-legs tricks; even juggling blindfolded. Word of mouth spread to neighboring towns. People from far away came to see the street performers. All seemed well and good, but with the jugglers' popularity came copycats. And so many of them!

On the side streets and quiet walkways, juggling copycats blundered through their simple routines. A ball or two rolling into the street was the worst of it, at first. But when the very best jugglers switched to bowling pins to freshen up their act, the bad jugglers copied this, too. For Donald Seastrunk, the juggling problem came to a head one May morning, as he hurried from his car up the path to the library. Just as he thought he was safe, a stray bowling pin spiraled through the air and whomped him on the head.

The next day it was crazy at Town Hall, too. Mayor Marjorie Arnold sighed at her desk. She had just read Donald Seastrunk's angry email, which Donald had sent to dozens of friends, the town council, and the mayor's office. This wasn't the first complaint the mayor had received about the jugglers. But what could she do? Some people were mad, but others loved the jugglers. After

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the town in the passage famous for?

- A. tightrope walkers
- B. jugglers
- C. bowling pins
- D. circus elephants

2. What main problem does Mayor Arnold face?

- A. People are complaining about the jugglers, and she doesn't know what to do.
- B. Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a juggler's stray bowling pin.
- C. She holds imaginary conversations with the golden cat statue in her office.
- D. The jugglers might sue the city if they were fined for disturbing the peace.

3. While many people are happy to live in a famous town, not everyone is happy about the jugglers. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A. The biggest newspaper in the state capital writes an article about the jugglers.
- B. Excited crowds gather around the skilled jugglers outside the movie theater.
- C. Donald Seastrunk leads a crowd in an anti-juggler protest.
- D. Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a bowling pin.

4. Read the following sentences: "The mayor chewed her pen. She tapped her foot furiously. She sighed so strongly that important documents blew off her desk, and this made her sigh again."

Based on this description, how is Mayor Arnold most likely feeling?

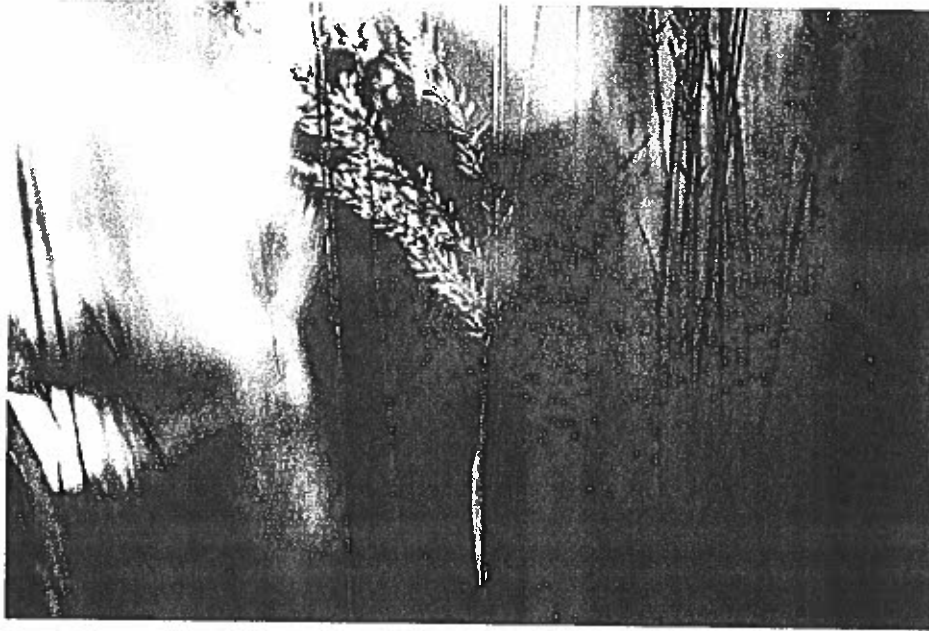
- A. inspired
- B. upbeat
- C. lonely
- D. frustrated

9. Why can't the mayor order the police to fine the jugglers for disturbing the peace?

10. Explain why the issue of the jugglers is so difficult for Mayor Arnold. Support your answer using information from the passage.

The Rabbits' Day at Carrot Beach

by ReadWorks



Every rabbit likes to lie about in the sun. And in the village of Rabbit Terrace, there are two best friend rabbits that can't wait to go sunbathing today. Meghan Rabbit and Amber Rabbit want to go to the beach.

"I want to look nice in my bikini this year!" says Meghan Rabbit, holding up a bright red bathing suit with white polka dots.

"You won't look too nice in that color with your very white fur," says Amber. "You're as pale as a ghost!"

"You think you're going to make fun of my fur, little miss thing?" Meghan responds. "You look like you fell into a bucket of flour!"

"Well, we'll just have to see who gets a better tan first. Let's go!"

The best place in Rabbit Terrace to sunbathe is Carrot Beach. It gets lots of sun, because the carrots need lots of sun to grow. Rabbits also need lots of carrots to grow. And Amber and Meghan need lots of sun to get their tan on!

The rabbits use sunblock with an SPF 30, and rub it all over their fur. Then, they pack an insulated cooler bag with carrot juice and head to Carrot Beach.

"Thank you, Wabbit! Goodbye!"

And there it is: rows upon rows of carrots. The same carrots that made the carrot juice that got them there. So tall and delicious, growing in the sun.

The two friends spread out their beach towels and re-apply their suntan lotion. They place their towels in the perfect spot. Not too sunny, not too shady. All around them are living things. The farmer waters the carrots every morning, and sometimes extra water gathers in a pool. The rabbits dip their toes in the pool of water to cool off.

As summer progresses, the sun and water make carrots grow taller and taller. The taller the carrots grow, the less the sun will be able to peek through their leafy green tops.

Suddenly, the carrots begin to rustle. The face of Wabbit pops out!

"Wabbit! You left the reeds!"

"I sure did," Wabbit says. "Well, I won't be staying for long, but I guess I did need a little bit of the sunshine. My fur was looking mighty...lumpy."

Wabbit hops away, and the girls decide to pack up and head home, too. The sun starts to set as they make their way.

There's extra carrot juice to give them energy for the hop back home.

throw the ball at each other and that works great, since the ball is rubber. We play baseball with a wooden bat instead of a metal bat, so we can drop the bat and run around the bases when we make a hit.

Ever since I started high school, I've wanted a magnet girlfriend. There are some smart and nice magnets in my class, but like I said, I couldn't figure out how to hold their hands! How can I invite one to the school dance? I guess our parents and teachers would be happy, because we can't dance too close to each other, but it was frustrating for me. So I kept my distance, and just passed them notes, or picked flowers for them and then threw them across the room and let them catch the bouquets.

Then one day, I was walking past the park and I saw a beautiful magnet. She was playing soccer with her friends, laughing a lot. When I looked at her, she seemed somehow different than the others.

When she was done playing her game, I started walking toward her, so I could say "hi" and talk to her and get to know her. (From five feet away, like usual). She saw me coming and smiled at me. Then something weird happened when I got close—we started being attracted to each other, literally!

I realized at that moment that she must be magnetized opposite from all my friends and me! Now, we're attached at the hip. She's perfect for me, and I'm perfect for her. We'll walk to the ice cream shop and share a milkshake, sitting side by side on the picnic bench out front. We're unstoppable when we play Red Rover—no one can get through!

Of course, we'll often pull apart so we can go to our different classes and play sports and hang out with our own friends. But we always come back together eventually.

It just goes to show ... opposites attract.

4. Why do Meghan Rabbit and Amber Rabbit want to go to Carrot Beach?

Use the articles "The Sad Tale of the Lonely Magnet" and "The Rabbits' Day at Carrot Beach" to answer question 5

5. Sometimes an author will give human-like qualities or traits to things in a story that aren't human. This writing technique is called "anthropomorphization." Do the authors of one or both of these stories use this technique? Use evidence from the stories to support your answer.

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR

S	F	F	E	J	Y	Z	Z	A	J	K	Y	R	E
E	S	U	O	H	L	O	O	P	K	K	I	H	Z
N	A	I	V	I	V	L	I	E	R	A	Y	A	U
I	L	T	Y	E	L	H	S	A	L	E	G	H	P
M	A	N	S	I	O	N	I	E	C	D	E	T	N
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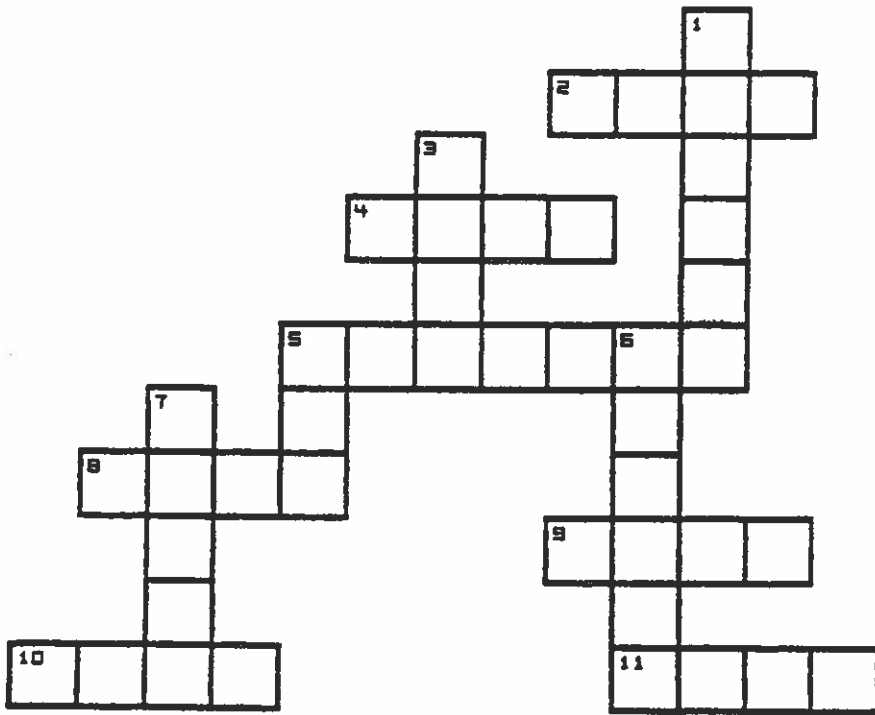
POOL HOUSE
 PHILIP
 HILLARY
 FRESH
 PRINCE
 JAZZY JEFF
 NICKY
 VIVIAN
 MANSION
 ASHLEY
 WILL SMITH
 GEOFFREY
 CARLTON
 BEL-AIR
 PLAYGROUND
 BANKS

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/142/>

Name _____

PROVERBS

best
bush
earned
eating
gold
hatched
hot
leap
lost
milk
play
pours



ACROSS CLUES:

- 2. When the cat's away, the mice will _____
- 4. Look before you _____
- 5. Don't count your chickens until they're _____
- 8. He who hesitates is _____
- 9. Don't cry over spilt _____
- 10. A bird in the hand is worth two in the _____
- 11. All that glitters is not _____

DOWN CLUES:

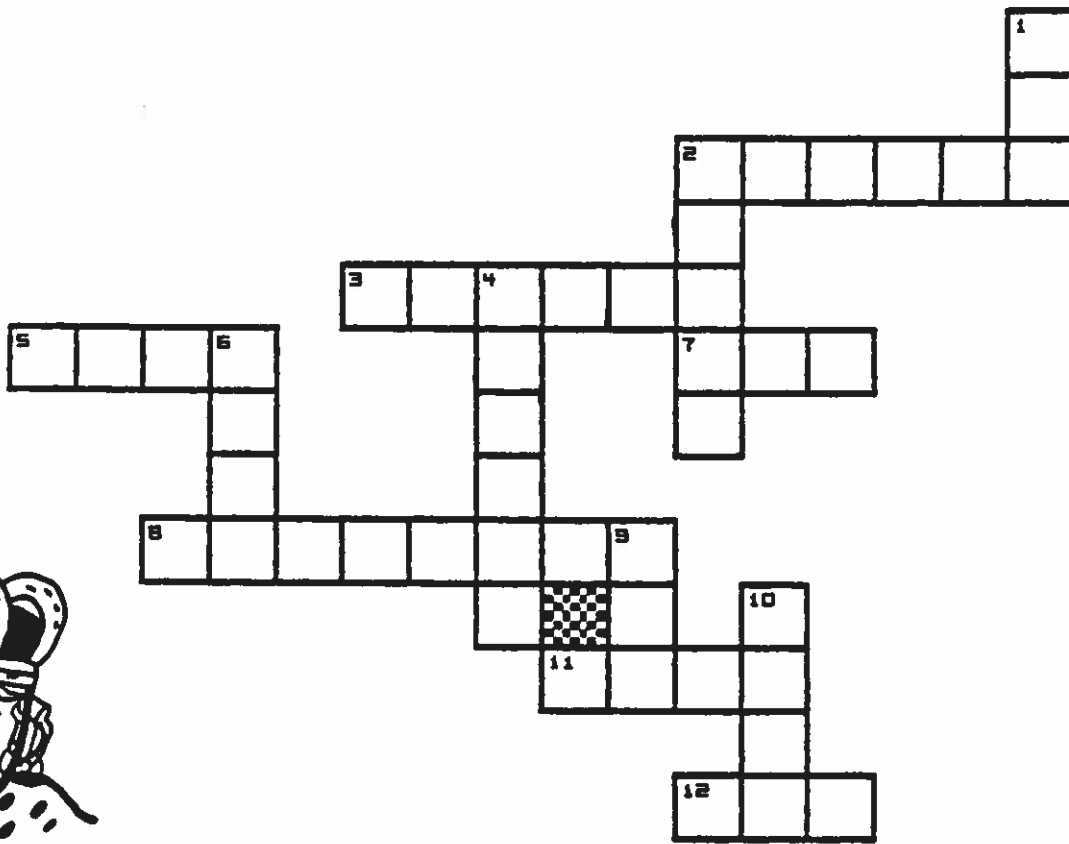
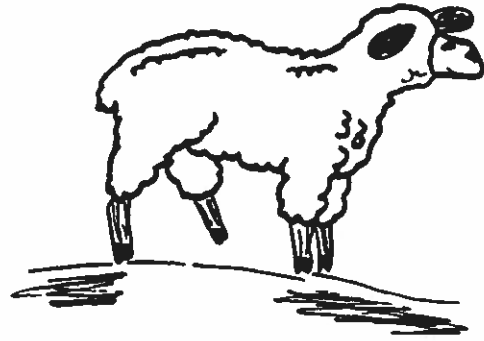
- 1. A penny saved is a penny _____
- 3. He who laughs last, laughs _____
- 5. Strike while the iron is _____
- 6. The proof of the pudding is in the _____
- 7. It never rains but it _____



Name _____

ANALOGIES
Familial

bear	female	niece
cat	her	princess
cow	lamb	she
deer	mother	tree
	nephew	

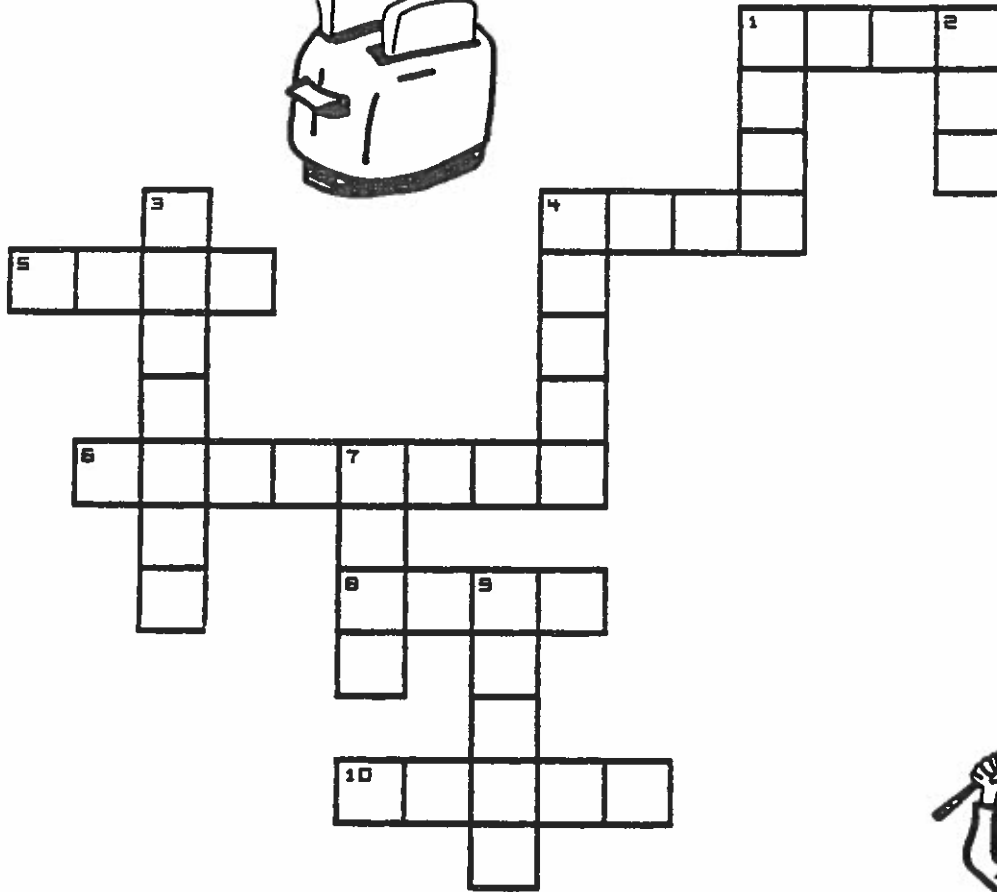
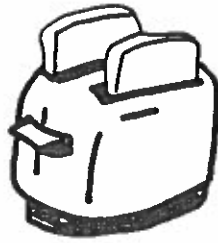


ACROSS CLUES:

- 2. aunt is to niece as uncle is to
- 3. uncle is to male as aunt is to
- 5. horse is to colt as sheep is to
- 7. puppy is to dog as kitten is to
- 8. king is to queen as prince is to
- 11. duckling is to duck as fawn is to
- 12. he is to she as him is to

DOWN CLUES:

- 1. puppy is to dog as calf is to
- 2. waiter is to waitress as nephew is to
- 4. boy is to father as girl is to
- 6. kid is to goat as cub is to
- 9. uncle is to he as aunt is to
- 10. seedling is to plant as sapling is to



- SIMILES**
- cucumber
 - lion
 - mule
 - ocean
 - pin
 - picture
 - rail
 - razor
 - rock
 - toast
 - whip
 - wink

ACROSS CLUES:

1. smart as a _____
4. hard as a _____
5. thin as a _____
6. cool as a _____
8. brave as a _____
10. warm as _____



DOWN CLUES:

1. quick as a _____
2. neat as a _____
3. pretty as a _____
4. sharp as a _____
7. stubborn as a _____
9. deep as the _____