

Albert was a goldfish in a bowl. He ate a breakfast of green (**and**, but, from) brown flakes each morning. Then he (finished, fishbowl, **watched**) the children go off to school.

(Which, **Albert**, Himself) hated being stuck in his bowl (**because**, children, finally) he could only swim around in (**circles**, children, flakes). He'd rather go to school. Poor (loved, **Albert**, Alone) couldn't even read a book. The (night, **pages**, flakes) would get soaked!

Albert was quite (**a**, an, if) smart fish. He could do flips (**under**, mean, rock) water. He could spell his name (**in**, one, ate) the pebbles on the bottom of (he, they, **his**) bowl. No matter how brilliant Albert (are, **was**, when) though, he still had a problem. (Mean, **Only**, And) the cat spoke to him. And (a, **the**, on) cat was not particularly nice to (**him**, his, day).

"I'll eat you up one day," (home, an, **the**) cat would tell Albert when they (was, **were**, and) all alone in the house. "I'll (Albert, would, **gobble**) you right up. You will be (**surprised**, fishbowl, brilliant) to discover that no one will (sent, **miss**, off) you."

It seemed to Albert that (**everyone**, problem, breakfast) loved the cat. No one seemed (in, **to**, for) notice the cat was mean. No (they, by, **one**) seemed to care that the cat (brown, seemed, **hated**) books and wasn't smart. The cat (**couldn't**, hiding, school) even spell his own name, but (us, **the**, to) children played with him every day.

(**One**, At, You) day the cat dipped his paw (up, to, **in**) Albert's fishbowl. To save himself, Albert (under, found, **swam**) to the very bottom of his (breakfast, **fishbowl**, soaking). He hid behind some rocks. When (**the**, go, can) children came home from school that (bowl, **day**, paw), they saw the cat was wet. (Have, **They**, House) didn't see Albert hiding behind the (flakes, happy, **rocks**) in the bottom of his fishbowl, (**and**, if, his) that scared them.

"You are a (such, each, **very**) naughty cat!" they shouted.

Finally one (a, **of**, it) the children found Albert hiding in (**the**, was, it) bottom of the bowl. "I found (cat, his, **him**)! I found our wonderful fish!" Albert (ate, **felt**, day) happy that his family loved him (**after**, could, under) all.

Now the cat gets locked (for, you, **in**) the basement every day, and the (someone, **children**, wonderful) read books to Albert every night.

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Now the cat gets locked **(for, you, in)** the basement every day, and the **(someone, children, wonderful)** read books to Albert every night.

Andy was one of the many ants who worked daily in the anthill. Every day Andy and the other (top, **ants**, hills) would wake up and go off (**to**, are, of) work. Andy's job was to carry (queens, **pieces**, about) of sand up the side of (took, when, **the**) anthill to build it higher. Andy (**thought**, stepped, wanted) his job was really boring. Who (ants, **would**, where) find carrying pieces of sand interesting? (Said, Next, **All**) Andy did day after day was (**stack**, long, spoke) tiny pieces of sand on top (for, was, **of**) other tiny pieces of sand. Where (she, **was**, him) the challenge in that?

All Andy (pretty, **really**, modern) wanted was to create a daring (so, **new**, for) kind of anthill. He wanted to (inside, would, **build**) a modern castle. He could see (if, **the**, an) castle in his mind, and that (**goal**, down, after) made him continue his daily grind.

(**One**, Top, At) day Andy spoke to his friend, (**Sally**, ants, bigger). He took a chance and told (she, **her**, was) about his dream. "I don't want (up, big, **to**) build anthills, Sally. I want to (daily, **build**, wake) a modern castle."

"I don't know, (queen, **Andy**, him)," said Sally. "Ants have lived in (**anthills**, pictures, someone) for a very long time."

"I (long, sand, **need**) to tell someone who will understand," (**Andy**, his, ants) thought.

The next day Andy went (**to**, of, for) see Queen Ant. He shook with (low, **fear**, start) as he knocked on her door.

"(Andy, **Come**, Took) in," said a low, pretty voice.

(His, One, **Andy**) stepped inside the queen's chambers. There (**were**, you, was) beautiful pictures on the walls and (an, **a**, is) bright carpet underfoot. The queen wore (I, to, **a**) golden crown. She was much bigger (**than**, for, said) Andy.

"Who are you, and what (did, **do**, by) you want?" she said to Andy.

(Sally, Want, **Andy**) showed her his plans for building (an, **a**, is) castle. "You are a lovely queen," (low, **Andy**, Sally) told her. "Lovely queens should live (**in**, the, up) castles. I'm the ant who knows (for, sit, **how**) to build them."

"You are right," (see, **the**, low) queen said. "You may start building (**my**, his, who) castle tomorrow.

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Bat lived all by himself in a damp and musty cave. The cave was always dark and (night, juicy, **dreary**). As Bat hung upside down day (other, **after**, yellow) day, he thought about his sorrows.

"(He, **If**, Why) only I had a friend," Bat (final, said, **often**) thought. "If I had a friend, (**I**, it, my) would have someone to play with. (A, As, **If**) I had a friend to talk (it, **to**, why), I think I'd finally be very (juicy, eating, **happy**)."

At night Bat would spread his (**strong**, asked, meals) wings and fly from the cave. (Say, **He**, I) would search for a nice apple (**tree**, bugs, the). Then he would perch on a (ground, **branch**, musty) and gobble down a juicy dinner. (You, Him, **Bat**) liked apples, and he loved plums. (Air, So, **But**) his favorite meals were those of (**beetles**, started, friend) and other bugs.

To catch bugs, (nice, **Bat**, dog) had to swoop through the air (**with**, has, teach) his mouth open. One night Bat (got, what, **was**) swooping through the air when he (yawned, think, **bumped**) into something solid and furry. Bat (damp, **fell**, hung) to the ground. He was scared (**as**, the, to) he looked up and stared into (at, **the**, on) yellow eyes of a cat.

"Oh, (sounds, **please**, solid) don't eat me!" Bat cried as (I, me, **he**) covered his tiny head.

"I don't (**plan**, teach, down) on eating you," said the cat. "(And, Only, **Don't**) have a heart attack."

"Why wouldn't (say, **you**, he)?" Bat asked as he looked into (**the**, an, day) cat's yellow eyes.

The cat yawned. "(To, His, **My**) owners feed me plenty of cat (cave, **food**, got) so I don't have to hunt. (**To**, Up, A) be honest, I'm bored most of the (**time**, said, wings)."

"Would you consider being my friend?" (said, would, **asked**) Bat. "I'll teach you how to (bugs, **hang**, still) upside down, and I'll even teach (**you**, his, is) how to catch bugs. What do (**you**, my, when) say?"

"That sounds wonderful," said the (the, hung, **cat**). "You've got a deal. When do (his, **you**, hunt) think we could start? Do you (juicy, **think**, feed) you could teach me how to (will, was, **fly**) too? I think I'm going to (feed, the, **like**) being friends with you."

Bat lived all by himself in a damp and musty cave. The cave was always dark and **(night, juicy, dreary)**. As Bat hung upside down day **(other, after, yellow)** day, he thought about his sorrows.

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Becky didn't want to go to sleep. She tried as hard as she (**could**, where, know) to stay awake. She knew that (I, the, **if**) she fell asleep, she would miss (wanted, **seeing**, thought) Santa Claus. Becky thought that the (long, weak, **old**) man with whiskers was wonderful. In (**all**, want, when) her books, he appeared so jolly (ask, **and**, but) kind.

Some of the students in (**Becky's**, Santa, where) kindergarten class said that Santa was (big, **just**, fell) a fairy tale. Janie was one (on, so, **of**) Becky's friends. She was a sassy (weeks, purple, **little**) girl with red hair. She said (**that**, want, and) parents try to make kids believe (go, **in**, of) Santa so they behave. She thought (**Santa**, Janie, long) was a big trick.

Becky didn't (stayed, grateful, **believe**) Janie. Santa was a real person, (of, so, **and**) tonight she would see him again. (One, **She**, Red) had seen Santa Claus once when (**she**, big, some) was three. She sat on his (fire, **lap**, that) at the mall. Santa asked her (how, **what**, when) she wanted for Christmas, and Becky (knew, she, **had**) been too shy to say anything.

(**On**, As, Was) the way home, Becky's parents told (hard, she, **her**) not to worry. They said Santa (pillow, **could**, knew) look into your heart and know (**things**, sounds, worry). It still bothered her a lot (would, asked, though). She wished she had spoken to (she, **him**, hard).

Tonight was Christmas Eve. Weeks ago, (**Becky**, real, here) had sent Santa a list of (**the**, for, an) presents she wanted. She and her (**mother**, jolly, student) had baked cookies for him this (anything, listened, **afternoon**). They were placed on a big (said, **red**, old) and green plate right in front (**of**, for, is) the fireplace. Santa couldn't miss them. (**He'd**, Kind, She) be so grateful to have a (**snack**, fire, hard) after all his hard work.

Becky (evening, believe, **listened**) hard for the sounds of Santa (parents, **landing**, person) on the roof. She just knew (she, **if**, too) she stayed awake long enough she (real, fell, **would**) see him. Then she could tell (**the**, at, deer) other kids that he was real. (Kind, She, **Her**) head fell against the pillow, and (he'd, **she**, on) was fast asleep.

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Roger wasn't much of an athlete. It wasn't that he didn't like (basket, **sports**, think). He really did like basketball. But (it, a, **he**) was better at tripping and crashing (**into**, one, sit) things than he was at making (sport, **baskets**, school). His classmates seldom asked him to (**play**, with, good) on a team when they played (television, **basketball**, practiced) at noon. Mr. Park never chose (it, from, **him**) to shoot baskets in front of (do, an, **the**) gym class. Mr. Park always picked (**Tom**, good, his), a boy in Roger's class, to (most, **show**, shoot) the gym class how to make (**the**, an, but) perfect basket.

It seemed to Roger (were, not, **that**) Tom never missed a shot. Tom (he, as, **was**) so quick and so skilled. He (did, **was**, trip) the best basketball player in the (**fourth**, class, athlete) grade.

"I want to make every (tripped, **basket**, Roger) like Tom does," Roger told his (then, **best**, five) friend, Sam, one afternoon when they (was, good, **were**) walking home from school. "I want (**to**, in, if) be Mr. Park's favorite student."

As (this, what, **they**) walked, the two boys passed Tom's (complain, **driveway**, crashing). Tom was already home from school. (**He**, His, Not) was shooting baskets in the basketball (never, sport, **hoop**) set up in front of his (trumpet, **garage**, making). As Roger and Sam watched, Tom (**missed**, always, going) two baskets and made five.

"See," (night, them, **Roger**) said. "Tom is such a good (shook, **ball**, miss) player."

"Why do you think he's (so, by, at) good?" Sam asked Roger. "Do you (**think**, then, shook) he's so good because he practices (**all**, day, such) the time? All you do when (him, **you**, best) get home is complain that you're (**no**, as, a) good at sports. Then you sit (you, **in**, to) front of the TV all night."

(Tom, Make, **Sam**) was right. Roger did sit in (**front**, never, asked) of the television most nights. "Yeah, (from, for, **but**) I'm not going to do that (basket, **anymore**, player)," Roger told Sam. "I'm going to (play, **practice**, ball), practice, practice. Do you want to (**join**, feel, make) me?"

Sam shook his head and (baskets, **showed**, began) Roger the trumpet case he was (**carrying**, watched, baskets).

"Nope, I already decided that I'm (like, **going**, when) to be the best trumpet player (on, all, **in**) the fourth grade. That means I (you, miss, **have**) to go home and practice."

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It rained all day long. The wind and rain knocked the (**remaining**, today, clear) leaves to the ground where they (will, **were**, and) swept into the street. Today was (it, just, **a**) typical fall day.

Just two days (very, **ago**, roll), the sun was out and the (temperatures, everyone, not) were very pleasant. Raking leaves into (**large**, tucked, dog) playful piles was very relaxing.

The (fall, **family**, out) worked together gathering the maple leaves (the, **into**, was) piles. Kids will be kids, and (sky, **they**, was) loved jumping and hiding in the (days, typical, **leaves**). Even their dog liked to romp (next, piles, **around**) in the leaves. It was fun (and, **for**, and) everyone.

The next day, the weather (swept, **changed**, was) slightly. Clouds began to roll into (even, near, **the**) area and darken the sky. It (**did**, two, were) not rain then, but it was (hiding, **clear**, in) that winter was near. The family (fun, **thought**, began) that the ground would be covered (slightly, **in**, to) no time. Winter was approaching fast.

(Together, **They**, Their) awoke to the rain hitting the (pleasant, fun, **roof**) of their home. It was a (piles, maple, **light**) rain, so they figured it would (romp, into, **rain**) all day. They were right. Now (to, sun, **the**) kids would not be able to (**play**, loved, darken) in the leaves. The leaves were (**all**, into, kids) wet and brown. They were no longer (tucked, where, **dry**) and colorful.

The winds picked up (dog, very, **speed**) and sent the piles of leaves (kids, **blowing**, relaxing) across the yard and into the (weather, **street**, liked). The kids thought they were pretty (gathering, into, **lucky**) to have been able to play (**in**, were, all) the leaves yesterday.

Later in the (rained, **day**, leaves), the street sweeper came into their (ground, **neighborhood**, long) and, with its mighty vacuum, gobbled (by, everyone, **up**) the leaves that had found their (worked, clouds, **way**) into the street. The leaves were (rain, raking, **gone**).

That night the kids were tucked (street, it, **into**) bed for the evening. As they (were, area, **slept**), the rain turned to snow.

The (**kids**, dry, leaves) dreamed of sledding and snowmen. The (by, soon, **next**) morning their dreams came true. Snow!

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Even though Marcus and Beth were twins, they were very different people. Beth liked exciting things. At the (story, **fair**, come), she liked to ride on the (things, **fastest**, little) roller coaster. When she visited the (baby, and, **ice**) cream shop, she chose a new (**flavor**, jokes, visit) each time. Marcus liked things that (like, wanted, **didn't**) change much. At the fair, he (name, **rode**, tried) the Ferris wheel around and around (**slowly**, fastest, though). When he visited the ice cream (told, twins, **shop**), he always chose chocolate.

Mother told (a, **the**, he) twins they would soon have a (**new**, very, slow) baby brother or sister. Beth wanted (at, the, **to**) name the baby after a super (slow, **hero**, song). Marcus thought "Marcus" was a nice (**name**, story, soon).

When Mother came home with the (**new**, buy, at) baby, Beth wore a party hat (the, but, **and**) blew a loud horn. Marcus just (put, **held**, twins) a sign saying, "Welcome."

First Beth (nice, **held**, shop) the new baby. She sang the (thing, about, **baby**) a song about horses and ducklings. (**She**, He, Want) put shiny purple and orange tap (when, song, **shoes**) on the baby's feet. She tried (at, **to**, for) make the baby laugh. Beth made (cream, Marcus, **faces**) and told jokes, but the baby (**just**, were, begin) slept.

Then Marcus held the new (liked, **baby**, shop). He whispered a slow song in (**the**, at, time) baby's ear. He repeated the names (as, **of**, she) all the rocks he knew. He (visited, himself, **tickled**) the baby's little feet. Marcus showed (made, and, **the**) baby his favorite stamp collection. He (**read**, soon, liked) the baby a story about reptiles, (soon, **but**, so) the baby just slept.

One day (**Mother**, babies, chose) asked, "I wonder if the baby (were, very, **will**) be like Marcus or like Beth?"

(Showed, Mother, **Marcus**) said, "I want the baby to (so, **be**, if) just like me!"

Beth shouted, "I (**want**, know, held) the baby to be just like me!"

Suddenly the baby woke up and (just, **began**, orange) to cry harder and harder.

Mother (they, **said**, tried), "I think the baby is saying (up, tap, **he**) doesn't want to be like Marcus (**or**, but, was) like Beth. I think the baby (sign, came, **wants**) to be like himself!"

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Gabe was always telling his friends about his Uncle Jack.

"My Uncle Jack," he would say, "(why, **is**, do) really famous. He can fly his (was, back, **own**) plane, and he can ride wild (**horses**, friends, because). He's over six feet tall, and (I, big, **he**) wears a cowboy hat made out (the, **of**, for) alligator skin."

"Why does he wear (an, **a**, on) cowboy hat made out of alligator (**skin**, usual, hands)?" Gabe's friend, John, asked him one (hat, **day**, said). "What's so special about that?"

"Well, (I, his, **my**) Uncle Jack wrestles alligators," said Gabe. "(Then, Start, **That's**) how he got the hat."

The (**boys**, plane, walk) in Gabe's class grew sick and (about, **tired**, jumped) of him bragging about his Uncle (**Jack**, hat, horse) all the time. No one really (teacher, alligator, **believed**) Gabe's stories about his Uncle Jack. (So, As, **All**) the boys thought Gabe was lying. (He's, **They**, When) started to pick on Gabe. They (**started**, jumped, teacher) to call him mean names.

"Lizard (could, **breath**, gasped)!" John called Gabe one day. "I (**bet**, red, was) you've got lizard breath because you've (can, over, **been**) kissing alligators!"

Everyone laughed at John's (skin, **words**, made). Gabe couldn't believe it. He thought (pick, their, **those**) boys were his friends.

One afternoon, (**John**, his, would) was teasing Gabe as usual when (that's, wood, **there**) was a knock on the classroom (one, **door**, boy). When the teacher answered it, all (an, **the**, wore) kids gasped as the teacher stepped (cowboy, over, **aside**).

A man walked into the room. (**He**, His, Out) was over six feet tall, and (**he**, to, my) wore a cowboy hat. He had (**very**, green, class) big hands, green eyes, and a (got, **dead**, sick) alligator slung over his shoulder.

"Hello (lizard, you've, **mates**)," he said. "I'm looking for my (**nephew**, bragged, uncle), Gabe."

Gabe jumped out of his (**seat**, call, hands). He was so excited to see (he, **his**, it) Uncle Jack that he gave him (an, to, **a**) hug in front of everyone.

"Gabe," (an, **the**, me) teacher said, "would you please introduce (of, **us**, his) to your guest?"

"This is my (**Uncle**, class, boys) Jack," Gabe said with a smile. "(**He's**, The, As) come here today to show us (one, **how**, said) to wrestle alligators."

Gabe was always telling his friends about his Uncle Jack.

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I love to read. When I read, I can travel (for, **to**, his) distant places. I can be different (**people**, deeper, while), and I can do amazing things (my, it, **I**) would never have imagined doing.

Last (things, **month**, lunch), I read a book that took (**me**, I, for) to a country in Europe. I (special, **climbed**, spooky) the mountains in Switzerland. I wore (it, **a**, an) backpack and special climbing gear. I (**was**, book, were) one of the strongest and bravest (water, **people**, sailed) there. I rescued a small boy (this, his, **who**) was lost in a forest!

Last (**week**, never, fish), I read a book about a (boat, **nine**, new)-year-old boy who lives in (river, brown, **Mexico**). While I read, I almost felt (**like**, for, swam) I was that boy. I went (at, **to**, now) his school and celebrated his holidays. (Tan, Long, **The**) climate where he lives is much (finishes, **different**, infested) from mine. It is warm there (book, one, **all**) year, and he has never seen (**snow**, can, edge)! I was glad to be myself (**again**, lost, school) after I was done reading.

Yesterday, (an, be, **a**) new book brought me to a (wind, **warm**, read), tropical island in the Pacific. I (wore, amaze, **swam**) in the warm, salty water. Later, (it, **I**, me) dove to catch my lunch of (special, through, **lobster**) and fish. While diving, I discovered (it, **a**, an) long-lost treasure! It was left (**from**, for, warm) the days when pirates sailed the (rock, that, **seas**). That was fun and a bit (lunch, **spooky**, forest).

Today, I am reading another book (Europe, **where**, when) I am deep in a tropical (**forest**, Mexico, bravest) along the Amazon River. The boat (is, I, **we**) are traveling in has just crashed (for, **into**, felt) a big rock, and water is (**leaking**, fought, climbing) in! Even though I know its (small, done, **just**) a book, I feel scared and (his, read, **hope**) we can fix the leak or (long, **reach**, while) the river's edge before ending up (for, **in**, a) deep water. I can't wait (**to**, for, at) finish this book! I'll have to (deep, **read**, live) a relaxing one next time.

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Billy was sitting on the sidewalk curb holding his favorite old baseball glove.

"Hey, Billy!" he heard. "Weren't you (the, **supposed**, favorite) to meet me half an hour (on, asked, **ago**) at the park? Why are you (**sitting**, longer, excited) here instead of moving?"

"I'm waiting," (**Billy**, as, years) replied.

"Waiting for what?" I asked.

"(Billy, The, **I'm**) waiting for Mr. Sanchez to leave (**for**, you, old) work. It shouldn't be much longer."

"(**Billy**, Sanchez, Waiting), your Mom said it was all (block, with, **right**) for you to play ball with (see, he, **me**) at the park. I don't understand (parked, hey, **why**) you're waiting for Mr. Sanchez."

Billy (heard, good, **sighed**) as he explained, "Well, Mr. Sanchez's (know, five, **car**) is parked in the driveway, right (see, though, **across**) the street. See? And the park (weren't, about, **is**) across the street and down the (**block**, meet, play)."

I shook my head because I (you're, block, **didn't**) understand what Billy was talking about. (The, About, **This**) morning he was excited about playing (for, **baseball**, street) with the guys. He was a (**pretty**, what, holding) good shortstop, even though he wasn't (shouldn't, **quite**, much) five years old.

"I know where (**the**, for, you) park is and so do you. (I, **So**, The) explain to me again why you (**are**, is, and) sitting here?"

"I already told you. (For, Said, **I'm**) waiting for Mr. Sanchez," replied Billy. (I, His, Why) looked across the street. There was (is, **no**, he) sign of Mr. Sanchez coming out (half, **of**, at) his house.

"Mom said I can't (understand, because, **cross**) the street if I see any (**cars**, supposed, glove)," Billy continued, "and I see Mr. (**Sanchez's**, baseball, instead) car. It's right there in his (waiting, shortstop, **driveway**)!"

"Oh, Billy!" I laughed. "I'm sure (**your**, here, the) mom meant you should not cross (what, ago, **the**) street if you see any cars (hour, **driving**, shook) on the road! She just wants (it, **to**, was) make sure that a moving car (**doesn't**,

waiting, old) hit you. She's not worried about (for, so, **the**) parked cars! Come on. You can (where, **walk**, playing) with me to the park!"

"Oh, (the, down, **Sam**). You're so smart. Thanks for being (all, **my**, I'm) friend. Let's go play ball."

Billy was sitting on the sidewalk curb holding his favorite old baseball glove.

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Three-year-old Jordan lived with her mother and father in a blue house. Jordan's mother was round and jolly. (**She**, Her, Care) was always smiling. Her father was (floor, blue, **tall**) and strong. He had blue eyes (they, **that**, hand) twinkled.

Jordan's grandmother was very old (**and**, her, but) sick. Today the family was going (at, she, **to**) visit her in a place they (where, **called**, clung) "the Home." Jordan knew what a (**home**, lady, walk) was. She loved her own home, (**especially**, grandmother, willingly) her bedroom. It was a yellow (eyes, when, **color**), and all of her toys were (went, **there**, doors).

The building her father drove up (it, **to**, in) didn't look like any home Jordan (can, get, **had**) ever seen. It was a big (**brown**, here, with) building. "Is this Nana's house?" she (going, walked, **asked**).

"Yes, dear," her mother answered. "Nana (was, **has**, who) to live here so the nurses (was, up, **can**) take care of her."

They walked (**through**, bedroom, wrinkled) the heavy glass doors and into (to, **a**, an) large room with a white floor. (**There**, What, Blue) were many people who had wheelchairs. (Ladies, **Jordan**, House) was frightened and clung to her (stuffed, finally, **mother's**) hand. She could feel all the (open, house, **people**) watching her as they walked down (**the**, were, an) hallway.

When they reached the farthest (down, **door**, bunny), Jordan's father knocked. Then he opened (**the**, an, care) door, and they went inside. Jordan's (bunny, large, **father**) lifted her up to look at (lady, **Nana**, and). She was lying there quietly on (is, an, **the**) bed. She had blue eyes just (**like**, her, for) Jordan's father. "Hi, Nana," said Jordan.

"(Dear, **Nana**, Blue) can't hear very well anymore," her (smiling, **mother**, chair) said. Jordan squirmed down to the (home, made, **floor**) and looked around. She saw a (**white**, three, here) stuffed bunny on a shelf on (of, down, **top**) of some magazines. She pulled it (was, **out**, side).

Jordan walked over to the bed (but, this, **and**) her father picked her up again. (Then, Her, **She**) laid the bunny on Nana's chest (but, **and**, here) put

both of Nana's hands on (she, **it**, so). Her grandmother looked up at her (to, or, **and**) smiled. Jordan was no longer frightened.

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Kim loved the new paper dolls her aunt gave to her. She found a cardboard box and (later, **stored**, looked) them neatly beneath her bed. Kim (pretty, friends, **couldn't**) wait until the weekend when she (**would**, aunt, magic) have time to play with them.

(Out, To, **On**) Saturday morning, Kim finally had a (grinned, **chance**, chest) to play with her new paper (dogs, **dolls**, them).

"Kim, it's time for lunch!" her (**mother**, smiling, dolls) called from the kitchen. "Put your (magic, **dolls**, fancy) away. You can dress them up (hour, decide, **later**)." Kim placed the paper dolls in (her, said, **their**) box. She slid the box under (**her**, they, she) bed.

About an hour later, Kim (cardboard, **returned**, started) and brought out the doll box (**again**, they, such). She opened the box and gasped (or, on, **in**) surprise. The dolls were not in (an, she, **the**) box. Most of the doll clothes (look, **were**, with) gone too. Only a few outfits (**were**, made, toy) left in the box.

"Where could (can, **they**, she) have run off to?" Kim asked (**herself**, walked, beneath). "My dolls are made of paper, (but, at, **and**) everyone knows dolls cannot run away."

(My, **Kim**, Cut) heard a giggle from the toy (your, paper, **chest**) in the corner of her room. (**She**, They, Two) walked to the toy chest and (started, games, **opened**) it. Inside the toy chest she (pretty, **found**, made) her five paper dolls. The paper (aunt, **dolls**, apart) were standing on their own two (were, shoes, **legs**), and they were smiling.

"Surprise!" they (**shouted**, opened, cannot) as they grinned at Kim. "Do (**you**, doll, she) like our outfits?"

Kim looked at (**their**, decide, from) pretty dresses and fancy shoes. "Well (at, **of**, I) course," she said, "I like your (lunches, grinned, **clothes**), but how did you come alive?"

"(**We**, By, You) were cut from magic paper," the (paper, **dolls**, didn't) said. "We can do whatever you (come, room, **like**)."

Then the dolls started to dance, (**and**, or, call) that made Kim smile. From that (from, **day**, toy) on, the games Kim played with (she, two, **her**) paper dolls

were entirely different. She (jump, **got**, for) to decide everything they did. Now (**she**, away, her) had new friends to have fun (off, but, **and**) play with.

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Mama Duck wanted a new sofa for her nest because her old one was lumpy and full of holes and because her baby ducks sat on the old one. Those ducklings took up too much (**room**, five, found). Things had to change!

"We need (he, on, **a**) new sofa," Mama Duck announced to (she, **Papa**, spent) Duck. "The old sofa is falling (**apart**, picked, every). Its lovely red spots have worn (**off**, it, to). We're buying a new sofa and (this, comfy, **that**) is that."

On Tuesday, Mama Duck (full, **went**, gone) sofa shopping. One sofa had attractive (**purple**, lucky, though) swirls but was too tiny. Another (**one**, her, it) had pretty yellow stripes but was (this, to, **too**) large. One sofa, with pink diamonds (but, **and**, new) purple flowers, was just too ugly.

(Was, **She**, Her) found a golden sofa that she (have, sent, **loved**). It was too expensive though. She (**knew**, sat, sofa) Papa Duck would get upset if (new, her, **she**) bought that sofa. Mama and Papa (nest, **Duck**, had) some money, but they had (quiet, money, **seven**) baby ducks to take care of. (**Mama**, took, Papa) Duck had to watch every penny she spent.

Mama Duck sat on a (duck, **sofa**, holes) made out of velvet.

"Oh, this (**sofa**, spot, tiny) is comfy," she said to herself. (That, **Then**, Had) she looked at the price tag. "(To, My, **I**) have enough money for this sofa." (To, Her, **She**) felt lucky to find something that (**was**, red, were) beautiful, comfortable, and affordable. Mama Duck (we've, **paid**, with) the sales duck and went home (**happy**, tiny, picked).

That night, Mama and Papa Duck (said, are, **sat**) on the new sofa. The baby (comfy, fold, **ducks**) sat on the old sofa. Papa (pink, **Duck**, look) picked up a book and started (**to**, for, at) read quietly. Mama Duck picked up (she, **her**, if) sewing and started to sew peacefully. (To, **The**, Or) baby ducks fell asleep with plenty (for, at, **of**) room to dream and grow. Everyone (**was**, were, look) happy.

Mama Duck wanted a new sofa for her nest because her old one was lumpy and full of holes and because her baby ducks sat on the old one. Those ducklings took up too much **(room, five, found)**. Things had to change!

"We need **(he, on, a)** new sofa," Mama Duck announced to **(she, Papa, spent)** Duck. "The old sofa is falling **(apart, picked, every)**. Its lovely red spots have worn **(off, it, to)**. We're buying a new sofa and **(this, comfy, that)** is that."

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Mike was the new kid in fourth grade. He moved from Maine and didn't (game, can, **know**) any of his classmates. No one (play, **spoke**, kids) to him or knew his name. (**Mike**, The, Him) came home the first day of (happily, **school**, friends) in tears.

"Don't cry," Mike's mother (used, must, **told**) him. "Just show those boys and (**girls**, name, Mike) that you're a nice and interesting (**person**, taught, marbles). Why don't you bring your marble (adventure, wonderful, **collection**) to class tomorrow?"

"Maybe the teacher (news, must, **won't**) let me have marbles," Mike sighed (in, **to**, she) his mother. "Besides, the kids will (without, **probably**, special) think marbles are stupid. I'm positive (my, a, **I**) won't have any friends this year."

(**The**, Came, By) next day, Mike brought his marbles (and, as, **to**) school. He carried them in a (fourth, **leather**, beside) pouch tied to his hip. (At, You, **As**) Mike walked, the marbles made a (**cool**, got, new) clicking sound that made him feel (Mike, **very**, those) happy. At recess, a student who (**had**, any, from) never spoken to Mike before tapped (what, **him**, when) on the shoulder.

"Hey, man," he (would, grade, **said**). "My name's Nick. What's inside that (my, tap, **bag**) you've got tied to your hip?"

"(**My**, I, So) marbles," Mike answered happily. "Would you (out, **like**, knew) to play a game, Nick?"

"I (**don't**, had, first) know how to play marbles," Nick (sigh, your, **told**) Mike. "I think my grandpa used (who, at, **to**) play marbles when he was a (really, father, **little**) boy though. Who taught you how (in, **to**, one) play?"

"My grandma," Mike said with (**a**, it, an) smile. "She was a marble champion (if, **in**, or) grade school."

"If she taught you, (when, **you**, his) must be really good," said Nick.

"(Him, Cry, **I'm**) okay," Mike said. "I still need (**a**, an, if) lot of practice though. If you (man, hip, **like**), I can teach you, and then (our, **we**, she) can practice together."

"That sounds like (nice, side, fun)," said Nick. "Can I ask some (**of**, to, but) my friends to join us?"

"Sure," (told, **said**, asked) Mike. "I have lots of marbles."

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"Sure," **(told, said, asked)** Mike. "I have lots of marbles."

One day while Morgan was outside, she noticed a spider spinning a web. The spider was nearly the size (**of**, as, our) a quarter. Its body was bright (spider, large, **yellow**) with three black spots on it. (Said, **The**, Day) spotted design looked like a face. (**Morgan**, Outside, Herself) sat down on the sunny deck (we, **and**, or) watched the spider for a while. (He, Felt, **Its**) web was about as large as (**Morgan's**, bright, spider) hand. She watched the spider travel (**back**, you, saw) and forth from the house to (an, near, **the**) deck.

That night, Morgan told her (know, legs, **dad**) about the spider. She told him (out, **how**, near) she named the spider Mr. Legs. (Father, **Morgan's**, Thinking) dad wanted to see it. "Some (mother, caught, **spiders**) can hurt you because they are (**poisonous**, wonderful, returned)," he said. They went out to (well, an, **the**) deck to see the spider. Then (some, **they**, can) looked on the Internet for information (for, what, **about**) it. They found out that Mr. (**Legs**, that, body) was not a poisonous type of (tossed, **spider**, outside). He was safe to watch.

"What (**else**, other, for) do you know about spiders?" Morgan's (spider, **father**, caught) asked.

"Well, I know they eat (deck, mom, **bugs**)," answered Morgan.

"It is dinner time. (Where, She, **Let's**) see if we can help Mr. (**Legs**, came, body) find his dinner," said Morgan's dad. (Travel, **Morgan**, Spider) saw a moth but could not (**reach**, named, want) it. Then Morgan's dad saw some (mother, wanted, **flies**) near the outside light. He was (table, house, **fast**), and he caught a fly in (its, **his**, both) hand without hurting it. He tossed (**it**, was, the) into the spider's web. The fly (while, **could**, deck) not wiggle out of the sticky (fur, **web**, fly). When Mr. Legs felt the fly (watched, travel, **shaking**) his web, he came over and (**wrapped**, spinning, morning) it into the web. Morgan thought (his, a, **it**) was interesting to watch.

Morgan's mother (nearly, **called**, caught) them in to set the table (from, she, **for**) dinner. "Goodbye, Mr. Legs," said Morgan. "(**I'll**, Me, Not) see you in the morning."

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Mr. Green had the very special job of painting houses. He would paint a house of (next, **any**, day) size, and he would paint it (her, in, **any**) color the owner wanted. In fact, (**he**, her, do) especially liked helping the owners choose (saw, next, **just**) the right color.

One day, Mrs. (Color, White, **Plum**) called Mr. Green. "I would like (she, **you**, Mr.) to paint my tiny house purple," (**she**, very, my) said. "Do you think you could (would, **paint**, decide) the trim around the windows an (very, you, **even**) darker purple?"

"I can do that (**for**, from, and) you," he told her. "It sounds (**lovely**, Betty, special). I'll have the job done by (finished, hardly, **Tuesday**)."

On Tuesday, Mr. Green finished painting (love, Mr., **Mrs.**) Plum's house. When she saw it, (you, **she**, her) was delighted.

"You do wonderful work, (ask, he, **Mr.**) Green," she exclaimed. "I'll tell everyone (to, a, **I**) know."

The next day, Mrs. Plum (**called**, about, trimmed) her cousin, Betty Blue, and told (next, she, **her**) all about the wonderful job Mr. (Paint, **Green**, Gray) had done painting her house. Mrs. (Night, When, **Plum**) knew Betty Blue had a paint (**job**, saw, sky) of her own in mind.

Betty (the, **Blue**, paint) asked Mr. Green to paint her (**cabin**, sister, would). She knew she wanted white trim (exactly, **around**, helping) her windows, but she couldn't decide (with, the, **what**) color to paint the cabin. Mr. (When, Plum, **Green**) suggested sky blue. After a week, (**Mr.**, saw, my) Green was finished with Betty Blue's (help, **cabin**, trim). "I love it," Betty Blue told (**Mr.**, Mrs., Him) Green when she saw her cabin. "(Owner, Tiny, **That's**) exactly the color I wanted, Mr. (trim, color, **Green**). It's perfect."

That night, Betty Blue (told, **spoke**, like) to her sister, Rose. She told (**Rose**, you, Betty) what a great job Mr. Green (can, **had**, and) done painting her cabin. The next (couldn't, **morning**, wanted) Rose stopped by Mr. Green's gray (window, sounds, **house**) and asked him if he could (**paint**, color, next) her house.

"You bet I can," (Say, He, **Mr.**) Green told her with a grin. "(I'll, **Let**, Has) me guess. You would like me (at, all, **to**) paint your house ruby red."

Mr. Green had the very special job of painting houses. He would paint a house of **(next, any, day)** size, and he would paint it **(her, in, any)** color the owner wanted. In fact, **(he, her, do)** especially liked helping the owners choose **(saw, next, just)** the right color.

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Mr. Tan lived in the last house at the end of a shady lane. Everybody knew which house was Mr. (**Tan's**, will, bird) because there were birdhouses in every (fall, **tree**, won't) in his yard. Mr. Tan built (any, an, **the**) birdhouses. The special thing about Mr. (**Tan's**, his, meant) birdhouses was that each one was (cardinals, children, **different**).

Mr. Tan made every birdhouse different (special, someone, **because**) every birdhouse was meant for a (anything, **different**, smelling) bird. Mr. Tan built blue houses (**for**, his, from) the blue jays. He built red (across, **houses**, summer) for the cardinals. He also built (landing, winter, **special**) brown and ivory houses for the (**sparrows**, birdhouse, watched).

"Birds need houses, just like people," (**Mr.**, And, He) Tan would tell the children who (made, ivory, **came**) to visit him. "Birds need houses (at, for, **to**) keep them warm and cozy in (will, say, **the**) winter. They need houses to keep (need, **their**, lane) eggs safe. Here, would you like (for, **to**, at) see?" Mr. Tan would say. Then (**he'd**, end, they) lead the children across the yard (put, out, **to**) a birdhouse. He would take off (an, **the**, he) top and lift the children up (red, yard, **one**) at a time to show them (**what**, also, there) was inside.

"Wow," the children would (what, **say**, show) when they saw the eggs. "They (**are**, buy, seen) very pretty. When will they hatch, (egg, **Mr.**, any) Tan?"

"Oh, any day now," Mr. (Top, Blue, **Tan**) would say. "They will hatch when (need, him, **they**) are ready. Then I'll have more (**birdhouses**, televisions, throughout) to build, won't I?"

Mr. Tan (each, **didn't**, made) just build birdhouses for his own (**yard**, lane, shady). He built tiny houses all winter (ivory, each, **long**). In the spring, he put them (as, in, **up**) on fence posts and in trees (each, **all**, that) over the countryside. Mr. Tan was (**hardly**, flown, shady) ever seen without a birdhouse in (he, **his**, knew) hands and a tiny bird perched (the, **on**, in) his shoulder.

Every summer, birds that (worn, blue, **had**) flown south for the winter would (**return**, needed, summer) to Mr. Tan's yard. Each year, (saw, he, **they**) would find their houses, firm and (winter, **safe**, shady), just waiting for them to return.

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they would find their houses, firm and (**winter, safe, shady**), just waiting for them to return.

Nora lived in a sparkling stream that ran through an oak forest. One day while a brother and (alone, thought, **sister**) were splashing in the stream, they (**noticed**, listen, grinned) Nora swimming lazily in the current.

"(For, **I'm**, My) going to catch that fish," said (in, an, **the**) brother. "We'll fry it for lunch. (**Mmmm**, Into, Lazy)," he smiled. "I can already taste (an, oak, **the**) fresh fried fish."

His sister felt (exclaiming, afternoons, **differently**).

"Let's leave the fish alone," she (fish, **urged**, said) her brother. "We have plenty of (**nuts**, look, end) and berries to eat. That fish (she, **looks**, drip) pretty in the stream. Why should (I, the, **we**) bother it?"

"I am hungry for (**fish**, stick, that)," said the brother as he made (**himself**, dangling, though) a fishing pole. "You'll be hungry (from, line, **for**) fish too, as soon as I (pretty, caught, **catch**) it."

The brother didn't realize that (Her, **Nora**, were) wasn't a fish at all. She (that, **was**, were) magical, and she could be anything (we, for, **she**) wanted to be. As Nora swam (**in**, so, for) the clear water, she listened to (didn't, only, **every**) word said between the boy and (she, **girl**, going). Nora thought she would play a (look, spark, **trick**) on the boy.

The brother dipped (**his**, an, we) pole into the stream near Nora. (Have, **Nora**, Let's) swam up and took the bait.

"(I, My, Am) caught it!" yelled the brother. "I (why, **am**, bet) the best fisherman in the whole (stream, didn't, **world**)."

The brother tugged his line out (he, for, **of**) the water, but only found a (**muddy**, back, lazily) stick dangling from the end of (up, **it**, me).

"I was sure I caught that (**fish**, bait, and)," he said with a surprised look.

(An, Up, **The**) sister grinned when she noticed silver (alone, line, **eyes**) on the stick and realized it (were, **was**, into) really Nora. She didn't tell her (**brother** hungry, forest) though.

"Give me the stick," the (happy, **sister**, stream) said, as she tossed it back (that, **into**, for) the stream. The stick winked at (we, soon, **her**), and she happily winked back.

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Out of all the beetles in the woods, Betsy Beetle had the most beautiful shell. Betsy's shell was as green as (**the**, an, on) leaves on the trees. It was (specks, polished, **covered**) with tiny flecks of gold that (**looked**, always, bumped) like stars. It shimmered as if (she, my, **it**) were wet.

Betsy was always down (so, **at**, as) the lake, scrubbing and polishing her (bump, **shell**, watch). "A bug has to keep up (been, you, **her**) looks," Betsy would tell all the (she'll, behind, **other**) beetles. "We were given such great (beetle, you're, **shells**). We might as well keep them (plain, all, **nice**) and shiny."

All of Betsy's friends (down, **were**, was) getting sick of Betsy and her (**shell**, with, word). Last week Emma, who had a (**brown**, mean, gone) shell without gold specks, bumped into (Shiny, **Betsy**, Teddy) and spilled tea on her shell.

"(The, She, **I'm**) so sorry," Emma said. "Pardon me, (Woods, **Betsy**, Emma)."

"Why don't you watch where you're (within, scrub, **going**)?" Betsy shouted at Emma. "You're always (scream, **walking**, swooped) around the woods with your head (off, I, **in**) the clouds. You are so rude, (day, off, **Emma**)!"

"I didn't mean to spill my (**tea**, say, dry) on Betsy," Emma sadly told the (**other**, head, gone) beetles after Betsy walked away. "I (**guess**, such, second) I wasn't watching where I was (shell, flecks, **going**)."

"Betsy's always been that way," said (**Ted**, Up, he), a plain black bug. "She thinks (**she's**, her, said) really something special with that shell."

(All, An, **The**) next day all the beetles were (polish, **bathing**, cutting) in the lake when Ted splashed (gold, **mud**, rude) on Betsy's shell.

"Ted, you are (if, as, **so**) mean!" she screamed. "I just polished (her, to, **my**) beautiful shell. I've been up since (night, **dawn**, shiny)! Now look at it. Why I'm (**going**, down, then) to..."

Just then, a blackbird swooped (**from**, into, week) the sky, catching Betsy in his (**beak**, last, shell) and cutting off her words. One (lovely, might, **second**) Betsy was screaming at Ted, and (at, **the**, all) next second she was gone.

"I (**guess**, were, keep) a lovely shell isn't always a (shiny, given, **good**) thing," Emma said to everyone.

Out of all the beetles in the woods, Betsy Beetle had the most beautiful shell. Betsy's shell was as green as **(the, an, on)** leaves on the trees. It was **(specks, polished, covered)** with tiny flecks of gold that **(looked, always, bumped)** like stars. It shimmered as if **(she, my, it)** were wet.

Betsy was always down **(so, at, as)** the lake, scrubbing and polishing her **(bump, shell, watch)**. "A bug has to keep up **(been, you, her)** looks," Betsy would tell all the **(she'll, behind, other)** beetles. "We were given such great **(beetle, you're, shells)**. We might as well keep them **(plain, all, nice)** and shiny."

All of Betsy's friends **(down, were, was)** getting sick of Betsy and her **(shell, with, word)**. Last week Emma, who had a **(brown, mean, gone)** shell without gold specks, bumped into **(Shiny, Betsy, Teddy)** and spilled tea on her shell.

(The, She, I'm) so sorry," Emma said. "Pardon me, **(Woods, Betsy, Emma)**."

"Why don't you watch where you're **(within, scrub, going)**?" Betsy shouted at Emma. "You're always **(scream, walking, swooped)** around the woods with your head **(off, I, in)** the clouds. You are so rude, **(day, off, Emma)**!"

"I didn't mean to spill my **(tea, say, dry)** on Betsy," Emma sadly told the **(other, head, gone)** beetles after Betsy walked away. "I **(guess, such, second)** I wasn't watching where I was **(shell, flecks, going)**."

"Betsy's always been that way," said **(Ted, Up, he)**, a plain black bug. "She thinks **(she's, her, said)** really something special with that shell."

(All, An, The) next day all the beetles were **(polish, bathing, cutting)** in the lake when Ted splashed **(gold, mud, rude)** on Betsy's shell.

"Ted, you are **(if, as, so)** mean!" she screamed. "I just polished **(her, to, my)** beautiful shell. I've been up since **(night, dawn, shiny)**!"

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"I **(guess, were, keep)** a lovely shell isn't always a **(shiny, given, good)** thing," Emma said to everyone.

Ray Barns loves socks. He loves socks so much he (heard, **wears**, summer) five pairs of socks a day. (Bought, Before, **People**) know and love him as the (**boy**, pair, top) with the socks. They think it's (purple, **unusual**, comfort), but they enjoy it. However, Ray's (**mother**, summer, cover) is always complaining about it.

"Two (pulls, Ray, **feet**). Five pairs of socks. Ten socks (it, **a**, so) day!" she can be heard saying (in, a, **as**) Ray huffs up and down the (winter, socks, **stairs**) of the house. Every day there (**is**, it's, red) a pile of socks for him (**to**, of, the) wash. "When will he stop? When (him, are, **will**) my boy start acting normally?"

Every (middle, normal, **morning**), Ray pulls on his socks in (**rainbow**, people, saying) color order. He starts with a (**strawberry**, something, motorcycle) red pair pulled up to his (summer, **knees**, more). Then he pulls on a lemon (**yellow**, table, purple) pair, a lime green pair, and (**a**, an, it) blueberry blue pair. Finally, he pulls (**on**, red, to) a pair of purple ankle socks.

(**In**, Off, My) the winter, Ray has to cover (say, all, **those**) fantastic socks with boring pants. Too (from, **bad**, off) for Ray. In the summer, Ray (they, those, **gets**) to show off his socks, but (him, **he**, why) also nearly melts from the heat. (Know, **He's**, Him) happy though, because wearing colorful socks (a, are, **is**) more important to him than comfort.

(Barns, Enjoy, **Ray's**) mother tries to talk him out (so, for, **of**) all those socks. "I bought you (it, **a**, an) pair of sandals," she tells him (will, **one**, when) summer day. "Trust me. Once you (**put**, with, talk) on these sandals, you'll never want (**to**, at, can) take them off."

Ray knows his (socks, **mother**, about) loves him, so he sits down (on, to, **and**) starts pulling off his socks. Finally (up, **all**, red) five pairs are bundled neatly in (**the**, have, new) middle of the kitchen table, and (**Ray**, his, Mom) is wriggling his bare toes in (**his**, he, with) new sandals. He realizes the sandals (think, how, **look**) great. He realizes the sandals feel (other, **really**, think) good.

Ray's mother is right. From (ten, **this**, and) day forward, Ray will insist on (summer, saying, **wearing**) sandals. He'll wear them right over (he, pull, **his**) five pairs of socks.

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Sam was a snake who lived in a large cage at the zoo. The cage had both inside and (spotted, **outside**, orange) areas. Sam's best friend was a (**lizard**, girls, brown) named Lilly who lived in the (**same**, come, long) cage.

Every day Sam and Lilly (only, **would**, lizard) lounge in the sun on a (her, boys, **wide**) rock. People were always pointing at (all, be, **Sam**) and Lilly.

Lilly was very pretty. (Her, **She**, When) had black and orange scales and (friend, awful, **yellow**) eyes. Sam was very dull. He (**had**, too, him) brown scales and even browner eyes.

(Watching, **Sometimes**, Anywhere) the kids who came to the (**zoo**, just, rock) didn't even see Sam stretched out (**on**, in, so) the rock beside Lilly. Sam and (an, **the**, at) rock were the same shade of (feel, **brown**, sunny), so the kids didn't always notice (she, warm, **Sam**). The boys and girls only noticed (feel, she, **Lilly**).

Sometimes Sam was jealous. He wanted (**to**, if, at) be noticed too. He couldn't help (would, **being**, when) so very brown.

"What a beautiful (**lizard**, yellow, beside)," the boys and girls would whisper (and, **to**, for) each other when they spotted Lilly. "(Pray, Come, **Look**) at her black and orange scales. (Just, **Look**, Watch) at her yellow eyes."

"She's not (**so**, who, the) lovely," Sam would whisper under his (other, scales, **breath**). Then he would feel awful because, (always, **after**, even) all, Lilly was his friend.

Lilly (cage, cared, **slept**) through the praise coming from the (**people**, school, large) on the other side of the (scales, dull, **fence**). She only cared about the sun (the, **on**, zoo) her back, the warm rock beneath (**her**, who, she), and her friend Sam.

Sometimes Lilly (**would**, always, praise) reach out to catch a fly (was, **with**, over) one long whip of her tongue. (Is, Came, **The**) school children clapped when she caught (**one**, red, day). But Lilly just ignored them and (lived, boys, **laid**) her head back down on the (sun, **rock**, very) and fell back to sleep.

"How (was, even, **can**) you sleep with them watching you?" (**Sam**, girl, down) hissed one day.

"Oh, I don't (**care**, and, see) about them, Sam," Lilly yawned. I'm (every, same, **just**) glad we get to spend our (**days**, scale, would) together." Sam felt better knowing he (can, **was**, boy) perfect in Lilly's eyes.

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Ted loved going for walks with his grandpa. When they walked together, they would (woman, develop, **search**) for pretty rocks. Ted's grandpa was (you, **an**, a) expert at finding the prettiest rocks. (He'd, Some, **He**) usually spotted them before Ted did. (The, **He'd**, Let's) smile at Ted as he held (by, an, **a**) rock up to the sun.

"What (at, I, **a**) beauty," he would say. Then he (**would**, makes, when) slip the rock into his pocket. (The, **When**, Don't) they returned from their walk, they (more, have, **would**) each place the rocks they found (out, **in**, day) separate jars. Ted's grandpa's jar was (their, **nearly**, cover) filled to the top. Ted's jar (wait, they, **was**) closer to empty.

"Don't worry, Teddy," (the, they, **his**) grandpa would say. "Someday you'll develop (an, **the**, one) knack for finding rocks. Practice is (**important**, pretty, before), and that's why we walk together (three, **every**, waited) day."

One day Ted's grandpa arrived (**home**, sun, down) with a surprise. It was a (**special**, pocket, biggest) machine that polished rocks.

"See," the (for, **old**, top) man explained, "you put the rocks (**in**, be, was) here. Then you wait for the (search, polish, **machine**) to tumble them. In a few (rocks, them, **days**), you have beautiful rocks. Let's polish (every, **some**, soft) of our own, shall we? We'll (place, **each**, some) do five."

Ted picked out five (say, for, **of**) his biggest and prettiest rocks. His (**grandpa**, pocket, together) did the same. They put the (one, **rocks**, walks) in the machine and waited three (jars, them, **days**). When the time was up, Ted (**pulled**, found, today) off the cover and dumped out (an, **the**, he) rocks.

"Wow!" he exclaimed.

The rocks (put, was, **were**) beautiful. They were polished and smooth (was, **and**, or) warm to the touch. They were (into, some, **also**) much brighter and more colorful now. (**Ted**, then, him) studied one and saw his own (pretending, beautiful, **reflection**).

"I may have a lot of (**rocks**, own, time)," his grandpa told him, "but you (into, **have**, dare) some real beauties."

Ted brought his (Grandpa, dumping, **polished**) rocks home and set them on (**his**, he, make) bookshelf. He couldn't wait to go (**out**, her, in) and look for more.

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The huge ball of many colors rolled down the hill. It moved so fast the children (**couldn't**, around, hurried) catch it. They chased after the (hard, **ball**, hill) with all their might, but they (winded, rolled, **couldn't**) keep up with the large colorful (began, **ball**, roll). The ball quickly picked up speed (at, no, **as**) it neared the bottom of the (kids, **hill**, real). It gathered enough speed (as, **to**, the) travel to the top of the next hill. (An, Here, **The**) ball climbed all (for, **the**, up) way to the top of the hill and stopped, (**almost**, great, inside) teasing the children.

"Hurrah!" the kids (chased, swirling, **exclaimed**). "Let's get our ball back!" The (their, **kids**, ball) hurried down the hill and started (at, he, **to**) run up the next one.

"We're (every, **almost**, green) there! Now we can play with (**our**, they, had) colorful ball."

The wind began to (play, say, **blow**) harder on the hilltops causing the (here, **ball**, they) to roll around. "Come and catch (so, **me**, was)," it seemed to say.

"Oh no, (of, an, **the**) wind might blow our ball down (was, **the**, an) hill again!" cried the kids. They (adventure, carefully, **pretended**) to be upset, but they really (**thought**, stopped, moving) it was fun. They ran faster (**and**, but, kids) faster. They wanted to get their (hill, **ball**, big) before it started to roll down (our, **the**, an) hill again. They were almost to (by, get, **the**) top of the hill when a (**swirling**, hurried, colorful) gust of wind blew the ball (more, right, **down**) the hill in their direction.

"Yippee!" (we're, **they**, right) shrieked. "Here it comes!"

The ball (**rolled**, speed, chased) slowly at first, but then started (at, the, **to**) pick up more speed until it (**was**, were, wind) rolling faster than it had rolled (never, **before**, after). The great big green, red, and (**purple**, windy, start) ball was upon the kids in (the, a, **an**) instant. Here was their big chance. (**Whoosh**, Sting, Hurrah)! Dive! The great big colorful ball (**rolled**, laughed, swirl) down the hill and right past (**them**, our, upon) again.

The kids played at chasing (**the**, all, an) ball for the whole afternoon. They (**ran**, ball, fit), chased, and laughed. After all that (**fun**, red, big), they couldn't wait for another windy (gush, **day**, hill) to play with their big, colorful (**ball**, kids, roll).

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All the other boys in the neighborhood had new bikes. Some of the new bikes were (side, jump, **black**) and yellow. Some were bright silver (real, old, **with**) racing wheels. I knew I couldn't (all, **have**, think) a new bike, but I got (as, **to**, the) ride my big brother's old bike. (**At**, If, Me) first I was thrilled because it (that, have, **was**) faster than my old bike. It (**was**, were, old) blue with a banana seat. But (an, at, **the**) other boys laughed when they saw (my, **me**, us) riding it.

The boys liked to (**ride**, but, worry) around on their bikes in a (ramp, **group**, your). They rode together through our neighborhood. (Anything, **Sometimes**, Laughing) they rode the trails that went (without, yellow, **through**) the woods. Their favorite thing to (be, **do**, mat) was jump high off of ramps.

(But, Is, **The**) boys built ramps out of old (banana, **boards**, asked) and plywood stacked on top of (**discarded**, neighbors, together) bricks. Each boy tried to jump (it, like, **the**) highest and the farthest. Sometimes two (**or**, has, but) three of the boys would sit (**down**, sing, top) on the ground to watch behind (an, **the**, you) ramp. Then, a boy on a (**bike**, dad, old) would pedal fast and jump his (**bike**, with, seat) over the ramp. I thought they (race, **were**, was) cool! Sometimes, I tried to jump (at, me, **my**) bike over the ramp, but my (**bike**, dad, then) was too heavy to go very (kind, **far**, new). When the other boys laughed at (**me**, you, my), I felt bad.

One day, (**I**, is, my) asked my dad why I had (be, at, **to**) ride my brother's old bike. He (boys, **said**, stay), "Do you like your bike?"

"Yes," (if, me, **I**) said, "but I don't like to (do, no, **be**) laughed at because it makes me (**feel**, over, rode) bad."

"Well, if you like your (the, wood, **bike**), then that is really all that (**matters**, stacked, because)," Dad replied. "A true friend will (**like**, would, build) you no matter what kind of (top, **bike**, seat) you ride." From then on, I (**didn't**, tried, thing) worry much about what the other (dad, **boys**, all) thought about my bike. I knew (if, a, **I**) had a great bike!

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The peacock thought he was the most beautiful of all birds. Each morning, he would wake up (**and**, or, so) fan his feathers in the rising (wind, who's, **sun**). At noon he would count his (**feathers**, peacock, streams) as he ate his seeds. At (**dusk**, pink, from) he would fold up his feathers (**and**, but, my) go to sleep.

The peacock didn't (**talk**, one, need) to any of the other birds. (**He**, The, His) thought he was too beautiful. He (**spoke**, came, voice) only to his reflection in the (snuck, stared, **silver**) stream near his nest. The peacock (you're, **always**, really) stood at the edge of the (**stream**, hidden, family) and stared down at his marvelous (was, tree, **self**).

"You are so fine," he would (admire, fool, **boast**) to his reflection.

"Why, thank you (RISE, **VERY**, OTHER) much," he would reply for his (beautiful, **reflection**, marvelous). "I just had my feathers groomed (business, youngest, **yesterday**). I'm glad you approve."

There was (an, up, **a**) birch tree near the silver stream. (**In**, For, A) the tree lived a tough mama (**squirrel**, feather, herself) and her family. One day the (nest, **mama**, you) squirrel got sick of listening to (for, **the**, an) peacock talking to himself. While her (**children**, getting, seedling) napped, she snuck down to the (his, got, **edge**) of the stream and hid in (an, ate, **the**) cattails. The peacock came for a (day, **sip**, seed) of water and to admire his (count, **beak**, lazy).

"You are so lovely," he said (**to**, at, so) himself.

"You are also quite lazy," (fine, that, **said**) a voice coming from the bushes.

"(**What**, Birch, Why)?" he gasped. "Who's there?"

"No one (and, near, **but**) you," said the voice. "What you (**need**, from, fold) to do is get to work. (**You**, Down, But) can't walk around admiring yourself all (buy, nest, **day**) and ignore everything else. Winter is (**coming**, gladly, small), my peacock friend. You need to (groomed, **prepare**, wouldn't) for it."

The peacock had been (you, **so**, at) stuck on himself that he'd never (while, other, **even**) thought about winter. After that day, (**the**, very, an) peacock stopped staring at himself. Instead (**he**, his, up) stored away food and got ready (from, she, **for**) winter. Because of the mama squirrel's (admire, **advice**, water), the peacock lived to enjoy another (behind, birds, **summer**).

The peacock thought he was the most beautiful of all birds. Each morning, he would wake up (**and, or, so**) fan his feathers in the rising (**wind, who's, sun**). At noon he would count his (**feathers, peacock, streams**) as he ate his seeds. At (**dusk, pink, from**) he would fold up his feathers (**and, but, my**) go to sleep.

The peacock didn't (**talk, one, need**) to any of the other birds. (**He, The, His**) thought he was too beautiful. He (**spoke, came, voice**) only to his reflection in the (**snuck, stared, silver**) stream near his nest. The peacock (**you're, always, really**) stood at the edge of the (**stream, hidden, family**) and stared down at his marvelous (**was, tree, self**).

"You are so fine," he would (**admire, fool, boast**) to his reflection.

"Why, thank you (**RISE, VERY, OTHER**) much," he would reply for his (**beautiful, reflection, marvelous**). "I just had my feathers groomed (**business, youngest, yesterday**). I'm glad you approve."

There was (**an, up, a**) birch tree near the silver stream. (**In, For, A**) the tree lived a tough mama (**squirrel, feather, herself**) and her family. One day the (**nest, mama, you**) squirrel got sick of listening to (**for, the, an**) peacock talking to himself. While her (**children, getting, seedling**) napped, she snuck down to the (**his, got, edge**) of the stream and hid in (**an, ate, the**) cattails. The peacock came for a (**day, sip, seed**) of water and to admire his (**count, beak, lazy**).

"You are so lovely," he said (**to, at, so**) himself.

"You are also quite lazy," (**fine, that, said**) a voice coming from the bushes.

"(**What, Birch, Why**)?" he gasped. "Who's there?"

"No one (**and, near, but**) you," said the voice. "What you (**need, from, fold**) to do is get to work. (**You, Down, But**) can't walk around admiring yourself all (**buy, nest, day**) and ignore everything else. Winter is (**coming, gladly, small**), my peacock friend. You need to (**groomed, prepare, wouldn't**) for it."

The peacock had been (**you, so, at**) stuck on himself that he'd never (**while, other, even**) thought about winter. After that day, (**the, very, an**)

peacock stopped staring at himself. Instead **(he, his, up)** stored away food and got ready **(from, she, for)** winter. Because of the mama squirrel's **(admire, advice, water)**, the peacock lived to enjoy another **(behind, birds, summer)**.

The sun was out, and not a cloud was in the sky. Scott, or Scooter, as his close (towards, **friends**, sister) liked to call him, thought today (knew, were, **was**) a perfect day to go fishing (son, **at**, as) Old Bass Lake.

Scooter climbed out (**of**, for, wet) bed and quickly put on his (**lucky**, meant, young) fishing shirt and the rest of (hall, **his**, him) clothes. He raced down the stairs (**of**, the, for) his house. Scooter came to a (understood, upside-down, **screeching**) stop on the hardwood kitchen floor. (**He**, Saw, She) nearly slid into his mom, almost (**like**, wants, final) he was stealing second base.

"Mom, (put, **can**, pole) I go fishing down at Old (**Bass**, stop, once)?" he asked excitedly.

"Are you going (**to**, the, at) fish with anyone?" she asked her (**son**, down, mom).

"Nope, just me, my pole, and (**my**, me, was) tackle box," he replied.

"Well, I (reach, garage, **think**) you should take your sister along."

"(**Aww**, Red, You)! Mom! Do I have to? I (quietly, **always**, today) have to take her fish off the (floor, heard, **hook**), and she always wants to go (box, **home**, his) early," he complained.

"Scott Matthew Johnson, (he, down, **you**) will take your sister along. That (am, was, **is**) final!" He knew she meant business (Scott, **since**, always) she usually called him Scooter. "OK, (Let's, race, **I'll**) take her," he said, turning toward (an, **the**, call) garage where his trusty fishing pole (room, **was**, were) located.

He walked down the hallway (long, **and**, but) opened the door to the garage. (His, At, **As**) the garage door opened, he saw (to, an, **the**) beautiful day he had seen earlier (stair, **from**, for) his bedroom window.

Scooter quietly thought (**to**, day, at) himself about the lunker he was (wants, hope, **going**) to catch. He grabbed his pole (box, **and**, but) started down the driveway.

He had (**nearly**, since, rested) reached the end of the driveway (**when**, asked, who) he heard his mother yell, "Forget (business, driveway, **something**)?" Pole. Tackle box. Nope, I've got (to, **it**, she) all, he thought, as

he glanced (if, you, **up**) the driveway and saw his younger (**sister**, cloud, along) skipping toward him with her red (turning, **fishing**, thought) pole in hand.

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The wolf pack ran all through the long night. The wolves sped across snow and (**ice**, the, elk) covered lakes. They raced through forests (but, was, **and**) fields that were covered with a (**sparkling**, carpeted, escaping) frost. The hungry wolves hadn't eaten (wood, **for**, from) days.

The leader of the pack (**was**, fit, were) a huge, gray wolf with yellow (snow, **eyes**, even) and sharp white teeth. All the (**wolves**, escaped, woods) followed him because he was the (through, sparkling, **swiftest**), smartest wolf in the area. He (something, backyards, **understood**) the movement of the deer herd. (A, **He**, Him) could locate holes in the ice (by, **so**, his) he and his pack could catch (since, **fish**, elk). He knew how to catch field (final, woods, **mice**) and gobble them down in one (nothing, sounds, **swallow**).

Tonight the leader of the pack (then, **led**, knew) the wolves through a mountain pass. (**They**, Field, Him) were hunting for elk. A single (spy, too, **elk**) could keep them fed and warm (in, **for**, from) several days.

When the leader saw (**an**, a, he) elk, he raced across the snow (catching, sparkling, **followed**) by the other wolves. The wolves (escaped, **formed**, frost) a circle around the elk and (covered, **chased**, leader) it through the woods. They followed (at, not, **the**) elk along the edge of a (**river**, them, snow). The elk escaped from the wolf (off, **pack**, days). The elk was lucky, but the (strong, heads, **wolves**) were unlucky.

Since the wolves had (couldn't, packed, **nothing**) to eat, they began to howl. (But, An, **The**) leader of the pack howled first. (A, **He**, His) lifted his shaggy gray head and (can, even, **let**) out a long, low sound. Then (**the**, red, they) other wolves joined in. Finally, even (**the**, for, an) baby wolves howled.

In the midst (a, **of**, so) their howling, the wolves spied a (**deer**, bug, fish) walking in the field below. On (**silent**, shaggy, gobble) feet, the wolves chased the deer. (An, **The**, From) deer was smaller than and not (elk, at, **as**) strong as the elk. This time (an, how, **the**) wolves had a better chance. By (**morning**, tonight, beside) they had caught the deer and (but, **were**, was) warm and fed. Now they could (howl, **rest**, first).

The wolf pack ran all through the long night. The wolves sped across snow and **(ice, the, elk)** covered lakes. They raced through forests **(but, was, and)** fields that were covered with a **(sparkling, carpeted, escaping)** frost. The hungry wolves hadn't eaten **(wood, for, from)** days.

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Once there was a little bumblebee named Buzz. He would zip through the air (ready, grow, **going**) this way and that way. He (**loved**, tree, hover) to fly around looking for pretty (diving, brother, **flowers**) to smell.

Red roses were very (**nice**, alone, hive) to smell. Buzz would sometimes see (**his**, when, me) bumblebee friends when stopping by his (arrived, **favorite**, already) rose bush. Every bee seemed to (went, agree, **like**) roses.

Buzz liked his friends, but (together, whenever, **sometimes**) he wished he could be alone. "(**It**, On, He) would be great if I could (**find**, flew, way) a flower that was just for (**me**, he, a)," Buzz quietly thought to himself. Buzz (**decided**, daisies, smelled) right then and there to find (these, **just**, grove) such a flower.

First, he smelled (**the**, an, very) daisies that grew along the old (perfect, **farmer's**, brother) road.

"Wow! These daisies smell pretty (later, white, **good**), but I will keep looking. I (over, **bet**, spy) my bee buddies already know about (just, smell, **these**) daisies," he said.

From the roadside (**daisies**, buddies, heading), he spied a grove of lilac (ground, **bushes**, friends). They sure were fragrant. Buzz raced (next, **over**, hopes) to them to get a closer (great, out, **look**). When he arrived at the lavender (**flowers**, happen, favorite), he saw that his brother Buzzter (when, **was**, were) already there.

"Nice smelling flowers," Buzzter (**said**, seem, air) to his younger brother.

"I have (at, off, **to**) agree with you," Buzz said. "These (smell, roads, **lilacs**) sure do smell good." Buzz hovered (lilac, **around**, along) his brother Buzzter and said, "I (pink, and, **will**) see you at the hive later. (**I**, My, So) am off to find a flower (when, **that**, she) is just for me."

With that, (**Buzz**, good, his) flew off. He went over the (will, just, **trees**) and under the bushes in hopes (grew, **that**, for) he would find the perfect flower. (**He**, Him, A) almost turned around (**to**, the, at) head back to the hive, when he smelled a (already, **wondrous**, teaches) scent. Buzz spotted a white and (alone, nice, **pink**) flower growing next to the old (**farmer's**, roadside, flower)

barn. The flower was beautiful and (thought, already, **smelled**) terrific. At last, he had found (an, **a**, I) flower that was just for him.

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flower) barn. The flower was beautiful and (**thought, already, smelled**) terrific.
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Mama frog carried her babies upon her back. They rode there as she swam in (**the**, must, true) water and hopped along the edge (very, for, **of**) the creek. In fact, the only (**time**, swam, flies) they jumped off her back was (her, to, **when**) Mama frog caught them something to (**eat**, just, creek).

Those baby frogs just loved to (**eat**, just, continued) black bugs. Green flies, though, were (us, rest, **their**) favorites. "Mama, Mama," they would holler (of, fly, **from**) her back. "Please catch us something (closed, would, **to**) eat. We are very hungry. Growing (**babies**, because, but) need lots of insects to get (they, **big**, tired) and strong."

"That's true, but I (to, off, **am**) very tired," said the mama frog. "(Back, **I**, Her) have been carrying you around all (frog, **day**, mama). I must rest now."

Mama frog (were, **swam**, carrying) beneath a lily pad and closed (upon, **her**, back) eyes. She tried to sleep, but (green, **she**, is) couldn't because her baby frogs continued (something, lily, **hopping**) around on the lily pad above.

"(In, **Will**, To) you three settle down?" the mama (couldn't, said, **frog**) demanded of her babies. "Your mama (caught, **is**, us) very tired."

"Okay, Mama," the baby (saw, mama, **frogs**) said. "We'll be quiet."

Just then, (**one**, back, bugs) of the baby frogs saw a (been, sleep, **green**) fly buzz by. It zoomed low (**over**, just, but) the water and right by their (day, three, **eyes**). That was too tempting for them (jumped, and, **to**) ignore.

"I'm going to catch that (**green**, demanded, quiet) fly," one of the baby frogs (tried, **told**, need) his brother and sister. "Since Mama (of, there, **is**) going to take a nap, I'll (settle, back, **catch**) our lunch. Someone has to take (**care**, them, rest) of us!"

The baby frog waited (to, they, **for**) the green fly to buzz over (just, said, **again**), and then she jumped with all (they, to, **her**) might and opened her tiny mouth. (**The**, Pad, They) green fly flew right in.

The (water, tried, **mama**) frog watched. "My babies are growing (**up**, day, in)," she said. "Maybe it is best (fact, of, **if**) I just relax. They are doing (**well**, rest, around) by themselves."

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"Where are you going, Dad?" I ask excitedly. I wonder if something interesting is (followed, **happening**, shuffling).

"I'm going to search for some (**deer**, stop, pink). Would you like to come along? (Who, Want, **We'll**) take a trek in the woods," (**replies**, eating, ground) Dad.

"I love going for walks. (Her, Live, **Wait**) for me!" I reply.

"I want (for, **to**, and) go too!" yells Mike, my younger (**brother**, clicks, headed). "Please help me tie my shoes!"

"(We'll, Deer, **Don't**) worry, Mike. I will help you. (His, **Dad**, If) always waits for both of us," (Me, I, We) explain calmly.

We live in the (**country**, brother, wouldn't) with huge trees behind our house. (**During**, wonder, always) the different seasons of the year, (**my**, so, us) brother and I like to walk (**along**, during, before) the paths that go through the (search, some, **trees**). Dad usually goes with us and (**teaches**, myself, stomps) us things about nature.

It's a (her, love, **fall**) afternoon and our shuffling feet make (turns, **quite**, away) a racket through the dry leaves. (**Dad**, Deer, Puts) tells us to try to be (**quiet**, away, eating). He doesn't want us to scare (you, **the**, an) deer away.

"Shhhh!" says Dad. "Stop (**and**, puts, or) listen!"

My little brother and I (both, snort, **stop**), but we don't hear anything.

"I (yell, **hear**, you) something!" whispers Mike. "Over there!" he (snorts, offer, **points**).

I look to where he's pointing (be, **and**, or) see a big, brown deer looking (during, goes, **right**) at us! She isn't moving, but (his, **her**, will) head is up high. She's listening (for, don't, **just**) like we are! The deer puts (by, **her**, it) head down, grunts, and stomps her (away, tilted, **front**) hoofs on the ground. We wait (trees, **while**, from) Dad smiles and lifts his camera (at, me, **to**) his face. Click! ... whirr ... Click! Dad (likes, **takes**, today) two pictures.

Two smaller deer stand (**behind**, smile, yells) the doe! They are her baby (paths, with, **fawns**), born last spring. They are eating (trees, **acorns**, behind) off the ground. The fawns don't (**even**, stop, use) see us! The doe snorts again

(hear, or, **and**) turns to jump away. The two (leaves, **little**, ground) deer follow her.

"That was really (brown, deer, **cool**), Dad. Thanks for taking us with (the, **you**, me)," we say.

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