

Alan was a very brave and adventurous boy. He enjoyed learning new things and (adventure, backpack, **exploring**) the land behind his house. One (learned, **morning**, things) before he went exploring, he packed (him, **his**, it) backpack. He put many things inside. (One, **He**, It) packed a flashlight, a candle, matches, (**a**, an, or) compass, popcorn, a hard hat, and (went, **his**, he) lunch. Then he journeyed into the (hard, **woods**, candle) to his new secret spot.

The (exploring, journey, **previous**) day he had discovered a cave, (or, **and**, the) today he wanted to explore it. (Put, **Long**, New), thick weeds hid the mouth of (**the**, only, an) cave. Alan pushed the weeds to (an, up, **the**) side and looked into the cave. (He, **It**, A) was too dark to see anything. (**He**, Was, Him) turned on his flashlight and looked (struck, behind, **inside**) again. The cave was only five (**feet**, land, for) tall. Alan just fit when he (secret, **stepped**, explore) inside.

Alan put his hard hat (**on**, up, of). It would protect his head from (**the**, boy, an) roof of the cave. He shined (**his**, him, or) flashlight around the cave. It was (long, cave, **dry**) and cold inside. He walked around (he, but, **and**) explored the cave. He dropped popcorn (**behind**, today, shined) him as he walked. He found (hard, long, **old**) dishes in the cave. The cave (land, very, **walls**) displayed several paintings of animals.

Alan (things, **didn't**, turned) know what he might find. He (**had**, very, was) dreamed about finding a lost treasure (to, **or**, but) some buried gold, but he knew (**he**, him, it) was more likely to find only (dark, hat, **mud**) and rocks. As he worked his (back, **way**, five) deeper into the cave, he discovered (**small**, very, thick) waterfalls and sharp points of rock (around, **hanging**, behind) from the ceiling.

When Alan reached (**the**, old, lost) back of the cave, he stopped (for, **to**, and) eat his lunch. He was very (**hungry**, inside, brave). But just as Alan finished eating, (only, him, **his**) flashlight went out. The batteries had (lost, when, **died**). It was very dark in the (**cave**, lunch, head).

Alan struck a match so he (want, pack, **could**) see. The flame lit up the (mouth, **cave**, match). Then he lit the candle he (**brought**, explore, reached). He carried it carefully. He followed (it, **the**, an) popcorn all the way back to (he, an, **the**) mouth of the cave. Alan had (**enjoyed**, things, protect) the cave, but he thought he (wanted, might, **should**) pack more batteries for future explorations.

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Along the seashore of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico's waves lapped up on the sand. In a secluded cove, a pack (for, **of**, to) boys who called themselves the Coral (deep, clams, **Cove**) Gang hunted for treasures. These five (**boys**, were, sand) spent their summer days combing the (summer, treasure, **beaches**) of their town. Their beach searches (combining, **rewarded**, outline) them with interesting discoveries, including pieces (the, for, **of**) driftwood and sea glass, conch shells, (**lost**, his, pack) jewelry and coins, and occasionally a (seashore, driftwood, **deserted**) fishing boat. The boys kept three (**salvaged**, searches, jewelry) boats tied to an anchor in (it, **a**, an) secluded area about a mile from (**their**, nets, five) homes.

When the weather was clear, (was, an, **the**) Coral Cove Gang would row their (coin, shell, **boats**) out to a coral reef and (**dive**, tied, shiny) for clams. With diving masks strapped (of, **to**, in) their faces, they would keep an (able, sea, **eye**) open for clams or for anything (deserted, **unusual**, weather) in the waters. One day this (**vigilance**, interested, discovery) paid off.

Sonny, one of the (diving, **younger**, anchor) boys, swam far from the shore (**and**, for, the) splashed about in deep the water. (Far, Five, **The**) other boys watching were concerned that (**a**, or, of) shark was in the water. Suddenly (**Sonny**, Coral, needed) yelled, "Look! Look!" In his hand (was, **he**, an) held a dripping wet, but shiny, (open, lost, **gold**) doubloon. This coin was the sort (one, **of**, in) discovery every young adventurer dreamed of. (Gang, **Sonny**, Masks) had uncovered a sunken treasure.

The (nets, **race**, five) was on. The other four boys (**dove**, deep, held) into the water. Sonny led the (that, **way**, ship) to the area where he had (**unearthed**, discovery, adventure) the coin. At first it appeared (**that**, hand, from) nothing was there but sand and (pounds, doubloon, **seaweed**). As the five boys hovered over (**the**, kept, an) sea floor, the dark outline of (**an**, a, for) ancient ship began to take shape (about, three, **before**) their bulging eyes.

They raced to (**the**, his, but) surface of the water and gasped (from, wet, **for**) more air. They put their heads (dripping, **together**, unusual) and made a plan. They agreed (at, **to**, day) borrow scuba gear, nets, and all (of, an, **the**)

other gear needed to harvest the (masks, for, **gold**) from the ship. They were able (at, **to**, as) salvage many pounds of gold doubloons, (**gold**, clear, ship) bars, and precious jewelry. The items (**turned**, shape, harvest) out to be over four hundred (sand, sunken, **years**) old. The boys of the Coral (gear, **Cove**, paid) Gang were rewarded nicely for working (was, at, **so**) well together.

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Cazz the camel was used to making long treks across the desert. Cazz was very good at traveling. (Was, Him, **He**) could carry three people on his (happy, **back**, long), and he could carry a carpet (**on**, at, was) each hump. He could carry many (**bags**, all, trek) and many trunks. Cazz was so (**good**, happy, want) at traveling across the hot sand, (him, I, **he**) never had time to rest because (oceans, **people**, trunk) always wanted him to take them (across, **places**, carpet).

Cazz would find himself walking north (had, good, **one**) day and south the next. Cazz (will, time, **was**) traveling so much that he was (travel, **getting**, always) very tired.

"Oh, I need a (**holiday**, desert, places) from all this hard work. All (**I**, a, he) do is carry people on my (never, **back**, rest). I know I am good at (camel, for, **what**) I do, but that doesn't mean (so, he, **I**) can do it all the time. (On, **I**, He) want to lie on the beach (the, from, **for**) a while. I want to swim (**in**, now, him) the ocean and drink fruit drinks," (for, **Cazz**, rest) said. "What I need is a (**nice**, sea, many) long nap. Tomorrow I will ask (**my**, a, in) master for a vacation."

When Cazz (used, **got**, does) up the next day, he was (himself, **nervous**, swimming). He thought his master was a (very, ask, **kind**) person, but Cazz wasn't sure his (wanted, carpet, **master**) would give him a vacation. Cazz (**worried**, travel, beaches) about what would happen if he (carry, **didn't**, while) get some rest. He knew, though, (**that**, long, drank) the only way he would get (in, **a**, up) break was to ask. So he (very, **did**, will).

"Yes, Cazz," his master said, "I (about, break, **know**) you work very hard. You may (ocean, **have**, find) a break. In fact, why don't (**you**, good, he) come with me? I know a (get, used, **very**) beautiful place down by the sea."

(When, **Cazz**, Him) went with his master. He had (to, at, **a**) wonderful time. He swam in a (**swimming**, thought, nervous) pool. He drank fruit drinks. He (drink, would, **slept**) all through the night and late (for, **into**, very) the morning.

Soon enough, Cazz was (**ready**, kind, knew) to go back to work. Once (**again**, enough, break) he walked north one day and (sure, **south**, hard) again. But now he was happy (walking, thought, **because**) he knew he was very good

(**at**, by, on) his job and he knew his (place, good, **boss**) appreciated him enough to give him (an, **a**, so) vacation. He was sure he would (lie, to, **get**) another one someday.

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An old man lived in a shack deep in the forest. His tiny shack stood beside a (spoiled, **musical**, forest) brook. He didn't mind that his (**house**, high, towns) was tiny or that the wind (his, were, **blew**) in under his doors. Even though (old, **he**, him) was cramped and often cold, he (always, have, **could**) listen to the music of the (forest, **brook**, shack) all day and night.

In his (**spare**, door, cold) time, the old man made bells (from, **out**, the) of brass and silver. However, the (doors, once, **bells**) he made were silent. Only the (**musical**, demand, cramped) brook beside his shack could make (deep, man, **the**) bells ring. Every evening the man (**would**, beside, brook) carry the bells he'd forged that (tiny, old, **day**) to the brook and dip them (**into**, deep, man) its musical waters. The bells would (or, **go**, he) into the brook silent and come (cold, **out**, by) ringing with song. It always made (**the**, an, in) man joyful to hear his bells (popping, **ringing**, musical). What a beautiful sound!

New towns (that, but, **and**) villages were popping up all over (**the**, into, an) countryside, so the man's bells were (to, his, **in**) high demand. People wanted his bells (tiny, from, **for**) their clock towers and their churches. (**They**, Brass, Music) wanted to hang his bells above (blew, brook, **their**) doors and set them on the (**corners**, silent, waters) of their desks.

The bell-maker (silver, lift, **could**) have been a very rich man. (Cramped, Churches, **Because**) his bells rang more beautifully than (dip, **any**, out) bells in the country, he could (**have**, their, made) set any price for them. Instead, (old, an, **the**) man charged very little for his (**bells**, that, brook). In fact, he gave many of (tiny, were, **his**) bells away for free. He gave (**entire**, needed, silver) octaves to orphanages and hospitals.

The (**bell**, brook, for)-maker was very happy. However, he (only, made, **was**) also getting old. He could hardly (made, **lift**, than) the larger bells and carry them (**to**, so, at) the musical brook. It was time (of, **for**, him) him to retire, but before he (wanted, brook, **could**) retire, he needed to train someone (**for**, come, hang) his craft.

One evening a young (town, set, **man**) wandered up to his door. The (desk, door, **bell**)-maker recognized the young man. He (**knew**, rang, could)

the young man was once rich (or, **and**, over) spoiled, but bad luck had stripped (**him**, man, he) of his fortune. The young man (were, the, **was**) now humble and wise for all (hear, **his**, very) toils.

"I need food," the young (**man**, very, him) told the bell-maker.

"Yes," the (rich, song, **bell**)-maker replied. "But you need much (above, **more**, man) than that. You need music, and (**I**, he, a) will help you."

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It was a fine winter's day, perfect for ice-skating. As soon as Alice finished her (shoulder, ice-skating, **breakfast**) and brushed her teeth, she was (up, **out**, rink) the door with her ice skates (about, foot, **over**) her shoulder.

Alice's best friend, Mary (for, she, **Beth**), lived just two blocks away in (**a**, an, as) big house with black shutters. Alice (laughed, **knocked**, brushed) on the back door and waited (breakfast, **patiently**, shoulder) for Mary Beth to gather her (**ice**, me, big) skates, coat, and mittens.

"Let's go," (fine, black, **Alice**) said when Mary Beth was ready. "**(If**, Or, Two) we hurry, we'll be the first (all, **ones**, coat) on the rink. We'll have all (funny, they, **that**) fresh ice to skate on. We'll (**get**, was, said) to put the first lines of (an, it, **the**) day on the ice."

Alice and (**Mary**, with, her) Beth hurried down the street toward (as, her, **the**) ice rink. The sidewalks were covered (for, **with**, her) snow, so walking was hard. Alice (**and**, but, lost) Mary Beth didn't mind. They stopped (ice, or, **and**) made snow angels and snowballs as (best, **they**, hard) trudged along.

"You were right, Alice," (face, **Mary**, funny) Beth said as they rounded a (**corner**, street, walks) and saw the empty rink. "Let's (cover, have, **hurry**) and put on our skates." In (**no**, at, it) time at all, the girls had (skate, let's, **shed**) their boots, laced up their skates, (or, **and**, was) were standing on the edge of (**the**, was, an) rink.

The rink was a flawless (ready, **silver**, angels) mirror. As Mary Beth and Alice (stopped, walking, **skated**) in circles around it, they could (fell, **see**, ice) their reflections moving on the ice (**beneath**, corner, mirror) them.

"Oh, it's perfect," Alice said (so, at, **as**) she put one foot down and (the, **slid**, hurry) across the ice. "Watch me."

She (**made**, black, first) a funny face, laughed, lost her (blocks, **balance**, waited), and fell to the ice. Mary (**Beth**, Alice, slid) skated around her. Finally she got (snow, **close**, hard) enough to help her friend to (said, she, **her**) feet. The girls held hands and (balance, **skated**, covered) across the ice together. Alice tugged (girls, just, **Mary**) Beth one way, and Mary Beth (**tugged**, hurried, angels) Alice the other way.

The two (skates, **girls**, shed) were having so much fun they (empty, gather, **didn't**) realize the rink was filling with (down, silver, **other**) children. When they finally stopped their (**game**, our, snow), they saw their friends skating around (have, girls, **them**). They decided to play a game (to, all, **of**) ice tag. Alice and Mary Beth (**had**, was, mind) a wonderful time at the rink.

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Jason sat and waited for his grandfather to arrive. He always enjoyed his grandfather's visits. (**Jason**, Waited, Said) could see the old car slowly (sat, play, **make**) its way down the street toward (see, old, **his**) house. Grandpa's old car pulled into (an, what, **the**) driveway.

"Grandpa! Grandpa!" Jason shouted. "You're (same, **here**, house)!"

"Hello, Jason. How is my favorite (backyard, waiting, **grandson**)?"

Grandpa chuckled.

"Well, I'm just dandy," (**said**, for, could) Jason. "Thank you for asking."

Grandpa (or, **and**, his) Jason walked into the house. Jason (asked, liked, **helped**) his grandfather carry his bags. They (wore, **spent**, dandy) a wonderful day together playing in (old, an, **the**) backyard. Jason sat by his grandfather (them, **that**, said) night.

"Grandpa, what did you do (**when**, dandy, for) you were little?"

The grandfather looked (of, way, **at**) his grandson and answered, "Well, what (a, **do**, now) you do when you play?"

Jason (enjoyed, **answered**, chuckled), "We play games in my basement. (**We**, His, For) play catch in the backyard. We (same, carry, **play**) football in the empty lot down (an, **the**, us) street. After school, my friends and (me, of, **I**) watch television shows. Sometimes my mom (radio, **takes**, plays) us to see a movie at (**the**, an, walk) mall."

Grandpa smiled and said, "Jason, (**I**, we, a) used to do the same things (**when**, plays, wait) I was a boy."

"Really?"

"Really. (I'm, At, **In**) my old neighborhood, we would pick (**teams**, watch, radio) and play baseball in a sandlot. (The, **At**, On) school we played football. We didn't (see, catch, **have**) facemasks. We wore leather helmets and (ride, **soft**, empty) pads in our shirts. When I (for, and, **was**) a young boy, we didn't have (wonderful, **television**, basements). We only had radio. My friends (were, or, **and**) I would gather around the radio (only, **and**, to) listen to shows like 'The Lone (**Ranger**, visits, Grandpa) and 'The Shadow.' On Saturdays, we (gather, **would**, dandy) ride our bikes to the movie (school, wore, **house**) and

watch cartoons or a double (listen, **feature**, street). The movies had singing cowboys and (neighborhood, **superheroes**, television)."

Jason asked his grandfather, "Can we (play, **see**, pads) a movie together this Saturday?"

"Yes," (takes, only, **said**) Grandpa. "I think we should."

Jason sat and waited for his grandfather to arrive. He always enjoyed his grandfather's visits. **(Jason, Waited, Said)** could see the old car slowly **(sat, play, make)** its way down the street toward **(see, old, his)** house. Grandpa's old car pulled into **(an, what, the)** driveway.

"Grandpa! Grandpa!" Jason shouted. "You're **(same, here, house)!**"

"Hello, Jason. How is my favorite **(backyard, waiting, grandson)?**"

Grandpa chuckled.

"Well, I'm just dandy," **(said, for, could)** Jason. "Thank you for asking."

Grandpa **(or, and, his)** Jason walked into the house. Jason **(asked, liked, helped)** his grandfather carry his bags. They **(wore, spent, dandy)** a wonderful day together playing in **(old, an, the)** backyard. Jason sat by his grandfather **(them, that, said)** night.

"Grandpa, what did you do **(when, dandy, for)** you were little?"

The grandfather looked **(of, way, at)** his grandson and answered, "Well, what **(a, do, now)** you do when you play?"

Jason **(enjoyed, answered, chuckled)**, "We play games in my basement. **(We, His, For)** play catch in the backyard. We **(same, carry, play)** football in the empty lot down **(an, the, us)** street. After school, my friends and **(me, of, I)** watch television shows. Sometimes my mom **(radio, takes, plays)** us to see a movie at **(the, an, walk)** mall."

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"Really?"

"Really. **(I'm, At, In)** my old neighborhood, we would pick **(teams, watch, radio)** and play baseball in a sandlot. **(The, At, On)** school we played football. We didn't **(see, catch, have)** facemasks. We wore leather helmets and **(ride, soft, empty)** pads in our shirts. When I **(for, and, was)** a young boy, we didn't have **(wonderful, television, basements)**. We only had radio. My friends **(were, or, and)** I would gather around the radio **(only, and, to)** listen to shows like 'The Lone **(Ranger, visits, Grandpa)** and 'The Shadow.' On Saturdays, we

**(gather, would, dandy)** ride our bikes to the movie **(school, wore, house)** and watch cartoons or a double **(listen, feature, street)**. The movies had singing cowboys and **(neighborhood, superheroes, television)**."

Jason asked his grandfather, "Can we **(play, see, pads)** a movie together this Saturday?"

"Yes," **(takes, only, said)** Grandpa. "I think we should."

Jenny brushed her doll's hair. She loved to look at it (brother, minute, **because**) the golden curls were so shiny. (**Jenny**, Golden, Look) brushed it so often that sometimes (her, **she**, doll) was afraid the hair would stop (because, golden, **shining**), but it seemed to get prettier (**every**, even, heard) day.

Jenny also loved to talk (at, one, **to**) her doll. "Agnes," she said one (tea, look, **day**). "I think we should have a (hair, **tea**, stop) party today. You can wear your (shiny, **pink**, were) dress and white sandals." Jenny was (**very**, her, off) excited about her idea.

Jenny started (you, at, **to**) get ready for the party. She (was, **put**, doll) on her fanciest dress. It had (party, every, **pink**) ruffles on it. She put on (**her**, said, you) socks that also had pink ruffles (but, were, **and**) her shiny white shoes. Jenny and (also, curls, **Agnes**) both wore white gloves. They even (was, to, **had**) matching white straw purses to carry.

(Fanciest, **Sometimes**, Matching) Jenny's younger brother Michael wanted to (she, get, **join**) them, but Jenny always told him (on, her, **no**). Boys weren't invited to tea parties. (You, **They**, Seem) always spilled things, and they never (**knew**, was, for) what to say.

When everything was (also, pink, **ready**), Jenny brought Agnes to the table. (Tea, Her, **It**) looked so pretty. The matching china (**cups**, can, hair) and plates were set up just (socks, dress, **right**). Jenny set a napkin on each (to, **of**, an) their laps.

As she started to (put, wear, **pour**) the tea, she heard her mother (**calling**, spilled, napkins) her. "Jenny, will you please come (shiny, place, **here**)? I need some help folding clothes." (Agnes, Always, **Jenny**) looked at her doll sadly. "Well, (**Agnes**, dolls, party)," she said. "I guess we'll have (you, **our**, had) tea party tomorrow."

"I'll be there (to, at, **in**) just a minute," Jenny called to (wear, **her**, you) mother.

Jenny went to her bedroom (for, talk, **to**) change. She took off her fancy (**clothes**, sneakers, started) and put on jeans, a T-(straw, sadly, **shirt**), and

sneakers. Then she changed Agnes's (napkins, **clothes**, purses) and went to help her mom.

(An, Told, **The**) next day Jenny's mom asked for (she, **her**, tea) help early in the day. They (golden, **worked**, pretty) together to get the house ready (told, from, **for**) company that night. Then Jenny's mom (**said**, put, laps), "Thank you for your help. Now (cup, **you**, just) can do whatever you'd like."

Within (**minutes**, company, brother), Jenny and Agnes were in their (shiny, also, **fancy**) outfits again and having tea.

Jenny brushed her doll's hair. She loved to look at it (**brother, minute, because**) the golden curls were so shiny. (**Jenny, Golden, Look**) brushed it so often that sometimes (**her, she, doll**) was afraid the hair would stop (**because, golden, shining**), but it seemed to get prettier (**every, even, heard**) day.

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Within **(minutes, company, brother)**, Jenny and Agnes were in their **(shiny, also, fancy)** outfits again and having tea.

Jenny's father often went on business trips. Sometimes he was gone for only (a, he, an) few days. Other times he was (dad, come, **gone**) for entire weeks. Even though he (times, **called**, other) every night, Jenny still missed her (weeks, **father**, globe). She was happy when he would (though, entire, **finally**) come home.

Jenny always rushed to (she, an, **the**) front door when she heard her (finally, business, **father's**) taxi approach the driveway. She would (**wait**, home, pull) for him to open the door (or, **and**, your) jump into his arms.

"How's my girl?" (the, you, **her**) dad always asked as he gave (taxi, **her**, she) a big hug. "Did you miss (**me**, day, him)?"

"I always do," Jenny would answer.

"(Was, Open, **Were**) you a good girl? Did you (always, **listen**, asked) to your mom and your teacher? (Do, **Did**, Once) you do all your chores?"

"I (**always**, entire, heard) do," Jenny would answer.

"I have (driveway, business, **something**) for you then," her father would (wait, **say**, door). He would reach into his coat (answer, **pocket**, entire) and pull out a beautifully wrapped (approach, teacher, **present**).

Every time her dad gave her (a, to, it) present, Jenny would carefully open it. (Would, Then, **First**) she would pull off the ribbon (out, **and**, or), without tearing it, peel off the (**paper**, taxi, always). Then she would open the box (but, **and**, the) giggle with glee. Her father always (missed, reaches, **brought**) home the best presents from his (**business**, wrapped, driveway) trips.

From the last trip he (entire, opened, **brought**) her a little glass globe with (an, a, it) tiny city inside. When you shook (**the**, open, out) globe, snow danced around the city.

"(**That's**, There, Every) New York," her dad told her (to, **as**, for) he watched her shake it. "See (them, tiny, **that**) tall building in the center? That's (**the**, your, out) Empire State Building. It was once (miss, **the**, an) tallest building in the world. Someday (she, her, **I'll**) take you there with me."

Jenny (when, **loved**, missed) the glass globe with the tiny (**city**, pull, trips) inside it. "Dad, will you really (out, for, **take**) me there someday?"

"Of course I (dad, **will**, would), when you're older."

That night, Jenny (**studied**, glass, ribbon) her present before she went to (box, **bed**, trip). She picked it up, shook it, (**and**, gave, or) watched the snowfall.

"New York City," (her, do, **she**) whispered as she closed her eyes (up, to, **for**) sleep.

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Jessica stared at the new black-rimmed glasses on her nightstand. As she lay in bed, many (mornings, **questions**, nightstand) ran through her head. "Are these (buses, later, **frames**) too ugly? Are kids going to (**laugh**, these, quiet) at me when I get on (**the**, new, bed) bus? Should mom have bought me (too, an, **the**) rectangular ones?"

Suddenly, Jessica saw 7:13 (at, as, **on**) the clock. She didn't feel like (**eating**, quickly, frames) breakfast and quickly got ready. She (stared, **packed**, thought) her backpack and said goodbye. "I'm (like, **sure**, her) things will be just fine," her (**mom**, bus, head) said as Jessica left the house. (Her, They, **She**) ran down the driveway and saw (she, the, **her**) friends waiting for the school bus. (Other, **Today**, Things), of all days, Jonathan was already (then, math, **there**).

Jonathan was the meanest kid at (**the**, an, to) bus stop. He was always bossing (goodbye, Jessica, **people**) around and teasing them. "Hey, here (sure, these, **comes**) Four Eyes," he shouted.

"Be quiet, (**Jonathan**, backpack, Vanessa). I think Jessica looks awesome!" said (packed, **Vanessa**, things). Vanessa was in Jessica's math class. (Jonathan, Locker, **Jessica**) liked her because she wasn't afraid (of, for, **to**) stand up to anyone.

She thought (**kids**, them, saw) might stare when she got on (all, she, **the**) bus. To Jessica's surprise, no one (Vanessa, **laughed**, thinks) at her. Later at school, she (rectangular, breakfast, **remembered**) the note she needed to leave (**in**, on, bus) the office. For the first time, (have, her, **she**) noticed that the secretary, Mrs. Green, (ran, **wore**, and) glasses. Then the health aide, Leslie, (think, **came**, feel) to make a copy. She had (**glasses**, already, goodbye) on too.

Jessica couldn't help but (sudden, tease, **notice**) that lots of teachers wore glasses. (Here, **That**, House) made her feel a little less (shouted, thought, **nervous**). Her teacher, Mrs. Hadwick, was not (awesome, noticed, **wearing**) her contact lenses today. She was (**wearing**, stared, needed) new glasses!

"Good morning, Jessica," she (help, **said**, here), "I love your new glasses. You (bought, packed, **remind**) me of that teenage star who (wore, **sings**, copy) 'Don't Be Scared.'" Jessica loved that (**song**, then, stop) and had a poster of the (nervous, think, **famous**) singer in her locker.

All day (saw, new, **long**) she noticed the difference her glasses (**made**, felt, she). Letters were sharper, and she could (got, **see**, stop) the board better. She thought it (like, **was**, had) easier to see exactly how many (posters, houses, **minutes**) were left until recess.

"This day (loved, **wasn't**, first) so bad after all," Jessica thought.

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"This day **(loved, wasn't, first)** so bad after all," Jessica thought.

Last summer my family took a great train adventure. My mom and dad, my sister (summer, **Rachel**, fruit), and I live in Minnesota, and (**my**, too, us) cousins live in California. We traveled (live, then, **over**) two thousand miles by train to (train, made, **visit**) them.

Our trip began in St. (sleep, **Cloud**, Rachel). At midnight, a whistle blew and (to, in, **a**) train with fifteen huge cars pulled (for, were, **into**) the station.

"All aboard," the conductor (**called**, cousins, cloud).

He helped us into the train. (By, **We**, My) climbed narrow stairs that led to (**a**, up, it) second level. The car was dark, (we, or, **and**) people were sleeping. We walked silently (second, **through**, cousins) the rows of seats until we (**found**, great, blew) our seats.

"Your seats lean back (to, from, **for**) sleeping," the conductor told us. He (whistle, **showed**, sleep) my sister how to move her (train, **seat**, cars). Next he gave us pillows. Mom (**took**, out, lean) our blankets from her bag.

At (then, took, **first**) we were too excited to sleep. (With, **The**, Led) train rocked from side to side (we, but, **and**) made clickety-clack sounds. Soon the (travel, **rhythm**, seats) of the sounds and the rocking (**made**, help, huge) us sleepy. We finally dozed off.

(Your, From, **For**) the next three days, the train (were, **was**, from) our home. We ate meals in (of, **the**, an) dining car or at the snack (**bar**, the, side). Our seats became our beds. We (**washed**, sister, great) our faces and brushed our teeth (by, at, **in**) a small bathroom. To pass the (train, were, **time**), we played games or watched television (**in**, be, a) the lounge car.

We spent a (led, **lot**, huge) of time looking at the scenery. (My, **We**, To) saw fields and prairies, mountains and (trains, blankets, **forests**), rivers and valleys, small towns and (**big**, pass, that) cities. When we saw orchards of (sleep, **fruit**, towns) trees, we knew we were near (my, **our**, ate) cousins.

As we arrived at the (**train**, sleep, your) station, the whistle blew and the (stairs, **train**, move) slowed down. We looked out the (forests, bathroom, **windows**) for our relatives.

"There they are!" (the, our, **Mom**) exclaimed. Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle David (**waved**, knew, dozed), and our cousins Brian and Brittany (seats, miles, **jumped**) up and down. The train stopped, (at, or, **and**) we got off. Everyone gave each (**other**, field, game) a hug.

"Did you have a (huge, from, **good**) trip?" Aunt Elizabeth asked us.

"It (next, **was**, were) great," we all answered.

Just then, (an, we, **the**) train whistle blew again as if (at, **to**, us) say goodbye.

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On Saturday morning, Lucy was happy to see the snow falling outside her windows. She jumped from her bed and (happy, **raced**, snow) into the kitchen. Her mom and (**dad**, eat, bed) were sitting at the table drinking (kitchen, outside, **coffee**).

"Can I go to Grandma's house (past, **today**, when)?" Lucy asked as she climbed onto (she, pick, **her**) mother's lap. Last week, Lucy's grandmother (**had**, was, up) promised her that she could go (see, at, **to**) her house and bake cookies if (she, **it**, hot) snowed over the weekend.

Lucy couldn't (make, they, **wait**). Her Grandma Kate was the best (**baker**, into, snow) in the entire county. In fact, (see, that, **this**) past summer she'd won the grand (entire, **prize**, window) in the baking contest at the (happy, **state**, just) fair. Lucy knew she and Grandma (snow, dad, **Kate**) would make gingerbread men. They would (**dress**, climb, bake) them with frosting. They would also (her, **bake**, see) sugar cookies and sprinkle colored sugar (to, the, **on**) them.

Grandma Kate was watching for (was, **Lucy**, men) through the front window of her (could, grand, **house**) when Lucy's dad dropped her off (it, **an**, the) hour later.

"Are you ready to (**bake**, their, give) cookies?" Lucy asked her grandma as (also, from, **she**) walked into the house.

"You bet (go, we, **I**) am, sweetie," Grandma Kate said as (was, **they**, them) stepped into the kitchen. Grandma Kate (**made**, after, asked) Lucy a cup of hot chocolate (sugar, **before**, prize) they began baking. Lucy loved hot (frosting, sprinkle, **chocolate**), especially in her grandma's big, thick (bed, make, **mugs**).

After the hot chocolate, they started (**baking**, walked, house). All day long, sugar, flour, butter, (make, could, **eggs**), and vanilla were all over the (cookies, **kitchen**, window).

At sunset, six hours later, Lucy's (also, men, **dad**) came to pick her up. They (**could**, baked, love) hardly fit all the tins of (frosting, **cookies**, summer) into the cab of his pickup (prize, bake, **truck**).

Lucy knew just what they'd do (also, **with**, for) the cookies. They would open one (men, for, **of**) the tins and eat those cookies (after, **during**, colored)

the trip home. They would also (**give**, won, first) everyone on their block a tin (for, **of**, to) cookies as a Christmas treat. The (mugs, sugar, **rest**) of the tins would go to (for, **the**, an) food shelf in Lucy's town. This (chocolate, sprinkle, **Christmas**), a lot of people would get (**to**, in, at) share a little bit of the (them, **joy**, snow) Lucy and her grandma felt on (your, grand, **their**) special cookie-making day.

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Grandma Kate was watching for **(was, Lucy, men)** through the front window of her **(could, grand, house)** when Lucy's dad dropped her off **(it, an, the)** hour later.

"Are you ready to **(bake, their, give)** cookies?" Lucy asked her grandma as **(also, from, she)** walked into the house.

"You bet **(go, we, I)** am, sweetie," Grandma Kate said as **(was, they, them)** stepped into the kitchen. Grandma Kate **(made, after, asked)** Lucy a cup of hot chocolate **(sugar, before, prize)** they began baking. Lucy loved hot **(frosting, sprinkle, chocolate)**, especially in her grandma's big, thick **(bed, make, mugs)**.

After the hot chocolate, they started **(baking, walked, house)**. All day long, sugar, flour, butter, **(make, could, eggs)**, and vanilla were all over the **(cookies, kitchen, window)**.

At sunset, six hours later, Lucy's **(also, men, dad)** came to pick her up. They **(could, baked, love)** hardly fit all the tins of **(frosting, cookies, summer)** into the cab of his pickup **(prize, bake, truck)**.

Lucy knew just what they'd do (**also, with, for**) the cookies. They would open one (**men, for, of**) the tins and eat those cookies (**after, during, colored**) the trip home. They would also (**give, won, first**) everyone on their block a tin (**for, of, to**) cookies as a Christmas treat. The (**mugs, sugar, rest**) of the tins would go to (**for, the, an**) food shelf in Lucy's town. This (**chocolate, sprinkle, Christmas**), a lot of people would get (**to, in, at**) share a little bit of the (**them, joy, snow**) Lucy and her grandma felt on (**your, grand, their**) special cookie-making day.

Most of Jamie's clothes were homemade. They were nice, and she liked (those, **them**, gave), but they were still homemade. It (and, **was**, were) a special treat when Jamie's mother (**bought**, liked, clothes) her a complete, brand-new, store-(special, treat, **bought**) outfit. Jamie loved her new red (would, **pants**, years) and the blue and white knit (flag, **shirt**, loved) her mother bought for her. She (complete, **thought**, homemade) the clothes looked beautiful on her. (They, Her, **She**) couldn't wait to wear them to (store, walked, **school**) on Monday.

On Monday, Jamie dressed (homemade, **carefully**, complete). Her new clothes made her feel (**confident**, complete, beautiful) and pretty. When she came down (of, were, **for**) breakfast, her mom and dad told (fun, **her**, she) how nice she looked. She smiled (also, they, **even**) more. To her surprise, no one (**at**, for, from) school seemed to notice her outfit. (All, **Only**, Hall) her best friend complimented her on (mom, **it**, be). It didn't matter though, because Jamie (dress, only, **still**) loved it.

At about ten in (**the**, one, got) morning, the teacher sent Jamie on (was, **an**, the) errand to the office. Walking the (breakfast, confident, **deserted**) halls alone always gave Jamie a (**spooky**, every, matter) feeling. On her way back to (halls, **class**, them), Jamie saw another student coming her (far, for, **way**) from down the hall. She recognized (her, **it**, an) was Debbie, a sixth grader. She (**was**, new, were) three years older than Jamie. She (that, **was**, saw) big, and she was also a (sent, shirt, **bully**).

Jamie tried to walk as far (down, for, **from**) Debbie as possible. Jamie didn't look (to, **at**, in) Debbie, but Debbie would not be (**ignored**, coming, teacher). As they approached each other, Debbie (friend, **started**, looking) taunting Jamie. She called her a (sixth, **skinny**, smiled), little kid, and she made fun (**of**, to, for) Jamie's new clothes. She asked if (they, down, **Jamie**) got dressed in the dark and (came, **said**, alone) Jamie looked like a flag. By (only, **the**, her) time Debbie moved on down the (**hall**, them, nice), Jamie was close to tears. All (new, of, **the**) joy and excitement of her new (dress, **outfit**, class) was gone.

Jamie stopped in the (student, deserted, **bathroom**) to compose herself. She looked at (she, **her**, fun) new outfit in the mirror. It (about, didn't, **looked**) the same as it looked earlier.

"(Her, **She's**, Sent) just a bully," Jamie thought. "She (**would**, from, best) have made fun of any clothes." (Not, All, **Even**) though Jamie knew that was true, (she, **it**, or) didn't take the sting of Debbie's (dress, **words**, hall) away. She would remember Debbie every (**time**, big, pants) she wore the outfit.

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Mr. Lee Sung had a very important job. He wrote fortunes for fortune cookies. (The, He, **Mr.**) Sung lived in a tiny town (for, **that**, under) had many children. He and his (would, trees, **wife**) owned a small restaurant. Mr. Sung's (**restaurant**, important, children's) was called "Under the Willows" because (he, **it**, the) stood under four huge weeping willow (small, from, **trees**).

Every afternoon while Mrs. Sue Sung (**made**, watch, out) the lunch specials, Mr. Lee Sung (lived, **would**, town) go outside with a notebook and (ask, Mr., **his**) best red ink pen. He would (their, **find**, climb) a place to sit under one (for, an, **of**) the weeping willows or near the (**pond**, lunch, paper). Then he would write the fortunes (in, **for**, of) his cookies.

Sometimes the local children (take, young, **came**) to play by Mr. Sung as (go, **he**, him) wrote. Mr. Sung would watch the (cookies, willows, **children**) run through the shadows of the (**willow**, fortune, special) trees. He would watch them splash (on, **in**, to) the warm water of the pond. (An, **It**, He) was easier for Mr. Sung to (read, their, **write**) fortunes when the children were near (very, he, **him**) and he could hear their pleasant (weeping, **laughter**, cookies).

"Luck comes today in the form (**of**, who, for) a sunny smile," Mr. Sung wrote (and, at, **on**) a piece of small paper as (it, **he**, may) watched the children's antics.

"An old (pond, go, **man**) is wise, but a child is (fortune, **carefree**, afternoon)," Mr. Sung wrote as he watched (**the**, an, his) children climb up into the branches (for, **of**, at) the willows and disappear from sight.

(Trees, Today, **Often**) the children would surround Mr. Sung (**as**, at, on) he wrote.

"May we have a (cookie, **fortune**, willow)?" a child would ask.

Mr. Sung (wrote, read, **would**) then take out a handful of (weeping, **fortune**, surround) cookies from his pocket. He would (made, the, **give**) one to each of the children. (**Some**, Watch, Often) of the children cracked their cookies (go, **and**, but) read their fortunes right away. Others (watch, still, **slowly**) nibbled on their cookies and saved (into, **the**, an) tiny slip of paper with the (lucky, **words**, warm) of fortune for last.

Some of (**the**, him, for) children who gathered around Mr. Sung (was, give, **were**) still too young to read. The (carefree, **children**, cookies) would hold out the small slip (to, **of**, in) paper, and Mr. Sung would read (a, he, **it**) to them.

"A smile is the (**best**, wise, still) of luck," he read to one (child, their, **little**) girl. Then they smiled at each (small, **other**, splash).

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One day Philip and his family boarded a large ship at the wharf in London and set sail for the New World. Philip's family had been very poor (**in**, set, of) England. They were so poor all (**was**, and, **of**) their belongings fit in one trunk. (London, Family, **However**), their hearts carried many dreams for (an, **the**, side) New World.

Philip's father wanted to (**build**, dream, trunk) an inn of his own where (boarded, **people**, captain) could rest and get a good (**meal**, name, ship). His mother wanted her children to (knelt, **grow**, you) up in a land that was (broad, into, **free**).

Philip and his family stayed in (up, to, **a**) tiny, dark room on the bottom (**of**, he, for) the ship. Day after day and (wharf, **night**, they) after night, the sea tossed and (carried, captain, **turned**) the ship. Everyone in Philip's family (very, **got**, were) seasick. They all got well, except (fit, from, **for**) Philip's youngest sister, Hannah. While everyone (**else**, ship, other) was able to stroll on the (poor, sail, **decks**) of the great ship, Hannah lay (by, **on**, to) her cot and slept. Her face (his, were, **was**) pale, and she was getting weaker (could, **every**, while) day.

One night Philip's father was (**so**, it, he) worried about his youngest child, he (stayed, poor, **spoke**) to the captain of the ship. (My, **The**, An) captain had very broad shoulders, white (night, land, **hair**), and a white beard. His voice (**was**, is, all) gruff, but there was kindness in (ship, **his**, him) eyes. Philip's family was shocked when (**their**, white, orange) dad came back to the cabin (the, very, **with**) the captain at his side.

The (shoulder, **captain**, father) knelt over Hannah's cot. He picked (on, it, **up**) her hand and held it in (**his**, and, he) own. "Well, what have we got (this, lay, **here**)," he murmured. "What's your name, child?"

"(Philip, Child, **Hannah**)," the little girl said weakly.

"Don't (while, **worry**, want) now, Hannah," the captain said. "I (will, **know**, get) exactly what you need." There was (to, **a**, in) twinkle in the captain's eyes as (him, the, **he**) reached into his pocket and pulled (**out**, on, was) a large orange.

"This orange is (tiny, of, **for**) you," he told Hannah. "I want (she, **you**, all) to eat the entire thing and (set, own, **stay**) in bed. In a few days (**you**, had, it) should be up on your feet (face, **and**, but) feeling better."

The captain was correct. (His, Up, **In**) two days, Hannah was out of (ship, sea, **bed**) and annoying Philip as usual. Philip's (**family**, world, while) was relieved Hannah was herself again.

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The captain was correct. **(His, Up, In)** two days, Hannah was out of **(ship, sea, bed)** and annoying Philip as usual. Philip's **(family, world, while)** was relieved Hannah was herself again.

One day Russ had a wonderful idea. He found a large bucket. He (**filled**, water, Jenny) it with warm water and added (so, to, **a**) generous amount of dish soap. As (bucket, **quietly**, amount) as he could, he snuck up (at, him, **to**) his mother's and father's bedroom and (with, spun, **took**) a metal clothes hanger from their (always, **closet**, clothes).

Then he carried the bucket of (**warm**, too, huge), sudsy water and the clothes hanger (in, **out**, but) to the backyard. Russ found a (metal, large, **nice**) spot under an oak tree, far (one, **out**, in) of view of the house, and (make, **sat**, she) down.

First he bent the clothes (bubble, **hanger**, large) into a large circle. His perfect (**circle**, hanger, bucket) made him smile. Next, he dipped (an, at, **the**) circle into the bucket of water. (Tree, **Then**, First) he lifted it back out, held (on, his, **it**) at arm's length, and spun around (at, **in**, it) circles. Huge bubbles emerged from the (**circle**, house, clothes) and floated around the backyard.

Russ (and, **was**, into) having so much fun that he (**didn't**, large, dipped) see his little sister, Jenny, sneaking (at, out, **up**) on him. Russ didn't always like (circle, **Jenny**, please) because she tattled on him whenever (him, her, **she**) got the chance.

When Jenny saw (you, **her**, bent) brother making bubbles with their mother's (**clothes**, because, bucket) hanger, she thought she could get (her, down, **him**) in lots of trouble. If she (added, **told**, metal) on him, he might get grounded (**for**, held, from) a week. But Jenny didn't want (at, in, **to**) tell. She wanted to make bubbles (as, **too**, held).

"Let me try," she told him. "(Me, **I**, A) want to make bubbles too, Russ." (**Russ**, Him, First) ignored her and continued to make (circle, little, **bubbles**).

"Go away, brat," he said. "This (circle, bucket, **bubble**) maker isn't for babies."

"I'm not (an, **a**, to) baby, and if you don't let (get, I, **me**) play, I'll tell on you," she (emerged, making, **replied**). Russ sighed and handed the bubble (circle, **maker**, then) to his sister. He watched her (**laugh**, having, sigh) as she made

huge bubbles. Somehow, (spun, it, **she**) managed to make even bigger bubbles (**than**, from, next) he had.

"How do you do (this, see, **that**)?" Russ asked. "Teach me, please."

Jenny (tattled, **showed**, might) Russ how to make big, slow-(always, floated, **moving**) bubbles. They laughed as they watched (might, **them**, brat) float across the yard. For that (wonderful, backyard, **afternoon**), they forgot that they didn't always (found, **like**, she) each other.

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As soon as the temperature drops, people start getting excited up in Nome, Alaska. They never go to bed at (dogs, **night**, sized) without peeking out their windows first. (With, Different, **They**) want to see what the weather (**is**, or, on) doing. If a light snow is (**falling**, drops, start), they know that by morning the (**roads**, person, excited) will be dangerous. That's where the (and, **sled**, romp) dogs come into play.

Sled dogs (return, **are**, will) fun, peppy, medium-sized dogs. Their (**colors**, if, windows) are different, but they all have (will, **thick**, ways), downy coats of fur. The dogs' (that, **tails**, have) curl up when they are excited.

(Front, The, **There's**) nothing a sled dog loves more (**than**, fun, with) the cold, fierce winds of winter. (Their, **Even**, To) though most owners build shelters for (**their**, together, as) sled dogs, the dogs prefer to (**sleep**, as, beats) outside. They tuck their noses into (of, known, **their**) tails. They snuggle their bodies deep (**in**, at, winter) the snow.

Sled dogs are playful, (people, **intelligent**, fur), and very vocal. They do not (play, **bark**, downy). Instead, they howl like wolves. It's (the, **not**, their) uncommon for a pack of sled (they, **dogs**, snow) to have a group howl at (**sunset**, person, the) and sunrise.

A person who owns (peek, however, **sled**) dogs can be sure that their (the, peppy, **sleep**) will be disturbed on the mornings (they, into, **after**) a deep snow has fallen. The (morning, **dogs**, to) will be up on the roofs (**of**, a, get) their doghouses, welcoming the snow with (a, **their**, supplies) long yowls of anticipation. "Wake up, (**wake**, the, dogs) up, WAKE UP!" They seem to (on, for, **be**) howling. "We want to play in (to, **the**, many) snow!"

The two most important things (Alaska, is, **in**) a sled dog's life are running (in, they, **and**) pulling. Quite simply, that is what (**they**, to, like) are born to do.

A sled (**dog**, what, doing) will like nothing better than to (never, coat, **trot**) in front of a person on (**skis**, months, dangerous) or a sled filled with supplies. (The, Sled, **They've**) been known to race with their (nothing, light, **owners**) on bikes or rollerblades. Pulling is (they, **a**, in) good way for them to get (know,

**exercise**, soon) and stay in shape all summer (be, medium, **long**). It's also great for the dogs' (through, **owners**, want).

Together the dog and person team (the, **can**, been) romp and play in many ways (**during**, getting, first) the snowless months. Nothing beats the (**thrill**, bikes, them), however, of winter's return and a (play, **dog**, where) sled run through the snow.

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Together the dog and person team (**the, can, been**) romp and play in many ways (**during, getting, first**) the snowless months. Nothing beats the (**thrill, bikes, them**), however, of winter's return and a (**play, dog, where**) sled run through the snow.

One night as Alice was snuggling her pillows and about to fall asleep, she felt something wriggling between her feet. With a shriek, Alice sat up (toad, **and**, or) turned on her lamp. She pulled (one, day, **the**) covers off her bed and found (of, **a**, on) toad looking up at her.

"Why, (she, go, **you**) ugly thing!" Alice yelled. "Get off (**my**, me, her) bed and out of my room (her, by, **at**) once." The toad merely looked up (on, **at**, the) her and blinked his golden eyes. (Was, **He**, Him) laid his leathery green head down, (asleep, looking, **sighed**), and went to sleep.

Alice slept (**on**, to, or) the floor that night. When she (found, **woke**, but) up in the morning, the toad (desk, have, **was**) mysteriously gone. Alice made her bed, (laid, **ate**, and) her breakfast, and went to school.

(Toad, **Alice**, Merely) had a perfect day. She got (of, off, **an**) "A" on her spelling test and (**won**, to, made) all the races on the playground (in, as, **at**) recess. She was feeling very smug (out, **as**, to) she opened her desk to pull (**out**, in, to) her literature book, but her smugness (playground, mysteriously, **disappeared**) when she saw the toad sitting (at, **on**, up) her pencil box.

The toad's golden (green, **eyes**, skin) glowed in the dim confines of (she, bed, **her**) desk. He let out one low (lamp, **croak**, races) as he stared at her. He (sitting, merely, **seemed**) to be waiting for her to (**do**, in, the) something, but Alice couldn't figure out (toad, lips, **what**). The toad puckered his lips and (**made**, take, saw) kissing sounds. Alice slammed her desk (room, **shut**, still) without pulling out her textbook.

The (recess, **teacher**, morning) looked at Alice strangely and then (found, pulled, **began**) the lesson. Alice didn't have a (bed, saw, **book**), so she couldn't read along. She (**could**, slept, smug) hear the toad moving around in (she's, **her**, his) desk as the teacher spoke. Alice (smugly, slept, **rested**) her elbows on it and fixed (an, **a**, so) firm smile on her face. The (golden, confines, **teacher**) saw Alice was still without her (pull, smile, **book**).

"Alice, you need to follow along (all, **in**, at) your book," the teacher said. "We (was, **are**, her) reading 'The Frog Prince' on page (one, **45**, her). Open your desk and get your (lamp, toad, **book**)."

"But..." Alice said. "I can't."

The (prince, **teacher**, textbook) told Alice to take out her (desk, lips, **book**) or go to the principal's office. (**Alice**, Croak, Green) slowly opened her desk, expecting to (then, **see**, let) the toad. The toad was gone, (or, at, **but**) Alice was sure he'd be back (**again**, thing, ugly).

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The morning sunshine fell gently on the forest. A clumsy bear stumbled out of (he, **his**, by) den. The bear covered his eyes (even, but, **and**) yawned. The bear was a small (bee, **cub**, den), yet he was very hungry. He (yet, were, **was**) on the hunt for honey, his (morning, covered, **favorite**) food. Just then, the bear heard (**something**, bumblebee, sunshine). A bumblebee buzzed by, and the (morning, **clumsy**, sting) little bear decided to follow it.

(Very, An, **The**) bee flew further away from the (eyes, **bear**, hunt). The bear thought he would find (**honey**, forest, home) by following the bee. The bear (thought, further, **hurried**) after the bee, tripping on roots (den, **and**, but) rocks. He stubbed his toe and (**stopped**, thought, sunshine) to grumble. Then the bear started (at, **to**, his) run after the bee again. The (something, following, **bumblebee**) was flying away quickly. The clumsy (bee, **bear**, den) ran even faster because he wanted (a, at, **to**) find some honey. Finally the bear (faster, **found**, flew) the bumblebee's home.

The bumblebee's home (**was**, find, down) a beehive in the trunk of (an, **a**, it) tree. The beehive buzzed with bumblebees. (But, As, **If**) he could scare off the bumblebees, (his, some, **the**) bear knew he would find honey (by, to, **in**) that tree.

The bear walked over (his, at, **to**) the tree and tried to shake (**it**, his, up). The tree was too big to (find, **shake**, bear). The bear started to climb the (**tree**, honey, rocks). As he climbed higher, the bees (grumble, **started**, flying) to swarm around him, protecting their (and, **tree**, toe). They tried to sting the bear (by, at, **on**) the top of his paws, but (want, **his**, he) fur was too thick. They tried (**to**, he, at) sting him on the bottom of (him, **his**, big) feet, but his skin was too (again, honey, **thick**). Then one little bee found a (tree, trunk, **spot**) right on his nose and stung (his, **him**, then). The sting hurt the little bear.

(Knew, **The**, Up) bear climbed back down from the (**tree**, honey, over) and rubbed his nose. He kicked (an, **the**, bear) tree and said, "Dumb tree." A (sunshine, morning, **pinecone**) fell from the tree and hit (high, **the**, some) bear on the top of his (tree, **head**, find). The bear stamped his foot and (**frowned**, quickly, stumbled). "I didn't really want honey anyway," (it, **he**, him) said. He

decided he wasn't that (thick, small, **hungry**) after all, so he went back (was, **to**, at) his den and fell asleep.

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**him)** said. He decided he wasn't that **(thick, small, hungry)** after all, so he went back **(was, to, at)** his den and fell asleep.

Randy's parents were remodeling their living room. They'd already replaced the windows and (living, already, **painted**) the walls. Now all they needed (you, **was**, want) a new rug to put on (**the**, an, out) floor.

Randy's mom was very excited (needed, their, **about**) getting a new rug. Since Randy's (is, **dad**, new) was out of town for a (**few**, end, each) weeks, she decided to take Randy (aside, **along**, asked) to pick out the rug.

Randy (their, wobbled, **gasp**) when they walked through the doors (in, **of**, all) the carpet shop. Rolls of carpet (were, upon, **lined**) the walls, and rugs covered the (shop, **floor**, town). Some rugs cost a lot of (**money**, weight, could), and some rugs were cheap. Randy (need, that, **knew**) his mom wanted something in between.

(Point, Weeks, **Randy**) followed his mom around the shop (at, **as**, new) she looked. His eyes wandered around (**the**, on, to) shop and landed on a colorful (roll, **rug**, buy) laid out on the floor. The (wall, very, **rug**) had a huge chair on each (money, **corner**, windows) and a couch in the middle. (An, **A**, Of) row of tassels lined each end (**of**, at, for) the rug. As Randy watched, the (roll, **rug**, few) seemed to quiver under the weight (at, **of**, for) the four chairs and the couch. (You're, Hello, **Surely**), he must be seeing things. Randy (had, very, **took**) a step closer, but a salesman (between, **stopped**, seeing) him.

"Hello, lad," he said. "You (cheap, under, **don't**) want to buy that rug. That (**rug**, shop, she) is very old and very ugly."

(That, **Just**, Along) then, the chair on the far (new, asked, **left**) corner of the rug wobbled off (like, **the**, an) rug and fell to the floor. (But, **The**, Shop) salesman smiled, took Randy by the (roll, each, **arm**), and led him away. He showed (**Randy**, rolls, weight) and his mom a very boring (four, **brown**, step) rug that both he and his (**mom**, dad, huge) hated.

"What about this rug?" Randy's (eyes, town, **mom**) asked as she pointed to the (tassels, **colorful**, nervous) rug with the tassels. "How much (of, buy, **is**) it?"

"It's not for sale," the (**salesman**, windows, stopped) said.

"Then why is it in (him, an, **the**) shop?" asked Randy's mother. "Could we (lined, **push**, that) aside the couch and chairs for (an, at, **a**) better look? I think I like (her, him, **it**)."

The salesman looked nervous, but he (surely, **pushed**, closer) aside the couch and chairs. The (**rug**, said, shop) rippled once, and then laid flat.

"(Ugly, Very, **Yes**)," Randy's mother said. "I adore this (roll, **rug**, she). We'll take it."

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Robin refused to change his dirty socks. He thought his socks were lucky. (In, It, **He**) believed the longer he wore his (**socks**, dirty, front), the luckier they became. Unfortunately, the (socks, **longer**, lucky) Robin wore his socks, the smellier (dirty, them, **they**) became. When Robin wore his socks (from, **for**, spin) two weeks straight, which he sometimes (**did**, very, done) if he had two tests in (an, **a**, of) row, a stench would trail two (were, which, **steps**) behind him wherever he went.

"Robin, (those, **this**, him) behavior has to stop," his mother (wore, tests, **told**) him. "You cannot wear the same (two, **pair**, trail) of socks day in and day (**out**, on, his). Your feet are going to rot. (What, **Now**, He) go and put that smelly pair (for, in, **of**) socks in the washing machine."

Robin (put, **did**, do) what his mom told him. He (**went**, for, gone) downstairs to the washing machine and (socks, dirty, **pulled**) off his socks. Already, he could (lid, **feel**, climb) himself becoming unlucky, but he didn't (went, **want**, sign) his mom to be mad at (they, two, **him**).

Hesitantly, he opened the lid of (an, **the**, and) washing machine, tossed in his soiled (stop, feet, **socks**), and started the washing cycle. Instead (**of**, was, to) closing the lid and returning upstairs, (him, **he**, man) pulled himself up on the dryer (up, at, **to**) watch. Robin watched his socks go (**round**, pair, spin) and round, and as he watched, (his, can, **he**) became very dizzy. His head started (two, **to**, at) spin, he lost his balance, and (**he**, him, it) fell inside the washing machine.

When (an, day, **the**) machine finally stopped, Robin was able (a, **to**, at) stand up and climb out. He (instead, already, **noticed**) he wasn't in his house anymore. (Rot, **He**, Lid) was in a place filled with (**piles**, opened, dizzy) of dirty laundry. Robin pinched his (would, **nose**, socks) and read the sign stuck in (lost, **the**, wear) ground in front of him. The (cycle, steps, **sign**) said "Dirty Laundry Land," and at (an, **the**, of) base of the sign was his (round, base, **pair**) of dirty socks.

"Well, what are (**you**, they, has) waiting for?" a voice asked. Robin (ground, wasn't, **turned**) and saw a dirty, little man (watched, **speaking**, instead) to him.

"Excuse me?" replied Robin.

"(Off, Now, **Put**) on the socks," he told Robin. "**(Put, To, Be)** on the socks and you can (lid, lost, **stay**) here and have good luck forever."

(Dirty, **Robin**, Cycle) shook his head. He didn't want (at, for, **to**) stay. He climbed back into the (smelly, **washing**, watched) machine, went home, and decided he (**would**, cannot, lucky) always wear clean socks.

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Charlie Clark had been a mailman for thirty years. He was used to delivering mail (**in**, began, to) all types of weather. He'd delivered (**letters**, man, to) on delightful days, and he'd delivered (to, **letters**, suddenly) on dreadful days.

Charlie was proud (nicely, on, **of**) his work and happy with his (idea, hit, **job**). Never, in all his years as (still, was, **a**) mailman, had Charlie ever had a (**problem**, mail, he) with a mailbox. Other mailmen complained (all, there, **about**) mailboxes on their routes, but not (**Charlie**, he'd, let).

He didn't have any worries until (can, **one**, his) day when he noticed there was (**a**, all, years) new box on his route. The (ever, **mailbox**, other) was nailed to a branch of (**a**, let, rested) dead tree. It was battered, dented, (the, **and**, a) badly rusted. The flag at its (next, type, **side**) was crooked and bent.

Charlie felt (when, **bad**, worries) about it. "People should treat their (dreadful, weather, **mailboxes**) with more respect," he muttered as (him, there, **he**) dug through his bag.

He had (there, **letters**, days) addressed to the box, so he (**pulled**, wouldn't, delivered) it open and set them inside. (Of, **He**, Mailbox) was about to pull his hand (gently, why, **out**) when the box bit him. It had (he, **a**, delightful) grip on his hand and wouldn't (stop, **let**, deliver) go.

Charlie looked up and down (**the**, he'd, routes) street for someone to help him, (he, any, **but**) there was no one in sight. (My, Years, **He**) wrestled with the box for an (**hour**, of, out), until the box spit out his (kicked, **hand**, breath).

The next day he had more (mailmen, used, **letters**) addressed to that box. With the (me, days, **letters**) in his hand, he stopped in (box, **front**, to) of it. He waited for something (**to**, a, he) happen, but the box was quiet (happy, **today**, work).

Charlie quickly slipped the letters inside (the, **and**, as) almost got his hand out before (day, **the**, and) box latched onto him again.

This (**time**, don't, let) Charlie and the mailbox had a (**fierce**, patting, not) battle. Charlie hit and kicked the (rest, **box**, been), but still the box wouldn't let

(**go**, day, so). Finally, Charlie was out of breath, (in, **and**, with) he had to stop. He rested (the, **his**, mail) head on the mailbox.

Suddenly, he (**had**, and, noticed) an idea. "There, there," he told (**the**, on, for) mailbox, patting it gently. "Why don't (**you**, the, his) let me go so I can (deliver, **bat**tle, told) the rest of my mail?"

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The beaver didn't have many friends. It wasn't because he was always (friends, because, **working**) and didn't have time to play. (Many, **The**, At) sparrow and the rabbit worked all (pair, time, **day**) too, and yet they had friends. (The, **It**, One) wasn't because of his smelly fur. (**The**, An, For) skunk and the muskrat smelled badly (at, if, **as**) well, and yet the other animals (smelled, there, **always**) spoke to them at parties.

No, (an, **the**, all) reason the beaver didn't have many (working, sparrow, **friends**) was because of his buck teeth. (**No**, The, One) other creature in the woods had (pile, **buck**, sad) teeth like the beaver, and nobody (heard, **liked**, many) them.

The other animals snickered at (his, of, **the**) beaver as he stood in the (woods, **corner**, rabbit) at parties. No one asked him (**to**, at, he) dance or offered him punch. Instead, (have, them, **they**) spoke in cruel whispers.

"Would you (spoke, **look**, pile) at his teeth," the hawk would (hear, never, **hiss**) to the owl and the rabbit. "(Wind, **Why**, What), I think they're uglier than the (**last**, work, like) time I saw him. If he (smelly, **wanted**, spoke) friends, you would think he'd at (cruel, nice, **least**) get himself a pair of braces."

(Have, **The**, Sad) rabbit would twitch her nose in (forest, punches, **disdain**). "I know," she would agree trying (on, **to**, at) hide her own teeth under her (**whiskers**, working, sparrow).

The beaver always went home sad (yet, for, **from**) parties. He had very good ears, (him, **so**, or) he always heard what of the (sparrow, friend, **animals**) said about him. "Braces indeed!" he (smelled, **thought**, disdain). "I would never be able to (have, **cut**, well) down trees if I had braces (like, know, **put**) on my teeth."

He decided to (**ignore**, smell, twitch) what the other animals said about (he, **him**, in) and get down to work. He (would, never, **built**) himself a nice dam before the (punch, **cold**, nice) winds of winter blew. He made (**a**, an, of) pile of sweet aspen bark for (reason, friend, **himself**) and stored it at the bottom (for, **of**, you) his pond.

That winter the beaver (were, know, **was**) warm and well fed. He didn't (work, **worry**, under) at all about what the other (sparrow, **animals**, beaver) said about him. He knew that (**all**, each, he) the critters who had spoken cruelly (across, **about**, went) his teeth were fools. A beaver's (agree, good, **buck**) teeth were a helpful tool in (an, him, **the**) forest, no matter what they looked (under, **like**, nice). The beaver grinned each night as (**he**, him, the) brushed his teeth.

"I am very (uglier, **lucky**, them)," he always thought to himself.

The beaver didn't have many friends. It wasn't because he was always **(friends, because, working)** and didn't have time to play. **(Many, The, At)** sparrow and the rabbit worked all **(pair, time, day)** too, and yet they had friends. **(The, It, One)** wasn't because of his smelly fur. **(The, An, For)** skunk and the muskrat smelled badly **(at, if, as)** well, and yet the other animals **(smelled, there, always)** spoke to them at parties.

No, **(an, the, all)** reason the beaver didn't have many **(working, sparrow, friends)** was because of his buck teeth. **(No, The, One)** other creature in the woods had **(pile, buck, sad)** teeth like the beaver, and nobody **(heard, liked, many)** them.

The other animals snickered at **(his, of, the)** beaver as he stood in the **(woods, corner, rabbit)** at parties. No one asked him **(to, at, he)** dance or offered him punch. Instead, **(have, them, they)** spoke in cruel whispers.

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"I am very (**uglier, lucky, them**)," he always thought to himself.

The entire family was going camping. They had never been camping before. (**Everyone**, However, Camping) was excited to see what it (never, **would**, before) be like.

It took a whole (into, camp, **week**) to prepare for the journey. Mother (never, **packed**, going) clothes and food. Father prepared the (long, see, **van**), packed the tent, and read the (like, **map**, van). The children packed activities and games (**for**, from, rest) the long trip.

The family drove (packed, before, **through**) forests and around lakes for hours. (Long, **The**, Over) scenery was beautiful, but the van (took, **was**, for) cramped. The family grew tired of (**the**, an, said) long drive.

Finally they arrived at (an, **the**, tent) campsite. Everyone piled out of the (ate, map, **van**) to explore the vacation spot. Brother (drove, **wanted**, explore) to be the first to catch (an, **a**, by) fish. Sister wanted to dive into (but, **the**, spot) clear water and swim with the (rest, bikes, **fish**). Father and Mother wanted to rest (but, **and**, van) relax. However, the trip didn't turn (in, long, **out**) as planned.

First, Brother dropped the (vacation, **sleeping**, scenery) bags in a mud puddle. Then (**Sister**, family, drove) fell off a picnic table and (first, **hurt**, piled) her head. Mother forgot to pack (water, muddy, **spoons**) and forks, so the family ate (catch, **potato**, clear) salad with their fingers. Father forgot (tent, food, **gas**) for the boat, so they couldn't (for, **go**, in) fishing.

"Camping is all about having (the, spots, **fun**) and working together," said Father. Mother (fell, **just**, was) smiled as she tried to cook (together, ground, **hotdogs**) over a weak campfire.

When night (**came**, and, drove), the family slept in the muddy (camping, **sleeping**, vacation) bags. Sister talked in her sleep, (all, or, **and**) Brother tossed in his sleep. Father (spent, drove, **snored**) in his sleep. Mother didn't sleep (**at**, in, as) all.

The family spent the morning (piled, **riding**, forgot) bikes through puddles and exploring the (night, rain, **woods**). There was not a bird or (forgot, **animal**,

water) around. Mother said birds and animals (pack, all, **run**) from loud families.

After lunch, a (tried, **storm**, relax) blew through the campsite, tossing the (**tent**, van, map) into the lake. Hail dented the (morning, **family**, hotdog) van. Everything dripped with cold rain.

(For, In, **On**) the drive home, Mother slept and (Sister, **Father**, dropped) yawned as he drove.

"Why do (**we**, us, is) have to leave so soon?" the (brother, **children**, vacation) whined. "We were having so much (so, boat, **fun**)!"

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The ice cold wind pushed against Nikki's face, making it difficult for her to keep her eyes open. Her mittened hands tightly grasped the (barely, making, **handles**) of the sled. With each bump, (it, **her**, sled) body bounced up and she had (**to**, at, a) reposition herself so she wouldn't fall (face, on, **off**) the sled as it sped down (an, **the**, her) snow-covered hill. Even though Nikki (sped, grasp, **could**) barely see where she was going, (snow, **her**, she) mouth opened wide in a huge (hill, looked, **smile**), letting snowflakes land on her tongue.

(**Finally**, Against, Handles), the sled slowed down at the (tight, barely, **bottom**) of the hill. Nikki remained aboard (they, **the**, an) sled until it coasted to a (covered, difficult, **complete**) stop. She rolled to the right, (to, **and**, or) her body landed on the soft, (calm, right, **snowy**) ground. She rolled completely on her (night, **back**, clear) and looked up at the cold, (body, sled, **clear**) evening sky.

"Wow! That was awesome!" (each, **she**, her) exclaimed. "I have to do it (**again**, down, land)!"

"Look out!" yelled a voice. "Get (hill, **out**, on) of the way!"

Without thinking, Nikki (could, stars, **rolled**) her body toward her sled. She (ever, lined, **felt**) some snow fall on her neck (toward, **between**, landed) her cap and jacket as she (clear, where, **heard**) another sled pass by.

"That was (**close**, night, even)!" Nikki thought to herself. "Mandy! Watch (snowy, aboard, **where**) you're going! You almost ran into (her, on, **me**)!" she cried.

"I'm sorry," explained Nikki's (mitten, **friend**, though) Mandy, "but I couldn't see where (he, **I**, my) was going! I didn't open my (sled, mouth, **eyes**) until it was almost too late! (Them, **That**, More) sure was fun, though. Are you (calm, rolled, **ready**) to climb back up the hill (**and**, but, on) do it again?"

"Of course!" replied (Mandy, **Nikki**, friend). "Let's go!"

They climbed the huge (stop, going, **hill**) together in the clear, freezing night. (Its, **The**, Do) weather was calm, and the stars (was, bare, **were**) shining ever so brightly. Snow was (another, **clinging**, between) tightly to the branches of the (complete, freezing, **evergreen**) trees that lined the sled run. (Cold, **The**,

She) snow crunched under their feet. The (clear, evening, **beauty**) of the night nearly overwhelmed the (**girls**, wide, voice) until they got to the top (too, **of**, for) the hill. Then they jumped on (them, landed, **their**) sleds and flew off to the (almost, **bottom**, friend) again.

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It was difficult moving to a new house. When I was eight, we left (**our**, eight, to) old neighborhood and moved to a (my, **new**, building) one. We packed my dresser, my (wallpaper, difficult, **bunk**) bed, my computer, and my scooter. (New, **In**, One) every room of the house, boxes (**were**, and, left) piled high like building blocks.

The (**house**, I, everything) felt still. I walked from room (**to**, my, but) room trying to remember what each (yard, would, **one**) used to be like. As I (thought, **walked**, but) through the living room, I noticed (I, loosing, **orange**) scribble marks on the wallpaper. My (that, piled, **younger**) brother made those marks when we (to, the, **used**) to play art museum. Entering my (began, **bedroom**, scooter), I noticed a large scratch on (we, **the**, old) hardwood floor. That was where my (**puppy**, new, house), Clyde, and I used to play (get, the, **fetch**) with his toy kitten. Wandering down (**the**, to, of) hallway, I noticed pencil marks near (packed, **the**, did) bathroom door. That was where my (every, yard, **father**) used to measure me to see (**how**, my, a) tall I had grown each birthday. (The, **I**, Of) already began to miss the wallpaper (house, **on**, as) the walls and the light fixtures (be, walked, **on**) the ceilings.

"This has always been (used, of, **my**) house," I thought. "I don't want (**to**, from, new) leave." There had to be some (and, **way**, room) I could keep my house.

Looking (and, like, **out**) my bedroom window, I noticed the (my, scribbled, **tree**) house Dad and I constructed years (**before**, suddenly, besides). I hurried to the backyard, climbed (the, **up**, from) to my tree house, and decided (walked, I, **not**) to go unless my tree house (noticed, marks, **went**) too. I would keep the tree (**house**, going, blocks) to myself, and then I would (was, **be**, my) happy.

Just then my neighbor Logan (myself, **arrived**, moved) to say goodbye. "I wish you (when, new, **could**) stay, but I know you'll have (to, neighbors, **even**) more fun at your new house," (computer, goodbye, **he**) said sadly.

Suddenly, I began to (all, smile, **think**) of someone beside myself. I thought (to, a, **about**) my house, my yard, and my (someone, **neighbors**, miss). I would miss everything, but I (**was**, tree, the) going to get a new house, (**a**,

more, it) new yard, and new neighbors. Logan, (trying, **though**, it), was just losing a friend. I (was, **realized**, just) then that Logan needed the tree (face, **house**, living) more than I did.

"Goodbye, Logan. (The, New, **Take**) care of the tree house," I (then, needed, **said**). "It's all yours."

The smile on (boxes, room, **Logan's**) face made me feel much better.

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The twins went to the museum. Their father took them to see (**the**, this, what) dinosaurs. "Garth, Jessie, this is the (twins, stone, **museum**)," Father said. "Do you know what (look, **you**, your) find in a museum?"

Garth walked (father, museum, **through**) the door and saw a very (bigger, **large**, their) animal. "I see an elephant!"

Jessie (**walked**, through, father) a little further and saw many (very, father, **pretty**) rocks and jewels. "I can see (went, **lots**, many) of very pretty stones."

"Very good, (father, whole, **Garth**) and Jessie. You can find many (dinosaurs, **different**, elephant) things in a museum. Today I (see, were, **am**) going to show you dinosaurs," Father (went, **said**, duck).

"What's a dinosaur?" the twins asked.

"(**Dinosaurs**, Elephant, Different) are animals that lived many, many (gone, **years**, stone) ago. Let's see if we can (like, this, **find**) any."

The twins quickly walked to (an, **the**, saw) dinosaur hall. They saw many different (alligator, elephant, **dinosaurs**) there. "I only see bones," Garth (some, **said**, show).

"The dinosaurs are gone now. Their (**bones**, museum, when) are the only parts left, and (good, **they**, them) have turned to stone," Father said.

(Let, Now, **The**) three of them walked through the (bigger, **museum**, father) looking at the bones of dinosaurs. (One, **Some**, Good) dinosaurs were as little as a (Garth, rocks, **mouse**). Some were as large as a (**car**, rock, can). Some were even bigger than a (bird, about, **house**)! The twins spent the whole day (through, **learning**, further) about dinosaurs. The day was very (in, how, **fun**).

The twins noticed that some dinosaurs (found, **looked**, spent) like the animals on the earth (stone, bones, **today**). They saw a large dinosaur that (little, **looked**, found) like a duck. Another looked like (**a**, of, an) hairy elephant. Some looked like alligators (saw, but, **and**) crocodiles. One looked like a bird, (as, **and**, or) one reminded them of a shark.

"(He, **I'm**, Too) glad I didn't live when the (**dinosaurs**, crocodile, alligator) did. I'm sure I would have (large, **been**, some) lunch for a dinosaur," said Jessie.

"(Have, No, **Not**) me. I would have run away (the, **from**, for) them and hid in a cave," (**said**, saw, not) Garth.

Jessie roared like a dinosaur (or, **and**, to) ran after Garth. They looked through (like, some, **the**) rest of the dinosaur exhibit.

The (show, duck, **twins**) will always remember their trip to (them, **see**, turn) the dinosaurs.

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A young polar bear was out for an evening stroll with his mother and twin brother. He saw a small seal pup (at, in, **out**) on the ice and went to (looking, **investigate**, motherhood).

As the young bear raced out (**to**, at, and) the ice to check out the (twin, **seal**, young), the seal heard the bear's paws (stroll, tracks, **hitting**) the snow-covered ice and dove (out, **into**, cry) the water through a hole in (was, pup, **the**) ice. The seal did not want (**to**, his, at) be around when the bear arrived. (An, **The**, Ice) bear saw the seal slip into (an, paw, **the**) water. Too bad. He just wanted (not, **to**, as) make a friend.

The young bear (heard, stroll, **turned**) around and started to walk back (at, **to**, the) his family. He walked and walked, (or, on, **but**) it was getting dark now. The (seal, **cub**, twin) could not trace his tracks on (slip, **the**, fast) ice and began walking in the (happy, soft, **wrong**) direction. Getting lost in the middle (for, be, **of**) the winter was no fun at (even, **all**, paws) for the young polar bear. He (**was**, too, lost) scared when he found himself all (saved, **alone**, when) on the frigid ice.

He sat (by, out, **on**) the snow and started to cry. (He, Not, **His**) cries sounded like growls. He missed (saw, him, **his**) family so much. Although the young (seal, **bear**, growl) did not know it, his cries (**could**, young, raced) be heard for many miles. It (bad, all, **was**) not long before he could see (ice, **two**, the) white animals walking happily toward him (at, by, **on**) the ice.

It was his mom (**and**, just, or) his brother! He was saved! He (scared, growls, **started**) running toward his family as fast (and, **as**, at) his soft paws would allow. He (were, back, **was**) almost back to his family when (him, **he**, cry) realized he should probably stop running. (To, **But**, Or) he was too late. He slid (**right**, check, middle) by them. The polar bear family (looking, **chuckled**, happily) silently as the young bear glided (much, dark, **past**) them. Young polar bears can be (his, two, **so**) silly.

A young polar bear was out for an evening stroll with his mother and twin brother. He saw a small seal pup (**at, in, out**) on the ice and went to (**looking, investigate, motherhood**).

As the young bear raced out (**to, at, and**) the ice to check out the (**twin, seal, young**), the seal heard the bear's paws (**stroll, tracks, hitting**) the snow-covered ice and dove (**out, into, cry**) the water through a hole in (**was, pup, the**) ice. The seal did not want (**to, his, at**) be around when the bear arrived. (**An, The, Ice**) bear saw the seal slip into (**an, paw, the**) water. Too bad. He just wanted (**not, to, as**) make a friend.

The young bear (**heard, stroll, turned**) around and started to walk back (**at, to, the**) his family. He walked and walked, (**or, on, but**) it was getting dark now. The (**seal, cub, twin**) could not trace his tracks on (**slip, the, fast**) ice and began walking in the (**happy, soft, wrong**) direction. Getting lost in the middle (**for, be, of**) the winter was no fun at (**even, all, paws**) for the young polar bear. He (**was, too, lost**) scared when he found himself all (**saved, alone, when**) on the frigid ice.

He sat (**by, out, on**) the snow and started to cry. (**He, Not, His**) cries sounded like growls. He missed (**saw, him, his**) family so much. Although the young (**seal, bear, growl**) did not know it, his cries (**could, young, raced**) be heard for many miles. It (**bad, all, was**) not long before he could see (**ice, two, the**) white animals walking happily toward him (**at, by, on**) the ice.

It was his mom (**and, just, or**) his brother! He was saved! He (**scared, growls, started**) running toward his family as fast (**and, as, at**) his soft paws would allow. He (**were, back, was**) almost back to his family when (**him, he, cry**) realized he should probably stop running. (**To, But, Or**) he was too late. He slid (**right, check, middle**) by them. The polar bear family (**looking, chuckled, happily**) silently as the young bear glided (**much, dark, past**) them. Young polar bears can be (**his, two, so**) silly.

Some people believe all swans are gentle and beautiful. Some people will go so far (**as**, at, the) to say that if the eagle (had, **is**, to) the king of all birds, then (that, an, **the**) swan is the angel.

Swans are (gentle, **stately**, angels) with their white feathers. Swans are (feathers, believe, **graceful**) with their long necks. But I (made, **met**, my) a swan that wasn't beautiful or (grizzly, fiercer, **graceful**), and it certainly was not gentle. (My, **I**, To) met a swan that was fiercer (long, with, **than**) a dragon and more mischievous than (an, **a**, it) troll. I met a swan that (was, all, **had**) the temper of a bull and (egg, **the**, an) manners of a grizzly bear.

One (angel, gentle, **summer**) this swan haunted my backyard. It (**stayed**, wasn't, grizzly) in a cave down by the (like, birds, **river**). This swan was not graceful and (silver, **white**, that) like other swans. Her tattered feathers (**were**, down, was) gray in color. Her long neck (and, **was**, were) bent slightly because of her horrible (mischievous, grandfather, **disposition**).

It is because of this swan (was, **that**, all) I had no friends that summer. (An, **The**, More) swan guarded my house, you see. (Too, It, **She**) patrolled the yard like a soldier (but, **and**, more) chased away anyone who might have (manners, soldier, **wanted**) to visit me.

"What made the (egg, this, **swan**) so angry and mean?" I asked (**my**, me, or) grandfather, who was trapped in the (cave, **house**, birds) with me during the summer.

He (might, their, **told**) me that the swan hadn't always (like, **been**, was) dirty and dangerous. It was once (corner, cement, **polite**) and tame. Now it despised humans (**because**, haunted, slightly) of some children who stole her (grizzly, **silver**, gentle) egg.

"Do you think," I questioned (was, he, **him**), "that if I found the egg, (**the**, it, an) swan would let us out of (me, **the**, gray) house?"

My grandfather wasn't too sure, (or, and, **but**) he told me I should still (and, **try**, met) my hardest to find the egg. (**I**, My, He) searched everywhere and finally found the (that, try, **egg**). It was buried behind a cement (away, **stone**, color) in the furthest and darkest corner (for, to, **of**) the basement. The egg was

slightly (beautiful, **tarnished**, graceful), but it wasn't broken. "How did (I, to, **it**) get there?" we wondered as we (finally, **stepped**, because) outside.

When the swan saw her (made, neck, **egg**), silver tears fell from her eyes. (My, **I**, Of) set the egg on the lawn (who, **and**, or) she quickly took it away.

We (visit, **never**, that) saw the swan again, but others (**have**, her, has) claimed to have seen her happily (feathers, **floating**, patrolled) down the river with her gosling.

Some people believe all swans are gentle and beautiful. Some people will go so far **(as, at, the)** to say that if the eagle **(had, is, to)** the king of all birds, then **(that, an, the)** swan is the angel.

Swans are **(gentle, stately, angels)** with their white feathers. Swans are **(feathers, believe, graceful)** with their long necks. But I **(made, met, my)** a swan that wasn't beautiful or **(grizzly, fiercer, graceful)**, and it certainly was not gentle. **(My, I, To)** met a swan that was fiercer **(long, with, than)** a dragon and more mischievous than **(an, a, it)** troll. I met a swan that **(was, all, had)** the temper of a bull and **(egg, the, an)** manners of a grizzly bear.

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There was a great oak tree that stood on the corner of Colorado Street. All the local kids knew and (long, **loved**, drove) the oak tree. They met there (in, for, **on**) evenings after school and on humid (stood, **summer**, black) nights. The great oak was the (immediately, emergencies, **headquarters**) for their clubs and the safe (turned, **place**, line) for their games of tag and (cut, big, **hide**)-and-see. As long as the (**tree**, great, kids) stood on the corner of Colorado (school, **Street**, person), the children would have a place (at, of, **to**) meet and dream.

One day a (tree, **man**, long) in a shiny black car drove (after, under, **down**) Colorado Street. He saw the children stood, (**laughing**, evenings, wonderful) on the corner, but his gaze (were, off, **was**) locked on the towering oak. The (heard, **man's**, front) name was Mr. Gregory Greed, and (**he'd**, when, it) just had a wonderful idea. He (emergencies, **immediately**, headquarters) picked up his cell phone and (knew, who, **made**) a call.

"We'll have to widen (evenings, **Colorado**, towering) Street," he said to the person (for, who, **on**) the other end of the line. "(**Of**, To, In) course we'll have to cut down (for, **all**, many) the trees. That big one on (an, one, **the**) corner of Colorado Street will bring (to, it, **in**) a pile of cash." With a (**tiny**, local, oak) smile, Mr. Greed turned off his (tree, **phone**, great) and drove to his office across (day, had, **town**).

The children on Colorado Street were (**shocked**, course, children) when they heard that Mr. Greed (after, corner, **wanted**) to cut down all the trees (but, **and**, pile) widen the road in front of (cell, local, **their**) houses. They called an emergency meeting (night, **under**, across) the great oak right away.

"We (done, all, **can't**) let them cut down the trees," (**said**, great, name) a girl who was in sixth (house, **grade**, trees). "There must be something we can (cut, saw, **do**)."

"I know," said a boy. "We'll (trees, has, **have**) everyone on Colorado Street write a (**letter**, corner, phone) to Mr. Greed. We'll tell him (of, **we**, do) don't want our trees cut down."

(Colorado, Laughing, **Another**) child nodded. "We'll make signs," he (down, write, **said**). "We'll protest. We can't let them (**cut**, gaze, off) down our trees, especially this one," (him, **he**, to) said as he placed his hand (**on**, by, and) the oak.

The children wrote their (street, **letters**, person) and made their signs. They worked day (when, but, **and**) night to save the trees. Eventually, (**Mr.**, I, his) Greed saw that he couldn't beat (up, **the**, end) kids, so he gave up and (protest, children, **decided**) not to cut down the trees.

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Tim carefully walked along the sidewalk and whispered to himself, "Step on a crack and break my mother's back. Step on a crack and break (**my**, a, me) mother's back."

He was concentrating so (run, **hard**, want), placing each foot inside the sidewalk (cracks, breaks, **squares**) that he didn't notice Mrs. Anderson (step, **until**, while) he bumped into her.

"Ooof!" he (**exclaimed**, carefully, sidewalk).

"Pardon me," replied Mrs. Anderson. "Please (across, step, **watch**) where you are going, Timmy."

"I'm (her, **just**, ever) taking a walk," said Tim. "Why (do, was, **are**) you sitting there? The sidewalk isn't (go, from, **for**) sitting."

"I'm pulling weeds," explained Mrs. (sidewalk, **Anderson**, whispered). "They grow between the sidewalk cracks, (but, back, **and**) I like to keep it looking (hard, **nice**, with). I heard you talking to yourself, (snow, break, **Timmy**). Do you know that I used (my, **to**, at) say the same thing when I (**was**, were, on) your age?"

"Did you ever step (at, **on**, up) a crack?" asked Tim. "I don't (your, know, **want**) to break my mom's back. She (cracks, **already**, replied) has a sprained ankle from playing (smile, her, **ball**) with me. I don't want her (at, **to**, the) break her back too!"

Mrs. Anderson (**looked**, across, pardon) at Tim with a smile. "Yes, (talk, **Timmy**, then). We all step on the sidewalk (winter, notice, **cracks**). You do too, when you're not (already, **thinking**, sidewalk) about that rhyme. Its fun to (all, **say**, step) the rhyme, but you have to (careful, sprained, **remember**) it's only a superstition. There's no (**way**, walk, ever) your mother's back and your steps (are, off, **on**) the cracks are related. In fact, (you, **the**, one) only person I know who has (only, **ever**, step) broken his back is Mr. Peterson (fun, **from**, for) across the street. Remember when he (kept, off, **fell**) off his roof last winter?"

Tim (between, wanted, **thought**) hard, and then he remembered the (**accident**, sidewalk, whisper). Mr. Peterson was famous in the (step, used, **city**) for his display of Christmas decorations. (Taking, Just, **Every**) year he

attracted crowds of people (at, **to**, we) Timmy's street with his lovely show. (Just, **Last**, Then) year, as he placed the last (remember, accident, **reindeer**) on his roof, he fell. He (are, **slid**, step) off the icy roof and landed (**on**, at, no) the only part of his yard (between, pulling, **without**) snow—the shoveled sidewalk!

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