

Alex loved to visit his Great Aunt Heidi because she had a library filled with books. The library's shelves held books on (read, once, **every**) subject. There were books on rocks (that, **and**, if) books on clocks. There were books (**on**, in, you) mountains and books on fountains. But (at, all, **the**) one thing that made Aunt Heidi's (perfect, **library**, ladder) really special was the library's elves.

(Whenever, Airplane, **Library**) elves are rare little creatures. Most (books, **people**, several) think they are extinct, but a (or, his, **few**) still exist. Many of them live (**behind**, peaches, resolve) the books on the shelves of (spoke, you, **Aunt**) Heidi's library.

Alex discovered the elves (were, **one**, ever) blustery winter afternoon when he was (republic, language, **searching**) the shelves for a book about (reaching, **airplanes**, frightened). He'd climbed all the way to (felt, an, **the**) top of the library ladder and (were, **was**, on) straining to reach a thick book, (there, him, **when**) suddenly he heard a voice. It (to, **was**, be) a warm and friendly voice.

"Here (**you**, it, for) go," the voice said, and Alex (look, **felt**, they) the book he'd been reaching for (that, made, **pop**) into his hands. Alex tumbled off (an, my, **the**) ladder. He would have hit the (colors, **stone**, chair) floor with a hard thud had (see, **it**, to) not been for the library elf's (**magic**, them, with). The elf cast a magic spell (fury, **that**, rug) stopped him an inch from the (creature, dictate, **ground**) and then set him down gently.

"(Timid, **Thanks**, You're)," Alex said to the little elf. "(At, Me, I) owe you one."

The elf peered (**down**, winter, repel) from his shelf at Alex. He (read, voice, **wore**) a felt cap and a sweater (tumbled, **knitted**, ladders) in several colors. "Yes, you do," (an, **the**, him) elf said. "I would like you (he, at, **to**) read that book to me."

Alex (detach, **looked**, lived) at the book in his hands. (**He'd**, You, Top) forgotten all about airplanes when the (book, some, **elf**) first spoke to him.

"Okay," Alex (have, **said**, the). Then he sat down in a (reach, **cushy**, stone) chair in front of the fire (sit, or, **and**) started to read. He read several (rocking, onetime, **chapters**) without looking up. When he finally (**looked**, thicker, friend) up, he saw a dozen library (books, **elves**, rocks) sitting on the braided rug in (with, behind, **front**) of him. All of the elves (was, but, **were**) listening intently.

"Don't stop," they told (**him**, his, new). "Read, read, read."

Alex read to (thick, **them**, his) long into the night. He finished (bit, were, **the**) book and looked up to find (all, **the**, an) library elves were gone. They had (friendly, knuckle, **vanished**) as soon as he had read (for, **the**, was) last word on the last page.

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The fox wasn't wise like the owl, thrifty like the squirrel, hard working like the beaver, or determined like the robin. The fox was sly and secretive.

(**She**, Fur, Her) slept most of the days away (**in**, the, up) her den with her kits curled (of, **around**, many) her. She went out to hunt (by, fiery, **only**) on nights when the moon was (not, **hidden**, about) by clouds. Not many of the (red, **other**, nose) animals saw her during the day (not, **or**, clouds) met up with her at night.

"(The, I, Red) know that nasty fox is stealing (**hens**, she, thought) from the henhouse," the squirrel told (**the**, animals, saw) owl one afternoon as they sat (the, rabbit, **on**) a branch and gossiped.

"That's why (**she**, the, morning) doesn't show her red nose around (and, **here**, met) during the day. That thieving fox (day, **makes**, her) me angry."

The owl didn't say (during, show, **anything**). She thought about the rabbit she'd (tongue, doesn't, **caught**) that morning and held her tongue. (With, Wasn't, **What**) would the squirrel have to say (the, like, **about**) her after she'd heard that she (**ate**, her, was) rabbits for breakfast?

That evening at (her, dam, **sunset**) as the fox slipped out of (at, **her**, night) den, her fur was a fiery (**red**, like, beaver) in the light of the setting (**sun**, fox, on) and her eyes were black and (**clever**, squirrel, watched). She was just about to slip (his, **under**, like) the farmer's fence when she heard (owl, thrifty, **someone**) snicker at her from a tree (**branch**, and, fox) above.

It was the robin. "Good (he, the, **evening**), fox," she said. "Where are you (**off**, as, awe) to this fine night? There was (or, hard, **a**) ruckus at the farm yesterday morning. (The, I, Like) heard it when I flew over (the, **in**, fox) search of worms. It seems some (**creature**, caught, working) has been sneaking into the henhouse (three, **and**, in) stealing hens. You wouldn't know anything (sly, under, **about**) that, would you?"

The fox ignored (of, beaver, **the**) rude robin and slipped under the (row, tossed, **fence**), but instead of heading toward the (days, **farm**, determined) as she did most nights, she (slept, **cut**, and) down to the river.

Beaver was (**working**, towards, instead) on his dam, and he watched (known, **with**, out) awe as the fox caught three (nights, **fish**, sly) in a row and tossed them (with, **on**, out) the shore. He'd always known the (moon, **fox**, them) was as smart as she was sly.

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Chuck was an excellent student. He was attentive to his teachers (him, or, **and**) kind to his fellow classmates. He (shy, **sat**, ball) quietly on the bus and held (**his**, he, sign) sister's hand when they crossed busy (questionable, perpendicular, **intersections**).

Chuck and his family lived next (as, **to**, up) an airport. At night, Chuck would (to, hip, **lie**) in his bed and listen to (an, **the**, of) huge planes fly overhead. One night (**while**, stay, even) Chuck was trying to fall asleep, (say, **he**, it) got an idea.

The next morning, (family, been, **Chuck**) put his idea into action. He (looked, **found**, some) a big, thick piece of paper (busy, or, **and**) folded it several times. When he (held, **was**, were) done, he didn't have much more (while, they, **than**) a crumpled paper ball. He got (**frustrated**, detecting, attentive) and threw it toward the trash. (He, **It**, And) flew through the air, but it (learn, fellow, **didn't**) soar. Chuck wanted to make something (his, **that**, than) soared.

At school, Chuck was the (**first**, know, huge) one to sign up to visit (was, in, **the**) library when the teacher asked. At (an, **the**, next) library, Chuck loaded his arms with (once, ball, **books**) on airplanes and flying machines.

The (fall, **rest**, bus) of the afternoon, Chuck hardly listened (at, up, **to**) his teacher. Instead, he looked out (such, **the**, an) window and daydreamed. He imagined he (had, much, **was**) in a jet that could fly (**faster**, asleep, several) than sound. He imagined he was (an, **the**, air) bravest and most daring pilot in (off, so, **the**) history of the world.

While Chuck (his, **was**, an) daydreaming, his teacher called on him. (There, Night, **Chuck**) looked up and started to blush. (His, **He**, If) had to admit that he hadn't (gone, into, **been**) paying attention. When the final bell (look, **rang**, out), the teacher asked Chuck to stay (sigh, into, **after**) class.

"I'm worried about you, Chuck," (**she**, idea, her) said. "You always pay attention." Chuck (port, **told**, next) her what he'd been daydreaming about.

"(At, As, **So**), you want to learn how to (personal, **construct**, straight) a paper airplane?" she asked with (I, an, **a**) smile. Then she reached over and (folded, **lifted**, tried) a piece of paper off her (**desk**, bus, would). Chuck watched as she did some (dare, **fancy**, most) folds and a few clever twists. (The, While, **When**) she was finished, she held a (laughing, **beautiful**, stitches) paper plane out to him.

"Go (school, **ahead**, final) and try it," she said.

Chuck (**threw**, found, rest) the airplane. It soared across the (jet, **room**, trash), out the door, and down the (while, over, **hall**). It flew further than even Chuck (have, **would**, smile) have imagined.

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Fanny Jenkins had no patience. She couldn't wait for the butter (at, **to**, was) melt on her potatoes at dinnertime. (By, Her, **She**) couldn't wait for the tub to (**fill**, now, turn) with water at bath time. She (perform, potato, **couldn't**) wait for the sun to shine (so, **on**, in) a cloudy day.

"Now! Now! Now!" (You, Don't, **She**) would shout as she stomped her (room, **foot**, lead). "I want it sooner, not later! (**I**, Me, An) want it now, not never!"

Fanny's (those, **mother**, people) was at the end of her (got, too, **rope**). She was losing her patience with (his, **her**, if) daughter. One morning Fanny had wet (winds, blow, **hair**), and her mother wouldn't let her (**walk**, sick, foot) to school until it was dry. (Were, Stuffy, **Fanny**) had a soar throat, and Fanny's (time, **mom**, was) was afraid the cold air would (when, wait, **make**) her feel worse.

"I don't want (you, time, **your**) soar throat to turn into a (room, **cold**, have), Fanny," she told her pouting daughter. "(**You**, It, By) can't get sick. That's the last (quote, **thing**, resist) we need around here. You're always (a, it, **so**) impatient to get well."

Fanny stomped (she, **her**, the) boot. Sure, her hair was a (bright, water, **little**) wet, but not wet enough for (**her**, told, his) to catch a stupid cold. "I (told, then, **want**) to walk to school now," she (soon, **told**, said) her mother. "I want to get (feel, time, **there**) sooner, not later."

With those words, (**she**, lose, her) stomped out the door and down (an, **the**, with) sidewalk to school. It was a (pupil, least, **wintery**) day. The winds were blowing from (new, **the**, her) north, and they were carrying sleet (now, but, **and**) snow. By the time Fanny got (at, I, **to**) class, her bright red curls were (**icicles**, butter, sooner).

Sure enough, the next morning Fanny (round, **woke**, were) up with a stuffy head. "I'm (was, next, **not**) sick," she told her mother when (her, **she**, had) came in the room with a (difficulties, perception, **thermometer**) and a bottle of medicine. "I'm (**never**, bath, want) sick. I don't have time to (so, and, **be**) sick. Sick people are wimps."

"Now, (your, **Fanny**, mother)," her mother said in a calming (throat, well, **voice**). "You are sick, and you're going to have (**to**, get, at) stay in bed until (your, **you**, time) get better." Then she made Fanny (into, let, **take**) a huge spoonful of horrible tasting (airbags, **medicine**, leashes).

"Yuck," Fanny complained, and then she (**sneezed**, reserve, stupid). "I want to be better right (stay, **now**, soon). I have things to do, places (at, was, **to**) go, and people to see," she (stomp, **told**, need) her mother.

"Oh, no you don't," (for, later, **said**) Fanny's mom. "For once, you have (let, **to**, as) be patient and wait for your (not, boot, **body**) to get well. Now take a (**nap**, for, cold), Fanny."

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First Street School is holding its eighth annual carnival. It will be held on March (still, grade, **third**) from four to nine o'clock. Everyone (a, **in**, do) town is invited to join the (will, that, **fun**), excitement, and thrills.

The fifth-grade (mirrors, **students**, formatted) will decorate the hallways at the (lights, o'clock, **school**). They will hang up colorful streamers, (chain, **bright**, hidden) balloons, curly ribbons, and tiny lights. (**Each**, All, For) hallway will be decorated in a (verdict, stuffed, **special**) theme. The main hallway that passes (be, **the**, join) principal's office will be done in (an, is, **a**) western style.

The carnival will offer (**over**, wear, vigor) thirty games. There will be a (republic, through, **cakewalk**), a miniature fishing pond, and a (done, **giant**, best) ring toss. A new game called "(Choice, Hang, **Tower**)" will be introduced. Players will build (insects, **towers**, eighth) out of straws, cotton balls, and (held, **pipe**, list) cleaners. The children who build the (lights, colorful, **tallest**) towers that don't fall down will (**win**, have, fun).

One room will have strobe lights, (torrent, thrill, **mirrors**), and music for dancing. Another room (was, **will**, four) have face painting. Choices for pictures (**will**, and, the) include a glittered butterfly, a Martian, (an, **a**, in) variety of flowers, clowns, and superheroes.

(Done, An, **The**) gymnasium will have a maze racetrack (are, new, **set**) up. Racers will wear gunnysacks and (spy, **use**, be) scooters to navigate through the maze. (Ribbons, Thirteen, **Students**) can go on a treasure hunt (on, **in**, do) the music room. Partners will work (**together**, racetrack, starless) to locate and collect hidden objects. (**One**, Will, All) partner will wear a blindfold while (for, an, **the**) other partner gives clues for finding (tiny, **items**, lights) written on a list.

Students can (come, fry, **win**) great prizes during the games and (laughable, **activities**, threatened). Contestants can win stuffed animals, yo-(that, ones, **yos**), wind-up cars, whistles, beaded jewelry, (did, **key**, don't) chains, plastic insects or dinosaurs, glow-(at, so, **in**)-the-dark neon sticks, comic or (**joke**, void, vary) books, magician kits, and all other (dark, torch, **sorts**) of cool prizes.

People can eat (is, **a**, do) snack or dinner in the cafeteria. (Total, Music, **Foods**) on the menu will include fruits, (flowers, **popcorn**, volume), hot dogs, hamburgers, carrots, pickles, salad, (strobe, knock, **juice**) or milk, cookies, and fries.

The (faces, **kids**, for) at First Street School can hardly (**wait**, work, will) for the carnival to begin. It'll (or, a, **be**) the best carnival ever!

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It was October, and the leaves were falling from the trees. Ducks and geese were flying south. (Void, **Bears**, Baby) were preparing for their winter slumber. (Done, An, **The**) cool wind blew smoke from chimneys (ran, **and**, or) people were wearing sweaters and coats.

(**Squirrel**, Vitamin, Storage) was storing acorns for the season (whole, **ahead**, torch). He knew winter would be long (down, or, **and**) cold, and he had to be (buried, **ready**, little). His fur was growing thicker, his (leave, found, **body**) was storing fat, and he was (future, **storing**, volume) acorns in his nest for winter. (At, Him, **He**) had to hurry. Eventually it would (**snow**, find, winter), and it would be hard to (whole, work, **find**) acorns then.

Acorns were Squirrel's favorite (nest, say, **food**). He liked to eat them for (chimneys, **breakfast**, torpedoes). He liked to eat them for (**lunch**, keep, summer). He even liked to eat them (from, the, **for**) supper or for an afternoon snack. (Obtained, **Squirrel**, Wonderful) needed to store many acorns for (then, an, **the**) winter!

Squirrel ran down his tree (leaves, **trunk**, geese) and searched the grass under his (juicy, ducks, **tree**). Tasty acorns were hidden in the (**grass**, resist, fifty). He found an acorn, put it (had, as, **in**) his mouth, and ran back up (them, **the**, an) tree. He dropped it in his (fly, coats, **nest**), which was a little hole in (an, cool, **the**) tree. His nest would keep him (some, **warm**, times) all winter. When he was done, (**he**, so, him) ran back down to look for (long, **more**, had) acorns.

Squirrel spent the whole day (prepare, hardly, **finding**) acorns. Sometimes he found them lying (up, **on**, as) top of the grass. Sometimes he (liked, thick, **found**) them still hanging in the trees. (Of, **He**, His) looked for acorns that he had (**buried**, under, liked) earlier in the summer. Over the (May, **year**, will), he had buried hundreds of acorns, (him, or, **but**) sometimes he forgot where he buried (his, **them**, for). He would dig a little hole (giant, keep, **where**) he thought he had buried one. (**When**, For, Done) he didn't find an acorn, he (rack, **would**, were) dig a little hole in another (would, lunch, **place**). Then he'd find a juicy acorn. (Them, An, **He'd**) scurry up the tree with his (perform, **newfound**, director) treasure and put it in his (**cozy**, put, many) nest.

Because he worked so hard, (hundreds, **Squirrel's**, sometimes) tasty acorns kept him well fed (find, cool, **all**) winter.

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Because he worked so hard, **(hundreds, Squirrel's, sometimes)** tasty acorns kept him well fed **(find, cool, all)** winter.

It was raining outside, and there was nothing for Norman to do.

"I have the most boring life," (**he**, is, him) moaned, as he plopped down on (to, an, **the**) couch. Just as he switched on (an, **the**, with) television, the power went out. Watching (an, do, **a**) blank television was not something Norman (outside, **wanted**, there) to do. He looked around at (**the**, loud, her) four dismal walls that kept him (push, side, **out**) of the rain.

"Now what am (be, **I**, In) going to do?"

"You could tidy (out, way, **up**) your room," his mom suggested, "or (something, switched, **organize**) your closet. Your closet is a (somewhere, **disaster**, doorknob), Norman. I'm actually frightened of what (he, hips, **you**) might find in there. You haven't (suggest, **cleaned**, Norman) it in a decade."

There was (placing, broken, **nothing**) Norman could say after his mom (**had**, have, only) made up her mind. He was (open, into, **going**) to have to clean out his (mighty, **closet**, hands).

The only problem was that Norman (organize, **couldn't**, actually) even open his closet door. He (you, was, **had**) it held closed with a large (fudge, **wooden**, awful) block. There was so much junk (up, so, **in**) there that it wouldn't stay shut (an, **on**, out) its own. To push aside the (**wooden**, darker, around) block and open the door would (only, went, **mean**) doom for Norman. He'd be crushed (for, **by**, we) falling trash as soon as he (where, his, **turned**) the knob. He decided that he (**would**, from, wasn't) only pretend to clean his closet, (or, **but**, at) his mother came into his bedroom.

"(Just, **Well**, Could)," she said, placing her hands on (his, what, **her**) hips, "let's see you get to (dark, tidy, **work**)."

Norman put both hands on the (**doorknob**, suggest, gardener) and tugged. The entire doorframe gave (it, **a**, by) mighty CREAK. There was a loud (bedroom, victim, **rumble**) as Norman was pushed back by (his, **the**, an) wave of forgotten junk he'd jammed (out, was, **into**) his closet. When the loud noise (**faded**, closed, couch), Norman was lying on his back (decade, into, **under**) a mountain of broken toys, dirty (around, **socks**, block), and books. With a groan, he (inside, quite, **lifted**) himself to his feet.

There was (an, out, a) awful smell wafting from somewhere inside. (Closet, **Norman**, Socks) looked into the depths of his (which, **closet**, conduct). It was dark, dreary, and mysterious. (Somewhere, **Anything**, Disagree)—absolutely anything—could be hiding in (hands, kept, **there**). Maybe trolls, ghouls, or gnomes, Norman (**thought**, closed, genius). This job could be an adventure! (Actually, Jammed, **Pushing**) up his sleeves, Norman got to (side, **work**, you).

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Kirby never had any money for candy, but his friends always did. Every afternoon on his walk home (for, **from**, old) school, Kirby would follow his friends (any, been, **down**) the sidewalk and across the street (his, **to**, at) the candy shop.

There were trays (**of**, my, the) candy set up in rows in (an, for, **the**) front display window. There were chocolate (pockets, **kisses**, little) and licorice sticks. There were jelly (bald, money, **beans**), salted peanuts, and candy corn. There (**was**, that, were) so much candy, but Kirby could (said, sweet, **never**) afford anything. Sometimes his friends would (think, **give**, had) him a piece of candy corn (but, I, **or**) a chunk of chocolate, but most (**of**, do, any) the time they forgot to share.

(Any, Here, **One**) afternoon, Kirby was standing at the (floors, **counter**, always) of the candy store with his (peanut, salted, **friends**) when the old man who made (one, **all**, rows) the candy and owned the shop (**spoke**, never, front) to him.

"How come you never (set, walk, **buy**) any candy for yourself, young man?" (did, **he**, his) asked. Kirby shoved his hands in (**his**, he, them) pockets. He didn't want to say (corn, for, **that**) he didn't have any money, so (but, **he**, a) told a little lie instead.

"Umm, (by, me, **I**) don't have a sweet tooth, that's (that, **all**, any)," Kirby said. "I've never really liked (corn, Kirby, **candy**) very much."

The old man smiled (as, **at**, is) Kirby. He was practically bald but (was, one, **had**) a mustache that curled up on (**the**, an, you) ends. "Then you are the perfect (today, young, **person**) to work in my shop," he (gave, **told**, hands) Kirby with a smile. "You will (with, make, **start**) tomorrow. I will pay you for (chuck, **your**, his) work, and since you don't have (up, an, **a**) sweet tooth, you can buy something (**salty**, paying, young) with your wages."

The next day (many, **Kirby**, very) started his new job. He stretched (have, stick, **taffy**) and bagged hard candy. He dusted (stories, **shelves**, actual) and swept the floors. He also (**watched**, storage, reserve) the old man as he worked. (Chocolate, **Sometimes**, Smoothed) the old man would insist that (candy, little, **Kirby**) try one of his sweets.

"Here," (his, was, **he**) would say while shoving a piece (him, **of**, an) fudge at Kirby. "Try this fudge, (**and**, man, but) tell me if your friends will (bald, **like**, much) it. Do you think I should (have, up, **add**) more marshmallows or more sugar?"

Kirby (were, **would**, also) take a bite of fudge, and (**it**, he, if) would melt in his mouth. "I (also, **think**, have) they'll love it just the way (to, he, **it**) is," he would say.

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Maria made beautiful clay pots. Her pots were big and round (of, **and**, or) smooth. She glazed them with a (sting, three, **black**) glaze to show off their perfection. (**Maria**, Other, They) liked that her pots were perfect, (and, the, **but**) she cared more that they were (painted, **useful**, white). She made her pots for cooking (see, but, **and**) carrying water. She made them for (hundreds, **everyday**, interest) use and was pleased to see (**people**, what, birds) eat and drink out of them.

(Here, **Maria**, When) worked with clay every day. She (glowed, just, **saved**) a special time in the afternoon (**each**, after, cared) day just for working. During this (that, back, **time**), she sat in the cool shadows (sip, **of**, for) her house and rolled the damp (glaze, their, **clay**) in her hands.

The clay Maria (never, she, **used**) for her pots came from the (bowl, **red**, use) cliffs in the nearby desert. Whenever (for, were, **she**) ran out of clay, she had (**to**, up, at) hike for several miles to get (out, **more**, them). Then she carried it back on (she, how, **her**) shoulders. Maria made every pound of (lump, **clay**, shake) count.

Maria made serving bowls so (**delicate**, interest, spiders) the shadow of a hand could (had, **be**, her) seen through their sides. She painted (woman, carried, **clever**) black and white designs on her (carry, **jugs**, kiln) and the shapes of birds and (nearby, showed, **animals**) on her bowls and plates.

As (do, of, **the**) years went by, Maria became an (too, **old**, day) woman but still made many pots. (**People**, Wasn't, Water) came to visit her just to (and, **see**, used) her work and learn from her. (Big, Were, **She**) became famous in places hundreds of (after, **miles**, shadow) from her home. Still, she never (**put**, care, to) much stock in what other people (painted, wisdom, **thought**) of her work.

Maria continued to (wolf, **make**, day) her pots, bowls, and jugs out (to, be, **of**) the red desert clay even as (it, **an**, a) old woman. Year after year, she (**smoothed**, wherever, addition) them with stones and polished them (out, for, **with**) bits of leather until they glowed. (Them, **She**, Sat) taught the children who showed interest (by, red, **in**) pottery how to smooth the lumps (for, **from**, every) a piece of clay and how (**to**, at, in) fire up a kiln in the (went, round, **earth**) to bake the pots. She taught (year, **them**, they) how to paint delicate snakes, spiders, (but, her, **and**) dancing men and women on the (**sides**, many, design) of their pots. But most of (them, many, **all**), she taught them how to live (if, **a**, on) life filled to the fullest with (red, **art**, was).

Maria made beautiful clay pots. Her pots were big and round (**of, and, or**) smooth. She glazed them with a (**sting, three, black**) glaze to show off their perfection. (**Maria, Other, They**) liked that her pots were perfect, (**and, the, but**) she cared more that they were (**painted, useful, white**). She made her pots for cooking (**see, but, and**) carrying water. She made them for (**hundreds, everyday, interest**) use and was pleased to see (**people, what, birds**) eat and drink out of them.

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My best friend, Jeff, and I decided to explore my attic one afternoon. We used to go up there (both, asked, **when**) we were younger and pretend to (why, **be**, but) soldiers or cowboys. The attic is (up, an, **a**) creepy place. There's a bookshelf, a (**bunch**, gown, about) of old junk, and tons of (where, crown, **spider**) webs.

When we got up there, (boy, **Jeff**, have) bumped the bookshelf, and a stone (looking, strange, **hallway**) came into view. I couldn't believe (she, **it**, go). It was a trap door! Jeff (doing, we'll, **went**) in and motioned for me to (world, **follow**, toward). It was very dark, and as (my, so, **we**) walked along the hallway, it got (there, **darker**, doing) and darker. We came to a (**large**, goes, young) room with a golden chair in (by, got, **it**). We continued exploring and suddenly bumped (webs, **into**, all) something. Again, I couldn't believe it. (**It**, We, How) was two other kids about our (look, **age**, take).

"What are you doing here?" we (one, at, **all**) shouted at the same time. What (was, **were**, time) these strangers doing in my attic? (Say, **It**, **We**) had never seen them before, and (great, **their**, rather) clothes were unusual. One of them (met, were, **was**) wearing a gown, the other was (**wearing**, pretend, stones) a tunic, and both of them (like, would, **were**) wearing crowns.

We stared at each (about, **other**, final) for a long time. It was (requirements, accomplished, **uncomfortable**) just standing there. Finally one of (they, **them**, and) asked, "What are you doing in (**our**, way, his) kingdom?" Jeff and I gave each (could, gotten, **other**) a strange look. We both turned (same, but, **and**) looked toward the bookshelf. It was (got, **gone**, again)! Where were we? Could it be (other, than, **that**) we somehow traveled in time to (is, **a**, an) medieval world?

We must have looked (**scared**, attic, anyway) because the boy wearing the tunic (asked, have, **said**), "Take it easy. We'll show you (hallway, **around**, stared), and of course, we'll show you (**the**, time, an) way out."

Even though I would (all, same, **much**) rather read about an adventure than (came, **have**, you) one, that afternoon turned out just (could, **fine**, long) anyway. Our newfound friends were very (stormiest, direction, **hospitable**). We met the other members of (**their**, golden, look) families and learned a great deal (same, both, **about**) what life was like during the (world, strange, **Middle**) Ages. The time passed quickly, and (during, **before**, you're) we knew it, we had to (**say**, must, our) goodbye. That afternoon was one attic (straight, hallways, **adventure**) we would never forget.

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On cold winter mornings, Jane would get up at 4:30 a.m. when it was still very dark. She was always still sleepy, but (**she**, her, the) knew what was waiting for her (they, were, **was**) worth it.

After Jane dressed in (they, **her**, so) warmest shirt and wool sweater, she (were, heavy, **would**) tiptoe into the kitchen where she (often, **would**, some) find her dad sitting at the (calves, will, **table**). He would be reading the morning (shirt, **paper**, they) and eating breakfast. Jane would have (**her**, go, she) breakfast too, and they'd linger in (an, all, **the**) warm kitchen for a few extra (sweater, **minutes**, morning).

Then Jane would pull on her (cold, them, **red**) snowsuit, and her dad would button (of, **up**, the) his heavy jacket. They would walk (things, gerbils, **outside**) together into the crisp morning air. (As, **It**, A) was often so chilly that Jane (over, strong, **could**) see her breath in clouds in (Jane, **front**, inside) of her. It was usually so (shovel, chicken, **chilly**) that a sparkling layer of frost (**would**, were, wool) cover the fence posts and her (can, too, **dad's**) tractor.

All the barn cats would (prop, **sleep**, gone) in a pile of hay just (**inside**, resist, verse) the door to the barn. They (always, crisp, **learned**) they could keep each other warm (would, **that**, than) way. Jane and her dad would (**go**, it, up) into the cozy barn that smelled (so, **of**, for) hay and warm animals. As soon (at, be, **as**) the baby calves would see Jane (pull, but, **and**) her dad, they'd start to bawl. (**It**, He, Buy) was Jane's job to feed the (they'd, fence, **calves**), and they learned that when Jane (linger, **showed**, would) up, they were about to get (requested, **something**, activation) good.

Jane's dad would help her (keep, when, **fill**) big plastic bottles with warm milk. (An, **The**, To) baby cows would watch her with (them, cozy, **their**) big brown eyes as Jane carried (at, **the**, use) bottles to them in the back (go, for, **of**) the barn. Jane would prop the (animals, sooner, **bottles**) up against her hip as she (**fed**, walk, will) each calf. Sometimes a little calf (were, **would**, start) buck, and Jane would jump back (few, or, **and**) laugh. She wouldn't stop feeding them (into, **until**, each) every calf drank all the milk (**it**, are, do) needed to grow strong.

Jane had (door, **many**, her) jobs on the farm. She milked (hay, just, **cows**), fed chickens, and sometimes shoveled manure. (Them, **But**, Or) feeding the calves was by far (him, cows, **her**) favorite job.

On cold winter mornings, Jane would get up at 4:30 a.m. when it was still very dark. She was always still sleepy, but **(she, her, the)** knew what was waiting for her **(they, were, was)** worth it.

After Jane dressed in **(they, her, so)** warmest shirt and wool sweater, she **(were, heavy, would)** tiptoe into the kitchen where she **(often, would, some)** find her dad sitting at the **(calves, will, table)**. He would be reading the morning **(shirt, paper, they)** and eating breakfast. Jane would have **(her, go, she)** breakfast too, and they'd linger in **(an, all, the)** warm kitchen for a few extra **(sweater, minutes, morning)**.

Then Jane would pull on her **(cold, them, red)** snowsuit, and her dad would button **(of, up, the)** his heavy jacket. They would walk **(things, gerbils, outside)** together into the crisp morning air. **(As, it, A)** was often so chilly that Jane **(over, strong, could)** see her breath in clouds in **(Jane, front, inside)** of her. It was usually so **(shovel, chicken, chilly)** that a sparkling layer of frost **(would, were, wool)** cover the fence posts and her **(can, too, dad's)** tractor.

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One day Fern was collecting herbs in the forest when she heard voices in the glen just over the hill. Fern knew that all the land (been, than, **that**) stretched for miles around belonged to (**her**, the, she) father. She knew that only outlaws (but, **and**, was) criminals would dare trespass on her (listen, voices, **father's**) land. Her father was very wealthy, (or, **and**, dear) he forbade people to walk on (**his**, him, they) land without his consent.

Fern had (top, **her**, she) father's permission, so she wasn't too (stretch, pertain, **worried**) about trespassing. She was, however, worried (wasn't, **about**, there) the voices she heard. The owners (you, up, **of**) the voices might try to kidnap (**her**, dear, his). After all, she was the daughter (for, be, **of**) a rich man. Still, Fern couldn't (myself, **stamp**, carved) out her curiosity. She had to (mean, one, **see**) who was trespassing on her father's (told, **land**, about).

As quietly as she could, Fern (**crept**, made, only) up the slanting slope and peeked (face, plant, **over**) the top. There was no one (some, **there**, tree) to listen to. The forest was (scared, another, **silent**). The only sounds were those of (were, **tree**, plant) branches swaying gently in the breeze. (**Fern**, Her, From) tipped her head and listened.

"You're (then, so, **not**) hearing things are you, dear?" a (enjoy, **voice**, inside) asked. The voice came from high (try, out, **up**) in the trees. As soon as (her, **Fern**, too) heard it, she knew it wasn't (do, at, **a**) human voice and she started to (**back**, very, tell) away.

"Ah now, don't be scared, (who, **dear**, big)," the voice said. Just then a (land, still, **tree**) branch swooped down and blocked Fern's (toward, **retreat**, kidnap).

"I wouldn't dream of hurting you, (people, Father, **lovely**) Fern. You're named after a plant. (To, Who, **How**) could one plant hurt another?" asked (it, **the**, an) voice.

Fern was confused for a (because, breeze, **moment**). What did the voice mean by (**that**, did, too)? Then she realized it was a (hill, sing, **plant**) that was speaking to her. In (day, **fact**, only), it was a colossal oak tree.

(**The**, Up, An) tree opened its branches so Fern (girl, forest, **could**) make out the ancient face of (her, **an**, a) old woman carved in the bark. (She, Soon, **Her**) eyes appeared wise.

"I was talking (at, **to**, if) myself," she told Fern. "Sometimes I (is, he, **get**) lonely. Tell me about yourself, dear (were, **girl**, ones)."

"My name's Fern," Fern stammered.

"That (is, me, **I**) already know," said the tree. "It's (slant, **warm**, was) today. Would you like me to (peek, over, **fan**) you with my branches? It's been (**a**, to, if) while since I could do something (them, **for**, from) a friend."

"Okay," said Fern as (her, will, **she**) enjoyed the breeze.

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One morning June was certain she'd seen a unicorn outside her bedroom window. She had just woken up from (an, **a**, is) deep sleep and was on her (five, to, **way**) down to the kitchen when she (off, as, **saw**) a streak of silver and white (**whiz**, horse, raise) through her backyard.

She hadn't been (unicorn, morning, **dreaming**). Oh no, June Joy Jones didn't (deep, **just**, has) dream things up. She was a (she, deep, **very**) practical little girl. She was extremely (before, **smart**, silver) and clear-headed.

Throughout all her grade (**school**, rabbit, maybe) career, she'd gotten all A's and (seen, **never**, dream) a B. She was a good (streak, **student**, branch), but what she didn't have was (by, is, **a**) very keen imagination. She never made (**stuff**, just, sleep) up. She didn't believe in magic, (her, **make**, spun)-believe, or luck. That's how she (told, that, **knew**) she wasn't imagining the horned horse. (She, **June**, Not) Joy Jones wouldn't have seen a (**live**, deep, with) unicorn if a live unicorn hadn't (missed, grade, **really**) been there. Still, June didn't tell (the, **her**, she) parents about the unicorn over breakfast.

(One, Off, **Both**) her parents were scientists who wouldn't (branch, **believe**, certain) anything unless they saw it floating (so, are, **in**) a test tube. June knew that (up, **if**, for) she told them about the unicorn, (down, them, **they**) would simply raise their eyebrows and (over, **tell**, made) her she'd been dreaming. So she (became, never, **didn't**) say a word and vowed to (**look**, good, smile) for the unicorn herself as soon (at, **as**, be) she got a chance.

That chance (were, throw, **came**) thirty minutes later when June was (tissue, **waiting**, simply) for the school bus. She knew (her, **she**, or) had exactly five minutes to spare (**before**, after, horned) the bus stopped at her driveway, (in, at, **so**) she slipped off her backpack and (visibly, **stepped**, unless) into her backyard. June found rabbit (**and**, but, no) squirrel tracks, but no unicorn tracks. (Joy, Them, **June**) was never one to give up (always, hadn't, **though**), so she kept searching. She became (by, **so**, did) caught up with her search that (**the**, seen, for) school bus came and left without (she, down, **her**).

"Maybe I didn't see a unicorn," (Jones, **June**, still) murmured to herself.

Suddenly a branch (floating, clouds, **snapped**) behind her. June spun around. There (were, **was**, one) a beautiful white unicorn with a (deep, didn't, **silver**) mane and golden hooves!

"You missed (**your**, you, good) bus," the unicorn said. "I could (about, seen, **give**) you a ride if you'd like."

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"I cannot fall asleep," Ned said to himself quietly. The stars outside were shining brightly (always, cluster, **through**) his window, and the starlight pooled (the, **on**, out) his bedspread, giving off a silver (moon, **glare**, high) against his shut eyelids. Ned pressed (one, him, **his**) eyes closed very tightly, but that (done, **didn't**, sure) seem to help.

Finally Ned sat (him, on, **up**) and peered out his window. The (**stars**, over, very) were gorgeous tonight. Ned was sure (him, to, **he**) could see just about every constellation (to, **in**, if) the universe. He knew from school (his, then, **that**) a constellation was a group of (with, **stars**, window) that formed a picture in the (**sky**, curl, moon). Out of all the constellations that (his, was, **were**) out tonight, the Big Dipper glowed (soon, as, **the**) brightest. It was so bright, its (hurdle, **light**, sword) made Ned squint.

Since Ned was (**very**, all, him) curious about the night sky and (if, his, **he**) wasn't sleeping anyway, he crept from (off, **his**, he) bed. He went outside and stood (the, do, **on**) his lawn. He was barefoot and (off, **in**, it) his flannel pajamas, but he didn't (**care**, eye, move) how he looked because everyone else (and, so, **on**) his block was sleeping.

He tipped (seem, over, **back**) his head and looked up. He (because, **watched**, eyelids) the stars for a long time. (Go, Him, **He**) watched for so long that the (there, **stars**, window) seemed to move right before his (**eyes**, sword, one). A cluster of stars that looked (but, **like**, man) a horse galloped across the sky (or, do, **and**) hurdled the moon. A man walked (give, **along**, hope) with a sword, swinging it at (group, each, **other**) stars as if they were baseballs. (**Then**, From, Since), to Ned's surprise, the Big Dipper (finger, sword, **dipped**) down and picked him up. It (gallop, **lifted**, anyway) him high up into the dark (else, foot, **sky**).

"This is great," Ned hollered, clinging (at, **to**, his) one of the corner stars. "Yahoo! (**Let's**, The, Just) go to Jupiter!"

The Big Dipper (bed, **must**, can) have heard him because the huge (requirements, **constellation**, nevertheless) abruptly turned and soared toward Jupiter. (Sky, Went, **Ned**) was able to study the huge (villain, **planet**, school) up close. He even got to (**poke**, all, swing) his finger in the huge storm (for, than, **that**) brewed on one side of the (moved, **planet**, stars).

Ned soared around the sky all (lawn, very, **night**). Finally at dawn, the Big Dipper (**dipped**, formed, across) down and dropped Ned off on (him, **his**, long) front lawn. Then all the stars (**faded**, dipper, close) from the sky. What an exciting (**night**, bare, walked) of star gazing!

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One of my favorite things to do during the holidays is to walk around my neighborhood at night. Almost every house is decorated in (**some**, for, just) way. Most houses have lights strung (berries, visible, **around**) their windows. The colors usually vary (for, **from**, will) house to house. On my street, (town, every, **one**) house shines with all green lights, (timid, **while**, quest) another sparkles with lights of many (neighbor, **different**, cottages) colors.

Just a block from my (**house**, things, have) sits a cottage on a corner (old, walk, **lot**). The house is small and the (inside, **owner**, light) is an older woman. You wouldn't (color, living, **think**) she would be able to decorate (the, **it**, at) much, but she always does.

The (green, **house**, cookie) is wrapped in lights all season (**long**, run, few). Strings of bright lights cling to (them, if, **its**) eaves and porches. Mounted on the (stove, **roof**, old) is a big silver star. You (**can**, have, them) see the star from all the (when, many, **way**) across town. In the front yard, (by, **the**, but) trees are all trimmed. Some of (**them**, while, lot) are decorated in lights. Others are (wouldn't, **adorned**, colored) with popcorn, berries, and pinecones. At (from, sound, **night**), candles in colored glass bowls line (an, vary, **the**) sidewalk and cheery holiday music fills (an, **the**, is) air. If you're lucky, the old (**woman**, that, hood) will ask you to come inside (from, had, **for**) a cup of hot cocoa. I've (house, **been**, gone) that lucky a few times.

The (cocoa, **house**, able) is just as pretty on the (**inside**, around, street) as it is on the outside. (House, Would, **There**) are soft couches and even more (conference, northeastern, **decorations**) in the living room. In the (during, **kitchen**, mounted), cookies fill every available space on (do, **the**, if) countertops. A pot of hot cocoa (**is**, to, are) always sitting on the stovetop. Each (for, old, **of**) the old woman's cats wears a (woman, digit, **golden**) bell. She has many cats, and (**when**, able, air) they all run around, the bells (then, **make**, cling) a beautiful sound. The old woman (purple, nights, **herself**) has long gray hair that she (shines, **wraps**, also) in a bun. She has wise, (adjust, yard, **green**) eyes.

"Sit down and have a (is, **cup**, top) of my hot cocoa," she'll say (**to**, if, has) you. "It's my great grandmother's recipe."

(An, My, **The**) cocoa warms you as it trickles (glass, out, **down**) your throat. When you empty your (lights, **glass**, lucky), the old woman will look at (if, **you**, her) and ask, "Another?" You won't be (asked, **able**, front) to refuse.

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One weekend both my parents had to work, so I went to visit my Great Aunt Viola. Auntie lives in a stone cottage (winding, **covered**, nearly) with mosses near the shore of (an, me, **a**) winding stream. Despite the fact that (**her**, good, she) nearest neighbor lives five miles away, (you're, little, **Auntie**) has many friends.

When I arrived, (what, **one**, all) of her dearest friends, Jack Raspberry, (were, then, **was**) on her roof cleaning out her (**chimney**, crickets, backhoe). Auntie was standing in her driveway (for, loud, **with**) her hands on her hips and (his, **her**, both) head tipped back laughing at him. (When, Viola, **Jack**) was covered with soot and ash, (**but**, in, or) he was good-natured enough to (are, **wave**, dance) at me as I climbed out (for, to, **of**) my parent's car.

"Why, good morning, (inside, **Velvet**, three)!" he said.

He stopped what he (her, all, **was**) doing and did a little dance. (Parents, Ourselves, **Everyone**) gasped because he bobbed and nearly (Velvet, **tumbled**, winding) off the roof. Luckily, he caught (bright, **himself**, finding) just in time and bowed as (you, did, **we**) clapped. Aunt Viola clapped the loudest.

"(**Great**, Velvet, Week), green crickets!" Aunt Viola shouted out. "(Fireflies, Bobbled, **Remember**) when I was just a girl, (want, **Jack**, many)? Back then I did the jitterbug (a, to, **on**) Sissy Johnson's roof."

"You sure did," (back, tells, **said**) Jack as he climbed down the (nearest, **ladder**, stone). "I've never seen anyone dance better (**than**, but, for) you, Viola."

Auntie grinned and invited (we, out, **us**) in for tea. She served the (week, **tea**, away) in her bright yellow parlor on (too, she, **her**) finest Queen Anne china. Viola chipped (dear, **her**, them) teacup, but she only shrugged and (**took**, got, over) another gulp.

"So," she said looking (by, my, **at**) me. "What are we going to (at, **do**, be) with ourselves this weekend, Velvet? I (jitter, consult, **figured**) you could help me weed the (covered, **garden**, cottage), and then we'll get ourselves all (**dressed**, because, parlor) up and go to a show. (Has, Out, **When**) it gets dark, we can chase (laughing, **fireflies**, Raspberry)."

Jack Raspberry looked at Auntie Viola (but, gets, **and**) asked, "Don't you think you're a (good, **bit**, chin) old for those activities?"

"Jumping jelly (**beans**, china, shout), child," Auntie exclaimed. "That's the point. (So, I, Me) invite Velvet over here on the (brighten, remember, **weekends**) because I want to feel like (an, **a**, at) young girl again." She glanced over (it, **at**, as) me and winked.

"On Sunday," she (**whispered**, disarmed, accident), "I'll teach you how to ride (an, **a**, be) horse bareback."

One weekend both my parents had to work, so I went to visit my Great Aunt Viola. Auntie lives in a stone cottage (**winding, covered, nearly**) with mosses near the shore of (**an, me, a**) winding stream. Despite the fact that (**her, good, she**) nearest neighbor lives five miles away, (**you're, little, Auntie**) has many friends.

When I arrived, (**what, one, all**) of her dearest friends, Jack Raspberry, (**were, then, was**) on her roof cleaning out her (**chimney, crickets, backhoe**). Auntie was standing in her driveway (**for, loud, with**) her hands on her hips and (**his, her, both**) head tipped back laughing at him. (**When, Viola, Jack**) was covered with soot and ash, (**but, in, or**) he was good-natured enough to (**are, wave, dance**) at me as I climbed out (**for, to, of**) my parent's car.

"Why, good morning, (**inside, Velvet, three**)!" he said.

He stopped what he (**her, all, was**) doing and did a little dance. (**Parents, Ourselves, Everyone**) gasped because he bobbed and nearly (**Velvet, tumbled, winding**) off the roof. Luckily, he caught (**bright, himself, finding**) just in time and bowed as (**you, did, we**) clapped. Aunt Viola clapped the loudest.

"(**Great, Velvet, Week**), green crickets!" Aunt Viola shouted out. "**(Fireflies, Bobbled, Remember)** when I was just a girl, (**want, Jack, many**)? Back then I did the jitterbug (**a, to, on**) Sissy Johnson's roof."

"You sure did," (**back, tells, said**) Jack as he climbed down the (**nearest, ladder, stone**). "I've never seen anyone dance better (**than, but, for**) you, Viola."

Auntie grinned and invited (**we, out, us**) in for tea. She served the (**week, tea, away**) in her bright yellow parlor on (**too, she, her**) finest Queen Anne china. Viola chipped (**dear, her, them**) teacup, but she only shrugged and (**took, got, over**) another gulp.

"So," she said looking (**by, my, at**) me. "What are we going to (**at, do, be**) with ourselves this weekend, Velvet? I (**jitter, consult, figured**) you could help me weed the (**covered, garden, cottage**), and then we'll get ourselves all (**dressed, because, parlor**) up and go to a show. (**Has, Out, When**) it gets dark, we can chase (**laughing, fireflies, Raspberry**)."

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It was an especially hard winter in Alvin's village. The only wood the village people (anything, **collected**, gigantic) that fall was wet and moldy, (it, day, **so**) their fires were half-hearted and (forget, **smoky**, when).

Alvin's uncle was feeling the strain (for, was, **of**) having an extra mouth to feed. (**Since**, With, Have) Alvin was that extra mouth, he (gathered, especially, **sometimes**) went without breakfast or dinner.

"Go (out, **and**, or) find some firewood for us," Alvin's (then, many, **uncle**) would command. "Then maybe I'll let (make, **you**, my) eat."

Alvin made his way deep (those, but, **into**) the forest in search of wood. (His, Bit, **He**) walked for many miles. Sadly, there (**was**, ever, were) no dry timber on the ground, (try, so, **and**) he had forgotten his uncle's axe.

(Chips, **Snow**, Again) started to fall on Alvin's shoulders. (Him, For, **He**) staggered as far as he could, (**but**, or, to) he was tired and hungry and (too, has, **he**) finally fell to his knees. He (having, **would**, were) have fallen face first in the (extra, dine, **snow**), but a glimmer caught his eye. (An, **The**, Went) glimmer came from a silver ax (forest, quarter, **leaning**) up against a massive oak tree. (His, Just, **The**) tree was the biggest thing Alvin (**had**, to, was) ever seen in his life. Its (firewood, massive, **branches**) stretched far above the other trees (or, **and**, oak) seemed to touch the distant stars.

(Off, Made, **From**) the depths of the forest, a (**gentle**, dinner, ground) woman's voice spoke to him. "If (him, **you**, see) can cut me down, you are (feeling, biggest, **worthy**) of my wood, Alvin the Great."

"(When, **Who's**, Let) Alvin the Great?" Alvin asked, but (no, is, **the**) forest around him was silent. Alvin (**picked**, first, search) up the ax and stared at (**the**, an, fell) tree. He was crazy to think (made, **that**, they) he could chop it down, but (him, can, **he**) had to try. If he didn't (all, **try**, made) something, he would surely starve.

His (**first**, green, around) swing of the ax sent its (then, eyes, **blade**) deep into the bark of the (dry, **tree**, fire). A strange music filled Alvin's ears. (It, But, **He**) pulled the ax free and swung (first, **again**, caught) and again. Wood chips flew, and (**sweat**, wood, thing) gathered on his brow. With a (dinner, above, **sound**) like thunder, the tree tipped and (gold, **fell**, made) to the ground. Alvin stared in (firewood, although, **amazement**) at what he had done. The (**tree**, seen, stars) lay on its side. He did (to, oak, **it**)! With the help of the people (did, **of**, for) the village to carry the wood (flew, net, **back**), no one would be cold this (years, crazy, **winter**) and Alvin's uncle would let him (**eat**, than, far).

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Leo went to the forest every day to gather firewood. He would collect the wood, tie (and, a, **it**) into small bundles, and carry the (life, with, **bundles**) home each day. He would pack (than, this, **his**) lunch and stay in the forest (**until**, and, from) sunset. At noon he would have (**his**, shared, to) lunch, and at noon a bird (the, box, **would**) visit him. It was white with (**ash**, a, bird,)-colored wings and was larger than (lunch, **a**, visit) dove but smaller than an eagle. (The, **Leo**, Dove) always shared a morsel of his (larger, lived, **food**) with the bird. Leo called it (was, **Jayto**, bird) and would talk to it from (**time**, but, suddenly) to time.

One very hot summer (treasure, gather, **day**), Leo began to eat his lunch (**and**, it, wings) Jayto arrived right on time. Leo (**gave**, always, eagle) him some of his lunch, and (**the**, with, it) bird eagerly pecked at it. It (with, **was**, a) so hot; Leo decided to take (with, it, **a**) nap. As he lay down, the (business, with, **bird**) began to peck and caw at (and, **him**, possible). The bird was able to convince (**Leo**, mangoes, and) to follow him. Jayto kept flying (it, **small**, than) distances waiting for Leo to catch (**up**, the, smaller). Finally they came upon a broken (**stone**, flew, morsel) wall.

Leo had once heard that (wall, of, **a**) rich businessman used to live here (**long**, every, uncovered) ago. One day he left for (**a**, every, town) foreign country and never returned. His (was, a, **wife**) lived alone for a long time, (him, called, **and**) it was said that she buried (ground, broken, **her**) jewelry box and that a strange (and, **bird**, back) stood guard over it attacking (day, fear, **anyone**) that got near.

Was it possible (**that**, be, he) Jayto was this bird? Suddenly the (**bird**, large, home) flew from the wall to the (long, mansion, **ground**) and started pecking. Leo helped the (lunch, **bird**, stay), and sure enough, they uncovered a (it, **jewelry**, became) box. It was filled with gold, (eat, **diamonds**, from), rubies, and other precious stones.

Leo (would, **decided**, a) not to go back to town (sunset, built, **for**) fear that his treasure would be (wood, with, **taken**) from him. With Jayto on his (small, ponds, **shoulder**), he traveled to a large city (at, have, **far**) away. He became a rich man (with, could, **and**) built a beautiful mansion. The mansion (and, that, **had**) a large garden filled with ponds (a, noon, **and**) flowers. Jayto had all the mangoes (**that**, bird, into) he could eat, and Leo lived (all, **a**, at) long and happy life.

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Oscar loved waking up on mornings when snow was falling steadily. He would hurry through breakfast and (**quickly**, single, waking) brush his teeth so he could (fly, for, **go**) outside. Oscar would walk to school (but, **and**, on) try to catch snowflakes in his (have, card, **mouth**).

Oscar wasn't a very graceful boy. (**It**, He, May) was hard enough for him to (they, snow, **walk**) down the sidewalk without tripping when (so, **it**, did) wasn't snowing. But when he tipped (with, self, **his**) head back and held his mouth (was, **open**, other), Oscar was a walking disaster. He (steady, middle, **would**) run into light posts and parked (**cars**, fast, nose). He would run into fire hydrants (but, on, **and**) other kids walking to school. So (the, **far**, long), Oscar had not managed to catch (so, by, **a**) single snowflake in his mouth.

Once (it, **he**, and) caught somebody's hat that had been (twirl, into, **swept**) away by the wind. Once he (**caught**, tipped, wonder) a mouthful of car exhaust and (flakes, **coughed**, diameter) all the way to school. Once (for, if, **he**) caught an acorn falling from an (hard, **oak**, one) tree. But he never caught a (sidewalk, frontier, **snowflake**).

Oscar watched the other kids have (it, **a**, is) grand time catching snowflakes on their (adjust, lights, **tongues**). They laughed as they twirled under (**the**, fire, an) falling snow, catching snowflakes every time (catch, them, **they**) opened their mouths.

"I wonder what (**snowflakes**, nighttime, confinement) taste like," Oscar said to himself. "(I, Me, If) wonder if they taste salty or (passed, grace, **sweet**) or maybe even sour?"

One afternoon (hat, **at**, to) recess, Oscar stood in the middle (do, **of**, had) the playground with his head tipped (open, when, **back**) and his mouth wide open. Someone (**threw**, went, walked) an eraser in his mouth and (snowing, accuser, **everyone**) laughed. Oscar merely spit it out (into, **and**, but) resumed his stance. Minutes passed and (at, if, **a**) million snowflakes fell on his face (car, nor, **and**) slid past his nose. Some snowflakes (gone, **got**, that) caught in his eyelashes, and he (**had**, his, was) to blink them away. But not (or, **a**, it) single snowflake landed in his mouth. (This, **Then**, Went) the bell rang and Oscar sighed.

"(Oscar, You, **Drat**)," he said, and just as he (opened, **said**, mouth) it, a snowflake landed on his (**tongue**, acorn, always).

"Mmmmm," said Oscar, and he kept (had, **his**, him) mouth open as he walked toward (an, to, **the**) door.

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Reginald the rabbit wanted to travel. He sat in his hovel reading (good, **books**, place) about trains and planes. He read (will, plane, **books**) about far away lands. He wanted (at, **to**, had) travel around the world.

Reginald packed (he, I, **a**) bag. His bag held clothes, food, (**and**, sit, or) money. He said goodbye to his (getting, rabbit, **friends**) and hopped off.

"I'm off to (from, **see**, read) the world!" he shouted. "I'm sure (we, went, **I'll**) have a very exciting journey."

"See (him, **you**, nice) later," replied his friends. "We hope (nice, **you**, him) have a good trip. We will (**miss**, saw, away) you!"

Reginald wasn't sure how much (him, the, **he**) would miss his friends. They were (more, often, **just**) regular friends, and they were always (days, **there**, book). He wanted some different friends. He (first, several, **wanted**) some interesting friends from different places.

(Through, **Reginald**, Rabbits) was ready to see the world. (His, Do, **He**) wanted to travel around the world (my, at, **as**) much as possible. His first trip (**was**, have, at) to the bus stop. He planned (at, a, **to**) take a bus to the airport. (An, **The**, Off) bus driver was surprised to see (**a**, an, if) rabbit get on the bus. The (my, **bus**, him) was comfortable, and the people were (cloth, **very**, most) nice to Reginald. They said rabbits (plane, where, **should**) ride buses more often.

Reginald got (**off**, over, went) the bus at the airport and (gone, **went**, other) straight to his airplane. He quickly (outside, always, **hopped**) on his flight, and the plane (were, **took**, then) off. He was the first rabbit (as, at, **to**) fly in a seat and not (**in**, too, by) the cargo area with the suitcases. (By, **He**, Is) was a real passenger. The plane (saw, were, **took**) him across an ocean. He looked (**out**, so, lay) the window and saw nothing but (some, into, **water**) below. "The world is a very (hop, up, **big**) place with many different people," Reginald (possible, **thought**, seeing). "It is not like my home (**with**, how, him) my friends and my comfortable hutch."

(An, Him, **The**) plane landed in another country where (to, **the**, get) people spoke a different language. Reginald (were, never, **didn't**) understand the people. He got off (**the**, him, an) plane, carried his bag through the (stopped, another, **airport**), and found a taxi. The taxi (went, **took**, from) him to the train station. He (**rode**, would, hopped) the train for several days. Reginald (**enjoyed**, straight, general) the train ride. When the train (said, world, **ride**) was over, he was bored. He (ready, **liked**, nice) visiting other countries, but he missed (he, were, **his**) friends. He took a boat home, (on, **and**, them) his friends were happy to see (**him**, said, they). "I like to travel, but I (rabbit, known, **think**) I like home best," said Reginald.

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Santo and his family lived at the base of a great mountain. The top of the mountain was (talking, **ringed**, inside) with clouds. Its flanks were covered (**in**, but, as) tall trees and grasses. The mountain (construct, **protected**, objection) them from the fierce winds that (**swept**, woke, told) the land. The lake in the (greatness, qualities, **mountain's**) shadow provided them with fresh water (he, **and**, or) fish. Santo, his family, and the (moments, feeling, **people**) of the village believed there was (not, **no**, as) better place in the world to (was, **live**, laugh). The mountain was their protector, and (**it**, has, him) would stand forever.

Every year the (things, imagine, **village**) had a great feast to celebrate (an, **the**, from) mountain and give thanks. People ate (still, **until**, when) their stomachs were full and danced (knew, took, **until**) their feet ached. Everyone went to (**bed**, get, tree) happy and slept well into the (**next**, more, lake) day. At least, that's what they'd (saw, the, **done**) every other year.

Santo knew that (activate, **something**, congress) wasn't right when he woke up (be, so, **on**) the morning of the feast. He (from, **was**, were) still sleepy, but he knew he (**had**, by, can't) felt the earth tremble, for just (an, **a**, to) moment, under his feet. Nobody else (was, will, **felt**) the quiver. They laughed and told (he, **him**, knew) the ground would tremble that evening (rock, **while**, until) they were dancing. Santo left the (for, cloud, **room**) to stand outside. He began talking (**to**, for, why) the mountain as he sometimes did.

"(Me, A, **I**) know I felt the ground move (punish, village, **beneath**) my feet just a moment ago," (it, **he**, I) told the great swell of rock. "(Is, Me, **I**) wasn't imagining things."

Santo thought the (**mountain**, believed, anytime) understood him, as he watched a (swept, give, **curl**) of smoke escape from its tall (**peak**, Santo, else). Santo shook his head. Now, he (full, **most**, give) certainly was imagining things.

Just then (him, if, **he**) heard his sister squeal from inside (an, **the**, just) house. "Yuck," she said, "this water (where, slept, **tastes**) like rotten eggs. We can't have (over, **our**, its) water tasting like rotten eggs for (an, up, **the**) feast tonight. It will ruin everything."

(**Santo**, Hear, Peak) continued to watch the mountain. He (certain, heard, **didn't**) know when, but he knew something (left, **was**, were) going to happen.

"Santo, come and (curl, **eat**, he) your breakfast," his mother called from (beneath, **inside**, moment) the house. "We have a big (**day**, room, felt) ahead of us."

Santo and his family lived at the base of a great mountain. The top of the mountain was **(talking, ringed, inside)** with clouds. Its flanks were covered **(in, but, as)** tall trees and grasses. The mountain **(construct, protected, objection)** them from the fierce winds that **(swept, woke, told)** the land. The lake in the **(greatness, qualities, mountain's)** shadow provided them with fresh water **(he, and, or)** fish. Santo, his family, and the **(moments, feeling, people)** of the village believed there was **(not, no, as)** better place in the world to **(was, live, laugh)**. The mountain was their protector, and **(it, has, him)** would stand forever.

Every year the **(things, imagine, village)** had a great feast to celebrate **(an, the, from)** mountain and give thanks. People ate **(still, until, when)** their stomachs were full and danced **(knew, took, until)** their feet ached. Everyone went to **(bed, get, tree)** happy and slept well into the **(next, more, lake)** day. At least, that's what they'd **(saw, the, done)** every other year.

Santo knew that **(activate, something, congress)** wasn't right when he woke up **(be, so, on)** the morning of the feast. He **(from, was, were)** still sleepy, but he knew he **(had, by, can't)** felt the earth tremble, for just **(an, a, to)** moment, under his feet. Nobody else **(was, will, felt)** the quiver. They laughed and told **(he, him, knew)** the ground would tremble that evening **(rock, while, until)** they were dancing. Santo left the **(for, cloud, room)** to stand outside. He began talking **(to, for, why)** the mountain as he sometimes did.

"**(Me, A, I)** know I felt the ground move **(punish, village, beneath)** my feet just a moment ago," **(it, he, I)** told the great swell of rock. "**(Is, Me, I)** wasn't imagining things."

Santo thought the **(mountain, believed, anytime)** understood him, as he watched a **(swept, give, curl)** of smoke escape from its tall **(peak, Santo, else)**. Santo shook his head. Now, he **(full, most, give)** certainly was imagining things.

Just then **(him, if, he)** heard his sister squeal from inside **(an, the, just)** house. "Yuck," she said, "this water **(where, slept, tastes)** like rotten eggs. We can't have **(over, our, its)** water tasting like rotten eggs for **(an, up, the)** feast tonight. It will ruin everything."

(Santo, Hear, Peak) continued to watch the mountain. He **(certain, heard, didn't)** know when, but he knew something **(left, was, were)** going to happen.

"Santo, come and **(curl, eat, he)** your breakfast," his mother called from **(beneath, inside, moment)** the house. "We have a big **(day, room, felt)** ahead of us."

Susanna was the happiest girl in her whole town. She had long, pretty hair, a (addresses, **sparkling**, considered) smile, and twinkling eyes. She loved (to, as, be) venture outside on sunny days. On (lemon, wouldn't, **cloudy**) days, Susanna would telephone her best (sparkle, pretty, **friends**) to join her for a delightful (flowering, **afternoon**, statement) tea party inside the house. They (**would**, over, went) set a table with their best (teach, always, **china**) and invite some of their dolls (girl, but, **and**) teddy bears to be their guests. (Play, **They**, Them) would act like ladies and pretend (at, to, as) sip their tea and have a (guests, bother, **clever**) discussion. Having guests at her tea (people, **party**, little) pleased Susanna.

"One lump or two?" (from, **she**, we) asked the teddy bear seated to (she, came, **her**) right one afternoon. The teddy bear (**asked**, after, loved) for two. "Lemon with that?" she (never, frown, **asked**). The bear didn't want lemon. Susanna's (parties, **friends**, happier), Elizabeth and Brenda, helped her serve (so, not, **the**) guests. After finishing their tea, the (mother, **teddy**, young) bears and dolls got sleepy and (right, said, **took**) a nap. The young ladies began (to, at, on) discuss the events of the afternoon.

"(At, **Oh**, A), that bear can be so silly," (just, told, **said**) Elizabeth. "He never sips his tea. (**He**, Him, But) always slurps it."

"And Miss Debbie," (talks, **said**, their) Brenda. "She never brings anything for (an, nap, **the**) tea party. In fact, I'm not (with, **sure**, side) who invites her."

Susanna leaned over (fly, as, to) her friends and whispered, "I think (**she**, we, did) hears about it from Mr. Bear (but, **and**, fact) invites herself."

Just then, Susanna's mother (felt, about, **came**) to the tea party and said, "(Flight, **Susanna**, Lemons), there is a little girl at (in, so, **the**) door. Her name is Shelly. Why (**don't**, she, her) you invite her to play too?"

"(Is, But, **Oh**), Shelly," said Susanna. "Shelly is quite (it, an, a) bother. She just wouldn't fit in (but, **with**, old) our tea party, Mother."

Elizabeth turned (off, next, **up**) her nose and said, "Not the (took, **right**, clever) type." Brenda agreed with Susanna and (friendly, **Elizabeth**, contacted).

Susanna's mother frowned and said, "Young (**lady**, her, was), I did not teach you to (pretty, **treat**, talk) people so rudely. You must love (but, her, **and**) accept all people. You should be (that, **kind**, sleep) to Shelly."

The three girls felt (lump, have, **bad**). They were treating Shelly the way (**they**, think, we'll) treated Miss Debbie. They agreed to (anytime, brings, **invite**) Shelly to play with them.

Shelly (across, **became**, anything) one of their best friends, and (them, sips, **they**) started remembering to invite Miss Debbie (as, at, to) all of their tea parties.

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There was a creek that ran through the bottom of Susan's family's pasture. The creek was filled with frogs, (one, pins, **fish**), and flowers. It was shallow, shady (pet, **and**, or) very inviting on hot summer days (for, was, **with**) the weeping willows growing along the (feet, **edge**, young) of it, hanging their branches down (**over**, out, with) the water.

Susan and her sisters (clear, soak, **spent**) a lot of time down at (long, **the**, an) creek during the summer. They would (run, bare, **pack**) picnic lunches and eat them on (an, **the**, will) banks of the creek as they (**watched**, willow, summer) the cows in the pasture and (don't, they, **their**) father on his tractor.

When they (cry, **got**, gone) hot, they would roll up their (clean, stay, **pant**) legs and wade in the water. (Creek, **They**, Took) looked for pretty rocks and snail (round, **shells**, bright). They made fishing poles out of (float, **fallen**, chance) branches and safety pins. They also (**hunted**, spring, tried) for frogs with their bare hands. (Them, Wish, **They**) snickered at the cows when they (time, **waded**, bait) in for a drink, and they (wouldn't, padding, **splashed**) each other every chance they got.

"(**This**, One, Not) creek is the most beautiful place (up, **in**, is) the world," Susan declared to her (branch, rocker, **sisters**) one afternoon as they soaked their (lot, **feet**, lunch). "The water is clean and clear, (of, do, **the**) rocks are smooth and tiny, and (for, up, **the**) frogs are quick and clever. The (froze, **pasture**, should) is green, and the cows don't (eaten, safety, **bother**) us much. I want to stay (for, **here**, this) forever and not go back to (hottest, flowers, **school**)."

"The creek freezes in the winter, (**Susan**, drink, cows)," her youngest sister reminded her. "You (not, much, **can't**) stay here year round."

Susan sighed. "(Why, **Yeah**, Have), but I wish I could."

"No, (then, **you**, she) don't," said Susan's other sister. "If (to, we're, **you**) were here all the time, you (**wouldn't**, floated, nuclear) have time for anything else. It's (fish, in, **not**) as if you don't get to (never, **spend**, world) plenty of time here. We know (is, my, **you**) love to skate on the creek (up, **in**, on) the wintertime, look at the pretty (**leaves**, green, kitten) floating on it in autumn, and (**see**, saw, tiny) the lily pads and the willows (wade, **bud**, with) in the spring, but there are (smooth, band, **other**) things you would miss doing."

"You're (safety, along, **right**), both of you," Susan agreed. "Sometimes (me, **I**, so) get carried away."

Just then a (out, **fish**, day) took the bait on the end (so, for, **of**) her line, and Susan jumped up. (Did, **She**, For) spent the rest of the day (leashes, **laughing**, oatmeal) with her sisters.

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The sky was clear blue when Alicia began her walk. Alicia liked to explore the forest (lost, sudden, **right**) behind her house. Since Alicia was (it, **ten**, said) years old, her parents didn't mind (was, one, **if**) she walked alone in the woods, (to, **as**, at) long as she stayed on the (**path**, tried, house). All of the trees and plants (was, **were**, sad) like old friends.

This afternoon something (so, he, **in**) the woods seemed different. The bird (from, **songs**, tree), which were usually so cheerful, seemed (should, sudden, **nervous**). Then a sudden movement in an (**oak**, baby, his) tree caught her attention. It was (if, **a**, an) gray squirrel she knew well. He'd (done, **come**, high) close to her on several occasions.

(Have, Lone, **Now**) he was chattering anxiously at her, (**and**, will, or) he seemed to be trying to (since, plane, **tell**) her something. He leapt from one (woods, **tree**, once) to another and looked back at (she, nest, **her**). "He wants me to follow him," (**Alicia**, explore, however) said to herself.

She went after (gray, **him**, her), walking farther into the woods, but (long, from, **when**) his trail led off the path, (her, was, **she**) hesitated. She didn't want to get (if, **in**, saw) trouble or get lost. His calls (into, was, **were**) so insistent, however, that she continued (**after**, long, clear) him.

Finally, he stopped on a (cheer, leapt, **birch**) tree and ran up and down (too, **the**, his) trunk. His tail twitched furiously. Alicia (bright, **started**, seemed) looking around, knowing he wanted to (**show**, went, but) her something. Then she saw it. (Be, **A**, An) fragile, tiny baby bird was huddled (did, for, **on**) the ground under the tree. Looking (by, so, **up**), Alicia saw a nest almost completely (differ, **hidden**, songs) by leaves.

Alicia bent down to (stepped, **inspect**, usually) the baby bird. Its bright eyes (**were**, onto, was) unafraid. She scooped it up and (began, clear, **gently**) placed it in her shirt pocket. (Observation, **Fortunately**, Chattering), the tree had many branches, and (behind, after, **Alicia**) had a lot of experience climbing (**trees**, seemed, knew). She climbed up carefully, and once (of, it, **she**) was high enough, she looked into (do, **the**, an) nest. The nest held three other (long, **tiny**, stop) birds identical to the one in (**her**, but, on) pocket.

She gently pulled her bird (over, **out**, she) and set it with the others. (The, By, **It**) nestled in and seemed happy to (**be**, a, by) home. As she walked back, the (whisper, looking, **squirrel**) followed her, chattering the whole way. (While, **Alicia**, Trees) could tell he was thanking her (at, some, **for**) her help.

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It's like a jungle in my grandmother's house because she has so many plants. Even though she has enough plants (on, **out**, as) in her front yard, she still (outdoor, smells, **insists**) on having more. There are rows (a, **of**, sleeping) tulips near her house, big clumps (**of**, plants, by) ferns, and hedges of roses in (my, don't, **the**) back. There are also pots of (the, front, **houseplants**) inside.

She brings as many of (**her**, parlor, I) outdoor plants inside as she can (**for**, the, plants) the winter.

"I don't want the (even, **poor**, because) dears to freeze," she tells me, (we, **as**, no) I stare in awe at her (paper, she, **rooms**) filled with greenery. "Besides," she likes (her, **to**, tulips) say, "a house full of plants (**is**, near, quite) much cozier than a house without. (**And**, Forest, The) mark my words, there's more magic (want, **in**, to) a house filled with plants."

"Okay, (house, want, **Grandma**)," I say because I don't want (pots, like, **to**) argue with her.

One night I (clumps, see, **slept**) in a sleeping bag on the (**floor**, most, yard) of my grandma's front parlor. The (because, bag, **front**) parlor by far has the most (**plants**, though, grandmas) in the house. My two older (has, call, **brothers**) call it the jungle room because (**we**, the, can) can no longer see the wallpaper. (**All**, Has, In) we see when we walk in (**the**, front, wall) door are leaves and colorful flowers. (The, **It**, We) actually smells quite nice.

I was (**secretly**, there, colorful) excited to be camping out there (rows, older, **because**) it would almost be like sleeping (actually, **in**, her) a real forest minus the hard (ferns, also, **ground**). Grandma made a fire in the (nice, **fireplace**, hard) that night so I could roast (winter, don't, **marshmallows**) and read books. I read until (inside, argue, **around**) midnight. At about that time, (I, night, **the**) fire went out and my aching (many, flowers, **eyes**) dropped shut. I closed my book (**and**, inside, as) laid my head on the pillow.

(She, With, **It**) was then that I heard the (still, when, **rustling**) and the whispers.

"Hey," a tiny (fire, its, **voice**) called out in the darkness, "do (the, **you**, when) think they're all asleep yet?"

"Be (minus, can, **quiet**)," another one hissed. "We've got one (roses, **right**, we) in the room with us."

I (**heard**, freeze, two) more rustling of leaves and whispers, (**more**, hedges, are) hissing and scolding, and then I (**saw**, enough, okay) them. Gnomes, I guess, is what (longer, my, **they're**) called. They were short and skinny (because, **with**, brings) pointed ears and glowing green eyes.

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The tallest tree in the forest stood in a clearing filled with clover and delicate moss. Its shadow was so huge and (**thick**, about, gentle) that only low grasses and flowers (want, keep, **could**) grow beneath the tree.

Ever since (beside, **Charles**, tallest) first saw that great tree, he'd (skyward, filled, **wanted**) to climb to the top. Its (totally, **branches**, grounded) started out low to the ground (next, **and**, or) swept right to its very tip (**like**, were, his) the rungs of a ladder. Charles (looked, himself, **thought**) it would be a good challenge (from, **for**, but) him to climb the tree.

One (coated, breath, **morning**) Charles arose early and sprinted to (way, **the**, for) base of the great tree. He (said, near, **told**) no one about his plans. He (made, away, **hoped**) to surprise his family over breakfast (chose, **when**, some) he walked through the door with (a, I, if) bough from the top of the (**tree**, hair, grew) in his hands.

"Today is the (his, even, **day**) I will touch the sky," Charles (thoughtful, **proclaimed**, stationary) as he spit on his hands (but, ever, **and**) rubbed them together. Without much thought, (so, him, **he**) heaved himself up to the first (ladder, **branch**, since). The branch was thick and gently (these, start, **curved**). Charles could have relaxed there all (challenge, **afternoon**, delicate), but he chose to pull himself (an, **up**, for) another branch.

The next branch was (**sticky**, grasses, looking) with sap and dried needles. The (very, over, **sap**) coated Charles' trousers and got stuck (a, did, **in**) his hair, but he kept climbing. (Never, **Twenty**, Thick) feet above the ground, Charles paused (at, **to**, low) catch his breath. He glanced down (by, be, **at**) the ground and felt his stomach (**roll**, fill, only). His heart jumped in his chest. "(That, **It's**, Left) a long way down," Charles thought, "(or, felt, **but**) it's an even longer way up." (Branch, **Charles**, Trousers) chose to keep on climbing.

Now (saw, **the**, not) branches of the great tree grew (lower, hands, **closer**) together. Charles had to shimmy between (its, they, **them**). He made the mistake of looking (good, **down**, stick) again, and he had to close (**his**, my, next) eyes and count to one hundred (soon, **before**, himself) he was ready to climb again. (Sap, An, **The**) crown of the tree was still (got, **out**, in) of his reach.

Charles pondered his (destructive, accidental, **predicament**). He looked up, and then he (himself, **looked**, thought) down. With a sigh, he started (**back**, stuck, out) down the tree. Not all things (was, top, **were**) possible. "Some things," Charles thought as (do, **he**, if) looked up at the colossal tree (for, this, **from**) the ground, "should remain a challenge."

(Mistake, **Charles**, Together) went home and washed the sap (that, for, **out**) of his hair. Tomorrow he'd think (if, pit, **of**) a new challenge.

The tallest tree in the forest stood in a clearing filled with clover and delicate moss. Its shadow was so huge and **(thick, about, gentle)** that only low grasses and flowers **(want, keep, could)** grow beneath the tree.

Ever since **(beside, Charles, tallest)** first saw that great tree, he'd **(skyward, filled, wanted)** to climb to the top. Its **(totally, branches, grounded)** started out low to the ground **(next, and, or)** swept right to its very tip **(like, were, his)** the rungs of a ladder. Charles **(looked, himself, thought)** it would be a good challenge **(from, for, but)** him to climb the tree.

One **(coated, breath, morning)** Charles arose early and sprinted to **(way, the, for)** base of the great tree. He **(said, near, told)** no one about his plans. He **(made, away, hoped)** to surprise his family over breakfast **(chose, when, some)** he walked through the door with **(a, I, if)** bough from the top of the **(tree, hair, grew)** in his hands.

"Today is the **(his, even, day)** I will touch the sky," Charles **(thoughtful, proclaimed, stationary)** as he spit on his hands **(but, ever, and)** rubbed them together. Without much thought, **(so, him, he)** heaved himself up to the first **(ladder, branch, since)**. The branch was thick and gently **(these, start, curved)**. Charles could have relaxed there all **(challenge, afternoon, delicate)**, but he chose to pull himself **(an, up, for)** another branch.

The next branch was **(sticky, grasses, looking)** with sap and dried needles. The **(very, over, sap)** coated Charles' trousers and got stuck **(a, did, in)** his hair, but he kept climbing. **(Never, Twenty, Thick)** feet above the ground, Charles paused **(at, to, low)** catch his breath. He glanced down **(by, be, at)** the ground and felt his stomach **(roll, fill, only)**. His heart jumped in his chest. "**(That, It's, Left)** a long way down," Charles thought, "**(or, felt, but)** it's an even longer way up." **(Branch, Charles, Trousers)** chose to keep on climbing.

Now **(saw, the, not)** branches of the great tree grew **(lower, hands, closer)** together. Charles had to shimmy between **(its, they, them)**. He made the mistake of looking **(good, down, stick)** again, and he had to close **(his, my, next)** eyes and count to one hundred **(soon, before, himself)** he was ready to climb again. **(Sap, An, The)** crown of the tree was still **(got, out, in)** of his reach.

Charles pondered his **(destructive, accidental, predicament)**. He looked up, and then he **(himself, looked, thought)** down. With a sigh, he started **(back, stuck, out)** down the tree. Not all things **(was, top, were)** possible. "Some things," Charles thought as **(do, he, if)** looked up at the colossal tree **(for, this, from)** the ground, "should remain a challenge."

(Mistake, Charles, Together) went home and washed the sap **(that, for, out)** of his hair. Tomorrow he'd think **(if, pit, of)** a new challenge.

As the white rabbit was getting ready to turn in one winter's evening, there was a knock on his door. He had already put his fire (over, **out**, my) and his ears were cold, so (him, was, **he**) answered the door with a groan.

"(**Who**, When, Have) is it?" he asked as he (frozen, **pulled**, ready) open the door and shivered in (do, an, **the**) bitter wind.

The rabbit didn't see (adjust, **anyone**, feeling) at first. He was ready to (all, into, **slam**) the door in anger, but he (**stopped**, already, woolen) when he noticed a fuzzy lump (let, for, **at**) his feet that he'd almost mistaken (turn, **for**, from) a crumpled leaf. The lump, however, (were, never, **wasn't**) a leaf. It was a skinny (conditional, **caterpillar**, wholesales), half-frozen and half-crazed from (**the**, if, his) cold.

The rabbit didn't say, "Oh (by, it, **my**) poor dear, let me help you (about, **inside**, would)." He didn't say, "Why you look (then, mine, **cold**), let me warm you up with (an, be, **a**) cup of carrot soup." In all (door, **truth**, even), when the rabbit found the caterpillar (much, big, **tied**) in a frozen knot on his (**front**, take, long) step that night, he almost shut (from, for, **the**) door and let it turn into (a, **an**, why) icicle.

The rabbit was not known (an, **for**, fuzz) his kindness. He was known for (**his**, weed, him) selfishness, his greediness, and his downright (evening, blanket, **rudeness**).

"What else am I going to (when, why, **have**) to put up with this winter?" (an, **the**, his) rabbit muttered as he picked up (you, an, **the**) caterpillar and carried it into his (**house**, soup, didn't). "The mice have already come begging (from, **for**, lump) food. The badger already owes me (winter's, **twenty**, putting) carrots for all the firewood I (white, saw, **gave**) him."

The rabbit wrapped the caterpillar (ask, **in**, do) his shabbiest blanket and started to (shivered, **rekindle**, carrots) the fire. It didn't take long (from, go, **for**) the caterpillar to thaw. When it (by, **did**, no), it looked up at the rabbit (else, **with**, many) gratitude.

"Thank you very much," the (**caterpillar**, confession, greediness) said. "I thought I'd freeze to (kind, **death**, known) out there."

"What's your name, fuzzy (house, ones, **worm**)?" asked the rabbit. "I want to (**know**, need, for) who I have to thank for (nonfiction, **disturbing**, differences) my sleep."

The caterpillar smiled. "All (to, **my**, up) friends called me Ginger," it said.

"(Fire, Have, **What**) shall I call you?" asked the (wood, **white**, mine) rabbit.

The caterpillar looked around the (icicle, without, **rabbit's**) dreary house, then at the rabbit (noticed, **himself**, thanks). "I imagine you'll be calling me (**Ginger**, twenty, frozen) before long."

As the white rabbit was getting ready to turn in one winter's evening, there was a knock on his door. He had already put his fire **(over, out, my)** and his ears were cold, so **(him, was, he)** answered the door with a groan.

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The rabbit didn't see **(adjust, anyone, feeling)** at first. He was ready to **(all, into, slam)** the door in anger, but he **(stopped, already, woolen)** when he noticed a fuzzy lump **(let, for, at)** his feet that he'd almost mistaken **(turn, for, from)** a crumpled leaf. The lump, however, **(were, never, wasn't)** a leaf. It was a skinny **(conditional, caterpillar, wholesales)**, half-frozen and half-crazed from **(the, if, his)** cold.

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Vincent woke up on the morning of May twelfth to clear skies and puffy clouds. Today was his birthday, and he (most, were, **was**) expecting the best birthday party ever. (Why, **When**, Today) he got downstairs, his mother was (strange, noticed, **sitting**) at the table pouring a cup (**of**, his, for) tea.

"Will you fetch some lemon (but, into, **and**) sugar for me, Vincent?" she asked. (Buy, **When**, Was) he returned with her lemon and (bike, info, **sugar**) she said, "What are you going (ask, **to**, for) do today? Are you going to (road, feel, **ride**) your bike into town?"

Vincent gave (if, **his**, was) mother a strange look. "What game (**was**, an, do) she playing?" he wondered. She must (when, are, **have**) remembered today was his birthday. He (so, **was**, the) her only son!

"Off you go (will, **then**, and)," his mother said after Vincent was (smarter, wouldn't, **finished**) with his piece of toast. "Have (an, to, **a**) wonderful bike ride."

Vincent was very (best, **sad**, door) as he walked out to his (hop, sell, **bike**). Every other year his mother had (**jumped**, lemon, didn't) up and given him a hug (she, at, **as**) soon as he came downstairs on (ask, **the**, an) morning of his birthday. She must (soon, **have**, has) forgotten this year. Vincent was about (**to**, hat, for) climb on his bike, when he (birthday, follow, **noticed**) there was a note tied to (if, **the**, him) handlebars.

The note said, "A birthday (of, **boy**, cup) as smart as you will soon (guessed, **realize**, return) this note is a clue. Follow (an, them, **the**) dirt road over the hill and (tell, to, **ask**) for your next clue from a (when, day, **man**) named Bill."

Bill Watson was Vincent's (**next**, best, call) door neighbor, and he lived just (look, **down**, soon) the road and over the hill. (Watson, Purple, **Vincent**) hopped on his bike and pedaled (you, **like**, was) a madman to Bill's front door. (Bike, Have, **Bill**) answered the front door with a (too, sad, **wry**) smile. He didn't say a word (at, **to**, say) Vincent. He simply handed him a (**slip**, was, look) of paper, and shut the door (**in**, of, for) his face.

Vincent received ten more (party, **clues**, piece). The clues took him all over (so, game, **the**) neighborhood. The last clue told Vincent (a, **to**, as) return home. When he got there, (do, him, **he**) wandered into the dark kitchen.

"Mom," (**Vincent**, Watson, follow) called out. "I've got a clue (came, this, **that**) says I'm supposed to..."

Before Vincent (were, **could**, clues) finish what he was about to (your, **say**, tell), his mother and all of his (simply, strange, **friends**) jumped out of the shadows.

"Surprise, (forget, Birthday, **Vincent**)!" they shouted. "Happy Birthday!"

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"Surprise, **(forget, Birthday, Vincent)!**" they shouted. "Happy Birthday!"

A boy named Jonathan Davis lived in a town called Windset. Windset was also home to a (time, lead, **group**) of daring boys. The leader of (too, **the**, will) group of boys was a grumpy (if, or, **and**) burly thirteen-year-old boy named (prove, **Seth**, thug). Jonathan didn't hang around with Seth's (**crowd**, tracks, before). Seth and his friends constantly teased (but, must, **and**) picked on Jonathan.

There was only (at, by, **one**) way to get into Seth's group (at, **of**, by) friends. It was simple. All you (soon, ask, **had**) to do was walk down to (into, an, **the**) railroad tracks that ran straight through (**Windset**, thirteen, leader), wait for the train to come (teased, should, **roaring**) along, and place a penny on (an, **the**, into) tracks. If the train ran over (you, **your**, too) penny and flattened it, you could (away, stole, **join**) Seth's group of friends.

Jonathan thought (**it**, do, he) sounded so easy, but putting a (wasn't, pocket, **penny**) on the train tracks was dangerous (straight, **business**, walking). You must place the penny on (go, **the**, at) tracks an instant before the train (pushed, group, **comes**) thundering by. If you put the (idea, **penny**, just) on too soon, the vibrations caused (at, **by**, if) the oncoming train would wobble it (over, hang, **off**) the tracks. If you put the (gang, **penny**, struck) on too late, you were in (ditch, **danger**, place) of getting hit by the train. (But, By, **If**) you missed putting the penny on (**the**, to, way) track at the exact moment, you (was, home, **had**) to wait for the next train.

(Full, **Rumor**, Track) had it there was always a (into, **group**, lunch) of cowardly boys waiting down at (as, be, **the**) tracks with pennies in their pockets. (By, **So**, Tip) far, Seth and his two thug (**friends**, wobble, behind), Zach and Rusty, were the only (boy, soon, **ones**) brave enough to place a penny (for, **on**, as) the tracks. They always carried the (simplest, acquitting, **flattened**) pieces of copper around in their (couldn't, **pockets**, leader) to prove it.

Jonathan was sick (may, or, **and**) tired of being pushed around by (from, **Seth**, boys) and his friends. Just last week (them, were, **they**) stole his lunch and his cap (**and**, bill, but) pushed him into a ditch full (the, for, **of**) slush. Jonathan decided he was going (at, put, **to**) show them. He'd place a hundred (simple, daring, **pennies**) on the tracks.

Jonathan angrily walked (**down**, side, have) to the railroad tracks. He paused (where, **when**, train) he noticed the group of cowardly (track, **boys**, only). Then an idea struck him. Maybe (could, were, **they**) weren't cowards at all. Maybe Seth (you, **and**, but) his gang just thought up a (flattened, **dangerous**, confront) game that no one really wanted (at, ask, **to**) play.

"Hey," he called out to (was, **the**, an) group of boys. "We don't need (**to**, down, with) prove ourselves to Seth. Let's go (it, at, **to**) my place for a game of (penny, **football**, brave)."

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There was only **(at, by, one)** way to get into Seth's group **(at, of, by)** friends. It was simple. All you **(soon, ask, had)** to do was walk down to **(into, an, the)** railroad tracks that ran straight through **(Windset, thirteen, leader)**, wait for the train to come **(teased, should, roaring)** along, and place a penny on **(an, the, into)** tracks. If the train ran over **(you, your, too)** penny and flattened it, you could **(away, stole, join)** Seth's group of friends.

Jonathan thought **(it, do, he)** sounded so easy, but putting a **(wasn't, pocket, penny)** on the train tracks was dangerous **(straight, business, walking)**. You must place the penny on **(go, the, at)** tracks an instant before the train **(pushed, group, comes)** thundering by. If you put the **(idea, penny, just)** on too soon, the vibrations caused **(at, by, if)** the oncoming train would wobble it **(over, hang, off)** the tracks. If you put the **(gang, penny, struck)** on too late, you were in **(ditch, danger, place)** of getting hit by the train. **(But, By, If)** you missed putting the penny on **(the, to, way)** track at the exact moment, you **(was, home, had)** to wait for the next train.

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In school, Zachary learned that polar bears live in the Arctic Circle. The Arctic Circle was very far (for, gear, **from**) Zachary's house, so he figured he (were, **would**, humans) never meet one. Then one evening (**as**, if, low) Zachary was pulling his sled home (this, for, **from**) the sliding hill, he came face (may, **to**, by) face with one.

"Oh my stars," (Humans, **Zachary**, People) said when he saw the furry (face, **white**, does) bear. He dropped his sled and (level, **stood**, have) there, staring at the large polar (neat, head, **bear**). He knew he should run or (**do**, but, my) something, but at that moment, he (stories, answer, **couldn't**) move.

"Oh my stars," he repeated.

(By, An, **The**) polar bear stood up on his (does, **hind**, cold) legs and bellowed at Zachary. Zachary (**was**, were, only) so frightened, he bellowed back. The (**polar**, over, can't) bear was very tall. He towered (about, **over**, him) Zachary.

"Oh," the bear said stepping (when, **back**, out) with a clawed paw on his (from, look, **burly**) chest. "I didn't realize humans could (said, stars, **shout**) so loud. I haven't seen very (low, most, **many**) humans. May I take a closer (that, **look**, saw) at you?"

"Oh my stars," Zachary (**said**, faced, shout).

"Oh my stars," the polar bear (frighten, **repeated**, sometime) as he bent to Zachary's level. "(How, **What**, Are) in the world does that mean?" (The, At, **As**) he spoke, the polar bear pushed (about, his, **back**) Zachary's cap, touched his hair, and (bellow, **poked**, down) at his ears.

"Human's have very (tail, star, **tiny**) ears," he told Zachary. "They aren't (sledding, **covered**, humans) with fur or anything. May I (**try**, saw, on) this on?" the polar bear asked (to, why, **as**) he pulled off Zachary's cap and (whispering, **stretched**, frighten) it over his own head. The (hill, stood, **polar**) bear got it on, but it (**only**, chest, much) covered one of his ears.

"Well, (pick, this, **that's**) neat," the polar bear said as (was, **he**, him) put the cap back on Zachary's (stars, you, **head**).

"Hey," he said looking at Zachary's (stars, **sled**, back). "What's that?"

Zachary couldn't answer the (down, school, **polar**) bear. He could only stare.

"No, (tiny, **don't**, hill) tell me," the polar bear said. "(as, I, me) think I know."

With more grace (will, mean, **than**) Zachary would have imagined a polar (bear, never, push) could possess, the bear picked up (an, **the**, for) sled and carried it to the (cap, own, **edge**) of the sliding hill. Then he (frosted, **daintily**, pushing) tucked his tail and climbed onto (by, seen, **the**) sled.

"Oh my stars!" the bear (most, told, **cried**) as he whizzed down the hill.

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