

Books were everywhere, and Mrs. Tuttle, the person responsible for the books, was getting frantic. Her predicament started in October when (odd, hair, **she**) found the book supply running low.

(Her, That, **Mrs.**) Tuttle was a very organized person. (**She**, Even, Only) ordered more books immediately, requesting that (**they**, more, all) be delivered by air. Air mail (cup, **was**, just) always the speediest way to receive (mail, **books**, cloud). By November, it was obvious that (morning, uniform, **someone**) messed up somewhere. She was sure (age, get, **she**) had not ordered this many books!

(**As**, By, He) usual, flocks of birds delivered the (show, **books**, lemon). Mrs. Tuttle would find the birds (disregard, waiting, **gathered**) on the steps of her library (her, **in**, the) the morning. Each bird would flap (one, saw, **its**) wings and remove the leather bound (**books**, around, caught) tied to its legs by straps (was, to, **of**) ribbon. They would wait for her (it, **to**, or) unlock the doors with her skeleton (dew, less, **key**). Some days they were not patient, (low, **and**, had) they would peck holes in her (bead, gift, **socks**). She would end up shouting, "Stop! (do, **I**, as) am moving as quickly as I (way, **can**, but)!"

Mrs. Tuttle was usually cool and (necklace, abruptly, **composed**), but now she was beside herself (hues, **with**, way) worry. She did not have enough (black, once, **room**) in her library for this many (middle, **books**, path).

"That's it! I've had enough! Someone (**will**, deny, true) have to call off these birds," (box, **Mrs.**, all) Tuttle screamed one afternoon. A flock (had, so, **of**) flamingoes with packs of dictionaries had (back, **just**, held) stumbled through the doors. She marched (lost, best, **over**) to the telephone, dialed, and waited. (**She**, Page, Back) tapped her foot in annoyance.

"Hello, (gift, black, **this**) is Mrs. Tuttle from the library. (Outside, **Someone**, Pasture) will have to call off this (attention, stockings, **multitude**) of birds. I have more than (someone, **enough**, already) books."

"You can never have enough (**books**, share, black)," said the person who answered the (cheerless, completely, **telephone**). The voice sounded different to Mrs. (woman, **Tuttle**, clouds), as if the speaker had a (**beak**, lost, sugar).

"I have stacks of books here (explain, **taller**, mundane) than I am," Mrs. Tuttle huffed.

(White, **Just**, Soon) then a hummingbird fluttered by her (intricate, dreamed, **shoulder**) carrying a tiny book of poems. (Told, They, **Mrs.**) Tuttle gave the bird one of (that, **her**, saw) sternest looks, but instead of flying (where, many, **away**), the bird began to chirp and (**sing**, when, calm). Mrs. Tuttle sighed and slowly hung (bow, **up**, far) the receiver.

"My, you're pretty," she (ash, **told**, slice) the hummingbird. "Can you help me (fantasized, surrounds, **straighten**) out this mess?"

Books were everywhere, and Mrs. Tuttle, the person responsible for the books, was getting frantic. Her predicament started in October when **(odd, hair, she)** found the book supply running low.

**(Her, That, Mrs.)** Tuttle was a very organized person. **(She, Even, Only)** ordered more books immediately, requesting that **(they, more, all)** be delivered by air. Air mail **(cup, was, just)** always the speediest way to receive **(mail, books, cloud)**. By November, it was obvious that **(morning, uniform, someone)** messed up somewhere. She was sure **(age, get, she)** had not ordered this many books!

**(As, By, He)** usual, flocks of birds delivered the **(show, books, lemon)**. Mrs. Tuttle would find the birds **(disregard, waiting, gathered)** on the steps of her library **(her, in, the)** the morning. Each bird would flap **(one, saw, its)** wings and remove the leather bound **(books, around, caught)** tied to its legs by straps **(was, to, of)** ribbon. They would wait for her **(it, to, or)** unlock the doors with her skeleton **(dew, less, key)**. Some days they were not patient, **(low, and, had)** they would peck holes in her **(bead, gift, socks)**. She would end up shouting, "Stop! **(do, I, as)** am moving as quickly as I **(way, can, but)!**"

Mrs. Tuttle was usually cool and **(necklace, abruptly, composed)**, but now she was beside herself **(hues, with, way)** worry. She did not have enough **(black, once, room)** in her library for this many **(middle, books, path)**.

"That's it! I've had enough! Someone **(will, deny, true)** have to call off these birds," **(box, Mrs., all)** Tuttle screamed one afternoon. A flock **(had, so, of)** flamingoes with packs of dictionaries had **(back, just, held)** stumbled through the doors. She marched **(lost, best, over)** to the telephone, dialed, and waited. **(She, Page, Back)** tapped her foot in annoyance.

"Hello, **(gift, black, this)** is Mrs. Tuttle from the library. **(Outside, Someone, Pasture)** will have to call off this **(attention, stockings, multitude)** of birds. I have more than **(someone, enough, already)** books."

"You can never have enough **(books, share, black)**," said the person who answered the **(cheerless, completely, telephone)**. The voice sounded different to Mrs. **(woman, Tuttle, clouds)**, as if the speaker had a **(beak, lost, sugar)**.

"I have stacks of books here **(explain, taller, mundane)** than I am," Mrs. Tuttle huffed.

**(White, Just, Soon)** then a hummingbird fluttered by her **(intricate, dreamed, shoulder)** carrying a tiny book of poems. **(Told, They, Mrs.)** Tuttle gave the bird one of **(that, her, saw)** sternest looks, but instead of flying **(where, many, away)**, the bird began to chirp and **(sing, when, calm)**. Mrs. Tuttle sighed and slowly hung **(bow, up, far)** the receiver.

"My, you're pretty," she **(ash, told, slice)** the hummingbird. "Can you help me **(fantasized, surrounds, straighten)** out this mess?"

Bridget Baxter lived in a black and white world. Her stockings were black and white (**striped**, shrimp, looking), her school uniform was black and (fresh, **white**, sugar) checkered, and her father's automobile was (fruit, cereal, **black**). Her hair was an odd shade (by, as, **of**) gray and so were her eyes, (more, **ears**, food), and feet.

It seemed that Bridget (the, hair, **was**) the only one in her world (up, **who**, was) noticed the problem. Everything seemed boring (egg, **and**, cool) mundane in shades of black and (brown, broad, **white**). Bridget dreamed of something more. She (**fantasized**, breakfast, gathering) of a world in color, even (rapidly, **though**, another) she couldn't explain to anyone exactly (these, **what**, lunch) color was all about.

"It's just (frequent, predicted, **different**)," she told her grandmother one morning (**over**, long, girl) a cup of foggy tea with (on, so, **a**) lump of colorless sugar and a (onion, **slice**, bites) of uninspiring lemon.

"It's uplifting and (gathering, especially, **wonderful**). If only I could show you (own, most, **the**) ideas I have in my head."

"(By, In, I) thought the same thing when I (try, **was**, were) your age too, Bridget," her grandmother (**told**, want, hear) her. "It's best to focus on (words, cold, **your**) homework, dear, and get your head (have, **out**, nest) of the clouds."

That night, Bridget (practice, hesitantly, **attempted**) to focus on the black and (taste, going, **white**) pages of her books, but she (humans, **failed**, another). Instead, she slipped outside where the (book, list, **sky**) was the cheerless color of ashes (yet, **and**, new) walked across the empty pastures and (**paddocks**, flapjack, meatball). Bridget disregarded her surroundings until she (your, fill, **was**) completely lost. Then she noticed a (frown, **black**, winter)-caped woman waiting in the middle (by, **of**, so) her path.

"Are you the one (lazy, twigs, **that's**) looking for something more?" the woman (toast, place, **asked**).

Bridget was about to deny the (onion, wants, **truth**) when she saw something around the (feeder, **woman's**, thing) neck that caught her attention. It (all, **was**, were) a color that Bridget had never (going, hoard, **seen**) before.

"Do you like it?" the (please, black, **woman**) asked. She pulled back her hair (**and**, fill, told) showed Bridget her necklace. Then she (squirrel, depends, **stopped**) abruptly and held an intricate box (spun, over, **out**) to Bridget. "Take it," she said. (Eye, **The**, Out) box was filled with colorful beads (can, **of**, do) all different shades and hues.

"Go (**on**, for, may) with you now," the woman shouted, "(then, own, **and**) share your gift."

Bridget swung around (your, **and**, stew) then turned back. "Thank you," she (behind, caught, **shouted**), but the woman had already vanished (full, as, **and**) the pasture was black

once again. (**Bridget**, Necklace, Children) clutched her box with excitement and (rely, look, **ran**) all the way home to show (will, **her**, are) grandmother.

Bridget Baxter lived in a black and white world. Her stockings were black and white **(striped, shrimp, looking)**, her school uniform was black and **(fresh, white, sugar)** checkered, and her father's automobile was **(fruit, cereal, black)**. Her hair was an odd shade **(by, as, of)** gray and so were her eyes, **(more, ears, food)**, and feet.

It seemed that Bridget **(the, hair, was)** the only one in her world **(up, who, was)** noticed the problem. Everything seemed boring **(egg, and, cool)** mundane in shades of black and **(brown, broad, white)**. Bridget dreamed of something more. She **(fantasized, breakfast, gathering)** of a world in color, even **(rapidly, though, another)** she couldn't explain to anyone exactly **(these, what, lunch)** color was all about.

"It's just **(frequent, predicted, different)**," she told her grandmother one morning **(over, long, girl)** a cup of foggy tea with **(on, so, a)** lump of colorless sugar and a **(onion, slice, bites)** of uninspiring lemon.

"It's uplifting and **(gathering, especially, wonderful)**. If only I could show you **(own, most, the)** ideas I have in my head."

"**(By, In, I)** thought the same thing when I **(try, was, were)** your age too, Bridget," her grandmother **(told, want, hear)** her. "It's best to focus on **(words, cold, your)** homework, dear, and get your head **(have, out, nest)** of the clouds."

That night, Bridget **(practice, hesitantly, attempted)** to focus on the black and **(taste, going, white)** pages of her books, but she **(humans, failed, another)**. Instead, she slipped outside where the **(book, list, sky)** was the cheerless color of ashes **(yet, and, new)** walked across the empty pastures and **(paddocks, flapjack, meatball)**. Bridget disregarded her surroundings until she **(your, fill, was)** completely lost. Then she noticed a **(frown, black, winter)**-caped woman waiting in the middle **(by, of, so)** her path.

"Are you the one **(lazy, twigs, that's)** looking for something more?" the woman **(toast, place, asked)**.

Bridget was about to deny the **(onion, wants, truth)** when she saw something around the **(feeder, woman's, thing)** neck that caught her attention. It **(all, was, were)** a color that Bridget had never **(going, hoard, seen)** before.

"Do you like it?" the **(please, black, woman)** asked. She pulled back her hair **(and, fill, told)** showed Bridget her necklace. Then she **(squirrel, depends, stopped)** abruptly and held an intricate box **(spun, over, out)** to Bridget. "Take it," she said. **(Eye, The, Out)** box was filled with colorful beads **(can, of, do)** all different shades and hues.

"Go **(on, for, may)** with you now," the woman shouted, **(then, own, and)** share your gift."

Bridget swung around **(your, and, stew)** then turned back. "Thank you," she **(behind, caught, shouted)**, but the woman had already vanished **(full, as, and)** the pasture was black

once again. **(Bridget, Necklace, Children)** clutched her box with excitement and **(rely, look, ran)** all the way home to show **(will, her, are)** grandmother.

I live in the tiny town of Peanut, Pennsylvania, in the second to the last house at the end of a dead-end road.

There isn't a whole lot to (**do**, he, when) in Peanut, but we do have (I, lot, **a**) grocer, a baker, a hairdresser, a (go, radio, **mechanic**), and an inventor.

It's Tommy O'Connor (have, the, **who**) put our little village on the (**map**, our, end). He lives just down the road (**from**, and, baker) me. His house is right before (he, **the**, isn't) dead end. A lot of people (put, **go**, road) back there, turning their cars around (lawn, **when**, to) they realize they're lost.

That's how (to, the, **he**) acquires many of his customers for (**his**, week, end) bizarre inventions. People pull onto our (**road**, simple, dead), thinking it'll go on forever, but (**it**, back, an) doesn't. It stops dead in its (**tracks**, change, ago) at Tommy's front door. That means (could, a, **booming**) business for Tommy.

Tommy has signs (little, **for**, of) his inventions posted in the ditches (**up**, they, an) and down our road and out (**on**, a, balloon) the freeway. Gigantic signs are nailed (wiper, about, **to**) telephone poles and dead tree trunks. (It, **They**, Around) hang from tree branches and other (**people's**, of, we) mailboxes.

Tourists often stop at Tommy's (in, **house**, map), and once they're there, they exclaim (**over**, the, ago) his strange inventions. Then they pull (car, around, **out**) their checkbooks and spend big bucks.

(Month, People, **Last**) spring, Tommy crossed his lawn mower (**with**, me, snow) his snowmobile and used it to (isn't, **both**, required) clear snow and cut grass. Just (at, whole, **a**) month ago, he found an old (it, **hot**, last) air balloon in the dump, hooked (**it**, fluid, back) up to his own car, and (**now**, but, house) he no longer has to fight (used, he, **traffic**) on the way to work. He (there, **transformed**, road) his wife's hairdryer into a miniature (right, **rocket**, end) engine and his son's Nintendo into (it, and, **a**) toaster. Last week he attempted to (and, **sell**, down) me a calculator that he'd turned (to, **into**, of) a cell phone, but I had (**to**, just, crossed) refuse because we didn't need any (**more**, cut, turning) cell phones in the house.

He (found, **tuned**, flat) up my car for me about (its, **a**, their) week ago. The repairs it required (there, **were**, an) simple—an oil change and a (world, **refill**, clear) on windshield wiper fluid. When I (on, **got**, lives) it back it could go from (clear, **zero**, old) to ninety in a second flat (**and**, pick, in) the radio could pick up stations (spring, before, **from**) around the world.

I live in the tiny town of Peanut, Pennsylvania, in the second to the last house at the end of a dead-end road.

There isn't a whole lot to **(do, he, when)** in Peanut, but we do have **(I, lot, a)** grocer, a baker, a hairdresser, a **(go, radio, mechanic)**, and an inventor.

It's Tommy O'Connor **(have, the, who)** put our little village on the **(map, our, end)**. He lives just down the road **(from, and, baker)** me. His house is right before **(he, the, isn't)** dead end. A lot of people **(put, go, road)** back there, turning their cars around **(lawn, when, to)** they realize they're lost.

That's how **(to, the, he)** acquires many of his customers for **(his, week, end)** bizarre inventions. People pull onto our **(road, simple, dead)**, thinking it'll go on forever, but **(it, back, an)** doesn't. It stops dead in its **(tracks, change, ago)** at Tommy's front door. That means **(could, a, booming)** business for Tommy.

Tommy has signs **(little, for, of)** his inventions posted in the ditches **(up, they, an)** and down our road and out **(on, a, balloon)** the freeway. Gigantic signs are nailed **(wiper, about, to)** telephone poles and dead tree trunks. **(It, They, Around)** hang from tree branches and other **(people's, of, we)** mailboxes.

Tourists often stop at Tommy's **(in, house, map)**, and once they're there, they exclaim **(over, the, ago)** his strange inventions. Then they pull **(car, around, out)** their checkbooks and spend big bucks.

**(Month, People, Last)** spring, Tommy crossed his lawn mower **(with, me, snow)** his snowmobile and used it to **(isn't, both, required)** clear snow and cut grass. Just **(at, whole, a)** month ago, he found an old **(it, hot, last)** air balloon in the dump, hooked **(it, fluid, back)** up to his own car, and **(now, but, house)** he no longer has to fight **(used, he, traffic)** on the way to work. He **(there, transformed, road)** his wife's hairdryer into a miniature **(right, rocket, end)** engine and his son's Nintendo into **(it, and, a)** toaster. Last week he attempted to **(and, sell, down)** me a calculator that he'd turned **(to, into, of)** a cell phone, but I had **(to, just, crossed)** refuse because we didn't need any **(more, cut, turning)** cell phones in the house.

He **(found, tuned, flat)** up my car for me about **(its, a, their)** week ago. The repairs it required **(there, were, an)** simple—an oil change and a **(world, refill, clear)** on windshield wiper fluid. When I **(on, got, lives)** it back it could go from **(clear, zero, old)** to ninety in a second flat **(and, pick, in)** the radio could pick up stations **(spring, before, from)** around the world.

Josh walked out of camp that morning into a forest that was perfect for deer hunting. The air was cool and damp, (after, **and**, gone) the forest floor was quiet for (long, **walking**, following). Josh took a deep breath of (out, camp, **the**) late fall air and knew that (stayed, morning, **today**) was his kind of day. He (**turned**, forest, into) east off the old logging road (**leading**, that, was) from the cabin and headed towards (Josh, **Big**, walked) Bay ridge. He noticed quite a (of, **few**, the) deer tracks in the soft forest (and, buck, **floor**) and discovered a sapling near the (in, **trail**, somewhere) that had been rubbed by a (**large**, of, Josh) buck.

Upon reaching the ridge, he (a, **settled**, perfect) down into a spot that promised (was, deer, **some**) good action. The white-tailed deer (a, **were**, that) apt to move this morning, and (for, hunting, **the**) promise of deer activity excited Josh. (The, Behind, **As**) he carefully kept watch, his mind (**raced**, doe, was) through previous hunts where the conditions (**were**, air, hour) very similar. He had been successful (**on**, or, so) several of those hunts. Today's conditions, (cool, **however**, passed), spelled trophy. His senses were as (damp, **keen**, forest) and as sharp as the newly (**purchased**, decided, and) hunting knife that hung from his (was, **belt**, trophy).

Josh waited in complete silence looking (**for**, he, head) any sign—a flick of an (to, **ear**, although), tail, or anything that didn't look (floor, **just**, was) right. Concentrating on the hunt was (back, an, **not**) always easy because his mind wandered (**from**, for, quiet) time to time and small things, (Josh, **like**, to) a chipmunk playing in the leaves, (took, a, **distracted**) him.

Suddenly he heard a sound (he, **that**, seen) was different. He immediately became alert (deep, **and**, the) readied his rifle. He sat there, (breath, hadn't, **tense**), his heart pounding so hard that (**he**, of, late) was sure every creature in the (fall, had, **forest**) could hear it. Then, from the (he, **bottom**, air) of the ridge, the form of (been, **a**, and) deer appeared. It was a doe, (**and**, looking, knew) since shooting does was illegal, Josh (that, for, **could**) only watch, admiring the beauty and (**grace**, was, his) of the animal as it browsed along (kind, had, **the**) bottom of the ridge.

After the (**doe**, perfect, been) was long gone, Josh stayed in (of, day, **hopes**) of a buck following somewhere behind (in, **the**, other) doe. An hour or so passed, (every, **and**, off) he decided to head back to (east, **camp**, heard). Although he hadn't seen the trophy (old, **buck**, cabin) he had been looking for, the (suddenly, sound, **day**) had been perfect in every other (**way**, different, road).

Josh walked out of camp that morning into a forest that was perfect for deer hunting. The air was cool and damp, (**after, and, gone**) the forest floor was quiet for (**long, walking, following**). Josh took a deep breath of (**out, camp, the**) late fall air and knew that (**stayed, morning, today**) was his kind of day. He (**turned, forest, into**) east off the old logging road (**leading, that, was**) from the cabin and headed towards (**Josh, Big, walked**) Bay ridge. He noticed quite a (**of, few, the**) deer tracks in the soft forest (**and, buck, floor**) and discovered a sapling near the (**in, trail, somewhere**) that had been rubbed by a (**large, of, Josh**) buck.

Upon reaching the ridge, he (**a, settled, perfect**) down into a spot that promised (**was, deer, some**) good action. The white-tailed deer (**a, were, that**) apt to move this morning, and (**for, hunting, the**) promise of deer activity excited Josh. (**The, Behind, As**) he carefully kept watch, his mind (**raced, doe, was**) through previous hunts where the conditions (**were, air, hour**) very similar. He had been successful (**on, or, so**) several of those hunts. Today's conditions, (**cool, however, passed**), spelled trophy. His senses were as (**damp, keen, forest**) and as sharp as the newly (**purchased, decided, and**) hunting knife that hung from his (**was, belt, trophy**).

Josh waited in complete silence looking (**for, he, head**) any sign—a flick of an (**to, ear, although**), tail, or anything that didn't look (**floor, just, was**) right. Concentrating on the hunt was (**back, an, not**) always easy because his mind wandered (**from, for, quiet**) time to time and small things, (**Josh, like, to**) a chipmunk playing in the leaves, (**took, a, distracted**) him.

Suddenly he heard a sound (**he, that, seen**) was different. He immediately became alert (**deep, and, the**) readied his rifle. He sat there, (**breath, hadn't, tense**), his heart pounding so hard that (**he, of, late**) was sure every creature in the (**fall, had, forest**) could hear it. Then, from the (**he, bottom, air**) of the ridge, the form of (**been, a, and**) deer appeared. It was a doe, (**and, looking, knew**) since shooting does was illegal, Josh (**that, for, could**) only watch, admiring the beauty and (**grace, was, his**) of the animal as it browsed along (**kind, had, the**) bottom of the ridge.

After the (**doe, perfect, been**) was long gone, Josh stayed in (**of, day, hopes**) of a buck following somewhere behind (**in, the, other**) doe. An hour or so passed, (**every, and, off**) he decided to head back to (**east, camp, heard**). Although he hadn't seen the trophy (**old, buck, cabin**) he had been looking for, the (**suddenly, sound, day**) had been perfect in every other (**way, different, road**).

After supper one evening, while Harry was exploring the forest, he came upon something extraordinary. A squirrel's nest that once rested (shadow, suspect, **snugly**) between the branches of one of (did, **the**, yet) towering maples had fallen to the (**ground**, truly, enjoy). It was tangled in a heap (I, lay, **of**) broken branches and blackened leaves. Harry (here, **was**, far) ready for the worst as he (experience, **cautiously**, renovated) approached the nest, but instead of (so, **a**, or) disaster, he got a surprise.

When (was, how, **he**) crouched down to inspect the abandoned (close, over, **nest**), something brown and frizzy flew up (am, **in**, use) his face. It scrambled around his (**neck**, mean, them), raced down his back like lightening, (are, rats, **and**) then shoved itself snugly in his (confine, **pocket**, quietly).

Harry thought about digging his hand (akin, **into**, take) his pocket and pulling out the (treatment, certainly, **trembling**) creature, but he decided not to. (May, Save, **The**) squirrel was obviously frightened. For whatever (choose, **reason**, subdued), it felt protected in Harry's pocket (**so**, not, me) he let it stay there as (my, of, **he**) hiked home.

When he got home, (punish, **Harry**, basic) slammed the front door behind him (play, only, **and**) scrambled past his parents. He pounded (do, **up**, for) the spiral staircase to his quiet (silence, deserve, **bedroom**).

"Oh, I do wish you'd slow (from, **down**, past) and stop banging through the house," (two, **his**, be) mother shouted up at him.

"Sorry, (**Mom**, loud, you)," Harry said half-heartedly over his (comprehend, absolutely, **shoulder**) as he shut and locked himself (by, **in**, to) his bedroom. As soon as he (than, room, **was**) alone, he reached gently into his (cannot, **pocket**, mocking). He expected the squirrel to race (so, deal, **out**) of his hand and hide under (**the**, with, did) bed, but instead the little critter (used, room, **just**) sat in Harry's palm and stared (of, **at**, its) him. The squirrel scrunched up its (wrong, more, **black**) nose and sneezed, and Harry laughed.

(They'd, **Harry's**, Needs) laugh must have frightened the squirrel (solitude, someone, **because**) it flew out of his hand. (My, Be, **It**) literally soared up to the curtain (strong, **valance**, symbol) above his window and angrily chattered (deal, **down**, self) at him. Then it fell from (may, new, **the**) valance and slipped between the dusty (again, little, **books**) Harry had on his shelf and (**looked**, escape, options) for a place to build a (mere, only, **nest**).

To this day, Harry's mom still (capitol, **doesn't**, strange) know her son keeps a flying (torment, **squirrel**, infants) for a pet, but she does (**often**, than, much) wonder why all the nuts and (spoiled, absolute, **crackers**) in the house seem to disappear.

After supper one evening, while Harry was exploring the forest, he came upon something extraordinary. A squirrel's nest that once rested (**shadow, suspect, snugly**) between the branches of one of (**did, the, yet**) towering maples had fallen to the (**ground, truly, enjoy**). It was tangled in a heap (**I, lay, of**) broken branches and blackened leaves. Harry (**here, was, far**) ready for the worst as he (**experience, cautiously, renovated**) approached the nest, but instead of (**so, a, or**) disaster, he got a surprise.

When (**was, how, he**) crouched down to inspect the abandoned (**close, over, nest**), something brown and frizzy flew up (**am, in, use**) his face. It scrambled around his (**neck, mean, them**), raced down his back like lightning, (**are, rats, and**) then shoved itself snugly in his (**confine, pocket, quietly**).

Harry thought about digging his hand (**akin, into, take**) his pocket and pulling out the (**treatment, certainly, trembling**) creature, but he decided not to. (**May, Save, The**) squirrel was obviously frightened. For whatever (**choose, reason, subdued**), it felt protected in Harry's pocket (**so, not, me**) he let it stay there as (**my, of, he**) hiked home.

When he got home, (**punish, Harry, basic**) slammed the front door behind him (**play, only, and**) scrambled past his parents. He pounded (**do, up, for**) the spiral staircase to his quiet (**silence, deserve, bedroom**).

"Oh, I do wish you'd slow (**from, down, past**) and stop banging through the house," (**two, his, be**) mother shouted up at him.

"Sorry, (**Mom, loud, you**)," Harry said half-heartedly over his (**comprehend, absolutely, shoulder**) as he shut and locked himself (**by, in, to**) his bedroom. As soon as he (**than, room, was**) alone, he reached gently into his (**cannot, pocket, mocking**). He expected the squirrel to race (**so, deal, out**) of his hand and hide under (**the, with, did**) bed, but instead the little critter (**used, room, just**) sat in Harry's palm and stared (**of, at, its**) him. The squirrel scrunched up its (**wrong, more, black**) nose and sneezed, and Harry laughed.

(**They'd, Harry's, Needs**) laugh must have frightened the squirrel (**solitude, someone, because**) it flew out of his hand. (**My, Be, It**) literally soared up to the curtain (**strong, valance, symbol**) above his window and angrily chattered (**deal, down, self**) at him. Then it fell from (**may, new, the**) valance and slipped between the dusty (**again, little, books**) Harry had on his shelf and (**looked, escape, options**) for a place to build a (**mere, only, nest**).

To this day, Harry's mom still (**capitol, doesn't, strange**) know her son keeps a flying (**torment, squirrel, infants**) for a pet, but she does (**often, than, much**) wonder why all the nuts and (**spoiled, absolute, crackers**) in the house seem to disappear.

I did absolutely nothing wrong, yet here I lay. I am in my own bedroom, (seemed, minutes, **staring**) at the shadow of my swaying (late, fine, **foot**). This experience is certainly not the (effort, **first**, until) of its kind, and I truly (school, **suspect**, surprise) it won't be the last. I'm (discovered, detention, **absolutely**) sick and tired of this kind (as, her, **of**) maltreatment. I used to thoroughly enjoy (for, **my**, she) renovated room, but recently it's become (by, or, **a**) symbol of dread and boredom. It's (**a**, at, I) place I'd rather not occupy.

Somebody (am, on, **is**) certainly going to incur my wrath. (Yell, **That**, Early) somebody may have to be an (sympathy, substitute, **imaginary**) scapegoat. I'm not strong enough to (about, **deal**, later) with someone who can fight back. (Us, I, An) don't want to be mean, but (**my**, to, vet) options are extremely limited.

My bedroom (that, room, **has**) no television. I have only a (hitch, **small**, wife) CD player with a mere handful (as, to, **of**) CDs. Of course, I cannot play (often, **them**, need) because I don't get to choose (**which**, phone, finish) CDs to play. So I'm sentenced (as, by, **to**) lie here in subdued silence.

For (time, **some**, week) strange reason I cannot comprehend, someone (instead, summer, **decided**) to punish me and confine me (out, **to**, or) this bedroom. Most of my close (**acquaintances**, superstition, encouragement) remain outside the room. I am (pursuing, procedure, **convinced**) most of them are laughing at (here, own, **and**) mocking me. Perhaps they should be (betrayal, **confined**, excursion) like caged rats with absolutely nothing (by, **to**, so) do except for quietly read the (**same**, long, tree) obnoxious magazines over and over again. (So, Can, **If**) they wanted to punish me, they (rare, **have**, exit) certainly succeeded. The solitude is much (trek, beret, **more**) than punishment. It is more akin (as, far, **to**) torment.

Whatever did I do to (bouquet, **deserve**, faculty) this treatment? I really don't understand. (Auction, Drive, **Scream**) out loud a little. Use a (yet, **bad**, own) adjective or two. Big deal! Of (atlas, dying, **course**), if they took care of my (**basic**, potato, effect) needs, I'd be as content as (your, true, **the**) next fellow.

Oh, they say that (to, **I'm**, see) somewhat selfish and perhaps a bit (jubilant, textile, **spoiled**). I'd like them to take a (kiln, **walk**, labor) in my shoes and then tell (sick, not, **me**) how they'd enjoy being eighty-four (who, with, **and**) treated like a helpless infant.

I did absolutely nothing wrong, yet here I lay. I am in my own bedroom, (**seemed, minutes, staring**) at the shadow of my swaying (**late, fine, foot**). This experience is certainly not the (**effort, first, until**) of its kind, and I truly (**school, suspect, surprise**) it won't be the last. I'm (**discovered, detention, absolutely**) sick and tired of this kind (**as, her, of**) maltreatment. I used to thoroughly enjoy (**for, my, she**) renovated room, but recently it's become (**by, or, a**) symbol of dread and boredom. It's (**a, at, I**) place I'd rather not occupy.

Somebody (**am, on, is**) certainly going to incur my wrath. (**Yell, That, Early**) somebody may have to be an (**sympathy, substitute, imaginary**) scapegoat. I'm not strong enough to (**about, deal, later**) with someone who can fight back. (**Us, I, An**) don't want to be mean, but (**my, to, vet**) options are extremely limited.

My bedroom (**that, room, has**) no television. I have only a (**hitch, small, wife**) CD player with a mere handful (**as, to, of**) CDs. Of course, I cannot play (**often, them, need**) because I don't get to choose (**which, phone, finish**) CDs to play. So I'm sentenced (**as, by, to**) lie here in subdued silence.

For (**time, some, week**) strange reason I cannot comprehend, someone (**instead, summer, decided**) to punish me and confine me (**out, to, or**) this bedroom. Most of my close (**acquaintances, superstition, encouragement**) remain outside the room. I am (**pursuing, procedure, convinced**) most of them are laughing at (**here, own, and**) mocking me. Perhaps they should be (**betrayal, confined, excursion**) like caged rats with absolutely nothing (**by, to, so**) do except for quietly read the (**same, long, tree**) obnoxious magazines over and over again. (**So, Can, If**) they wanted to punish me, they (**rare, have, exit**) certainly succeeded. The solitude is much (**trek, beret, more**) than punishment. It is more akin (**as, far, to**) torment.

Whatever did I do to (**bouquet, deserve, faculty**) this treatment? I really don't understand. (**Auction, Drive, Scream**) out loud a little. Use a (**yet, bad, own**) adjective or two. Big deal! Of (**atlas, dying, course**), if they took care of my (**basic, potato, effect**) needs, I'd be as content as (**your, true, the**) next fellow.

Oh, they say that (**to, I'm, see**) somewhat selfish and perhaps a bit (**jubilant, textile, spoiled**). I'd like them to take a (**kiln, walk, labor**) in my shoes and then tell (**sick, not, me**) how they'd enjoy being eighty-four (**who, with, and**) treated like a helpless infant.

I got the usual wake-up call from my mom at exactly 5:45 a.m. After I rested my eyes for (plaid, ally, **what**) seemed like only a minute or (**two**, drag, her), she called to me again.

"You'd (plaza, anthem, **better**) be getting up right now or (donor, polka, **you'll**) be late!"

I slowly walked to (done, **the**, was) bathroom to take my morning shower, (altar, **only**, peril) to find a huge spider sitting (by, so, **on**) my washcloth! After a few minutes (**of**, to, is) taunting the spider, I managed to (eyed, **wash**, pour) it down the drain.

My bug (proceed, **hunting**, biscuit) efforts made me late for breakfast. (Of, To, I) somehow managed to eat my cereal (has, now, **and**) make it to school on time. (Know, **The**, Far) day went fine until fifth period, (**when**, come, this) to my surprise, I discovered that (we, so, **an**) Air Force colonel was substituting for (to, but, **my**) English teacher. I spent the entire (bisect, **period**, tyrant) in silence under the watchful eye (I, do, **of**) a Persian Gulf vet.

During sixth (tongue, **period**, liquid), I remembered that I had detention (**for**, bus, off) not finishing my math homework. I (late, bloom, **also**) remembered that I forgot to tell (how, **my**, to) mom about my detention. I decided (as, if, **to**) give her the bad news by (child, **e-mail**, labs). I hoped the e-mail might soften (**her**, you, were) up. A phone call from my (trout, **math**, pore) teacher later that day, however, removed (my, own, **any**) sympathy my mother may have had (rare, **for**, land) me. Detention seemed to drag on (bombard, emblem, **forever**). I had homework to do but (**couldn't**, limited, transfer) force myself to do it.

When (to, or, I) got off the late bus, I (proceed, **braced**, leisure) myself for my mother's wrath. I (canyon, genius, **found**) her in the den, and to (as, if, **my**) surprise, she didn't yell as loud (we, **as**, up) I thought she would. After she (**was**, how, this) done yelling at me, she told (to, see, **me**) that my guitar lesson was canceled (all, end, **for**) the evening. I took some comfort (by, **in**, at) this news because I knew I (global, cinch, **could**) continue to torture her with "Purple (riot, **Haze**, veto)" and "Layla" for another week.

Dinner (rural, word, **went**) off without a hitch. I ate (remembered, **everything**, mysterious) on my plate. After dinner I (**went**, glow, civil) to my room to catch my (religion, financier, **favorite**) TV show, only to discover that (by, **a**, so) special speech by the president's wife (upon, my, **was**) on instead. I decided to go (**to**, as, fun) bed early that night. I was (**glad**, came, mock) the day was finally over!

I got the usual wake-up call from my mom at exactly 5:45 a.m. After I rested my eyes for **(plaid, ally, what)** seemed like only a minute or **(two, drag, her)**, she called to me again.

"You'd **(plaza, anthem, better)** be getting up right now or **(donor, polka, you'll)** be late!"

I slowly walked to **(done, the, was)** bathroom to take my morning shower, **(altar, only, peril)** to find a huge spider sitting **(by, so, on)** my washcloth! After a few minutes **(of, to, is)** taunting the spider, I managed to **(eyed, wash, pour)** it down the drain.

My bug **(proceed, hunting, biscuit)** efforts made me late for breakfast. **(Of, To, I)** somehow managed to eat my cereal **(has, now, and)** make it to school on time. **(Know, The, Far)** day went fine until fifth period, **(when, come, this)** to my surprise, I discovered that **(we, so, an)** Air Force colonel was substituting for **(to, but, my)** English teacher. I spent the entire **(bisect, period, tyrant)** in silence under the watchful eye **(I, do, of)** a Persian Gulf vet.

During sixth **(tongue, period, liquid)**, I remembered that I had detention **(for, bus, off)** not finishing my math homework. I **(late, bloom, also)** remembered that I forgot to tell **(how, my, to)** mom about my detention. I decided **(as, if, to)** give her the bad news by **(child, e-mail, labs)**. I hoped the e-mail might soften **(her, you, were)** up. A phone call from my **(trout, math, pore)** teacher later that day, however, removed **(my, own, any)** sympathy my mother may have had **(rare, for, land)** me. Detention seemed to drag on **(bombard, emblem, forever)**. I had homework to do but **(couldn't, limited, transfer)** force myself to do it.

When **(to, or, I)** got off the late bus, I **(proceed, braced, leisure)** myself for my mother's wrath. I **(canyon, genius, found)** her in the den, and to **(as, if, my)** surprise, she didn't yell as loud **(we, as, up)** I thought she would. After she **(was, how, this)** done yelling at me, she told **(to, see, me)** that my guitar lesson was canceled **(all, end, for)** the evening. I took some comfort **(by, in, at)** this news because I knew I **(global, cinch, could)** continue to torture her with "Purple **(riot, Haze, veto)**" and "Layla" for another week.

Dinner **(rural, word, went)** off without a hitch. I ate **(remembered, everything, mysterious)** on my plate. After dinner I **(went, glow, civil)** to my room to catch my **(religion, financier, favorite)** TV show, only to discover that **(by, a, so)** special speech by the president's wife **(upon, my, was)** on instead. I decided to go **(to, as, fun)** bed early that night. I was **(glad, came, mock)** the day was finally over!

Imaginary friends are good to have around. They come in especially handy when (**you're**, rodent, wedge) the new kid in class and (valuable, sabotage, **everyone**) ignores you.

After I moved to (runners-up, saxophone, **Watercress**), Indiana, nobody in my fourth grade (flirt, **class**, cargo) knew my first name was Jason (new, even, **for**) a week straight. The teacher even (special, **printed**, fourth) it in bold letters across the (**blackboard**, fundamental, responsible) my first day in attendance. If (of, so, **I**) hadn't been best friends with Sigmund, (as, **I**, to) might not have made it through (word, care, **that**) trying first week at my new (satisfying, **elementary**, minestrone) school when everyone shouted, "Hey you!" (**to**, as, by) get my attention.

Sigmund is my (guarantee, monogram, **imaginary**) friend. Only I can observe his (muffle, clinic, **antics**). Sigmund has fuzzy, purple ears that (saliva, **stick**, rodeo) out like teacup handles from both (rural, **sides**, varied) of his shaggy head. He also (**has**, are, new) a mouth filled with lots of (monotonous, **sparkling**, guardian) white teeth. His paws are the (word, **size**, long) of trash can lids, but his (rural, told, **eyes**) are thoughtful and gentle. Sigmund purrs (cane, phone, **when**) he is content, and he cries (bass, **big**, stew), indigo tears when he is upset.

(**Although**, Vigilante, Recommend) I am the only one who (name, **can**, was) see Sigmund, anyone can hear him. (Bold, Been, **Even**) though he is a little shy, (sculptor, **Sigmund**, civilian) does cause a commotion at times (best, week, **due**) to his large size. For example, (to, **if**, so) Sigmund knocks over a stack of (**books**, urban, recent) or trips over a desk, people (with, still, **near**) him would be able to hear (when, **the**, two) commotion he caused. Last week, Sigmund (**was**, like, gone) dancing around in the front of (out, to, **the**) room while the teacher taught us (play, **how**, over) to divide. Suddenly he spun around (see, but, **and**) accidentally ran into the chalkboard. He (chronic, muscle, **caused**) a lot of anxiety when the (relate, **other**, major) kids heard his loud crash but (**couldn't**, gesture, choice) see him. Several students looked at (have, **each**, new) other and whispered, "What was that?"

(Year, Team, **The**) teacher told us it was probably (near, **only**, last) a minor earthquake and continued on (tears, **with**, shy) her lesson. Only I knew Sigmund (**was**, can, calm) the cause.

Even now that everyone (rouge, scheme, **knows**) my first name is Jason and (or, so, **I**) have a group of friends my (chef, **own**, lost) age, I'm still friends with Sigmund. (Is, **I**, By) just don't explain why I smile (narration, universal, **sometimes**) during the most boring classes.

Imaginary friends are good to have around. They come in especially handy when **(you're, rodent, wedge)** the new kid in class and **(valuable, sabotage, everyone)** ignores you.

After I moved to **(runners-up, saxophone, Watercress)**, Indiana, nobody in my fourth grade **(flirt, class, cargo)** knew my first name was Jason **(new, even, for)** a week straight. The teacher even **(special, printed, fourth)** it in bold letters across the **(blackboard, fundamental, responsible)** my first day in attendance. If **(of, so, I)** hadn't been best friends with Sigmund, **(as, I, to)** might not have made it through **(word, care, that)** trying first week at my new **(satisfying, elementary, minestrone)** school when everyone shouted, "Hey you!" **(to, as, by)** get my attention.

Sigmund is my **(guarantee, monogram, imaginary)** friend. Only I can observe his **(muffle, clinic, antics)**. Sigmund has fuzzy, purple ears that **(saliva, stick, rodeo)** out like teacup handles from both **(rural, sides, varied)** of his shaggy head. He also **(has, are, new)** a mouth filled with lots of **(monotonous, sparkling, guardian)** white teeth. His paws are the **(word, size, long)** of trash can lids, but his **(rural, told, eyes)** are thoughtful and gentle. Sigmund purrs **(cane, phone, when)** he is content, and he cries **(bass, big, stew)**, indigo tears when he is upset.

**(Although, Vigilante, Recommend)** I am the only one who **(name, can, was)** see Sigmund, anyone can hear him. **(Bold, Been, Even)** though he is a little shy, **(sculptor, Sigmund, civilian)** does cause a commotion at times **(best, week, due)** to his large size. For example, **(to, if, so)** Sigmund knocks over a stack of **(books, urban, recent)** or trips over a desk, people **(with, still, near)** him would be able to hear **(when, the, two)** commotion he caused. Last week, Sigmund **(was, like, gone)** dancing around in the front of **(out, to, the)** room while the teacher taught us **(play, how, over)** to divide. Suddenly he spun around **(see, but, and)** accidentally ran into the chalkboard. He **(chronic, muscle, caused)** a lot of anxiety when the **(relate, other, major)** kids heard his loud crash but **(couldn't, gesture, choice)** see him. Several students looked at **(have, each, new)** other and whispered, "What was that?"

**(Year, Team, The)** teacher told us it was probably **(near, only, last)** a minor earthquake and continued on **(tears, with, shy)** her lesson. Only I knew Sigmund **(was, can, calm)** the cause.

Even now that everyone **(rouge, scheme, knows)** my first name is Jason and **(or, so, I)** have a group of friends my **(chef, own, lost)** age, I'm still friends with Sigmund. **(Is, I, By)** just don't explain why I smile **(narration, universal,**

**sometimes)** during the most boring classes.

In the old spider's spare time, she knitted coverings for all the animals of the forest. For the moose and his family, (**she**, old, very) knitted the warmest mosses into snug-(clothes, handful, **fitting**) vests. The moose family repaid her (for, **with**, need) the horns they dropped in winter. (You, Make, **Now**) the old spider weaves her webs (shears, history, **amongst**) their fallen horns, and she doesn't (how, **go**, try) hungry.

For the wolves, she entwined (**her**, for, the) own spider silk with soft whiffs (at, **of**, so) mist—a very delicate procedure. Now (you, can, **the**) wolves are invisible when they streak (complete, **across**, cordial) the moonlit fields. They repaid her (as, to, **by**) taking their pack across the valley (sign, idol, **when**) the group howls. Now the old (impeach, **spider's**, corridor) sleep isn't disturbed.

When the field (**mice**, siege, navel) requested clothes for winter, the old (omelet, **spider**, slogan) made them cloaks out of oak (**leaves**, opaque, sketch) trimmed with dandelion fuzz. The mice (silent, cloaks, **repaid**) the old spider with news that (I, a, of) blizzard was coming.

After the snow, (if, to, **a**) sly wolverine came knocking on the (okra, bat, **old**) spider's door requesting protection from the (peril, **cold**, donor). She conjured a muffler, as black (**as**, for, in) the night, trimmed with lace from (this, time, **her**) own web. In repayment, the sly (adjustment, **wolverine**, dietician) warned her that the blackbirds were (invalid, pertain, **hungry**) and were gathering in the trees (sponge, **above**, always). That night a blackbird pecked at (old, **the**, all) old spider's window. The crafty spider (steal, **looked**, stares) into the gleaming eyes of the (**bird**, webs, their). She was busy working on webs (out, horn, **for**) the spring.

"I hear you make (patience, surgeon, **clothes**) for the animals," the bird said, (increase, **watching**, dexterity) the old spider work. "You must (howl, **help**, lace) me. My feathers are no protection (**against**, stunned, dimming) this bitter wind. I need you (for, by, **to**) weave a cape for me to (plaza, **cover**, steer) my feathers." The spider considered the (supplement, interfere, **blackbird's**) request.

"What is your name?"

"Raven," (**he**, out, as) said. "If you weave a cape (so, come, **for**) me, I shall repay you quite (allegiance, politician, **generously**)."

"Then I shall make you a (upon, lose, **cape**)," she replied.

She worked long into (you, **the**, was) night, intricately braiding spools of her (night, door's, **black**) spider silk and the fur from (architect, intrigue, **cattails**). Raven came to retrieve the cape (by, **in**, no) the morning. He shuddered with delight (so, **as**, it) he pulled it over his black (spoonful, incredible, **shoulders**).

"Now, what do you demand of (is, at, **me**)?"

"Only a ride on your broad (**shoulders**, injection, dismayed)," the wise spider replied.

In the old spider's spare time, she knitted coverings for all the animals of the forest. For the moose and his family, **(she, old, very)** knitted the warmest mosses into snug-**(clothes, handful, fitting)** vests. The moose family repaid her **(for, with, need)** the horns they dropped in winter. **(You, Make, Now)** the old spider weaves her webs **(shears, history, amongst)** their fallen horns, and she doesn't **(how, go, try)** hungry.

For the wolves, she entwined **(her, for, the)** own spider silk with soft whiffs **(at, of, so)** mist—a very delicate procedure. Now **(you, can, the)** wolves are invisible when they streak **(complete, across, cordial)** the moonlit fields. They repaid her **(as, to, by)** taking their pack across the valley **(sign, idol, when)** the group howls. Now the old **(impeach, spider's, corridor)** sleep isn't disturbed.

When the field **(mice, siege, navel)** requested clothes for winter, the old **(omelet, spider, slogan)** made them cloaks out of oak **(leaves, opaque, sketch)** trimmed with dandelion fuzz. The mice **(silent, cloaks, repaid)** the old spider with news that **(I, a, of)** blizzard was coming.

After the snow, **(if, to, a)** sly wolverine came knocking on the **(okra, bat, old)** spider's door requesting protection from the **(peril, cold, donor)**. She conjured a muffler, as black **(as, for, in)** the night, trimmed with lace from **(this, time, her)** own web. In repayment, the sly **(adjustment, wolverine, dietician)** warned her that the blackbirds were **(invalid, pertain, hungry)** and were gathering in the trees **(sponge, above, always)**. That night a blackbird pecked at **(old, the, all)** old spider's window. The crafty spider **(steal, looked, stares)** into the gleaming eyes of the **(bird, webs, their)**. She was busy working on webs **(out, horn, for)** the spring.

"I hear you make **(patience, surgeon, clothes)** for the animals," the bird said, **(increase, watching, dexterity)** the old spider work. "You must **(howl, help, lace)** me. My feathers are no protection **(against, stunned, dimming)** this bitter wind. I need you **(for, by, to)** weave a cape for me to **(plaza, cover, steer)** my feathers." The spider considered the **(supplement, interfere, blackbird's)** request.

"What is your name?"

"Raven," **(he, out, as)** said. "If you weave a cape **(so, come, for)** me, I shall repay you quite **(allegiance, politician, generously)**."

"Then I shall make you a **(upon, lose, cape)**," she replied.

She worked long into **(you, the, was)** night, intricately braiding spools of her **(night, door's, black)** spider silk and the fur from **(architect, intrigue, cattails)**. Raven came to retrieve the cape **(by, in, no)** the morning. He shuddered with delight **(so, as, it)** he pulled it over his black **(spoonful, incredible, shoulders)**.

"Now, what do you demand of **(is, at, me)**?"

"Only a ride on your broad **(shoulders, injection, dismayed)**," the wise spider replied.

Jean led her sister Annabelle and her brother Kevin into the foothills of the mountains. There were rumors of extraordinary things (astronomer, **happening**, eighteen) near the creek by the mountains. (Led, Out, **All**) of the children in the hollow (atlas, effect, **heard**) stories about a character named Johnny (**Rabbit**, baffle, empire). The children said he would sit (the, **on**, a) the porch of his rundown old (basis, **cabin**, exile) and scare off visitors. They said (by, in, **if**) you stopped to visit Johnny Rabbit, (as, **he**, to) would try to frighten you away. (Foot, **Many**, Name) of the neighborhood children spoke of (foothill, benefit, **monsters**) in the pond near his house. (Lasso, Rarely, **Johnny**) Rabbit kept the monsters to make (**people**, linen, tyrant) stay away. There were also tales (bonus, thief, **about**) his mean dogs, the dangerous poison (her, **ivy**, two) that he planted around his house, (**and**, his, old) the trained bees that would sting (jealous, **anybody**, tornado) who tried to trespass on his (endeavor, turquoise, **property**).

Jean did not believe these stories (by, near, **and**) intended to find out the truth (so, **of**, in) the matter. Jean led her little (**sister**, trample, prism) and brother further into the woods. (Were, That, **They**) walked for half an hour, and (proceed, **finally**, biceps) came to an old shack in (so, or, **a**) clearing. A sign on the fence (care, **read**, tune), "No Trespassing." Jean looked past the (**fence**, fiber, they) and saw an old man sitting (by, as, **in**) a rocking chair on the front (bonus, **porch**, along). At first, Jean was a little (explanation, tournament, **frightened**). Then she said, "Hello there."

"Hello," (**the**, all, off) man responded. "What do you want?"

"(By, So, **I**) just wanted to meet you," said (proud, will, **Jean**) holding her brother's and sister's hands.

"(Need, **Just**, Tree) a second," said the man. He (off, **told**, knew) his old bloodhound to go inside (kept, by, **the**) house. Jean walked to his porch (came, off, **and**) sat down with Kevin and Annabelle. (Sit, **The**, This) man had two big front teeth (near, **and**, his) twitched his mouth like a rabbit. (**Jean**, List, Wood) found out his name was Johnny (her, book, **and**) he had lived in this house (also, saw, **his**) whole life. He raised carp in (as, **the**, come) pond of his farm, often had (textile, **rabbits**, biscuit) for supper, and liked to eat (**honey**, exit, lines). Jean learned that he was a (**nice**, thief, scar) man and that all the rumors (item, wrote, **about**) him were false. After a nice (stay, **talk**, from), Jean, Kevin, and Annabelle walked away, (legible, **noticing**, rebelled) the bee hive near Johnny's front (away, tried, **gate**).

"He was a very nice man (wrench, chain, **after**) all," said Jean to her sister (out, **and**, nor) brother. "I guess we tend to (**fear**, snow, toad) those things we don't understand."

Jean led her sister Annabelle and her brother Kevin into the foothills of the mountains. There were rumors of extraordinary things (**astronomer, happening, eighteen**) near the creek by the mountains. (**Led, Out, All**) of the children in the hollow (**atlas, effect, heard**) stories about a character named Johnny (**Rabbit, baffle, empire**). The children said he would sit (**the, on, a**) the porch of his rundown old (**basis, cabin, exile**) and scare off visitors. They said (**by, in, if**) you stopped to visit Johnny Rabbit, (**as, he, to**) would try to frighten you away. (**Foot, Many, Name**) of the neighborhood children spoke of (**foothill, benefit, monsters**) in the pond near his house. (**Lasso, Rarely, Johnny**) Rabbit kept the monsters to make (**people, linen, tyrant**) stay away. There were also tales (**bonus, thief, about**) his mean dogs, the dangerous poison (**her, ivy, two**) that he planted around his house, (**and, his, old**) the trained bees that would sting (**jealous, anybody, tornado**) who tried to trespass on his (**endeavor, turquoise, property**).

Jean did not believe these stories (**by, near, and**) intended to find out the truth (**so, of, in**) the matter. Jean led her little (**sister, trample, prism**) and brother further into the woods. (**Were, That, They**) walked for half an hour, and (**proceed, finally, biceps**) came to an old shack in (**so, or, a**) clearing. A sign on the fence (**care, read, tune**), "No Trespassing." Jean looked past the (**fence, fiber, they**) and saw an old man sitting (**by, as, in**) a rocking chair on the front (**bonus, porch, along**). At first, Jean was a little (**explanation, tournament, frightened**). Then she said, "Hello there."

"Hello," (**the, all, off**) man responded. "What do you want?"

"(**By, So, I**) just wanted to meet you," said (**proud, will, Jean**) holding her brother's and sister's hands.

"(**Need, Just, Tree**) a second," said the man. He (**off, told, knew**) his old bloodhound to go inside (**kept, by, the**) house. Jean walked to his porch (**came, off, and**) sat down with Kevin and Annabelle. (**Sit, The, This**) man had two big front teeth (**near, and, his**) twitched his mouth like a rabbit. (**Jean, List, Wood**) found out his name was Johnny (**her, book, and**) he had lived in this house (**also, saw, his**) whole life. He raised carp in (**as, the, come**) pond of his farm, often had (**textile, rabbits, biscuit**) for supper, and liked to eat (**honey, exit, lines**). Jean learned that he was a (**nice, thief, scar**) man and that all the rumors (**item, wrote, about**) him were false. After a nice (**stay, talk, from**), Jean, Kevin, and Annabelle walked away, (**legible, noticing, rebelled**) the bee hive near Johnny's front (**away, tried, gate**).

"He was a very nice man (**wrench, chain, after**) all," said Jean to her sister (**out, and, nor**) brother. "I guess we tend to (**fear, snow, toad**) those things we don't understand."

Joan walked along the dingy, stone corridor. The sound of her footsteps was (bureau, fiesta, **almost**) deafening in the silence. She paused (calendar, **briefly**, foliage) as she reached the entrance to (grew, spy, **the**) cave. As she peered inside, she (cashier, hallway, **noticed**) a glow coming from a small, (woodcut, **raised**, gourmet) wooden platform located near the center (**of**, as, now) the cave. Stretching across the surface (so, by, **of**) the platform was the long sought (virus, rural, **after**) Golden Sword. Its gem-studded handle (candidate, **radiated**, sacrifice) light throughout the cave.

Joan's heart (watchful, mustang, **pounded**) as she gazed upon the ancient (**relic**, major, weight). She knew it belonged to many (saliva, rodent, **heroes**), including Daniel the Dragon-Killer. Almost (monarch, graphics, **everyone**) knew the tale of his noble (cinch, **deeds**, clinic).

Long ago, an evil dragon roamed (**Joan's**, whim, muffle) homeland. He roamed the land for (word, **many**, lost) years. Daniel heard of a Golden (urban, **Sword**, chef) and decided to search it out. (Choice, Riot, **After**) finding it, he used the sword's (vague, **magic**, choir) to defeat the dragon and save (homeland, guarantee, **countless**) lives. Becoming a hero, however, changed (**him**, was, she) forever because he eventually abandoned his (magnify, register, **homeland**) and was never seen again. Daniel (rodent, **became**, global) a legend. After a century passed, (vigilante, mischief, **children**) still dreamed of becoming a hero (riot, **just**, same) like him.

Joan dreamed of becoming (by, **a**, so) heroine as well. Most of her (reclaim, fungus, **friends**) grew up and started families of (**their**, molar, waltz) own, while Joan spent the majority (by, so, **of**) her time practicing with her sword. (Was, **She**, Gone) could not outgrow her childhood dream. (**She**, Too, Near) desperately desired to become a heroine.

(Flirt, **Joan**, Seen) had already decided what quest would (go, to, **be**) hers. She learned of a Silver (global, chrome, **Knight**) who terrified many people living in (my, **the**, an) land far to the west. She (venom, yield, **would**) destroy him and restore truth and (**justice**, revival, gradual) to the people. To carry out (mock, fuel, **her**) plan, she needed the Golden Sword.

(Find, **Joan's**, Keep) quest for the Golden Sword was (schedule, moderator, **difficult**). Many dangers lurked in the enchanted (meddle, unison, **forest**) surrounding the cave. Despite the dangers, (upon, **Joan**, from) succeeded. As she grasped the sword, (gem, was, **she**) could feel magic quivering within its (recent, canyon, **handle**). With the Golden Sword, she encountered (**and**, the, new) defeated the Silver Knight.

Joan continued (came, long, **with**) other acts of heroism for many (chasm. mock, **years**). She became famous throughout the entire (minute, **kingdom**, relation), and as she had desired, she (versus, **became**, cinema) a legend. Eventually, she returned the (**Golden**,

chemist, method) Sword to its resting place where (to, by, **it**) would wait for the next hero (so, as, **to**) discover it.

Joan walked along the dingy, stone corridor. The sound of her footsteps was **(bureau, fiesta, almost)** deafening in the silence. She paused **(calendar, briefly, foliage)** as she reached the entrance to **(grew, spy, the)** cave. As she peered inside, she **(cashier, hallway, noticed)** a glow coming from a small, **(woodcut, raised, gourmet)** wooden platform located near the center **(of, as, now)** the cave. Stretching across the surface **(so, by, of)** the platform was the long sought **(virus, rural, after)** Golden Sword. Its gem-studded handle **(candidate, radiated, sacrifice)** light throughout the cave.

Joan's heart **(watchful, mustang, pounded)** as she gazed upon the ancient **(relic, major, weight)**. She knew it belonged to many **(saliva, rodent, heroes)**, including Daniel the Dragon-Killer. Almost **(monarch, graphics, everyone)** knew the tale of his noble **(cinch, deeds, clinic)**.

Long ago, an evil dragon roamed **(Joan's, whim, muffle)** homeland. He roamed the land for **(word, many, lost)** years. Daniel heard of a Golden **(urban, Sword, chef)** and decided to search it out. **(Choice, Riot, After)** finding it, he used the sword's **(vague, magic, choir)** to defeat the dragon and save **(homeland, guarantee, countless)** lives. Becoming a hero, however, changed **(him, was, she)** forever because he eventually abandoned his **(magnify, register, homeland)** and was never seen again. Daniel **(rodent, became, global)** a legend. After a century passed, **(vigilante, mischief, children)** still dreamed of becoming a hero **(riot, just, same)** like him.

Joan dreamed of becoming **(by, a, so)** heroine as well. Most of her **(reclaim, fungus, friends)** grew up and started families of **(their, molar, waltz)** own, while Joan spent the majority **(by, so, of)** her time practicing with her sword. **(Was, She, Gone)** could not outgrow her childhood dream. **(She, Too, Near)** desperately desired to become a heroine.

**(Flirt, Joan, Seen)** had already decided what quest would **(go, to, be)** hers. She learned of a Silver **(global, chrome, Knight)** who terrified many people living in **(my, the, an)** land far to the west. She **(venom, yield, would)** destroy him and restore truth and **(justice, revival, gradual)** to the people. To carry out **(mock, fuel, her)** plan, she needed the Golden Sword.

**(Find, Joan's, Keep)** quest for the Golden Sword was **(schedule, moderator, difficult)**. Many dangers lurked in the enchanted **(meddle, unison, forest)** surrounding the cave. Despite the dangers, **(upon, Joan, from)** succeeded. As she grasped the sword, **(gem, was, she)** could feel magic quivering within its **(recent, canyon, handle)**. With the Golden Sword, she encountered **(and, the, new)** defeated the Black Knight.

Joan continued **(came, long, with)** other acts of heroism for many **(chasm. mock, years)**. She became famous throughout the entire **(minute, kingdom, relation)**, and as she had desired, she **(versus, became, cinema)** a legend. Eventually, she returned the

**(Golden, chemist, method)** Sword to its resting place where **(to, by, it)** would wait for the next hero **(so, as, to)** discover it.

The mountain and the river were bitter rivals. The mountain distrusted the river because (**of**, to, depth) her sneaky creeks and streams that (**trickled**, rocks, will) down his flanks. The river distrusted (**the**, side, of) mountain because of his jutting peaks (of, **and**, his) the rolling boulders that blocked her (because, **course**, splashed). The river was made to erode (rolling, only, **mountains**), and the mountain was made to (river, the, **stand**) in the way of rivers.

Every (**day**, flank, might) the river cut a cold path (creeks, **through**, of) one of the mountain's passes, and (down, **every**, river) day the path became deeper and (avalanche, saw, **wider**). The river was carving a valley (she, **on**, that) the side of the mountain and (his, **this**, a) frightened the mountain, but he hid (rivals, **his**, way) fear with anger.

"You're cutting too (**close**, hid, the) to my flank!" he shouted. "I (**wouldn't**, anger, the) come too close if I were (a, **you**, her). Any day I might choose to (dodged, and, **let**) an avalanche loose that will bury (the, blocked, **you**) beneath its rubble."

The river lent (**her**, was, the) ear to the mountain, but there (cut, one, **wasn't**) much she could do to change (the, one, **her**) course because of her wild nature.

"(**There**, The, Loose) is nothing I can do to (you, passes, **stop**) myself," she said. "I must follow (**the**, distrusted, to) path laid out in front of (much, **me**, valley), and I dare say, if you (**let**, bitter, change) an avalanche loose on top of (**me**, the, that), my waters will only bubble through (**it**, I, call) and continue on course. As big (**as**, cannot, to) you are, mountain, you cannot stop (**me**, streams, ear), and I cannot stop myself. We (and, erode, **are**) simply going to have to get (river, **used**, his) to one another."

"Rubbish!" cried the (conquer, should, **mountain**), and in a fit of rage, (to, **he**, were) shrugged his shoulders and released an (**avalanche**, ever, cold) of rocks.

The rocks splashed into (distrusted, her, **the**) river's cold depths, sinking to the (tantrum, **bottom**, will) and impeding the water's flow. For (perhaps, that, **a**) moment the river was still and (rubble, **confused**, day), but then her nature took over (in, do, **and**) she started to move. She dodged (**the**, lent, to) rocks and continued to rush down (**the**, frightened, great) mountain's flanks. Dangerous rapids formed. There (her, **was**, because) nothing the mountain could do to (**stop**, made, sneaky) the river. The great mountain saw (**this**, an, rapids) fact and stilled his tantrum.

"Perhaps (stilled, **we**, impeding) should call a truce," he said, "(the, **for**, could) I cannot conquer you and you (bubble, **cannot**, choose) conquer me.

The mountain and the river were bitter rivals. The mountain distrusted the river because (**of, to, depth**) her sneaky creeks and streams that (**trickled, rocks, will**) down his flanks. The river distrusted (**the, side, of**) mountain because of his jutting peaks (**of, and, his**) the rolling boulders that blocked her (**because, course, splashed**). The river was made to erode (**rolling, only, mountains**), and the mountain was made to (**river, the, stand**) in the way of rivers.

Every (**day, flank, might**) the river cut a cold path (**creaks, through, of**) one of the mountain's passes, and (**down, every, river**) day the path became deeper and (**avalanche, saw, wider**). The river was carving a valley (**she, on, that**) the side of the mountain and (his, **this, a**) frightened the mountain, but he hid (**rivals, his, way**) fear with anger.

"You're cutting too (**close, hid, the**) to my flank!" he shouted. "I (**wouldn't, anger, the**) come too close if I were (**a, you, her**). Any day I might choose to (**dodged, and, let**) an avalanche loose that will bury (**the, blocked, you**) beneath its rubble."

The river lent (**her, was, the**) ear to the mountain, but there (**cut, one, wasn't**) much she could do to change (**the, one, her**) course because of her wild nature.

"(**There, The, Loose**) is nothing I can do to (**you, passes, stop**) myself," she said. "I must follow (**the, distrusted, to**) path laid out in front of (**much, me, valley**), and I dare say, if you (**let, bitter, change**) an avalanche loose on top of (**me, the, that**), my waters will only bubble through (**it, I, call**) and continue on course. As big (**as, cannot, to**) you are, mountain, you cannot stop (**me, streams, ear**), and I cannot stop myself. We (**and, erode, are**) simply going to have to get (**river, used, his**) to one another."

"Rubbish!" cried the (**conquer, should, mountain**), and in a fit of rage, (**to, he, were**) shrugged his shoulders and released an (**avalanche, ever, cold**) of rocks.

The rocks splashed into (**distrusted, her, the**) river's cold depths, sinking to the (**tantrum, bottom, will**) and impeding the water's flow. For (**perhaps, that, a**) moment the river was still and (**rubble, confused, day**), but then her nature took over (**in, do, and**) she started to move. She dodged (**the, lent, to**) rocks and continued to rush down (**the, frightened, great**) mountain's flanks. Dangerous rapids formed. There (**her, was, because**) nothing the mountain could do to (**stop, made, sneaky**) the river. The great mountain saw (**this, an, rapids**) fact and stilled his tantrum.

"Perhaps (**stilled, we, impeding**) should call a truce," he said, "(**the, for, could**) I cannot conquer you and you (**bubble, cannot, choose**) conquer me."

Michael enjoyed sailing on the sea more than anything else. The feel of the wind through (see, the, **his**) hair while it filled the ship's (**sails**, flame, black), the chop of the ocean beneath (saw, **him**, and), and the deep navy color of (her, was, **the**) waters were just some of the (constant, **reasons**, rusted) for his love of the sea.

(Exposed, Dungeon, **Michael**) remembered always having a fascination with (more, **the**, by) sea. He grew up on the (**shores**, sleep, rubies) of the Atlantic in the state (by, on, **of**) Maine. From the moment he was (sea, too, **old**) and strong enough to haul up (to, **a**, in) net, he was allowed to go (as, **on**, am) the boat with his father in (**the**, far, old) evenings.

Michael's great-great-grandfather had (wait, **been**, next) a sea-faring captain. He had owned (sea, still, **his**) own ship and made a run (their, **from**, eggs) the New York harbor to the (golden, conceal, **Orient**) and to Calcutta every year. He'd (**brought**, whisper, satisfy) back spices, the richest of silks, (ape, out, **and**) teacups so fine you could see (how, can, **the**) tea through the china. Best of (new, **all**, add), he'd brought back stories of his (constantly, **adventures**, invisible) on the high seas. Out of (can, try, **all**) his treasures, the stories were the (room, away, **most**) important. Only the stories remained intact (is, **as**, go) the years flew by.

On his (**eighteenth**, accidental, fireplaces) birthday, Michael inherited the old, silver (purchase, **compass**, waiting) that once belonged to his great-(grown, high, **great**)-grandfather. The compass was tarnished and (slept, **dented**, dragon), yet amazingly, its silver arrow still (observe, chopping, **pointed**) true north.

After his high school (relatives, concealing, **graduation**), only one route of education interested (observed, golden, **Michael**). He wanted to study the sea (arm, **and**, his) its creatures. He hadn't realized, however, (away, **that**, worn) there would be so many sea-(**related**, jewelers, stacking) careers to choose from. He could (go, as, **be**) an oceanographer and study the vast (smoke, middle, **oceans**). He could be a marine specialist (some, **and**, try) study the characteristics of different marine (curled, **animals**, beyond). Or he could be a fisherman (**like**, need, fine) his father and his father before (babe, **him**, see). Fishing was an occupation that went (come, **back**, far) for generations in his family.

Now, (by, **as**, be) a grown man with a boat (**of**, no, to) his own, Michael would sometimes find (through, **himself**, purchase) on the deck of his ship (creature, different, **thinking**) of his life with the sea. (In, Or, **It**) was then that he would slip (more, **the**, can) old compass out of the pocket (am, at, **of**) his wet slicker, study it under (tea, day, **the**) stars, and remember just exactly where (on, **he**, so) came from.

Michael enjoyed sailing on the sea more than anything else. The feel of the wind through **(see, the, his)** hair while it filled the ship's **(sails, flame, black)**, the chop of the ocean beneath **(saw, him, and)**, and the deep navy color of **(her, was, the)** waters were just some of the **(constant, reasons, rusted)** for his love of the sea.

**(Exposed, Dungeon, Michael)** remembered always having a fascination with **(more, the, by)** sea. He grew up on the **(shores, sleep, rubies)** of the Atlantic in the state **(by, on, of)** Maine. From the moment he was **(sea, too, old)** and strong enough to haul up **(to, a, in)** net, he was allowed to go **(as, on, am)** the boat with his father in **(the, far, old)** evenings.

Michael's great-great-grandfather had **(wait, been, next)** a sea-faring captain. He had owned **(sea, still, his)** own ship and made a run **(their, from, eggs)** the New York harbor to the **(golden, conceal, Orient)** and to Calcutta every year. He'd **(brought, whisper, satisfy)** back spices, the richest of silks, **(ape, out, and)** teacups so fine you could see **(how, can, the)** tea through the china. Best of **(new, all, add)**, he'd brought back stories of his **(constantly, adventures, invisible)** on the high seas. Out of **(can, try, all)** his treasures, the stories were the **(room, away, most)** important. Only the stories remained intact **(is, as, go)** the years flew by.

On his **(eighteenth, accidental, fireplaces)** birthday, Michael inherited the old, silver **(purchase, compass, waiting)** that once belonged to his great-**(grown, high, great)**-grandfather. The compass was tarnished and **(slept, dented, dragon)**, yet amazingly, its silver arrow still **(observe, chopping, pointed)** true north.

After his high school **(relatives, concealing, graduation)**, only one route of education interested **(observed, golden, Michael)**. He wanted to study the sea **(arm, and, his)** its creatures. He hadn't realized, however, **(away, that, worn)** there would be so many sea-**(related, jewelers, stacking)** careers to choose from. He could **(go, as, be)** an oceanographer and study the vast **(smoke, middle, oceans)**. He could be a marine specialist **(some, and, try)** study the characteristics of different marine **(curled, animals, beyond)**. Or he could be a fisherman **(like, need, fine)** his father and his father before **(babe, him, see)**. Fishing was an occupation that went **(come, back, far)** for generations in his family.

Now, **(by, as, be)** a grown man with a boat **(of, no, to)** his own, Michael would sometimes find **(through, himself, purchase)** on the deck of his ship **(creature, different, thinking)** of his life with the sea. **(In, Or, It)** was then that he would slip **(more, the, can)** old compass out of the pocket **(am, at, of)** his wet slicker, study it under **(tea, day, the)** stars, and remember just exactly where **(on, he, so)** came from.

Mr. Huffman, a man who lived at the end of Simon's street, had dragon-like features. He had green, glowing eyes and (can, too, **dry**), scaly hands. His house had four (cursive, **chimneys**, dangling) that were constantly smoking, even in (pry, bar, **the**) middle of July. His windows were (dragon, **smudged**, decline) black with soot and smoke.

The (**other**, single, taught) kids on the block told Simon (even, **that**, call) Mr. Huffman and all of Mr. (sometime, untamed, **Huffman's**) relatives were dragons. Simon didn't know (by, so, **if**) he believed the rumors about Mr. (barrette, wonder, **Huffman**). Last week he'd observed the old (**man**, car, back) stacking firewood next to his stone (raised, bright, **house**). He'd looked tired and worn out (as, a, **to**) Simon. "Aren't dragons supposed to be (fundamental, **invincible**, monologue)?" wondered Simon. "If Mr. Huffman was (by, **a**, or) dragon, why did he seem to (**have**, that, lost) such a hard time stacking firewood?"

"(All, **He**, One) needs all that wood," whispered Ned (slippers, **Swampett**, someone), Simon's next-door neighbor. "Dragon babies (down, look, **won't**) hatch unless their eggs are constantly (take, look, **kept**) exposed to open flames."

Simon thought (**about**, divide, still) Ned's explanation the next day as (go, as, **he**) watched Mr. Huffman chopping more wood. (Wonton, Asked, **Could**) it be true that the old (far, **man**, bad) was concealing dragon eggs in his (**basement**, schedule, narrator)?

"He's got a dungeon full of (match, **rubies**, under)," whispered Shelia Swampett, Ned's sister, while (feet, tied, **they**) watched Mr. Huffman climb in his (better, **rusted**, smile) sedan and drive away. "He's going (do, as, **to**) the jewelers now to purchase more (**rubies**, color, between). Did you know that baby dragons (one, **eat**, far) rubies, Simon?" asked Shelia.

When Mr. (January, Gesture, **Huffman**) returned, he had a jeweler's box (worry, **tucked**, least) under his arm. When he accidentally (rehearsal, **stumbled**, muscular) and dropped it on his way (on, or, **up**) his front walk, Simon saw the (groomed, middle, **glimmer**) of rubies in the afternoon sunshine.

(**Simon**, Those, Never) decided he would satisfy his curiosity. (By, **He**, So) waited for Mr. Huffman to leave (words, still, **again**), and then he snuck over to (less, **the**, two) house and slipped through a smudged (cracked, prepare, **basement**) window.

There he found a room (fill, bird, **with**) four fireplaces. In the middle of (**the**, you, can) room was a golden nest. In (was, here, **the**) nest was a pile of baby (winter, **dragons**, stayed) sleeping in a lethargic heap. The (pointed, curler, **dragons**) were black and smoke curled from (**their**, agreed, cackle) nostrils. Placed next to them was (by, **a**, no) bowl filled with rubies—their favorite (them, long, **meal**).

Mr. Huffman, a man who lived at the end of Simon's street, had dragon-like features. He had green, glowing eyes and **(can, too, dry)**, scaly hands. His house had four **(cursive, chimneys, dangling)** that were constantly smoking, even in **(pry, bar, the)** middle of July. His windows were **(dragon, smudged, decline)** black with soot and smoke.

The **(other, single, taught)** kids on the block told Simon **(even, that, call)** Mr. Huffman and all of Mr. **(sometime, untamed, Huffman's)** relatives were dragons. Simon didn't know **(by, so, if)** he believed the rumors about Mr. **(barrette, wonder, Huffman)**. Last week he'd observed the old **(man, car, back)** stacking firewood next to his stone **(raised, bright, house)**. He'd looked tired and worn out **(as, a, to)** Simon. "Aren't dragons supposed to be **(fundamental, invincible, monologue)?**" wondered Simon. "If Mr. Huffman was **(by, a, or)** dragon, why did he seem to **(have, that, lost)** such a hard time stacking firewood?"

"**(All, He, One)** needs all that wood," whispered Ned **(slippers, Swampett, someone)**, Simon's next-door neighbor. "Dragon babies **(down, look, won't)** hatch unless their eggs are constantly **(take, look, kept)** exposed to open flames."

Simon thought **(about, divide, still)** Ned's explanation the next day as **(go, as, he)** watched Mr. Huffman chopping more wood. **(Wonton, Asked, Could)** it be true that the old **(far, man, bad)** was concealing dragon eggs in his **(basement, schedule, narrator)?**

"He's got a dungeon full of **(match, rubies, under)**," whispered Shelia Swampett, Ned's sister, while **(feet, tied, they)** watched Mr. Huffman climb in his **(better, rusted, smile)** sedan and drive away. "He's going **(do, as, to)** the jewelers now to purchase more **(rubies, color, between)**. Did you know that baby dragons **(one, eat, far)** rubies, Simon?" asked Shelia.

When Mr. **(January, Gesture, Huffman)** returned, he had a jeweler's box **(worry, tucked, least)** under his arm. When he accidentally **(rehearsal, stumbled, muscular)** and dropped it on his way **(on, or, up)** his front walk, Simon saw the **(groomed, middle, glimmer)** of rubies in the afternoon sunshine.

**(Simon, Those, Never)** decided he would satisfy his curiosity. **(By, He, So)** waited for Mr. Huffman to leave **(words, still, again)**, and then he snuck over to **(less, the, two)** house and slipped through a smudged **(cracked, prepare, basement)** window.

There he found a room **(fill, bird, with)** four fireplaces. In the middle of **(the, you, can)** room was a golden nest. In **(was, here, the)** nest was a pile of baby **(winter, dragons, stayed)** sleeping in a lethargic heap. The **(pointed, curler, dragons)** were black and smoke curled from **(their, agreed, cackle)** nostrils. Placed next to them was **(by, a, no)** bowl filled with rubies—their favorite **(them, long, meal)**.

Ms. Pringle was the strangest teacher at Eastbrook Elementary. Everyone agreed, including the students, teachers, (**janitors**, knuckle, engraved), and even the principal.

Ms. Pringle's (three, dented, **laugh**) sounded like a cackle. Her hairdo (out, **was**, sad) like a dust ball perched on (over, it, **the**) top of her head. It was (turned, **frizzy**, ground) and golden. She favored bright colors, (**and**, off, into) sometimes under the cuffs of her (yard, carrot, **pants**), her students saw that her socks (called, tore, **didn't**) match.

One day, Sammy raised his (left, **hand**, soon) and Ms. Pringle called on him.

"(So, **Ms.**, By) Pringle," Sammy said. "Do you know (cube, **that**, with) your socks are mismatched and your (store, **shoes**, ring) are untied?"

"Oh," Ms. Pringle said (brother, cleared, **bending**) down hastily to take a look. "(So, As, **I**) guess you're right, Sammy. You see, (to, **I**, no) have better things to do than (**worry**, final, order) about whether my socks match or (is, to, **my**) shoes are tied."

On Thursday, Ms. (Newman, Brother, **Pringle**) came to class in slippers and (but, **the**, was) students were flabbergasted to see that (much, **her**, onto) hair was still twisted in curlers. (Say, More, **She**) had only one earring dangling from (eye, was, **her**) left earlobe, but she wasn't the (**least**, store, caught) bit worried when Tony pointed out (but, day, **the**) missing earring to her.

Ms. Pringle (gone, **left**, along) the single earring in all morning. (Ride, Why, **She**) taught the students how to divide (inside, cement, **during**) math class and about England and (waiting, wedged, **France**) during history class. She taught them (**how**, Ruby, and) to make a cursive letter B. (Help, All, **She**) also took all their pictures for (by, **a**, to) bulletin board she was decorating.

All (but, **day**, all) long she lost curlers. They rolled (tore, cold, **from**) her golden hair, off her desk, (try, **and**, new) down between the aisles where her (retrieved, **students**, sparkle) sat in wonder. By the end (**of**, as, in) the afternoon, her hair was one (closer, young, **curly**), untamed mess. But when Angie offered (if, we, **Ms.**) Pringle a barrette to clip it (that, near, **back**), she declined.

"I have better things (**to**, on, by) do," she announced to her students. "(Was, **Now**, For), let's see. We were talking about (content, **squids**, inside)."

"What better things do you have (as, up, **to**) do?" someone asked. Ms. Pringle looked (go, far, **up**) and smiled. A curler rolled between (just, **her**, was) feet.

"Why, teach you, of course," (carrots, **replied**, settled) Ms. Pringle.

Ms. Pringle was the strangest teacher at Eastbrook Elementary. Everyone agreed, including the students, teachers, **(janitors, knuckle, engraved)**, and even the principal.

Ms. Pringle's **(three, dented, laugh)** sounded like a cackle. Her hairdo **(out, was, sad)** like a dust ball perched on **(over, it, the)** top of her head. It was **(turned, frizzy, ground)** and golden. She favored bright colors, **(and, off, into)** sometimes under the cuffs of her **(yard, carrot, pants)**, her students saw that her socks **(called, tore, didn't)** match.

One day, Sammy raised his **(left, hand, soon)** and Ms. Pringle called on him.

"**(So, Ms., By)** Pringle," Sammy said. "Do you know **(cube, that, with)** your socks are mismatched and your **(store, shoes, ring)** are untied?"

"Oh," Ms. Pringle said **(brother, cleared, bending)** down hastily to take a look. "**(So, As, I)** guess you're right, Sammy. You see, **(to, I, no)** have better things to do than **(worry, final, order)** about whether my socks match or **(is, to, my)** shoes are tied."

On Thursday, Ms. **(Newman, Brother, Pringle)** came to class in slippers and **(but, the, was)** students were flabbergasted to see that **(much, her, onto)** hair was still twisted in curlers. **(Say, More, She)** had only one earring dangling from **(eye, was, her)** left earlobe, but she wasn't the **(least, store, caught)** bit worried when Tony pointed out **(but, day, the)** missing earring to her.

Ms. Pringle **(gone, left, along)** the single earring in all morning. **(Ride, Why, She)** taught the students how to divide **(inside, cement, during)** math class and about England and **(waiting, wedged, France)** during history class. She taught them **(how, Ruby, and)** to make a cursive letter B. **(Help, All, She)** also took all their pictures for **(by, a, to)** bulletin board she was decorating.

All **(but, day, all)** long she lost curlers. They rolled **(tore, cold, from)** her golden hair, off her desk, **(try, and, new)** down between the aisles where her **(retrieved, students, sparkle)** sat in wonder. By the end **(of, as, in)** the afternoon, her hair was one **(closer, young, curly)**, untamed mess. But when Angie offered **(if, we, Ms.)** Pringle a barrette to clip it **(that, near, back)**, she declined.

"I have better things **(to, on, by)** do," she announced to her students. "**(Was, Now, For)**, let's see. We were talking about **(content, squids, inside).**"

"What better things do you have **(as, up, to)** do?" someone asked. Ms. Pringle looked **(go, far, up)** and smiled. A curler rolled between **(just, her, was)** feet.

"Why, teach you, of course," **(carrots, replied, settled)** Ms. Pringle.

One day, Victoria was walking home from the grocery store with a brown bag on each hip when a sparkle caught her eye. The sparkle came from a slightly (school, **dented**, bushes) ruby ring wedged tightly in a (solar, **crack**, girls) of the cement sidewalk. After much (scribble, surrounded, **muttering**) and three scraped knuckles, she retrieved (**the**, was, all) ring and held it in the (were, room, **palm**) of her hand.

Some words were (knuckles, **engraved**, sidewalk) on the inside of the ring's (system, drawing, **golden**) band, but the ring was so (rise, **worn**, jump) and bent that Victoria could not (room, upon, **read**) them. Victoria slipped the ring on (**her**, saw, now) thumb. Feeling quite content, she skipped (him, you, **all**) the way home. When she got (about, **there**, class), her youngest brother Roger was waiting (or, **in**, go) the yard with a picture he (**colored**, morning, gigantic) for her.

"Why, you're so sweet, (turns, fiery, **Roger**)," Victoria said patting her brother on (saw, **the**, ice) cheek as she spoke. She was (began, rooms, **about**) to say more, but there was (I, a, so) poof of smoke. When the smoke (steams, unusual, **cleared**), Victoria saw that Roger had turned (**into**, each, with) a sugar statue. Victoria stepped closer (by, now, **and**) saw that her brother was one (chalk, **solid**, write) piece of sugar crystal. Rogers's mouth (when, **was**, call) open as if he wanted to (right, house, **speak**). Just then, Victoria's other brother, Newman, (**came**, how, soon) out onto the back stoop.

"What (why, **are**, need) you doing, Victoria?" Newman asked. "Mom (draw, **needs**, reply) the carrots and sesame seeds you (smoke, circle, **picked**) up at the grocery store in (before, roof, **order**) to finish dinner. I'll come and (our, **get**, mean) them from you."

Newman crossed the (sweet, **yard**, you) to his sister, wondering why she (**didn't**, arrive, stop) answer. His eyes finally settled on (**Roger**, Mars, hoop). "What happened to him?"

"Really, Newman, (as, too, **are**) you as cold and insensitive as (or, **an**, by) ice cube?" Victoria asked. "I called (this, were, **him**) sweet and he turned..." Victoria gasped (to, **as**, we) the groceries she was passing to (believe, planet, **Newman**) fell to the ground. Newman had (every, begin, **turned**) into a statue of ice, his (sew, **two**, the) surprised eyes starring up at her.

(As, **In**, So) an instant, Victoria realized the ring (**she**, now, but) wore was cursed. She tore it (one, day, **off**) her thumb and threw it into (for, bag, **the**) street. As soon as the ring (she, **was**, new) off her thumb, her brothers began (an, **to**, up) revive. She no longer wondered why (**someone**, window, belongs) left that ring on the sidewalk (as, do, **by**) the grocery store.

One day, Victoria was walking home from the grocery store with a brown bag on each hip when a sparkle caught her eye. The sparkle came from a slightly **(school, dented, bushes)** ruby ring wedged tightly in a **(solar, crack, girls)** of the cement sidewalk. After much **(scribble, surrounded, muttering)** and three scraped knuckles, she retrieved **(the, was, all)** ring and held it in the **(were, room, palm)** of her hand.

Some words were **(knuckles, engraved, sidewalk)** on the inside of the ring's **(system, drawing, golden)** band, but the ring was so **(rise, worn, jump)** and bent that Victoria could not **(room, upon, read)** them. Victoria slipped the ring on **(her, saw, now)** thumb. Feeling quite content, she skipped **(him, you, all)** the way home. When she got **(about, there, class)**, her youngest brother Roger was waiting **(or, in, go)** the yard with a picture he **(colored, morning, gigantic)** for her.

"Why, you're so sweet, **(turns, fiery, Roger)**," Victoria said patting her brother on **(saw, the, ice)** cheek as she spoke. She was **(began, rooms, about)** to say more, but there was **(I, a, so)** poof of smoke. When the smoke **(steams, unusual, cleared)**, Victoria saw that Roger had turned **(into, each, with)** a sugar statue. Victoria stepped closer **(by, now, and)** saw that her brother was one **(chalk, solid, write)** piece of sugar crystal. Rogers's mouth **(when, was, call)** open as if he wanted to **(right, house, speak)**. Just then, Victoria's other brother, Newman, **(came, how, soon)** out onto the back stoop.

"What **(why, are, need)** you doing, Victoria?" Newman asked. "Mom **(draw, needs, reply)** the carrots and sesame seeds you **(smoke, circle, picked)** up at the grocery store in **(before, roof, order)** to finish dinner. I'll come and **(our, get, mean)** them from you."

Newman crossed the **(sweet, yard, you)** to his sister, wondering why she **(didn't, arrive, stop)** answer. His eyes finally settled on **(Roger, Mars, hoop)**. "What happened to him?"

"Really, Newman, **(as, too, are)** you as cold and insensitive as **(or, an, by)** ice cube?" Victoria asked. "I called **(this, were, him)** sweet and he turned..." Victoria gasped **(to, as, we)** the groceries she was passing to **(believe, planet, Newman)** fell to the ground. Newman had **(every, begin, turned)** into a statue of ice, his **(sew, two, the)** surprised eyes starring up at her.

**(As, In, So)** an instant, Victoria realized the ring **(she, now, but)** wore was cursed. She tore it **(one, day, off)** her thumb and threw it into **(for, bag, the)** street. As soon as the ring **(she, was, new)** off her thumb, her brothers began **(an, to, up)** revive. She no longer wondered why **(someone, window, belongs)** left that ring on the sidewalk **(as, do, by)** the grocery store.

"You won't believe what I saw this morning!" Chen exclaimed at the breakfast table. "Just before the sun came up, (on, me, **a**) spaceship landed on the roof of (saw, **the**, too) house next door. It stayed for (didn't, **about**, green) 15 minutes and then flew away. (**Do**, Why, Toy) you think our new neighbors are (window, **aliens**, escape)?"

"No, I'm sure it was just (do, up, **a**) dream, Chen," his mother said. But (like, going, **Chen**) wasn't so sure.

When he arrived (in, **at**, of) school, Chen learned that his class (set, **had**, you) a new teacher. The new teacher's (have, such, **name**) was Mrs. Ling. Chen thought she (**behaved**, bedroom, bright) very strangely.

"How are all my (brainy, about, **human**) boys and girls today?" Mrs. Ling (unnecessary, **questioned**, moderator) the class. "Today I will teach (say, now, **you**) all about my, I mean OUR, (pulled, **solar**, bunch) system. I will draw a sketch (to, **of**, as) the solar system on the chalkboard (with, all, **for**) everyone."

Mrs. Ling then picked up (**the**, air, far) chalk, but instead of raising it (so, by, **to**) write on the chalkboard located right (humans, window, **behind**) her, she crossed the room and (semisweet, **attempted**, horrified) to scribble on the window.

"Oh," (saw, **she**, much) said when Kim Sung pointed out (come, mean, **that**) the window was not the chalkboard. "(To, **Ah**, You), yes, here is the chalkboard. Now (as, **I**, a) will draw our solar system."

Then (**Mrs.**, the, near) Ling began to draw many loops (for, was, **and**) circles on the blackboard. She drew (by, so, **a**) fiery sun and the planets Mercury, (opens, **Venus**, around), Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, (calm, **and**, but) Pluto. Everyone expected her to stop (coyote, okra, **after**) drawing the tiny, cold planet at (far, long, **the**) edge of the solar system. Instead, (**she**, when, new) drew a gigantic planet surrounded by (nudge, serial, **hoops**) of fire.

"What planet is that?" (saw, roof, **Kim**) Sung asked. "We don't have a (shorts, **planet**, coaxed) like THAT in our solar system."

"(By, **Of**, To) course not," Mrs. Ling replied nastily (so, or, **as**) she erased the unusual planet. "I (what, this, **just**) drew it to see if you (for, **all**, our) were paying attention, and you were! (Far, **You**, Saw) are a wonderful class of human (**boys**, that, call) and girls."

Later that night, while (calm, **Chen**, book) was walking home from school, he (new, **saw**, had) Mrs. Ling walking down the sidewalk (nervous, concert, **toward**) him. Chen was about to jump (bugs, over, **into**) the bushes and hide, but Mrs. (**Ling**, brow, such) turned and walked up to the (ask, **door**, more) of the house next to Chen's (green, **house**, rather). Oddly enough, it was the same (sketch, novel, **house**) the spaceship had landed on the (black, long, **night**) before!

"You won't believe what I saw this morning!" Chen exclaimed at the breakfast table. "Just before the sun came up, **(on, me, a)** spaceship landed on the roof of **(saw, the, too)** house next door. It stayed for **(didn't, about, green)** 15 minutes and then flew away. **(Do, Why, Toy)** you think our new neighbors are **(window, aliens, escape)?**"

"No, I'm sure it was just **(do, up, a)** dream, Chen," his mother said. But **(like, going, Chen)** wasn't so sure.

When he arrived **(in, at, of)** school, Chen learned that his class **(set, had, you)** a new teacher. The new teacher's **(have, such, name)** was Mrs. Ling. Chen thought she **(behaved, bedroom, bright)** very strangely.

"How are all my **(brainy, about, human)** boys and girls today?" Mrs. Ling **(unnecessary, questioned, moderator)** the class. "Today I will teach **(say, now, you)** all about my, I mean OUR, **(pulled, solar, bunch)** system. I will draw a sketch **(to, of, as)** the solar system on the chalkboard **(with, all, for)** everyone."

Mrs. Ling then picked up **(the, air, far)** chalk, but instead of raising it **(so, by, to)** write on the chalkboard located right **(humans, window, behind)** her, she crossed the room and **(semisweet, attempted, horrified)** to scribble on the window.

"Oh," **(saw, she, much)** said when Kim Sung pointed out **(come, mean, that)** the window was not the chalkboard. **(To, Ah, You)**, yes, here is the chalkboard. Now **(as, I, a)** will draw our solar system."

Then **(Mrs., the, near)** Ling began to draw many loops **(for, was, and)** circles on the blackboard. She drew **(by, so, a)** fiery sun and the planets Mercury, **(opens, Venus, around)**, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, **(calm, and, but)** Pluto. Everyone expected her to stop **(coyote, okra, after)** drawing the tiny, cold planet at **(far, long, the)** edge of the solar system. Instead, **(she, when, new)** drew a gigantic planet surrounded by **(nudge, serial, hoops)** of fire.

"What planet is that?" **(saw, roof, Kim)** Sung asked. "We don't have a **(shorts, planet, coaxed)** like THAT in our solar system."

**(By, Of, To)** course not," Mrs. Ling replied nastily **(so, or, as)** she erased the unusual planet. "I **(what, this, just)** drew it to see if you **(for, all, our)** were paying attention, and you were! **(Far, You, Saw)** are a wonderful class of human **(boys, that, call)** and girls."

Later that night, while **(calm, Chen, book)** was walking home from school, he **(new, saw, had)** Mrs. Ling walking down the sidewalk **(nervous, concert, toward)** him. Chen was about to jump **(bugs, over, into)** the bushes and hide, but Mrs. **(Ling, brow, such)** turned and walked up to the **(ask, door, more)** of the house next to Chen's **(green, house, rather)**. Oddly enough, it was the same **(sketch, novel, house)** the spaceship had landed on the **(black, long, night)** before!

One night Jessie caught a jarful of lightning bugs and set them on her nightstand to use as a night light as she fell asleep. These lightning bugs weren't ordinary lightning (**bugs**, book, face). Regular lightning bugs have neon green (cordial, slogan, **bubbles**) on the rear part of their (laugh, **bodies**, grade). These lightning bugs had miniature light (naval, senior, bulbs) that gave off a green glow. (Topped, **Regular**, Ignores) lightning bugs have rather squinty black (**eyes**, arm, want) and tiny brains. These lightning bugs (when, find, **wore**) black spectacles and had large brains. (More, **They**, Time) all carried a little backpack on (seats, this, **their**) backs filled with books and maps. (Hospital, **Although**, Whispers) they were trapped in a jar, (calm, **they**, many) waited quietly for Jessie to fall (trimmed, **asleep**, weaves) before they started to speak.

"What (**do**, up, is) you think she's doing over there?" (turtle, ignore, **asked**) one lightning bug named Ryan. "Do (may, far, **you**) think she's sleeping yet? I never (pesters, **realized**, accident) humans have such gigantic eyebrows."

"Her (orchestra, **breathing**, sculpture) is slow and regular, so I'd (you, now, **say**) she's asleep," said another lightning bug (crying, tease, **named**) Billy.

"Oh, look, she's drooling," said (**a**, my, I) bug named Herman. "When we get (far, late, **out**) of here, let's trap her in (so, **a**, by) jar and see how she likes (or, if, **it**)."

Herman was by far the brightest (signature, **lightning**, confession) bug of the bunch.

"Come on, (overdo, **Herman**, omelet)," said Billy, as he helped the (idle, **team**, nice) of lightning bugs unscrew the lid (so, to, **of**) the jar. "Let's escape!"

Soon the (sentimental, corporation, **lightening**) bugs were out of the jar (**and**, saw, new) in the wide-open air of (**Jessie's**, compete, conveyed) bedroom. Some of the bugs quickly (ignore, **darted**, sudden) out of the window as soon (if, **as**, up) they got the chance, but Herman (jar, fall, **and**) Ryan lingered around Jessie's pillow.

"I (despite, seemed, **wonder**) what she's dreaming about?" murmured Herman.

"(Your, **She's**, Now) probably dreaming about the kind of (**animal**, regular, longer) she's going to capture next time," (pause, call, **said**) Ryan. "Why don't you wake her (far, **up**, at) and ask her, Herman?"

"Let's go. (Last, Stow, **Let's**) go," prompted the other lightning bugs (sign, near, **from**) outside.

"One moment," said Herman. He (**studied**, accident, braids) Jessie's ears and then pulled something (will, now, **out**) of his backpack. He gave Jessie (do, so, **a**) pair of neon green earrings and (far, **told**, came) his friends, "I want to give (with, **her**, now) something to remember us by because (well, two, **she**) didn't hurt us. She was only (carrot, nontoxic, **curious**)."

One night Jessie caught a jarful of lightning bugs and set them on her nightstand to use as a night light as she fell asleep. These lightning bugs weren't ordinary lightning (**bugs, book, face**). Regular lightning bugs have neon green (**cordial, slogan, bubbles**) on the rear part of their (**laugh, bodies, grade**). These lightning bugs had miniature light (**naval, senior, bulbs**) that gave off a green glow. (**Topped, Regular, Ignores**) lightning bugs have rather squinty black (**eyes, arm, want**) and tiny brains. These lightning bugs (**when, find, wore**) black spectacles and had large brains. (**More, They, Time**) all carried a little backpack on (**seats, this, their**) backs filled with books and maps. (**Hospital, Although, Whispers**) they were trapped in a jar, (**calm, they, many**) waited quietly for Jessie to fall (**trimmed, asleep, weaves**) before they started to speak.

"What (**do, up, is**) you think she's doing over there?" (**turtle, ignore, asked**) one lightning bug named Ryan. "Do (**may, far, you**) think she's sleeping yet? I never (**pesters, realized, accident**) humans have such gigantic eyebrows."

"Her (**orchestra, breathing, sculpture**) is slow and regular, so I'd (**you, now, say**) she's asleep," said another lightning bug (**crying, tease, named**) Billy.

"Oh, look, she's drooling," said (**a, my, I**) bug named Herman. "When we get (**far, late, out**) of here, let's trap her in (**so, a, by**) jar and see how she likes (**or, if, it**)."

Herman was by far the brightest (**signature, lightning, confession**) bug of the bunch.

"Come on, (**overdo, Herman, omelet**)," said Billy, as he helped the (**idle, team, nice**) of lightning bugs unscrew the lid (**so, to, of**) the jar. "Let's escape!"

Soon the (**sentimental, corporation, lightening**) bugs were out of the jar (**and, saw, new**) in the wide-open air of (**Jessie's, compete, conveyed**) bedroom. Some of the bugs quickly (**ignore, darted, sudden**) out of the window as soon (**if, as, up**) they got the chance, but Herman (**jar, fall, and**) Ryan lingered around Jessie's pillow.

"I (**despite, seemed, wonder**) what she's dreaming about?" murmured Herman.

"(**Your, She's, Now**) probably dreaming about the kind of (**animal, regular, longer**) she wants to capture next time," (**pause, call, said**) Ryan. "Why don't you wake her (**far, up, at**) and ask her, Herman?"

"Let's go. (**Last, Stow, Let's**) go," prompted the other lightening bugs (**sign, near, from**) outside.

"One moment," said Herman. He (**studied, accident, braids**) Jessie's ears and then pulled something (**will, now, out**) of his backpack. He gave Jessie (**do, so, a**) pair of neon green earrings and (**far, told, came**) his friends, "I want to give (**with, her, now**) something to remember us by because (**well, two, she**) didn't hurt us. She was only (**carrot, nontoxic, curious**)."

Peter Perkins is the school bully and everybody is tired of his teasing. Everybody including Will Weston, who is (dancing, **already**, sensible) six feet tall and very good (by, **at**, no) basketball. Peter Perkins teases Will because (also, soon, **Will**) is as skinny as a weed. (Or, To, **He**) also laughs at Will's bright red (down, **hair**, toss) and freckles. Peter Perkins calls Will (shield, **carrot**, tricks) head and beanpole whenever the teacher (real, gone, **isn't**) listening. Will just ignores Peter and (bunny, magic, **tries**) to memorize his spelling words or (**complete**, ignition, southern) his math assignments.

Will isn't the (dump, upon, **only**) person that Peter Perkins goes after. (Hinder, **There's**, Lucky) Molly May who's in third grade (more, **and**, sure) as shy as a turtle. Molly (the, new, **May**) has long black hair that she (bright, intend, **weaves**) into braids and a pair of (confidence, **spectacles**, identifying) trimmed in gold. Molly loves to (toss, **read**, bent). She reads on the way to (**the**, far, too) cafeteria, in the gym, and on (low, red, **the**) bus. Peter Perkins pesters Molly from (his, **the**, will) back seat of the bus, calling (six, man, **her**) book face and worm brain from (red, **the**, also) back seat.

One afternoon, Peter Perkins (**was**, call, fan) mocking people out on the playground (to, so, **as**) always. Suddenly, he lost his balance (she, **and**, soon) toppled off the seesaw. Now it (mad, saw, **was**) everyone else's turn to point and (dinner, **laugh**, still) and whisper and tease. When Peter (grade, more, **stood**) up, his face was streaked with (first, meet, **tears**) and he was cradling his right (was, **arm**, dad). It seemed that no one was (their, **going**, nearly) to help him, but suddenly Molly (but, so, **and**) Will appeared.

Molly saw Peter fall (stage, throw, **while**) sitting under a tree reading her (just, **book**, also), and Will saw Peter's accident from (out, **the**, can) basketball court. Molly and Will helped (**Peter**, balls, have) to the nurse's office. The nurse (food, long, **took**) one look at Peter's arm and (outfitting, occupation, **announced**), "It's broken. Looks like you're going (by, **to**, as) the hospital, young man."

Peter looked (just, **down**, need) at his sneakers so no one (downy, from, **could**) see he was crying.

"Here," Molly (more, place, **said**), handing him her handkerchief. "I broke (up, **my**, to) arm in second grade. It's not (down, **that**, have) bad, really. You get to choose (**what**, cute, paws) color cast you want."

"If the (after, these, **nurse**) says it's okay, Molly and I (were, **will**, slam) ride along with you," Will said. "(we, a, **I**) broke my arm last summer."

"Okay," (Enough, **Peter**, Where) sniffled. He was sure glad Molly (door, by, **and**) Will decided to be nice to (saw, **him**, how) despite all of the mean things (if, or, **he**) had done to them.

Peter Perkins is the school bully and everybody is tired of his teasing. Everybody including Will Weston, who is **(dancing, already, sensible)** six feet tall and very good **(by, at, no)** basketball. Peter Perkins teases Will because **(also, soon, Will)** is as skinny as a weed. **(Or, To, He)** also laughs at Will's bright red **(down, hair, toss)** and freckles. Peter Perkins calls Will **(shield, carrot, tricks)** head and beanpole whenever the teacher **(real, gone, isn't)** listening. Will just ignores Peter and **(bunny, magic, tries)** to memorize his spelling words or **(complete, ignition, southern)** his math assignments.

Will isn't the **(dump, upon, only)** person that Peter Perkins goes after. **(Hinder, There's, Lucky)** Molly May who's in third grade **(more, and, sure)** as shy as a turtle. Molly **(the, new, May)** has long black hair that she **(bright, intend, weaves)** into braids and a pair of **(confidence, spectacles, identifying)** trimmed in gold. Molly loves to **(toss, read, bent)**. She reads on the way to **(the, far, too)** cafeteria, in the gym, and on **(low, red, the)** bus. Peter Perkins pesters Molly from **(his, the, will)** back seat of the bus, calling **(six, man, her)** book face and worm brain from **(red, the, also)** back seat.

One afternoon, Peter Perkins **(was, call, fan)** mocking people out on the playground **(to, so, as)** always. Suddenly, he lost his balance **(she, and, soon)** toppled off the seesaw. Now it **(mad, saw, was)** everyone else's turn to point and **(dinner, laugh, still)** and whisper and tease. When Peter **(grade, more, stood)** up, his face was streaked with **(first, meet, tears)** and he was cradling his right **(was, arm, dad)**. It seemed that no one was **(their, going, nearly)** to help him, but suddenly Molly **(but, so, and)** Will appeared.

Molly saw Peter fall **(stage, throw, while)** sitting under a tree reading her **(just, book, also)**, and Will saw Peter's accident from **(out, the, can)** basketball court. Molly and Will helped **(Peter, balls, have)** to the nurse's office. The nurse **(food, long, took)** one look at Peter's arm and **(outfitting, occupation, announced)**, "It's broken. Looks like you're going **(by, to, as)** the hospital, young man."

Peter looked **(just, down, need)** at his sneakers so no one **(downy, from, could)** see he was crying.

"Here," Molly **(more, place, said)**, handing him her handkerchief. "I broke **(up, my, to)** arm in second grade. It's not **(down, that, have)** bad, really. You get to choose **(what, cute, paws)** color cast you want."

"If the **(after, these, nurse)** says it's okay, Molly and I **(were, will, slam)** ride along with you," Will said. **(we, a, I)** broke my arm last summer."

"Okay," **(Enough, Peter, Where)** sniffled. He was sure glad Molly **(door, by, and)** Will decided to be nice to **(saw, him, how)** despite all of the mean things **(if, or, he)** had done to them.

Radcliff didn't like being a rat. He had gray fur with brown (surprised, amazement, **splotches**) and a limp, cold tail that (the, all, **was**) always getting slammed in doors. His (down, **left**, they) ear had been caught in a (explained, situation, **mousetrap**), and only his right ear remained. (Apparent, **Radcliff**, Emotions) thought he would have a better (**life**, coin, made) if he were a rabbit.

Radcliff (still, holding, **wanted**) to be a rabbit so badly. (Grateful, **Everyone**, Through) knows rabbits have more fun than (pay, knew, **rats**). Rabbits get pulled out of top (hand, **hats**, floor). Rabbits have cute, wriggly noses and (**perfect**, honesty, catches) ears. They have soft, downy coats (lay, one, **and**) very fluffy cotton-ball tails too. (Find, **They**, More) can hop, they have their own (someone, thinks, **holiday**), and they get far more time (so, **on**, as) a stage than rats.

One afternoon (**while**, small, inside) down in his dingy, damp rat (when, pile, **hole**), Radcliff decided to transform himself into (or, to, **a**) rabbit. He made himself rabbit ears (saw, **out**, try) of several sticks and an old (store, **white**, money) T-shirt that someone had thrown away. (By, Is, **He**) also made himself a puffy, bunny (both, came, **tail**) out of old cotton balls. Then (to, **he**, no) climbed up out of his hole (but, **and**, not) went into the sunshine. Luckily enough, (**the**, way, for) first person Radcliff met while out (as, of, **on**) the sidewalk was a magician.

"Oh, (they, **what**, told) a lovely rabbit," the magician said (no, if, **as**) he bent down to stroke Radcliff's (dollars, **bristly**, someone) back. "Why, you're just the rabbit (a, or, **I**) need to star in my magic (lost, them, **show**)."

Radcliff was overjoyed when the magician (woman, **picked**, weren't) him up and stowed him in his (call, **top**, for) hat. On stage later that evening, (**the**, saw, how) magician pulled Radcliff out of his (who, **hat**, pay) and received a robust applause. Radcliff (top, **did**, out) a little tap-dancing number that (purpose, counter, **brought**) down the house.

"You were wonderful," (far, had, **the**) magician told Radcliff after the show. "**(No**, By, It) one even realized you weren't a (they, knew, **real**) rabbit."

Radcliff was heartbroken. He was (kind, **sure**, coin) the magician thought he was a (floor, prove, **real**) bunny. What if the magician intended (so, **to**, by) toss him out on the street (**and**, him, out) find himself an authentic bunny? Fortunately (loss, of, **for**) Radcliff, that didn't happen. Instead, the (complaint, sinister, **magician**) made Radcliff dinner and they practiced (stars, **magic**, again) tricks until midnight. When the magician (how, **was**, last) tucking Radcliff into bed, he smiled.

"**(Tomorrow**, Anything, Customer) we have another show," he said, "(her, **and**, new) I will be the only magician (if, to, **in**) the city with a magic rat."

Radcliff didn't like being a rat. He had gray fur with brown (**surprised, amazement, splotches**) and a limp, cold tail that (**the, all, was**) always getting slammed in doors. His (**down, left, they**) ear had been caught in a (**explained, situation, mousetrap**), and only his right ear remained. (**Apparent, Radcliff, Emotions**) thought he would have a better (**life, coin, made**) if he were a rabbit.

Radcliff (**still, holding, wanted**) to be a rabbit so badly. (**Grateful, Everyone, Through**) knows rabbits have more fun than (**pay, knew, rats**). Rabbits get pulled out of top (**hand, hats, floor**). Rabbits have cute, wriggly noses and (**perfect, honesty, catches**) ears. They have soft, downy coats (**lay, one, and**) very fluffy cotton-ball tails too. (**Find, They, More**) can hop, they have their own (**someone, thinks, holiday**), and they get far more time (**so, on, as**) a stage than rats.

One afternoon (**while, small, inside**) down in his dingy, damp rat (**when, pile, hole**), Radcliff decided to transform himself into (**or, to, a**) rabbit. He made himself rabbit ears (**saw, out, try**) of several sticks and an old (**store, white, money**) T-shirt that someone had thrown away. (**By, Is, He**) also made himself a puffy, bunny (**both, came, tail**) out of old cotton balls. Then (**to, he, no**) climbed up out of his hole (**but, and, not**) went into the sunshine. Luckily enough, (**the, way, for**) first person Radcliff met while out (**as, of, on**) the sidewalk was a magician.

"Oh, (**they, what, told**) a lovely rabbit," the magician said (**no, if, as**) he bent down to stroke Radcliff's (**dollars, bristly, someone**) back. "Why, you're just the rabbit (**a, or, I**) need to star in my magic (**lost, them, show**)."

Radcliff was overjoyed when the magician (**woman, picked, weren't**) him up and stowed him in his (**call, top, for**) hat. On stage later that evening, (**the, saw, how**) magician pulled Radcliff out of his (**who, hat, pay**) and received a robust applause. Radcliff (**top, did, out**) a little tap-dancing number that (**purpose, counter, brought**) down the house.

"You were wonderful," (**far, had, the**) magician told Radcliff after the show. "**(No, By, It)** one even realized you weren't a (**they, knew, real**) rabbit."

Radcliff was heartbroken. He was (**kind, sure, coin**) the magician thought he was a (**floor, prove, real**) bunny. What if the magician intended (**so, to, by**) toss him out on the street (**and, him, out**) find himself an authentic bunny? Fortunately (**loss, of, for**) Radcliff, that didn't happen. Instead, the (**complaint, sinister, magician**) made Radcliff dinner and they practiced (**stars, magic, again**) tricks until midnight. When the magician (**how, was, last**) tucking Radcliff into bed, he smiled.

"**(Tomorrow, Anything, Customer)** we have another show," he said, "**(her, and, new)** I will be the only magician (**if, to, in**) the city with a magic rat."

Shelly and Ricky strolled down the aisle of the large, all-purpose store. They weren't looking for anything in (**particular**, hesitated, nationality) and were in no hurry to (nest, **find**, line) it. As they turned the corner (made, here, **into**) the paper aisle, Shelly saw a (steal, **small**, grass) coin purse lying on the floor. (Black, Rolls, **There**) was only one other customer nearby, (**so**, by, on) without looking inside the coin purse, (Winter, Looks, **Shelly**) asked the woman if it was (join, **hers**, many). The woman quickly took a look (so, **at**, as) the coin purse and answered negatively.

(All, Him, **The**) coin purse was small and had (in, of, **a**) zipper. It was the kind of (**purse**, words, frown) a child would carry to the (watch, along, **store**). Thinking it was a child's purse, (eye, can, **and**) hoping to find some identification inside, (other, **Shelly**, women) and Ricky unzipped the purse. Expecting (if, **to**, he) find nickels and dimes, they were (**totally**, prepared, though) surprised when Shelly pulled out two (are, **one**, how) hundred dollar bills and several ones!

(No, **If**, Or) the purse held only coins, Shelly (won, has, **and**) Ricky would have turned it in (squirrel, evening, **without**) question. But holding two hundred dollars (up, **in**, do) their hands made them catch their (while, going, **breath**) and think again. All kinds of (predicted, special, **thoughts**) raced through their minds as they (rolling, **looked**, halves) at each other with the money (up, **in**, of) their hands. There was no identification (**inside**, putting, feeder) or out, so there was no (done, to, **way**) to prove who owned it. It (worry, **would**, acorn) be very easy to walk out (do, by, **of**) the store with the money, and (as, **no**, ton) one would know. They both wanted (**the**, you, but) money. They both needed the money. (Can, **But**, Far) they both knew it would be (seeds, **wrong**, hoard) to keep the purse.

When they (cold, grow, **went**) to the counter with their find, (are, day, **the**) cashier's amazement was apparent. She couldn't (another, **believe**, summer) someone would turn in a lost (sharp, **purse**, going) with that much money. As Shelly (**gave**, fill, join) her name and explained the situation, (but, saw, **the**) cashier interrupted saying, "A young woman (prepare, **reported**, explain) this coin purse missing. She had (lost, **just**, that) cashed her pay check. She'll be (as, to, **so**) grateful for your honesty!"

As Shelly (own, new, **and**) Ricky left the store, their faces (**reflected**, practice, something) their mixed emotions of pride and (identification, interpretation, **disappointment**). They were sad they couldn't keep (out, had, **the**) money, but they also knew they (try, **had**, new) done the right thing.

Shelly and Ricky strolled down the aisle of the large, all-purpose store. They weren't looking for anything in **(particular, hesitated, nationality)** and were in no hurry to **(nest, find, line)** it. As they turned the corner **(made, here, into)** the paper aisle, Shelly saw a **(steal, small, grass)** coin purse lying on the floor. **(Black, Rolls, There)** was only one other customer nearby, **(so, by, on)** without looking inside the coin purse, **(Winter, Looks, Shelly)** asked the woman if it was **(join, hers, many)**. The woman quickly took a look **(so, at, as)** the coin purse and answered negatively.

**(All, Him, The)** coin purse was small and had **(in, of, a)** zipper. It was the kind of **(purse, words, frown)** a child would carry to the **(watch, along, store)**. Thinking it was a child's purse, **(eye, can, and)** hoping to find some identification inside, **(other, Shelly, women)** and Ricky unzipped the purse. Expecting **(if, to, he)** find nickels and dimes, they were **(totally, prepared, though)** surprised when Shelly pulled out two **(are, one, how)** hundred dollar bills and several ones!

**(No, If, Or)** the purse held only coins, Shelly **(won, has, and)** Ricky would have turned it in **(squirrel, evening, without)** question. But holding two hundred dollars **(up, in, do)** their hands made them catch their **(while, going, breath)** and think again. All kinds of **(predicted, special, thoughts)** raced through their minds as they **(rolling, looked, halves)** at each other with the money **(up, in, of)** their hands. There was no identification **(inside, putting, feeder)** or out, so there was no **(done, to, way)** to prove who owned it. It **(worry, would, acorn)** be very easy to walk out **(do, by, of)** the store with the money, and **(as, no, ton)** one would know. They both wanted **(the, you, but)** money. They both needed the money. **(Can, But, Far)** they both knew it would be **(seeds, wrong, hoard)** to keep the purse.

When they **(cold, grow, went)** to the counter with their find, **(are, day, the)** cashier's amazement was apparent. She couldn't **(another, believe, summer)** someone would turn in a lost **(sharp, purse, going)** with that much money. As Shelly **(gave, fill, join)** her name and explained the situation, **(but, saw, the)** cashier interrupted saying, "A young woman **(prepare, reported, explain)** this coin purse missing. She had **(lost, just, that)** cashed her pay check. She'll be **(as, to, so)** grateful for your honesty!"

As Shelly **(own, new, and)** Ricky left the store, their faces **(reflected, practice, something)** their mixed emotions of pride and **(identification, interpretation, disappointment)**. They were sad they couldn't keep **(out, had, the)** money, but they also knew they **(try, had, new)** done the right thing.

The black squirrel worked all summer long gathering acorns and lining her nest with tufts of grass. She groomed her bristly black tail (now, **and**, for) practiced jumping from branch to branch.

"(Shakily, Graceful, **Looking**) good," the gray squirrel would holler (go, **up**, on) at the black squirrel whenever he (bristly, glaring, **watched**) her practice. "You should join the (**circus**, breath, finger) or something. Then you wouldn't have (as, of, **to**) worry about stocking food for winter (by, if, **or**) gathering twigs for your nest."

"You (across, **should**, lights) worry about your own food and (were, felt, **nest**)," she told him as she paused (it, **to**, he) frown down at him from a (sounded, sonata, **swaying**) branch. "You run around on the (**ground**, instead, herself) all day and steal your food (left, many, **from**) the human's bird feeder. A squirrel (more, then, **can't**) rely on humans to provide food (hit, **all**, can) winter. Just you watch. In the (stages, **middle**, before) of January, the humans will forget (**to**, of, now) fill the feeder. Then all you (like, **lazy**, held) animals that depend on the feeder (nerves, **during**, bright) the summer are going to be in (hundred, swelled, **trouble**)."

The gray squirrel cracked another sunflower (down, care, **seed**) between his sharp teeth.

"That'll never (ebbed, **happen**, awkward)," he said. "Those humans fill the (came, walk, **bird**) feeder every week."

"Mark my words, (no, **Mr.**, if) Gray Squirrel," she said. "You will (**wish**, mind, went) you had prepared for winter like (or, **me**, you)."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," said the gray (clumsily, **squirrel**, overtake), rolling his eyes behind the black (applause, determine, **squirrel's**) back. "Oh look, they're putting out (like, wood, **more**) seeds and orange halves. See you (person, **around**, stomach)."

Just as the black squirrel predicted, (has, **the**, too) bird feeder was full all through (**December**, terrible, complete), but when January rolled around, the (hand, shock, **blue**) jays finished all the seed and (was, her, **the**) feeder stayed empty for a week. (New, **The**, Our) black squirrel was well fed and (down, **warm**, bars) with her hoard of acorns and (walk, told, **cozy**) nest, but the gray squirrel was (making, across, **hungry**) and cold. In a week's time, (own, **the**, tow) gray squirrel lost all of his (crying, **winter**, present) fat. He was especially skinny and (**gruff**, whole, blank) the evening he knocked on the (lurch, **black**, loud) squirrel's door.

"Please let me in," (an, to, **he**) squeaked. "I have no nest and (by, or, **no**) food. I should have prepared for (almost, **winter**, nerves) in the fall just like you (**said**, flew, deep)."

"You're quite right," the black squirrel (died, more, **said**). "If you're going to stay with (who, **me**, up), you can shell the nuts."

The black squirrel worked all summer long gathering acorns and lining her nest with tufts of grass. She groomed her bristly black tail (**now, and, for**) practiced jumping from branch to branch.

"(**Shakily, Graceful, Looking**) good," the gray squirrel would holler (**go, up, on**) at the black squirrel whenever he (**bristly, glaring, watched**) her practice. "You should join the (**circus, breath, finger**) or something. Then you wouldn't have (**as, of, to**) worry about stocking food for winter (**by, if, or**) gathering twigs for your nest."

"You (**across, should, lights**) worry about your own food and (**were, felt, nest**)," she told him as she paused (**it, to, he**) frown down at him from a (**sounded, sonata, swaying**) branch. "You run around on the (**ground, instead, herself**) all day and steal your food (**left, many, from**) the human's bird feeder. A squirrel (**more, then, can't**) rely on humans to provide food (**hit, all, can**) winter. Just you watch. In the (**stages, middle, before**) of January, the humans will forget (**to, of, now**) fill the feeder. Then all you (**like, lazy, held**) animals that depend on the feeder (**nerves, during, bright**) the summer are going to be in (**hundred, swelled, trouble**)."

The gray squirrel cracked another sunflower (**down, care, seed**) between his sharp teeth.

"That'll never (**ebbed, happen, awkward**)," he said. "Those humans fill the (**came, walk, bird**) feeder every week."

"Mark my words, (**no, Mr., if**) Gray Squirrel," she said. "You will (**wish, mind, went**) you had prepared for winter like (**or, me, you**)."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," said the gray (**clumsily, squirrel, overtake**), rolling his eyes behind the black (**applause, determine, squirrel's**) back. "Oh look, they're putting out (**like, wood, more**) seeds and orange halves. See you (**person, around, stomach**)."

Just as the black squirrel predicted, (**has, the, too**) bird feeder was full all through (**December, terrible, complete**), but when January rolled around, the (**hand, shock, blue**) jays finished all the seed and (**was, her, the**) feeder stayed empty for a week. (**New, The, Our**) black squirrel was well fed and (**down, warm, bars**) with her hoard of acorns and (**walk, told, cozy**) nest, but the gray squirrel was (**making, across, hungry**) and cold. In a week's time, (**own, the, tow**) gray squirrel lost all of his (**crying, winter, present**) fat. He was especially skinny and (**gruff, whole, blank**) the evening he knocked on the (**lurch, black, loud**) squirrel's door.

"Please let me in," (**an, to, he**) squeaked. "I have no nest and (**by, or, no**) food. I should have prepared for (**almost, winter, nerves**) in the fall just like you (**said, flew, deep**)."

"You're quite right," the black squirrel (**died, more, said**). "If you're going to stay with (**who, me, up**), you can shell the nuts."

The bright lights glaring down on the stage were making Holly sweat. It wasn't her nerves that had (**her**, car, old) hands all clammy, she told herself. (By, No, **It**) was just the heat in the (impressed, stampeding, **auditorium**).

She had been standing offstage for (window, **nearly**, winked) an hour now, and her hands (trip, **kept**, herd) sweating more and more. Wiping them (**on**, up, do) her skirt didn't seem to be (weight, threw, **doing**) any good. She decided to try (bus, **not**, one) to think about it and to (were, class, **take**) deep breaths instead.

Today was the (was, **day**, act) of Holly's first piano recital. It (**was**, but, now) being held in a huge auditorium (said, soon, **with**) at least two hundred people present. (Can, **The**, Over) young man currently on stage was (anything, winked, **playing**) a sonata. He was almost finished (all, **and**, the) Holly was next on the program. (Pat, Too, **The**) thought of walking across the stage (brown, **made**, they) her stomach lurch.

"Just calm down," (can, **she**, saw) told herself. "You've practiced this piece (as, to, **a**) thousand times. You could play it (to, be, **in**) your sleep." Somehow this idea distracted (**her**, any, now) until the pianist before her left (too, for, **the**) stage and the applause died down.

(Sixth, **Holly**, Until) felt every eye on her as (were, **she**, not) walked shakily to the grand piano. (Saw, One, **The**) clicking of her heels across the (twenty, face, **stage**) sounded unbearably loud to her until (**she**, for, pan) self-consciously sat down and placed (new, had, **her**) hands on the keys.

For a (forehead, children, **terrible**) moment, her mind went blank and (great, **panic**, about) threatened to overtake her. "I can't (if, **do**, in) it!" she thought. She felt like (excite, pressed, **crying**) until she forced herself to take (if, by, **a**) deep breath, clear her mind, and (lions, **begin**, class) to play.

Her fingers awkwardly played (now, **the**, trip) first few bars, and her fingers (**felt**, jump, grand) numb, like little blocks of wood, (windows, pushing, **clumsily**) clunking down on the keys. Then (how, **she**, can) hit a sour note.

Holly's back (parasite, struggling, **stiffened**) in shock, and suddenly her hands (clap, **flew**, said) across the keys with a confidence (**born**, tent, them) of sheer determination. The music swelled (now, too, **and**) ebbed and flawlessly came to an (**end**, pull, sky).

Holly felt her whole body vibrate (were, today, **with**) the force of the enthusiastic applause (other, pair, **that**) followed her performance. She smiled and (lucky, **bowed**, fifth) gracefully. Her earlier panic was completely (assistant, **forgotten**, suspicion).

The bright lights glaring down on the stage were making Holly sweat. It wasn't her nerves that had **(her, car, old)** hands all clammy, she told herself. **(By, No, It)** was just the heat in the **(impressed, stampeding, auditorium)**.

She had been standing offstage for **(window, nearly, winked)** an hour now, and her hands **(trip, kept, herd)** sweating more and more. Wiping them **(on, up, do)** her skirt didn't seem to be **(weight, threw, doing)** any good. She decided to try **(bus, not, one)** to think about it and to **(were, class, take)** deep breaths instead.

Today was the **(was, day, act)** of Holly's first piano recital. It **(was, but, now)** being held in a huge auditorium **(said, soon, with)** at least two hundred people present. **(Can, The, Over)** young man currently on stage was **(anything, winked, playing)** a sonata. He was almost finished **(all, and, the)** Holly was next on the program. **(Pat, Too, The)** thought of walking across the stage **(brown, made, they)** her stomach lurch.

"Just calm down," **(can, she, saw)** told herself. "You've practiced this piece **(as, to, a)** thousand times. You could play it **(to, be, in)** your sleep." Somehow this idea distracted **(her, any, now)** until the pianist before her left **(too, for, the)** stage and the applause died down.

**(Sixth, Holly, Until)** felt every eye on her as **(were, she, not)** walked shakily to the grand piano. **(Saw, One, The)** clicking of her heels across the **(twenty, face, stage)** sounded unbearably loud to her until **(she, for, pan)** self-consciously sat down and placed **(new, had, her)** hands on the keys.

For a **(forehead, children, terrible)** moment, her mind went blank and **(great, panic, about)** threatened to overtake her. "I can't **(if, do, in)** it!" she thought. She felt like **(excite, pressed, crying)** until she forced herself to take **(if, by, a)** deep breath, clear her mind, and **(lions, begin, class)** to play.

Her fingers awkwardly played **(now, the, trip)** first few bars, and her fingers **(felt, jump, grand)** numb, like little blocks of wood, **(windows, pushing, clumsily)** clunking down on the keys. Then **(how, she, can)** hit a sour note.

Holly's back **(parasite, struggling, stiffened)** in shock, and suddenly her hands **(clap, flew, said)** across the keys with a confidence **(born, tent, them)** of sheer determination. The music swelled **(now, too, and)** ebbed and flawlessly came to an **(end, pull, sky)**.

Holly felt her whole body vibrate **(were, today, with)** the force of the enthusiastic applause **(other, pair, that)** followed her performance. She smiled and **(lucky, bowed, fifth)** gracefully. Her earlier panic was completely **(assistant, forgotten, suspicion)**.

On Thursday morning, the children in Mr. Randall's fifth grade class were very excited and difficult to control. Thursday was their field trip. Mr. (happens, **Randall**, suspect) wiped the sweat off his forehead (now, **and**, too) smiled at his assistant teacher, Miss (dinner, chair, **Peach**), as all twenty-four students waited (so, at, **by**) the curb, clutching their brown-bag (**lunches**, imagined, animals) and craning their necks to see (far, not, **the**) yellow school bus.

"Everyone in single (farm, **file**, among) now. No pushing or shoving," Mr. (Monday, **Randall**, popcorn) called to the students as they (grandstand, overwhelm, **clambered**) into the bus like a herd (be, on, **of**) stampeding elephants.

Mr. Randall's students believed (from, **they**, call) were the luckiest class in the (**entire**, pieces, dinner) school because their field trip was (went, along, **more**) exciting than any other. Even some (as, **of**, by) the sixth graders agreed they were (most, **very**, crowd) lucky. Today Mr. Randall's class was (heard, drift, **going**) to the circus!

When the bus (**pulled**, remind, unfold) in front of the circus tent, (rapidly, moments, **several**) students pressed their faces against the (our, **bus**, even) windows and exclaimed, "Wow!" Several others (distinct, stinky, **couldn't**) say anything at all. They were (rivalry, **staring**, handed) at the pair of lions a (**woman**, itself, scent) was leading around by a leash.

(Good, **Once**, None) inside the tent, the students were (it, **so**, he) impressed with the surroundings that they (anything, elephant, **listened**) to every word Mr. Randall said. (Tent, Raced, **When**) he told them to sit down, (into, **they**, near) sat down. When he told them (on, **to**, be) speak in whispers, they spoke in (**whispers**, pressed, Saturday) for the rest of the show. (Bet, I, **No**) one threw spitballs. No one jumped (bay, **out**, far) of their seats. The children in (as, of, **Mr.**) Randall's fifth grade class were, for (walk, **once**, will), perfectly behaved.

Mr. Randall glanced over (**at**, or, low) Miss Peach and winked.

"Happens to (**them**, big, neat) every time," he whispered.

A bunch (top, **of**, is) clowns buzzed around in a pink (had, **car**, for) in the middle of one of (out, all, **the**) rings in the center of the (smell, fish, **tent**), and the children's eyes opened as (will, **wide**, goad) as saucers. Then fifteen clowns climbed (his, ate, **out**) of the car, and the students (pocket, **clapped**, suspect) as loudly as they could. When (it, me, no) was time for the trapeze act, (and, **the**, now) students held their breath. When the (colorful, tripping, **elephants**) came out, they said, "Oh" and "(No, **Ah**, At)." On the bus on the way (pile, barn, **home**), the students chatted excitedly about the (donuts, shown, **circus**). What a great field trip!

On Thursday morning, the children in Mr. Randall's fifth grade class were very excited and difficult to control. Thursday was their field trip. Mr. **(happens, Randall, suspect)** wiped the sweat off his forehead **(now, and, too)** smiled at his assistant teacher, Miss **(dinner, chair, Peach)**, as all twenty-four students waited **(so, at, by)** the curb, clutching their brown-bag **(lunches, imagined, animals)** and craning their necks to see **(far, not, the)** yellow school bus.

"Everyone in single **(farm, file, among)** now. No pushing or shoving," Mr. **(Monday, Randall, popcorn)** called to the students as they **(grandstand, overwhelm, clambered)** into the bus like a herd **(be, on, of)** stampeding elephants.

Mr. Randall's students believed **(from, they, call)** were the luckiest class in the **(entire, pieces, dinner)** school because their field trip was **(went, along, more)** exciting than any other. Even some **(as, of, by)** the sixth graders agreed they were **(most, very, crowd)** lucky. Today Mr. Randall's class was **(heard, drift, going)** to the circus!

When the bus **(pulled, remind, unfold)** in front of the circus tent, **(rapidly, moments, several)** students pressed their faces against the **(our, bus, even)** windows and exclaimed, "Wow!" Several others **(distinct, stinky, couldn't)** say anything at all. They were **(rivalry, staring, handed)** at the pair of lions a **(woman, itself, scent)** was leading around by a leash.

**(Good, Once, None)** inside the tent, the students were **(it, so, he)** impressed with the surroundings that they **(anything, elephant, listened)** to every word Mr. Randall said. **(Tent, Raced, When)** he told them to sit down, **(into, they, near)** sat down. When he told them **(on, to, be)** speak in whispers, they spoke in **(whispers, pressed, Saturday)** for the rest of the show. **(Bet, I, No)** one threw spitballs. No one jumped **(bay, out, far)** of their seats. The children in **(as, of, Mr.)** Randall's fifth grade class were, for **(walk, once, will)**, perfectly behaved.

Mr. Randall glanced over **(at, or, low)** Miss Peach and winked.

"Happens to **(them, big, neat)** every time," he whispered.

A bunch **(top, of, is)** clowns buzzed around in a pink **(had, car, for)** in the middle of one of **(out, all, the)** rings in the center of the **(smell, fish, tent)**, and the children's eyes opened as **(will, wide, goad)** as saucers. Then fifteen clowns climbed **(his, ate, out)** of the car, and the students **(pocket, clapped, suspect)** as loudly as they could. When **(it, me, no)** was time for the trapeze act, **(and, the, now)** students held their breath. When the **(colorful, tripping, elephants)** came out, they said, "Oh" and **(No, Ah, At)**. On the bus on the way **(pile, barn, home)**, the students chatted excitedly about the **(donuts, shown, circus)**. What a great field trip!

The circus was coming to town, and everyone wanted to go to the show to see the spectacle. Tickets were hard to obtain because (all, his, **the**) show was practically sold out.

When (the, guy, **Dad**) came home from the office, he (that, **said**, need) nothing about the upcoming circus. None (to, **of**, as) us kids suspected a thing as (**dad**, men, new) ate his dinner and watched the (command, toward, **Monday**) Night Football game.

The football game (sword, **rolled**, castle) along, and the whole family watched (can, old, **the**) rivalry unfold. It was a good (over, **game**, warm). Suddenly, Dad got up from his (**chair**, could, train), went to his coat, and pulled (road, **five**, food) little pieces of paper out of (nay, **his**, one) pocket. He quietly handed us each (by, **a**, so) piece of paper. They were circus (healthy, soldier, **tickets**)!

"Next Saturday we will be going (of, it, **to**) the circus," he said. "It will (on, **be**, is) great."

Before we went, I imagined (they, **what**, wear) we would see at the circus. (**First**, Lifts, Trees), we would park our car close (at, **to**, in) the colorful tents and walk to (bag, **the**, pan) very first mini-donut stand we (scare, invade, **could**) find. Mini-donuts are excellent and (whereupon, retreating, **absolutely**) must be eaten at a circus. (I, an, or) heard it's a rule. Next we (cloth, **would**, swing) walk to the colorful big top (packs, **while**, corner) eating our donuts. The circus smells (strong, quiet, **would**) drift through the air and the (time, delay, **scent**) of fresh popcorn would be overwhelming. (**There**, Carry, Train) always is something new to see (saw, **too**, how). Going to the circus gave us (be, **a**, no) wonderful chance to be together. I was excited!

On (Abraham, princess, **Saturday**), we arrived at the circus! First (fold, knew, **came**) the clowns! One clown had a (**goofy**, blast, apart) nose. Moments later a funny multi-colored (packed, much, **clown**) raced into the grandstand, took my (most, came, **dad's**) hat, and ran off with it. (**The**, Far, New) clown went back into the center (about, news, **ring**), tripping over the ring itself, and (barns, **jumped**, mighty) into his little blue circus car. (For, Can, **The**) car drove rapidly out of the (list, **ring**, when) and out of the circus tent (**with**, well, tree) my dad's hat.

I looked at (so, **my**, to) dad. All my family could do (far, **was**, low) roar loudly with laughter. Everyone around (be, as, **us**) laughed hysterically because they all saw (old, down, **the**) clown steal my dad's hat. Shortly (journeyed, **afterward**, soldiers), there was a tremendous ruckus by (bag, **the**, try) other end of the tent and (**the**, way, low) car came in again. It went (swung, train, **super**) fast and nearly hit an elephant (by, if, **on**) its way back to the center (lose, **ring**, call).

"Where is Dad's hat?" I wondered. (Bar, **The**, Can) car stopped and out came one (blast, talks, **clown**), then another, and then another. Fourteen (village, compete, **clowns**)

piled out of the car, and (men, **the**, new) last one that climbed out was (country, **wearing**,  
command) Dad's hat.

The circus was coming to town, and everyone wanted to go to the show to see the spectacle. Tickets were hard to obtain because **(all, his, the)** show was practically sold out.

When **(the, guy, Dad)** came home from the office, he **(that, said, need)** nothing about the upcoming circus. None **(to, of, as)** us kids suspected a thing as **(Dad, men, new)** ate his dinner and watched the **(command, toward, Monday)** Night Football game.

The football game **(sword, rolled, castle)** along, and the whole family watched **(can, old, the)** rivalry unfold. It was a good **(over, game, warm)**. Suddenly, dad got up from his **(chair, could, train)**, went to his coat, and pulled **(road, five, food)** little pieces of paper out of **(nay, his, one)** pocket. He quietly handed us each **(by, a, so)** piece of paper. They were circus **(healthy, soldier, tickets)!**

"Next Saturday we will be going **(of, it, to)** the circus," he said. "It will **(on, be, is)** great."

Before we went, I imagined **(they, what, wear)** we would see at the circus. **(First, Lifts, Trees)**, we would park our car close **(at, to, in)** the colorful tents and walk to **(bag, the, pan)** very first mini-donut stand we **(scare, invade, could)** find. Mini-donuts are excellent and **(whereupon, retreating, absolutely)** must be eaten at a circus. **(I, an, or)** heard it's a rule. Next we **(cloth, would, swing)** walk to the colorful big top **(packs, while, corner)** eating our donuts. The circus smells **(strong, quiet, would)** drift through the air and the **(time, delay, scent)** of fresh popcorn would be overwhelming. **(There, Carry, Train)** always was something new to see **(saw, too, how)**. Going to the circus gave us **(be, a, no)** wonderful chance to be together.

On **(Abraham, princess, Saturday)**, we arrived at the circus! First **(fold, knew, came)** the clowns! One clown had a **(goofy, blast, apart)** nose. Moments later a funny multi-colored **(packed, much, clown)** raced into the grandstand, took my **(most, came, dad's)** hat, and ran off with it. **(The, Far, New)** clown went back into the center **(about, news, ring)**, tripping over the ring itself, and **(barns, jumped, mighty)** into his little blue circus car. **(For, Can, The)** car drove rapidly out of the **(list, ring, when)** and out of the circus tent **(with, well, tree)** my dad's hat.

I looked at **(so, my, to)** dad. All my family could do **(far, was, low)** roar loudly with laughter. Everyone around **(be, as, us)** laughed hysterically because they all saw **(old, down, the)** clown steal my dad's hat. Shortly **(journeyed, afterward, soldiers)**, there was a tremendous ruckus by **(bag, the, try)** other end of the tent and **(the, way, low)** car came in again. It went **(swung, train, super)** fast and nearly hit an elephant **(by, if, on)** its way back to the center **(lose, ring, call)**.

"Where is Dad's hat?" I wondered. **(Bar, The, Can)** car stopped and out came one **(blast, talks, clown)**, then another, and then another. Fourteen **(village, compete, clowns)**

piled out of the car, and **(men, the, new)** last one that climbed out was **(country, wearing, command)** Dad's hat.

The King commanded that all young men report to his castle. He needed to build an army (of, by, to) men and train them to fight. (No, **A**, If) new challenge to the kingdom threatened (hook, much, **from**) across the sea, and the King (repair, **wanted**, panics) to be prepared. The command from (had, saw, **the**) King was carried throughout the land (**to**, my, as) every corner of his kingdom.

Young (driveway, watched, **Abraham**) was a healthy boy, very big (the, **for**, has) his age, and very strong. He (teach, operate, **worked**) beside his father in the fields (taken, **where**, thing) he was able to lift two (major, soggy, **bales**) of hay at one time. He (**could**, house, boots) cut down a small tree with (red, old, **one**) swing. He had a reputation in (you, **his**, new) village as being honest, strong, and (leafy, wasn't, **quiet**). When Abraham received the command from (one, **the**, too) King, he responded immediately. He packed (time, **food**, hand), a blanket, and warm clothing in (or, **an**, so) old bag and swung it over (ore, can, **his**) shoulder. He bid his father farewell (was, now, **and**) journeyed off down the road towards (**the**, her, for) King's castle.

Abraham arrived days later (tell, look, **with**) many other men. He received new (manner, coasted, **clothes**) and a sword. The King's men (farewell, **trained**, branches) Abraham to compete in battle. They (second, **showed**, grunt) him how to use his sword (**and**, wet, all) demonstrated fighting techniques. The King's men (trail, walls, **later**) fed the soldiers and let them (to, my, **go**) to bed, whereupon they fell, exhausted, (upon, **into**, once) a deep sleep on the soft (old, **hay**, sew) of the barns.

In the morning, (dad, pan, **the**) soldiers awakened to the blast of (collapse, **trumpets**, telephone). Invaders landed the night before and (pour, most, **were**) headed to the castle to take (sure, **over**, well) the country. The King commanded his (**new**, had, day) army to defend the country. The (lift, **men**, clay) lined up, tired and scared, unsure (**of**, on, to) how to fight the invading band (**of**, or, so) men.

Abraham led the men into (**battle**, respond, stared). He swung his sword like he (place, works, **swung**) his ax, and the invaders fell (that, **like**, call) trees. He lifted men over his (when, like, **head**) and threw them the way he (words, **threw**, could) bales of hay. The invading forces (whom, knew, **were**) scared off by Abraham's mighty feats. (Room, **They**, Gone) quit fighting and retreated to their (among, **boats**, those). They never tried to invade the (hundred, totally, **kingdom**) again. Abraham's bravery saved his country. (Teacher, Believe, **Abraham**) was awarded the medal of bravery (top, **and**, her) was named a knight of the (remember, **kingdom**, removed).

The King commanded that all young men report to his castle. He needed to build an army **(of, by, to)** men and train them to fight. **(No, A, If)** new challenge to the kingdom threatened **(hook, much, from)** across the sea, and the King **(repair, wanted, panics)** to be prepared. The command from **(had, saw, the)** King was carried throughout the land **(to, my, as)** every corner of his kingdom.

Young **(driveway, watched, Abraham)** was a healthy boy, very big **(the, for, has)** his age, and very strong. He **(teach, operate, worked)** beside his father in the fields **(taken, where, thing)** he was able to lift two **(major, soggy, bales)** of hay at one time. He **(could, house, boots)** cut down a small tree with **(red, old, one)** swing. He had a reputation in **(you, his, new)** village as being honest, strong, and **(leafy, wasn't, quiet)**. When Abraham received the command from **(one, the, too)** King, he responded immediately. He packed **(time, food, hand)**, a blanket, and warm clothing in **(or, an, so)** old bag and swung it over **(ore, can, his)** shoulder. He bid his father farewell **(was, now, and)** journeyed off down the road towards **(the, her, for)** King's castle.

Abraham arrived days later **(tell, look, with)** many other men. He received new **(manner, coasted, clothes)** and a sword. The King's men **(farewell, trained, branches)** Abraham to compete in battle. They **(second, showed, grunt)** him how to use his sword **(and, wet, all)** demonstrated fighting techniques. The King's men **(trail, walls, later)** fed the soldiers and let them **(to, my, go)** to bed, whereupon they fell, exhausted, **(upon, into, once)** a deep sleep on the soft **(old, hay, sew)** of the barns.

In the morning, **(dad, pan, the)** soldiers awakened to the blast of **(collapse, trumpets, telephone)**. Invaders landed the night before and **(pour, most, were)** headed to the castle to take **(sure, over, well)** the country. The King commanded his **(new, had, day)** army to defend the country. The **(lift, men, clay)** lined up, tired and scared, unsure **(of, on, to)** how to fight the invading band **(of, or, so)** men.

Abraham led the men into **(battle, respond, stared)**. He swung his sword like he **(place, works, swung)** his ax, and the invaders fell **(that, like, call)** trees. He lifted men over his **(when, like, head)** and threw them the way he **(words, threw, could)** bales of hay. The invading forces **(whom, knew, were)** scared off by Abraham's mighty feats. **(Room, They, Gone)** quit fighting and retreated to their **(among, boats, those)**. They never tried to invade the **(hundred, totally, kingdom)** again. Abraham's bravery saved his country. **(Teacher, Believe, Abraham)** was awarded the medal of bravery **(top, and, her)** was named a knight of the **(remember, kingdom, removed)**.

During a thunderstorm last November, a tree fell on our house and our roof collapsed. My dad isn't very good with (lands, **house**, flung) repairs, so we had to call (by, **a**, or) carpenter.

The day after the storm, (on, to, **my**) dad and I waited for the (patiently, definite, **carpenter**) outside on our driveway. We were (**both**, fish, damp) tired after spending most of the (which, cause, **night**) trying to save our belongings. Our (funny, tower, **house**) no longer had much of a (tree, **roof**, star), and it had rained all night.

(Would, **After**, Night) a few minutes, a white van (**with**, bone, wind) "Carlson's Carpentry" painted in red letters (so, if, **on**) its side-door panels turned into (ice, **our**, day) driveway and coasted toward us. My (minutes, barely, **father**) and I were wet, tired, upset, (was, **and**, got) about to be surprised.

The carpenter (**who**, had, not) climbed out of the white van (before, **wasn't**, bare) at all the repairman we were (crossword, returned, **expecting**). Instead, an old woman stepped onto (big, **our**, out) wet driveway. Her hair was in (toward, **curlers**, stepped), and she had a pair of (warning, usual, **safety**) goggles resting on top of her (year, plan, **head**). She shook my dad's hand in (I, **a**, be) no-nonsense manner, and with a (that, **frown**, nook), she turned to look at our (**house**, until, update).

"Now I see why you were (up, so, **in**) such a panic on the telephone," (the, **she**, for) said to my father. "This place (start, open, **needs**) some major work."

The tree that (see, **had**, our) fallen on our house was at (**least**, which, fall) two hundred years old. Its branches (her, off, **and**) leafy sections had completely destroyed our (puzzle, **living**, branch) room and breakfast nook. I didn't (chuckle, straight, **believe**) for one second that this little (did, **old**, not) woman was going to remove the (**tree**, then, eggs) and reconstruct the walls of our (water, **house**, bucket). I could tell my dad wasn't (slid, **sure**, hole) either. He stared at the old (stand, felt, **woman**) in her work boots and carpenter's (hope, night, **pants**). He was totally amazed.

"My name's (**Harriet**, thermos, seventy) Carlson," she told us. "But I (your, turn, **only**) respond to Harry."

"Sure thing," my (wet, **dad**, who) muttered.

"Now where's my chainsaw?" said (plans, upon, **Harry**).

"Are you sure," my dad said following (windy, **after**, damp) her in his bathrobe, "that you (**should**, walleye, argues) operate such heavy machinery, Mrs. Carlson?"

"(**That's**, Would, Lunch) Harry," she grunted as she hefted (him, was, **the**) chainsaw in one hand and stalked (at, **up**, in) the driveway. "No one's called me (saw, one, **Mrs.**) Carlson since my teaching days. This (down, about, **here's**) my second career choice."

The rest (as, **of**, am) her words were lost in the (**roar**, legs, come) of the chainsaw as we watched (at, no, **in**) disbelief as she started to work. (Down, **From**, More) then on, I remembered that first (proceeding, examination, **impressions**) aren't everything.

During a thunderstorm last November, a tree fell on our house and our roof collapsed. My dad isn't very good with **(lands, house, flung)** repairs, so we had to call **(by, a, or)** carpenter.

The day after the storm, **(on, to, my)** dad and I waited for the **(patiently, definite, carpenter)** outside on our driveway. We were **(both, fish, damp)** tired after spending most of the **(which, cause, night)** trying to save our belongings. Our **(funny, tower, house)** no longer had much of a **(tree, roof, star)**, and it had rained all night.

**(Would, After, Night)** a few minutes, a white van **(with, bone, wind)** Carlson's Carpentry painted in red letters **(so, if, on)** its side-door panels turned into **(ice, our, day)** driveway and coasted toward us. My **(minutes, barely, father)** and I were wet, tired, upset, **(was, and, got)** about to be surprised.

The carpenter **(who, had, not)** climbed out of the white van **(before, wasn't, bare)** at all the repairman we were **(crossword, returned, expecting)**. Instead, an old woman stepped onto **(big, our, out)** wet driveway. Her hair was in **(toward, curlers, stepped)**, and she had a pair of **(warning, usual, safety)** goggles resting on top of her **(year, plan, head)**. She shook my dad's hand in **(I, a, be)** no-nonsense manner, and with a **(that, frown, nook)**, she turned to look at our **(house, until, update)**.

"Now I see why you were **(up, so, in)** such a panic on the telephone," **(the, she, for)** said to my father. "This place **(start, open, needs)** some major work."

The tree that **(see, had, our)** fallen on our house was at **(least, which, fall)** two hundred years old. Its branches **(her, off, and)** leafy sections had completely destroyed our **(puzzle, living, branch)** room and breakfast nook. I didn't **(chuckle, straight, believe)** for one second that this little **(did, old, not)** woman was going to remove the **(tree, then, eggs)** and reconstruct the walls of our **(water, house, bucket)**. I could tell my dad wasn't **(slid, sure, hole)** either. He stared at the old **(stand, felt, woman)** in her work boots and carpenter's **(hope, night, pants)**. He was totally amazed.

"My name's **(Harriet, thermos, seventy)** Carlson," she told us. "But I **(your, turn, only)** respond to Harry."

"Sure thing," my **(wet, dad, who)** muttered.

"Now where's my chainsaw?" said **(plans, upon, Harry)**.

"Are you sure," my dad said following **(windy, after, damp)** her in his bathrobe, "that you **(should, walleye, argues)** operate such heavy machinery, Mrs. Carlson?"

"**(That's, Would, Lunch)** Harry," she grunted as she hefted **(him, was, the)** chainsaw in one hand and stalked **(at, up, in)** the driveway. "No one's called me **(saw, one, Mrs.)** Carlson since my teaching days. This **(down, about, here's)** my second career choice."

The rest (**as, of, am**) her words were lost in the (**roar, legs, come**) of the chainsaw as we watched (**at, no, in**) disbelief as she started to work. (**Down, From, More**) then on, I remembered that first (**proceeding, examination, impressions**) aren't everything.

The Minnesota ice fishing season began on a damp day with a bone-chilling wind. But a little inclement weather was (the, and, **not**) enough to spoil my seventy-eight-(with, **year**, that)-old Grandpa's plans! He got up (cornhusk, stopped, **earlier**) than usual and had a big (exercise, **breakfast**, vegetable) of bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, and (**orange**, friend, knuckle) juice. Having organized his fishing gear (his, you, **the**) night before, he only had to (much, **grab**, kids) a thermos of hot coffee before (watched, sprout, **heading**) out on the ice in hopes (so, **of**, in) landing a big walleye.

Grandpa had (of, to, **a**) lot of patience and sat on (can, let, **his**) bucket patiently for an hour without (it, **a**, on) single bite. Jeff went down to (closet, **check**, over) on Grandpa and see if he (pumpkin, toast, **needed**) anything. It was so cold that (good, Igor, **Jeff**) could barely stand there for a (**few**, him, odd) minutes of chatting before returning to (had, but, **the**) house with an update on Grandpa's (stopping, **progress**, whizzed). Dad felt bad that the fish (couch, coffee, **weren't**) biting. As he looked out the (looked, **window**, anyone), he said with a gasp, "Oh (**no**, of, up)!"

Quickly, he opened the window and (**yelled**, sprouts, stand) out a warning. "Dad!" he shouted. "(As, To, **Be**) careful! The ice might crack beneath (was, **you**, ear)."

But Grandpa had hearing problems, and (he, is, **in**) turning his head toward the window, (all, **the**, and) bucket slid towards the hole in (see, **the**, her) ice. Dad waited until Mom (just, **came**, skin) into the room. She did not (notice, **think**, belly) Grandpa's situation was very safe. She (over, **went**, him) over to the window and yelled, "(thinking, turnip, **Grandpa**)! Get off the bucket."

Again, Grandpa (you, who, **did**) not hear her. Everyone agreed that (**Grandpa**, noticed, inflate) could fall in the water without (pelican, decayed, **getting**) hurt, but he would definitely be (grow, nose, **cold**) and wet, which would make him (denial, **crabby**, squall). Mom and Dad started to argue (time, **over**, need) who should go outside and tell (**Grandpa**, advisor, increase) to come in soon.

"Oh, for (imperfect, stunned, **goodness**) sake," said Grandma, putting down her (incredible, **crossword**, eggplant) puzzle and getting up from the (them, **sofa**, have). She flung open the window and (mother, potato, **yelled**), "Bob, LUNCH!"

And with that, Grandpa (**safely**, growing, school) stood straight up, put down his (days, **pole**, from), and walked up the hill. Shortly (beyond, **after**, maybe) Grandpa was in the house, he (nothing, potato, **looked**) at the empty table and asked, "(Seemed, Weekend, **Where's**) lunch?" Mom and Dad looked at each other with disbelief.

The Minnesota ice fishing season began on a damp day with a bone-chilling wind. But a little inclement weather was **(the, and, not)** enough to spoil my seventy-eight-**(with, year, that)**-old Grandpa's plans! He got up **(cornhusk, stopped, earlier)** than usual and had a big **(exercise, breakfast, vegetable)** of bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, and **(orange, friend, knuckle)** juice. Having organized his fishing gear **(his, you, the)** night before, he only had to **(much, grab, kids)** a thermos of hot coffee before **(watched, sprout, heading)** out on the ice in hopes **(so, of, in)** landing a big walleye.

Grandpa had **(of, to, a)** lot of patience and sat on **(can, let, his)** bucket patiently for an hour without **(it, a, on)** single bite. Jeff went down to **(closet, check, over)** on Grandpa and see if he **(pumpkin, toast, needed)** anything. It was so cold that **(good, Igor, Jeff)** could barely stand there for a **(few, him, odd)** minutes of chatting before returning to **(had, but, the)** house with an update on Grandpa's **(stopping, progress, whizzed)**. Dad felt bad that the fish **(couch, coffee, weren't)** biting. As he looked out the **(looked, window, anyone)**, he said with a gasp, "Oh **(no, of, up)!**"

Quickly, he opened the window and **(yelled, sprouts, stand)** out a warning. "Dad!" he shouted. "**(As, To, Be)** careful! The ice might crack beneath **(was, you, ear).**"

But Grandpa had hearing problems, and **(he, is, in)** turning his head toward the window, **(all, the, and)** bucket slid towards the hole in **(see, the, her)** ice. Dad waited until Mom **(just, came, skin)** into the room. She did not **(notice, think, belly)** Grandpa's situation was very safe. She **(over, went, him)** over to the window and yelled, "**(thinking, turnip, Grandpa)!** Get off the bucket."

Again, Grandpa **(you, who, did)** not hear her. Everyone agreed that **(Grandpa, noticed, inflate)** could fall in the water without **(pelican, decayed, getting)** hurt, but he would definitely be **(grow, nose, cold)** and wet, which would make him **(denial, crabby, squall)**. Mom and Dad started to argue **(time, over, need)** who should go outside and tell **(Grandpa, advisor, increase)** to come in soon.

"Oh, for **(imperfect, stunned, goodness)** sake," said Grandma, putting down her **(incredible, crossword, eggplant)** puzzle and getting up from the **(them, sofa, have)**. She flung open the window and **(mother, potato, yelled)**, "Bob, LUNCH!"

And with that, Grandpa **(safely, growing, school)** stood straight up, put down his **(days, pole, from)**, and walked up the hill. Shortly **(beyond, after, maybe)** Grandpa was in the house, he **(nothing, potato, looked)** at the empty table and asked, "**(Seemed, Weekend, Where's)** lunch?" Mom and Dad looked at each other with disbelief.

Trevor spent so much time in front of the television playing video games and watching MTV that his mother thought he was turning into a vegetable.

"Trevor," she said to her son (**one**, his, our) morning over French toast, "you have (at, of, **to**) stop spending so much time sitting (or, **on**, by) the couch watching TV. You're turning (took, spend, **into**) a couch potato."

Trevor's father agreed. "(Own, **Too**, Was) much television isn't good for anyone," (it, **he**, of) said.

"Whatever," Trevor muttered under his (center, **breath**, wheels) as he retrieved his skateboard from (two, set, **the**) closet and whizzed off to school. (The, Use, **All**) of his friends watched just as (**much**, with, cart) television as he did, and nothing (old, tie, **was**) wrong with them.

Maybe it was (axle, **just**, gone) because his mother had him thinking (couch, play, **about**) kids turning into vegetables, but he (suggest, **started**, breath) to notice odd things about his (trouble, **friends**, himself).

Igor Wagner watched TV all night (be, as, **on**) school days and all day and (power, **night**, still) on weekends. Trevor noticed that Igor (for, **had**, now) the nose of a turnip, and (fly, **the**, far) skin around his knuckles was brown (**and**, old, own) looked like potato skins.

Molly Santana (fields, **played**, apple) video games all the time, and (off, **she**, saw) seemed to be growing curly grapevines (off, with, **out**) of her head, sprouting bean sprouts (how, long, **out**) of her ears, and taking on (so, **an**, be) eggplant-shaped body.

Then Trevor noticed (fine, **that**, tried) his own skin was the color (**of**, to, in) cornhusks and that he was starting (by, so, **to**) grow a belly like a pumpkin.

(**After**, Didn't, Know) school, Igor and Molly stopped him (side, calm, **near**) the cafeteria.

"Do you want to (upon, **come**, late) over to my house?" Molly asked. "(No, As, I) just rented a new video game. (Or, **We**, By) can play it all night!"

"No, (**let's**, when, laid) go to my place," Igor said. "(Same, Know, **This**) weekend is movie madness on cable. (Or, **My**, Who) mom will make us pizza and (grazed, across, **popcorn**), and we won't even have to (tie, **get**, more) up off the couch. It'll be (nervous, history, **awesome**)!"

Trevor patted his pumpkin stomach and (deluxe, lumber, **picked**) up his skateboard. He was going (by, **to**, as) need to spend a lot of (near, **time**, you) outdoors exercising in the fresh air (**to**, be, is) get back in shape.

"No, I (front, **think**, fresh) I'll take a rain check, guys," (or, **he**, if) told them and whizzed away quickly.

Trevor spent so much time in front of the television playing video games and watching MTV that his mother thought he was turning into a vegetable.

"Trevor," she said to her son **(one, his, our)** morning over French toast, "you have **(at, of, to)** stop spending so much time sitting **(or, on, by)** the couch watching TV. You're turning **(took, spend, into)** a couch potato."

Trevor's father agreed. "**(Own, Too, Was)** much television isn't good for anyone," **(it, he, of)** said.

"Whatever," Trevor muttered under his **(center, breath, wheels)** as he retrieved his skateboard from **(two, set, the)** closet and whizzed off to school. **(The, Use, All)** of his friends watched just as **(much, with, cart)** television as he did, and nothing **(old, tie, was)** wrong with them.

Maybe it was **(axle, just, gone)** because his mother had him thinking **(couch, play, about)** kids turning into vegetables, but he **(suggest, started, breath)** to notice odd things about his **(trouble, friends, himself)**.

Igor Wagner watched TV all night **(be, as, on)** school days and all day and **(power, night, still)** on weekends. Trevor noticed that Igor **(for, had, now)** the nose of a turnip, and **(fly, the, far)** skin around his knuckles was brown **(and, old, own)** looked like potato skins.

Molly Santana **(fields, played, apple)** video games all the time, and **(off, she, saw)** seemed to be growing curly grapevines **(off, with, out)** of her head, sprouting bean sprouts **(how, long, out)** of her ears, and taking on **(so, an, be)** eggplant-shaped body.

Then Trevor noticed **(fine, that, tried)** his own skin was the color **(of, to, in)** cornhusks and that he was starting **(by, so, to)** grow a belly like a pumpkin.

**(After, Didn't, Know)** school, Igor and Molly stopped him **(side, calm, near)** the cafeteria.

"Do you want to **(upon, come, late)** over to my house?" Molly asked. "**(No, As, I)** just rented a new video game. **(Or, We, By)** can play it all night!"

"No, **(let's, when, laid)** go to my place," Igor said. "**(Same, Know, This)** weekend is movie madness on cable. **(Or, My, Who)** mom will make us pizza and **(grazed, across, popcorn)**, and we won't even have to **(tie, get, more)** up off the couch. It'll be **(nervous, history, awesome)!**"

Trevor patted his pumpkin stomach and **(deluxe, lumber, picked)** up his skateboard. He was going **(by, to, as)** need to spend a lot of **(near, time, you)** outdoors exercising in the fresh air **(to, be, is)** get back in shape.

"No, I **(front, think, fresh)** I'll take a rain check, guys," **(or, he, if)** told them and whizzed away quickly.v

Looking at John Cobb standing next to his racers with his helmet on inspired me and my friend Marty to build our own go-cart. (In, **We**, By) were going to make history. We took a board from Dad's lumber (book, **pile**, when). The board measured two inches thick (to, it, **by**) twelve inches across and eight feet (have, very, **long**). Next we took apart my brother's (**wagon**, inches, bound) for its wheels and sturdy axles. (Be, Is, **To**) attach the wheels, we laid the (step, **axles**, sock) on the board and drove 16-(began, stack, **penny**) nails into one-inch centers on (find, **both**, flap) sides. Then we bent them over (an, our, **the**) steel axle. We also built a (days, **seat**, from) out of an old orange crate.

(**Finally**, Speaker, Wheels) we had a basic go-cart. (If, No, **It**) was nothing fancy, but with a (said, **fine**, foot) set of wheels, plenty of grease, (was, for, **and**) some kid-power or a good (that, **hill**, just), she would fly!

We decided this (**machine**, marched, frantic) would be a deluxe model, including (requests, skeleton, **steering**). To achieve steering control, we concentrated (and, **the**, air) nails at the center of the (speed, lumber, **front**) axle. You could accomplish a left (of, **or**, is) right turn by sitting on the (slow, **board**, pretty) and placing your feet against the (tiny, **axle**, help) on both sides near the wheels (**and**, the, may) using a reasonable amount of pressure.

(On, **It**, Up) was Marty's great idea to tie (off, **the**, too) go-cart to the white horse (sound, stern, **named**) Old Blue that grazed in the (basic, these, **field**) across the street. When Marty introduced (new, **the**, one) horsepower idea, I became a little (straight, **nervous**, tapped). It didn't take long for me (as, am, **to**) suggest that he should be the (peach, **first**, canoe) test driver.

We fastened a rope (an, **to**, tie) Old Blue's neck, and Marty climbed (messed, herself, **aboard**) and tied himself in with a (**do**, my, be)-it-yourself seatbelt. Old Blue had (on, **no**, of) trouble pulling a piece of wood (screamed, **through**, obvious) the field of hay. Marty was (responsible, requesting, **determined**) to ride as far as he (along, deluxe, **could**). He was doing well until Old (**Blue**, beak, could) jumped a ditch, sending the go-(hung, **cart**, call) airborne. When it hit the ground (to, **on**, be) the other side of the ditch, (far, sew, **the**) wheels came off completely.

When I (**reached**, library, nervous) Marty, he didn't look very good. (Up, **It**, No) took me a few minutes to (that, have, **help**) him get out of the smashed (by, **go**, of)-cart. Luckily, Marty was able to (tied, legs, **walk**) home. I did not go with (**him**, you, can) though. I thought it would be (very, **best**, burn) for Marty to explain what happened (if, is, **on**) his own.

Looking at John Cobb standing next to his racers with his helmet on inspired me and my friend Marty to build our own go-cart. **(In, We, By)** were going to make history. We took a board from Dad's lumber **(book, pile, when)**. The board measured two inches thick **(to, it, by)** twelve inches across and eight feet **(have, very, long)**. Next we took apart my brother's **(wagon, inches, bound)** for its wheels and sturdy axles. **(Be, Is, To)** attach the wheels, we laid the **(step, axles, sock)** on the board and drove 16-**(began, stack, penny)** nails into one-inch centers on **(find, both, flap)** sides. Then we bent them over **(an, our, the)** steel axle. We also built a **(days, seat, from)** out of an old orange crate.

**(Finally, Speaker, Wheels)** we had a basic go-cart. **(If, No, It)** was nothing fancy, but with a **(said, fine, foot)** set of wheels, plenty of grease, **(was, for, and)** some kid-power or a good **(that, hill, just)**, she would fly!

We decided this **(machine, marched, frantic)** would be a deluxe model, including **(requests, skeleton, steering)**. To achieve steering control, we concentrated **(and, the, air)** nails at the center of the **(speed, lumber, front)** axle. You could accomplish a left **(of, or, is)** right turn by sitting on the **(slow, board, pretty)** and placing your feet against the **(tiny, axle, help)** on both sides near the wheels **(and, the, may)** using a reasonable amount of pressure.

**(On, It, Up)** was Marty's great idea to tie **(off, the, too)** go-cart to the white horse **(sound, stern, named)** Old Blue that grazed in the **(basic, these, field)** across the street. When Marty introduced **(new, the, one)** horsepower idea, I became a little **(straight, nervous, tapped)**. It didn't take long for me **(as, am, to)** suggest that he should be the **(peach, first, canoe)** test driver.

We fastened a rope **(an, to, tie)** Old Blue's neck, and Marty climbed **(messed, herself, aboard)** and tied himself in with a **(do, my, be)**-it-yourself seatbelt. Old Blue had **(on, no, of)** trouble pulling a piece of wood **(screamed, through, obvious)** the field of hay. Marty was **(responsible, requesting, determined)** to ride as far as he **(along, deluxe, could)**. He was doing well until Old **(Blue, beak, could)** jumped a ditch, sending the go-**(hung, cart, call)** airborne. When it hit the ground **(to, on, be)** the other side of the ditch, **(far, sew, the)** wheels came off completely.

When I **(reached, library, nervous)** Marty, he didn't look very good. **(Up, It, No)** took me a few minutes to **(that, have, help)** him get out of the smashed **(by, go, of)**-cart. Luckily, Marty was able to **(tied, legs, walk)** home. I did not go with **(him, you, can)** though. I thought it would be **(very, best, burn)** for Marty to explain what happened **(if, is, on)** his own.