

## Mystery

Practice reading this mystery to a partner.

### Maple Sap Mystery

by Sun Park

Jonah Brannigan awoke at midnight with a feeling of uneasiness. He stumbled out of bed, quickly donned his favorite flannel shirt and worn-out jeans, and whistled for his dog, Meena. Sugaring season had just begun, and it dawned on Jonah that the tubing that brought all the sap from the maple trees to the sugarhouse might be in jeopardy. Sometimes animals wandered through the trees and got caught in the tubing, interrupting the sap flow.

As he and Meena loped out the door, Jonah saw a flash of gray near the sugarhouse, then blackness. He turned on his flashlight and searched the ground, but the only footprints he could see were those of his cat, Noodle. Meena also saw nothing out of the ordinary, so she and Jonah raced back into the house, shivering and annoyed.

The next morning, Jonah found tiny bite marks in the tubing near the sugarhouse. *Could it be?* he wondered. He hid behind a group of trees and waited. Sure enough, moments later, Noodle slunk to the tubing, chomped it with his tiny fangs, and lapped at the sweet sap that oozed out. Jonah smiled. He had found the midnight marauder!



Did you read the mystery with fluency? Use the form on the next page to evaluate yourself and your partner.

## Reading Response Form

**A** On a scale of 1 to 5, rate yourself and your partner. Do this for the first reading and final readings, at least. On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 is considered outstanding, 3 is good, and 1 is average.

- 1.** Did I ...
- Read the words correctly?
  - Read at a good pace?
  - Read with expression?
  - Read clearly for my audience?

First Reading	Second Reading	Final Reading

- 2.** Did my partner ...
- Read the words correctly?
  - Read at a good pace?
  - Read with expression?
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First Reading	Second Reading	Final Reading

**B** After the first reading, share with your partner how you thought he or she read, and offer suggestions for improvement.

**C** After the final reading, answer the following questions for yourself.

- 1.** What did I do well?

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Final Reading \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.** What should I do to improve my reading next time?

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Final Reading \_\_\_\_\_

## Prefixes That Tell *When*

**Prefixes** are word parts that change the meanings of the base words to which they are added. Some prefixes tell *when* something happens. See the box below for examples of such prefixes.

Prefix	Meaning
<i>after-</i>	later
<i>pre-</i>	before
<i>post-</i>	later
<i>pro-</i>	earlier

**A** Combine the base words and prefixes below. Then write the definition of the new word on the line. You may use a dictionary for help.

- pre + test = the test that comes before the actual test
- after + noon = \_\_\_\_\_
- pro + logue = \_\_\_\_\_
- pre + view = \_\_\_\_\_
- pre + game = \_\_\_\_\_
- after + thought = \_\_\_\_\_
- pre + cook = \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Write sentences using each of the words from above.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Letter

Practice reading this letter to a partner.

### America Speaks

by Henry Thompson

Dear Mother,

So far, life in the Americas has been superb. Our ship landed in Charleston, South Carolina, six months ago, and we decided that it would be a wonderful place to settle. Elizabeth and I have been able to start a small farm that grows rice. We have a nice plot of land along the coastal plain, which is perfect for rice planting. Our rice crop has brought in enough money for us to build a new home!

There are many great opportunities here. Since we are so close to the ocean and have access to many rivers, there will always be an easy trade route for our rice. We can trade with other countries or with other colonies along the coast of America. And since we have been so successful with our rice crop so far, we think that we will soon add to the size of our farm. We believe you and Father would find Charleston very agreeable. The climate is comfortable and the land beautiful. We believe we will be able to build a wonderful life here.

I hope that you and Father are well.

Your Son,  
Henry



Did you read the letter with fluency? Use the form on the next page to evaluate yourself and your partner.



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First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

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## Inflected Endings -s and -es

Inflected endings are added to root words in order to build new words. See the examples below.

tree + -s = trees

wish + -es = wishes

**A** Add the correct inflected ending, -s or -es, to the words below and write the resulting word on the line. The first one has been done for you.

1. state = states
2. port = \_\_\_\_\_
3. brush = \_\_\_\_\_
4. mountain = \_\_\_\_\_
5. touch = \_\_\_\_\_
6. dish = \_\_\_\_\_
7. food = \_\_\_\_\_
9. river = \_\_\_\_\_
10. tax = \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Write sentences using eight of the words from Part A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Common and Proper Nouns

A **common noun** names any general person, place, thing, or idea.

My dog enjoys riding in the car with the window down.

A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, or thing. You always capitalize a proper noun.

Mr. Ruiz teaches music classes at Green Park on Saturdays.

- A** Underline the common nouns once and underline the proper nouns twice in the following paragraph.

W.E.B. Du Bois was an important civil rights leader. He was also a poet, editor, and historian. Du Bois graduated from Harvard University in 1895. He became the first African-American man to earn a doctorate from Harvard University. Du Bois was also a founding member of the NAACP. When Du Bois died in 1963, he was a citizen of Ghana. Ghana is a country in Africa.

- B** Identify the common and proper nouns in each sentence and write them on the lines below.

- Harrisburg is the capital of Pennsylvania.  
Common Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proper Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_
- The Blue Hen is the state bird of Delaware.  
Common Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proper Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_
- Milk is the state beverage of Pennsylvania.  
Common Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proper Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_

## Articles

Remember that the words *a*, *an*, and *the* are **articles**. Use *a* and *an* when referring to one general thing. Use *the* when referring to a particular thing.

- Use *a* before a word that starts with a consonant sound and *an* before a word that starts with a vowel sound.

*a state*      *an ocean*

- You can use *the* before both vowel and consonant sounds.

*the Atlantic Ocean*

Read the following sentences and write *Correct* or *Incorrect* on the lines to show whether articles are used correctly or not. If an article is incorrect, cross out the incorrect article and write the correct article on the line.

1. Her grandmother was ~~an~~ colonist in Boston. Incorrect; a
2. New England is an center of learning and culture. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The people felt like they had a voice in the new country. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Native Americans were an first people to live in the Middle Atlantic States. \_\_\_\_\_
6. New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., are three of the cities in the Middle Atlantic States. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Soil in a South Atlantic States is rich and fertile. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Rivers and harbors in the region make it easy to ship goods. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A trip to a states in an Midwest would be great. \_\_\_\_\_
10. You can visit the Rocky Mountains for a break. \_\_\_\_\_

## Action and Linking Verbs

An **action verb** expresses an action. In the example below, the action verb *plants* tells what the subject, *farmer*, does.

**A farmer plants crops for hours.**

A **linking verb** connects, or links, the subject of a sentence to a word or word group that describes or identifies the subject. The words *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, and *were* are common linking verbs. In the example below, *are* connects the subject, *men*, to *farmers*.

**These men are farmers.**

**A** Read the sentences. Write the verb and tell if it is an action verb or linking verb.

1. Keya is a dancer. *is, linking* \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Pilgrims traded furs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cedric fishes in the ocean. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The pizza was good. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Camille grows rice on her farm. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Kyle ran to Cameron's house. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Meekers are nice neighbors. \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Write sentences using each of the verbs from Part A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_



## Main and Helping Verbs

In some sentences, the verb may be more than one word. The action verb is called the **main verb**. Any verbs that come before the main verb are the **helping verbs**.

**I have washed the dishes several times.**

*Have* is the helping verb; *washed* is the main verb.

**I am going to soccer practice.**

*Am* is the helping verb; *going* is the main verb.

**A** Read the sentences. Circle the helping verb and underline the main verb.

1. The teacher is reading a book.
2. The children are playing inside.
3. I was watching a movie.
4. I have listened to that song.
5. My sister has traveled to many places.
6. Next time I will volunteer for one of the other experiments.

**B** Write sentences using the helping verbs and main verbs from Part A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Persuasive Article

Practice reading this persuasive article to a partner.

### Bring on the City Life

by Paula Edward

Are you thinking of moving to the East Coast? Does the idea of living in a big city appeal to you? Do you like great seafood? If you answered *yes* to these questions, there is a Middle Atlantic State you should consider.

Although Maryland is one of the smallest states in terms of land area, it is rich in opportunities and options. In Baltimore, the biggest city in the state, residents enjoy hundreds of exciting activities. Baltimoreans can catch a thrilling baseball game at Camden Yards, enjoy delicious Maryland blue crabs at an inviting eatery in the Inner Harbor, or visit one of the universities in the city. They can even stop by the zoo.

Baltimore also offers other educational and cultural pursuits. The National Aquarium is located there, and the city has many respected art museums. The state capital, Annapolis, is less than an hour away. It is home to the United States Naval Academy.

Give Maryland and its cities a try. You'll find other places pale in comparison. Wait and see!



Did you read the persuasive article with fluency? Use the form on the next page to evaluate yourself and your partner.

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