

Sample Pages
from
**Seasonal
Brain Teasers and
Vocabulary Builders
for
Young Scholars**
by Margaret Whisnant

This book is for those students
and their teachers

who **pursue questions** without hesitation,
fully expecting to

**encounter challenges,
find new perspectives,
capture answers,**

and
experience **Ah-ha!** moments.



Feel free to unleash your enthusiasm!

Copyright © 2008 Margaret Whisnant
U.S. Copyright Office
All rights reserved by author.

ISBN 978-1-934538-22-7

Taking Grades Publishing Company
1110 4th Street Drive SE
Conover, NC 28613

Table of Contents

August/September/Back to School	Pages
We're Back Set 1	1-2
Were Back Set 2	3-4
September/Labor Day	
Help Wanted Set 1	5-6
Help Wanted Set 2	7-8
October/Halloween	
Body Parts Set 1	9-10
Body Parts Set 2	11-12
Body Parts Set 3	13-14
Body Parts Set 4	15-16
November/Thanksgiving	
Stuffed Words Set 1	17-18
Stuffed Words Set 2	19-20
Stuffed Words Set 3	21-22
Stuffed Words Set 4	23-24
Stuffed Words Set 5	25-26
December/ Holidays	
The Anagram Express Set 1	27-28
The Anagram Express Set 2	29-30
The Anagram Express Set 3	31-32
January/Holidays/Winter	
The Anagram Express Set 4	33-34
The Anagram Express Set 5	35-36

January/New Year's Day

In First Place Set 1 37-38

In First Place Set 2 39-40

In First Place Set 3 41-42

In First Place Set 4 43-44

February/ President's Day

Hail to the Chief Set 1 45-46

Hail to the Chief Set 2 47-48

Hail to the Chief Set 3 49-50

February/Valentine's Day

Straight from the Heart 51-52

March/Spring/St. Patrick's Day

The End of Ice 53-54

In Praise of Green. 55-56

April/Easter

Scrambled Eggs Set 1 57-58

Scrambled Eggs Set 2 59-60

April Showers 61-62

May/End of School

Passing the Test 63-66

Vacation Relation Set 1 67-68

Vacation Relation Set 2 69-70

Keys 71-78

We're Back!

Set 1



In the time and space we share with the rest of the world, there are recurring phenomena affecting our lives. From the cycle-driven natural world to our man-made civilizations, things keep **going around** and **coming back**.

One such commonly shared event returns to its point of origin each year usually in August or September. Its progression is signaled by swarms of large yellow vehicles crawling along the roadways carrying thousands of delighted or disgusted young people. Adults congregate at their assigned stations armed with coffee mugs and renewed determination. Anticipation saturates the air.

What is the name given to this strange ritual?
It's **Back to School**, of course!

Use your stored knowledge and deductive reasoning skills to interpret the following clues and name the event, object, or idea that **goes around** and **comes back**. Reference books or the internet will be helpful in some cases. Write your answers in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. Once a year, each person can claim a day with special meaning. Sometimes there are celebrations involving presents and cake. What is this day called?
- _____ 2. It circles the Earth, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. No one has ever said where it begins or where it ends. It just keeps going around. What is it?
- _____ 3. These big chunks of space ice put on a spectacular show when their predictable orbits bring them back around to our part of the solar system. The one called Halley's is due to return in 2062. What are they?
- _____ 4. Located in Yellowstone National Park, it blows its top at intervals averaging 91 minutes. What is its name?
- _____ 5. On the same day each year during the first week of July we observe this uniquely American holiday. What day of the month is set aside for the celebration?
- _____ 6. One of the laws of this invisible cosmic force says that *what goes up must come down*. What is it?
- _____ 7. What organ keeps blood circulating through the body?
- _____ 8. Most teachers require it Monday through Thursday but not on Fridays or holidays. What is it?
- _____ 9. What is the name of the trip the Earth makes around the sun each year?
- _____ 10. These special staircases transport people from one level of a building to another by moving in a continuous circle. What are they called?

Body Parts

Set 1

Americans take delight in multitasking basic vocabulary, including those words that name body parts. Given our tendency to exaggerate, it isn't surprising that some terms have been transferred into figures of speech with images that defy logic. For example, we **laugh our heads off** while they remain firmly attached.

Fill in the blank in each of the following sentences with the name of a human body part.



Example:

When a friend is in need, lend a helping hand.

1. I passed the math test by the _____ of my teeth.
2. Dad gave me permission to go skating on a school night, but Mom turned a deaf _____.
3. Internet pop-up ads make me want to pull my _____ out.
4. I put my _____ in my mouth by telling my sister her jeans made her look fat.
5. Granddad has said twice that he will take me to a professional football game, but so far his words are only _____ service.
6. According to Mom, stuffing everything under my bed instead of actually cleaning my room is a case of cutting off my _____ to spite my face.
7. Mrs. Hodges said, "I expect each of you to put his or her best _____ forward while we are touring the museum."
8. The baseball whizzed over the plate so fast it made my _____ spin.
9. The answer was on the tip of my _____, but another player was able to score the point for his team before I could raise my hand.
10. I hit my funny _____ when I banged my arm on the back of my desk.
11. Get your _____ out of my business!
12. Mr. Bartley was sure he knew the name of the tune, but he couldn't quite put his _____ on it.
13. These days, it costs an arm and a _____ to buy a car and the gas to run it.

Stuffed Words

Set 1

People stuff *turkeys, suitcases, trash cans, shirts, school desks, drawers, mailboxes, peppers, sausages, teddy bears, zucchinis, closets, pillows, and their faces*. Some **words**, as you may have noticed, stuff themselves with *other words*.

For Example: Identify the following three words stuffed with **key**.

- _____ Benjamin Franklin suggested that it should be our national bird.
- _____ the central, topmost stone of an arch that locks the other stones together
- _____ an animal with long limbs and hands and feet adapted for grasping and climbing

(Answers: **turkey, keystone, monkey**)



Use the following definitions to identify the stuffed words. The common three-letter term hidden in each set of five words is printed in **bold type**. Write your answers in the blanks.

ant

- _____ 1. to breathe rapidly in short gasps
- _____ 2. enjoyable; agreeable
- _____ 3. one of the branched horns of various members of the deer family
- _____ 4. a living organism that grows by photosynthesis
- _____ 5. one who pays rent to occupy or use the property of another

ear

- _____ 6. to feel a strong and deep desire for
- _____ 7. to practice in preparation for a public or official performance
- _____ 8. to look through, inspect, or explore carefully and thoroughly in order to find something
- _____ 9. to vanish
- _____ 10. the fifth largest planet in the solar system

men

- _____ 11. the largest of the body cavities of a mammal; belly
- _____ 12. executed or performed by the mind; intellectual
- _____ 13. to remove the faults or errors in; to change for the better; improve

Hail to the Chief

Set 1



Use reference books, the internet, and your own memory banks to answer the following trivia questions about the

American Presidency.

To help narrow your search, three possible answers are given. Write the correct one in the blank.



- _____ 1. What is the name of the oldest professional musical organization in the United States whose primary mission is to provide music for the nation's president?
the Sousa Military Band the U.S. Marine Band the West Point Band
- _____ 2. At six feet four inches, who was the tallest president?
John Quincy Adams Abraham Lincoln Ronald Reagan
- _____ 3. Weighing only one hundred pounds and standing five feet four inches tall, he was the smallest chief executive.
Rutherford B. Hayes James Madison Martin Van Buren
- _____ 4. With a total of fifteen, he holds the record as the president with the most children. It was his second wife who initiated the practice of playing **Hail to the Chief** whenever a president appears in public.
Ulysses S. Grant William Henry Harrison John Tyler
- _____ 5. Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day in 1826. Five years later, James Monroe died on the same calendar date. President Calvin Coolidge was born on this day in 1872. What date is common to all four presidents?
December 25 July 4 October 31
- _____ 6. Currently, the salary for the job of president is \$400,000. What was George Washington's salary?
\$25,000 \$15,000 \$5,000
- _____ 7. Which college has the most presidents as alumni?
Yale Harvard West Point
- _____ 8. What is the President's house number and street address?
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. 110 Downing St. 1250 South Hayes St.
- _____ 9. What common food did Thomas Jefferson boldly eat in public to prove that it wasn't poisonous?

The End of Ice



In most areas, the arrival of **spring** signals the demise of cold weather and the end of ice. Some **ice**, however, never melts—like the type found in **rice**, **mice**, and **nice**, for example.

The mixed-up words written below in **bold print** end in **i—c—e** when spelled correctly. Not all of them **rhyme** with **ice**, but the last three letters for all of them are **i, c, and e**.

Use the definitions to help you identify the mixed-up words. Some are quite ordinary, but others will challenge your vocabulary.

Write your answer in the blank.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| _____ | 1. ejiscutin
right | violation of another's rights: lacking that which is |
| _____ | 2. cdiave | opinion about what should or could be done about a situation or problem |
| _____ | 3. eioerjic | to feel happiness; to be delighted |
| _____ | 4. Vcnee | an Italian city famous for its canals |
| _____ | 5. rcepepii | a very steep cliff; the brink of a dangerous or disastrous situation |
| _____ | 6. vedeic | a contrivance or an invention serving a particular purpose, especially a machine used to perform one or more tasks |
| _____ | 7. locipe | specially trained people charged with the responsibility of maintaining order, enforcing the law, and preventing and detecting crime |
| _____ | 8. ciciroel | a Mediterranean plant whose root is used as a flavoring, especially in candy and medicines |
| _____ | 9. Icsuie | an artificial channel for conducting water, with a valve or gate to regulate the flow |
| _____ | 10. ocvei | the sound produced by the vocal organs of a vertebrate, especially a human |
| _____ | 11. etbireca | a girl's name, usually spoken as the nickname <i>Bea</i> |
| _____ | 12. hoccei | the power, right, or liberty to make a decision; option |
| _____ | 13. ewtic | two times |
| _____ | 14. etecni | to tempt through often false or exaggerated promises or persuasion; lure |

Vacation Relation



Set 1

The following questions are about **words that rhyme with vacation**. Write your answers in the blanks to the left.

Sample:

Write the correct form of the noun **celebration** in the blank and identify its part of speech.

Let's _____ the arrival of the last day of school together. Please come to the playground at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. (Teachers only! Do not leak this information to students. They can organize their own party.)

Answer: celebrate--verb

- _____ 1. Which of the following is a synonym for the word **elation**?
misery joyfulness superbly
- _____ 2. What part of speech is the word **creation** in the following sentence? *The Great Wall of China is an ancient **creation**.*
- _____ 3. Which **two** of the following animals are involved in the process of **pollination**? *bats beetles bees*
- _____ 4. The word that rhymes with **vacation** and means *the periodic passage of groups of animals from one region to another for feeding or breeding* is _____.
- _____ 5. *She said, "I'll call you later."* is an example of a sentence with a direct _____.
- _____ 6. Write the form of **taxation** needed to correctly complete the sentence and name its part of speech.
He _____ our patience.
- _____ 7. What **vacation** rhyme is associated with the following?
WA Mr. a.m. St.
- _____ 8. Write the correct form of **relaxation** in the following sentence and tell what part of speech it is.
The beach was littered with _____ sunbathers.
- _____ 9. Which word is an **antonym** for **aggravation**?
annoyance delight surprise