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simple decodable passages
with long a

(ai, a_e, a, ay & other spellings)

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QUICK "LONG A" SENTENCES



The gray whale waves its tail and then it sprays!



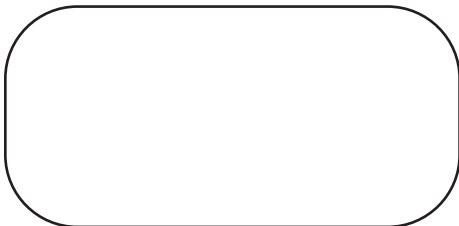
My mom braids my hair before I go to play games.



A snail slips slowly off the garden gate. Plop! It lands on a daisy!



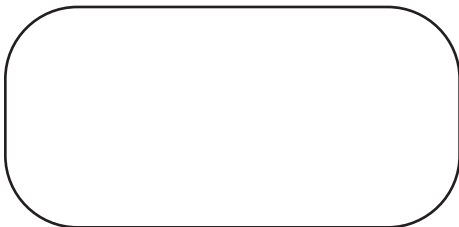
When it rains, I slip on my raincoat and then go out to play.



They leave the table and run out to play. "Wait for me!" I say.



On Sunday I make a cake with my dad. We bake it and take it to Amy's birthday.



I have ten red trains and three gray airplanes in my set.

The Airplane

The airplane rolls out
of the hangar bay.
Each traveler rolls
a bag to the luggage bay.

A man lifts the bags into the plane.
The travelers step on
and they buckle up.

The airplane rolls onto the runway.
But then it stops.
Is the plane okay?

A man checks the plane from tip to tail.
The luggage hatch is not shut!
Click! He locks it up.

Air traffic control gives the okay.
The plane goes faster, faster, faster,
Up, up, and away!

Mavis Takes the Case

Mavis sits on the gray steps,
It is a sunny, sunny day.
“It’s hot!” she gasps.
Her yellow dog Trey begins to bark.
“What is it Trey?” she asks.

Trey jumps on a clay pot
at the base of the steps.
The pot has plants in it.
But they are not green.
They are as yellow as Trey.
He nips at them.

“Hey Trey! Stay back,” Mavis yells.
“I’ll take this case.”
She tugs out her spy glass.
The plants are yellow and tan. They look sad.

“Trey! Did you pee on them?!” Mavis scolds.
Trey barks. Mavis shifts the spy glass to the dirt.
It is dusty, dusty, dusty!

“Wait!” yells Mavis. “You didn’t mess up the
plants. They just need a drink!”

She grabs the hose and sprays.
Trey jumps in the wet spray.
Trey and Mavis and the plants get soaked.
It’s a much better day.

A Chair Fable

Today, I am helping Grandad Dave make a chair.
We sit next to a big shelf of books and begin.
On the shelf is an old gray book named "Aesop's Fables."

"Grandad," I say, "What's a fable?"

"Oh!" Grandad says, "Well, it's a story that teaches a lesson!"

We set the chair legs on the rug.

"Grandad," I say, "Don't we need the paper
that has all the steps to make a chair?
We left it in the kitchen. I can go get it!"

"No," Grandad waves his hand. "Making a chair is a piece of cake!"
"Okay " I say.

We hammer the nails.
Bang, bang, bang!

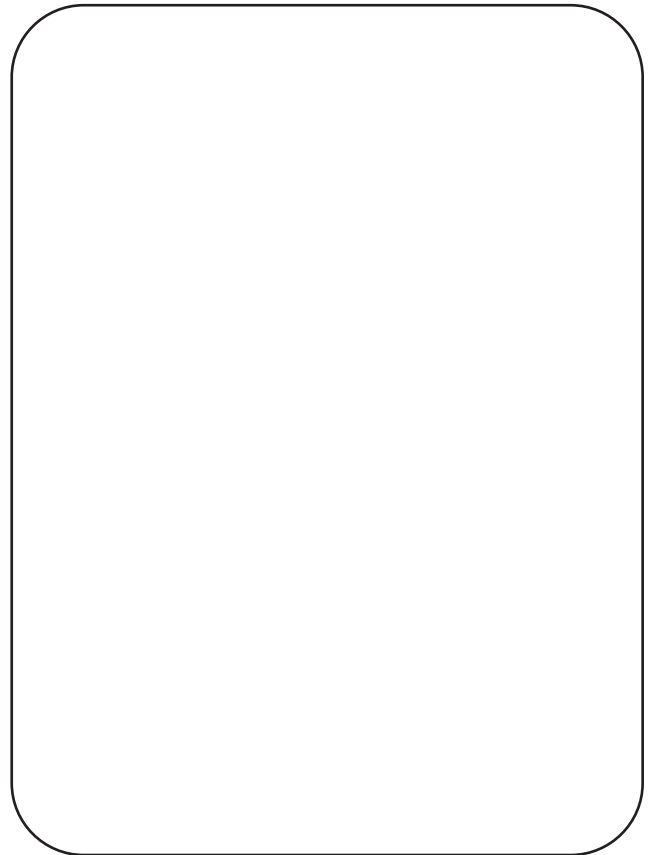
"Nearly finished!" Grandad grins.
"There! Great! Let me test it out!"
Grandad sets the chair by the table.
Then he sits.

CRACK! SPLAT! THWACK!

The chair breaks into bits!
Grandad thumps onto the rug.

"Well," I say.
"It looks like WE are in a fable!"

Grandad cracks up. We laugh and laugh.



Made-up Holidays

"Today, class, we will invent a holiday!" Ms. Taylor tells us.

"Invent a holiday?" we say.

"Yes! A made-up holiday!
Get a page of paper.
What will happen on your holiday?"

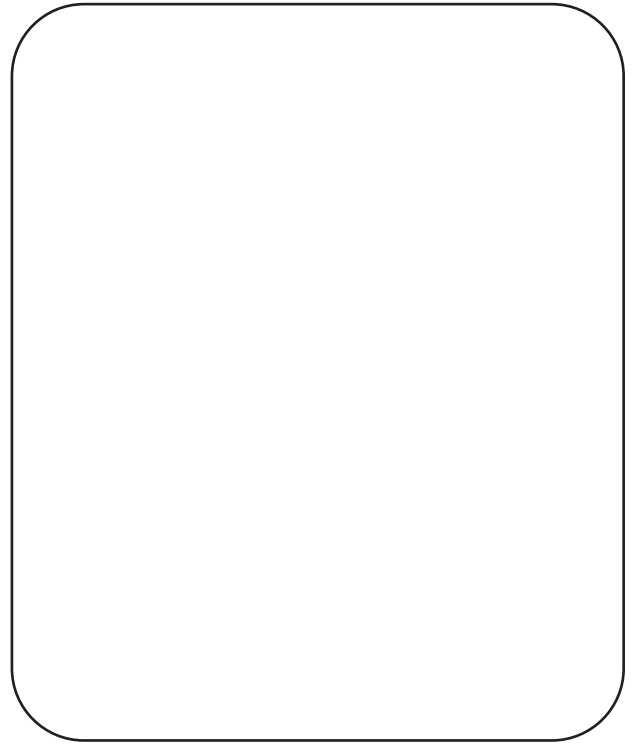
I get my pen and paper.
At the top I say:

"On Pancake Day
We must all wear
a stack of pancakes on a hat.
Then we can taste-test our friends' pancakes."

Ms. Taylor liked my holiday.
The rest of the class had great holidays too.

Jane made "Chasing Rainbows Day"
Gabe made "It's Okay: Make a Mistake Day"
Shay made "April-Day in May"
April made "Brain Games Day"
Hazel made "Today there's No Sitting Day"
Bailey made "Holiday for kids named Bailey Day"
Zadie made "Mayo Mayhem Day" (don't ask)
Daisy made "Tape a Grape to your Chin Day"
Chase made "Take a Snail to Class Day"

We had great holidays.
I can't wait to celebrate.
What holiday would you make?



The Jade Bangle

At my Nan's house, she has a big cabinet of old stuff.
On Sundays we go to Nan's. I can't wait!

I run into the house.
In the cabinet hangs a red velvet cape,
There's set of dresses: pink, black, red, and gray.
And a rain jacket, and an apron with frilly lace.

At the bottom sits a pair of old skates
from when Nan played hockey.
And there's "The Case."

"The Case" is painted red and stamped with a glittery "A"
The "A" is for Avery - the name I share with my Nan.

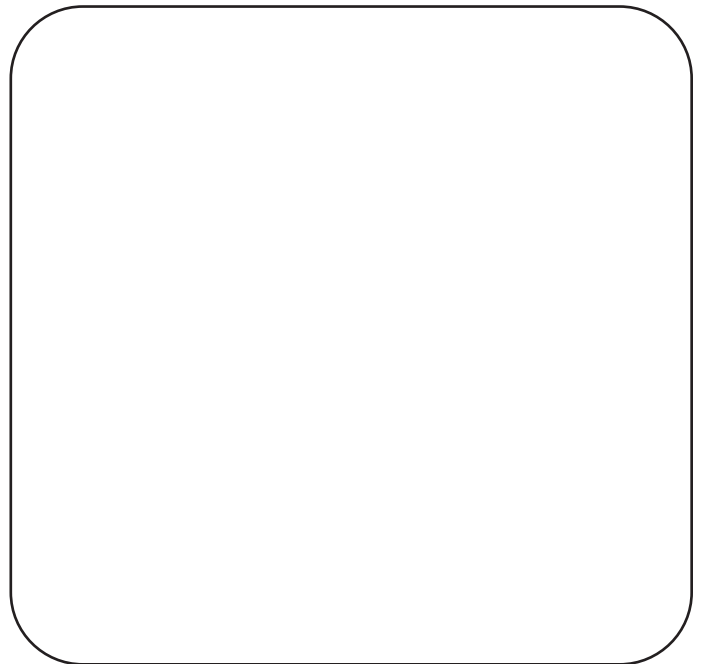
I open the case. It smells old, like acorns and paste.
In it is a tangle of rings and locket and stuff.
There is a pot of red lip makeup,
and a ticket from the play "My Fair Lady."

And there, at the base, is a glossy jade bangle.
It is the exact shade of a lucky shamrock.
I slip the bangle on my wrist.

It is silky on my skin.
The jade bangle shifts with
Every swing of my hand.

When I stand up, I go slowly.
And catch up the hem of my dress.

I skim across the hall.
Now, I am not just Avery,
Now, I am Empress Avery.



Cupcake Bake-Off

One Sunday in May,
We have a cupcake bake-off.

Kate says "Go!"
and starts the clock.

We run to put on our aprons.
My apron is pink with daisies.

I grab a big bowl
and add the basic stuff:
milk, eggs, flour, and butter.

But I need it to have great flavor.
So I grab mangos, stick a bit
in each cupcake, and pop them in to bake.
Then I ladle more mangos into a pot with maple syrup.

My friend Kate makes vanilla cupcakes with rainbow frosting.

Ava makes mint cupcakes dipped in choc-flakes.

Aiden has amazing gumdrop cupcakes.
The gumdrops melt to look like stained glass windows.

My cupcakes are still baking! Will I make it?

At last, my cakes are finished.
I top them with whipped cream, drizzle them with mango glaze,
and add candied mango on top.

Then we taste and we vote.

This week Aiden wins the decorating contest.
... but I win for taste.

Yay!

How to Train a Whale to Sail

This is how to train a whale to sail:
To start, tap it on the tail.
(This will wake it up).

It may not like waking up.
It may splash its tail, and shake its waist,
and spray you all over! (sorry)

You may need to chase it.
Wave some fish as bait.
Say: "Hey whale, jump on my ship,
and we can sail away!"

Wait for the whale to say "Okay!"
Then, don't make my mistake:
STAND BACK!

The whale will jump up from the waves and ...
SPLOSH! BANG! THWOCK!
The whale will land on your ship (you may get VERY wet).

The whale will be a bit big for the ship.
..... okay, it will be WAY too big.
But that's okay: Just let it lay across the deck,
and drape its tail in the waves.

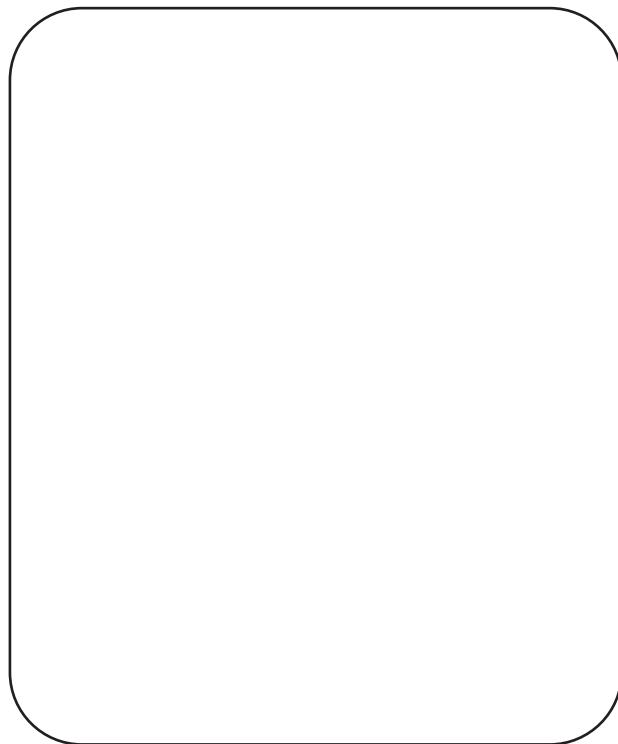
Next, get some tape (you may need a LOT of tape).
Tape the whale to the ship's deck.
Tape and tape and tape until the whale is stable.

Then say to the whale: "Raise the sail!"

Get the whale to tug the sail with its fin.
The sail will catch the wind, and the whale tail will be the rudder.

You will skim the waves! Zip, zip, zip!

The whale will yell: "I'm sailing! I'm a sailor! I'm sailing!"
It will be a great day.



Amazing Animal Families

Animal babies grow and change
and have families - just like you and me!

A grey whale baby has fins and a tail,
just like her mom and dad.
But she is smaller.

Flamingo babies have wings
just like their mom and dad,
but they are grey and fluffy!
Later, they will eat shrimp
and change to sleek pink.

A meerkat baby has four legs and a tail
like the big meerkats.
But when they are born they have no hair,
and they are blind for 4 weeks!

Animal families take care of their babies.
They do this in many ways.

Grey whales scrape bugs from the sand to eat, but baby whales
can't. So a whale makes milk for her baby, just like people do.
A grey whale baby stays with its mom for nearly a year.

Flamingos sit on their nests to protect their eggs.
When an egg hatches, the baby can't eat shrimp yet.
So flamingos vomit red milky gunk into the baby's mouth.
(Yum!)

Meerkats live in families called "mobs."
Each mob has a queen. She makes all the babies.
But it is the rest of the mob who are the babies' carers.
(naked mole rats do this too!)

Animals have lots of kinds of families.
They are all amazing!

