2nd Grade Reading Weeks 1-4

The reading assignments for weeks 1-4 are meant to span a full week. Each week will contain 2 reading passages.

Please follow this schedule.

**Day 1:** read passage 1 and write a written summary of the passage

**Day 2:** read passage 2 and write a written summary of the passage

**Day 3:** reread both passages

**Day 4:** complete half of the questions for the passages

**Day 5:** complete the other half of the questions for the passages
Week 1:

A Lion in the Bedroom

by ReadWorks

When James woke up, he found a lion sleeping on the floor next to his bed. Because he was five years old, he thought this was awesome.

"Hello, lion!" he yelled.

The lion, a female with a patchy coat, opened one eye and stared at him lazily. Then she turned over and fell back asleep.

James considered petting the lion or scratching its belly - Trixie, his old cat, loved belly scratches - but he was proud enough of his new pet that he wanted to tell his parents first. So, he jumped out of bed and walked into the kitchen. His father was eating breakfast.

"Do you want me to strip the bathroom moldings this weekend?" his father asked his mother. "Or can it wait a week?"

"It can wait," she said, frowning. "But you should really want to strip the moldings."
"I got a lion!" yelled James.

"That's nice, dear," said his mother.

"Well played, son," said his father. "Most five-year-olds go with something showier, like an ocelot or a puma. But you've gone the classic route."

"I'm naming it Trixie II: Return of Trixie," said James. "I want to ride her to school."

"Sure," his father said, "everyone wants to ride their lion to school. But where will you park it?"

"Bill," his mother said. "We've talked about your sarcasm."

"It's not sarcasm," his father. "I'm being fu-"

James's father didn't get to finish his sentence. It was interrupted by an ear-splitting roar, coming from James's bedroom.

For a few seconds, neither one of his parents said anything.

"Maybe I'll name her Tiger," said James. "To confuse people."

"James," said his father quietly. "What was that?"

"That was Trixie II."

"Oh dear me," said his mother, crossing herself.
James's father craned his head to peer down the hall towards James's bedroom. After a moment, he knelt down in front of his son and put his hands on his shoulders.

"James," he said. "I need you to be completely, 100% honest with me. No make-believe, no story-time? Can you do that?"

James nodded. "Sure I can." He noticed a droplet of sweat dripping down his father's forehead.

"OK, great," said his father, in a strange, small voice. "James. Is there a lion...a real lion...in your bedroom?"

"Dad," said James, patiently. "We've been over this."

His father stared at him.

James sighed. "Of course there is, dad."

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" his mother screamed.
"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Helen, stop it!" snapped his father. His father stood up. "This is ridiculous. I don't know what that noise was, but there is not a lion in your bedroom."

James's father walked angrily to the broom closet. He opened the door, pulled out a mop with a long wooden handle and began marching towards the hallway.

"For gosh sake, Bill," his mother said, grabbing him by the shoulder. "Let's just get out of here and call the police. Or animal control. Or someone. Please."

"And tell them what?" His father wheeled around to face her. "What? That we have a lion in the house? Oh, I'm sure they'll send a car right out."

"Tell them her name is Trixie II," said James. "Someone might have met her before."
"Bill"

"I'm not calling anyone," his father said. With that, he turned and stomped down the hallway. James and his mother looked down after him.

"Do you think dad and Trixie II will get along?" James asked his mother. "Dad is so moody these days and Trixie II is just kind of...mellow."

"Quiet," his mother hissed.

They watched his father approach the door. He reached for the handle and, holding the mop high in his other hand, gently swung the door open and poked his head around the corner.

James barely had time to be curious about his father's reaction before his father turned on his heels, slammed the door shut and went sprinting down the hallway towards James and his mother.

"Get out of the house right now!" his father hollered as he ran. "Go! Run! Now! Move! Move! Move!"

His father practically shoved James and his mother through the living room and out the front door. When they were outside, his father doubled over, panting for breath.

"Where in the world did you get a lion?" he yelled at James.

"You mean it's real?" his mother screamed, her eyes bugging. "Ahhhhhhhhhh!

"They come from Africa, right?" said James.

By this time, neighbors had heard the commotion and begun gathering. Their next-door neighbors were the Horowitzes. Mr. Horowitz walked up to James's father.

"Bill, is something the matter?"
James's father turned and stared at Mr. Horowitz. "There's a lion in my son's bedroom."

Mr. Horowitz threw a quick, worried glance at his wife, who was standing on their front lawn. His wife shrugged.

"O.K.," said Mr. Horowitz, slowly. "Do you want us to call somebody?"

"Her name is Trixie II," explained James. "Or maybe Ms. Botticelli. I like how that name sounds."

"Call somebody!" his father yelled. "Call anybody! There's a lion in my son's bedroom."

"Helen," said Mr. Horowitz quietly. "Should we call somebody?"

"I don't even know," said James's mother, breaking down in sobs. "I never know."

By this time a dozen neighbors had gathered in front of James's house. All of them were yelling at each other, trying to figure out what had happened, when suddenly everyone froze. There, at the front door of James house, was a massive African lion. Everyone stared at it, completely silent.

For a few moments, the lion stared back. Finally, she let out a long sigh.

"Guys," the lion said, "I know I'm a guest and I don't mean to be a pain, but I had a really late night last night and I have a client meeting at 10, so I was really hoping to sleep in. Do you think you guys could keep it down just a little bit? Thanks."

And with that, the lion turned and walked back in the house.

"What about Rambo?" said James. "That's a cool name. Rambo. Yeah, I like that."
Deep in the woods is a secret tree. Only one boy knows about it. It's a wishing tree.

One day, the boy followed his dog into the woods. They stopped at the tree.

"I wish I could climb this tree!" the boy said.

POOF! His wish was granted. He was in the tree!

The leaves began to giggle.
"Hello!" they said. "Pleased to meet you!"

"My name is Noah," the boy said. "What's yours?"

All the leaves started to talk at once.

"We are the Wishing Tree," the leaves said. "We see good children and give them gifts.

"I wish I had one million dollars!" said Noah. But nothing happened.

"I said I wish I had a million dollars!" Noah said, louder.

"We heard you the first time," said the leaves.

"What good are you, anyway?"

"Very good," said the leaves. "This is a very good tree."

"Then give me money!" Noah demanded.

"We can only give you good things. Things that will make you a better person."

Well, that didn't sound like much fun. He thought of a new wish.

"I wish I could fight a dragon!" he said.

"Do you honestly think we would conjure a dragon?" asked the leaves.

"I guess not," said Noah. "Well, then, I wish I were brave enough to fight a dragon!"

Suddenly, Noah was standing at the bottom of the tree.
"Wish granted!" said the leaves.

"Arooo!" said Peanuts the dog.

"Let's go!" said Noah. He and Peanuts ran out of the woods. But Noah didn't feel very brave.

"Some wishing tree that was! No money! No dragons! What a waste!"

Crack! Suddenly, something hit him in the back of his head.

"Hey, No-Brains!" someone was shouting.

"Oh no!" Noah said to Peanuts. "It's Mitch the bully!"

Mitch was throwing peanuts at Noah.

"Here are some peanuts for your dumb dog!" Mitch said.

That was the last straw! Noah couldn't take it any more.

"Go away, bully!" he yelled. "You never hurt dogs!"

"Aroo!" howled Peanuts the dog.

"Whatever!" said Mitch. "You're not worth my time."

Mitch left.

"Yay! He left!" Noah said. "Thank you, wishing tree!"
Noah had never told Mitch to go away before. But on that day, he was very brave. Being brave was just like fighting a dragon. Being brave was better than having a million dollars.

You see, Noah thought his bravery came from the wishing tree. But the truth is, the tree didn't grant any wishes. Noah did it all himself. Being brave came from inside.

If you could make a wish like Noah, what would you wish for?

Name: ___________________________________

Use the article "The Wishing Tree" to answer questions 1 to 2.

1. What does Noah yell at Mitch?

2. Noah is brave.

Support this statement with evidence from the story.
Use the article "A Lion in the Bedroom" to answer questions 3 to 4.

3. What does James think when he finds a lion next to his bed?


Use the articles "A Lion in the Bedroom" and "The Wishing Tree" to answer questions 5 to 7.

5. Compare Noah and James.
6. Contrast Noah and James.

7. Who is braver, Noah or James? Support your answer with evidence from both stories.
The United States Constitution is the highest law in the nation. It is the set of rules that Americans live by.

In 1787, a group of Americans did not like how their new country’s government worked. They sat down to write new rules for the government. Among those men were Ben Franklin and George Washington.

The men met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during a hot summer. Sometimes they had disagreements. They had to work hard to solve those disagreements. When they finished, they had written the country’s Constitution. Next, the Constitution had to be approved by the states. After a few years, the states voted in favor of the Constitution. It was now the law of the land.

According to the Constitution, an election for president must be held every
four years. The Constitution also says that the United States must have a Congress and a Supreme Court. Congress makes laws. The Supreme Court decides if laws are correctly written and followed.

The Constitution promises important rights to the American people. These include the right to believe what you wish and the right to say what you believe. These promises are listed in the part of the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights.
The executive branch has the power to carry out the laws. It includes the president, the vice president, and their group of advisers called the Cabinet. Every four years, Americans vote to elect a president and a vice president.

The judicial branch decides on the meanings of the laws and whether laws break the rules of the Constitution. This branch includes the United States Supreme Court. Nine justices serve on the Supreme Court. The president appoints the justices, and the Senate approves them. The justices' job is to decide if the country's laws go against the Constitution.
Use the article "The United States Constitution" to answer questions 1 to 2.

1. According to this text, why did a group of Americans write new rules for the government in 1787?

2. What is the Bill of Rights?

Use the article "The Three Branches of Government" to answer questions 3 to 4.

3. Why did the people who wrote the Constitution divide the government into three parts?
4. Give an example from the text of how one branch of government can affect another branch.


Use the articles "The Three Branches of Government" and "The United States Constitution" to answer questions 5 to 6.

5. Based on the information in these two texts, describe what was most important in a government to the writers of the Constitution. Make sure to include information from both texts in your answer.


6. Think about the rules and rights that Americans put into the Constitution for their new government. Based on those rules and rights, make an inference about the government that controlled America before the Constitution was written.


Emily's older sister, Morgan, plays soccer. Morgan started playing soccer when she was seven years old. Now, she is 15 years old. One day after school, Emily asks Morgan if they can play soccer together.

"Of course!" says Morgan. "I will teach you!"

The two girls go home and change into comfy clothes. Emily puts on purple shorts, and Morgan puts on her soccer jersey. Then, Morgan puts on her soccer cleats, special shoes for soccer. They have spikes on the bottom so soccer players don't slip on the grass.

"You can wear sneakers," Morgan tells Emily. "Just make sure to tie your laces tight!"

They run out their front door. Morgan is carrying a soccer ball. "Be careful, girls!" their mother calls out. Both sisters smile and hold up a thumbs-up
"First, we can pass the ball to each other," Morgan says. She drops the ball on the soft, green grass. She lifts her right foot and kicks the ball towards Emily. It flies past Emily and zooms into their neighbor's front yard.

"You kicked it too hard!" Emily shouts.

Morgan giggles and says sorry. She runs into the yard to get the ball back.

"Okay, I'll try again," Morgan says. This time, she kicks it more softly. Her foot pushes it straight to Emily.

Emily holds out her foot to stop the ball. "Perfect!" Emily says, excited.

"Now kick it back!" Morgan shouts.

Emily lifts her foot and kicks the ball. But instead of going to Morgan, the ball flies to the left, near the garage. Emily is sad. "Why didn't the ball go straight to you?" she asks her sister.

"Don't be sad!" Morgan says. "You have to aim." She tells Emily that she can change the direction of the ball with her feet. She can push the ball towards the right or left. She can also stop the ball by blocking it with her foot. That way, players of the same team can pass the ball to each other and eventually shoot the ball into the goal. Morgan says it takes a lot of practice to become good at soccer. "Don't worry. We'll try again tomorrow," Morgan tells Emily.

Their mom opens the front door. "Dinner, girls!" she calls out.

Morgan picks up the ball, and they both run inside. Emily is tired, but she's excited to learn more tomorrow!
Acrobats

by ReadWorks

Circuses can be a lot of fun. Usually, there are popcorn, clowns, beautiful acrobats, and more. One of the most exciting parts of the circus is the acrobats.

Dressed in colorful costumes, these amazing performers fly over the stage on trapezes. Acrobats have to train for many years to do all of these dangerous stunts. It requires a lot of practice. The trapeze is one of the oldest circus acts around. When acrobats first begin to train, they typically start on the trapeze. Then, they can develop new skills. There are many different types of stunts that professional acrobats can do.

Sometimes, performers use big pieces of silk that hang from the ceiling to the floor. They use their leg and arm strength to climb the silks. Then they spin, flip, and twirl with the fabric. They have to wrap the silks around their feet or wrists so that they can support their body. It is a big feat!

Acrobats also perform on the lyra, or aerial hoop. A rope hangs a big hoop, like a hula hoop, from the ceiling. Acrobats hang off the hoop to do different tricks. They can flip around the hoop, or climb around it using only their legs or arms. This stunt also requires a lot of body strength. Sometimes, two acrobats use just one hoop at the same time to perform. This is a very
hard trick!

Some circuses only have acrobats. In New York City, there is one group called Lady Circus. These women are professional acrobats and have been training for years. They put on shows every month that always have a big audience. The acrobats wear very colorful costumes they make themselves. People love their performances! Since Lady Circus is loved so much, the acrobats often perform at other events around the city. But whenever they do perform, they always need high ceilings. They have to hang up their trapezes, silks, and hoops.

Even though it is a lot of work, the members of Lady Circus love what they do. Not many other people can say that they fly over a stage on a regular basis!
Use the article "Shoot and Score!" to answer questions 1 to 2.

1. What does Morgan say it takes to become good at soccer?

2. What is the main idea of this story?

Use the article "Acrobats" to answer questions 3 to 4.

3. Describe acrobats. Be sure to include information about the practice they do.
4. What is the main idea of this article?


Use the articles "Shoot and Score!" and "Acrobats" to answer questions 5 to 6

5. "Shoot and Score!" and "Acrobats" both mention practice. Explain why practice is important to soccer players and acrobats. Support your answer with information from each text.


6. The importance of practice is an idea found in both texts. Explain whether the importance of practice is the MAIN idea of each text. Support your answer with evidence from both texts. (Your answer to this question may be different for "Shoot and Score!" than it is for "Acrobats."
Sarah the Gull
by ReadWorks

Sarah the gull and her mom lived in New York by the sea.

Every day Sarah and her mom would fly over the waves, diving in to eat the small fish and crabs that swam in the shallow water. Sometimes they would feed on food people threw away by the beach. They always had a lot to eat.

At night, Sarah and her mother would rest under the roof of a nearby building. They were warm, and they had a nice life.

But one day it started to get colder. The little fish that were always swimming in the waves were a lot harder to find. There were no more people coming to the beach, so there was no more food from people, too.
"It is time to fly south for the winter," said Sarah's mom.

"Why?" asked Sarah.

"Because it has gotten too cold here," explained Sarah's mom. "Too cold for us to live here right now. There is no food, and it will soon get even colder."

"But this is our home," said Sarah.

"Don't worry," said Sarah's mom. "We will come back when it is warm again. We can have more than one home."

So Sarah and her mom said goodbye to the beach and flew away. They flew and they flew, until they were out of the cold and back into the warm weather. They flew all the way to Miami, Florida.

There, they found a new beach. It was filled with fish, and there were lots of people throwing food away. Sarah's mom even found a new roof for them to sleep under.

"I like this other home," said Sarah. "It is warm, and we have food. This is a nice place, too."

"I told you it would be nice," said Sarah's mom. "And when it gets warmer in New York again, we will go back. That is the nice part about being a bird. We can fly to places whenever we want."
Macy and her parents are elephants that live in the jungle. They roam around the plants and trees all day, every day, looking for food. Macy's favorite food is bananas. She is always looking for banana plants. When she finds one, she uses her trunk to pick a lot of bananas.

Usually, it gets really hot in the jungle. One day, the sun is very strong, and the temperature is very high. Macy and her mom and dad use their big ears to cool themselves off. They flap their ears back and forth, trying to push away the heat. But it isn't enough—they are still too hot.

The family of elephants walks around to look for a way to cool down. Macy sees a group of orangutans lazily lying on the branches of a big tree. They don't even move as the elephants walk past, too hot to do anything. A family of parrots flies by, but all Macy sees is a blur of red, green, and blue.
The colorful birds land on a branch nearby, and Macy admires their bright feathers. Then, all of a sudden, Macy spots a loris sleeping on the tree that sits right next to the parrots. Macy gets excited—she never sees lorises because they are only awake at night. The small elephant stops to look at the small animal. It looks like a little monkey, only fluffier with a tiny, round face and big, black eyes. Macy is about to take a step closer when her mom and dad pull her along with their strong trunks, not wanting to wait any longer to cool down.

Finally, the three elephants find a big pool of water. They run into it and splash the cool water on each other. Macy feels so much better. She lies down and rolls around. She covers her body in mud. Elephants love to take mud baths. It cools their skin and protects them from bug bites. They all play in the water for a while, and other elephants come to enjoy the mud, too.

Then Macy and her parents step out of the water and decide to go and find food. Macy spots a banana plant in the distance. She runs toward the bright yellow fruit. She grabs a bunch with her trunk and munches on the soft bananas. It's been a good day for Macy—bananas and a mud bath. What more could she ask for?
Use the article “Sarah the Gull” to answer questions 1 to 2.

1. Describe what happens when the weather gets colder in the story. Use at least two details from the text.

2. Sarah and her mom have a problem. Their problem is that there is no food for them to eat when the weather gets colder. What do they do to solve this problem?

Use the article “Macy the Elephant” to answer questions 3 to 4.

3. What is the problem that Macy and her parents have at the beginning of the story?
4. How do Macy and her parents solve their problem?


Use the articles "Sarah the Gull" and "Macy the Elephant" to answer questions 5 to 8.

5. Compare the problems in "Sarah the Gull" and "Macy the Elephant."


6. Contrast the problems in "Sarah the Gull" and "Macy the Elephant."


7. Compare what Sarah and her mother do to solve their problem with what Macy’s family does to solve its problem.


8. Contrast what Sarah and her mother do to solve their problem with what Macy’s family does to solve its problem.


