QUIETCOG

Reading Passages Grade 3

Free sample: 2 of 24 passages, with answer key

What you are looking at

Two complete passages from the Grade 3 pack: one story and one true-fact article. Each has a Words to know box, four multiple-choice questions and one written response. The answer key is at the end.

How it was made

Written with AI assistance; checked by automated tools for accuracy and readability. A program estimated the reading level (Flesch-Kincaid), a program checked the answers against the text, and the facts in the true-fact article were compared with public sources by automated tools. Mistakes are possible, so please tell us about any you find.

The full pack

24 passages (12 stories and 12 true-fact articles), student pages, answer key, how-to-use guide, in Letter and A4. Estimated Flesch-Kincaid grade levels 2.7 to 3.7. This sample shows passages 1 and 8. Find the full pack at quietcog.quietcog.workers.dev/reading-passages/grade-3.

For one classroom or household. Do not resell or share.
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The Tuesday Soup

Every Tuesday, Grandpa Eli made soup in a pot so big that Mateo needed both arms to carry the lid. The soup always started the same way, with water, salt, and one onion. After that, it was up to the **neighbors.**

At five o'clock, the knocking began. Mrs. Okafor brought a bag of sweet potatoes. The twins from upstairs brought carrots with their little green tops still on. Mr. Lin carried in a jar of dried mushrooms. Someone always came with beans. Nobody ever agreed on how the soup should taste, and nobody ever seemed to mind.

Mateo's job was to stir. He stood on a wooden **stool** and stirred with a spoon as long as a baseball bat. Each week the kitchen smelled different. One week it smelled like a garden. Another week it smelled like a campfire.

One Tuesday, the door stayed quiet. Five o'clock came and went. Mateo kept stirring water and one **lonely** onion.

"Maybe everyone forgot," he said.

Grandpa Eli only smiled. He opened the window. Voices floated up from the yard. Then came a thump on the stairs, a rattle, and a laugh. The whole building was arriving at once, with bowls and bags and one huge **squash** that the twins were rolling up the steps.

Mateo picked up the long spoon. "Okay," he said. "Who brought the beans?"

Words to know

neighbors people who live near you

stool a small seat with no back

lonely all alone

squash a large vegetable with a thick skin

Timed read Words in 1 minute _____ Mistakes _____ Words correct _____

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Fill in the circle for the best answer.

The Tuesday Soup

Name _____ Date _____

1. What did Grandpa Eli always put in the pot first?

- (A) Beans and carrots
- (B) Sweet potatoes and mushrooms
- (C) Only water
- (D) Water, salt, and one onion

2. What is this story mostly about?

- (A) Neighbors who share a pot of soup each Tuesday
- (B) A boy who dislikes onions
- (C) A cook who forgets a recipe
- (D) A family that moves to a new town

3. Read this sentence: "After that, it was up to the neighbors." What does the word neighbors mean?

- (A) Cooks who work in a restaurant
- (B) Friends who live far away
- (C) People who live near you
- (D) Members of your own family

4. Why did Grandpa Eli only smile when Mateo said, "Maybe everyone forgot"?

- (A) He was not hungry
- (B) He did not like the neighbors
- (C) He had a feeling the neighbors were on their way
- (D) He wanted to stop making soup

5. At the end, Mateo says, "Who brought the beans?" How do you think he is feeling now, compared with how he felt earlier? Use details from the story.

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What Is in a Camel's Hump?

Many people believe a camel's hump is full of water. It is a fun idea, but it is not true. A camel's hump is full of fat.

The fat is like a **pantry** of food. In the desert, plants can be hard to find. When a camel cannot find enough to eat, its body uses the fat in the hump for **energy.** As the fat gets used up, the hump gets **floppy.** It may even lean over to one side.

So how does a camel get by without much water? A camel can go a week or more without a drink. When it finally does find water, it can drink a huge amount. One camel can drink up to thirty-two gallons in a single visit!

There are two kinds of camels. A **dromedary** camel has one hump. A Bactrian camel has two. There is an easy trick for remembering which is which. Turn a capital D on its side. It looks like one hump. Turn a capital B on its side. It looks like two humps. D is for **dromedary,** and B is for Bactrian.

Camels live in dry places where water and plants are hard to find. Their bodies are built for that kind of life, and the hump is only one part of the story. But now you know what is really inside!

Words to know

pantry a place where food is stored

energy the power a body needs to move and grow

dromedary a camel with one hump

floppy soft and drooping

Timed read Words in 1 minute _____ Mistakes _____ Words correct _____

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Fill in the circle for the best answer.

What Is in a Camel's Hump?

Name _____ Date _____

1. What is inside a camel's hump?

- (A) Fat
- (B) Water
- (C) Sand
- (D) Bones

2. What is the main idea of this passage?

- (A) Camels cannot live in the desert
- (B) Camels drink water only once a year
- (C) Dromedary camels are larger than Bactrian camels
- (D) A camel's hump is full of fat, not water, and the camel can use that fat for energy

3. The writer says the fat is "like a pantry of food." What does this comparison help you understand?

- (A) A camel's hump holds food energy for later
- (B) Camels live in kitchens
- (C) Camels do not need to eat
- (D) The hump is made of wood

4. What can you tell about a camel with a floppy hump?

- (A) It has just had a big drink of water
- (B) It has not had enough to eat lately
- (C) It is a Bactrian camel
- (D) It is about to have a baby

5. Explain the trick the writer gives for telling a dromedary camel from a Bactrian camel.

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Answer key

1. The Tuesday Soup

Story · 225 words

1. **D (Literal)** Water, salt, and one onion
   Evidence: "with water, salt, and one onion"
2. **A (Main idea)** Neighbors who share a pot of soup each Tuesday
   Question: What is this story mostly about?
3. **C (Vocabulary)** People who live near you
   Evidence: "After that, it was up to the neighbors."
4. **C (Inference)** He had a feeling the neighbors were on their way
   Evidence: "Grandpa Eli only smiled. He opened the window. Voices floated up from the yard."
5. **Written response**
   Sample answer: He is happy and relieved. Earlier he was worried because nobody came and he said maybe everyone forgot. Now the neighbors are here, so he picks up the spoon and gets ready to cook.
   Question: At the end, Mateo says, "Who brought the beans?" How do you think he is feeling now, compared with how he felt earlier? Use details from the story.

8. What Is in a Camel's Hump?

True-fact article · 225 words

1. **A (Literal)** Fat
   Evidence: "A camel's hump is full of fat."
2. **D (Main idea)** A camel's hump is full of fat, not water, and the camel can use that fat for energy
   Question: What is the main idea of this passage?
3. **A (Vocabulary)** A camel's hump holds food energy for later
   Evidence: "The fat is like a pantry of food."
4. **B (Inference)** It has not had enough to eat lately
   Evidence: "When a camel cannot find enough to eat, its body uses the fat in the hump for energy. As the fat gets used up, the hump gets floppy."
5. **Written response**
   Sample answer: Turn a capital D on its side and it looks like one hump, so D is for dromedary. Turn a capital B on its side and it looks like two humps, so B is for Bactrian.
   Question: Explain the trick the writer gives for telling a dromedary camel from a Bactrian camel.

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