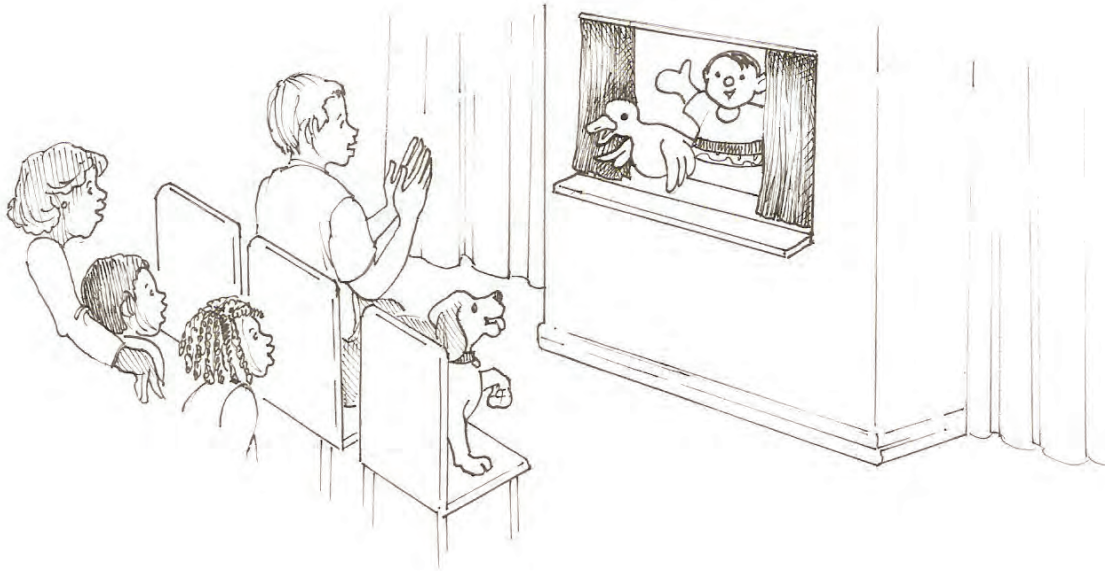


Syllasearch Stories

Sequence A, Lists A1–A7

A1 Syllasearch Story

funny, penny, pencil, happen, puppy, puppet, happy, sappy



A funny thing happened to me the other day. I was in a very happy mood walking down the street. Then, all of a sudden, a puppy ran past me. I called to the puppy, "Where are you going in such a hurry?" The puppy said, "I'm late for the puppet show." I asked him if he would take me with him. "I would be happy to take you," said the puppy. "A ticket only costs a penny."

We walked downtown and saw a terrific puppet show. The puppets told jokes, sang, and told stories. Sometimes the stories were sappy, but most of them were good. I was so happy to be there. It did look a little funny that a puppy sat next to me in a chair. I didn't care. I had a great day with a puppy watching a funny puppet show.

A2 Syllasearch Story

happy, penny, happen, giggle, wiggle, little, bottle, bottom



One day, I was sitting on my bottom on the steps to my home and wishing that something interesting would happen.

Just then, a little man appeared on the sidewalk. He was drinking milk from a bottle. I started to giggle. "Why are you drinking milk from a bottle?" He said, "It makes more sense than drinking milk from a paper bag." I started to giggle again.

I was happy because something new was happening. Then, the man said, "I will make you a deal. I will give you a penny for every day of the year that you read a story when you are home."

I wasn't sure about that deal, but I promised anyway. I couldn't read every day of a year. But I did read on 200 days. Then on the next day, I went out to the steps. It's hard to believe, but there were 200 pennies on my steps!

A3 Syllasearch Story

bottle, bottom, little, cattle, rattle, bumble, bubble



I grew up on a farm. It was a real farm. We had cattle. My family had a lot of land. One day, when I was ten, I went outside to take a walk. I came to the bottom of a hill and then, I saw a group of bumble bees flying to me! I was afraid of bumble bees.

I ran away from the bottom of the hill. I ran by the house. I ran so fast, I knocked over my little brother's rattle. I knocked over my family's bottles of milk. I knocked over my sister's bubbles. The bumble bees followed me the whole way.

I was so tired from running that I had to stop and rest. The bees came close to me. Then, at the last minute, the leader of the bees stopped and said to me, "I just wanted to tell you that your shoe is untied." And with that, the leader and all the bumble bees flew away.

A4 Syllasearch Story

carpet, carport, partner, export, support, forty, party, forlorn



Tomorrow, my dance partner will be forty. Forty! I decided that I would have a party for her. So, I went to the market and bought all sorts of party food. When I got home, I put the bags of food on my carpet for a minute.

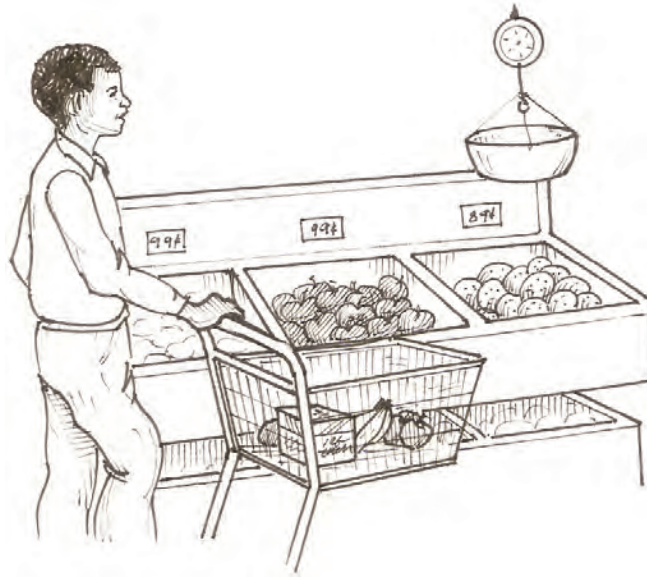
All of a sudden my partner was at my door. She looked forlorn and said, she didn't think anyone would remember her birthday. I wanted to express support for her, but I didn't want to give away the surprise.

So I could get her away fast, I said, "Let me drive you home. My car is in the carport." I was lucky, she agreed.

The next day we had the party. We rolled up the carpet so we could dance. My partner was no longer forlorn. Everyone had a wonderful time.

A5 Syllasearch Story

market, basket, forest, forget, target, inform, deform



When I turned 18, I got a place to live of my own. My mother likes to inform me about things to make my life easier. The first thing she wanted to inform me about was the best ways to go shopping.

First, my mother suggested I go to the market next to Target. She also told me not to forget to take my money. She thinks I forget things. You know, she might just be right about that.

So I went on my first shopping trip. I bought apples and bananas and vegetables and hamburger meat. I also bought some Black Forest ice cream for dessert. I placed everything in the basket and checked out. And I did not forget my money when it came time to pay.

I went home and made dinner with all of my groceries. I invited my mother and she thought it was all delicious.

A6 Syllasearch Story

circle, circus turtle, perfect, present, turnip, perhaps, plastic



It was almost my birthday. I kept asking my dad about presents. He told me that he would find me the perfect present—a turnip. “A turnip?” I asked. “You must be kidding.” “I am joking, but I do not want to buy you some boring present wrapped in plastic. I want to get you the perfect present,” said my dad. “But, now we are going to the circus. We will talk about presents later.”

On the way home from the circus, we spotted a turtle on the side of the road. “Please, dad. Please! Can I take the turtle home?” I asked. I promised to take care of the turtle, feed him, and clean up. “He would be the perfect pet.” My dad thought and thought and thought. “Yes, you can have the turtle. It will be the perfect present.”

So we took the turtle home and it really was the perfect present.

A7 Syllasearch Story

perfect, letter, butter, infirm, thirty, confirm, purpose, purple



When I turned thirty, I decided that I would write the perfect letter to my favorite second grade teacher from a long time ago. The letter really had to be perfect. It had to have a purpose.

I thought and thought. I had no ideas for the perfect letter—so I decided to take a break. I had some toast and butter. I counted to thirty in Spanish. I just did not know how to start my letter.

So, I went to sleep and in the middle of the night it hit me! The perfect letter. I wrote and wrote. It was about how my second grade teacher taught me how to write and now I write for a living. And I thanked him for helping me learn how to write. I wrote it on beautiful purple paper and sent it.

My teacher wrote me back, “I can confirm that you are a great writer. I just bought your book and it is terrific.”