

States and Capitals

Maria was studying states and capitals in her geography class. She could remember all of them except the capital of Tasmania. No matter how hard she tried, she could not remember from one day to the next that it was Hobart.

One day during geography class, Mr. Fogarty had a "States and Capitals Contest". The class was divided into two teams. They stood in two rows, one on each side of the room. Then Mr. Fogarty asked about states and capitals. It was soon Maria's turn. He asked her to name the capital of Tasmania. Of course, Maria couldn't remember it.

This would not have been so bad except that Samantha Hightower laughed out loud when Maria gave the wrong answer. Everyone knew that Samantha Hightower was a snob. Still, Maria didn't like to be laughed at.

That evening, she was talking with her mother about what had happened. Her mother said, "Don't worry about it, Maria. Just go and play with Francis, but call him Hobart instead. Soon you'll know the capital of Tasmania without thinking twice. When Mr. Fogarty asks you, just think of our dog."

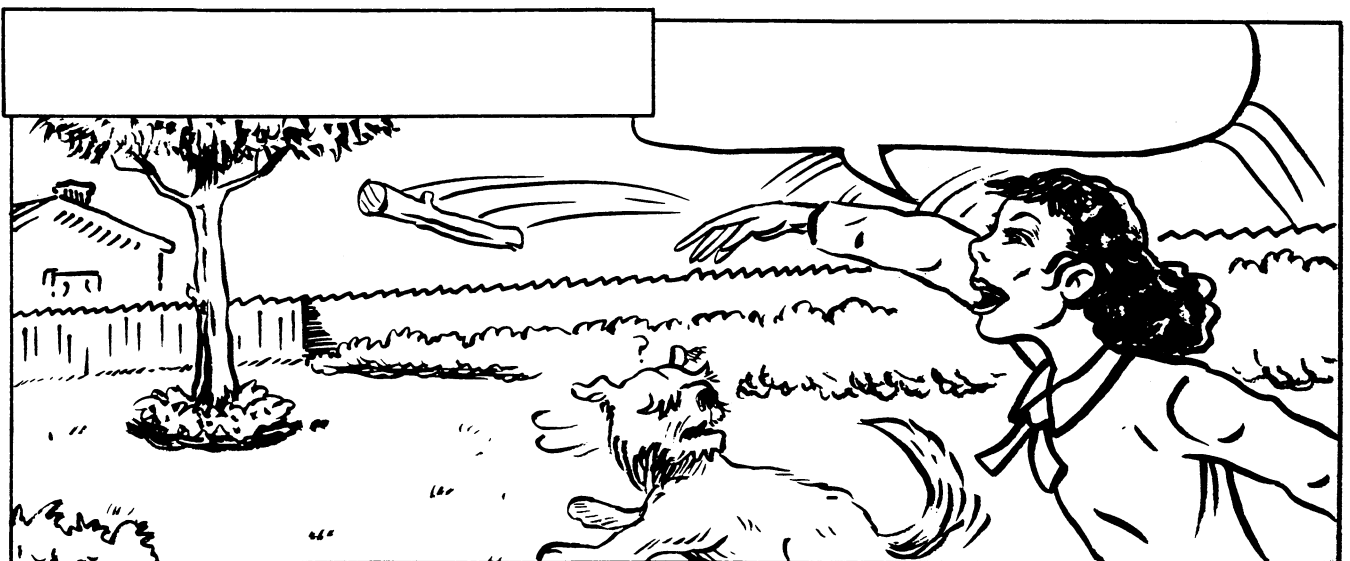
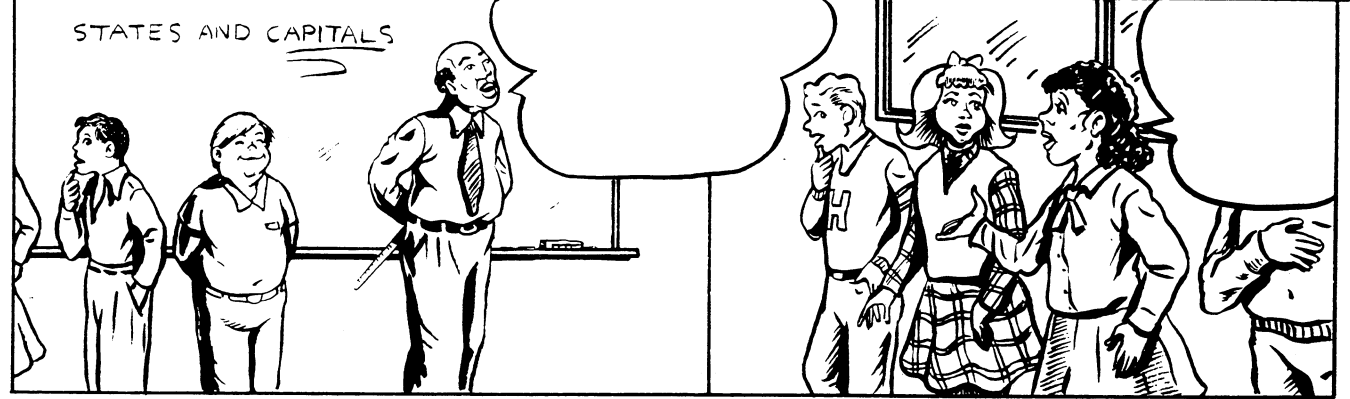
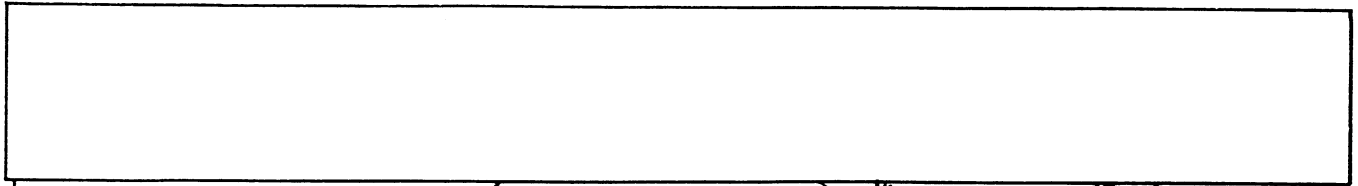
So that's just what Maria did. All that evening she played with her dog. She called him Hobart instead of Francis.

"Fetch, Hobart," she would say, throwing a stick as far as she could. Then she would say, "Good boy, Hobart," when he brought it back. Of course, Francis was a little confused. He gave Maria a few very strange looks. But by the end of the evening, Maria knew all her states and capitals.

At school the next day, Mr. Fogarty called on Samantha Hightower. He asked her to name the capital of Tasmania. (Samantha was always so proud of herself. She thought she knew everything.) Samantha must have been thinking of something else. She said, "The capital of Tasmania, as everyone knows, is Melbourne." Well, that made Maria just laugh out loud. She couldn't help it.

"All right, Maria, maybe you can tell us," said Mr. Fogarty.

Maria stood up straight and tall. She thought of her dog. Then she said in a loud voice that didn't shake: "The capital of Tasmania as everyone knows, is Francis."



States and Capitals

I. WORDS

A. The words listed below can be found in the puzzle, written in any direction. Find and circle each word.

I N S T E A D E S U F N O C	geography
N M U S H M E O H G R A P A	except
D I V I D I D I A V E A H P	during
E B U T U X I C K D R O Y I	teams
R X E C R W V S E E F F T X	divided
I F C C A P I T A L S N G A	states
S I T U A T D A N W O R O W	capitals
T C E G A U L T H C T E F L	snob
I A A H R A P E X C E P T B	worry
L P S I S Y K S H A A H O I	fetch
B I N T G R M R Q L M N C J	instead
O G E O G R A P H Y S B F U	confused
R N X F E O A O P Y Z A D U	shake
E X C E P W N P H Y L A N I	

B. Circle the word or phrase that means the same as the underlined word.

1. The class was divided into two teams.
tens groups tests
2. She could remember all of them except the capital of Tasmania.
but accept extra
3. Of course, Francis was a little confused.
cornfield crazy mixed up
4. He gave Maria a few very strange looks.
unusual sleepy silly
5. Samantha was always so proud of herself.
never together all the time

II. IDEAS

Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is false.

- _____ Maria could not remember the capital of Queensland.
- _____ For the "States and Capitals Contest", the class was divided into two teams.
- _____ Samantha Hightower was Maria's best friend.
- _____ Maria's mother tried to help her.
- _____ Samantha Hightower never made a mistake.
- _____ Maria never laughed at other people's mistakes.

Siblings

I. WORDS

Fill in the words missing from the following sentences.




1. It was (b) _____ outside—a _____ day for _____.
2. "All right," said his _____, without even turning away from the _____.
3. Trying to keep the _____ out of his voice, he said, "Yes, I am. _____ I'm _____ I called you a _____."
4. "Do you want to ride my _____?"
5. He wanted to warn her, to call to her, to tell _____ to _____!

Now write the circled letters in the blanks below. The word "siblings" means

_____.

II. IDEAS

Who said it? Put a tick in the correct column.

			
1. "She's the only sister you'll ever have. You should treat her kindly."			
2. "I won't apologise! She's laughing at me! And anyway, she lied!"			
3. "Yes. I have to go to the store."			
4. "All right. No apology—no going out."			
5. "Can I go out now?"			
6. "Can I? Really? You'd really let me?"			
7. "Your skateboard! I broke it. I'm sorry, Teddy. I'm really sorry."			
8. "Come on. I'll put some ointment on your knee."			