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# Reading for Understanding – Level 6

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## About the Book

The *Reading for Understanding* books have been designed to improve students' skills in the areas of sequencing, recognising details, main idea, character analysis, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, similarities and differences, cause and effect, evaluation, inference and following directions. Each page features 'real' kids facing 'real' situations making learning easy and fun for students. This book is a valuable tool for any reading program.

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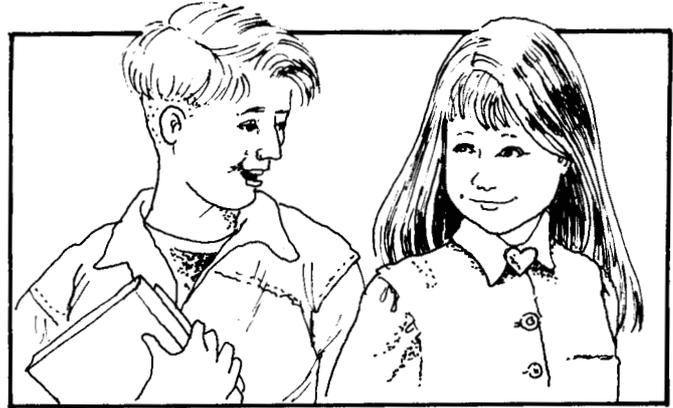
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## Sneaky Spelling Secrets

All of the grade six students at Dukwilma School have been studying hard for the big spelling bee against Dailey School. The big bee takes place in just one week. Jack and David are learning how to spell words like 'phosphorylase' and 'chronograph'. They want to be ready.



Arnold, on the other hand, isn't studying at all. Instead, he has decided to be extra nice to Patty Peters, a grade six student at Dailey School. Patty's dad is the judge of the spelling bee, and he has the list of spelling words for the big bee. Arnold has decided to woo his way to that list!

Every day after school, Arnold rides his bike to Dailey School. Then he carries Patty's books to the bus for her. After that, Arnold rides his bike as fast as he can to Patty's bus stop where he waits to carry her books home for her. At Patty's house, Arnold is extra friendly to her mum, who thinks Arnold is adorable.

One day while Arnold was at Patty's house, Patty's mum asked him to watch their house for a minute while she and Patty ran next door to find their cat. Arnold gladly said yes. It was the perfect time for him to snoop in Patty's dad's office to find the list of spelling words.

### Tick

Arnold could have...

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> found the list and taken it.        | <input type="checkbox"/> asked Patty's dad for the list.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gotten caught looking for the list. | <input type="checkbox"/> studied hard like everyone else. |

### Write

If Arnold found the list, write what he might have done with it. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Underline

Chances are most of Arnold's honest friends would have...

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| not wanted to see the list. | asked Arnold to give the list back. |
| taken the list to study it. | told Patty not to trust Arnold.     |

### Write

What do you think would happen if all the Dukwilma students saw the list, won the spelling bee, and were caught cheating? \_\_\_\_\_

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### •SOMETHING EXTRA•

Write down three of the longest words you have ever seen. Learn to spell them.

# Morning Blues

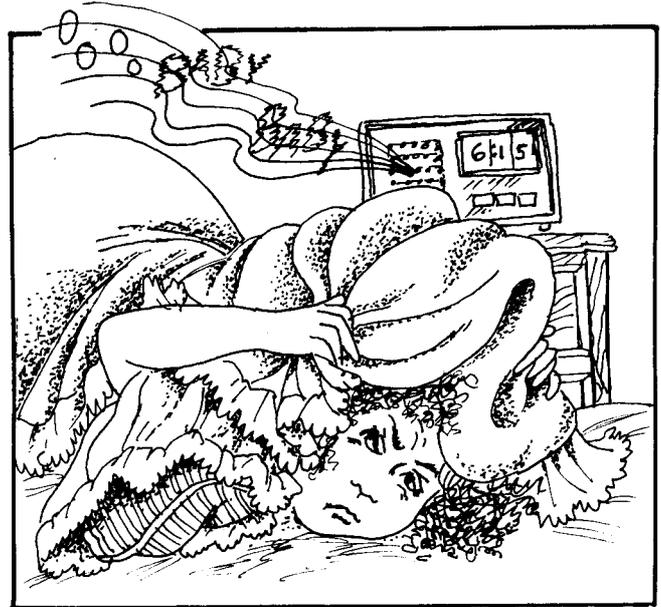
Jackie is very grouchy on the mornings she has school. She hates to hear the music blaring from her clock radio each morning because that means it's time to get up. Jackie usually hits 'snooze' at least three times. Her mother almost always has to drag her out of bed.

When Jackie has had her shower and brushed her teeth, she is awake but does not feel like talking. Miss Freed is lucky if Jackie even says "hello" when she arrives.

Jackie usually perks up by 9.30 when maths class starts. She loves maths. Actually, Jackie does well in all her classes and works hard to get good marks. She also has lots of friends. Jackie is always sharing with others and is good at including everyone in games.

When Jackie gets home from school, she is all smiles. She usually plays with her little sister Janie for a while. Then she plays with her friends before helping her mother prepare dinner. When her dad gets home, Jackie enthusiastically laughs as she tells him about her day.

After dinner, Jackie's family usually goes for a walk or plays a board game. Then Jackie does her homework and gets ready for bed. The problem is, however, that when it's time for bed, Jackie doesn't want to go to sleep. She begs her parents to let her stay up. They invariably say no, so Jackie goes to bed and usually lies there thinking for a long time before she falls asleep.



**Tick**

Jackie is...

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a morning person. | <input type="checkbox"/> always grouchy. | <input type="checkbox"/> usually considerate of others.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a night person.   | <input type="checkbox"/> studious.       | <input type="checkbox"/> nice only when she wants to be. |

**Write**

How is Jackie a nice person? \_\_\_\_\_

**Underline**

Jackie dislikes...

- music.                      talking in the morning.                      getting up for school.                      school.

**Write**

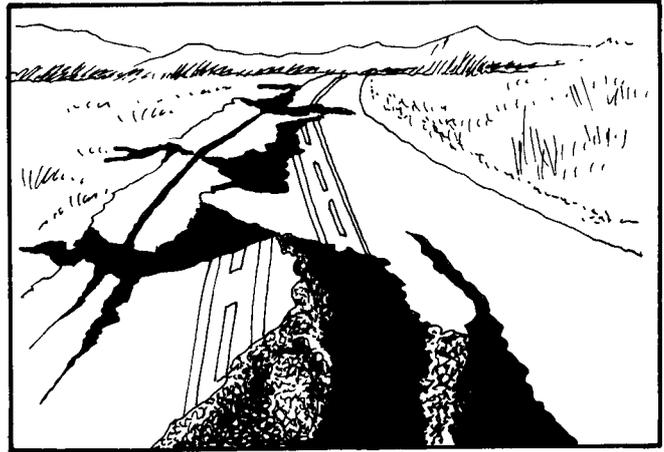
List some things you and Jackie have in common. \_\_\_\_\_

**•SOMETHING EXTRA•**

Are you a morning or a night person? Explain.

## Earthquakes

Suddenly one day while Miss Freed's students were taking a spelling test, the lights flickered, chalk dropped off the blackboard, and books fell off the shelves. No one knew what was happening. Then, just as suddenly as the strange occurrence started, it stopped. Dukwilma had experienced a small earthquake. Of course Miss Freed found this to be the perfect time to study earthquakes.



Miss Freed told her students that earthquakes can be explained according to the plate tectonics theory. In this theory, the Earth's surface consists of about 30 rigid plates that move slowly past one another. This motion causes rocks at the plates' edges to be strained and stressed. When the force is too great, the rocks break and shift and an earthquake occurs. Miss Freed also said that most of the breaks, or faults, lie beneath the surface. Others, however, such as the San Andreas Fault in California, are visible.

Jack and Cassie pointed out the damage that can occur in an earthquake. Why, just with the little one they had, all the chalk was broken and books had to be reshelved. Maria quickly reminded them of the recent earthquake in Japan. Major highways crumbled, houses fell, many fires started, and myriads of other problems occurred. Lee also pointed out that earthquakes can damage water pipes, electric lines and gas mains. Miss Freed and her students considered themselves very lucky after their study of the damage earthquakes can cause.

### Match

cause of earthquake

Thirty rigid plates move slowly past one another.

effect of earthquake

Rocks break and shift.

Fires start, buildings crumble, debris falls.

Rocks at plates' edges are strained and stressed.

### Tick

Some effects earthquakes can have include:

emotional trauma

falling bricks

rocks straining

loss of life

physical injury

plates sliding

### Write

In your own words, write what causes an earthquake. \_\_\_\_\_

### •SOMETHING EXTRA•

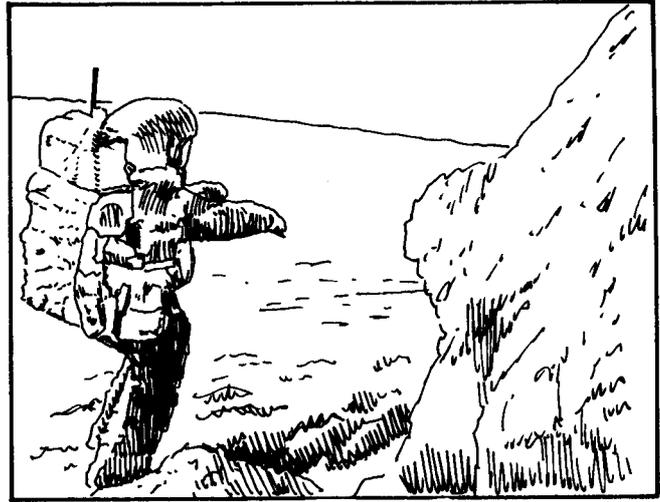
Do you know what to do during an earthquake? Make a list of things to do if one occurs.

## Miss Freed's Fascinating Friend

Miss Freed is enthusiastic about her new friend, who is an astronaut. She has enjoyed sharing the information she's acquired about astronauts with her students. They have written it all down, and have even done research on their own to learn more!

Cassie and Maria did a report on 'Achievements in Space'. It included information on special people such as Russians Yuri A. Gagarin, the first person to travel in space, and Valentina Tereshkova, the first female space traveller. Their report also mentioned Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., the first people to set foot on the moon. Jack and Donald researched how astronauts are selected. They hope one day to become astronauts. The boys learnt that two kinds of astronauts are chosen for the various U.S. manned space programs—pilot astronauts and mission specialist astronauts. Jack was upset because a bachelor's degree in engineering, physical science or maths is necessary to qualify as a pilot astronaut. None of these subjects interest Jack very much.

Some of the other topics Miss Freed's students researched included famous astronauts, the training of astronauts, and cosmonauts. They had fun building on the knowledge Miss Freed provided.



### Tick

The main idea of the story is...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Freed has a new friend who is an astronaut.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Freed stimulated her students' interest in astronauts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An astronaut shared interesting information about astronauts with Miss Freed's class. | <input type="checkbox"/> Astronauts are exciting and fascinating.                    |

### Underline

Miss Freed is \_\_\_\_\_ about her new friend, the astronaut.

excited                  embarrassed                  charmed                  appalled                  flourished

### Write

Summarise the story in three sentences. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### •SOMETHING EXTRA•

Write a story about a pretend trip you took to the moon.