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# Reading for Understanding – Level 4

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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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**Author:** Kathy Zaun  
**Artist:** Kathy Rogers  
**Editors:** Sue Sutton, Sharon Kirkwood, Rhonda DeWaard  
**Cover:** Cindy Cutler  
**Production:** Pat Geasler

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P.O. Box 580  
Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia 3192  
Phone: (03) 9555 1344 Fax: (03) 9553 4538  
Toll Free Ph: 1800 33 4603 Fax: 1800 15 0445  
Website: <http://www.hbe.com.au>  
Email: [brown@hbe.com.au](mailto:brown@hbe.com.au)

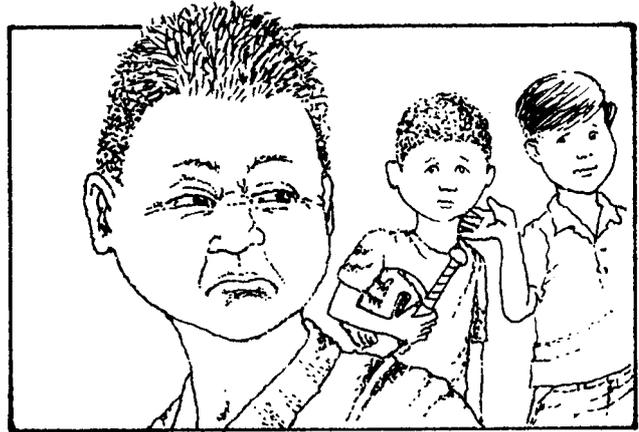
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## Give It a Chance!

Josh just moved to a new house in a new town. He doesn't want to go to a new school. What kind of a school can it be with a name like Dukwilma Primary? All he wants to do is go back to his old school with his old friends, his old house and everything else he loved. He just doesn't understand why his family had to move. His dad didn't need a better job and who cares about more money?



The rest of Josh's family is excited about the move. Even his sister, who is in grade six, is glad they moved. When his family all goes out and meets the neighbours and tries to make new friends, Josh doesn't go with them. He won't even leave his room to meet the kids that come over to ask him to play ball. He hates the town of Dukwilma.

On his first day of school, several guys come up to talk to Josh. He won't even say, 'Hi'. Instead, he just scowls and walks away. When Miss Freed introduces him to the class, she asks him to stand but he won't. Josh just doesn't want to be there. Even at recess when all the kids play kickball, Josh refuses to play. He just hates Dukwilma.

### Tick

The main idea of the story is . . .

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Josh hates Dukwilma.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh's dad got a new job.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Josh wants to go back to his old friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh won't give Dukwilma a chance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Josh doesn't like the new people.         | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh doesn't like to play sports.  |

### Underline

Josh's family seems to be . . .

making the best of the situation.      sad about moving.      missing their old house.

### Circle

Josh \_\_\_\_\_ any attempts people make to include him.

accepts                      welcomes                      rejects                      appreciates

### Write

Why do you think Josh won't give Dukwilma a chance? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What advice do you have for Josh? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

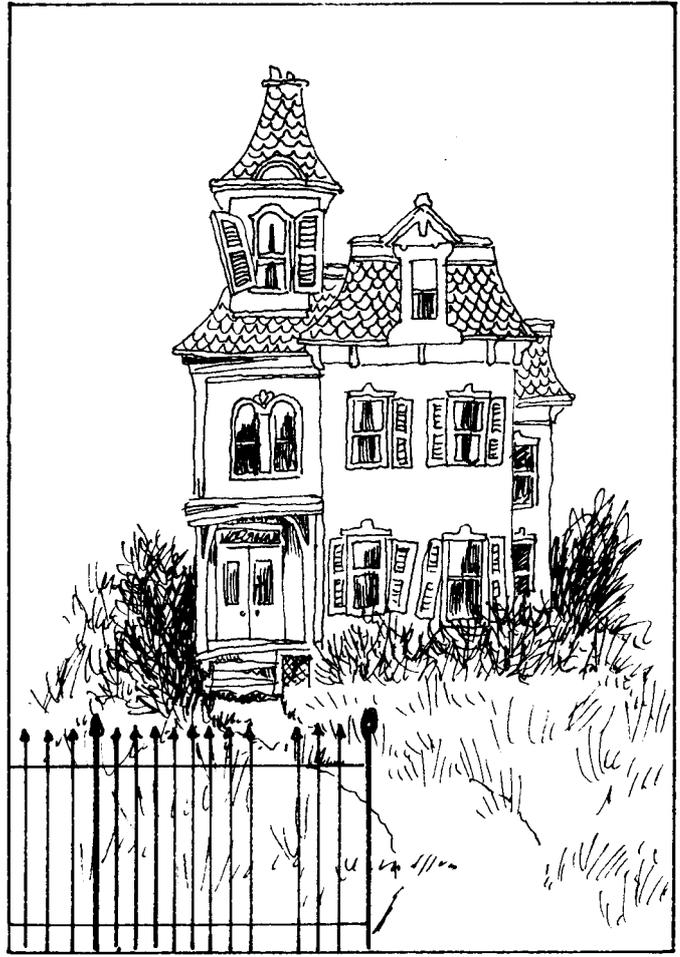
•**SOMETHING EXTRA**• How do you think you would feel if you had to move?

## The Haunted House

Jack and Arnold have been wanting to go into the creepy, old house down the street for a long time. Everyone says the big, grey house is haunted by a family of ghosts who used to live there in the 1800s. Jack believes it, but Arnold doesn't.

One day, Lee dares Jack and Arnold to go into the house. A little reluctantly, they decide to check out the spooky mansion. They're not chickens! As they walk up the cracked sidewalk filled with weeds and leaves, they hear a loud, shrill screech. It was only a big, black crow, but it did scare the boys! Finally, they reach the heavy, iron door. As they slowly push it open, it creaks and moans the whole time.

Once the door is open, Jack and Arnold can't believe what they see. Inside is a family of ghosts! There is a mum, a dad, two boys and a girl. They are floating around wearing very ancient clothes. The mother very kindly asks the boys in. They look nice, but Jack and Arnold turn around and run as fast as they can.



### Underline

Jack and Arnold went to check out the haunted house a little . . .

hastily.

slowly.

too late.

quickly.

hesitantly.

### Circle

The ghosts' clothes probably look like (costumes/new) to Jack and Arnold since they are so (antiquated/amusing).

### Tick

These words make the house seem spooky:

creepy

ghosts

chickens

screech

floating

grey

1800s

creaks

family

moans

### Write

How long do you think the ghosts have lived in the house? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think they are wearing old clothes? \_\_\_\_\_

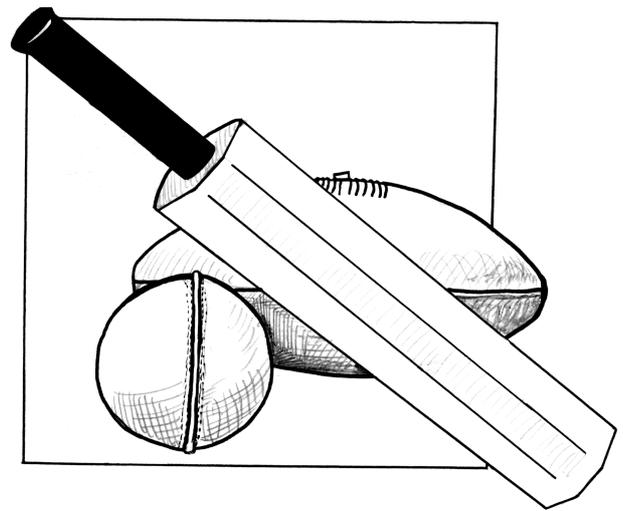
•**SOMETHING EXTRA**• Do you believe in ghosts? Why?

## Football or Cricket?

Jack can't decide what to do. He has been playing on football and cricket teams for three years. Now he decides he will focus all of his energies on just one sport. But which one should he choose? They're both so much fun!

Maybe he should pick football. After all, he would play in the winter and have his summer free. Plus, Jack really likes the football coach - he was an AFL player and knows everything about the game. Jack has played with this team for three years, and knows they play well together. On the other hand, if he plays cricket, he would have free time in the winter to go skiing with his dad. Jack

loves cricket, and his dad is a big cricket fan. Jack's best friend also plays on the same cricket team and Jack likes playing with him. Although Jack hasn't met the new cricket coach, he is supposed to be really good. No matter which sport Jack picks, he knows he will have fun, build up his muscles, learn how to improve his athletic skills and maybe even win a few games. So which one should he choose?



### Tick

Jack can't decide which sport to play because both sports

- have good coaches.
- are played in the winter, leaving his summer free.
- will improve his athletic abilities.
- are fun.

### Underline

If Jack plays cricket he would have the \_\_\_\_\_ to spend time skiing with his dad.

intelligence      opportunity      personality      athletic ability

### Write

Do you think Jack should play football? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think Jack should play cricket? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**•SOMETHING EXTRA•** Think of a decision you had to make. Write about it and tell how and why you made your decision.

# The Big Carnival

Jackie is so excited! The town's big carnival starts this weekend, and she and her family are going! In fact, Jackie's entire class will be at the fair. No one wants to miss out on any of the excitement.

The best part of this exciting carnival for Jackie is the rides. She can't wait to try the 'Rip-Roarin' Roller Coaster' and the 'Big Splash' rides. They're supposed to be lots of fun! Jackie's little brother is scared of these kinds of rides, so she will probably be the only one in her family brave enough to ride them.

Jackie's parents are happy to be going to the busy carnival because they love the pretty fireworks that are shot off every night. They will see a lot of their friends with their families too. And Jackie's little brother can't wait to get his hands on some scrumptious fairy floss! Carnivals are the best!



## Write

A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Find a synonym in the story above for each of the words listed below.

excited \_\_\_\_\_ greatest \_\_\_\_\_ delicious \_\_\_\_\_  
 whole \_\_\_\_\_ begins \_\_\_\_\_ frightened \_\_\_\_\_

## Underline

Three words that describe the carnival are:

exciting                      big                      brave                      scrumptious                      busy

## Unscramble and write

Jackie, her brother and her parents are excited about the carnival because of the...

\_\_\_\_\_ sired                      raify slofs                      frieskorw

## Search

Homonyms are words that sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Find three in the story above.

fair — \_\_\_\_\_ wait — \_\_\_\_\_ too — \_\_\_\_\_

## •SOMETHING EXTRA•

Write a story about a time when you went to a carnival. Make sure you have five synonyms and five homonyms in your story.