

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 5 (178 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 87

Summer Is Over

Rick and Betts had a really fun summer. They played in the yard with other kids and jumped rope with each other. Some days they went to the pond near the park to see the ducks swim.

Betts liked to ride her bike up and down big hills, but at times it was hard to do. If the hill was too big, she had to ride up really slow and her legs got sore. Betts had to take it easy going down those big hills so she didn't go too fast and slide.

Rick liked to run on the trails in the park. The dirt on the paths made it easy to run and it did not hurt his legs. Some days, Betts rode her bike in town and Rick ran by her side on the road. That was harder for him to do and keep up with Betts on her bike.

Now summer is over, but Rick and Betts still make time to jump rope, run, ride bikes and play with the other kids.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 10 (189 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 88

Mack's Dream

In Mack's dream, he had three brothers. One brother was named Jim, another was named Carl and the last was named Kurt.

Jim had five little pink pigs and lived on a farm. Those pigs ate a lot and liked to roll in the mud. Jim planned to sell his five pigs when they got bigger.

Carl had one really big brown turtle that he kept near a pond. That turtle sat in the shade e a lot and was so slow. It was not much fun, so Carl planned to sell his turtle to a zoo.

Kurt had some white goats. Those goats ate all the grass and plants. They didn't like to stay in the barn and eat the hay, so Kurt planned to give the goats to another farm.

In his dream, Mack went flying in the sky in a really big boat with wings. He went to Jim's and loaded up the five little pigs. He got the big brown turtle from Carl and the goats from Kurt. Then, just as Mack was flying away in his boat, he woke up from his dream!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 15 (156 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 92

The Best Cake

Lee and her dad like baking things at home. They know how to bake many sweet things to eat, but the best one is a yellow cake.

Once, Lee had some of her pals come over to play. They asked Lee to bake a cake for them to eat. She said, "I will ask my dad if I can do that."

Lee's dad said, "I think you know how to do that, but tell me if you need my help."

So Lee got the pots and pans to bake a cake. She gave each of her pals a turn to stir the butter and help make the batter. When the cake was done, they had to wait because it was too hot to eat. Then they each dug into the sweet cake with a fork.

That yellow cake tasted the best because Lee had help from her pals baking and eating the cake!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 20 (162 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 94

Birds Singing

Listen for a moment and you may hear birds in the trees. The birds call to each other, but we don't know what they say.

Birds do not like cold winters, but when spring comes, they are happy. I saw a red bird flying in my front yard. I followed her to see where she made her nest in the pine tree.

Each day I like to listen to that red bird sing and I believe that she is singing to me. One day, I am sitting beneath the tree when I hear more birds in the nest. I can see two baby birds. The birds are waiting for something. Then the mother bird brings them something to eat, but I can't see what it is. She seems to be in a hurry, so she stays with them for just a moment. The baby birds sing now because they are safe and they know the mom bird will feed them.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 25 (169 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 97

The Team

Bill didn't play much baseball, but he really hoped to be on the baseball team. Because he needed to play more, Bill started going to the park with his pals. They all said, "We will help you get better playing baseball this spring."

They showed Bill how to hold the bat and swing it. At first, it was really hard for him, but he kept trying. In a little while, Bill hit the ball far into the field. Then Bill had turns throwing the ball back and forth with his pals. After a while, he sent the ball flying to his pal at first base. Every day, Bill did many sit-ups and ran almost five miles in the dirt. He began to play well.

The coach came to the park to see the pals play one day. Then something happened that made Bill very happy. The coach said, "Bill, you are a smart player. I think it is time for you to play shortstop on the team!"

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 30 (183 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 99

The Moon and Stars

Late in the day, you can see the moon start to show in the sky. You may see the sun in the sky at the same time.

At times, you may see a small yellow moon far, far away. Other times, you will see a big white ball that seems closer. When it gets very dark, you can see the moon better and it may seem to have hills and bumps on it. It may almost seem to smile at you. Some say there is a “man in the moon.”

As it gets dark, the stars start to show in the sky also. Many, many stars will shine if the sky is clear and there is no rain. In the summer, I always like to lay in the field and dream of what I see. The stars may seem to make the shape of something like a big spoon or a man throwing something in the air.

If the sky is not clear, it is hard to see the moon and stars, but you know they are always there.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 35 (192 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 104

Feeding Jan's Pigs

Jan and Mart were sisters who lived on a farm. Jan was having a hard time feeding the pigs, so she asked her sister to help her. Her sister was reading in the shade beneath the oak tree.

"The pigs keep trying to turn the pots over and they won't eat the food," Jan cried.

Mart said, "Why do you always bother me? You just don't know how to do it."

Jan's sister was not happy, but she got up and went inside the pen with a big bell. Mart showed Jan how to throw some food near the pot and next, she started ringing the bell. Then something funny happened. The pigs followed the trail of food in the dirt to the food in the pot.

Soon, all the pigs were eating their food from the pot. When the food was done, the pigs rolled in the dirt and smelled the pot for more food. This time, Jan didn't need to bother her sister because she was able to feed the pigs by herself. And Mart was able to go back and sit in the shade to read.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 40 (196 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 106

Beach Winds

The wind was blowing very hard at the beach. Sand was flying all over and nipping at my arms and legs. I tried to run fast to get away from the wind, but it followed me with every step.

I began to get tired of the wind, so I started back to the cabin. But, I wasn't able to find the turn for the path because of the blowing sand. Then I saw two big rocks up on the beach, away from the water. I didn't know what else to do, so I sat down between those two big rocks to be safe. The sand didn't reach me in between the rocks, so I stayed there and waited.

After I had been sitting there for a while, I began to hear someone calling my name. At first, I didn't know who was yelling my name. Then I saw my mom and my brother down the beach. The moment they saw me, they were happy and I was glad to see them too.

We all agreed that I was smart to find that spot between the big rocks away from the water and wait there.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 45 (202 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 109

Zoo Crowds

It was a wonderful day to go to the zoo. The sun was out, but it wasn't too hot. There was a little bit of wind, but not too much. After all the days of rain, there were many folks who were ready to go out for a day at the zoo.

Anybody who drove a car waited a long time on the streets. There were so many cars; there was no spot to park in the lot. Smart moms and dads took their kids to the zoo on the train and left their cars at home. They bragged about how smart they were to take the train. The line to get in the zoo was long and it took a while to get in the gate.

Once in the zoo, the crowds were big and it was hard to see anything. The lions and tigers were hot and tired. The apes and the baboons stayed away from the crowds.

Even if it was a wonderful day to go to the zoo, everybody was ready to leave the crowds and go home after a while. Next time, it may be smart to go to the zoo when it is raining.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 50 (197 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 112

To the Trail

One morning, Sid and Loo agreed to go to the forest for the day. They asked their pals, but nobody else wanted to go.

Loo said, "Let's walk to town first and get some food for lunch to take with us."

"We always walk. Why don't we ride bikes to town this time?" asked Sid. "Then we can ride on the bike trails in the forest too." So the two pals hopped on their bikes and started down the street.

In a moment, Loo stopped her bike and said, "We nearly forgot to take water to drink! We need to go back."

"Okay," said Sid, "I'm glad we didn't get too far away from home. Let's be quick."

As soon as they got their water, Sid and Loo were ready to go. Once more, they gathered their things and hopped on their bikes. They took turns being the leader and

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 50; Page 2

stayed on the side of the road. In no time, Loo and Sid were at the forest park. As they started down the trail, they both began singing a song about rowing a boat down a stream. I wonder if you know that song?

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 55 (200 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 116

Boating With Mike

Today, Mike is teaching us about safe boating. The lake is quiet, so it is a good day for a boat ride. First, we zip and close the life vests. We walk slowly out on the shiny dock.

Mike gives us a lesson about how to get in the rowboat without slipping or making the boat tip. He shows us how to sit still on the seats and how to hold the oars. When we make the oars go back and forth in the water, the boat starts to go away from the dock. It is good to know that the oars will float if they fall in the lake.

Mike says we need to know what we should do if the boat does tip over. We don't want that to happen, so we listen hard to what Mike has to say. He says that if we leave the life vests on and hold on to the boat, we will be safe in the water. There are many fish that live in this lake, but they don't bite. We are both good swimmers too, so we are not scared. Rowing the boat is a lot of fun!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 60 (198 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 117

The Chair

There is an old chair that sits at the bottom of a steep hill near town. I walk past that chair almost every day on my way to get the mail. I always ask if anyone knows who left that chair there, at the bottom of the hill. Nobody ever says anything, so now I will quit asking.

I like to think of how that chair came to rest in this place. Maybe a girl really liked that chair, but had no more room for it. Or maybe a boy was tired of having that chair near his bed in his room. Maybe someone left it there because they believed it was no good. How could that happen, I think, without saying anything.

I may take that chair home with me one of these days. I would clean the dirt off the chair and make it so clean. Then I would take lots of time to sand it smooth. That chair would look so fine in my room, between my bed and the wall. I could sit and read in that chair. A chair like that needs a good home. I want to make it mine.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 65 (190 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 119

Spider Webs

“Another spider web!” Pam yelled as she walked into her garden. It was just about to get dark, so Pam couldn’t see the big web in front of her head. Spider webs were all over the place this summer, more than ever before.

Pam quickly turned to get away from the sticky web, but it got stuck in her hair again. She began to laugh and said, “I would give anything if these spiders would make their webs in a place away from my garden! I always bump into them, even if I watch where I am walking.”

The web made her nose itch. Pam let out a big sneeze, which nearly made her trip and fall into the pool. “That would have been awful if I landed in the pool,” Pam laughed again. “I am home all by myself and nobody could help me. I must have bumped into a hundred spider webs this summer. Until now, I never came close to landing in the pool!”

Just then, Pam saw her mom drive up. Pam couldn’t wait to tell her mom the stories about today’s spider webs.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 70 (202 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 122

Boating by Ourselves

Today, we are having our third boating lesson with Mike. We haven't been in the boat in quite e a while. This morning, Mike has time to teach us again, so we both agree to go.

This time, Mike thinks we are ready to go out in the boat by ourselves. He stays on the dock and watches us. The two of us sit on the longest seat together and we each hold one oar. It's hard to row the boat this way, but we don't complain because we want to become better at rowing. Pretty soon, we can row around without a problem.

We know we should not go out too far from the dock and Mike calls for us to come in closer. We have to row slowly in between five other boats. We come too close to one of them and bump that boat. Mike says we need to stop now because it is nearly noon. We steer the boat and head for the dock to make our landing. Mike asks if we are hungry and if we want to have lunch. We thank Mike for the lesson and hope we can have our fourth lesson soon!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 75 (211 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 123

Taking a Muddy Path

Dawn wanted to go for a hike, but she didn't want to go alone. Tom said that he would go with her if they could take the path to the lake. The two pals started off down the trail together around noon.

"Keep your eyes on the trail. The ground is pretty muddy from all the rain," said Dawn.

Tom nodded and said, "I will stay behind you and try to stay where the mud is dried. It's better to walk on the hard dirt than in the mud."

Dawn and Tom followed the trail beside the stream a little farther. Before it flowed into the lake, the stream took a turn into a field and around a hill of rocks. They stood in the quiet place and listened. They heard a hawk and saw it landing

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 75; Page 2

high up in a tree. They looked around at all the pretty things in the field. They saw a yellow butterfly land on the leaf of a plant next to the water. They watched a red bird dart in and out from the tall grass.

“What a wonderful hike this has been,” said Tom.

Dawn nodded her head. “I agree,” she said, “and nobody even slipped on the muddy path!”

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 80 (236 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 124

A Fence to Be Proud Of

My dad asked me to help him fix up our fence. Our fence is pretty old and the gate broke last week. It also needs some fresh white paint. My dad thought we could make it look good again, so I agreed to work with him. I would have been ashamed to say no.

First, we drove across town to buy the missing part for the gate. Then we went to another store to buy the kind of paint my dad likes best. We were loading the paint into our pick-up truck when we spotted a puddle under the truck. My dad looked under the hood and found that a cap was missing and all the water had leaked out. We were lucky. That was easy to fix.

When we returned home, we fixed the gate and began to paint. We wanted to work quickly because now we had

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 80; Page 2

less time than we planned on. We also tried to be careful not to splash the paint on the grass. My dad and I talked about a lot of things while we worked and before long the painting was done. My dad and I stood back and smiled at our good-looking fence.

I'm glad my dad didn't work on the fence alone. We had fun working together and whenever I look at our fence, I'll have something to be proud of!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 85 (228 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 125

The Run Away Pet

Jess was playing outside when she spotted a dog running down the street in front of her house. She watched the dog closely to see where it would go. Suddenly, three children came racing along behind it, yelling at the dog.

Jess could see that the dog had its eyes fixed on a cat across the street and was going after that cat. The cat was scared and ran up high into a tree close by. Jess ran over and tried to get the dog to go away, but it wouldn't listen to her. That dog began to howl and bark so loud. It ran around and around the tree, and the cat went up even higher. Jess got dizzy just watching that jumpy dog.

The three children kept calling to the dog and at last it stopped barking and howling. One of the

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 85; Page 2

children grabbed the dog and whispered something in its ear. Suddenly, the dog sat right down. It started to wag its tail hard and lick that boy's hand. When the boy opened his hand, Jess could see that he was holding a bone for the dog. The dog sat still until the boy gave it the bone. When the children put a rope on the dog, Jess knew the cat would be safe and the dog would go back home.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 90 (252 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 127

The Apple Race

Part One

Fall is here, which means it's time for the apple race! Today, a bunch of children gather together with the farmer outside his barn. It's a warm evening and the children know they have fun whenever they get together at the farm. The farmer shows them his cows, goats, and sheep. Farther out in the field are pretty horses. He walks with the children across the field to the place where all the apple trees grow. They try not to step in mud, but splashing in puddles is fun. Sometimes, it just happens.

The children are careful getting over the fence, not to stand on any weak or broken wood. Once they reach the trees, each person gets a pail and gathers the smallest apples on the ground. This kind of apples are not good for eating, cooking or for making pies, but they are really good for races. If a worm is in an apple, it is thrown back on the ground. Whenever the farmer shakes the tree, one or two more apples

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 90; Page 2

drop. Some of these apples look so good when they plop to the ground. It's hard not to take a bite. Sometimes, it just happens.

The apples are counted so that each team has the same number. The children line up in four teams, with five children on each team. They can hardly wait for the race to begin. Suddenly, the farmer shouts, "Ready? Set. Go!" and the contest begins.

More Next Time

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 95 (252 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 128

The Apple Race

Part Two

The farmer shouts, “Go,” and the apple race begins. The first person on each team puts one apple in a big spoon in their hand. That person runs across the field to the fence, tags the fence, and runs back to their team. Their apple is thrown into a big pot and will be fed to the horses later. The next person takes the spoon and does the same thing. If an apple drops, the person must put it back in the spoon and keep running forward.

All the children are laughing and shouting and jumping up and down. Nobody can stand there quietly. Whenever someone returns with an apple, everyone claps and shouts, “Yeah!”

Some children drop an apple or slip in the mud, but nobody is complaining. One girl falls in a puddle and her clothes get muddy. The worst thing that happens is when one boy falls and bumps his head, right as he reaches his team. He is dizzy for a moment, but then he smiles and is just fine.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 95; Page 2

Nobody wants to lose the contest, but they know only one team can be first. At last, one team is done. Those children are very happy, but they don't brag about winning. Everyone cheers for them, "Hip-hip-hooray, hip-hip-hooray!"

Right then, the children hear someone else laughing and they all turn around to see who is there. Their mothers are all standing by a picnic table holding plates of warm apple pies!

The End

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 100 (284 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 131

Gail the Goat

Gail was not a happy goat. She lived high up on a ridge outside of town. Gail was the loudest goat in the herd and it was hard for other goats to be her friend.

Gail cleared a space for herself under the swinging bridge and she tried to keep everybody away from that bridge. She brought grass and straw to make a soft, warm spot to sleep. Whenever some animal wanted to cross the bridge, Gail would suddenly start making loud sounds. She would barge out from under the bridge to scare them away. Most of the time this plan worked.

Then one day, a rooster came along the trail. He was a strong bird with a large beak and long feathers. Gail watched the rooster tiptoe down the path next to the stream. As soon as that bird came to the edge of the bridge, Gail made loud sounds. She stamped her hooves on the wooden bridge. She tried to look as angry as she could. Gail couldn't believe it, but that rooster didn't stop! He kept right on flapping his wings and walking forward onto the bridge.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 100; Page 2

Gail could see that this was no helpless bird. She rocked the bridge and stamped her hooves harder. She bent her head down and stared that rooster right in the eyes. Gail opened her mouth and made the worst sound she could. Finally, the rooster stopped and stared at Gail. He said, "Cock-a-doodle-doo. I don't know what your problem is, but I need to cross this bridge. You are not in charge and you are not the owner, so **please** let me pass."

Gail had never heard anyone say "**please**" before.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 105 (259 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 132

The Class Picnic

“Sal, are you awake yet?” my dad called loudly from the bottom of the stairs. “It’s 7 o’clock and time to get out of bed. Today is the class picnic and the bus will be here soon.”

How could I not remember that? I thought the day was so far away, and now it was finally here. I knew what to choose to wear, so I got dressed quickly. This was not a day to be late for school!

“Hurry up Sal,” called my dad. “I heard the bus horn honk down the street. It will be here for you in just a moment.”

I was ready to go just as the bus came into sight. I gathered my books, grabbed my coat and thanked my dad for making my lunch. With the lights flashing, the bus stopped in front of our house. As I got on the school bus, I thought how this day was off to a really good start. I looked out the window and waved to my dad as the bus pulled away.

Once we got to school, we walked five blocks to Bay Park. There was a big field for baseball and swings and poles to play on too. All the children put their lunches and coats in

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 105; Page 2

large boxes and the parents set out drinks on the picnic tables. Mr. Walters brought out jump ropes, balls and even two kites to fly. Then he gave us each a jar of bubbles to blow. Mr. Walters thought of just about everything!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 110 (257 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 133

Shaking and Rocking

The quick movement under the mountain rocked the houses and stores miles away. It was felt all the way down here in the valley. Walls shook and all the people dove under tables and held on to the legs tightly. We ducked our heads, closed our eyes and turned away from the windows. Plates, cups and dishes rolled from shelves and crashed to the floor. Windows cracked and glass fell all around.

Outside, we heard horns honk and saw lights flash, as cars and trucks were shaken and pushed around. Then, just as suddenly, the shaking stopped and all was still.

We crawled out from under our table slowly, being very careful to stay clear of the glass. The place where we had been eating dinner with our friends was a mess. The owner came out from behind the counter to see if everyone was okay. Nobody was even hurt, but we were all pretty scared. The paintings that hung on the walls were falling off their hooks. The folding chairs were pushed against the counter

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 110; Page 2

and the lights were off. The clock had stopped and the fans were no longer running.

It was a strange sight out in the street. As far as we could see down the block, things were a mess. Cars were bumped into each other, store windows were broken and some wires were hanging down from the poles. Of course, it was not safe to walk in the streets. We knew we had no choice, but to just wait.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 115 (261 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 134

Growing Food

Our family grows a lot of our own food. Last fall, we dug up some of the back yard to make our garden bigger. We thought it would be better to grow more food than to water and mow a bigger lawn.

We didn't need a tractor and dug up the grass ourselves. We made the choice to move part of the fence to make more room. Part of the hedge had to be pulled out too. Of course, we left the big elm tree right where it was. We put wood beams in the dirt along the edge, to keep the garden space apart from the lawn. Then we filled in the new space with soft, rich soil. Finally, we placed straw between the rows, instead of stones, to step on when working in the garden.

Snow peas are one of the first to be planted in the spring. They can start growing when the weather is still cool. We made little hills of dirt and pushed the seeds into the ground a bit. The snow pea vines will grow tall around the poles. When the weather gets warmer, the soil will be ready for lots of other

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 115; Page 2

plants. Green beans and beets can be planted soon. Later, we will put in green, red and yellow peppers. Some will be sweet peppers and some will be hot peppers.

It was quite a job, but our new, bigger garden looks like it has always belonged there. I can't wait to eat all the fresh food in the summer. Yum-yum!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 120 (293 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 138

The Backyard Circus

My friend, Todd, always thinks of great things to do. One day, we were sitting around with nothing planned. Todd started to giggle and I knew he had something on his mind. “We can put on a circus show! Let’s ask Doris, Art and Donna to join us,” he said.

So the five of us started to write a list of all the things we could do in our show. Doris said she could ride a unicycle really well. She took lessons all summer from an expert and can even ride backward.

Art said, “I don’t know how to fly on a trapeze, but I can do flips and stand on my head. I can do rolls and even walk on my hands.”

“I would really enjoy being the person to set up the tent and folding chairs. I’ll make the sign and call people on the phone to come to the show. I can draw an ad for the circus and put it on poles around town,” said Donna.

“You would be perfect for that job,” said Todd. “You are neat and draw really well. We need a good planner.”

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 120; Page 2

“I wonder what tricks we can do in the show,” I said to Todd. “We need to think of an act that will be fun for us to perform.”

We thought for a moment and then Todd called out, “You and I can juggle together! Remember when we did that for the school’s show last year? We juggled with balls and threw them to each other without even bumping them.”

Many people came to our circus show in the backyard. They clapped and cheered and everyone had a great time. Do you wonder what Todd might think of next?

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 125 (306 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 139

The Robot Workers

Moe, Rose and Ron were robot friends and they worked at the same warehouse downtown. When the barge came into the dock, the robots had a big task ahead of them. They had to move all the heavy boxes from the barge and put them in rows on the shelf. They would do this work for hours and hours every day.

The owner of the warehouse was not a very nice boss. She yelled at the robots if they worked too slowly. When they tried to take a rest, she blew the horn and made them get back to work. She didn't understand that even robots need a rest now and then.

At ten o'clock one morning, Rose and Moe were sitting outside eating a snack. The owner walked toward them, "You robots know the rules. Get back in the work zone now!"

Rose smiled and said, "We're just taking a short rest and we were hungry. We'll get right back to work in a few moments."

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 125; Page 2

“Don’t argue with me! If I catch you out here again, your job will be in danger,” shouted their boss.

Moe said to Rose, “Let’s not get in an argument. She just doesn’t understand, no matter how many times we explain it to her.”

Then the owner spotted Ron heading toward a chair, holding a newspaper. She called out, “I warn you, Ron. You better not settle down with that newspaper or your job will be in danger.”

Ron was very polite as he said, “Golly, boss. If you let me have a rest, I will be able to perform my job better.”

The owner broke down in laughter. “Well, that makes sense. I sure never thought about that before! From now on, all you robots can take a ten minute rest, three times a day.”

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 130 (304 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 141

Snow Day

Snowflakes started falling in the middle of the night.

When I woke up at eight o'clock and looked out the window, all was quiet outside. The sun was bright and for a moment there was nothing but peace and quiet.

Suddenly, the street came alive. Children ran from their homes cheering and laughing. Snowballs started flying, with dogs pouncing through the yards after them. Parents scraped ice from the cars and pushed snow off the sidewalks. Then I was sure that school was closed today!

I bounced out of bed, raced down the stairs and into the kitchen. My mom fixed eggs, toast with honey, cheese and apples for me to eat. I knew I'd be hungry playing in the snow, so I ate everything on my plate. I cleaned up and got dressed for the cold. I pulled on thick socks and heavy shoes. A hat, scarf and mittens would keep me warm, in spite of the cold. Once I was dressed, I pretty much waddled out the door with all my clothes on.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 130; Page 2

I grabbed my sled off the porch and swung the rope over my arm. Two friends joined me and we headed to the hill in the park a few blocks away. We took turns with my sled, which gave us a rest in between. It was so fun to slide down the slope, but it was hard to carry the sled back to the top each time.

After three hours on the slope, we headed back toward my house. The snow was still falling and sticking to the ground. We laughed and threw tightly packed snowballs on the way. By the time we reached my house, we had cold feet and hands, in spite of all our clothes. The warm soup waiting for us sure tasted great!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 135 (289 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 142

An Interesting Shop

Bart is the owner of a different kind of store. He only sells a certain kind of thing, which may amaze you. You cannot buy food, paper or clothes at Bart's store. He doesn't sell beds, windows, tables or chairs. You wouldn't go to Bart's store if you needed a mirror or some wire to fix a broken fence. You will not find paint, signs or newspaper either.

I will give you information about some of the things in Bart's store and you can think about how they are all the same. Bart has a shelf of whistles for sports and games. Another shelf holds bells to put on bikes and to hang outside. There are alarm clocks and the kind of alarms that go off if there is smoke in the house.

In another part of the store, you will notice toys that look and sound like animals. There are toy pigs that snort, roosters that go "cock-a-doodle-do", and dogs that bark. Bart has a collection of fake birds that sing and chicks that chirp. You might also find frogs that croak.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 135; Page 2

Here's some more information that may help you with your answer. Goldfish, worms and butterflies do not belong in Bart's store, but squeaking mice do. One of the most popular things comes in a small brown package. When the package is opened, the sound of loud laughter comes out of the box! You can have your choice of singing toy children as well.

Do you think you know the certain kind of things that Bart sells in his store? I don't want to explain it anymore, so I will give you the answer. Did you notice that everything in Bart's store makes **noise**?

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 140 (314 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 145

The Pet Clinic

When a pet does not feel well, it might need to go to a certain clinic for animals. The doctors at these clinics go to school to become experts taking care of all kinds of pets. I thought visiting one of these clinics would be interesting, so I called the one near my house. The person who answered the phone was very friendly and told me to come at nine-thirty the next day.

The waiting room was full of animal patients. I could see that this clinic was very popular and they had a lot of work to do. The doctor said she could talk with me in about twenty minutes, so I took a seat near the elevator.

There was a lot of action in that waiting room. A few puppies sat in small kennels. Most of the puppies were pretty quiet, but one was howling loudly. A full-grown bulldog licked his paw, which I could see was hurt. I noticed one person had a cat with four babies. One of the babies was having trouble eating and needed to be fed milk with a bottle. There was a young girl holding a large closed box. I couldn't see what was

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 140; Page 2

in that box, but then something hissed and I knew it was a snake. I thought how brave that doctor must be to even take care of snakes!

Finally, I saw the doctor motion for me to come back to her desk. In the few minutes she had to answer my questions, she gave me great information and explained that a doctor for animals is called a vet. She opened her clinic ten years ago and now it's twice the size it was then. It's amazing how much the doctor still likes her work. I hope I will find work to interest me so much when I get older!

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 145 (327 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 146

The Perfect Campsite

Nat and Ross finally had a few days of summer vacation to go camping. The last time they went together was more than a year ago. It takes a long time to pack, buy food and gather all the camping gear, but it's wonderful to spend time outside. It was pretty easy to choose where to go. Ross wanted to go to either the mountains or the coast and it didn't make a difference to Nat, as long as they could camp by the water.

Ross and Nat agreed to leave early the next morning and drive up to the mountains. They didn't want a really popular, crowded place and knew they would have a choice of nice spots on one of the lakes. Ross did the driving and Nat read the directions from the map. They stopped at the ranger station to get information about the campgrounds. The ranger explained that some campgrounds were closed because beetles had eaten the trees and made them weak. There was a flood in an area near one of the rivers, but he gave them a paper with directions to a few beautiful places nearby.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 145; Page 2

Thirty minutes later, they found an amazing opening right on the shore of a clear, clean lake. They didn't waste any time because they wanted their campsite to be ready before darkness came. Nat found a spot that wasn't rocky to put the tent between two giant fir trees. Ross started to collect pieces of wood so they could build a fire later and cook their dinner.

Then they took a walk on the trail around the lake. A snowy mountain stood to the west. There was a small island in the middle of the lake and a waterfall flowing off a high ridge. An eagle drifted through the sky and birds chirped in the forest. Nat and Ross smiled. They certainly couldn't imagine a more perfect spot to spend their vacation.

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Level B: Lesson 150 (329 words)

Fast Track A/B: Lesson 150

Reading Pledge

Everyone in the second and third grades at my school made a pledge to read two books each week, for the next twenty weeks. After we read a book, we listed its name and who wrote it on a form. Then we wrote a little about the book and its main idea. Our parents or someone in our family signed a paper to show they knew we read each book. We brought this list to school and our teacher kept track of our books on a chart. The goal was to have everyone in a class meet their pledge. Then that class would have a party and every child would get a gift card for a free book.

While we ate lunch every day, we shared our books. Our teacher, Ms. Nash let one of us read a part out loud to the rest of the class, if we wanted to. I thought it was very interesting to hear about other stories and I wrote down some of the names. By the end of the twenty weeks, I had a collection of books I wanted to read over the summer.

Some of the best books I read were true facts about animals like bears and ponies. One book explained how

Horizons Supplemental Stories

May be used for additional reading practice, following the lessons indicated.

Lesson 150; Page 2

islands are formed. But I'm not ashamed to say, I also enjoyed the books about things that are not true. Some of them were certainly silly, like the story about giants living in a mansion next to a waterfall. They had an elevator, but no stairs going up to their mansion. The story about the hundreds of grasshoppers who would suddenly appear and dance in the sunlight was pretty funny too.

At the end of the twenty weeks, everybody in all the second and third grade classrooms met the goal! Not only did we all enjoy a great party and get a new book, but we were very proud of ourselves and how well we could read.