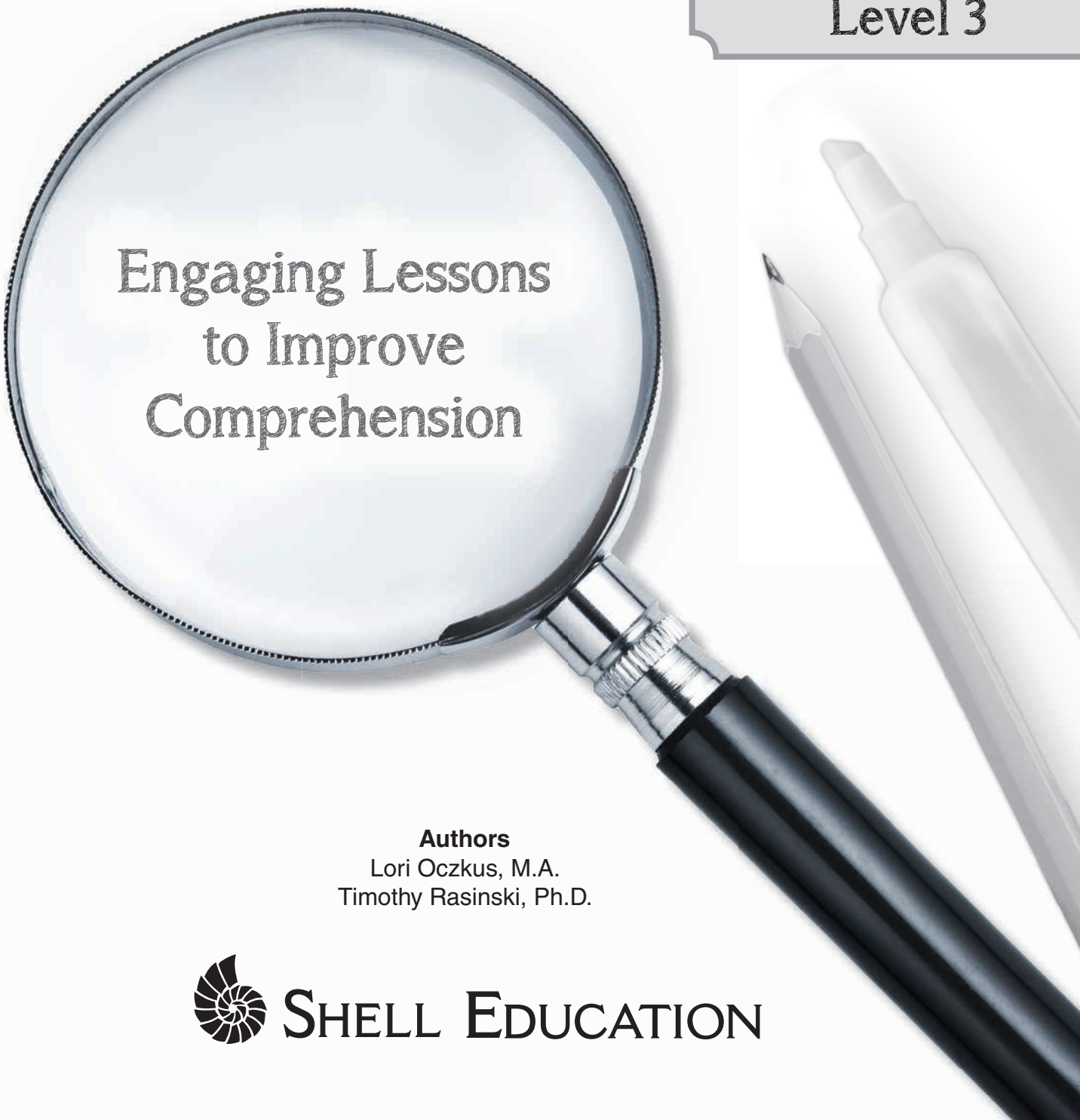
Close Reading with Paired Texts

Level 3



Engaging Lessons to Improve Comprehension

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Shell Education

The Great Benjamin Franklin

Adapted from a piece by Lisa Zamosky

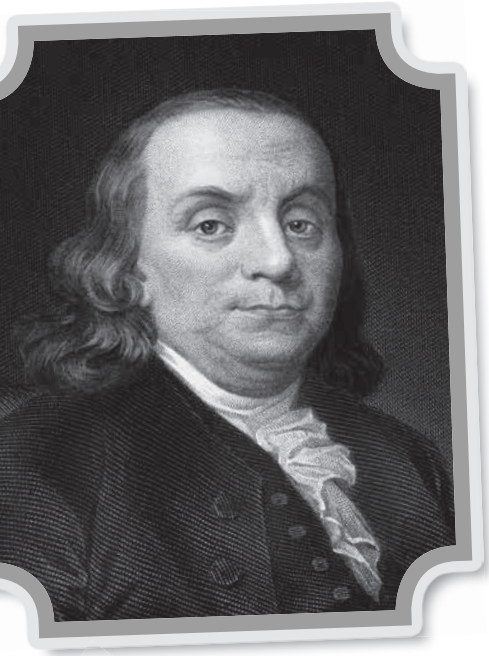
Benjamin Franklin is one of the greatest Americans in history. Growing up, his family didn't have much money, but through hard work, he became very successful at many things.

Early Life

Benjamin Franklin was born January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. He stopped going to school at age 10 to work with his father. At 13, he went to work for his older brother, James, who owned a printing house. When Franklin grew older, he also owned his own publishing house.

Scientist and Inventor

Benjamin Franklin was also a scientist. He invented many new things that made people's lives better. When Franklin was 42 years old, he sold his printing business. He wanted to follow his love of science. In 1747, he learned that lightning was electricity. He learned this by flying a kite with a key tied to the string under a thundercloud. When he touched the key, he got a shock. This shock proved lightning is electricity. After this test, he created the lightning rod. This is a metal bar that is put on houses or other buildings. Lightning hits the rod instead of the buildings. Franklin saved many lives with this invention. He invented many other things important to us today, as well. He invented the open stove, bifocal glasses, and the political cartoon.



Founding Father

When Benjamin Franklin was born, Massachusetts was one of just 13 colonies. The colonies were ruled by Great Britain. He was one of the people who helped the United States of America become a country. He helped to write the Declaration of Independence. This said that the American colonies were no longer part of Great Britain. He also helped write the United States Constitution. Benjamin Franklin is known as one of America's Founding Fathers.

The Great Benjamin Franklin *(cont.)*

Benjamin Franklin died in 1790. He was 84 years old. He gave to the world in almost every way. So many things that we have today are because of Benjamin Franklin. He will always be remembered as one of the greatest Americans to have ever lived.

Curious Ben

by Linda Arnold

Who invented the lightning rod?
Ben Franklin, that's who!
Who invented batteries?
Ben Franklin did that, too!

Curious Ben, Curious Ben,
Science was the key
That helped you on your way
With each discovery.

Who invented the fire department?
Ben Franklin, that's who!
And the lending library?
Ben Franklin did that, too!

Curious Ben, Curious Ben
You're an inspiration
Always full of bright ideas
That helped to build our nation.

Who invented the lightning rod?
Ben Franklin, that's who!
If we find a bright idea
We can be inventors, too!

The Life of Helen Keller

Helen Keller was born in 1880. She was a healthy baby. The first year of her life was normal. One day, she got really sick. She had a very high fever. She lost her sight. She also lost her hearing. She was blind and deaf.

Keller grew very frustrated. She could not hear. She could not see. She could not talk to people. Keller began to have horrible tantrums.

Keller's family needed help. They hired a teacher. Anne Sullivan became Keller's teacher. She taught Keller many things, including new words. She also helped Keller connect ideas. Keller felt Sullivan's lips as she talked. Even though Sullivan was not always easy to understand, Keller never gave up.

Keller worked hard her entire life. She grew up to be an amazing woman. She went to college. She wrote books. She traveled the world. She did not let anything stop her.

Perhaps Keller's greatest gift was teaching others to respect her. She wanted respect for all people who were blind or deaf. She shared her life with others. Helen Keller died in 1968. She lived a full life. She was a hero to many people.

A Very Special Teacher

by Linda Arnold

A very special teacher can be just like a friend,
Someone who stands beside you
And helps you round each bend.

A strong but caring teacher can be just like a guide,
Someone who helps you see the light
That's shining deep inside.

If you're standing in the darkness
And a song of hope you cannot hear,
A true friend and teacher
Can help miracles appear.

A very special teacher can help us on our way.
But we're the ones who travel
Into that brighter day.
For every dream is possible with courage on our side,
The power of knowledge, and a teacher as our guide.

Helen Keller with Anne Sullivan.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Change Comes to School Lunches

To: All Willowbrook Elementary Teachers and Staff

Great news! The school administration has decided to change the school lunch program. On Monday, our lunch program becomes healthy. We'll have an organic salad bar with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. We'll have delicious grilled chicken sandwiches, fish tacos, and whole wheat pasta. There will be plenty of vegetarian entrées, too, like tofu burgers.

There will be no more greasy potato chips or fattening ice cream. Instead, we'll have baked crisps and frozen yogurt. The only drinks will be water, fruit juice, and skim milk. Most of the students will love these changes right away. For others, eating healthy lunches will take some time to get used to.

Obesity is a big problem on our campus, and our lunch program has been partly to blame. These changes are long overdue.

I encourage you to try all the great new foods offered for lunch. You can model healthy eating for your students!

From: Principal Warren

School Lunch

Hungry! I yell, "I hear the bell!"
It's time to dine. I'll wait in line!
Then . . .
I'll munch a bunch of yummy lunch.
I'll eat a treat of cheese and meat.
I'll gnash a rash of tasty hash.
I'll gnaw a paw of jicama.
I'll chew a slew of tasty stew.
I'll nip some sips of milk through lips.
I'll feed the need for cookie greed.
It's time to dine. But . . . I'm still in line!
Growl . . .

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Crayon Factory

The manager of a crayon factory has to design a new box for crayons. She has to figure out a design that will hold 48 crayons. The factory crew gives the manager some ideas.

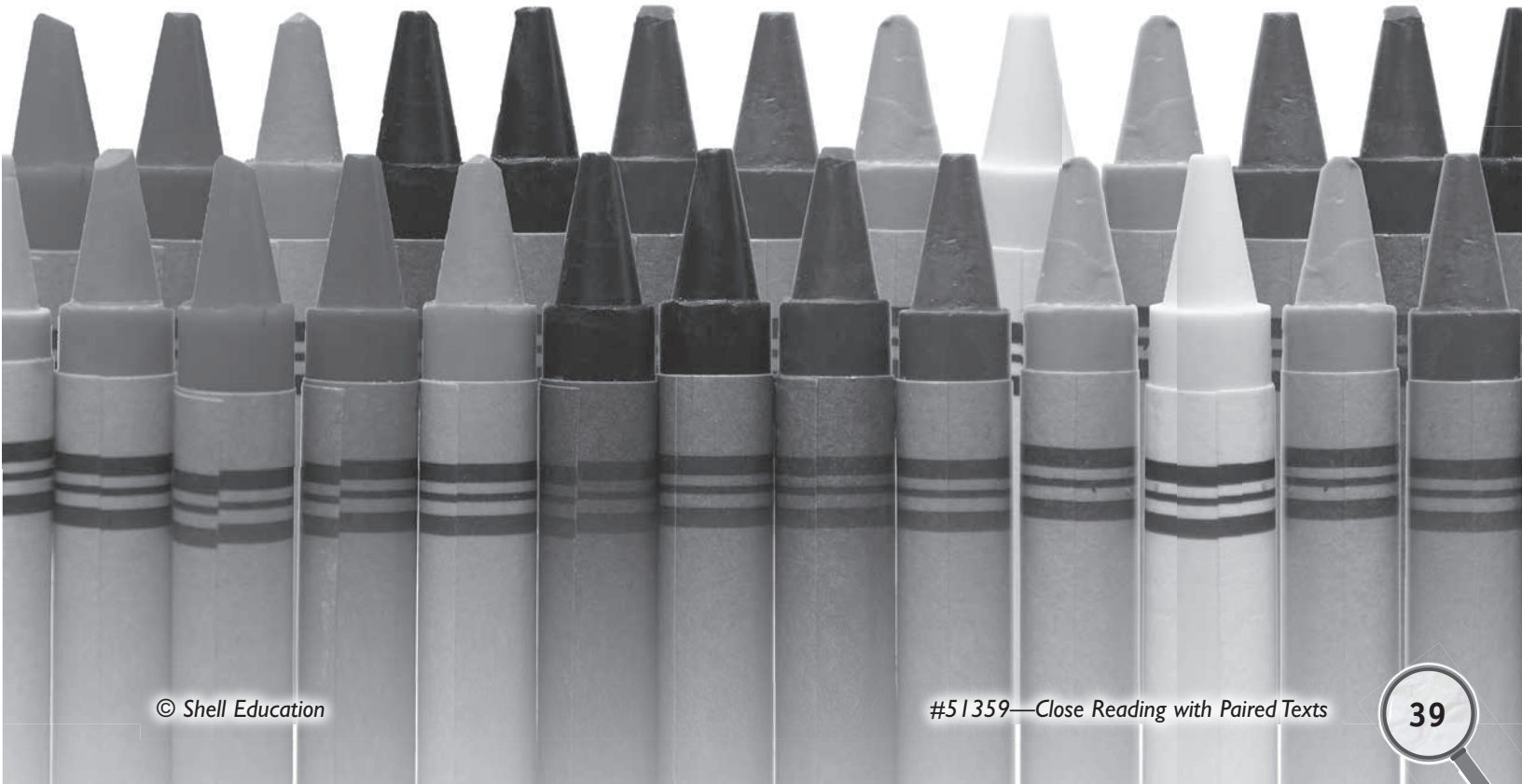
First, Bob suggests a box with six rows. He says that there would be eight crayons in each row.

Next, Mei suggests a box with four rows. She says that there would be twelve crayons in each row.

Alberto decides he wants to create a longer box for the crayons. He wants only three rows for the box. Each row would have sixteen crayons.

Sam has one more idea. He suggests a long skinny box with only two rows. Twenty-four crayons would be in each row.

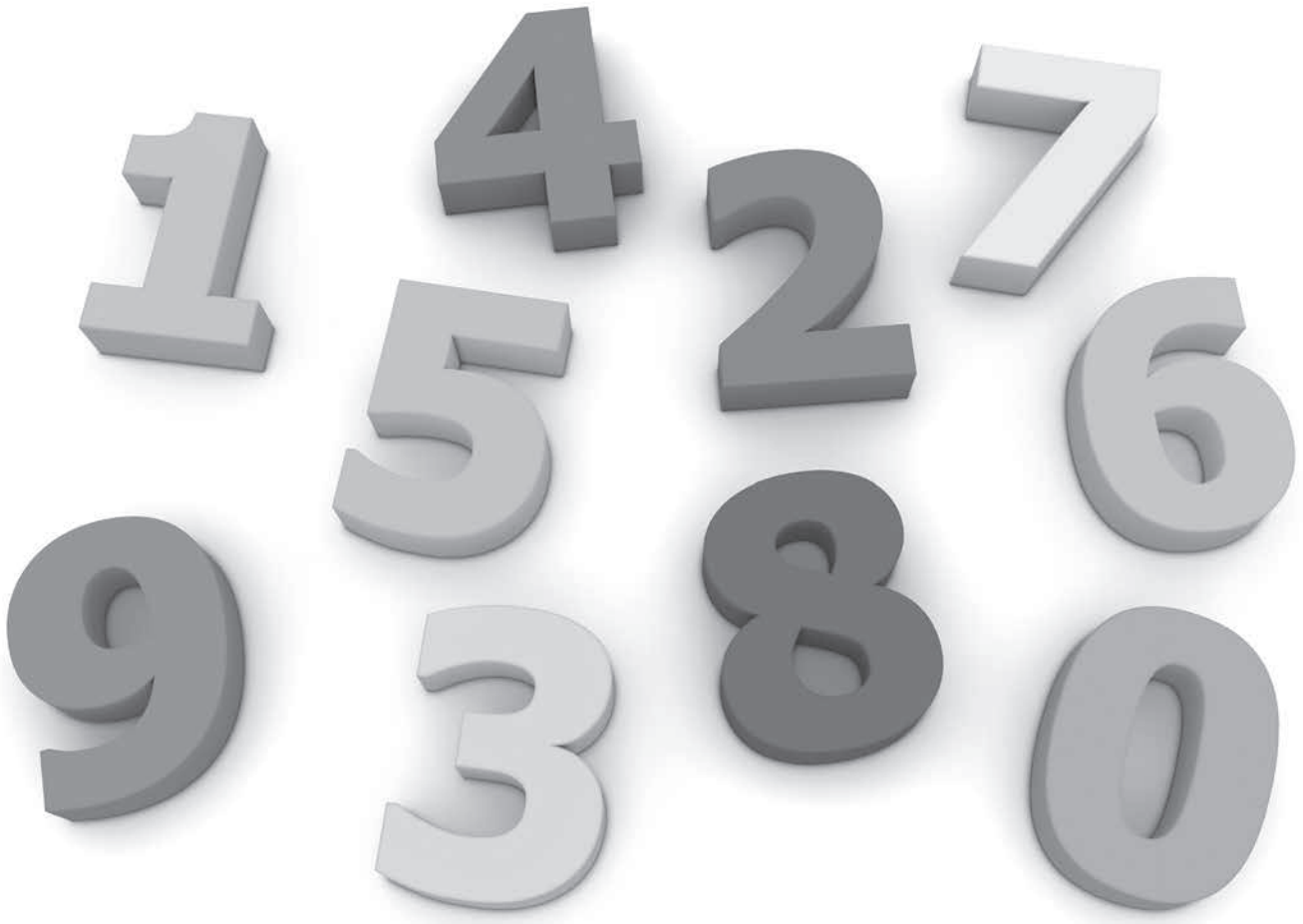
The crew is proud of their ideas, and their manager is happy to have some feedback from others. Now, she has to figure out which design would be the best to make. What do you think?



Math Journey

by Linda Arnold

6 times 7 is 42.
Count on me, and I'll count on you,
For a journey, a math journey.
Why hesitate, just calculate.
4 times 3 times 2 times 1,
That's . . . 24!
Wasn't that fun?
Do the math, yeah! Do the math!
Math Journey!
From ancient Greece to modern day,
Math has helped science on its way.
Math is a tool. Math is a key.
Math is an opportunity!



Name: _____ Date: _____

Earth's Tallest Mountains

Where is the "Top of the World"?

The "Top of the World" is a nickname for Mount Everest. It is the highest mountain on Earth above sea level. It stands about 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) high. It towers over the nation of Nepal in Asia.

Has anyone climbed Mount Everest?

In 1953, two climbers summited Mount Everest. They were Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. Since then, thousands of climbers have reached the top. However, it is very dangerous, and hundreds of people have died trying to do so.

What is the tallest mountain on Earth?

The tallest mountain on Earth is Mauna Kea in Hawaii. It stands on the ocean floor, so most of it is under water. It is 33,476 feet high (10,203 meters) from its base to its top. Although it is much taller than Mount Everest, it is not the highest mountain on Earth because so little of it appears above sea level. That is why Mount Everest is considered the world's highest mountain.

Can mountains grow?

Some mountains are growing. Rocks under the earth move and push up the mountains. In fact, each year, even Mount Everest grows taller. Some mountains get smaller over time due to erosion. Rain, snow, and ice break up the rock. As these rocks fall or wash away, the mountain loses height.

erosion—the process by which the earth's surface is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, and wind

summited—reached the top of a mountain

Who's Right?

Allison: I'm right!

Daniel: No, I'm right!

Ava: No, no, no! You're both wrong. I'm the one who's right!

Teacher: Wait a minute! What in the world are all of you right about?

Allison: We're trying to answer the question, what is the tallest mountain? I know I'm right because Mount Everest is the tallest mountain.

Daniel: Nope, Mount McKinley is the tallest mountain! It's also known by its native name, Denali, which means "the great one!"

Ava: You are both wrong because Mauna Kea is the tallest!

Teacher: I think I see the problem. I have a book that will help solve it. Look here, this book has a chart that shows the heights of the tallest mountains in the world.

Ava: It says that Mauna Kea is the tallest mountain in the world!

Teacher: You are right, but we can only see 13,803 feet (4,207 meters) of it! Most of it is below the ocean.

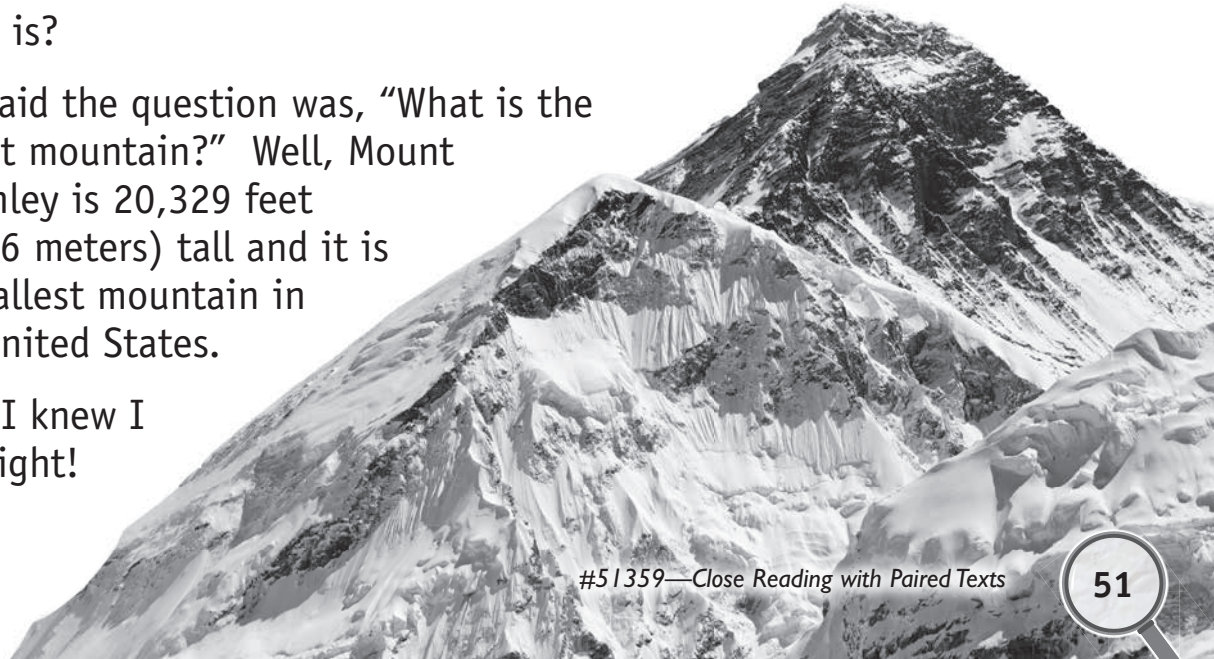
Allison: So Mount Everest is the tallest mountain?

Teacher: It is considered the tallest mountain. It's almost over 29,000 feet (8,840 meters) tall, but there is a way that Daniel is right, too!

Students: There is?

Teacher: You said the question was, "What is the tallest mountain?" Well, Mount McKinley is 20,329 feet (6,196 meters) tall and it is the tallest mountain in the United States.

Daniel: Yes! I knew I was right!



Name: _____ Date: _____

Who's Right? (*cont.*)

Ava It also says Mount Huascaran is the tallest mountain in South America at 22,205 feet (6,768 meters).

Daniel: Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet (5,894 meters) is the tallest in Africa!

Allison: This doesn't help us answer the question. Which is the tallest?

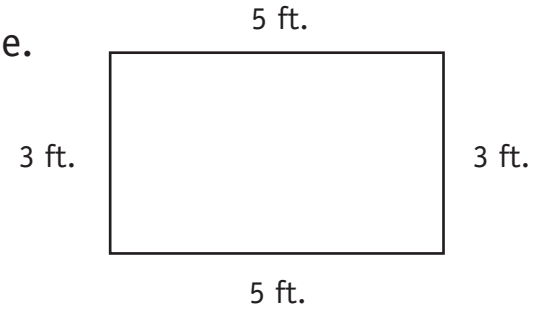
Teacher: Actually, it does. Mauna Kea is the tallest if you measure from the ocean floor, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain on the land in all Earth, and Mount McKinley is the tallest in the United States. So, do you know what that means?

Students: We are ALL right!

Understanding Perimeter

Perimeter is the total distance around the outside of a two-dimensional shape. To find the perimeter of an object, follow these two steps:

1. Measure each side.



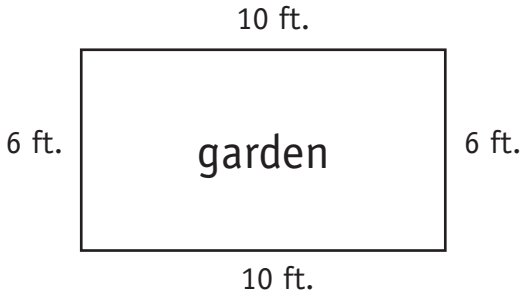
2. Add together all of the measurements.
5 ft. + 3 ft. + 5 ft. + 3 ft. = 16 ft.

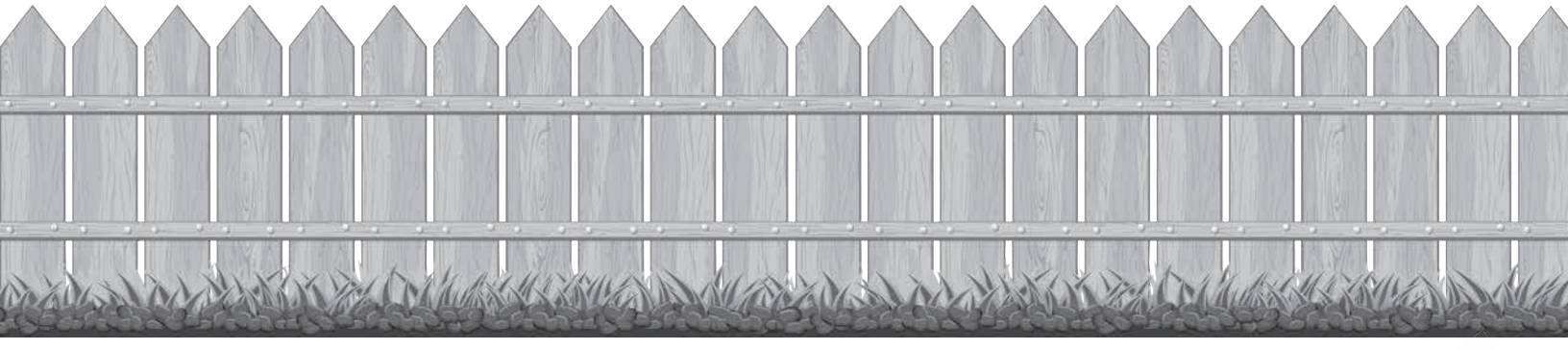
Real-Life Application

A farmer wants to build a fence around his garden. How much wood will he need? He will need to figure out the perimeter.

6 ft. + 10 ft. + 6 ft. + 10 ft. = 32 ft.

He will need 32 feet of fencing.





Name: _____ Date: _____

Painting a Room

Adapted from a piece by Sharon Coan

"Mom, I'm sick of my room. It's so boring. It's been the same color since I was born. Can you paint a border around the walls today? Then my room will look extra cool!" whined Joey.

"Well, dear. I agree that your room needs painting. But, I think you are old enough to help with a lot of the work. While I'm getting ready, you need to measure the length of each wall and the height of the ceiling," smiled Mrs. Smith. She was thinking, "He's going to be surprised when he sees that it isn't such an easy job." That's how a Saturday morning began in the Smith family household.

Joey got his dad to help him with the measuring when he found out that it was hard for one person to do. Joey discovered that each wall was 9 feet (2.74 meters) long and the ceiling was 8 feet (2.44 meters) high. He wrote the dimensions of the room on a sheet of paper. Soon, Joey and his mom were off to the home-improvement store. On the way, Joey's mom casually asked him what color he wanted to paint the border. "I was thinking of green," Joey replied confidently.

At the store, Joey stood in awe of all the different colors of paint. There must have been 500 shades of green alone. "Just show me which shade of green you want, Joey," his mom said with a grin on her face.

A couple of hours later, having decided on the color of paint, the amount of paint, and the painting tools needed, Joey and his mom headed home.

In the car, Joey spoke in a small voice, "Mom, I'm pretty worn out today with all that decision making. Do you think we can paint next Saturday?"

"Sure, Joey. That will give you all week to get your room cleaned, your furniture moved, and covers over everything so paint won't get on your furniture," his mom replied.

Joey just groaned, "Maybe this wasn't such a bright idea."

Super Storms

There are many different types of storms, but two of the most powerful are tornadoes and hurricanes. They are different in many ways, but can both be very destructive.

Tornadoes

A tornado is a bad storm that acts like a huge vacuum. It moves at a high speed. It can go as fast as 31 miles (50 kilometers) per hour. Tornadoes pick up everything in their paths and drop them far away. Even heavy items like trucks are no match for a tornado's strength.

Tornadoes start as thunderstorms over land. These huge storms can form supercells, which start to turn. The supercells are huge rainstorms that can have thunder and lightning. They can cause hail and strong winds. Strong winds blow around the storm. The air inside the clouds starts to spin. The spinning winds can touch the ground. Once that happens, it is a tornado.

Hurricanes

Each year, hurricanes cause more damage than all other storms combined. Hurricanes start as tropical storms over warm water in late summer or fall. They are rotating storm systems with strong winds and heavy rains. Hurricanes have wind speeds of over 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour.

The center of a hurricane is called the eye. Clouds rush toward it. But they start to spin due to Earth's rotation. As a result, the eye stays calm. It has no clouds and no wind.

Super Storms (*cont.*)

As soon as hurricanes reach land, they lose much of their power. There can still be a lot of damage on the land, though. A hurricane causes large waves which crash onto shore. This causes flooding. High winds blow, lightning flashes, and rain pours. A hurricane can cause millions of dollars in damage.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Dear Diary

Dear Diary,

I had a very scary dream last night! I dreamt that my family and I were caught in an enormous tornado. I have seen two small tornadoes in real life, but this one was nothing like the ones I've experienced before. This one was really big—and kind of strange, too.

It all started on a beautiful Saturday morning. My dog, Toto, and I were playing and minding our own business. But mean Mrs. Gultch came by and said that Toto had ruined her flower beds! She brought the sheriff. They wanted to take Toto away. We ran to hide, but the storm came up fast. We didn't expect it! We ran for cover back home, but I hit my head and couldn't make it to the storm cellar.

Clouds whirled in an angry green color, and winds began to blow furiously around us. We could see lightning and rain. The storm crept closer and closer to our home. We could see the damage it was causing along its path. We were frozen with fear.

Then, our house was lifted up in the storm! The tornado whirled around us. I even think I saw Mrs. Gultch on her bicycle in the air! Maybe I just imagined her because of the bump on my head, but it sure seemed real!

Next, a lot of strange stuff happened that I don't really remember, but I think there was something about a tin man and a scarecrow, and there may have been some flying monkeys. Weird, right? But before I knew it, I was waking up in my room. It must have all been a bad dream. Even though it was just a dream, it still felt very real and very scary. I certainly don't want to ever experience that again in a dream or in real life!

It's odd, though. I have a nagging desire to wear red shoes.

Dorothy

A Butterfly's Life

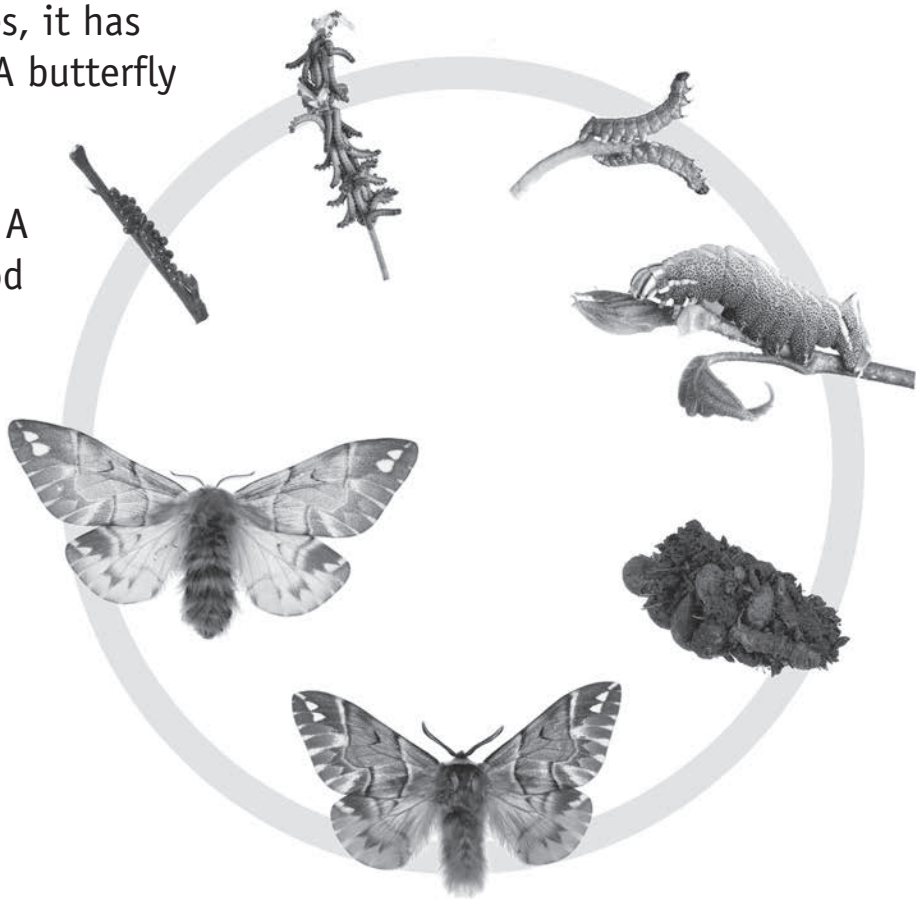
Every living thing goes through stages in its life. A butterfly is no different.

First, a butterfly lays an egg on a leaf. A butterfly egg is very small. It can be as small as the period at the end of this sentence. This is called the larva stage.

Next, a caterpillar hatches out of the egg. The leaf becomes food for the caterpillar when it hatches from the egg. Caterpillars feed and grow during this time. They grow up to 100 times their size and shed their skin four or five times as they grow.

Then, the caterpillar spins a chrysalis. This is also called the pupa stage. The chrysalis usually hangs from under a branch or leaf. Sometimes the chrysalis is underground. Most caterpillars stay inside the chrysalises for a couple of weeks, but some species can stay in for a couple of months.

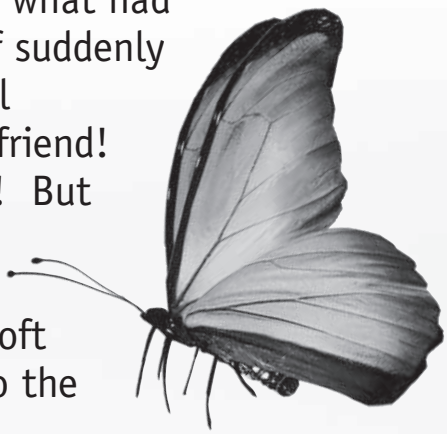
When the caterpillar emerges, it has become a beautiful butterfly. A butterfly has six legs and two antennae. It has wings that it uses to fly. The wings are very important! A butterfly must fly to find a good place to lay eggs. Then, the cycle can begin again.



The Ant and the Chrysalis

An ant nimbly running about in the sunshine in search of food came across a chrysalis that was very near its time of metamorphosis. The chrysalis moved its tail and attracted the attention of the ant, who then saw for the first time that it was alive. "Poor, pitiful animal! What a sad fate is yours! While I can run hither and thither at my pleasure, you lie imprisoned here in your shell, with power only to move a joint or two of your scaly tail." The chrysalis heard all this, but it did not try to make any reply.

A few days later, when the ant passed that way again, nothing but the shell remained. Wondering what had happened to its contents, the ant felt itself suddenly fanned by the gorgeous wings of a beautiful butterfly. "Behold in me your much-pitied friend! Boast now of your powers to run and climb! But it will be difficult for me to listen," said the butterfly. For after he said this, the butterfly rose in the air, borne along and aloft on the summer breeze, and was soon lost to the sight of the ant forever.



The moral of this fable is, "Appearances are deceptive."

Understanding Gravity

Gravity is one of the strongest forces around. If it were a living thing, it would be a superhero! But it is not living. It is a force. A force is a push, pull, or twist on one object based on the activity of another object. Gravity is a force that attracts one physical body to another one. You cannot see gravity. You cannot touch it. But it makes the planets go around the sun. It keeps the moon going around Earth. And it keeps you grounded on Earth rather than floating up into space.

Try jumping as high as you can. No matter how high you jump, you come back down again. That is gravity. Everything that is not held up by another force comes down because of gravity. There is no way to avoid it. Gravity is like a law. It is a law of nature!

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Skateboard Trick

Shawn: Mom, Mom, I did it! I did an ollie!

Mom: Who's Ollie?

Shawn: Oh, Mom, you're funny. It's not a who, it's a what.

Mom: Okay, what's an ollie?

Shawn: It's a skateboard trick!

Mom: Cool! How do you do an ollie?

Shawn: You put one foot in the middle of the board and the other foot at the back of the board. Then, push the tail down so it smacks the ground and the board flies up.

Mom: Wow!

Shawn: That's not all. As the board flies up, you pull your knees to your chest. Then, you land with your knees bent.

Mom: That sounds impressive! But I hope you remember two things.

Shawn: What's that?

Mom: What goes up, must come down.

Shawn: What does that mean?

Mom: Just a friendly reminder from Gravity, an old friend of ours.

Shawn: Ha, ha. Okay, I get it. Gravity is a force that pulls one physical body to another body. So big old Earth uses its gravity to pull little old me back down to the ground whenever I go up, right? Okay, Mom, I get it.

Mom: Well, good. I thought you might. You and gravity have had some run-ins before. Remember climbing that tree? Gravity brought you back to the grass below long before you meant to come down. You had a cast for a few weeks after that! And when you wanted to fly off your bunk bed like Superman, there was gravity again. Good thing Daddy was there to catch you!

A Skateboard Trick (*cont.*)

Shawn: Oh, don't remind me. Okay, so I know about gravity. But you said to remember two things. What else? Be careful, right?

Mom: Well, yes, be careful. But that wasn't the second thing I was going to say.

Shawn: Well then, what else should I remember?

Mom: Your helmet!

Shawn: Oh, you're a regular comedian, Mom.

A Day to Remember

Adapted from a piece by Suzanne Barchers

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It was held to celebrate the end to World War I. On the first Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, veterans paraded, and people attended church services. At exactly 11:00 A.M., the time of the cease-fire, two minutes of silence were observed in honor of the dead veterans.

After World War I, there were other wars. Veterans died in World War II and the Korean War. People wanted to honor all of the veterans who had served the country. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the establishment of Veterans Day. It is celebrated November 11 each year.

Other countries have days set aside to honor their veterans, too. In England, the British Commonwealth celebrates Remembrance Sunday. Canada has Remembrance Day. France and Australia also honor the losses in both World War I and World War II on or near November 11. Having a special holiday helps us stop and remember the veterans who have died for our countries.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Honoring Veterans

by Suzanne Barchers

Reader 1: The first Armistice Day was for World War I.

Reader 2: An armistice means that the fighting is done.

Reader 1: The fighting had stopped on this very day.

Reader 2: The battle was over. Our military forces had won.

Reader 1: Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day.

Reader 2: The change came in 1954.

Reader 1: Americans wanted to honor all veterans . . .

Reader 2: At home or away in war.

Reader 1: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier holds veterans.

Reader 2: It helps honor those who have died.

Reader 1: We also have parades and remember those people . . .

Reader 2: Who have served as protectors with pride.

Reader 1: Thank you to the veterans.

Reader 2: We all wish war would cease.

Reader 1: Thank you for your service . . .

Both: In helping work for peace.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Amazing American: Susan B. Anthony

Adapted from a piece by Stephanie Kuligowski

Susan B. Anthony was a smart and strong woman. She believed all people are equal. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820. When Anthony grew up, she became a teacher in New York. She earned $110 a year. Male teachers earned about $400 a year. Anthony thought this was unfair. She wanted better pay for women.

Anthony wanted to change the world. She fought for the rights of women and African Americans. Anthony wanted to change the way people were treated. Long ago, men had more rights than women had. Women could not own a house. They could not vote. Many people wanted to change things for women. They wanted women to have the right to vote. This was called suffrage.

People worked hard for suffrage. Anthony and her friends marched in parades. They gave speeches and had meetings. They did not give up. They wanted women to have equal rights. Anthony was an activist. She took action to make her world a better place.

Anthony saw the end of slavery, but she never got to vote legally. She died in 1906. Women won the right to vote in 1920.

Vote!

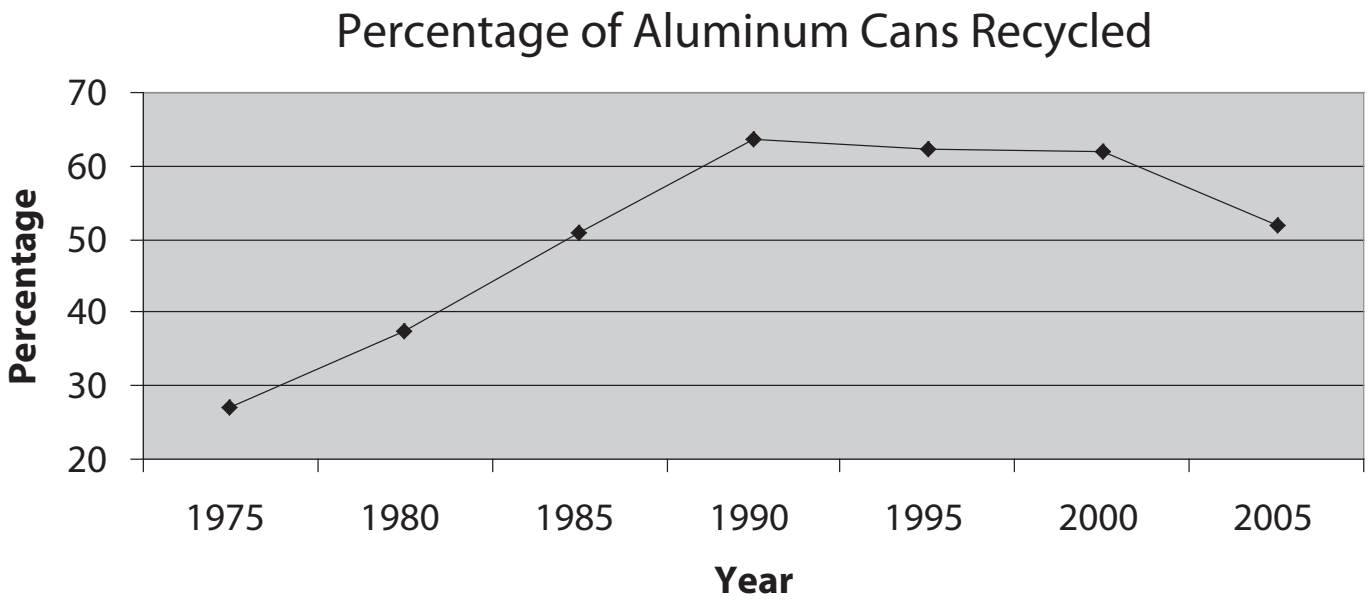
Vote, vote, vote!
Let Susan B. Anthony vote!
She has a right!
She has a say!
Vote, vote, vote!

Vote, vote, vote!
Let every woman vote!
She has a right!
She has a say!
Vote, vote, vote!

Vote, vote, vote!
Now every woman can vote!
She has a right!
We found a way!
So, vote, vote, vote!

Recycling Trends

Many things can be recycled. This includes, but is not limited to, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass, paper, newspaper, and tin cans. Look at this chart showing the percentages of aluminum cans collected for recycling since 1975.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Over and Over Again

At school, Ann learned about recycling. She learned that metal, paper, plastic, and glass can be reused!

Ann told Mom and Dad about recycling. They agreed to recycle. They found bins. They had a bin for paper. They had one for metal. And they had one for plastic and glass. They put the bins in the garage.

Dad said, "We will use these every day." Ann and her family cared about helping Earth.

Each day, they used the bins. Newspapers, boxes, and milk jugs went in. Bottles, cans, and jars were put in them. Then the bins were full. Ann and her mom took them to a recycling center. The old things would become new again!