

CAPS

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learning



GRADE

2

CORE READER

Platinum

English First Additional
Language

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Platinum English First Additional Language Grade 2 Core Reader

Maskew Miller Learning
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An odd day

Text 1

Term 1

Pre-reading activity

Have you ever had a day when everything felt odd?

New words

still: It was still outside, as if everything had stopped.

empty: The classroom was empty, as there were no learners.

fresh: It is important to eat fresh vegetables.

One morning, Chu wakes up. It is early in the morning. Everything feels odd.

She looks out of the window. She sees that the trees are still.

“Something's missing,” she thinks. She goes to find Mum. She finds Mum in the kitchen.

Mum is trying to open the tap, but no water comes out.

“That's odd. What's happened to the water?”

“We need water to wash,” Mum says.

Chu eats the apple from the bowl on the table. “I need more food,” she says. “Me too,” says her brother, Bash.



Blend this word

t-a-p



Say these sounds

ll in still
dd in odd



“But there is no more food. The fridge is empty.” Outside, the air feels odd and heavy. “It’s hard to breathe. The air does not feel clean,” Bash says. The sun is also not shining anymore. “Where is the sun?” Mum asks.



“We need warmth to keep us comfy,” Mum says to Chu. That night, Chu finds it hard to fall asleep. She tosses and turns in her bed. “Sleep helps us too,” she says to her pet dog, Ming.

The next morning, everything is back to normal. The air is no longer heavy, it feels fresh. Water flows from the tap. There is food in the fridge. The sun is shining brightly in the sky.

Chu feels happy for the things they have. “We have air, water, food and warmth,” she says with a smile.

Mum nods, “Yes, we do. And don’t forget sleep. These all keep us healthy and strong, no matter what happens!”

“Yes,” says Chu, nodding. “I am so sure I will sleep well tonight!”

Post-reading activity

How would you feel about an odd day like the one in the story?

Try this! Think of the best day ever. Tell your friend about it. Think: Where are you? What are you doing? Who are you with?

We help each other

Text 2

Pre-reading activity

Act out these words:

- tangled
- break
- rush

New words

stuck: The insect was stuck in a web.

tangled: My hair is tangled and full of knots.

break: Don't break the glass.



Once upon a time, in a beautiful, sunny garden full of flowers, there lived a busy little bee named Bree and a slow snail named Zaid.

Bree loved the flowers. She loved their sweet smell. She loved their beautiful colours.

Zaid enjoyed painting a shiny trail on the path. He would slowly slide up and down the path, painting a shiny trail. One day, Bree saw that Zaid was stuck in a chain of tangled vines.

Say these words

ABC

sweet, bee,
trail, chain

Break down this word

rain | bow
rainbow

chain

"Don't be afraid, Zaid," said Bree. "Let me see!"
Bree used her wings to break the chain. She pushed and pushed her wings against the chain. Soon Zaid was free.
"Thank you, Bree!" cried Zaid happily. "You saved me."



Later that week, a big hailstorm hit the garden, causing Bree's hive to fall apart. It lay sadly on the ground.
Zaid heard Bree's wail and rushed to help.

"You wait here, Bree," he said, leading her to a tree with green leaves. "You have had a fright. I'll fix your hive."
"Oh, thank you, Zaid," Bree exclaimed gladly. "But I will help fix my hive."

"Yes," said Zaid. "Let us help each other. We can always rely on each other just like a rainbow always follows the rain and hail."

"Yes," agreed Bree, "We are always there to help each other."

Blend this word

w-ee-k



Say these sounds

ai in rain
ee in tree



Post-reading activity

1. How did Bree and Zaid help each other in the story?
2. Write about how you helped a friend. Start like this:
I helped by ...

Try this! Think of a person at school who helps you the most. Write them a thank-you letter.

We are all special

Text 3

Pre-reading activity

1. Talk about something you enjoy doing with your friends.
2. What does “special” mean? Make a sentence with it.

New words

score: I want to score a goal.

boast: I shouldn't boast when I win.

croak: Frogs and birds croak.

Shaka: Hey, Jabu! There you are. Ready to play soccer at the park?

Jabu: Yeah, let's go! I can't wait for our soccer game. I've got my red shoes on. I'm going to score a goal.

Shaka: Yes, our shoes match. They are lucky shoes. I'm going to score a goal too.

Jabu: We must not kick the ball too high.

Shaka: Yay! Go for goal! Go for goal!

Jabu: Mom says we must not boast. If we score goals, I mean.

Jabu: Hey, look at this. Can you hop like a toad?

Shaka: No, but I can croak like a frog. Listen.



Say these sounds



oa in boast
igh in right

Jabu: It's time for a snack. I brought an apple. What did you bring?

Shaka: Me too. I brought an apple. And a bottle of water. Hey, I like the bright sunlight. Let's sit on the grass there.


Jabu: I must not get too much sun, remember. Let's sit in the shade.

Shaka: Oh yes, that's right, I remember. Let's sit under the oak tree. There's a lot of shade under it.

Jabu: Thanks. I'm glad we're friends. We look different but we like the same things.



Say this word **ABC**
right

Blend this word 
br-igh-t

Post-reading activity

1. What do Shaka and Jabu like to do together?
2. Write about your favourite game outside.

Start like this: I play with ...

This this! Complete the dialogue and act it out with a classmate. What do Shaka and Jabu say next?

Special Sphindile

Text 4

Pre-reading activity

1. Look at the pictures. What do you think the story is about?
2. Choose three words that rhyme: soap, cheek, steak, seek, boast, toast.

New words

painful: Standing on glass or a thorn is painful.

temperature: The temperature today is hot. Yesterday it was cold.

Sphindile felt special because she was always healthy. “I never get ill!” she would boast. “Aren’t I lucky?” But when Sphindile woke up on Monday she felt sick, sick, sick. Her body was sore and hot. Her throat was raw and painful. Her nose ran. This was no fun.

Sphindile called her mom and told her how she felt. Her mom drove her to the clinic. The doctor took Sphindile’s



temperature. Oh no! It was very high. “To bed, to bed, here are your meds,” the doctor told Sphindile. He sent her home and told her mom: “Make sure she sleeps. She must drink lots of water.”



Say this sound



oa in boast

Blend this word



f-u-n

Poor Sphindile felt very ill and sorry for herself. She didn't feel special at all. Sphindile stayed in bed for three whole days. She did as the doctor had said.

On Thursday she felt better and could sit up in her bed. She read and drew and later, she ate a slice of toast.

On Friday she was hungry. Her mom made her a tasty stew.

She ate it all and soon she knew that before long she would be well. The next day she was up and about, her special healthy self. Thank goodness, Sphindile!



**Break down
this word**



doctor

Blend this word



tem-pera-ture

**Say this
word**



stew

Post-reading activity

1. Tell a partner about a time when you were sick or hurt. How did you feel?
2. Find a word on the page that sounds the same as boast.

Try this! Read the story to yourself, then retell it to someone in your family.

Healthy living tips

Text 5

Pre-reading activity

Do you like fruit or vegetables? Why?

New words

mood: I am always in a good mood after being active.

exercise: I like to exercise in the morning.

energy: I have more energy when I am fit.

1 Choose good foods

Eat fresh fruits and vegetables to help your mood!



2 Cook your meals

Cooking at home is fun and makes healthy food taste better.

3 Drink enough water

Water is cool! Drink lots to feel good and look great.

Say these words

A
C B

fruit, water



4 Play outdoors

Look at what exercise others do and join them.

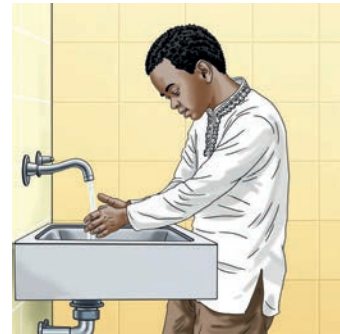
Playing in the sunshine keeps your body strong and full of energy.



5 Keep clean

Brush your teeth twice a day to keep your smile bright.

Wash your hands before eating and after using the bathroom.



6 Get enough sleep

Get a good night's sleep.

Don't sleep when the moon sleeps.

Reading a book before bed will help you sleep.



Post-reading activity

1. Why is it good to eat fruits and vegetables?
2. Write about your favourite healthy food. Start like this: My favourite food is ...

Try this! List the fruit and vegetables you see in the bowl on page 9.

Write a list of your eight favourite fruits and vegetables.

Say these words

A B C

Take a look at the book. It's a good book!

Our school has a pool. It's a cool school pool.

A special day in South Africa

Text 6

Pre-reading activity

How do you celebrate Heritage Day?

New words

roti: I like curry with roti, not rice.

floats: The dancers in the parade were dancing on the floats.

traditional: I like to eat traditional South African foods such as smoked snoek.

Tumi is going with Mash and his family to the Heritage Day parade today. Tumi is excited. She can't wait to see the bright rainbow colours. "Look! My dad made us curry and roti to eat after the parade," says Mash.

"Yum!" says Tumi, "My mom made us pap and boerewors for Heritage Day."

"Let's go to the parade! I hope it doesn't rain," says Mash. They soon arrive at the parade.

"Wow!" says Mash, "Look at the floats with the dancers and drummers! They are so high above us."

Tumi adds, "And see the people in their traditional clothes, Mash. They look amazing."



Tumi and Mash cannot believe the wonder of the Heritage Day fun. Mash wants to join the drum circle and they do this for a while. Then Tumi says, “Mash, let us go hear Auntie sing. Her voice is so sweet.” Auntie is very pleased to see them. Mash asks his dad if they can stay till the evening. “I love the lights at night,” says Mash.



Tumi says, “And look, the fireworks are starting. They look like showers of bright rain.”

Mash says, “I feel so happy to celebrate our heritage. Look at this special chain with rainbow beads they gave me.”

“Me too!” says Tumi, “I have one too. It’s special to be part of this beautiful South Africa.”

Say this
word



rhythm

Post-reading activity

Which part of the story do you like the best?

Try this! Retell the story about Tumi and Mash's day. Think: Where did they go? What did they see? What did they say?

The four seasons

Text 7

Pre-reading activity

Find a word on page 14 that means the same as circle.

Term 2



season: Summer is the season for swimming.

autumn: In autumn, leaves turn orange and yellow and fall from the trees.

A long time ago, there were many seasons. Each season did as it wished. It might be boiling hot or freezing cold. It might rain or snow for days. The wind could blow for weeks. It was all very mixed up. The people did not like it. They asked the sun, moon and stars to make a new plan.



Say these
words

A
C B

The cow went
up to the moon.
She flew there
in a balloon!
Balloon popped,
cow dropped,
No more cow
on the moon!



“The seasons need order,” said the stars.

“They must work together,” agreed the sun and moon.

“Could we make a ring of seasons?” asked one small star.

“Yes, a ring would be perfect!” replied the sun. “A ring goes round and round. It never ends!”

The clever little star beamed. The sun and moon put the seasons into a circle.



Now each season has a special task to do.
They must focus on their task only and not bother the other seasons.

Spring for new life.

Summer for growing.

Autumn to slow down.

And winter to rest.

All the seasons were equal.

To this day, our seasons come in the same order every year.



Post-reading activity

1. “The clever little star beamed.” Draw a picture to show what this looks like.
2. Match words that rhyme:
sing season wing reason spring.

Try this! Read the story again with a partner. Now act it out. You can also act the rhyme on page 13.

My special dog

Text 8

Pre-reading activity

Find two words on the page that rhyme with hay.

New words

excited: I am so excited for my birthday, I can hardly wait.

snuggle: In winter it is cosy to snuggle up under a blanket.

I love my dog. She is my best friend. She licks my ear to wake me up in the morning. She wags her tail and seems to smile.

"Come and play, it's a lovely day!" she tells me. "Don't waste your time in bed! Up you get you sleepy head! Let's go for a walk instead."





My dog loves a walk. When it is safe
I take off her lead so she can run
freely. She races around at top speed.
I throw a ball and she fetches it.
She loves to swim and chase fish.
She never catches any but spends
hours peering into the water. When
she sees little fish, she pounces!

**Say these
words**

**A
C
B**

Never fear
when my dog
is near.
He will wag
and get excited
when he looks
for fish!

My dog looks after me. She barks at anyone who comes too close. She meets me when I get home. She looks so excited and happy to see me. I wonder what she has been doing while I'm out. Sometimes I find an empty sweet packet and then I know! At night she snuggles up with my cat. They keep each other warm.



Post-reading activity

1. What is a lead used for?
2. When is it safe to let a dog run freely?

Try this! Read the story with a partner.
Each choose a page and act it out for each other.