

English for Life Reader

Home Language

Grade 4

Poetry

Elelephony – Laura Richards

1. Because the poet prepares us for what follows, namely, the confusion when an elephant tries to use a telephone!
2. Laura Richards
3. Two
4. Contamination
5. a) telephone + elephant
b) elephant + telephone
c) telephone + trunk
d) telephone + song
6. Because she says that she is not certain whether she's got it right!
7. To indicate that a letter ("v") has been left out.
8. Because its trunk got entangled in the cord of the telephone.
9. Because she is getting too confused, she cannot get her words straight!

The Cow – Robert Louis Stevenson

1. No. It is an example of personification.
2. No. A cow cannot be red and white.
3. a) whinnies or neighs
b) mews or purrs
c) bleat
d) brays
e) roars
f) croaks
g) gibbers or chatters
4. a) He milked the cow. /He will milk the cow.
b) The cow slept in the barn. /The cow will sleep in the barn.
c) The cow grazed in the field. /The cow will graze in the field.
d) The donkey could do nothing at all. /The donkey will not be able to do anything at all.
e) The milk was finished. /The milk will be finished.
5. a) rooster, cock
b) mare
c) bulls
d) boar
e) dogs
f) lioness

6. a) calf
b) foal
c) cub
d) baby/child
e) chicken
f) lamb
7. Maybe she is kept in an enclosed area.

The first tooth – Charles and Mary Lamb

1. The baby's first tooth has appeared.
2. That he is still a baby (very small).
3. "tiny tooth"/"single sounds"/"mimic motion".
4. Cherished more/valued more.
5. The single sound (half a word) uttered by the baby.
6. "mimic"

If things grew down – Robert D. Hoelt

1. a) dog – pup
b) cat – kitten
c) cow – calf
2. A sweater – mitten, whole – half, small – nothing at all.
3. If something is too small, it will vanish.
4. a) be the top dog – be the most important person
b) a dog in the manger – prevent others from having or doing something you yourself have no use for
c) lead a dog's life – lead an unhappy life
d) let sleeping dogs lie – avoid stirring up trouble
e) dog's breakfast – a mess
5. hole – hole in the ground
6. whole – the whole apple, not only part of it

The vulture – Hilarie Belloc

Discussion

- Yes, they do. They are nature's waste managers, feeding on the carcasses of animals. They prevent disease from spreading and the killing of other animals.
- Vultures are able to digest rotten carcasses that would be lethal to other scavengers.
- It helps to keep the head clean when feeding.
- No, only if it's sickly and dying. They do not hunt for prey.

Answers

1. Two
2. Cross rhyme: abab cdcd
3. "dull" and "bald"
4. A vulture gorges itself on carrion and never stops eating.
5. Do not eat between meals. Do not stuff yourself.
6. a) brood/hatch/clutch

- b) herd
- c) batch
- 7. b) glutton
- 8. meals, feels
- 9. The “u” is pronounced in two different ways, as a “u” and as an “e” sound.
- 10. a) like something the cat has brought in – untidy and dirty
- b) a dark horse – a person of unknown abilities/character
- c) pig-headed – very stubborn
- d) like a bull in a china shop – very clumsy and destructive
- e) as timid as a mouse – very shy
- f) as blind as a bat – completely blind

A worm’s betrayal – Fanie Viljoen

1. A worm was disloyal to someone.
2. Three
3. Personification
4. hole/I did the whole painting by myself./There is a hole in my sock and my toe is sticking out.
5. He is unfaithful, cheating on his wife.
6. His wife and his girlfriend. They were both cheated on. The wife didn’t know about the girlfriend and the girlfriend didn’t know about the wife.
7. Wife
8. Who will get the tail and who will get the head?
9. An earthworm. He lives in the ground and earthworms can regenerate lost segments.

Media texts

Report – Burglars strike in Crown Bay

1. Televisions, DVD players and money were stolen.
2. No, it’s the first time that Crown Bay has been hit by such a crime wave.
3. They pried the back door open with a crowbar.
4. Nobody was home at the time of the break-in.
5. His CDs were stolen. Some of the CDs were very rare. He won’t be able to replace them.
6. He and his friends are going to hand out pamphlets that warn people about crime. The pamphlets will also contain helpful safety tips.
7. Yes, they found fingerprints in Twala’s house.

Information texts

Safety on the Internet

1. Play online games, search for information, do online banking, etc.
2. There are cyber criminals on the Internet who want to steal information or money.
3. Any two of the following:
 - Install an antivirus program into your computer.
 - Put a secret password on your computer.

- Use a unique password for Internet banking.
- Don't give out your personal information on the Internet.
- Don't send personal information in e-mails.
- If you buy something on the Internet, use only secure websites. There must be a small lock icon at the bottom of the webpage.

Do a good deed

1. To help people who are in need
2. Anybody who can give some of their time, skills or energy to improve other people's lives
3. No, you can also take part in groups.
4. No
5. At www.doitday.co.za

Stolen house – Book review

1. Joseph William
2. Robert and Grace
3. The family will start building a bigger house.
4. The children sleep in the kitchen.
5. The tension starts when a man with really shiny shoes arrives at the home.
6. Both boys and girls will enjoy reading the book.

The secret of success

1. She is the youngest South African female to get a student flying licence.
2. At the Brits Flight Training Centre
3. She had to successfully complete the compulsory 8 hours of flying time and the 7 theoretical examinations.
4. Her father Hentie, who is also a pilot, is Winandi's role model.
5. He gave her a lot of encouragement and took her to air shows where he allowed her to sit in the cockpit and talk to other pilots.
6. The secret of her success is that she never gives up, even when the going gets tough. "If your heart is not in it, stop," she advises.
7. She had to find a balance between flying, sport and school.
8. Winandi states that you must not believe people if they tell you that you cannot do something. She advises everyone who wants to pursue their dreams to take them seriously, work hard and give it all they have.
9. Her next dream is to obtain a private flight licence and then a commercial flying licence. After school she would like to work for Emirates. She also dreams of owning her own airline one day.

Play dough

Method

1. Mix all the ingredients, except the food colouring.
2. Stir over medium heat until the mixture forms a ball in the middle.
3. Let the mixture cool down and knead it well.
4. Add the colouring and knead it again.

5. Store it in an airtight container. You could also use a plastic bag.

Answers

1. Water, cooking oil and food colouring
2. Cake flour, salt and cream of tartar
3. Food colouring
4. The mixture will form a ball in the middle.
5. So that you do not burn yourself
6. So that the clay does not dry out

The swimming gala – Read and explain a graph

1. The Dolphins
2. 60 seconds
3. The Sharks
4. 72 seconds
5. The principal cleared his throat and said: “Third place in this year’s swimming gala goes to the Whales, second place goes to the Marlins, and the winners are the Dolphins.”
6. Sharks, Marlins and Whales

Folklore

The mouse who was too clever

Pre-reading

- Very clever means clever than most others. Too clever means to think one is cleverer than one is and to be caught out by one’s own plan or trick.
- Judging from the picture and the title, the mouse will think he can escape the snake but the snake will catch him in the end.

Answers

1. Snake would hiss just loud enough to make the mouse look up into Snake’s eyes. The mouse would be so terrified that it couldn’t run away and Snake would move closer and then snatch it up in his mouth. Some snakes might do this, but most just strike very quickly when an unsuspecting mouse gets close enough.
2. He had to hiss only loudly enough for the mouse to not suspect it was Snake hissing, but enough to arouse its curiosity. If he hissed too loudly the mouse would recognise the sound and run away. If he hissed too softly the mouse would not hear him.
3. Mouse knew that it was looking into Snake’s eyes that caused the others to be caught. He never did this and so could run away.
4. What made Mouse angry was Snake telling him that he thought Mouse was frightened of him.