



Who wants my jellyfish?

I'm not sellyfish!

-Ogden Nash

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## Primary Level

1.

three sentences

The yellow dog dug a hole. He picked up a white bone in his mouth. Then he dropped the bone into the hole.

1. What color did you picture the dog?
2. Why do you think the dog buried the bone?
3. What might he do later?
4. What is a good title for this story?

2.

three sentences

The gray squirrel ran up the tree. He went inside a hole in the tree trunk. There he ate nuts and watched the snow fall.

1. What did you picture the squirrel going into?
2. What did you picture the squirrel eating?
3. How do you think the nuts got into the tree?
4. Why do you think he put them there?
5. What is a good title for this story?

**3.**

*four sentences*

The cat ran after the white duck. Around and around they went in the yard. Then the duck got mad and stopped. "Uh-oh!" said the cat.

1. What did you picture the cat chasing?
2. Where did you picture the cat and the duck running?
3. Why do you think the cat said, "Uh-oh!"?
4. What is a good title for this story?

**4.**

*four sentences*

The stoplight was red. The girl waited to cross the street. The light turned green. She skipped across to her grandfather.

1. What color did you picture the stoplight when the girl was waiting to cross?
2. What makes you think the girl was glad to see her grandfather?
3. What can you picture the girl and her grandfather doing next?
4. What is the main idea of this story?

The Catsup Bottle

First a little  
Then a lottle

-Ogden Nash



## Level One

1.

three sentences

The farmer went into the barn. The cows were waiting for him. He got a bucket and started to milk the cows.

1. Where did you picture the farmer?
2. Who did you picture the cows waiting for?
3. Why do you think the cows were waiting for the farmer?
4. What would be a good title for this story?

2.

three sentences

The little blue egg was in the nest. Soon there was a crack in the egg. A baby bird without feathers popped out of the egg: "Peep, peep."

1. What color did you picture the little egg?
2. Where did you picture the egg?
3. What did you picture popping out of the egg?
4. Why do you think the baby bird didn't have feathers when it came out?
5. What is a good title for this story?

## Level One

3.

four sentences

The monkey held the green balloon by its string. Oops, he let the string go. The balloon flew up into the sky. The monkey jumped up and down!

1. What did you picture the monkey holding?
2. Why do you think the monkey jumped up and down?
3. Was he happy, sad, or mad? Why?
4. What do you picture happening next?
5. What is a good title for this story?

4.

four sentences

The tree in the yard had red leaves. Soon the leaves fell to the ground. The wind blew them all around. The girl got her rake.

1. What color did you picture the leaves on the tree?
2. Why do you think the girl got her rake?
3. What do you picture the girl doing next?
4. What would be a good title for this story?

## Level Two

1.

three sentences

The cowboy got on the black horse. The horse started bucking and bucking. The cowboy went flying in the air.

1. What color did you picture the horse?
2. Why do you think the horse started bucking?
3. What do you picture the cowboy doing next?
4. What do you think a good title for this story might be?

2.

four sentences

The circus woman got on the elephant. Around the ring they went. Then the elephant held her with his trunk. The crowd clapped and clapped.

1. Who did you picture getting on the elephant?
2. Why do you think the crowd clapped when the woman was on the elephant's trunk?
3. What do you think might happen next?
4. What is a good title for this story?

## Level Four

1.

four sentences

The barbecue smelled heavenly. Wood smoke swirled around the man's head as he leaned in to turn the meat with a long fork. Then using a stick with a rag tied to the end, he basted the meat with barbecue sauce. A little later, he looked closely at the sizzling meat and finally smiled and yelled, "Come and get it!"

1. What size did you picture the fork, long or short?
2. Why do you think the man had a rag on the end of the stick?
3. Why do you think the man used a long fork instead of a short fork?
4. What time of day did you picture it being? Why?
5. What do you think will happen next at this party?
6. What was the main idea of this paragraph?

2.

five sentences

The fat gray manatee swam slowly through the swampy water. Her wide flat tail moved lazily up and down. She stopped for a mouthful of the water plants that grew near the steep mud banks. Then, closer and closer, came the sound of a motor boat. Unconcerned, the manatee kept up her casual feeding.

1. What color did you picture the manatee?
2. From what you imagined, was the manatee's tail round or flat?
3. Why do you think the manatee moved her tail?
4. Why do you think her tail needed to be a certain shape?
5. Do you think the manatee was smart (or right) to be unconcerned about the motorboat?
6. What do you think might happen next to the manatee?
7. What is a good title for this story?





## Level Five

1.

four sentences

The ruby-throated hummingbird zoomed into the garden. Its wings moved so fast, they were only a blur. The little green bird flew in small circles until it spied an open flower. Then it flew over, and hovering in the air, stuck its long thin bill inside the flower to feed on the nectar.

1. What color was the hummingbird's throat?
2. Do you think the hummingbird's wings move faster than most other birds? Why?
3. Why do you think the hummingbird had to hover in the air while it got nectar?
4. How do only hummingbirds eat from the plastic feeders people put on their porches?
5. Why do you think the hummingbird had to hover in the air while it got nectar?
6. Why don't more birds eat the nectar from flowers?
7. What is a good title for this story?



2.

six sentences

Ponce de Leon struggled through the hot steamy jungle. He had sailed to the Americas to search for the legendary "Fountain of Youth." Suddenly, in a small clearing, he saw cool clear water bubbling from the ground. Ponce de Leon rushed forward, fell to the ground, and drank all the water he could hold. He believed that if he drank from the "Fountain of Youth," it would make him young again. But all that it did was make him sick with a tropical fever!

1. What color did you picture the water?
2. Why do you think Ponce de Leon was struggling through the jungle?
3. Do you think that he was thirsty? Why?
4. Do you think Ponce de Leon was egotistical? Why?
5. Why do you think the water made him sick with a tropical fever?
6. Do you think this was really the "Fountain of Youth"? Why?
7. What is the main idea of this story?

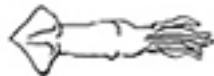
## Level Six

1.

six sentences

The giant squid floated in its silent world deep beneath the sea. Two eyes the size of dinner plates kept a sharp lookout for dinner. The squid was very hungry and was waiting to capture any prey it saw in its long strong tentacles. But wait! A sperm whale entered the picture, looking for a meal of its own. The squid, who did not wish to become that meal, released a dark cloud of ink and shot away into the gloomy distance.

1. What movement did you picture for the squid?
2. How big did you picture the squid's eyes, and how big would that make his body?
3. Why do you think the squid, even though it was a giant, took off when it saw the whale?
4. Why do you think the squid released the ink?
5. What color did you picture the cloud of ink? Why?
6. What do you think might happen next?
7. What would be a good title for all these images?



2.

five sentences

Florence Chadwick took off her bathrobe and shivered in the morning fog. She plunged both hands into a large bucket and then began to cover her entire body with goopy black axle grease. When she was done, she pulled on a small white bathing cap and walked into the icy cold water. Thirteen hours later, she walked out of the water on the other side of the English Channel. She had set a world record for the cold, dangerous, twenty-one mile swim.

1. What did you picture Florence putting on her body?
2. How many miles did she swim?
3. Why do you think she covered her body with thick grease?
4. What color did you picture for the bathing cap? Why?
5. Do you think this happened recently or quite long ago? Why?
6. Why do you think the swim was dangerous?
7. Why do you think it was important for her to wear a bathing cap?
8. What is the best title for all your images from this paragraph?

## Level Eight

1.

four sentences

The giraffe that lives on the plains of Africa is the tallest animal on earth. Making good use of its six-foot neck, it survives by eating the leaves of trees with its long black tongue reaching the highest branches. Its coloring, patterns and patches of yellow and brown, is perfect camouflage when standing in the shade of a tree, feeding. As might be expected, the giraffe has the highest blood pressure of any animal.

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. What colors did you visualize for the giraffe's body?
3. Why do you think a giraffe needs camouflage?
4. Do you think being the tallest animal on earth keeps the giraffe safe from predators?
5. Why doesn't the giraffe just eat mostly grass like many other animals do?
6. How do you think a giraffe looks when it drinks water?
7. Why does a giraffe have the highest blood pressure of any animal?
8. What would happen to its brain if it didn't get blood to its head?
9. Do you think a giraffe would make a good pet? Why?

2.

five sentences

In 1962, John Glenn was the first American to fly in orbit around the Earth. In a spacecraft called the Friendship 7, he circled the globe three times in just under five hours. When a space capsule re-enters the Earth's atmosphere from space, the outside of the craft becomes red hot. Just before John Glenn was due to splash down in the Atlantic Ocean after his last orbit, a signal told his ground crew that the heat shield on the spacecraft might be loose. There were some tense minutes when it was feared the shield would fail and Glenn and the spacecraft would burn up, but the shield held, and John Glenn returned to a hero's welcome.

1. What color do you think John Glenn saw the Earth?
2. Why do you think the Earth is primarily that color?
3. Why do you think the space craft needed a heat shield to protect it?
4. Why was being able to successfully orbit the Earth such an important part of space exploration?
5. What do you think happened first to John Glenn when he returned?
6. What do you think happened next to him?
7. Why do you think the United States space program wanted Glenn and this successful mission to get lots of public attention?

## Level Seven

1.

four sentences

In Europe, tiny crab apple fruit is pressed and made into cider. Some people even use the little apples to make jam and jellies, but crab apple trees are grown mostly to be ornamental. The fruit is usually dry, bitter, and acidic. Could that be why a crabby, mean, cranky person is sometimes referred to as “an old crab apple”?

1. What color did you picture the little apple?
2. What do you think might be a very important ingredient of crab jelly?
3. Do you think the crab apple tree is attractive? Why?
4. Why do you think it might be beautiful in spring?
5. What is a creative title for the images in this paragraph?

2.

six sentences

The albatross has the greatest wingspan of any bird—up to twelve feet across. The great seabirds are known to travel vast distances sailing high on the wind. They sleep floating on the ocean, live on squid and other marine creatures, and even drink sea water. In fact, they usually venture onto land only during the nesting season when a mated pair will incubate a single large white egg for two to three months. In the days since man has sailed the seas, the albatross has become something of a scavenger. Often they will follow ships, feeding on refuse that is thrown overboard.

1. How large did you picture the wingspan of the albatross?
2. How many eggs did you visualize the albatross incubating?
3. How do you think albatrosses are able to fly great distances?
4. Why do you think they need to drink sea water?
5. Why do you think they like or need to follow ships at sea?
6. Why do you think albatrosses have to nest on land? (What would you visualize the eggs doing if they were laid in the water?)
7. What is the best title for all of your images?