

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Fiction Passages	
<i>Passage 1: Buzz Buzz</i>	4
<i>Passage 2: The Real Thing?</i>	6
<i>Passage 3: The Great Sock Hunt</i>	8
<i>Passage 4: Desert Living</i>	10
<i>Passage 5: Growing Things</i>	12
<i>Passage 6: Sign Language</i>	14
Nonfiction Passages	
<i>Passage 7: Crying Crocodiles</i>	16
<i>Passage 8: A Holiday Called Hanami</i>	18
<i>Passage 9: A Solar Eclipse</i>	20
<i>Passage 10: Salmon</i>	22
<i>Passage 11: A Better Light</i>	24
<i>Passage 12: Snakes</i>	26
Informational Passages	
<i>Passage 13: Butterfly Gardens</i>	28
<i>Passage 14: Pumpkin Seeds</i>	30
<i>Passage 15: Winter Fun</i>	32
<i>Passage 16: At the Library</i>	34
<i>Passage 17: The Hand Game</i>	36
<i>Passage 18: Giant Bubbles!</i>	38
Practice Tests	
<i>Fiction Test: What's for Lunch?</i>	40
<i>Nonfiction Test: Foot Fishing</i>	42
<i>Informational Test: Be a Rock Hound</i>	44
Answer Sheets	46
Answer Key	48

Introduction

The old adage “practice makes perfect” can really hold true for children and their education. The more practice students have with concepts being taught in school, the more success they are likely to find. For many parents, knowing how to achieve this goal and support their child’s learning can be frustrating. This book is designed to eliminate the guesswork for parents using it at home, while also being a valuable resource for educators using it in the classroom.

Here’s how: By pairing interesting texts in three different categories (fiction, nonfiction, and informational) with comprehension questions, students will get practice in encountering different text types and showing that they fully understand what they have read.

For Grade 2, *Practice Makes Perfect: Reading Comprehension* covers the following skills:

- reading for understanding
- understanding how print is organized
- using various strategies to read the stories and answer the questions
- finding the main idea in a story
- making inferences and predictions based on information given
- recognizing different types of reading (fiction, nonfiction, informational)

Inside This Resource

Reading Passages and Comprehension Questions (pages 4–39) — There are 18 reading passages that have been divided into three categories: fiction, nonfiction, and informational. These passages can be read sequentially or can be done out of order, as needed.

Practice Tests (pages 40–45) — There are 3 practice tests, one each for fiction, nonfiction, and informational texts.

Answer Sheet (pages 46–47) — These optional sheets provide a similar format to those found on standardized tests. These “bubble-in” answer sheets can be used in the classroom or at home.

Answer Key (page 48) — This key provides the answers for all of the comprehension questions that accompany the passages.

Helpful Tips

- Establish consistency by setting up a certain time of day to work on these practice pages. Look for times in your day or week that are less hectic and more conducive to practicing skills.
- Keep practice sessions short, positive, and constructive. If your child becomes frustrated, set the book aside and look for another time to practice.
- Provide extra guidance and support in the areas in which your child is struggling. Look for ways to apply these skills to real-life situations.

Name: _____

Sign Language

My little sister asks a lot of questions. When we are in the car, she bugs Mom all the time. She wants to know what every road sign means. Mom says, "I have to focus on the road. Tony, tell Aggie the answer." It's a big job for me.

Aggie points and says, "What's that red triangle say?"

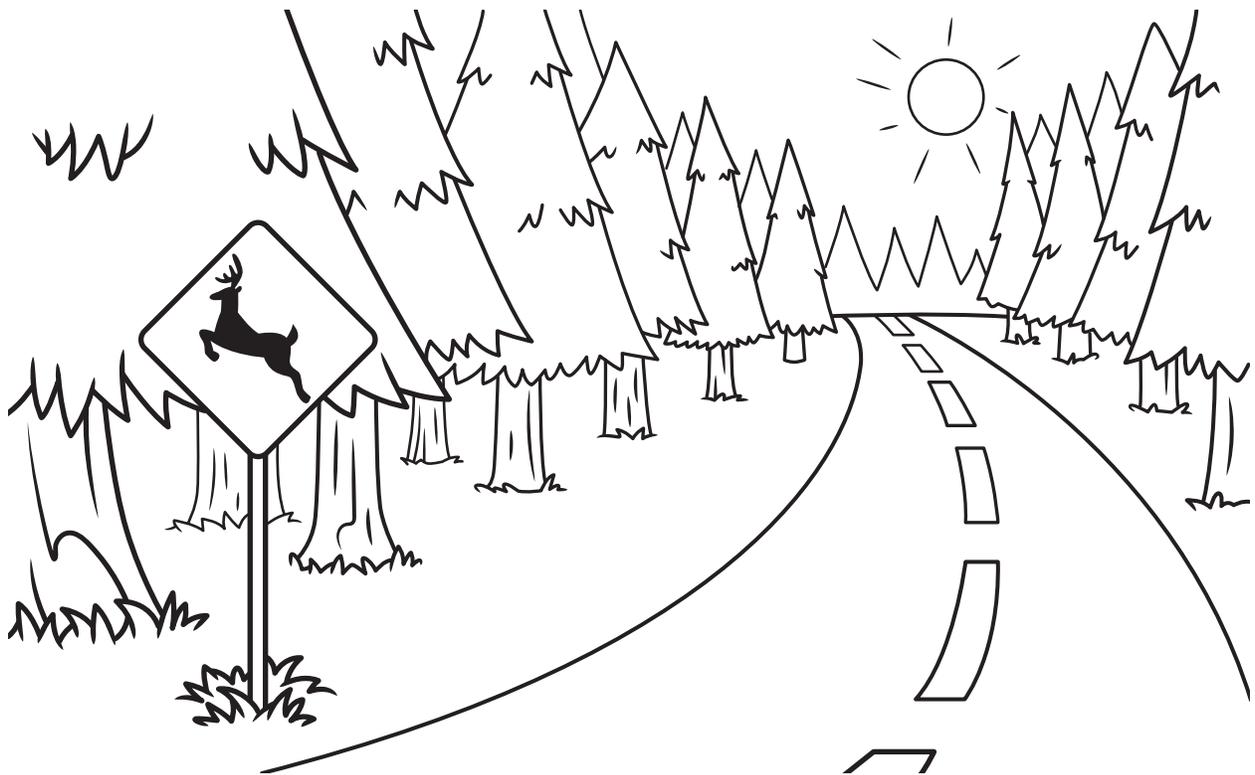
"It says, 'Yield.' That means Mom has to make sure nobody else is going. Then she can go."

"Why does that yellow diamond sign have a pretty deer on it?"

"See the woods on the sides of the road. Deer may live in those woods. Mom has to watch out for them."

"I know that one," cries Aggie. She pointed at a red sign with eight sides. "It says, 'Stop.' And it means what it says!"

"You are right!" Mom and I both say.



Name: _____

Sign Language

After reading the passage, answer the questions. Fill in the bubble beside each correct answer.

1. The one sign that Aggie already knows is the

- Ⓐ go sign.
- Ⓑ stop sign.
- Ⓒ yield sign.
- Ⓓ deer sign.

2. Who is telling this story to us?

- Ⓐ the mother
- Ⓑ the little sister
- Ⓒ Aggie
- Ⓓ Tony

3. According to the story, how many sides does a Yield sign have?

- Ⓐ 3
- Ⓑ 4
- Ⓒ 5
- Ⓓ 8

4. According to the story, how many sides does a Deer Crossing sign have?

- Ⓐ 3
- Ⓑ 4
- Ⓒ 5
- Ⓓ 8

Name: _____

Snakes

Have you ever held a snake? Did you think it would feel slimy?

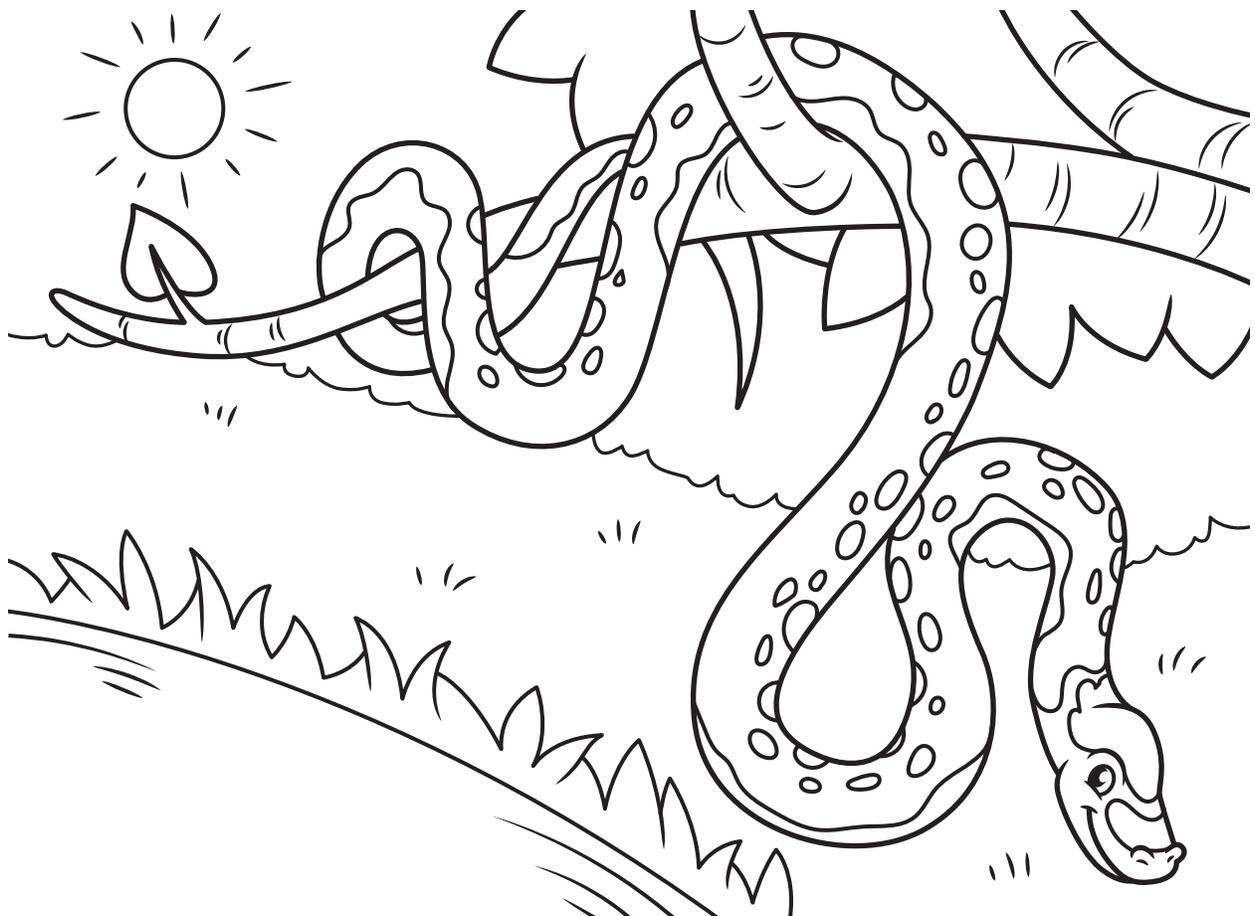
Snakes are not slimy. If they are healthy, they are dry and smooth. Their bodies are covered with scales. Even their eyes are covered with see-through scales instead of eyelids.

Snakes can swim, climb a tree, crawl along ropes, and slither along the ground. The Western Whip Snake is one of the fastest snakes. It can travel up to three miles an hour.

Snakes are cold-blooded, and most snakes sleep through the winter. All snakes swallow their food whole and shed their skin when it gets too tight.

Snakes don't hear, but they feel sounds with their bodies. Snakes taste and smell with their tongues.

What do you suppose a snake thinks we feel like?



Name: _____

Snakes

After reading the passage, answer the questions. Fill in the bubble beside each correct answer.

1. Why do snakes have see-through scales over their eyes?
 - (A) because they can't hear
 - (B) to keep their eyes safe
 - (C) so they can shed their skin
 - (D) to scare people

2. What kind of story is this?
 - (A) poem
 - (B) true story
 - (C) fairy tale
 - (D) fiction

3. If a snake is dry and smooth, it is likely
 - (A) sick.
 - (B) sleeping.
 - (C) about to bite.
 - (D) healthy.

4. Why do snakes shed their skin?
 - (A) to get rid of skin that is too small
 - (B) to protect themselves
 - (C) to change colors so they can blend in
 - (D) to keep them from getting sick

5. What do snakes use to feel sounds?
 - (A) their ears
 - (B) their tongues
 - (C) their bodies
 - (D) their eyes

Name: _____

At the Library

Welcome! The library is your bridge to fun and facts, to new faces and new places! Here are some rules to make your library visit as amazing as it can be:

- ✓ Please don't eat or drink in the library. Books don't like sticky sodas or candy!
- ✓ Please be quiet while in the library. Others are reading and studying.
- ✓ Please get your own library cards. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!
 1. Ask a librarian for a card form.
 2. Fill out the form.
 3. Ask your parent or guardian to sign it.
 4. Give the signed and completed form to any librarian.

Great! Now you are ready to check out thousands of books, movies, music, and magazines. (But not all at once, please!)

And remember, if you have any questions at any point, just ask a librarian. We're here to help!



Name: _____

At the Library

After reading the passage, answer the questions. Fill in the bubble beside each correct answer.

1. Why should you be quiet in the library?
 - (A) so you can hear your friends talk to you
 - (B) so people can listen to music or watch movies
 - (C) so you don't bother the librarians
 - (D) so you don't bother others who are reading
2. What should you do if you have any questions?
 - (A) ask someone who doesn't look busy
 - (B) ask one of the librarians
 - (C) ask someone who looks smart
 - (D) use the library's website
3. What is a librarian?
 - (A) a person who reads all the books in the library
 - (B) a person who guards all of the books
 - (C) a person who helps people use the library
 - (D) a person who cleans the library
4. How does the writer seem to feel about the library?
 - (A) Libraries are full of useful information.
 - (B) Libraries are mostly for grown-ups.
 - (C) Libraries can be too hard to use.
 - (D) Libraries are quiet, and there is nothing to do.
5. What is not listed as something that can be checked out at the library?
 - (A) movies
 - (B) music
 - (C) video games
 - (D) magazines