

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Tracking Sheet	6
Nonfiction Passages	7
Animals	9
June Bugs—The Armadillo—Llamas—Sharks—The Elephant—The Boa Constrictor—Penguins—Zebras—The Antelope—The Koala Bear—The River Otter—The Cottontail Rabbit—The Red Fox—The Crab Spider—Harvest Mice—The Sea Anemone	
Biography	25
Anne Sullivan—Albert Einstein—Franklin D. Roosevelt—Louisa May Alcott—Louis Braille—Sacagawea—Frank Sinatra—Elizabeth Cady Stanton—Daniel Boone—Amelia Earhart—Jackie Robinson—Langston Hughes—Anne Frank—Leonardo da Vinci—Robert E. Lee—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
American History	41
Battle of Antietam—Thanksgiving—War of 1812—A Time of Reform— Changes for Women—Moving to the City—Battle for the Alamo—The Quakers—The Women of Independence—The Iran Hostage Crisis—The Slave Trade—A President Resigns—The Korean War—The <i>Lusitania</i> —The Rise of the Common Man—The Panama Canal	
Science	57
Saturn—Geology—Static Electricity—Volcanoes—The Rain Forest—The Polar Regions—The Telescope—Waves—Fossils—Latitude and Longitude— Desert Life—Pluto—On the Mountain Top—Acids and Bases—Cricket Temperature	
Current Events	72
PG-13 Movies—Sixth Grade Education—Skateboard Park—Fix the Library— Improving Recess—School Conditions—Teacher Salaries—Lunch Choices— Too Much Fundraising—After-School Activities—Take the Test—School Assemblies—Email Messaging—Room for Art—Female Sports	

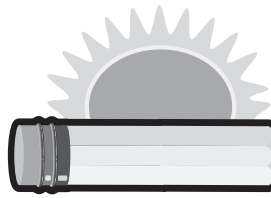


Table of Contents

Fiction Passages	87
Fairy Tales/Folklore	89
Lesson Learned—Crime Doesn't Pay—The Loud Rabbits—House Guests— Lazy Bones—Stick Together—Well Said—Peer Pressure—The Long Jump— Pretty Song—The Jealous Wolf—The Old Man's Daughters—Climbing High—Good Fortune—Plan B—True Love	
Historical Fiction	105
Fire on the Prairie—Firm in the Faith—Face to Face—A Good Book—A Safe Landing—The Christmas Gift—The Substitute—Herding Cattle—Myreel's Moment—Opening Up—The Bull Ride—First Aid Friendship—I Am Japanese—Blissful Gratitude—Curious Joe	
Contemporary Realistic Fiction	120
Sky High—Not Invited—Snow Bunny—Achoo!—Math Whiz—Daily News—You Live in a Zoo—The Dive—Girls Just Want to Have Fun—Stiff Stranger—A Little Motivation—The Goldfish Gulp—Seth's Courage—Dance Fever—Teaspoon or Cup?—Made in Mexico	
Mystery/Suspense/Adventure	136
Washed Ashore—The Encounter—Neighborly Ghosts—Lost Owner—Dinner by Firelight—My Shadow—The Dog Ate It—The Big Buck—The Race—It's All Downhill—The Monster—A Stroke—Rim to Rim—Unexpected Delay— Fighting Words—The Foothold	
Fantasy	152
The Wand—Alien Invasion—Ready, Set, Float—Double Trouble— Realignment—Messy Room—Just Her Way—Kitchen Patrol—Computer Language—"I Wish" Syndrome—Shhh!—Bleached—The Night Owl—No Manners—Hold the Pizza	
Answer Key	167
Leveling Chart	175
Certificate	176



Name _____

Date _____

PG-13 MOVIES

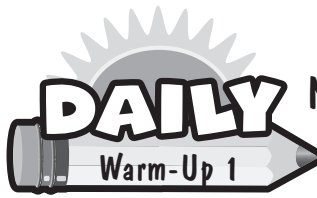
Have you been to the movies lately? You have probably noticed that each movie has a rating. The ratings are meant to be guidelines for viewers, to explain levels of violence, language, and other characteristics of movies. The rating system was set up to prevent children from being exposed to inappropriate or intensive scenes or story lines. It seems that these days the rating is used to entice movie fans to go to a movie, as opposed to avoiding a movie.

Adding the PG-13 rating has allowed movie producers to avoid the strict standards of the ratings system. It seems that if a movie wanted to add more violence or bad language but not get the R rating, movie producers would go for the PG-13 rating. Exactly what is the difference between the R rating and the PG-13 rating? As far as I can see, there isn't one.

At one time, the R rating meant that it was not appropriate for children under a certain age. In fact, they were not allowed into the theater without an adult. Now, not only can children go to the movie without an adult, but also movie producers change the rating to PG-13 so that more kids can attend. By using the PG-13 rating, just about anything goes. When will movie executives and producers be held to a high standard again? Kids are seeing worse things on the big screen than they've ever seen before. What's next: a PG-8 rating?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is a reason presented in this passage as to why children should not be allowed to watch PG-13 movies?
 - a. PG-13 movies are produced with higher budgets than R movies.
 - b. Movie producers are allowed to add more violence and language with the PG-13 rating than an R rating.
 - c. Many PG-13 movies have high levels of violence and bad language.
 - d. The rating system was set up to prevent children from seeing anything inappropriate.
2. Which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely make?
 - a. Children need to be taught how to decipher the ratings system on movies.
 - b. Parents should hold movie theaters accountable for letting their children in movies.
 - c. Movie producers should be held to higher standards when they are given a rating for their movies.
 - d. PG-13 movies should not be allowed.
3. What is the meaning of the word *intensive* as used in this passage?
 - a. strenuous
 - b. deceased
 - c. concerned
 - d. graphic



Name _____

Date _____

WASHED ASHORE

Melinda and her brother Ben were climbing the rocks on the beach one day when they happened to come across a bone. A bone may not seem that unusual, but this was a big bone. It wasn't one you'd usually find lying on the beach.

"I wonder why this is here," Melinda thought aloud. "Why would there be a big bone like this lying around? It looks like a human bone."

"That's sounds creepy," said Ben.

Just then, a truck drove up to the beach. Melinda watched a man get out with his dog. The two began running up and down the beach looking for something.

"Alright," said Ben. "Let's figure out where this bone came from."

The two began combing the beach looking for other bone pieces. Melinda was scared and worried. Ben didn't say much. They pondered on the bone's origin.

Just then, the dog came running up to Ben, who was carrying the bone. The dog began barking.

"Oh, there it is," said the man.

"Where is what?" asked Ben.

"That's Franklin's bone. We've been looking for it. We left it here yesterday."

"And just where did you get the bone?" asked Melinda skeptically.

The man started laughing when he realized what the kids must be thinking. "This is a deer bone. We brought it here to the beach," explained the man. "Case closed?" he asked.

"Case closed," said Ben as a little smile crept onto his face. Melinda just shook her head.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which word best describes how Melinda and Ben felt at the end of the story?
 - organized
 - relieved
 - annoyed
 - exhausted
- Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - last paragraph
 - first paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
 - third paragraph
- Another good title for the passage could be . . .
 - "A Bony Beach."
 - "Melinda and Ben."
 - "Give Me My Bone."
 - "The Mystery Bone."