

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to help you understand the most important ideas in the passage.

## A Helping Hand

12 Do you like to help others? Helping is important in a community.  
13 There are many others who agree. Helping can truly make a  
14 difference. It is something you can do each day. Make a Difference  
15 Day is a day that reminds us to help others.

16 We should all be active and make a difference in our community.  
17 Sometimes it is finding meals for people. Sometimes it is cleaning up  
18 a park. Make a Difference Day is a good time to get involved. It can  
19 help people make a difference.

### 89 Clean Up a Park

90 Making a difference is about helping. It is a good way to learn, too.  
91 While you and your friends clean up a park, you can study plant life  
92 there. You might see animals you have studied. You can learn about  
93 plants and animals while picking up litter. This is helpful. The park  
94 will be a cleaner place for all of you.

### 154 Meet New People

155 It is also good to meet the people in your community. You can  
156 easily learn about other people near you just by talking to them. You  
157 and your friends can visit senior citizens. Ask about their lives. They  
158 will gladly tell you stories. This makes a difference by showing you  
159 care. It can help you meet people in your community.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

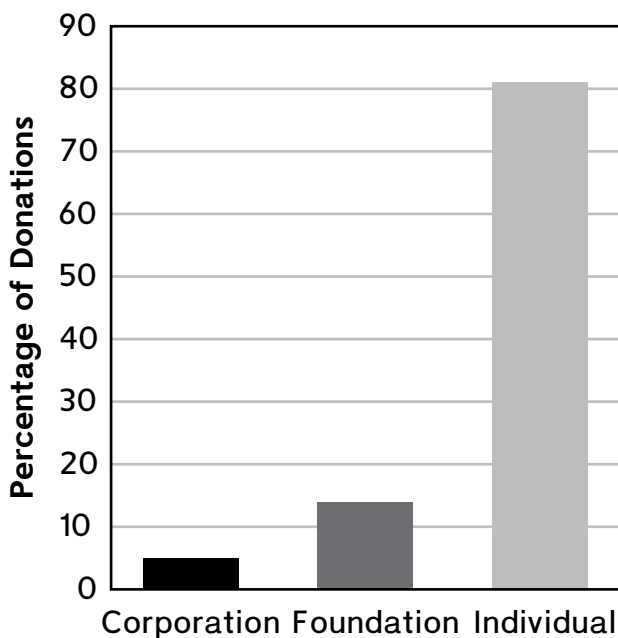
### Feed Someone in Need

Some people don't have a good meal every day. Make a difference by collecting food for them. You and your friends can work as a team. Choose a food bank to help. Work together to collect food donations from your friends and community. The food bank will be grateful for them. This not only helps people in need. It also teaches you about teamwork.

### Be Creative

Cleaning parks, meeting people, and giving food are good. You can also use your creativity to help. You and your friends can make an activity book. There are children who might not have these books. You can make one. Have your teacher make copies. Then you can pass them out. Take them to places like hospitals. There are children there who would like them. It is a book that you and your friends made together. More importantly the book can make a day better for a child.

Making a difference is good. And Make a Difference Day is a good time start. This is just one day a year. You can help year round. You can meet new people. You can learn new things and work as a team. Most of all, you can make a difference.



This graph shows where donations came from in North America in 2010. You can see that individuals like you give the most.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. What are two key details in paragraph 5?**

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**2. What do these two details have in common?**

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**3. Use the details to find the main idea. What is the main idea of the whole passage?**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to phrasing and rate. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the ask and answer questions strategy to help you understand the folktale.

## Anansi and His Children

14 Anansi was a spider who had six children. Each child had his or her  
15 own special ability. The first child was named See Trouble, because  
16 he could see trouble from far away. The next was Road Builder. Then  
17 there was River Drinker, Game Skinner, and Stone Thrower. The last  
18 child was named Cushion, because he was so very soft. They were all  
19 good children.

20 Anansi was very curious and loved to travel. One day while  
21 traveling, Anansi became lost! See Trouble knew at once what had  
22 happened.

23 "Our father is lost," he said. "We must help him."

24 "I will build a road that will lead us to our father," Road Builder  
25 said, and he began to construct a road. The other five children  
26 followed Road Builder down the road as he worked. They marched on  
27 and on. Finally, they came to a mighty river.

28 "Father was swallowed by Big Fish!" cried See Trouble.

29 "Then it's a good thing I'm so thirsty," said River Drinker as she  
30 walked to the river's edge. She put her lips to the water. With gulp  
31 after gulp, she drank every drop from the river. There in the mud sat  
32 Big Fish. Now it was Game Skinner's turn to help. She cut open Big  
33 Fish, and Anansi crawled out, free at last!

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But suddenly, there was more danger. Falcon came down from the sky. He grabbed Anansi and soared into the clouds.

"Quickly, Stone Thrower!" yelled See Trouble. Stone Thrower hit Falcon with a stone. Anansi began to fall. Seeing this, Cushion ran to catch his father. Anansi landed on Cushion with a nice soft bounce. Anansi was safe! The children cheered. They were happy to be with their father again.

On the way home, Anansi noticed something in the woods. He walked toward the glow and found a beautiful object. It was a dazzling globe of bright light.

"I will give this to one of my children," said Anansi. "But which one should I give it to?"

Anansi called out to Nyame who lived in the sky.

"I found this wonderful globe of light, Nyame. Will you hold it for me while I decide which child to give it to?" Anansi asked.

And Nyame reached down to take the globe gently and carefully.

Anansi then told his children about the ball of light. All night long they argued over which one should receive the gift. Nyame watched from above as the argument went on and on. It seemed they would never make a decision. So Nyame came to a decision of her own. Instead of giving the globe back to Anansi, Nyame placed it high above for every living thing to see. And that is the story of how the moon came to live in the sky.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. How does the character River Drinker help save Anansi?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is the decision Nyame comes to in the last paragraph?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is one of the themes of this story? Use the details from your graphic organizer to help you.**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

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Read the passage. Use the ask and answer questions strategy to be sure you understand what you read.

## Grant and the Flower Stem

### List of Characters

- 3 Grant, an ant  
6 Beatrice, a bee  
9 Frank, a bee

### 12 Setting

13 A field in Kansas.

17 *Grant has wandered away from his work and has fallen asleep. The*  
29 *next morning, he climbs to the top of a sunflower stem and finds a*  
43 *small house made of beeswax. No one is home as he explores the*  
56 *kitchen.*

57 **Grant:** *(whispering)* What is this place? It looks like my house.  
68 But everything is smooth and shiny! Everything in my  
77 house is made of dirt, and so rough to the touch. I would  
90 love to live here! *(Beatrice walks in the door behind him.)*

101 **Beatrice:** *(yelling)* Who are you? What are you doing here?

111 **Grant:** I'm very sorry. My name is Grant. I saw the stem to your  
125 house and just climbed up. I didn't know what I would  
136 find. But your house is lovely! Please don't sting me!

146 **Beatrice:** *(laughs)* Sting you? I haven't stung anyone in years. Not  
157 unless they deserved it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant:** That's a relief. I have heard many stories about ants that wander away and are stung by bees. I hear bees can be cranky.

**Beatrice:** Goodness, no! It takes a lot to get me irritated. I'm usually calm and carefree. Be careful of my husband, though.



**Grant:** Is he going to sting me?

**Beatrice:** My goodness, Grant. You are one nervous ant! Please, relax. Take it easy. He won't sting you.

**Frank:** *(Enters, but doesn't see Grant)* Good afternoon, Beatrice! I hope you've had a very good day. Whose turn is it to make soup? *(Notices Grant)* Who are you, and what are you doing in my house?

**Grant:** I'm sorry, sir. I just climbed the stem and I was in your house. Your wife has been very generous to me. She could have refused, but she offered me some soup. Please don't sting me!

**Frank:** *(to Beatrice)* He thinks I'm going to sting him?

**Beatrice:** He thinks that's all bees do, just see ants and sting them. Where would he get such an idea? I'll tell you what: we are going to feed you. Then Frank will fly you home. I'd like you to tell other ants about us. Please let them know that we are not beasts. We are insects like everyone else. Also, please be more careful about believing stories you hear about other folks.

**Grant:** I will. Thank you very much for being so nice. And thank you for not stinging me.

**Frank and**

**Beatrice:** *(sigh) (together)* You're welcome, Grant.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. What does Grant think about bees?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Why does he think this?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is the theme of this play?**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to intonation. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

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Read the passage. Use the summarize strategy to make sure you understand and remember the information.

## A Worm's Work

14 Gardener Bill works long days in the sun. His goal is a nice garden.  
14 But he is not alone in his mission. His friend, the earthworm, is  
27 always there to assist. The earthworm often gets a bad name as being  
27 always there to assist. The earthworm often gets a bad name as being  
40 a lowly creature. Yet it plays an important role in keeping the soil  
40 a lowly creature. Yet it plays an important role in keeping the soil  
53 healthy enough to grow plants.  
53 healthy enough to grow plants.

### 58 Moving and "Turning the Soil"

63 The worms are hard at work when Bill and his helper arrive in  
63 The worms are hard at work when Bill and his helper arrive in  
76 the garden. Bill takes a shovel and digs a small hole. He sees many  
76 the garden. Bill takes a shovel and digs a small hole. He sees many  
90 worms moving around in the soil. This often means that the soil is  
90 worms moving around in the soil. This often means that the soil is  
103 rich.  
103 rich.

104 "This is a good place to plant," Bill says.

113 As the worms burrow through the soil they create tunnels that  
113 As the worms burrow through the soil they create tunnels that  
124 allow air and water to pass through. The soil and plant roots need this  
124 allow air and water to pass through. The soil and plant roots need this  
138 air and water to grow.  
138 air and water to grow.

143 Bill begins to plow the dirt to get ready for planting seeds. He  
143 Bill begins to plow the dirt to get ready for planting seeds. He  
157 cuts into the dirt with his tool. This stops the soil from getting too  
157 cuts into the dirt with his tool. This stops the soil from getting too  
171 packed down.  
171 packed down.

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The worms also help plow the soil. They bring down organic matter, or something that has to do with or comes from living things, from the surface. They blend it with the soil below. This turning over of the soil mixes helpful minerals for plants.

### Eating and Fertilization

The worms will eat almost anything organic. Grass and leaves are things that the worms break down for plants to use.

Bill carries the heavy bags of fertilizer into the garden. This matter contains nutrients that plants need for healthy living. He spreads it along the ground.

The worms have also been making fertilizer. As the worms eat, they leave behind droppings called castings. They also contain things for healthy soil. The castings hold a lot of moisture. This can help in times of little water. Last year, there was a drought in Bill's area.

"The areas with a lot of worms did the best," Bill says.

Bill and his helper keep on watching the earthworms at work. "If the garden could talk," Bill says. "I think it would thank the worms for all they do."



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. What are three key details in paragraphs 4, 6, and 7?**

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**2. What do these three details have in common?**

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**3. Use the details to find the main idea. What is the main idea of the whole passage?**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to accuracy. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

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Read the passage. Use the summarize strategy to write a brief statement about the main ideas.

## The Birds

12 Why do some birds have bright feathers? Why do some birds swim  
23 better than others? Different features make life easier for birds. These  
are physical adaptations birds have made to survive.

### 31 **The Web**

33 Many birds living near water have webbed feet. Why does this  
44 help? Webbed feet are like the paddles on a boat. These feet help  
57 birds, like ducks, move through the water faster.

### 65 **Big Mouth**

67 The shape of a bird's beak helps it eat. The spoonbill has a spoon-  
81 shaped beak. Why a spoon? This bird spends a lot of time in the  
95 water. It stirs the water with its beak, which causes little whirlpools.  
107 Small fish get pulled into the whirlpool. This makes it easy for the  
120 bird to snap up a meal. Gulp!

### 127 **Light as a Feather**

131 It is not uncommon to see birds with pretty feathers. Feathers are  
143 for more than looking good, though. For the penguin, they do two  
155 things. The outer part of the feather is waterproof. This keeps the  
167 bird dry. The inner part traps air that keeps the bird warm. Penguins  
180 don't fly; they swim. Without warm and waterproof feathers, this bird  
191 would be at a disadvantage.

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### True Colors

Bright colors help some birds stand out. The golden pheasant is red, green, and gold. The toucan's beak can be many colors at once. These bright colors help them attract mates more easily. Find the toucan in the photograph.

There are some birds that do not want to be seen at all! The potoo's colors make it look just like part of a tree. This helps the bird to avoid unwanted attention.

### Voices Carry

Birds have different kinds of calls they use to talk. The killdeer has a special reason for one of its calls. This bird builds its nest on the ground. This can be unsafe as it is easy for predators to find it. However, when a predator is too close to the nest, the bird gives a loud call. It begins to hop away from its nest.



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The toucan's beak can be many colors.

This distracts the predator. It now goes after the bird. When the predator moves closer, the bird flies to safety. Then it returns to its nest.

The club-winged manakin has an unusual way of talking. It "talks" by moving its feathers back and forth over one another. The wings make a humming sound. It can sound like a violin.

Different environments require different traits. This is why birds have to adapt. Whether it is a certain way of moving, eating, or talking, adaptations help birds to survive.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. What are three key details in the fourth paragraph?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What do these details have in common?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Use details to find the main idea. What is the main idea in the sixth paragraph?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the visualize strategy to help you understand the fantasy story.

## The Oak Tree and the Tiny Bird

15 Far out in the country, in the middle of a grassy field, there lived a  
16 beautiful oak tree. The oak tree loved her home. She loved the feel of  
17 squirrels jumping from limb to limb. She loved watching the sun rise  
18 every morning and set each night. She liked the feeling of wind in her  
19 branches. She enjoyed feeling the water run down her trunk during  
20 summer storms.

21 One morning, the tree heard a tiny bird chirping sadly in her  
22 branches. The tree looked and saw a frightened baby bluebird,  
23 trembling. The baby bird was shaking, alone in his nest.

24 “What is the matter, little bird?” asked the tree.

25 The tiny bird jumped. He looked surprised, startled by the tree’s  
26 question.

27 “It’s mother. She left to get food and hasn’t come back yet.”

28 The tree had seen this happen before. Sometimes mama birds leave  
29 their nest to get food and run into danger. And sometimes, they stay  
30 away longer than they planned.

31 “Well, your mother may be gone, but you still have me,” said the  
32 tree. “First things first. Let’s get some food in that belly.”

33 The oak tree saw some squirrels scrounging around on the ground.  
34 They were running all over. They were picking up food.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

"You there, squirrel," called the tree. "Will you share some of those nuts and berries with this good little bluebird?"

"Sure!" said the squirrel. He dashed into his home in the tree. He came out just as fast with his paws full of food. The squirrel ran again to the bird's nest and tossed in the nuts and berries. The tiny bird ate everything up. He felt much better.

"You must be thirsty," said the tree. The tree carefully shook her limbs. Then she cautiously bent her branches. Morning dew from her leaves trickled down into the tiny bird's open mouth.

With the help of the squirrels and occasionally other animals, the oak tree kept the tiny bird fed and watered. Every once in a while, an owl helped out. Sometimes a rainstorm passed through the grassy field. The tree would gently put her limbs around the tiny bird to protect him.

This went on for weeks as the tiny bird slowly grew.

One day, the tree went to check on the tiny bluebird, but the bird was not in his nest. The tree searched all over her limbs and trunk, and even the ground. But she could not see the tiny bird anywhere. "What could have happened?" thought the tree. Just then, with a flutter of wings, the bluebird flew and landed among the branches. His mouth was full of nice, juicy worms.

"Why, you're all grown up," said the tree. "And you can fly!"

"Thanks to you," replied the not so tiny bird with a smile.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. Reread the first paragraph. What pronouns are used?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Reread the second paragraph on the second page of the passage. What pronouns are used to refer to the squirrel?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Does the narrator take part in the events of the story? Explain. What point of view is the story told from?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	