

The Lizard

Tommy wanted a pet. His mom said, "No pets with fur. The fur	13
makes us sneeze." Tommy thought about what kind of pet he could get.	26
He had an idea.	30
"Mom, let's go to the reptile pet store and see what kinds of pets they	45
have." His mom thought that was a good idea. Tommy had a special pet	69
store in mind. This pet store had many different kinds of pets. It had	73
many furry animals. But it also had many reptiles.	82
On Saturday morning, Tommy and his mom drove to the pet store.	94
Tommy was surprised by how noisy it was in the pet store. A bird was	109
screeching. Other birds were chattering loudly. A parrot was talking.	119
Some dogs were barking. A monkey was rattling the sides of his cage.	132
Tommy looked at the reptiles. There were all kinds of snakes. He	144
liked the big boa constrictor. But he knew his mom would not want that.	158
He also liked the corn snake. Then he saw the alligator lizard. It was a	173
baby lizard. It was smaller than Tommy's finger. Tommy loved it and the	186
owner of the store told Tommy's mom that the lizard was not dangerous.	199
Tommy was happy to bring his new pet home.	208

My Pet Finds Me

All of a sudden Tommy didn't notice the sounds in the pet store. He	14
just stared at the alligator lizard. He had never seen one before. It sort of	29
looked like a snake with legs. But it also looked like an alligator. It was	44
about seven inches long and had a mouth shaped like an alligator. Tommy	57
wondered if it would bite.	62
He asked the man if he would take the lizard out of the cage. The	77
man was happy to take the lizard out and show him. He put the lizard on	93
top of the table. "Does he bite?" Tommy asked.	102
"Only if you hurt him," the man replied.	110
Tommy looked at his mom. He noticed that she wasn't frowning the	122
way she did when he looked at the snakes. "May I hold him?" Tommy	136
asked.	137
"Sure," the man answered.	141
When Tommy picked up the lizard, he got a big surprise. The lizard	154
wrapped his long tail around Tommy's wrist.	161
Tommy said, "It looks like lizard has picked me."	170
Tom's mom laughed and said, "It sure does!"	178

Lizzy

Lizzy has been a perfect pet lizard. He likes to take walks around my	14
bedroom. He likes to hang over my shoulder while I do my homework.	27
He likes to sleep in the sun. He doesn't eat very much, just a few crickets	43
each day. He likes to find dark places to hide. Most of all, he likes to sleep	60
in secret warm places. But I always find him.	69
My mom thinks he's a perfect pet, too. That's because he's usually	81
hiding and she doesn't see him. She says it's easy to go away for the	96
weekend. Lizzy likes being left alone in his house to sleep.	107
Today he found a really good hiding place. I looked under the paper	120
on my desk. I peeked behind the bookcase, but no Lizzy. Mom decided	133
she'd better look, too. She looked in the closet. She looked behind the	146
desk. But she couldn't find him either. Then we heard dad give a little	160
gasp. Lizzy had found a good hiding place in his slipper.	171

Pancakes

My mom doesn't like to eat pancakes so she never makes them for us.	14
Now that's a problem. But my dad likes them and he cooks them for us.	29
In fact he cooks them almost every Sunday morning. As soon as we get	43
home from church, dad starts cooking. I help him. Sometimes I'm the	55
cook and he helps me. Then I get to decide what kind of pancakes we	70
make. I usually choose either blueberry or applesauce pancakes.	79
We make lots and lots of pancakes. We put them in the oven to keep	94
them warm. When we are ready to eat, we take them out of the oven. By	110
then there's a big stack of pancakes on the plate. We have plenty of syrup	125
on the table. Sometimes we have applesauce and jelly, too. My brother	137
takes about three for starters. My dad and I each take about five. And my	152
mother—she only takes one.	157
I eat my pancakes in a big pile. I put some butter on the top. Then I	174
pour syrup over the top. I bite into a big fork full. I'm so glad dad likes	191
pancakes.	192

Chocolate Chip Cookies

I don't know why, but I have a weakness for chocolate chip cookies.	13
It's really pretty bad. My mom can make any other kind of cookie and it's	28
okay. But I always have a problem with the chocolate chip cookies. I eat	42
too many.	44
As soon as I walk into the kitchen I know. I know that smell	58
anywhere. Yep, that just baked cookie smell hits me right away. It smells	71
just like my favorite kind of cookie. I have to try out a few. Everyone	86
knows that when a kid gets home from school he should get a few cookies.	101
Now if his friend is with him, his friend gets a few cookies, too.	115
Then after we drink a glass of milk, we both need a few more cookies.	130
Then we need a few more for our pockets as we go outside. When we get	146
hungry outside, we go back inside for just a few more chocolate chip	159
cookies. As you can see, this is a problem.	168
After dinner, mom tells us to have a cookie. I sure hope that there	182
are some left. I always have to hold my breath. My mom laughs and calls	197
me a cookie monster. I'm glad she understands!	205

The Bear

One day my younger sister and I had nothing to do. So we decided	14
to go on a picnic. We packed some food in a bag and said goodbye to	30
Mom. We left the house and walked into the woods.	40
It was dark and cool in the woods. We heard many strange noises as	54
we walked along the path. I thought about the bear stories we had heard. I	69
was worried that some of these noises were made by a bear walking through	83
the thick underbrush. My sister and I both began to listen for bear noises.	97
We walked deeper into the woods looking for an open space for a picnic.	111
But we kept listening for suspicious sounds. The more we listened, the	123
more scared we became.	127
Suddenly we heard a big crashing noise. Something big must be	138
making that noise. Maybe it was a bear! We turned and ran. We ran as	153
fast as we could. We didn't look back because we were running so fast.	167
We could see the end of the woods. We kept running across the yard and	182
into the house. We fell on the couch panting. My sister looked at me.	196
"Was it a bear?" she said.	202
"I don't know, but I wasn't going to wait to find out," I said. It	217
will be a long time before we will do that again. From now on, we	232
will play in the yard!	237

Games

I can play games all day. All of the other things I must do take away	16
time from playing games. Do you think I am a child or an adult?	30
Why did you guess that I am a child? I hope you do not believe that	46
only children like to play games. Many adults would play games all day if	60
they could. Of course, adult games are not always the same as children's	73
games. Adults play card games and sports like golf. Kids also play card	86
games and sports.	89
How are kids' games and adult games different? That is a very	101
difficult question to answer. Are adult games more fun? I don't think so.	114
Kids have at least as much fun playing their games. Are adult games harder	128
to learn? Sometimes they are harder to learn, but some kids' games are	141
hard for adults to learn. Maybe the only difference is that adult games	154
usually cost more to play. Or, maybe the difference is who likes to play the	169
game.	170
You decide how they differ. I think one difference might be that	182
some kids' games are really active, like tag, which adults get tired playing.	195
Most adult games don't have too much running. Can you think of more	208
differences?	209

The Race

The children had been waiting all morning to go outside and play. It	13
was a nice, sunny day with not a cloud in the sky. After the reading lesson	29
was over, Mrs. Smith led the class to the school playground.	40
Everyone was having fun playing. But Mike and Brad were talking	51
about who was the best runner. Mike bragged that he was the fastest runner	65
in the whole second grade at Oak Hill School. Brad said no, he was the	80
fastest and would show him. The boys went on and on with their bragging.	94
This gave Mrs. Smith an idea.	100
The teacher told the boys she would help them decide who was the	113
fastest by setting up a race. But the boys had to agree to let anyone else	129
run too. Brad and Mike both said yes. Just as the boys were ready to start	145
Kathy said she would like to run in the race.	155
All three children started at the same time and ran around the school.	168
When they were done Brad and Mike knew who was the fastest. Kathy was	182
the fastest! After the race they all shook hands and Brad and Mike stopped	196
bragging about who was the fastest.	202

Around The World

Have you ever wanted to travel all the way around the world? Most people dream of taking such a trip. You know what? I actually came close to doing it, and I'm only twelve years old.	13 27 36
My dad is a teacher and one year he had a chance to go teach in Hong Kong. Our family thought that going to another part of the world would be really fun and exciting, so we decided to go.	53 67 76
Hong Kong is really a long way from the United States. We had to fly for almost ten hours to get there. We were really tired. When we finally found the house that we were to live in all year, we all lay down and went to sleep for almost three hours.	90 104 121 128
We lived in Hong Kong for nine months. It is a very interesting place. People from all over the world live, work, or travel through Hong Kong. It is one of the most famous seaports in the world.	141 154 166
After our stay was finished we headed for home. We talked about flying the rest of the way around the world. We were all so anxious to get home, though, we decided not to. I was glad.	178 194 203

Moving

Maria had just moved again for the third time in the same year. All	14
of the schools were different in many ways. They each seemed to have	27
their own style. By the time she had settled in and made friends, she had to	43
move again. It was hard to keep up with schoolwork. Some things she	56
had already learned in her old schools. But most of the time, she felt lost.	71
She was living in a small apartment with her mom and aunt because her	85
parents were divorced. Maria was hoping they would stay here for a long	98
time. She had made a lot of friends with kids that lived near her. Still, she	114
missed all of her old friends from the last school.	124
One day another new student, Hattie, came to Maria's class. The	135
teacher asked Maria to help Hattie in her new classroom. Maria helped	147
Hattie find her way around the school. Maria knew how hard it was to be a	163
new student. She was a really good helper for Hattie. They soon became	176
each other's very best friend.	181

The Northern Pike

I love to go fishing. But sometimes I'm a little scared, too. Ever	13
since I was a little boy I've heard about a great big northern pike that lives	29
in the deep part of the lake. My dad used to tell me about it before I went	47
to bed.	49
When I was little, people had trouble getting me to bed. In the	62
summer it was still light out when I went to bed. So my dad would start	78
telling me this story to get me to lie still. It always worked because I liked	94
the story so much. But I never seemed to hear the end.	106
My dad would tell me about going out fishing for northern pike.	118
He'd think to himself that maybe he'd catch the gigantic pike that got away	132
from Grandpa many years ago. It was so big it nearly pulled the fishing	146
rod out of Grandpa's hands. It pulled so hard that Grandpa couldn't pull it	160
into the boat. It took a big jump and broke the line. But Grandpa saw it	176
and said it must have been three feet long. So, every time Dad went fishing	191
he was trying to get the big northern pike. So was I.	203

Grandpa

One of Bobby's best friends was his grandpa. Grandpa lived a few	12
blocks down the street from Bobby's house. When Bobby came home from	24
school he passed his grandpa's house, so he would always stop. Today	36
when he stopped by to see his grandpa he found him in the backyard.	50
Grandpa was fixing an old fishing pole. "What are you doing, Grandpa?"	62
Bobby asked.	64
"Well, Bobby, I found this old fishing pole in the basement and I	77
thought I might fix it up," said Grandpa. "You don't know anyone who	90
could use a pole, do you?"	96
Bobby's eyes opened wide and he said, "I don't have a pole, Grandpa.	109
Could you take me fishing?"	114
"Well, that sounds like a good idea to me," laughed Grandpa. "Call	126
up your mother and check with her first. If it's OK with her, I'll take you	142
down to the lake after dinner."	148
Bobby called his mom and she said it was fine as long as he finished	163
his homework later. Then he and Grandpa had dinner. After dinner they	175
loaded up the truck. "Don't forget the bait," Grandpa warned Bobby.	186
Bobby ran back to the garage. There he found the small pail full of worms.	201
They had a great time fishing and Grandpa promised they would go again	214
soon.	215

Growing

Every year my mom measures how much my brother and I grow.	12
There's a wall in the basement which shows how much we've grown each year. Mom has us stand next to the wall then she puts a book on our heads.	25
She marks the place where the book meets the wall. She does this at the beginning of the new year.	42
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When I look at the marks I see that I don't grow the same amount each year. Some years I grew about one inch. Other years I grew two or more inches. My brother's marks are like that too. It's good to know that I keep growing. Mom says that I will grow better if I eat good food. I try to do that.	77
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	126
I never see myself grow. I never even feel myself grow. But I know I am growing. And whenever I don't feel like I'm growing, I walk downstairs and look at that wall.	140
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Sometimes I feel like I'm not getting older fast enough. I want to be old enough to do all the things my big brother gets to do. But when I remember the marks on the wall, I know I'm growing older, too. Each mark means I'm a year older and someday I'll be all grown up.	173
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Fall

The fall season is exciting. I'm not sure why it is so exciting, but I can	16
guess. First, I like to go back to school. You may be surprised to hear that,	32
but it's true. Why should that be? Summer vacation is fun, but after a	46
while I get bored. It's exciting to return to school and see all of the other	62
kids again.	64
Another reason why I like the fall is that the weather begins to	77
change. The days become cooler. The leaves change color and fall off the	90
trees. Fallen leaves may be the clearest sign that fall is really here. When	104
you're a kid, fallen leaves may also be the most fun.	115
What makes fallen leaves so much fun? Well, fallen leaves can be	127
raked into big piles. Everyone knows what to do with a big pile of fallen	142
leaves! Jump into them, of course. But you'd better be ready to rake them	156
back into a pile again if your dad is watching. He doesn't think it's much	171
fun to rake up leaves more than one time. But I don't mind raking twice as	187
long as I can have fun jumping into the leaves. I'm glad it's fall!	201

Camping

That night Juan and Lee set up their camp. They were close to Pine	14
Lake. Lee thought it was a good place to see deer. Some deer might come	29
to the lake. They had seen animal tracks along the trail. But neither boy	43
knew what animal left the prints in the mud. Juan liked the spot because	57
now he could use his new fishing pole.	65
Juan pulled out the new tent he had bought. He was eager to put it	80
up. But he was upset when he found that he had accidentally left the poles	95
at home. Lee said not to worry, all they had to do was use some tree limbs.	112
After looking around the boys finally found some branches. A couple of	124
fallen tree branches were about four feet long. They were perfect. Soon	136
their tent was up and ready.	142
The next job was to get dinner ready. Lee worked on the meal. Juan	156
looked for firewood. Juan remembered the ranger asking all campers to use	168
fallen, dead wood for fires. Finding firewood was not easy since most of	181
the trees were alive. Juan couldn't find dead wood. He wandered further	193
away in search of firewood. As he climbed a nearby hill he noticed a fallen	208
tree in the ravine. It was a steep climb to the bottom. But Juan thought it	224
was worth the effort.	228

Getting Up In The Morning

Morning! I used to jump out of bed in the morning. But now it's getting harder and harder for me. Now I like to lie in bed while I'm still sleepy.	14 30 31
The first thing I hear is my mom saying, "Time to get up, Kia." "It's time for school." After a few minutes with no signs of life from my body, she walks over to me and gives my back a little shake. Then I give a little groan so she'll stop. Next she turns on the light to remind me not to fall back to sleep. Then I have to turn over to shut out the light. At this point I give a big whine. Then she knows that I'm beginning to wake up but I strongly object. Then, just to make sure I know she means business, mom turns on the radio as she leaves the room. Bah, humbug!	46 61 78 94 112 127 140 151
I lie in bed listening to the radio. I can hear mom in the kitchen. She can really make a lot of noise in the kitchen in the morning. I know it's her way of keeping me awake. Soon I smell sausages cooking. That does the trick. Now I can't stand to lie in bed!	170 182 195 206

The Last Story

Have I told you my last story? I hope not. Life is more fun when	15
we have stories to tell. If I tell you my last story then I won't have as much	33
fun talking with you. Do you and your other friends tell stories to each	47
other? I'll bet you do. I'll bet that you don't even think that when you talk	63
you are telling your stories. You really are, you know. When we tell	76
people about things we have seen or done we are telling our story. That	90
means that every person has a story to tell.	99
The longest story that you have to tell might be the story of your life.	114
The longer you live, the longer your story becomes. Old people have very	127
long stories to tell. If you will sit and listen to an old person tell his story	144
you will find that it is very interesting. Most of the things you will hear	159
about you have never seen. Aren't stories about things that you have never	172
seen the most interesting? I think so.	179

Sharing Corn

The farmer said, "If you help me plant my corn, I will share my	14
crops with you." So the neighbor helped the farmer to drag the sacks of	28
corn to the field. The farmer said, "Now we must dig long furrows in the	43
ground to plant the corn."	48
The neighbor said, "But you told me that we would share the corn."	61
"That is true," the farmer replied. "We'll plant the corn. When it	73
grows with large ears we'll each take half."	81
"No, that's not the way that I want to share," the neighbor replied.	94
"We'll divide the corn now. You take half of the bags and I'll take half of	110
the bags."	112
"I don't want to argue with you," said the farmer. "You may take	125
half of the bags."	129
The neighbor then began to carry away his bags of corn while the	142
farmer made furrows for his seeds. The farmer thought, "I hope my	154
neighbor plants his corn too. If he eats it now he will soon find that the	170
corn will not last long. In the fall he will wish that he would have planted	186
his seeds with mine.	190

Shantel and Liz

Shantel and Liz are playing softball. Shantel is batting. Liz is	11
pitching. Jamal is in the outfield to catch the ball. Jamal is running to	25
catch the ball. Liz is also running toward the ball. Who will catch it? Liz	40
is faster and she catches the softball.	47
Liz lives in a charming house. The house is in the city. The house is	62
old. It has brick walls and big windows. The trees outside are old. Liz	76
lives with her mother. She likes to go to Shantel's house to play.	89
Shantel lives in the house next to Liz. Shantel's house is painted	101
blue. Her cat, Puff, likes to sleep on the windowsill. The sun comes in and	116
makes Puff warm. There's a tree outside the window. A chipmunk lives in	129
a hole in the tree. Puff spends hours watching the chipmunk run up and	143
down the tree.	146
Shantel lives with her mom and baby brother. Shantel's baby brother	157
is fun to watch. Shantel and Liz like to take him for walks and read books	173
to him. Puff likes to jump on the book. It's hard to read with a cat on the	191
book!	192
Shantel and Liz enjoy doing things together. They are happy to be	204
friends.	205

The Treasure Hunt

Sunday was the day of the treasure hunt, Sherry and Missy said they would help each other find the hidden prize. The prize was placed in a small box.	13 27 29
"Where do you think the box is?" Sherry asked her friend.	40
"I'm not sure, but I think it is in the park across the street. Let's go over there and look."	56 60
Both girls walked over to the park and started to look around the trees and bushes. Sherry even climbed into the oak tree, but could not find anything.	73 87 88
"Maybe the prize is over by the pond," said Missy.	98
"It's worth a try," said Sherry. "I'll race you!"	107
Both girls were out of breath when they reached the pond. They were the only ones there. Missy checked the shore while Sherry walked over to the bridge near the stream. As she began to step onto the bridge, she noticed a small box to the side. "Over here," she yelled to Missy, "I think I found it."	119 131 146 161 165
Missy ran over and the two of them looked at the small wooden box. Sherry soon opened the box and found a piece of paper. On the paper were the words: only the person who is smart as a fox will win the prize when they find this box.	179 194 210 214