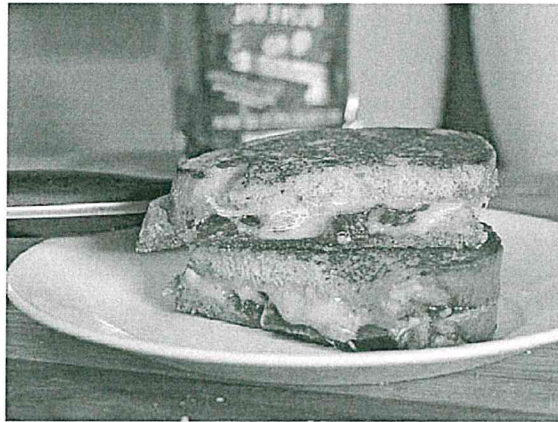


4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Day 2

# Let's Make Dinner!

W.M. Akers



“Mom’s gonna be home late,” said Fletcher. “We have to make dinner.”

Fletcher stood in the doorway of his sister’s room. Clara splayed out on a beanbag chair, reading a magazine with a boy band on the cover. She was 13, and Fletcher thought she was probably too old to still have a beanbag chair in her room. He mentioned this a lot, because at 10 years old, he considered himself the perfect age to take the chair. It looked super-comfortable.

“Clara!” he shouted. His sister took off her headphones, but didn’t say anything. She just looked at him, glassy-eyed, waiting for him to speak. “We gotta make dinner. Mom’s gonna be home late.”

“What do you mean, ‘We’?”

“I mean you and me.”

“You don’t know how to make dinner.”

“I do, too!”

“Toast doesn’t count.”

“I can make dinner,” said Fletcher. “I can totally make dinner. And Mom called me and said she was gonna be home late. She said, ‘You and your sister will have to fix something to eat.’ That’s what she said. ‘You and your sister.’ So I’m helping.”

“Great,” said Clara. She heaved herself off the beanbag chair and walked past him toward the kitchen. As he followed, Fletcher felt a pang of fear. He didn’t know how to make dinner at all.

“What do you want to eat?” asked Clara.

Fletcher stood over the kitchen counter, flipping through Mom's biggest cookbook. "This," he said, and pointed to a recipe.

"Coq au vin," said Clara. She pronounced it like "coke aw van." "Did you even read this recipe? It takes like, three days."

"That's gotta be a misprint."

"And besides, it calls for wine. Vin is French for wine. We don't have any, and we're not allowed in the wine cabinet, anyway. Try again."

Fletcher flipped to a random page. "What about this? It looks easy."

"Chocolate cream pie. No. We cannot make chocolate cream pie for dinner."

"Then how about..." He flipped to another page. "Ooh! These potato chips look awesome!"

"You really think Mom wanted us to make potato chips for dinner?"

"Maybe..."

"You have to fry stuff for this. That's dangerous. We're not allowed."

We're not allowed was one of Clara's favorite things to say. Whenever she and Fletcher were alone at night—which was a lot, since Mom started her new job—Fletcher had great ideas for fun things to do: cool TV shows to watch, or awesome dinners to make. And Clara never had anything to say but, "We're not allowed."

"Here," said Clara. "We have potato chips in the pantry anyway. Eat some."

"I don't want boring old potato chips out of a bag. I want super fun, awesome, homemade, fresh-out-of-the-oil potato chips. With cinnamon on them."

"We're not putting cinnamon on the potato chips! That would be disgusting."

"Then we *are* making chips for dinner?"

"No!" Clara composed herself. This was something she had to do a lot when she was talking to her brother. She had been doing it for a long time. She would take a deep breath and count to however old he was. If he was still bothering her this much when he was 60, she thought, she would have to count for a long time. "How about a grilled cheese?"

"Grilled cheese is almost as boring as chips."

"But it's something we can make without burning down the house. That's a plus."

"I guess."

"And listen, it doesn't have to be boring! We can put all sorts of fun stuff on it."

"Like what?"

"Uh...like carrots."

"Carrots are *not* fun. Even the least fun person in the whole world wouldn't think carrots are fun. Even Aunt Becky."

"Okay, okay! So carrots are less fun than Aunt Becky. But maybe we could use..." Clara opened the fridge and scanned the shelves. She saw a block of strange looking cheese, the kind she'd only ever had at restaurants. "This cheese looks fun!"

"That cheese looks like something they dug up out of the dirt. No."

"Well, what do you want on your grilled cheese?"

"Cinnamon. And candy corn."

Clara looked at her brother. He wasn't smiling. He wasn't laughing. He wasn't kidding. And so she uttered what, to little brothers everywhere, is the magic word:

"Fine."

And so they started to grill. Clara established a two-person assembly line, which made their progress that much faster. Because he wasn't allowed to touch the stove, Fletcher assembled the sandwiches. He laid out four pieces of bread in two lines. On the right hand pieces, he put Clara's nasty looking cheese. On the left, plain old American cheese and candy corn and *lots* of cinnamon. He snuck a few pieces of candy corn while Clara wasn't looking and smiled. This was going to be amazing.

Meanwhile, Clara melted the butter. Once it had finished bubbling, she put the first sandwich—hers—into the pan. She gave it a few minutes and flipped it. It was a little black on one side, but she figured it would be okay. She took it off quickly. The other side had barely toasted.

"Hmm," she said. "I guess it will even out."

Next she cooked Fletcher's sandwich. Some of the candy corn slipped out, melting in the butter and turning as hard as plastic. That's going to be a pain to clean, she thought. To make sure their sandwiches were the same, she cooked Fletcher's the same way she'd cooked hers: burning it on one side and leaving it pale brown on the other.

"It'll even out," she told him. She sat on the couch and picked up her sandwich. It had gotten cold while she cooked Fletcher's, but she figured it would be okay. She lifted it to her mouth, took a bite, chewed a little, and—

"Oh my goodness," she said. "Oh...oh no!" Fletcher cackled as his sister ran to the trashcan and spit out the sandwich. "There is *candy corn* on my grilled cheese! And cinnamon! This is disgusting."

"Sorry!" said Fletcher, not trying very hard to stop laughing.

"You did it on purpose."

"No, no, I swear. It was an accident. They probably just snuck on."

"Snuck on. Candy corn just snuck on."

"I guess so," said Fletcher, as he bit into his sandwich. "Blech!"

Fletcher ran to the trashcan. He spit out his mouthful and looked up at his sister.

"You mixed up the two pieces of bread, didn't you?" she asked. "You got candy corn on my sandwich and my funky cheese on yours."

"I guess so," he said.

They looked at their sandwiches, each with one bite missing. They looked at the two bites spit into the trash.

"I know what to do," said Clara. "Throw those out."

As Fletcher tossed the sandwiches into the trash, Clara stood on her tiptoes in the pantry. She grabbed something off of the top shelf and slapped it onto the table: a \$20 bill.

"Get the phone," she said. "We're ordering pizza."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do Fletcher and Clara have to make dinner?
  - A) because their mom will be home late
  - B) because their mom is sick in bed
  - C) because their mom does not know how to make dinner
  - D) because their mom doesn't want to cook
  
2. The grilled cheese sandwiches do not taste good to Clara and Fletcher. How does Clara deal with this problem?
  - A) She makes potato chips.
  - B) She calls her mom.
  - C) She orders pizza.
  - D) She makes more grilled cheese.
  
3. Clara is the type of person who follows the rules. Which evidence from the passage supports this statement?
  - A) Clara does not want to make chocolate cream pie for dinner.
  - B) Clara agrees to put candy corn on Fletcher's sandwich.
  - C) Clara cooks grilled cheese for Fletcher and herself.
  - D) Clara frequently says, "We're not allowed."
  
4. What can you infer about Clara and Fletcher's mother?
  - A) She isn't a good cook.
  - B) She works a lot.
  - C) She is kind.
  - D) She likes grilled cheese.
  
5. What is this story mostly about?
  - A) a brother and sister cooking dinner
  - B) different grilled cheese recipes
  - C) a boy who loves cinnamon
  - D) a mom who often works late

6. Read the following sentences: “‘No!’ Clara **composed** herself. This was something she had to do a lot when she was talking to her brother. She had been doing it for a long time. She would take a deep breath and count to however old he was.”

What does “**composed**” mean in this sentence?

- A) shouted
- B) calmed
- C) held
- D) breathed

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_, Fletcher wants to make coq au vin for dinner. Then he wants to make potato chips.

- A) Finally
- B) Even though
- C) Particularly
- D) Initially

8. What do Clara and Fletcher make for dinner?

---

---

---

9. Explain what goes wrong when Clara and Fletcher make dinner.

---

---

---

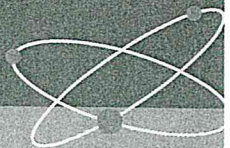
10. Explain whether Clara and Fletcher are good problem solvers. Support your answer using information from the passage.

---

---

---

# Something in Common



Draw a line to match each pair of **synonyms**.

hungry

construct

angry

excited

elevated

cruel

eager

famished

pal

boast

build

rich

wicked

mad

brag

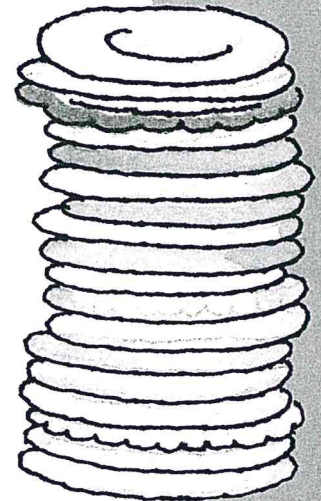
moist

wealthy

high

damp

friend

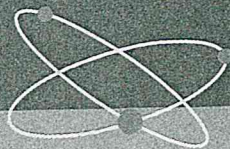


Write two other synonyms in the boxes below.  
Then draw a picture to show what they mean.

## Brain Box

Words that have the same or nearly the same meaning are called





# Two for One

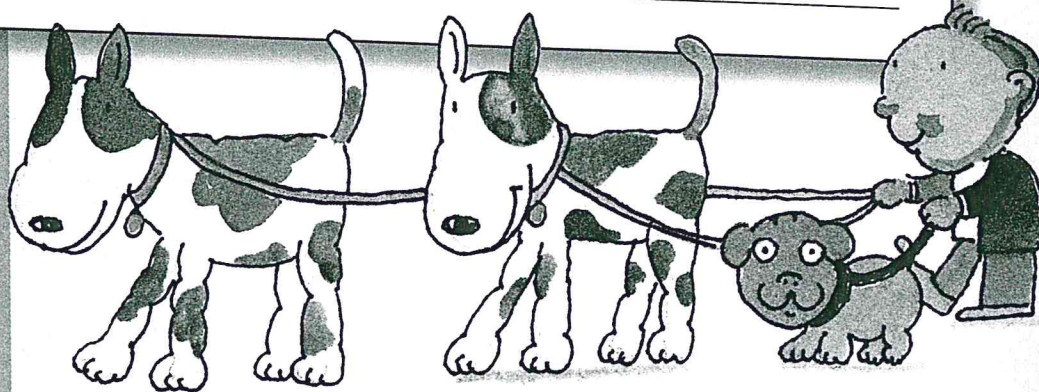
Write a **synonym** and an **antonym** for each word on the chart. Use the words from the Word Box.

**Spelling and Vocabulary**

Antonyms and synonyms

ill	break	different	difficult
false	begin	depart	repair
factual	arrive	laugh	energetic
complete	exhausted	alike	cautious
sob	easy	healthy	reckless

	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
careful	<u>cautious</u>	<u>reckless</u>
cry	_____	_____
hard	_____	_____
leave	_____	_____
tired	_____	_____
fix	_____	_____
sick	_____	_____
finish	_____	_____
similar	_____	_____
true	_____	_____



Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Score : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Word Problems

1 ) There are 25 pencils in the drawer. Joan placed 49 more pencils in the drawer. How many pencils are now there in total ? \_\_\_\_\_

2 ) Nancy's high school played 48 baseball games this year. She attended 26 games. How many baseball games did Nancy miss ? \_\_\_\_\_

3 ) Mary has 44 baseball cards. Sandy bought 25 of Mary's baseball cards. How many baseball cards does Mary have now ? \_\_\_\_\_

4 ) Alyssa had 38 quarters in her bank. She spent 17 of her quarters. How many quarters does she have now ? \_\_\_\_\_

5 ) Tim grew 35 pumpkins. Jessica grew 37 pumpkins. How many pumpkins did they grow in total ? \_\_\_\_\_

6 ) Alyssa picked 45 pears and Joan picked 49 pears from the pear tree. How many pears were picked in all ? \_\_\_\_\_

7 ) There are 45 rose bushes currently in the park. Park workers will plant 16 more rose bushes today. How many rose bushes will the park have when the workers are finished ? \_\_\_\_\_

8 ) Mike found 46 seashells on the beach, he gave Dan 11 of the seashells. How many seashells does he now have ? \_\_\_\_\_

9 ) Keith has 14 books. Fred has 46 books. How many books do they have together ? \_\_\_\_\_

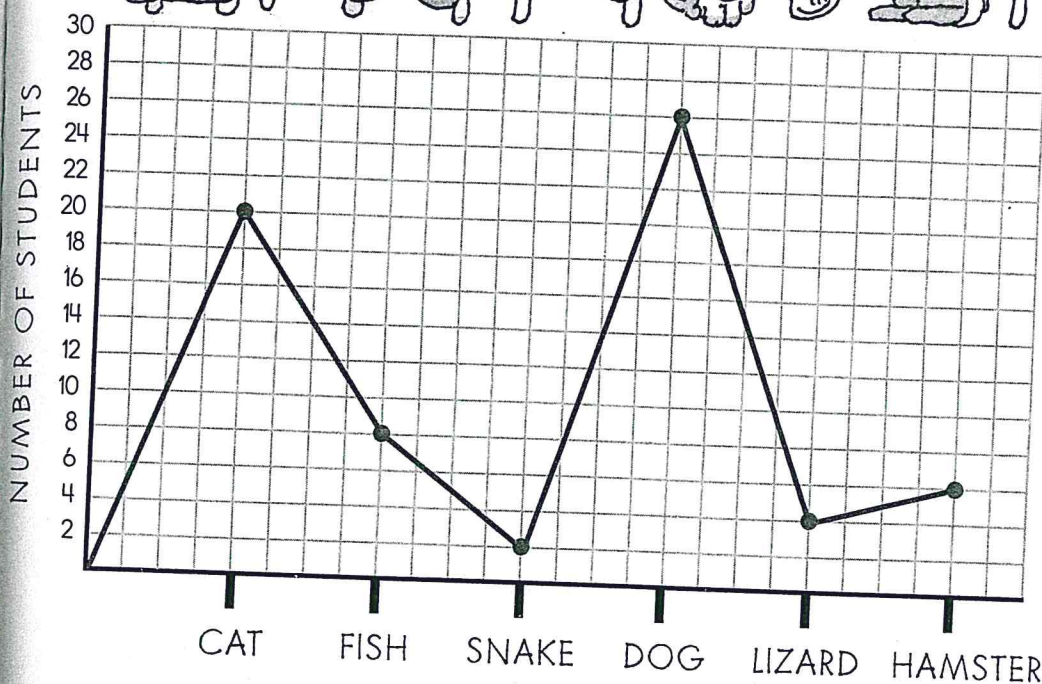
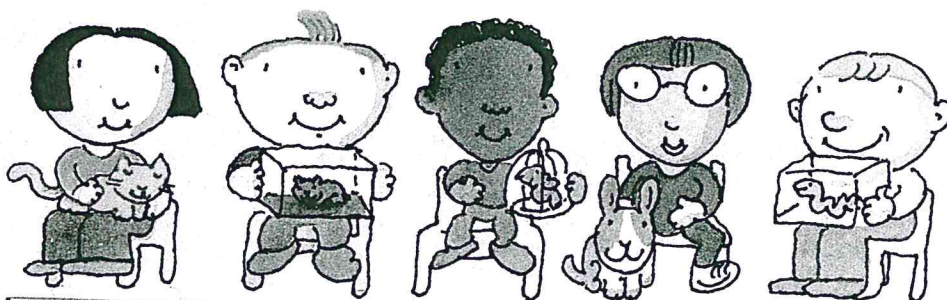
10 ) Benny has 43 red marbles, he gave Jessica 24 of the marbles. How many red marbles does he now have ? \_\_\_\_\_





# Show and Tell

Use the **graph** to answer the questions.



Math Skills

Reading a line graph

The third graders at Dwight Elementary School made a line graph showing how many of them own particular kinds of pets.

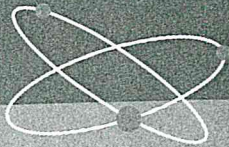
How many third graders own fish? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of pet is owned by the greatest number of students?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of pet is owned by the fewest number of students?  
\_\_\_\_\_

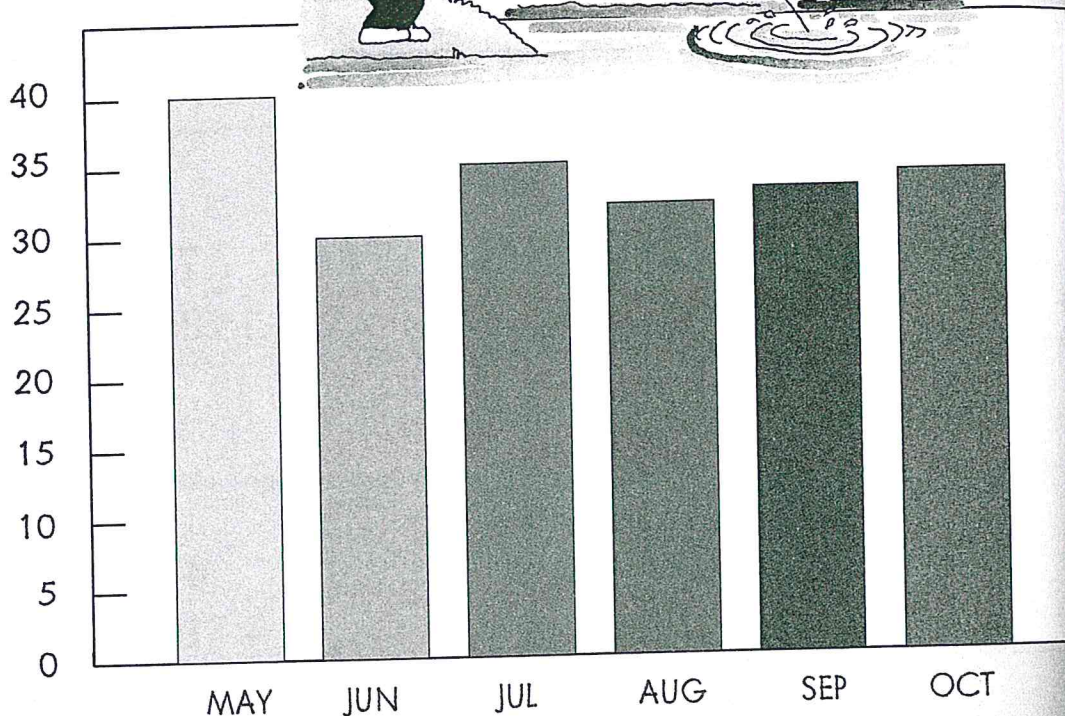
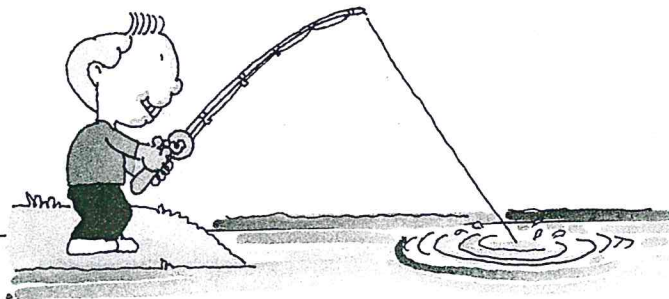
How many third graders own snakes? \_\_\_\_\_

Do more students own hamsters or lizards? \_\_\_\_\_



# Gone Fishing

Use the bar graph to answer the questions.



## Math Skills

Reading a bar graph

Felix Flounder goes fishing every weekend from May through October. The bar graph shows how many fish he caught each month.

In which month did Felix catch the most fish? \_\_\_\_\_

How many fish did Felix catch in June? \_\_\_\_\_

In which month did Felix catch the fewest fish? \_\_\_\_\_

How many more fish did Felix catch in July than he did in June? \_\_\_\_\_

How many fish did Felix catch in May and June combined? \_\_\_\_\_