Reading 1

**A Pocket Pet: The Sugar Glider**

Boy: What’s that? What do you have in your pocket?

Girl: It’s a sugar glider. It’s the perfect pocket pet.

Boy: A sugar glider. Wow, that’s amazing! Where does it come from?

Girl: It’s from Indonesia. Watch. I’m going to make it glide to that tree over there.

Boy: Amazing! It’s gliding just like an airplane. Here, let me see it. Ah, look, it has a piece of skin between the front and back legs. So I guess when it open its legs, the skin becomes like a wing.

Girl: Right. The piece of skin between the front and back legs is important. When it opens its legs up, it’s just like the wing of an airplane.

Boy: So does it make a good pet? Should I get my own?

Girl: To be honest, it’s not a very good pet. It stays awake all night and glides around my room. And if I don’t play with it, it gets lonely and sick.

Boy: It stays awake all night and glides around the room? And it might get sick if you don’t play with it all the time? Oh, I don’t think I’ll get a sugar glider.

Reading 2

**Churchill and Fleming**

Boy: Thank you for helping me with my homework, Mindy. I really appreciate it.

Girl: It’s my pleasure, Bart. I always believe in helping people when I can. Maybe someday you’ll help me. I always think of the example of Alexander Fleming and Winston Churchill.

Boy: What do you mean? What’s the example?

Girl: Well, once, when Alexander Fleming and Winston Churchill were children, Fleming saved Churchill’s life.

Boy: Really? Alexander Fleming saved Winston Churchill’s life? I didn’t know that.

Girl: Yes. Fleming saved him from drowning in a lake. Then, some years later, Churchill wanted to pay him back for saving him. So, he helped Fleming go to medical school.

Boy: How did he help him? Did Churchill help Fleming? Did he help him pay for medical school or something?

Girl: Well, Churchill’s dad helped to pay for the schooling. And then, guess what? Fleming repaid this favor, too.

Boy: How did he do that?

Girl: One day, when Churchill was the British Prime Minister, he got really sick. He had pneumonia. A doctor gave him penicillin and he got better quickly. Guess who discovered penicillin?

Boy: Fleming discovered penicillin, didn’t he? Ah! So that’s how Fleming repaid the favor!

Reading 3

**The Sweetest Place on Earth**

Boy: Grandma, why do they call your town Chocolate Town?

When I was small, I thought the reason was that everything was made of chocolate…

Grandmother: No, the reason is not that everything is made of chocolate. The reason is that the town was built by a man who owned a chocolate company. His name was Milton Hershey.

Boy: Ah, Hershey. I know Hershey. Just like the Hershey chocolate bar… So he made this town, did he?

Grandmother: Yes, he built this entire town. He built it so his workers could have a place to live. He built schools, parks, shops… He built everything you can see here.

Boy: Sure, I can see plenty of schools, parks, and shops. And that was all so that his workers could have a place to live, huh? Hershey sounds like a pretty interesting man.

Grandmother: He was an interesting man. Do you know what else is interesting? He gave the streets fun names. Like this street here…

Boy: Oh, yeah. This street is called Chocolate Avenue. How funny! But do you know what I like most about your town? It smells like fresh chocolate all the time.

Grandmother: Yes, I like the fresh chocolate smell, too. Hey, do you want to visit the chocolate factory today?

Boy: The chocolate factory? That would be great. Let’s go.

Reading 4

**A Badly Built House**

Boy: Ah, I hate this old house. It was so badly built. I wish we could move…

Girl: This reminds me of the story of the carpenter and the badly built house.

Boy: The carpenter and the badly built house? What are you talking about?

Girl: You haven’t heard the story? Well, it goes something like this… There was an old carpenter who was ready to retire. So his boss told him to build just one more house.

Boy: Okay, so there was an old carpenter ready to retire. His boss told him to build one more house. Go on.

Girl: But the carpenter was old and tired. He didn’t do a good job. He wanted to finish as quickly as possible. He did a terrible job building the house.

Boy: Yes, yes. He did a terrible job building the house because he was old and tired. What happened next?

Girl: Well, the boss, you see, handed the house keys to the old man. He said, “This is your house. It’s my retirement gift to you.”

Boy: Ah, the house was the boss’s retirement gift to the old man.

Girl: The meaning of the story is that people should work hard on every job they do. I think this house was built by someone who didn’t want to work hard, too.

Boy: Yeah, I bet this house was built by that old, tired carpenter!

Reading 5

**Expressions of Love**

Man: Please milk a cow with me forever, Ona.

Woman: Please milk a cow with me forever? What are you talking about? Are you crazy?

Man: Oh, please don’t be angry, Ona. I guess you don’t know African expressions.

I mean to ask you, “Will you marry me?”

Woman: You’re asking me to marry you? “Milk a cow with me forever” is an African expression that means “Marry me”? How odd. You know, in Lithuania, we are much more romantic.

Man: How are you more romantic in Lithuania?

Woman: Well, when a Lithuanian man asks a woman to marry him, he might say, “You are the only rose for me. Please stick me with your thorns.”

Man: You are the only rose for me. Please stick me with your thorns. That doesn’t sound very romantic to me.

Woman: Well, it is romantic. I guess these expressions of love are different from country to country.

Man: Yes, I would say expressions of love are different from country to country. But you haven’t answered my question. Please, please, Ona, won’t you marry me?

Woman: Well, I don’t know, Issa. I just met you three days ago…

Reading 6

**McDonald’s**

Boy: Oh, I’m so hungry. I’m going to get a Big Mac. You know, Stephanie, this is a really special restaurant.

Girl: This is a special restaurant? What are you talking about? This is a McDonald’s. There are McDonald’s restaurants everywhere.

Boy: You’re right. There are McDonald’s restaurants everywhere. But this is the original McDonald’s restaurant.

Girl: The original McDonald’s restaurant? Do you mean this is the first one that was built?

Boy: That’s right. It was built in 1940. At first, the brothers served a whole bunch of different food in this restaurant.

Girl: They served a whole bunch of different food? They didn’t just serve hamburgers, French fries, and all that?

Boy: Well, they served hamburgers along with many other kinds of food. They used barbecues to make the food. But the business didn’t do well, and they had to close.

Girl: Really? They had to close the first McDonald’s because it wasn’t successful? Who would’ve imagined that?

Boy: Yes, but they opened up again soon. And this time, they served only hamburgers, French fries, and milkshakes. They were more successful. The reasons are that they specialized and they were able to make the food more quickly.

Girl: So they were more successful when they specialized in hamburgers, French fries, and milkshakes, huh? I can see how that would be…

Reading 7

**The Octopus: A Truly Great Survivor**

Girl: Look! There’s an octopus. This fish tank is so cool.

Boy: Yeah, this fish tank is pretty cool. Oh, look! That octopus seems to be changing color. Now it’s the same color as those rocks over there.

Girl: Yes, octopuses change color to look like rocks or sand when they feel they are in danger.

Boy: They change color when they feel they are in danger. But why does it feel that it is in danger now?

Girl: Well, look. There’s a big fish swimming over. Now it’s getting close to the octopus… Wow! It just sprayed a bunch of black ink. Octopuses also spray black ink when they feel they are in danger.

Boy: Cool! Why do they spray black ink when they feel they are in danger?

Girl: So that their enemies can’t see or smell them.

Boy: So that their enemies can’t see or smell them, huh? That black ink must be thick and smelly. I can understand why their enemies can’t see or smell anything. Can it fight, too?

Girl: Oh, you bet it can fight. It uses its eight arms to hold on to its enemies. Then, it bites its enemies with its sharp teeth.

Boy: So it holds its enemies with eight arms and then bites it with sharp teeth. Wow, what a scary animal!

Reading 8

**Father’s Gift**

Boy: Ah! My dad makes me so angry. It was my birthday yesterday, but all he gave me was this stupid book. I wanted a smartphone.

Girl: Ryan, this is a really nice book. You shouldn’t be mad. Your father gave you a lovely gift. This reminds me of the story of the sports car and the Bible.

Boy: The story of the sports car and the Bible? What are you talking about?

Girl: Well, one day there was a young man that was going to graduate from college soon. He said to his father, “Dad, I would like a sports car as a graduation gift.”

Boy: So some guy was going to graduate from college. And he told his father that he wanted a car as a graduation gift. I’m with you so far.

Girl: On graduation day, his father gave him a beautiful old Bible. The young man was really angry. He had wanted a car for a gift. He threw the Bible down and ran out of the house.

Boy: So he got a Bible from his dad. He got angry and threw the Bible down. Go on.

Girl: Many years went by. The man was always angry with his father. He never went back to see him. Then, one day, he heard that his father had died. He was sad, so he went to his father’s funeral.

Boy: So he never talked to his father again. And then when his father died, he went to the funeral.

Girl: Right. After the funeral, the man went to his father’s house. He found the old Bible. He opened the Bible up, and a car key dropped out. It was the key to the sports car he had wanted.

Boy: The car key dropped out of the Bible? You mean the car key had been in the Bible all along?

 Hey, look at this book. This book has a key in it, too. It looks like a key to a safe.

Reading 9

**The Hungry Ghosts Festival**

Girl: Hi, Peng. Thanks for inviting me. This is my first time to go to the Hungry Ghosts Festival. Can you tell me something about it?

Boy: Thanks for coming, Jessica. Sure, I’d be happy to tell you about the festival. The purpose is to remember our dead family members. Mostly, we do this by preparing special food for them. That’s why we call it the Hungry Ghosts Festival.

Girl: Wait. I’m confused. You make food for ghosts!? So do ghosts actually eat the food or something?

Boy: Oh, no, the food isn’t eaten by ghosts. It’s just a ritual like a ceremony. We put an empty chair in front of the food. We pretend the ghosts eat the food. It’s just a way of remembering and thinking about our dead family members.

Girl: So it’s a ceremony when you pretend the ghosts eat the food. That’s an interesting way of thinking about your dead family members. What else do you do?

Boy: Well, we give the ghosts gifts and money.

Girl: Gifts and money? Surely dead people can’t use gifts and money.

Boy: We don’t give them actual gifts and money. They are just pieces of paper that look like gifts or money. We burn the paper gifts and money.

Girl: Ah, yes, I see. Your brother is burning some paper money right now. Cool.

Boy: I’m going to give my dead grandmother a car.

Here. Hold up this big paper car. I’m going to light it on fire.

Girl: You’re going to light this on fire now? Oh, wow!

Reading 10

**How to Get Along with Your Teachers**

Boy: That Mrs. Kim sure is a scary teacher, isn’t she, Sunny?

Girl: Mrs. Kim? She’s not scary. She’s nice. I get along with her really well.

Boy: Really? Most people don’t get along well with Mrs. Kim. How do you do it?

Girl: Well, for one thing, I’m always on time for class. And I always do my homework well and listen in class.

Boy: So you’re always on time for class, do your homework well, and listen in class. I do all of those things. But she doesn’t seem to like me.

Girl: Another thing you should do is show that you’re interested in the subject in class.

I really love history. So I ask lots of questions in class and talk about history in Mrs. Kim’s class.

Boy: Hmm… I’m pretty interested in history, too. But I’m shy in class, so I don’t ask a lot of questions or talk a lot. Maybe she thinks I’m not interested in the subject, but I am.

Girl: Then you should talk more in class. Don’t be shy. Show her you’re really interested in the subject. Or you could talk with Mrs. Kim after class if you’re really shy.

Boy: That’s true. I could talk with her after class. That would be better for me.

Girl: Anyway, you should really get to know Mrs. Kim. She’s not mean at all. In fact, she’s a really neat lady.

Reading 11

**Achilles’ Weakness**

Boy: Ah, I did terribly on that math test again. I can’t believe this. I do well in all of my other subjects. But math is my only weakness. I guess you could say it’s my Achilles’ heel.

Girl: Achilles’ heel? What do you mean?

Boy: You know, Achilles’ heel–from the ancient Greek story of Achilles. Well, according to the story, Achilles was born long ago in Greece. His mother wanted him to grow up to be strong. So she dipped him in this river.

Girl: Wait, wait. You’re confusing me. This ancient Greek guy, Achilles, he had a mother that wanted him to grow up to be strong. So she dipped him in a river. How would that make him stronger?

Boy: Well, it was a magical river. The river water made his skin stronger than metal. But the problem was that his mother held him by the heel as she dipped him in the river. So his whole body wasn’t strong. His foot and heel didn’t get wet.

Girl: Ah, I see. She held him by the heel as she dipped him, right? So his foot and heel didn’t get wet. I’m following you…

Boy: Anyway, one day in a battle, someone shot Achilles in the heel with an arrow. He died. That was his only weakness. So, today, when someone has a special weakness, we say he or she has an Achilles’ heel.

Girl: Hmm… That’s interesting. So Achilles was shot in the heel. That was his only weakness. So that’s where this expression comes from. It means a special weakness. Cool!

Reading 12

**Rat-Man**

Boy: Okay, Christine, tell me what you see.

Girl 1: I see a chicken, a dog, a rabbit, a cat, a rat…

Boy: Now, Jenny, tell me what you see.

Girl 2: I see a boy, a girl, a man, a woman, an old man…

Boy: Hah! That’s so interesting. Look here… The fifth picture I showed both of you girls is the same. It’s called rat-man. Some people think it looks like a rat, and other people think it looks like an old man.

Girl 2: Oh, yeah. Look at that. If you look at it one way, it looks like a rat. If you look at it another way, it looks like an old man. I guess it’s a rat-man. I thought it looked like an old man. And Christine thought it looked like a rat.

Boy: Yes, these same pictures were used in a famous experiment. Two scientists showed the animal pictures to a group of people. When they finally showed the rat-man, most people said it was a rat.

Girl 1: I can understand that. They looked at four animal pictures. Then, the fifth one–the rat-man–looks more like a rat. And I suppose the people that were shown the people’s pictures said that rat-man looked more like an old man.

Boy: Exactly. This shows that our experiences affect the way we see things.

Girl 2: Our experiences affect the way we see things… That is so interesting.

Reading 13

**The School Bully**

Girl: What’s up, Ted? You look really sad today…

Boy: I am really sad. Do you know Jack? He keeps bullying me. I don’t know what to do.

Girl: Really? Jack keeps bullying you? That’s terrible. I see he makes fun of you in class sometimes. But he does that to everyone. You shouldn’t worry about that.

Boy: Yes, he bullies me in class. But that’s not what I’m most worried about. Jack is bullying me outside the classroom, too.

Girl: He’s bullying you outside the classroom? What does he do?

Boy: He calls me on my cell phone and says mean things. He even visits my blog and writes bad things about me.

Girl: Wow! I didn’t realize he calls you on your phone and says mean things. And I think it’s terrible that he writes mean things on your blog. You must take action.

Boy: Take action? What do you mean?

Girl: Don’t answer when he calls you. And block him on your website. And you should talk to your parents about your problem, too.

Boy: Don’t answer when he calls, block him on the website, and talk to my parents… Do you really think that’ll be enough to stop him?

Girl: Well, it will certainly help. Don’t just keep silent. Be brave. Have a strong mind.

Reading 14

**Why Did They Build the Pyramids?**

Man: Welcome to the Great Pyramid. I’m your guide, Ebo. Before we begin today, can I answer any of your questions?

Girl: I want to know about the mummies. Why did the ancient Egyptians make them? I heard that they wrapped up the bodies of the pharaohs carefully because the Egyptians didn’t want their bodies to rot.

Man: That’s exactly right. The ancient Egyptians wrapped the bodies carefully so they wouldn’t rot. They believed the pharaohs would need their bodies in the next world.

Girl: Then they took the mummies and put them inside these pyramids, right?

Man: That’s exactly right. You know a lot about Egyptian history, young lady. They put these mummies inside the pyramids. So the pyramids were really big tombs.

Girl: And didn’t the ancient people put a bunch of nice stuff in the tombs with the pharaohs?

Man: Right. They put a bunch of nice stuff in the tombs with the pharaohs. They put clothes and gold in there. They even put the pharaohs’ pet cats.

Girl: Oh, look at these pictures on the wall here. Are these pictures of a pharaoh? Look at this picture. Here, he’s fishing. Oh, and in this one, he’s eating a delicious meal. How cool!

Man: That’s right. These are pictures of a pharaoh. This is him fishing. And this is the pharaoh eating a delicious meal. Wow! My job will be easy today. This young lady knows everything about ancient Egypt.

Girl: Yes, I think ancient Egypt is fascinating. I read books about it every day.

Reading 15

**A Letter from India**

Girl: Thanks for showing me around, Abu. New Delhi is really cool.

Boy: I’m glad you like my hometown, Jenny. It’s my pleasure to show you around.

Hey, are you hungry? Shall we stop and get some lunch?

Girl: Yeah, I’m really hungry. I’d love to get some lunch.

Boy: Let’s eat here. This is a great restaurant. We can have some chicken curry with rice.

Let’s sit here.

Girl: Excuse me, Abu, but why is everyone eating with their hands? Do they not use chopsticks or forks and knives?

Boy: Everyone uses their hands to eat here. Look. People eat off banana leaves.

The leaves are like plates. If people used knives or chopsticks, they could tear the leaves easily.

Girl: Yeah, I see how knives or chopsticks could tear the banana leaves. I see everyone is picking up the food with pieces of bread.

Boy: Right. You have to tear off a little piece of bread. Then, you can pick up the food with the bread. But make sure you only use your right hand when you eat.

Girl: Why should I only use my right hand when I eat?

Boy: The reason is that people use their left hand in the bathroom.

Girl: They use their left hand in the bathroom? Ah, that makes sense…

Reading 16

**Plants Eat Insects?**

Woman: Okay, class, what do plants need to grow?

Boy: Plants need water, sunlight, and food to grow.

Woman: Great job, Jake. Most plants get their food from the soil. But some plants get their food by eating insects.

Boy: Really? Some plants get their food by eating insects? I’ve never heard of that.

Woman: Sure. Here’s an example of a plant like that. This is called a pitcher plant. Insects like this plant because it has bright colors and a sweet smell.

Boy: A pitcher plant. Interesting. Yes, it really does have bright colors and a sweet smell. I can see why insects would like this plant.

Woman: Right. But when an insect climbs or flies into the plant, it’s in real trouble. Can you guess why?

Boy: Well, the sides of the plant look very slippery. And there is some water at the bottom of the plant. So I guess the insect climbs or flies into the plant and then can’t get out. And it dies in the water.

Woman: Exactly! The sides of the plant are very slippery. The insects enter the plant and can’t get out. They drown in the water. Then, the plant eats the insect.

Boy: Wow, look! There are several insects inside the plant. This plant must be really hungry.

Reading 17

**Leonardo da Vinci**

Girl: Ah, this painting is famous! *The Last Supper*. I love it! Just look at the face of Jesus.

Da Vinci truly was a wonderful artist!

Boy: Actually, da Vinci didn’t paint the face.

Girl: What are you talking about? It says here that da Vinci painted this painting.

Boy: Yes, he painted everything except Jesus’ face. He says he couldn’t paint the face.

Girl: He couldn’t paint the face!? Why not?

Boy: Da Vinci really loved Jesus. When he finished the painting – I mean, everything except Jesus’ face – he thought carefully about how he should paint the face.

Girl: I guess it would be difficult. How could you paint the perfect face of God?

Boy: Right. That was the problem. He didn’t know how to show his goodness and love.

Girl: So did he just give up?

Boy: Yep. He gave up after four years. He just had no idea how to paint the face. Nobody knows who actually painted Jesus’ face in this picture.

Reading 18

**Native American Indians**

Boy: Happy Cherokee Day, Samantha.

Girl: It’s Cherokee Day, today? What’s Cherokee Day? You know I’m not Cherokee, Dan.

I’m from another Native American tribe.

Boy: Oh, I thought you were Cherokee like me. Well, Cherokee Day is the Cherokee National Holiday. It celebrates the end of the Trail of Tears.

Girl: The Trail of Tears? What’s that?

Boy: Well, long ago, white people kicked us off of our land. The U.S. government wanted to give our land to white people. They wanted us to go to Oklahoma.

Girl: Wow! How terrible! They wanted to give your land to white people, so they made you go to Oklahoma? Unbelievable!

Boy: Yeah. The problem was that my people didn’t want to leave. So the U.S. government burned their houses and made my people leave.

Girl: That’s even worse. I can’t believe they burned the Cherokees’ houses and made everyone leave.

Boy: Sure. Many people died from cold, hunger, and disease. That was a very difficult time in Cherokee history. It was called the Trail of Tears.

Girl: I had no idea that Cherokee history was so sad…

Reading 19

**Two Friends in the Snow**

Boy: Did you hear about those two hikers that got lost in the Rocky Mountains?

Girl: Yeah, I read about that last night. It’s an amazing story, isn’t it?

Boy: Definitely! The two men got lost in the mountains, didn’t they? They were walking around in the snow, and it was really cold.

Girl: That’s right. They got lost in the cold and the snow up in the mountains.

Boy: I heard that they found another man just lying in the snow. He was almost dead.

Girl: Yeah, they found another man lying in the snow. One of the men wanted to leave him. The other man wanted to take him with them.

Boy: Right. One wanted to leave the man, and the other wanted to take him with them. So one man grabbed the half-dead man, put him on his back, and began to walk.

Girl: That must have been really hard work. He grabbed the person, put him on his back, and began to walk. Amazing!

Boy: So the other man walked off by himself, didn’t he? And he ended up freezing to death.

Girl: That’s right. The man that walked off by himself died. But the other man walked and walked with the man on his back. He started to sweat. He warmed up. And he warmed up the man on his back, too. He walked like that all the way to town.

Boy: That’s unbelievable, isn’t it? The man that carried the half-dead man on his back survived. But the other man who thought only of himself ended up dying.

Reading 20

**The Moving Stones**

Girl: Ah, I slept really well last night. Wow, Death Valley is so beautiful in the morning. Hey, wait a minute! Those big rocks moved during the night.

Boy: You’re right. They moved during the night. Do you know how they moved?

Girl: No. How did they move during the night? Were they moved by aliens?

Boy: No. Actually, the wind and ice made them move. There was a big storm last night. And the wind and ice from the storm moved the big rocks.

Girl: Really? The wind and ice moved the rocks? How?

Boy: Well, it was really cold, windy, and rainy last night, wasn’t it? And the rain turned to ice on the ground. The wind pushed the rocks along the ice.

Girl: Wow, the wind must have been really strong to push those big rocks over the ice.

Boy: Yeah. And then, in the morning, it got hot very quickly. So all of the ice melted.

And now the rocks are in a different place.

Girl: Oh, I see. So the ice melted in the morning because it was hot. And the rocks were in a different place. Neat!

Boy: Yes, it used to be a big mystery. People didn’t know how the big rocks were moved. But some clever scientists finally figured it out.

Reading 21

**Dangerous Internet Dating**

Girl 1(Sandy): Look, Clara. This is my Internet boyfriend. Isn’t he perfect? He’s so handsome.

Girl 2(Clara): Sandy, you should be careful. You haven’t met this boy, have you? How do you know the boy in the picture is actually the boy you’ve been chatting with?

Girl 1(Sandy): What do you mean I should be careful? This boy is really nice. I’ve been chatting with him for months. He says that this is his picture, and I believe him.

Girl 2(Clara): Haven’t you heard Joanne’s story? She was chatting with a boy on the Internet. He said he was sixteen, and she thought he was the perfect boy. Then, when she met him in person, it turns out that her perfect boy was actually a 35-year-old man.

Girl 1(Sandy): Really? That person who said he was sixteen–that perfect boy–was actually a 35-year-old man? I can’t believe it.

Girl 2(Clara): It’s true. You should be careful when you use the Internet. You never really know who you’re talking to.

Girl 1(Sandy): How can I be careful when I use the Internet?

Girl 2(Clara): Well, for one thing, never give your name, address, or phone number to strangers online.

Girl 1(Sandy): Never give my name, address, or phone number to strangers online. Got it. What else?

Girl 2(Clara): If you do decide to meet an online friend, meet him in a public place and make sure you let your parents know first.

Girl 1(Sandy): Okay. If I decide to meet this guy, I’ll meet him in a public place, and I’ll let my parents know first. That seems simple enough. Don’t worry. I’ll be careful from now on.

Reading 22

**Staying Healthy with Vitamin C**

Woman: Did you take your vitamin C pill this morning?

Boy: No. Why do I need to take a vitamin C pill? I ate plenty of fruits and vegetables this morning.

Woman: Oh, well, if you ate plenty of fruits and vegetables, then you don’t need to take a pill. Fruits and vegetables have plenty of vitamin C.

Boy: Mom, why are you always telling me to take vitamin C? It’s kind of annoying…

Woman: Steven, you need to take vitamin C every day. It’s really important. Our bodies don’t make vitamin C. But we need vitamin C in our bodies to fight diseases.

Boy: So our bodies don’t make vitamin C? I didn’t know that. I thought that our bodies would make all of the vitamins we need. And vitamin C helps us fight diseases, huh?

Woman: Right. And do you know what happens if you don’t take vitamin C? Your skin will turn yellow and brown. Blood will come out of your nose. Your teeth will fall out, too.

Boy: My skin will turn yellow and brown? Blood will come out of my nose, and my teeth will fall out? Yuck!

Woman: Yes. That’s what happened to sailors long ago. They didn’t have many fruits and vegetables on their ships, so they got really sick. The disease was called scurvy.

Boy: Scurvy, huh? Man, I hope I don’t get scurvy.

Reading 23

**The Amazing Chameleon**

Girl: Wow, what is that thing, Tony?

Boy: Oh, that? That’s my pet chameleon. It’s cool, isn’t it?

Girl: Yeah, it is. Oh, look. It just turned red. Wow, is that because it moved to a red leaf?

Boy: That’s right. It was green when it was sitting on the green leaf. But now that it moved to the red leaf, it turned red. It changed color so that other animals can’t notice it easily. It stays away from its enemies that way.

Girl: Really? It changes color so that other animals can’t notice it easily, huh? Interesting. Oh! Did you see that? That bug just disappeared.

Boy: No, it didn’t disappear. The chameleon grabbed it with its tongue. It can shoot out its tongue faster than our eyes can follow. So it looked like the bug disappeared.

Girl: Amazing! I didn’t know that chameleons can shoot out their tongues faster than our eyes can follow. That’s pretty fast.

Boy: I’ll tell you something even more amazing. Chameleons can look in two different directions at one time. Look carefully. You can see one eye looking in one direction and the other looking in the other direction.

Girl: Oh, yeah. Holy cow! How does it do that? One eye is looking here. The other eye is looking completely in the other direction. Man, I have to get my own chameleon. They’re great.

Reading 24

**The Happiest Country in the World**

Girl: So, Lucas, tell me: Do you prefer living here in the United States or in your country, Denmark?

Boy: Well, the United States is very nice. But I prefer living in my own country.

Girl: Why is that? I’ve heard that it’s really cold and rainy in Denmark. Denmark isn’t really a rich or powerful country either, is it? What’s so special about Denmark?

Boy: You’re right. Denmark isn’t really very rich or powerful. And the weather is pretty terrible, too. But everyone seems very happy there. Denmark is called the happiest country in the world. Do you know why?

Girl: I have no idea.

Boy: Well, first of all, we don’t have to worry about our basic living. We know that we’ll always have food to eat and a place to live. Also, everyone gets a free education, and hospital visits are free.

Girl: Wait, wait. Let me get this straight. Education and hospital visits are free. And you never have to worry about basic living like finding a place to live. So how are education, medicine, and housing paid for?

Boy: Education, medicine, and housing are paid for by taxes. We pay a lot of our income in taxes–almost seventy percent.

Girl: You spend seventy percent of your income on taxes? I think that would make most Americans very unhappy.

Boy: That’s not true for most Danish people. We really love our social system. It’s the best in the world.