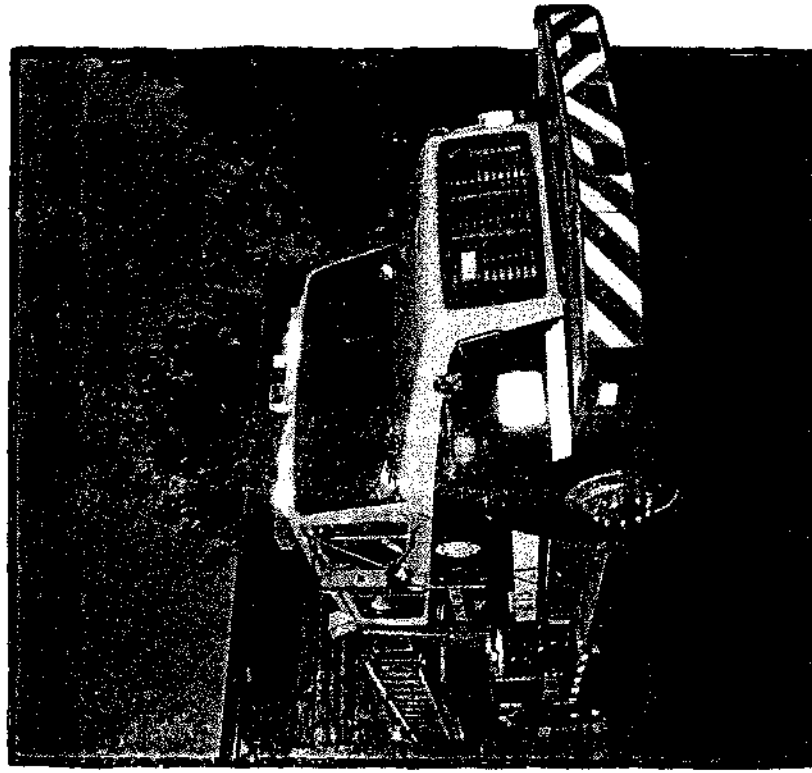


2nd Grade
Calamity Day 8
Materials

My Uncle Is a Firefighter

A Reading A-Z Level P Leveled Book
Word Count: 824



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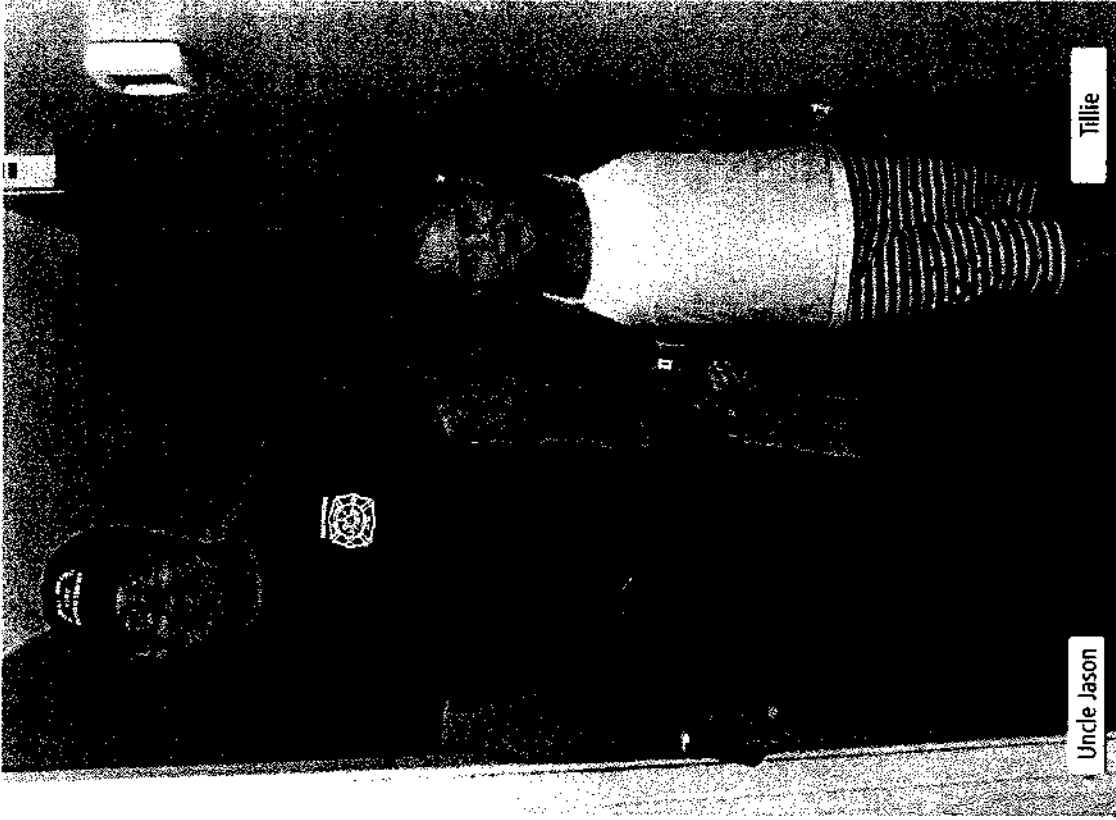
My Uncle Is a Firefighter



**Multi
Level
J.M.P**

Written by Tillie Douglas

www.readinga-z.com



Uncle Jason

Tillie

My name's Tillie, and I'm about to start third grade. My uncle's a firefighter, and today I get to visit him at the fire station.



I shake hands with Captain Chuck Williams. He's been a firefighter for 31 years!

Uncle Jason is waiting at the door to greet me. He gives me a big hug and introduces me to the other firefighters. The fire station looks like a house, except it has shiny red fire trucks parked in the garage.

Firefighters work in shifts, and each shift lasts twenty-four hours. If the station doesn't get any emergency calls, Uncle Jason gets to sleep. During a busy shift, he might stay up all night, fighting fires and helping people.

I get a tour of the fire station. Just like my house, it has a kitchen, but this kitchen has three refrigerators! Each firefighting shift has a refrigerator for food. Each shift keeps their refrigerator locked so other firefighters won't eat their food. (I think that's kinda hilarious.) There's plenty of ice cream, and black cherry is their favorite flavor.

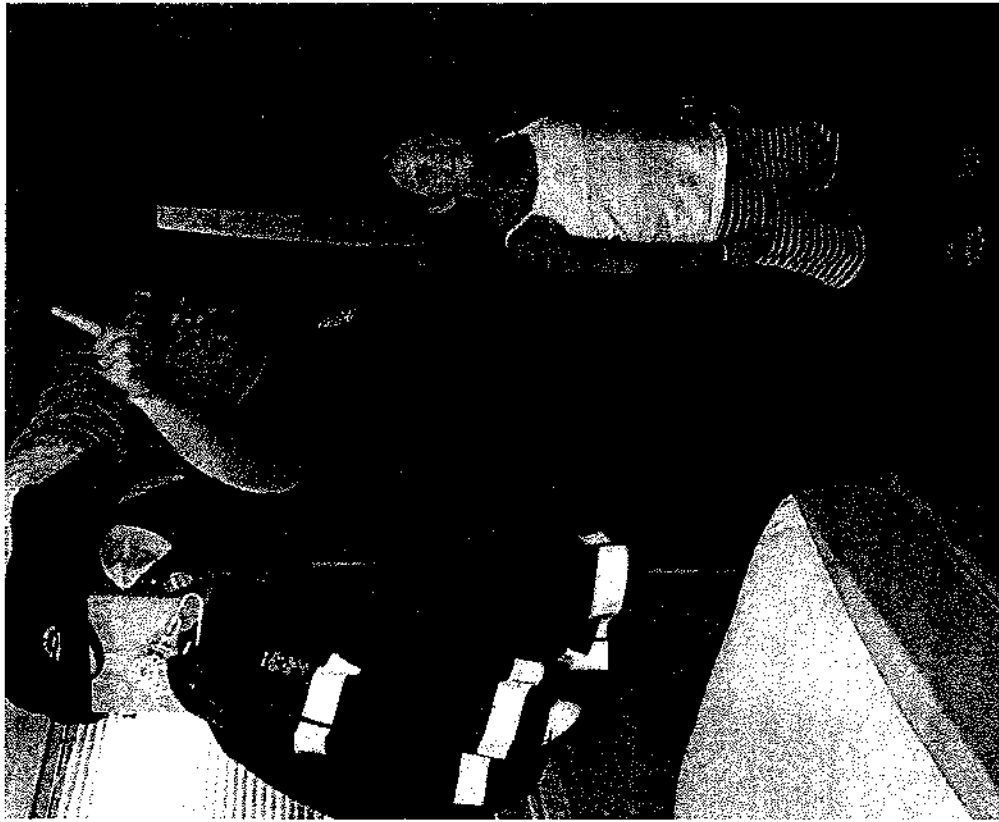


Like a family, the firefighters shop for food and prepare dinner together. On the menu tonight is salad with chicken strips. The firefighters take turns washing dishes and making sure the station is tidy.



Right now, the firefighters are busy doing chores. They tinker with communication radios at the kitchen table to make sure they work properly. When an emergency call comes in over the radios or the station speaker, they need to hear it loud and clear.

Next stop on the tour is Uncle Jason's bedroom, which has a television, couch, and bed. After sleeping, he puts fresh sheets on the bed for the next firefighter.

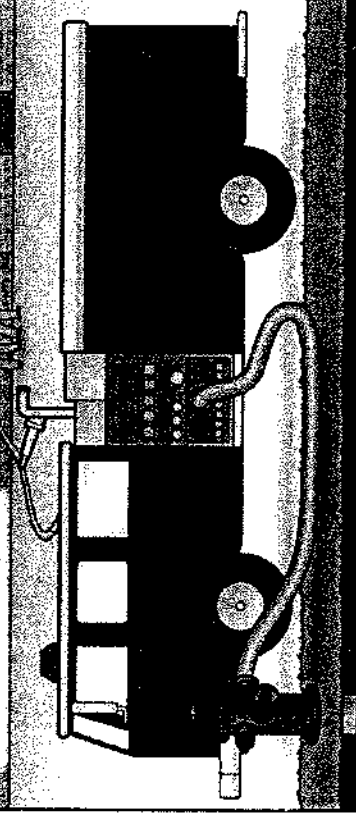


Next, Uncle Jason shows me the day room, where the firefighters hang out after chores are done. I climb into one of the big, comfy chairs and watch television with the guys. Sometimes they play video games. Most of the time, though, they're busy helping people and making sure their equipment is ready.

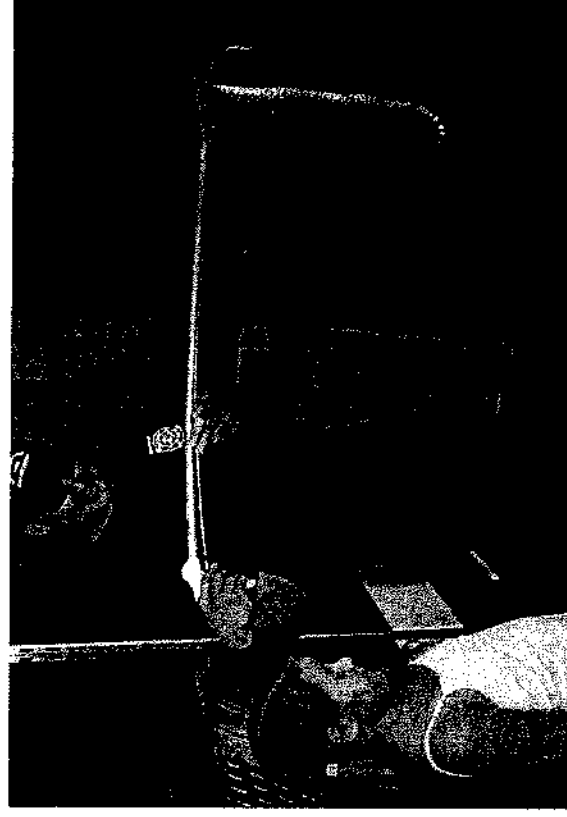
Next, we go to the most exciting part of the fire station—the garage. Two fire trucks are waiting, ready to handle any emergency. Uncle Jason usually drives the water truck, which is bright red and has a gigantic water tank. The tank holds two thousand gallons of water! Firefighters can use one thousand gallons of water in a minute. They use the water in the truck whenever no fire hydrant is nearby.

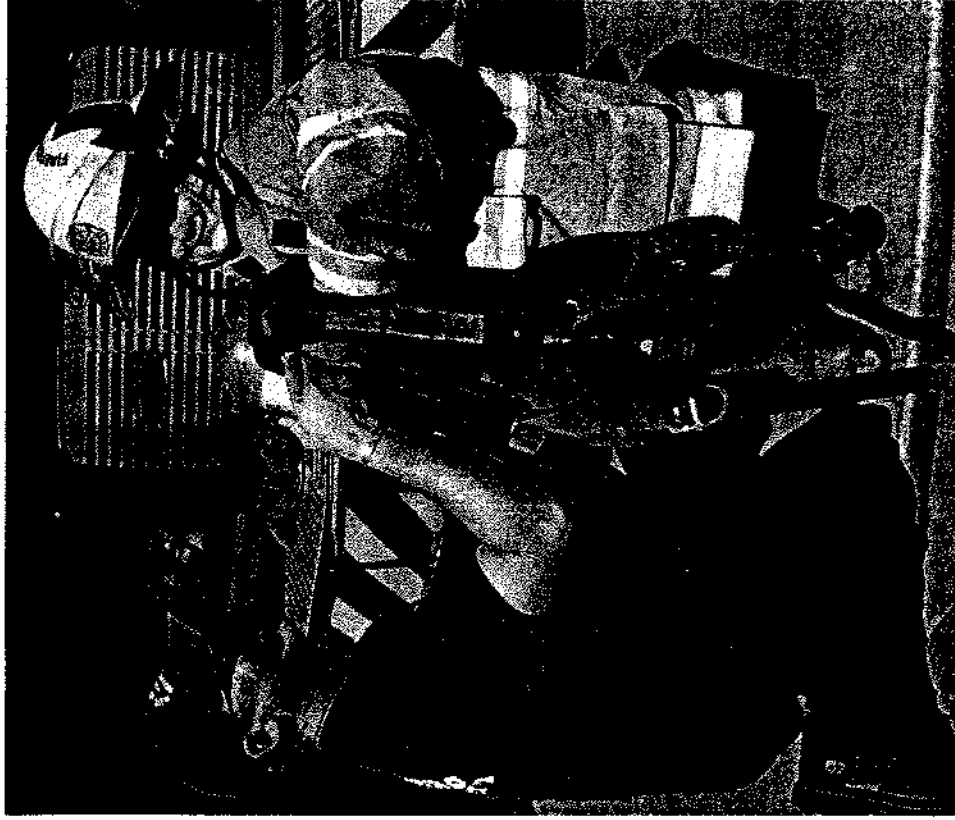
How a Hydrant Works

Hooking up a fire hose to a fire hydrant is only the first step. The water then runs into the truck. The truck has pumps that help control the water's pressure. Once the water exits the truck and flows into the second hose, the water is ready to do its job.



On the truck is the equipment that firefighters need, including medical supplies and a snake box! Since we live in the desert, the fire station gets calls from people with snakes in their yards. If the snakes are venomous, firefighters capture them with a metal pole called a snake grabber. The snakes are locked safely in the box, then let go far from any houses or businesses. Uncle Jason shows me a rattlesnake. It gives me the creeps, but it's cool, too.





The firefighters show me the gear they wear in a fire, and I get to put it on. There's a special coat, pants, a helmet, and an oxygen tank. It's like wearing a winter coat in the summer—heavy and hot!

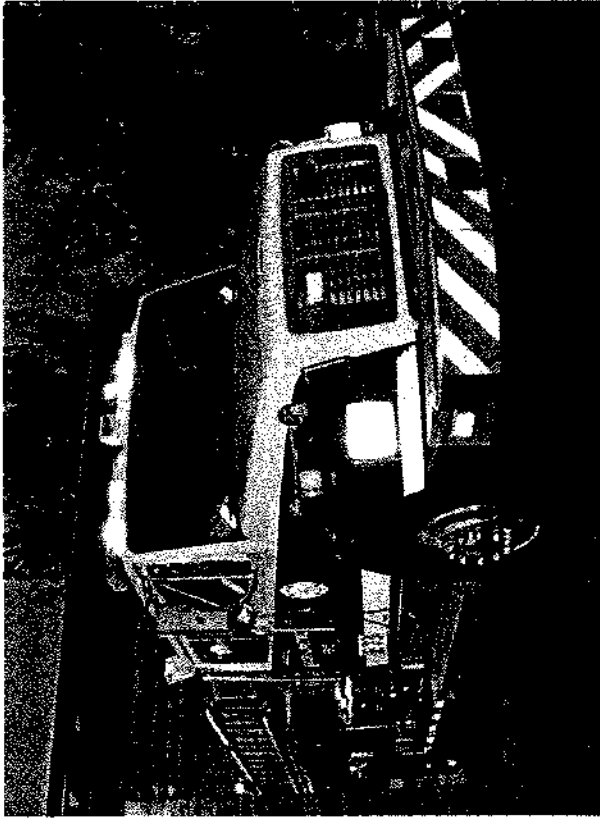
Then, I get to sit in the fire truck! I pull on a cord, and the air horn blasts.

Fire trucks aren't the only things in the garage. There's exercise equipment, and I ask what it's for. "We like to stay fit," my uncle says. "It takes a lot of work to carry someone out of a burning house."

If there's ever a fire at home, Uncle Jason warns me never to hide under my bed or behind my curtains because that would make it hard for firefighters to find me.



Uncle Jason lets me try out the headphones.



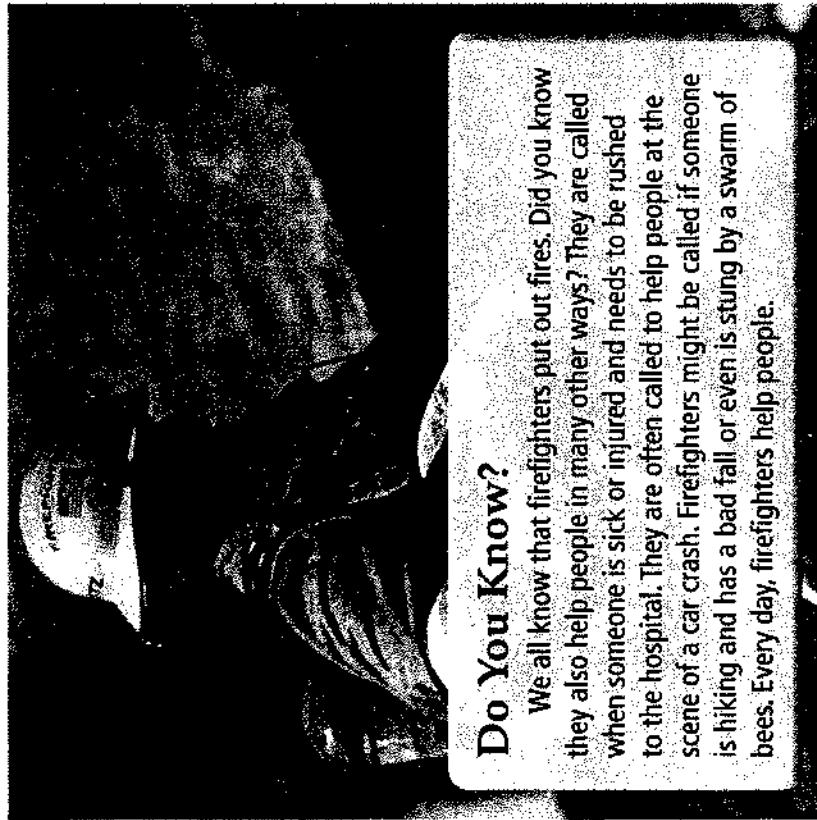
Suddenly, there's a call—it's a fire! The firefighters grab their gear and they're off, with their sirens blaring. I stay at the station with my dad while they fight the fire.

When they return, exhausted and dirty, Uncle Jason tells me all about the call. A man was working on his car in his garage when a fire started. He and his wife and daughter escaped to the sidewalk, but Fluffy, their poodle, was stuck inside.

The firefighters pulled out their hoses and went to work. Uncle Jason searched the house and found Fluffy hiding under a bed. He also found a fishbowl and two parakeets in a cage. Uncle Jason and the other firefighters saved the day! They rescued the pets and put out the fire. The car was destroyed, but the rest of the house was okay.

Back at the fire station, the firefighters stow away their gear. The trucks are ready for another call.





Do You Know?

We all know that firefighters put out fires. Did you know they also help people in many other ways? They are called when someone is sick or injured and needs to be rushed to the hospital. They are often called to help people at the scene of a car crash. Firefighters might be called if someone is hiking and has a bad fall or even is stung by a swarm of bees. Every day, firefighters help people.

Uncle Jason says the toughest part about being a firefighter is being away from his wife and four-year-old son. He misses them when he's working, but he loves helping people as a firefighter.

It's time for me to go home for dinner, and the firefighters start cooking their dinner, too. They're like one big family!

Glossary

emergency (*n.*) a sudden and very serious situation that requires immediate action (p. 4)

equipment (*n.*) tools used in work or play (p. 8)

firefighter (*n.*) a person whose work is putting out fires (p. 3)

rescued (*v.*) saved from danger (p. 14)

shifts (*n.*) scheduled periods of time when a person or group of people work together; the workers on a job during a period of time (p. 4)

tour (*n.*) a trip through a place to learn more about it (p. 5)

Name _____

Instructions: Identify the words in each sentence that are contractions by circling them. On the line below the sentence, write the two words that make up each contraction.

- ① I'm about to start third grade.

- ② He's been a firefighter for thirty-one years!

- ③ I think that's kinda hilarious.

- ④ It gives me the creeps, but it's kinda cool, too.

- ⑤ They're wearing their special equipment.

- ⑥ He misses them when he's working.

- ⑦ Suddenly, there's a call—it's a fire!

- ⑧ They're like one big family!



MY UNCLE IS A FIREFIGHTER • LEVEL P • 3

SKILL: CONTRACTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is another good title for this book?
 - Ⓐ *Tillie and Uncle Jason*
 - Ⓑ *How to Keep Pets Safe*
 - Ⓒ *My Visit to the Fire Station*
 - Ⓓ *Fighting Fires in the Desert*
2. Who is telling the story of *My Uncle Is a Firefighter*?
 - Ⓐ Tillie
 - Ⓑ Uncle Jason
 - Ⓒ a narrator
 - Ⓓ a boy
3. When Uncle Jason gave Tillie a **tour**, he _____.
 - Ⓐ took her on a trip through the fire station to learn more about it
 - Ⓑ taught her how to put out fires
 - Ⓒ showed her how to take care of desert animals
 - Ⓓ none of the above
4. What happened right after Tillie tried on the fire gear?
 - Ⓐ She saw Uncle Jason's bedroom.
 - Ⓑ The firefighters got a call.
 - Ⓒ She had to go home to get dinner.
 - Ⓓ She rode around town on the fire truck.
5. What do firefighters do?
 - Ⓐ put out fires
 - Ⓑ rush people to the hospital
 - Ⓒ help people at car crashes
 - Ⓓ all of the above
6. What is the main reason the author wrote this book?
 - Ⓐ to entertain
 - Ⓑ to inform
 - Ⓒ to persuade
 - Ⓓ all of the above

Quick Check continued on following page

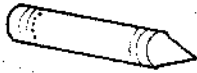
Name _____ Date _____

7. How are firefighters like a big family?
 - Ⓐ They shop for food and make meals together.
 - Ⓑ They sleep in the same place.
 - Ⓒ They hang out together, and help each other.
 - Ⓓ All of the above
8. What is the last thing Tillie does at the fire station
 - Ⓐ She helps the firefighters put away their gear.
 - Ⓑ She says goodbye and goes home for dinner.
 - Ⓒ She falls asleep in Uncle Jason's bunk.
 - Ⓓ She goes with them on a call.
9. *My Uncle Is a Firefighter* is an example of _____.
 - Ⓐ a biography
 - Ⓑ a fiction story
 - Ⓒ a personal narrative
 - Ⓓ a poem
10. A sudden and very serious situation that requires immediate action is _____.
 - Ⓐ a siren
 - Ⓑ a hydrant
 - Ⓒ an emergency
 - Ⓓ a shift
11. **Extended Response:** Is a firefighter's job important? Why? Use evidence from the book to support your answer.

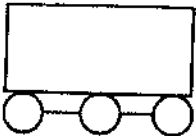
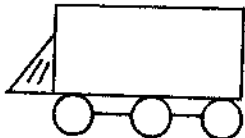
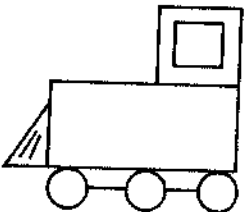
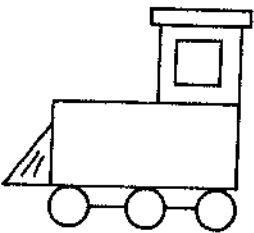
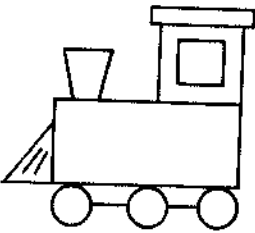
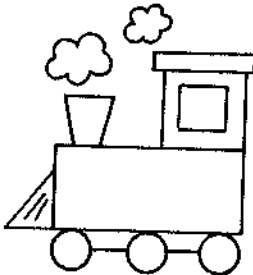
Name _____

Date _____

Draw It!



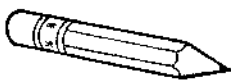
Follow the directions to draw a train.
Draw your picture on the next page.

1 Draw a rectangle. 	2 Draw 3 circles for wheels. 	3 Draw lines to connect the wheels. 	4 Draw a triangle with lines for the cowcatcher. 
5 Draw a square with a square inside. 	6 Draw a thin rectangle for the roof. 	7 Draw a trapezoid for the smokestack. 	8 Draw cloud shapes for smoke. 

Answer the questions about your picture.

Use the answers to start a story on the next page.

Write About It!



- * Who will ride on the train?
- * What is the train carrying?
- * Where is the train going?

Name _____

Date _____

[illegible]

Name _____

Skill: Review

Skills Evaluation

Choose the best answer to these review questions.
Circle the correct answer.

1. Find the missing factor: $\square - 9 = 5$ A. 16 B. 12 C. 14 D. 15	2. Which expression does not equal 9? A. $5 + 4$ B. $18 - 9$ C. $7 + 2$ D. $12 - 4$
3. Find the missing factor: $\square - 4 = 7$ A. 13 B. 10 C. 11 D. 12	4. Which expression does not equal 8? A. $4 + 4$ B. $16 - 9$ C. $17 - 9$ D. $12 - 4$
5. Find the missing factor: $\square - 6 = 7$ A. 11 B. 12 C. 13 D. 14	6. Which expression does not equal 16? A. $9 + 7$ B. $10 + 6$ C. $8 + 8$ D. $5 + 9$
7. Find the missing factor: $\square - 5 = 8$ A. 14 B. 13 C. 12 D. 11	8. Which expression does not equal 13? A. $5 + 8$ B. $7 + 6$ C. $6 + 8$ D. $9 + 4$
9. Find the missing factor: $\square - 7 = 9$ A. 16 B. 17 C. 18 D. 15	10. Which expression does not equal 7? A. $3 + 4$ B. $16 - 9$ C. $7 - 0$ D. $13 - 7$