

## SESSION 1

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

## Snowman Sniffles

*by N. M. Bodecker, Highlights*

At winter's end  
a snowman grows  
a snowdrop  
on his carrot nose,

5 a little, sad,  
late-season sniff  
dried by the spring  
wind's handkerchief.

But day and night  
10 the sniffles drop  
like flower buds  
—they never stop,  
until you wake  
and find one day  
15 the cold, old man  
has run away,  
and winter's winds  
that blow and pass  
left drifts of snowdrops  
20 in the grass,  
reminding us:  
where such things grow  
a snowman sniffed  
not long ago.



**Go On**

**1** The poet uses the words “nose” and “grows” in the first four lines of the poem. Which answer **best** tells why the poet uses these words?

- A** The words rhyme with each other.
- B** The words use most of the same letters.
- C** The words tell the reader it is winter.
- D** The words begin with the same sound.

**2** What can you tell about the snowman from both the poem and the picture?

- A** He is glad winter is over.
- B** He is sad to be melting.
- C** He is planning to run away.
- D** He is happy to see flowers.

**3** Which words from the poem begin with the same sound?

- A** “dried by the spring”
- B** “like flower buds”
- C** “winter’s winds”
- D** “in the grass”

**4** Read these lines from the poem.

a little, sad,  
late-season sniff  
dried by the spring  
wind's handkerchief.

Which question do these lines answer?

- A** When did it last snow?
- B** Who made the snowman?
- C** What time of year is it?
- D** How long will the snowman last?

**5** Read these lines from the poem.

until you wake  
and find one day  
the cold, old man  
has run away,

Circle **two** words that rhyme at the end of the lines.

Then write a sentence that explains what these lines tell about.

---

---

---

---

**Go On**

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

# The Big Balloon Blow-Up: Making a Gas to Fill a Balloon

*by Tina Frank*

It's fun to blow up balloons. You've probably done it many times. And you used your breath to do it. But this time, you'll fill up a balloon without using your breath. You will make a gas that blows up the balloon. Let's get started.

## What You Will Need

- a balloon
- about 2 ounces of water (You don't need much!)
- 1 drinking straw
- a small soft-drink bottle
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- the juice from 1 lemon

## What to Do

1. Stretch out the balloon a few times. This will make it easier to blow up.
2. Pour the water into the bottle.
3. Add the baking soda to the water. Stir it around with the straw. Make sure the soda mixes with the water.
4. Pour the lemon juice into the bottle.
5. Pull the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. Do this as fast as you can. You won't have much time.
6. Watch what happens!



## What Happened?

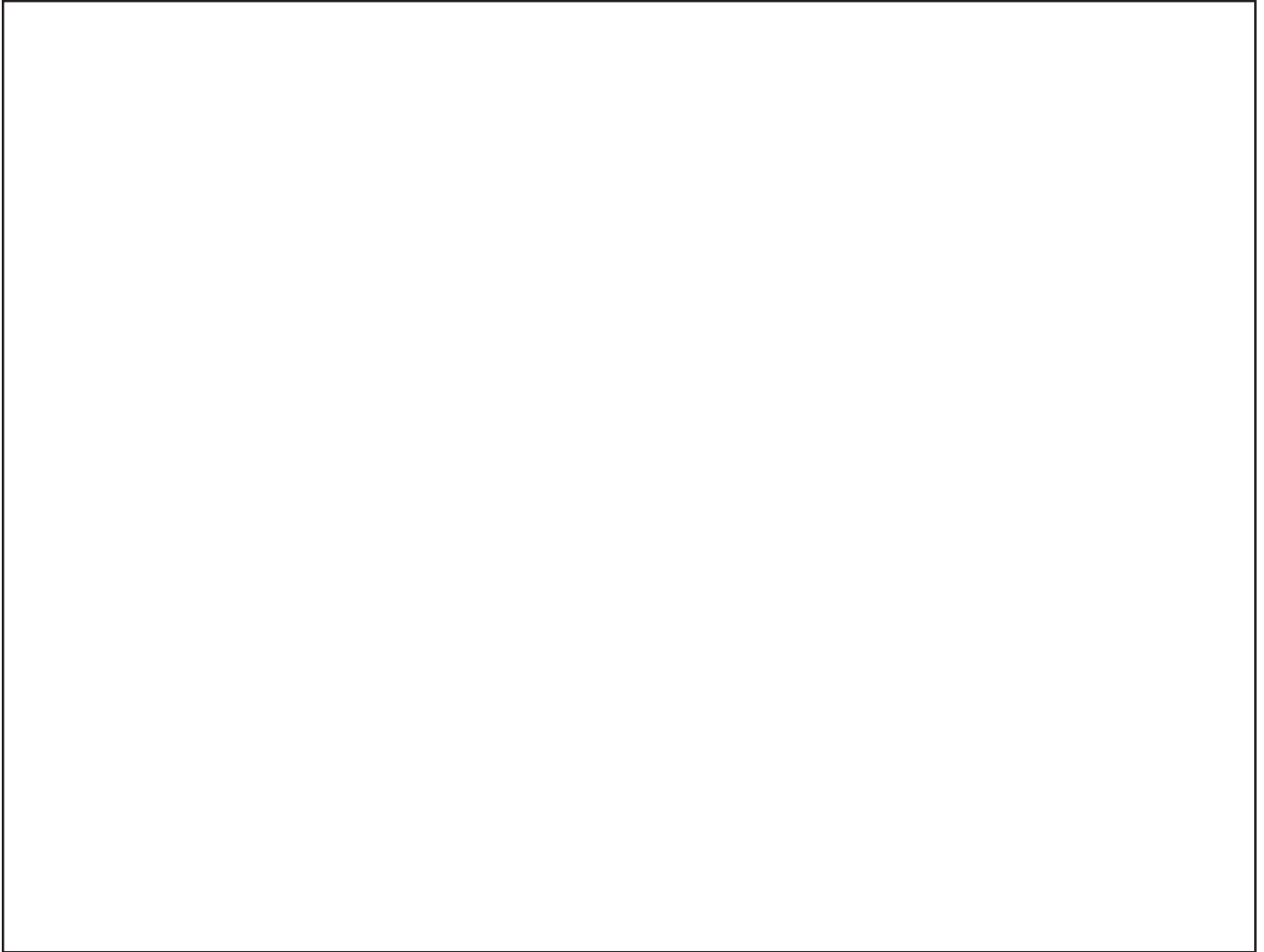
- 1 Your balloon should have filled up on its own. How did this happen? Lemon juice and baking soda are very different. Lemon juice is an acid. Baking soda is a base. Mixing them causes them to change. This is called a chemical reaction.
- 2 Adding the lemon juice to the baking soda makes a gas. This gas is called carbon dioxide. Your body makes the same gas when you breathe.
- 3 The gas in the bottle is very light. It rises up into the balloon. The gas can't escape, so it pushes on the balloon. The gas blows up the balloon!

**Go On**

- 6** What should you do after you stir the baking soda into the water?
- A** Fill the balloon with some of the gas.
  - B** Put the balloon on the top of the bottle.
  - C** Add the lemon juice to the bottle.
  - D** Add 2 more ounces of water to the baking soda.
- 7** What makes the gas form in the bottle?
- A** the water and air from the balloon
  - B** the lemon juice and water in the bottle
  - C** the water mixing with the baking soda
  - D** the lemon juice mixing with the baking soda
- 8** Why is it important to put the balloon on the bottle as fast as you can?
- A** so nothing in the bottle will spill out
  - B** so the gas cannot get loose into the air
  - C** so all the things in the bottle mix together
  - D** so no one breathes the gas from the bottle
- 9** How does the picture help you understand what happens after you complete step 5?
- A** It shows how the gas rises up into the balloon.
  - B** It shows how to mix the water and baking soda.
  - C** It shows how quickly the balloon fills up.
  - D** It shows how much lemon juice to add.

**10** In step 3, you add baking soda to the water. Then what do you do?

Draw a picture. Show what else you must do in step 3.



Now write a sentence that tells about your picture.

---

---

---

---

***Go On***

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

# Thanksgiving: The Real Deal

*from Scholastic News, November 21, 2011*

- 1 Will you be at a big Thanksgiving dinner on November 24? If so, you'll be like the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving in 1621. Or will you? It turns out that many details about the first Thanksgiving aren't true. What's fact and what's myth?

**Pilgrims and American Indians celebrated the first Thanksgiving.**

- 2 Mostly true.
- 3 In 1621, 90 members of the Wampanoag (womp-ah-noh-ag) tribe and about 50 English settlers shared a meal in what's now Massachusetts.
- 4 But the settlers didn't call themselves Pilgrims. They didn't call the gathering Thanksgiving—it was a harvest meal. And it didn't even happen in November. It probably took place in October, after crops were picked.

**They ate turkey.**

- 5 False!
- 6 Historians don't think turkey was on the menu. Deer, duck, and eel were probably the main dishes at the feast.





**It was one big, fancy meal.**

- 7        False!
- 8        It was more than just one meal. The feast lasted for three days! And they didn't eat with forks. They mostly used their hands! Also, people played games and had log-throwing contests.
- 9        Why are so many details wrong? In 1863, Thanksgiving was made a national holiday, and people became interested in its history. They wrote stories and painted pictures about the first feast. But they didn't have all the facts. Over time, their errors became part of the story. Now you can help set the record straight. Share these fascinating facts at your own holiday celebration!

- 11** Which sentence from “Thanksgiving: The Real Deal” **best** tells what the author wants to explain?
- A** “It turns out that many details about the first Thanksgiving aren’t true.”
  - B** “Pilgrims and American Indians celebrated the first Thanksgiving.”
  - C** “Also, people played games and had log-throwing contests.”
  - D** “They wrote stories and painted pictures about the first feast.”

- 12** Read this sentence from “Thanksgiving: The Real Deal.”

In 1621, 90 members of the Wampanoag (womp-ah-**noh**-ag) tribe and about 50 English settlers shared a meal in what’s now Massachusetts.

Which question can be answered after reading this sentence?

- A** How many settlers were at the meal?
  - B** Why did the tribe and settlers share a meal?
  - C** When did the settlers come to Massachusetts?
  - D** What kind of food did the people share at the meal?
- 13** Read this sentence from paragraph 4 of “Thanksgiving: The Real Deal.”

They didn’t call the gathering Thanksgiving—it was a harvest meal.

What do the words “harvest meal” mean?

- A** a meal that is cooked on a stove
- B** a meal that includes lots of games
- C** a meal that lasts at least three days
- D** a meal made from freshly picked crops

- 14** The author makes the point that people at the first Thanksgiving probably didn't eat turkey. What reason does the author give to support this point?
- A** "But the settlers didn't call themselves Pilgrims."
  - B** "It probably took place in October, after crops were picked."
  - C** "Deer, duck, and eel were probably the main dishes at the feast."
  - D** "Thanksgiving was made a national holiday, and people became interested in its history."

- 15** Write a new question about this article. Then give a fact from the article that answers your question.

My question:

---

---

Fact that answers my question:

---

---

**STOP**

## SESSION 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

## Racing to the Poles

*by Wendell Riley*

- 1 There was a time when no one had ever visited the top and the bottom of Earth. The “top” of Earth is the North Pole. The “bottom” of Earth is the South Pole. So why did it take so long for people to go to these places? First, both poles are very cold. In fact, they are the two coldest places on the planet. Second, terrible storms stopped even the bravest explorers. Still, people kept trying. Who would be the first to reach the poles?



Robert E. Peary and his sled dogs

## **The Race North**

2        One brave explorer was an American named Robert Peary. He wanted to be the first to reach the North Pole. To help, he asked Matthew Henson, another brave explorer, to go along, too. More than 20 men and 100 sled dogs made the first part of the trip. Using sled dogs was the only way to make it across all the ice and snow. The trip was full of dangers. Only Peary, Henson, and four others went the whole way. They reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

3        Peary thought he had won the race to the North Pole. But then another explorer said he had been there first! Frederick Carlson said he had reached the pole the year before. And it took two more years to figure out who was really first. Finally, Peary was named the winner. They said he had made it closer to the North Pole than Carlson.

## **The Race South**

4        An explorer named Roald Amundsen had also planned a trip to the North Pole. Then he heard that Peary had beaten him there. So he decided to try to be the first to reach the South Pole instead. His team set sail from Norway. But a team from Great Britain led by Robert Scott had the same idea. Who would get to the South Pole first?

- 5 Amundsen and his men traveled on skis. A large team of dogs pulled four sleds with supplies. The men and dogs traveled 800 miles through ice and snow. It was a dangerous trip. Huge, deep cracks had opened in the ice. Men and dogs would drop into the cracks if they slid off the edge. The trip took two months. But they finally reached the South Pole. They had won the race! But sad news followed. Scott's team never made it home.

### Winning the Race

- 6 People have visited both poles many times since the days of Peary, Henson, and Amundsen. But only those brave explorers could know the thrill of getting there first.

#### Glossary of Place Names

**Great Britain:** a large island in Europe made up of the countries of England, Scotland, and Wales

**Norway:** a country in Europe that is next to the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans

**North Pole:** the farthest point north on Earth in a freezing cold place called the Arctic

**South Pole:** the farthest point south on Earth in a freezing cold place called Antarctica

- 16** What is the meaning of the word “explorers” in paragraph 1?
- A** people who want to sail boats
  - B** people who never give up
  - C** people who study storms
  - D** people who visit new places
- 17** What does the glossary tell you about the North Pole?
- A** The North Pole is in the Arctic.
  - B** The North Pole is in Antarctica.
  - C** The North Pole is in Europe.
  - D** The North Pole is in Great Britain.
- 18** What fact can you find in the text under “The Race South”?
- A** how many miles Amundsen’s team traveled
  - B** why Scott’s team never made it back home
  - C** how many cracks opened up in the ice during the journey
  - D** where Norway and Great Britain can be found
- 19** Why did Amundsen decide to go the South Pole?
- A** He hoped to travel to many other cold and stormy places.
  - B** He heard that Peary had already reached the North Pole.
  - C** He wanted to go where his team could ski instead of walk.
  - D** He liked the idea of racing sleds across miles of ice and snow.

**20** What is the main topic of the article “Racing to the Poles”?

- A** the number of people who helped Peary
- B** how people use sled dogs to travel in snow
- C** why Amundsen went to the South Pole
- D** who reached the North and South Poles first

**21** Look at the answer you chose for question 20. Write **two** details from the article that tell about the main topic.

One detail from the article that tells about the main topic:

---

---

Another detail from the article that tells about the main topic:

---

---



Read the two passages. Then answer the questions that follow them.

# Cinderella

*a Brothers Grimm fairy tale  
retold by Annika Pedersen*

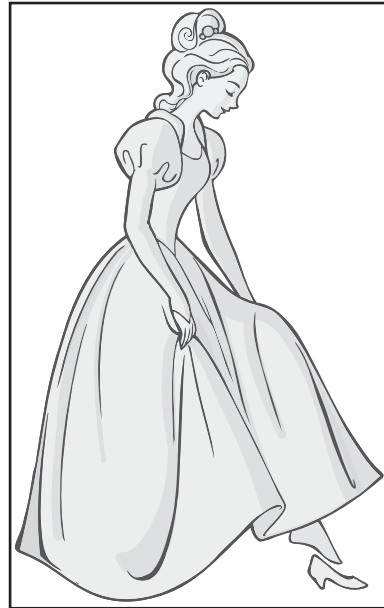
- 1 Cinderella missed her real mother. Her new stepmother made Cinderella work day and night. She cleaned and cooked, and cooked and cleaned, and cleaned some more. All the while, her two new stepsisters did nothing. At night, Cinderella slept in the cold ashes by the fireplace. The ashes and cinders made her face and clothes look dirty. That is how she came to be called “Cinderella.”
- 2 One day her father was going to town. His new wife and stepdaughters told him to bring back fine dresses and jewels. He asked Cinderella what he might get for her.
- 3 “Bring back the first branch that strikes your hat on the way home,” she said.
- 4 Her father found this strange. But he brought her what she had asked for.
- 5 Cinderella planted the branch on her mother’s grave. Then she cried and cried. Her many tears watered the twig. It grew at once into a beautiful hazel tree. A white bird sat in it. The bird told Cinderella it would grant any wish.
- 6 At that time, the king made plans for a great party. His son, the prince, would choose a bride at the party.

**Go On**

7 Cinderella wanted to go. But her stepmother and stepsisters just laughed at her. “You do not even have a nice dress or shoes!” they said.

8 Cinderella went to the hazel tree and made a wish. The white bird gave her a gold dress with gold slippers. Cinderella put them on and ran to the party.

9 No one knew her in her beautiful new dress. But the prince liked her so much, he would dance with no one else! And she liked him. As soon as the party ended, though, Cinderella ran away. But one of her gold slippers stuck to some mud and came off.



10 The next day, the prince and his men searched for the owner of the gold slipper. But the slipper did not fit anyone, not even the stepsisters. The prince sadly asked, “Is there no one else?” And the family said, “Only Cinderella.”

11 Her foot fit easily into the slipper. At last, the prince had found the lovely woman who had danced with him. So Cinderella would become his bride. As they rode to the castle, the white bird landed on Cinderella’s shoulder. At last, all her wishes were coming true.

# The Turkey Girl

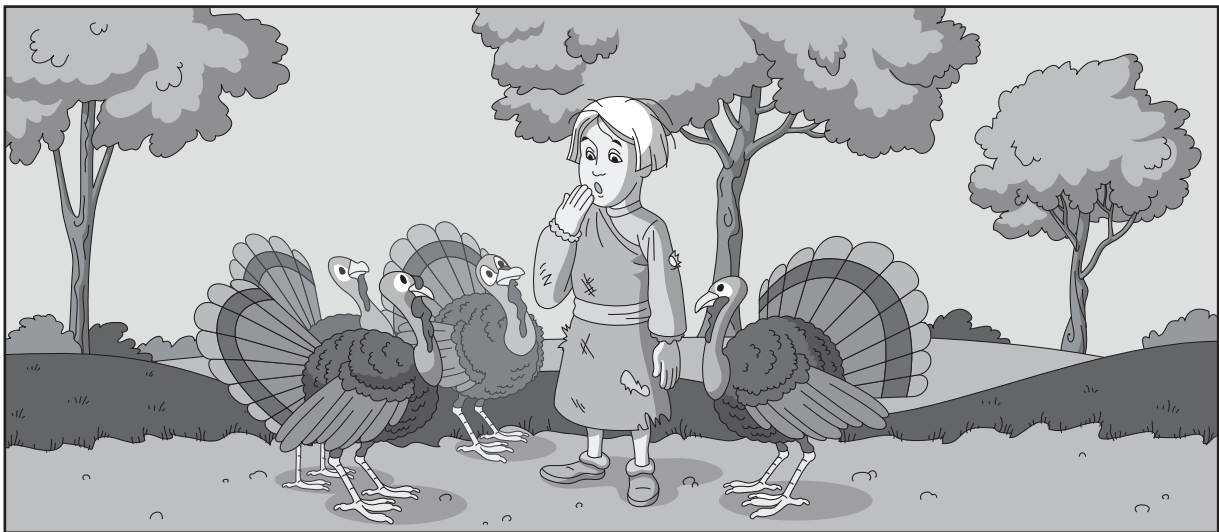
*a Zuni folktale*

1 Long ago, there lived a poor girl who herded turkeys for a living. Every morning, she drove them out to the fields. And every evening, she drove them back to the safety of their cages. She treated them with great kindness, and the turkeys loved her for this.

2 One day, the girl heard some people in town talking. They wanted to go to the Dance of the Sacred Bird. This great event happened only once a year. And it was to take place in just four days.

3 “Oh, how I wish I could go!” the girl said to the turkeys. “But I cannot go in such old, ugly clothes.”

4 The girl never once thought the turkeys could understand her. But on the day of the dance, one turkey stood tall and spoke. “Dear friend,” he said. “We will help you go to the dance. You shall laugh and be merry. You have earned some fun!”



**Go On**

- 5        At first, the girl was shocked. Then somehow it felt right that the turkeys—her only friends—should speak.
- 6        “We only ask that you come back before sunset,” said the turkey. “You are the one who keeps us safe.” The turkeys then danced around the girl. They turned her old, ragged clothes into a beautiful white dress.
- 7        The girl thanked the turkeys again and again. She promised them she would return before sunset. Then she turned and ran down the path toward town.
- 8        At the dance, no one knew the girl in her new dress. Everyone praised her beauty. And all the young men wanted to dance with her. She was having so much fun that she forgot all about her friends the turkeys.
- 9        Finally, the sun set. The turkeys wondered why the girl had not returned. “She has forgotten us,” one of them said. “For that reason, we will give her no more help! Come, let us move up into the hills. Our keeper is not as kind as we had once hoped.”
- 10       When at last the dance ended, the girl ran back to the fields. She looked for the turkeys everywhere. But they were gone. As she stood there, sad and alone, her dress turned back into rags. She was the poor turkey girl once more.

- 22** What challenge does Cinderella face because of her new stepmother?
- A** She must find a way to leave for town with her father.
  - B** She must keep her two stepsisters from getting new dresses.
  - C** She must learn to love her stepmother as much as her real mother.
  - D** She must do all the hard work while her stepsisters do nothing.

- 23** Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of "Cinderella."

She cleaned and cooked, and cooked and cleaned, and cleaned some more. All the while, her two new stepsisters did nothing.

Which **best** explains why the author repeats the words "cleaned" and "cooked"?

- A** to show that Cinderella wanted to please her new stepmother
  - B** to show that Cinderella had so much work that she could never stop
  - C** to show that Cinderella was very good at both cooking and cleaning
  - D** to show that Cinderella liked to keep busy to make her stepsisters happy
- 24** What do the stepsisters think about Cinderella wanting to go to the dance?
- A** They would let her go if she had better shoes.
  - B** They are surprised she even knows how to dance.
  - C** They feel she is foolish for thinking she could go.
  - D** They are worried the prince will like her the best.

- 25** What do we learn about Turkey Girl at the beginning of the story?
- A** She is a good dancer who has a lot of friends.
  - B** She is very poor but takes good care of the turkeys.
  - C** She is tired of taking care of turkeys and wants to dance.
  - D** She is sometimes late because she forgets what time it is.
- 26** Which sentence **best** tells what happens soon after Turkey Girl wishes she could go to the special dance?
- A** The girl hears some people in town talking about a dance.
  - B** The turkeys turn the girl's old clothes into a beautiful dress.
  - C** The girl runs back to the fields, but the turkeys are gone.
  - D** The girl's beautiful white dress turns back into old rags.
- 27** Which sentence **best** tells the lesson to be learned from "The Turkey Girl"?
- A** Don't worry about others.
  - B** Be happy with what you have.
  - C** Enjoy your life.
  - D** Keep your promises.

**28** What is one way both Cinderella and Turkey Girl are **alike**?

- A** Both sleep by a fireplace at night.
- B** Both have stepsisters who laugh at them.
- C** Both are kind to the animals they herd.
- D** Both have to spend all day working.

**29** Which story event is the **same** in "Cinderella" and "The Turkey Girl"?

- A** The girls are given new dresses so they can go to the dance.
- B** The girls plant twigs that quickly grow into pretty hazel trees.
- C** The girls need to fit their feet into slippers only they can wear.
- D** The girls almost forget to go back to the birds who helped them.

***Go On***

Both Cinderella and Turkey Girl have wishes granted by birds. How are their wishes alike?

Use the chart below to write about each girl's wish.

CINDERELLA'S WISH

TURKEY GIRL'S WISH

Now think of how each girl's wish changes her life. As the stories end, are Cinderella's feelings the same as or different from Turkey Girl's feelings? Tell why. Write your answer on the lines below.


**STOP**



Ready® Assessments, Reading, Grade 2  
Answer Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

## Assessment 1

### Session 1

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)
5. See page 3.
6. (A) (B) (C) (D)
7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
8. (A) (B) (C) (D)
9. (A) (B) (C) (D)
10. See page 7.
11. (A) (B) (C) (D)
12. (A) (B) (C) (D)
13. (A) (B) (C) (D)
14. (A) (B) (C) (D)
15. See page 11.

### Session 2

16. (A) (B) (C) (D)
17. (A) (B) (C) (D)
18. (A) (B) (C) (D)
19. (A) (B) (C) (D)
20. (A) (B) (C) (D)
21. See page 16.
22. (A) (B) (C) (D)
23. (A) (B) (C) (D)
24. (A) (B) (C) (D)
25. (A) (B) (C) (D)
26. (A) (B) (C) (D)
27. (A) (B) (C) (D)
28. (A) (B) (C) (D)
29. (A) (B) (C) (D)
30. See page 24.

## Assessment 2

### Session 1

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)
5. (A) (B) (C) (D)
6. See page 29.
7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
8. (A) (B) (C) (D)
9. (A) (B) (C) (D)
10. (A) (B) (C) (D)
11. (A) (B) (C) (D)
12. See page 33.
13. (A) (B) (C) (D)
14. (A) (B) (C) (D)
15. (A) (B) (C) (D)
16. (A) (B) (C) (D)
17. (A) (B) (C) (D)
18. See page 37.

### Session 2

19. (A) (B) (C) (D)
20. (A) (B) (C) (D)
21. (A) (B) (C) (D)
22. (A) (B) (C) (D)
23. See page 41.
24. (A) (B) (C) (D)
25. (A) (B) (C) (D)
26. (A) (B) (C) (D)
27. (A) (B) (C) (D)
28. (A) (B) (C) (D)
29. (A) (B) (C) (D)
30. See page 49.