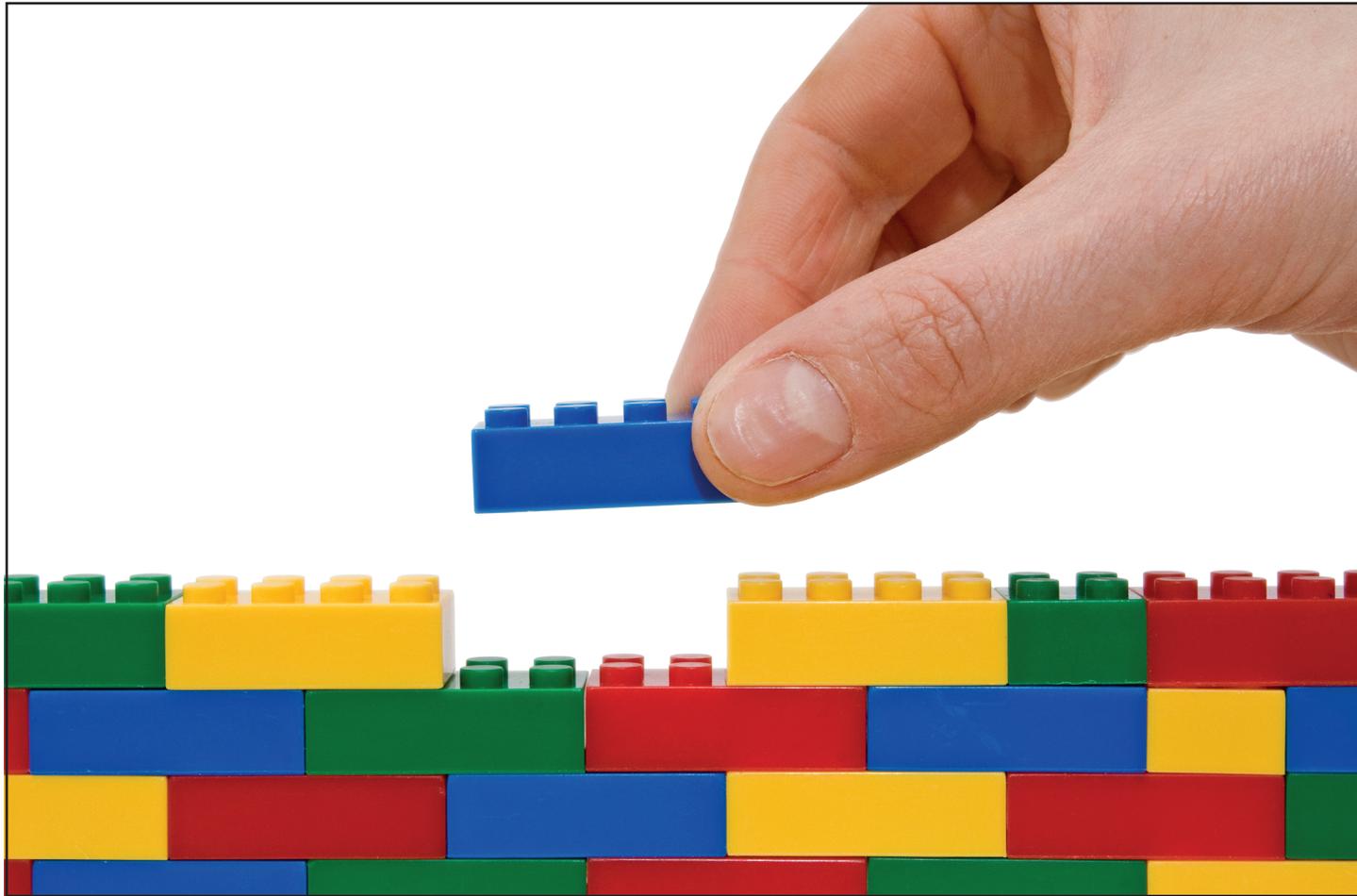


GRADE 3
Reading
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2019
RELEASED

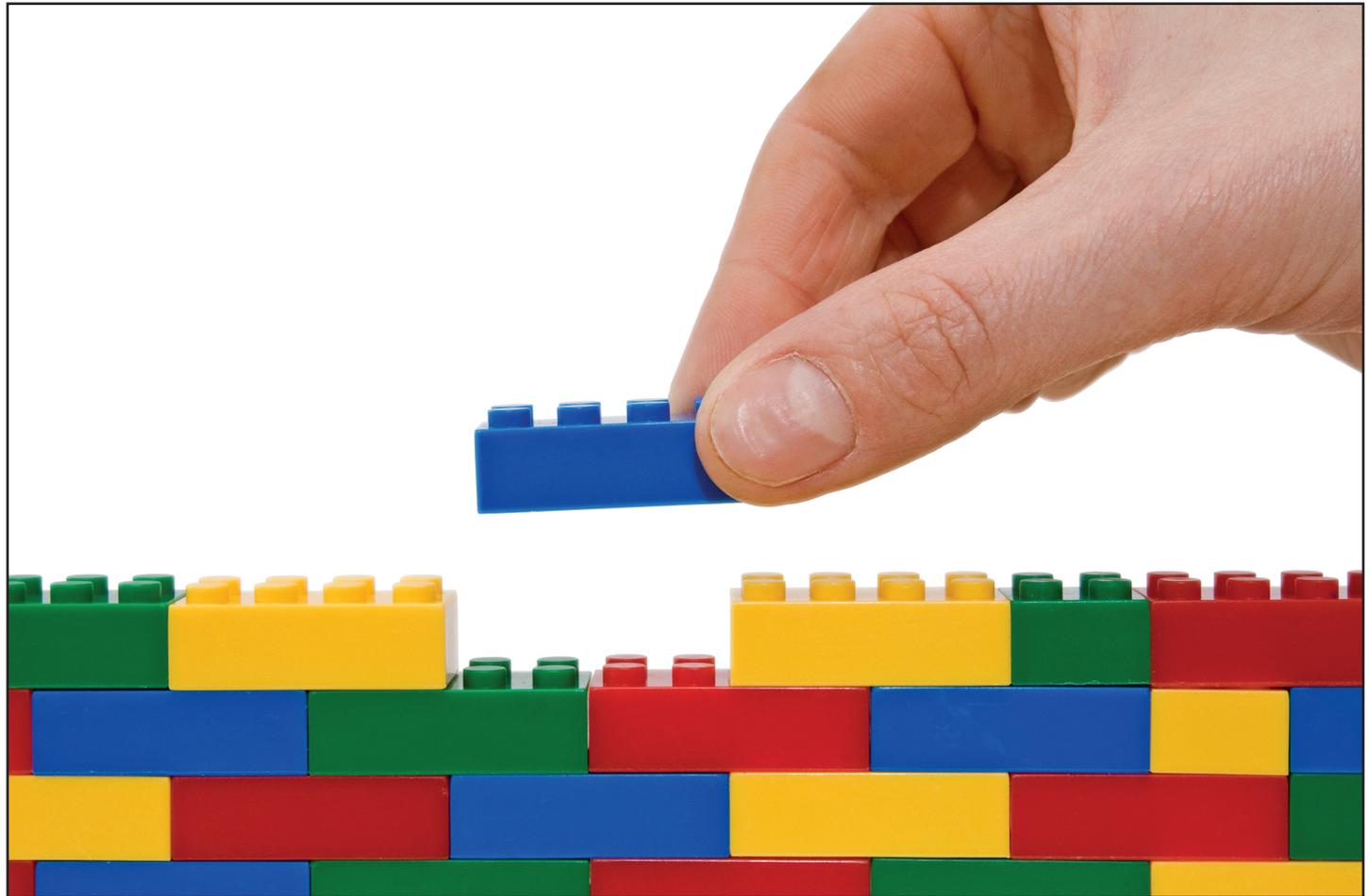
READING

together



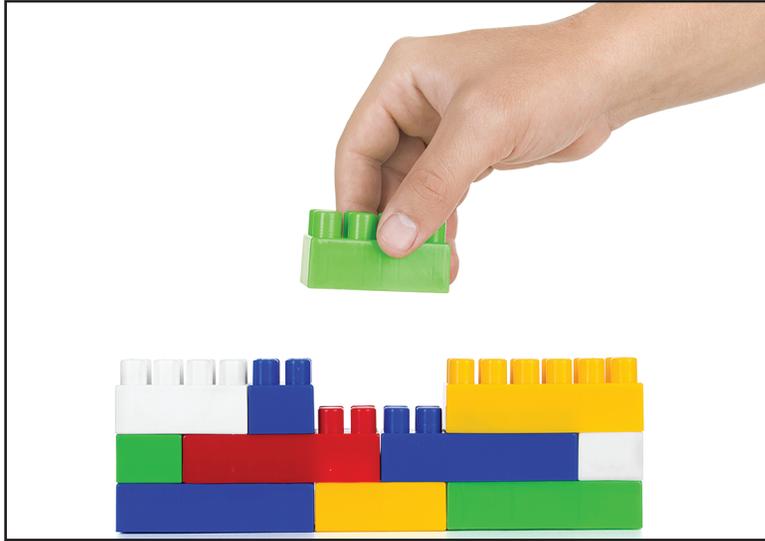
The boy puts together the Lego blocks.

2a



The boy puts together the Lego blocks of different sizes. The boy likes to build towers with the blocks.

2b



3a

The boy uses many Lego blocks to construct a large tower.



3b

count

take

build

4a



These boys like to scatter Lego blocks on top of the table when they build towers. When the blocks are spread out, the boys can see the different colors and shapes they can choose from.

on top of the table

blocks are spread out

different colors and shapes

Balloon Lady



Courtesy of Thelma Levett, Smudgy Entertainments

Thelma Levett is known as the balloon lady. She makes art by twisting balloons.

6a



Courtesy of Thelma Levett, Smudgy Entertainments

Thelma Levett is famous for her balloon art. She was painting faces at a school fair when someone said she should try balloon twisting. Levett found a book in the library and has been twisting balloons to make animals and other interesting things ever since.



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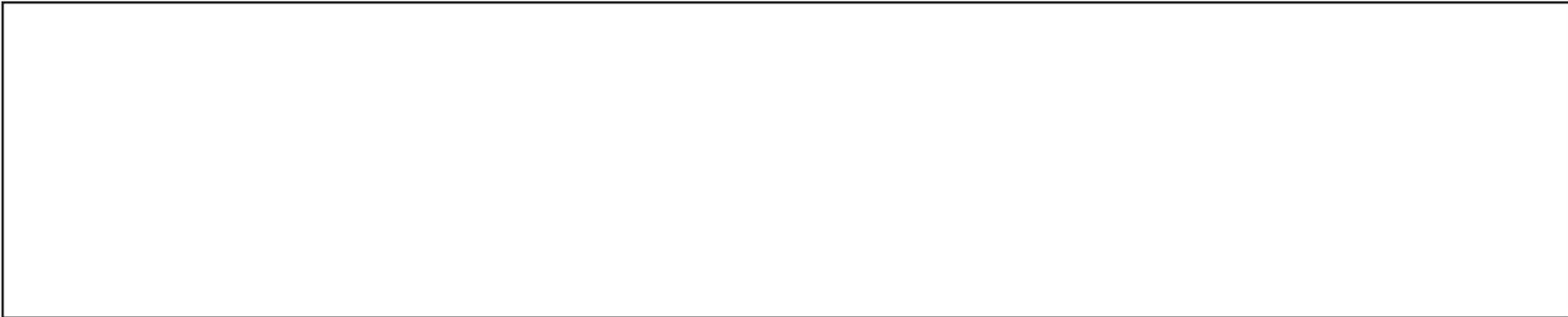


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7a



© Worldwide Features/Barcroft Media/Getty Images



7a

Levett lives in England. She started working with balloons about 20 years ago. People stop and stare when they see her sitting in her car made of only balloons. Levett uses thousands of balloons in her work. Besides a life-sized car, Levett has made mobile phones, bicycles, teapots, huge ears of corn, and even a skeleton out of balloons.

Thelma Levett uses balloons to make mobile phones, bicycles, and skeletons.

Thelma Levett has been working with balloons for more than 20 years.

Thelma Levett smiles as she sits in her all-balloon car.

8a



© Worldwide Features/Barcroft Media/Getty Images

Levett's most famous and most difficult balloon art was the wedding dress she made. She had to blow up the balloons and work very quickly to make the dress because balloons will only hold air for about four days. The dress had lace sleeves, and its full skirt was made from carefully twisted balloons.

8a

Levett keeps thinking of new balloon ideas. People everywhere love her work. She was even named International Balloon Twister of the Year!

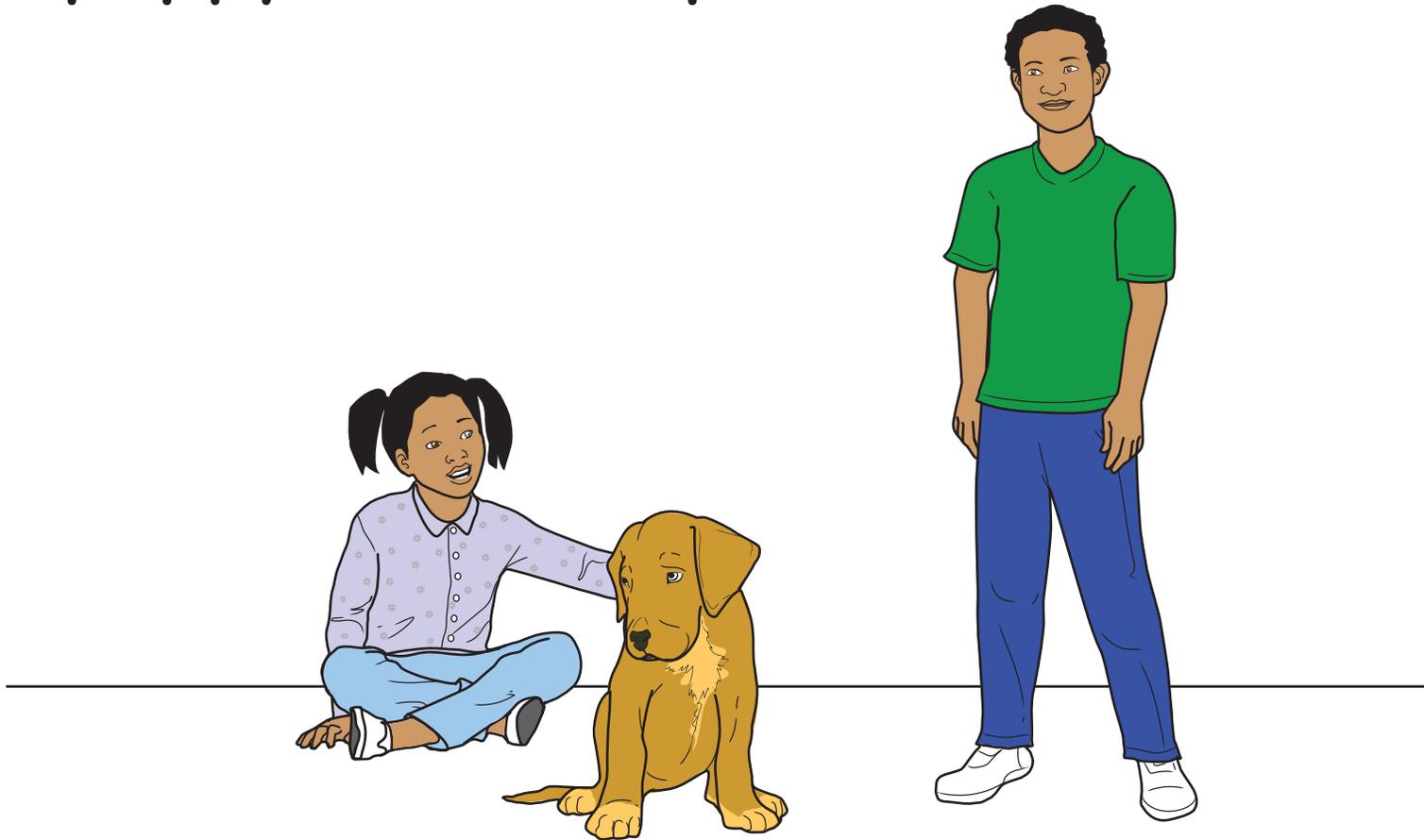
to show what the wedding dress made of balloons looked like

to show her international balloon award

to show how to twist balloons to make a wedding dress

Welcome to the Family

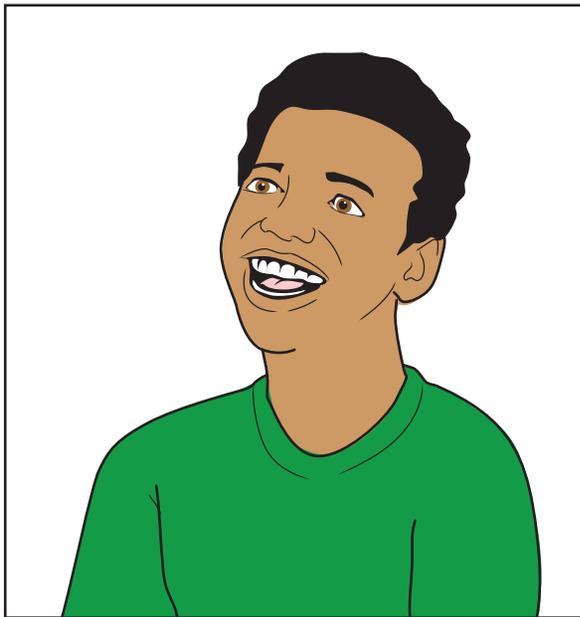
Jared and his little sister Tracy had a new puppy named Sparkles.



Jared was mad when he called for Tracy and Mom to come to his room and see what Sparkles had done. His pillow was torn, and the fluff from the inside of the pillow was floating in the air. Tracy and Mom laughed when they saw the tiny pieces of cotton in Sparkles's dark fur.



10b



Sparkles had made many big messes since Jared brought her home from the farm a few weeks ago. The puppy had chewed up Tracy's backpack and library book. Sparkles had chewed a hole in Jared's soccer uniform and in one of his basketball shoes.



Nothing in the house was safe from Sparkles. She ate Dad's homemade cookies and Mom's apple pie. Sparkles chewed on table legs, chair cushions, and even the bottom step of the stairs.

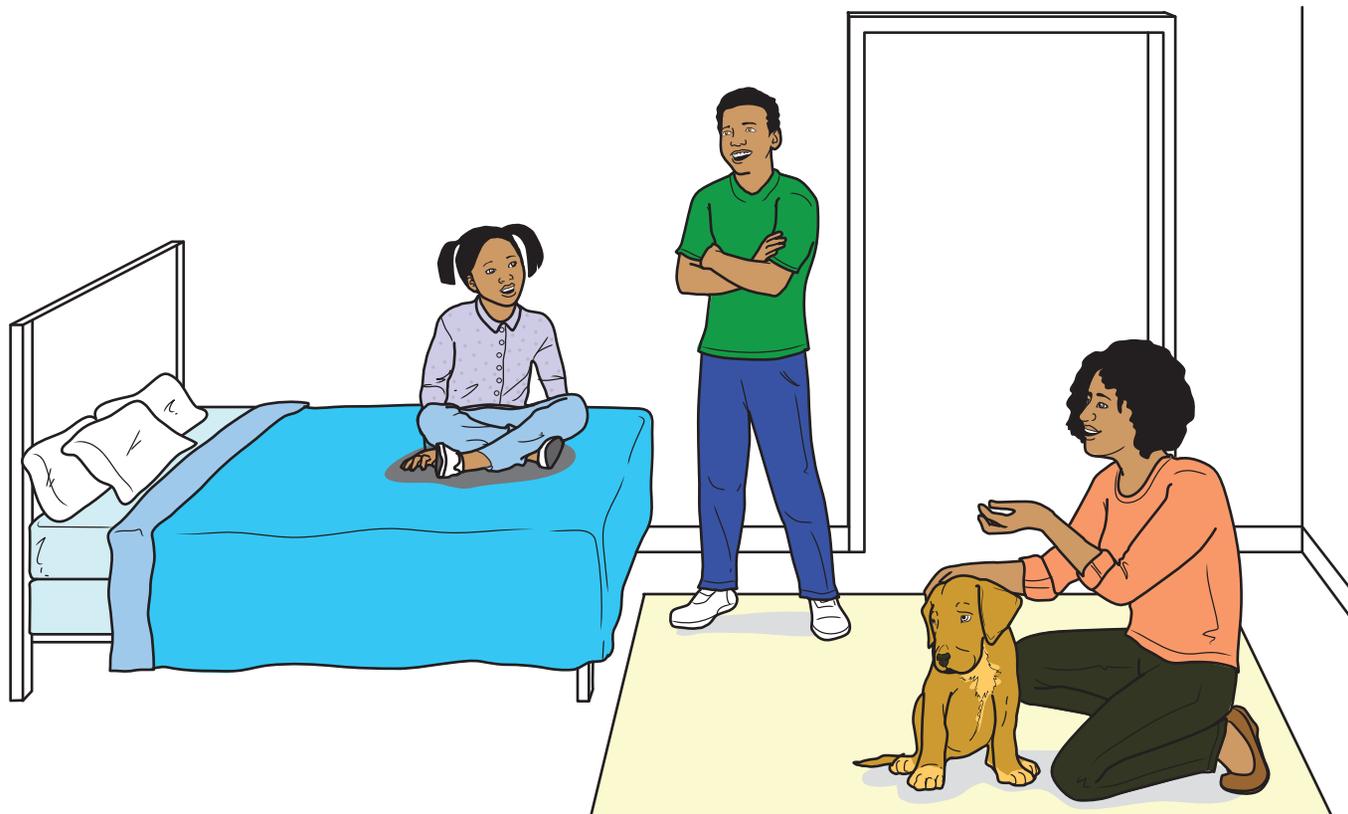
"This is enough!" Jared said as he cleaned up the mess in his room. "I am taking Sparkles back to the farm."



Mom bent down to pet Sparkles.
"Maybe the farm is a better place for a lively little puppy like Sparkles."

But Tracy wanted to keep their new puppy. "Please give me a chance to work with her," Tracy begged. "Maybe I can take Sparkles to a puppy training school. She can take lessons on how to behave."

Mom agreed that taking Sparkles to puppy school was a good idea. "If your idea works, we can keep her. If not, Sparkles will be happy on the farm."



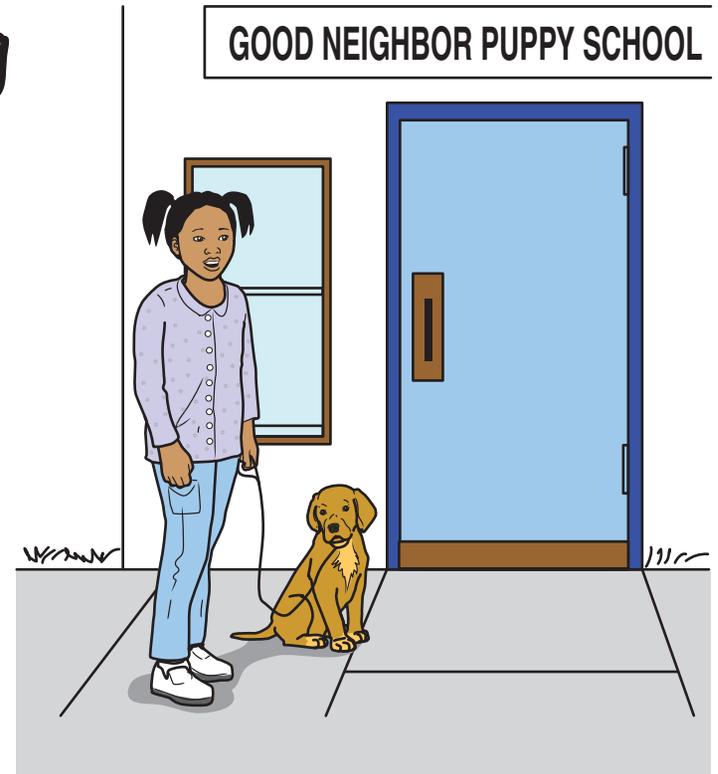
Tracy wants to take Sparkles to puppy training school to teach Sparkles —

how to behave

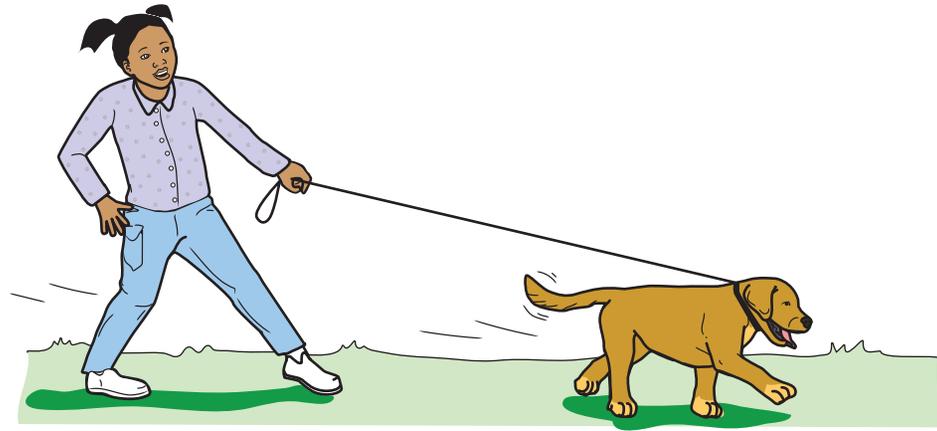
how to clean up the messes she makes

how to be a farm dog

Every Saturday morning Tracy took Sparkles to the Good Neighbor Puppy School. At first Sparkles tried to wiggle out of her leash. She chewed on chairs while people sat and watched.



At puppy school Tracy learned that puppies chew on things because they are young and have a lot of energy. Tracy learned ways to help Sparkles use up some of that energy.



At home Tracy played games with Sparkles to keep her from chewing up shoes and clothes. She took Sparkles on walks to give her exercise and gave Sparkles bones to chew on instead of the furniture. After six weeks the owners of the puppy school gave Sparkles the Most Improved Puppy award.

Tracy's mother was so proud of Tracy. "Without you, we would not have a well-trained pet. Welcome to the family, Sparkles!"



Every Saturday morning Tracy took Sparkles to the Good Neighbor Puppy School.

Tracy learned ways to help Sparkles use up some of that energy.

After six weeks the owners of the puppy school gave Sparkles the Most Improved Puppy award.



AP Photo/Richard Drew

Former First Lady Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna Bush Hager love the outdoors. They wrote a children's book titled *Our Great Big Backyard*.



AP Photo/Richard Drew

Our Great Big Backyard is a book about a family that has fun visiting national parks in the United States. First Lady Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna know what this is like. Jenna and her mother had the idea to write a book about their family vacations in national parks.



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AP Photo/Richard Drew

15a



The book *Our Great Big Backyard* is about the beauty and fun of national parks. It is the story of a girl named Jane and her family. At first Jane is excited about summer vacation. But when her parents plan a trip to visit national parks, Jane is disappointed. She does not care about going on vacation to a park and wants to spend time with her friends.

While Jane rides in the car, she is so busy sending e-mails to her friends that she does not see the things around her. Then one night Jane's dad calls her to look through a telescope. Together they see the twinkling stars over Big Bend National Park in Texas. Jane is so excited after seeing the stars that she forgets about sending e-mails. She starts to look forward to each new adventure in a different national park.

Jane's dad uses a map to plan a trip.

Jane's friends cannot send e-mails.

Jane's dad shows her the twinkling stars.

16a



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Our Great Big Backyard was published the year the national parks system turned 100 years old. First Lady Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna wanted to share why national parks are so special. These parks might have mountains, lakes, waterfalls, or deserts. Some even have volcanoes! These parks also have interesting animals and plants. The National Park Service keeps these places safe so that people can visit the parks and enjoy nature.

Laura Bush and Jenna found it fun to remember and easy to write about their past family vacations. They want children today to enjoy these special places with their families. As Laura Bush says, "The national parks really are our great big backyard!"

Laura Bush and Jenna wrote the book to —

warn readers about volcanoes in national parks

encourage readers to visit national parks

describe for readers the different animals they can see in national parks

Fun and Games with Galápagos Tortoises



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Elvis and Mr. Potato Head are Galápagos tortoises. They live at the zoo in El Paso, Texas.



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Galápagos tortoises are the largest tortoises in the world. Mr. Potato Head weighs almost 700 pounds! Elvis weighs more than 500 pounds. They hatched from eggs more than 60 years ago, but that is not old for a tortoise. Galápagos tortoises can live to be about 150 years old.

18b



The El Paso Zoo is one of the only zoos in the United States where tortoises work with animal trainers to practice their skills. Every day Mr. Potato Head and Elvis get to play a fun game, like "Apple on a String." They practice using their brains as they would use them in the wild.



Mr. Potato Head stretches out his neck and opens his mouth. An apple hangs from a string in front of him. Mr. Potato Head's jaws snap shut, but the apple bumps away from him. So Mr. Potato Head tries again. He knows he can get a bite of the delicious apple if he just keeps trying.

Animal trainers take the tortoises into the wild to let the animals practice their skills.

Animal trainers feed the tortoises delicious oranges every day.

Animal trainers play games with the tortoises so that the animals can use their brains.



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Galápagos tortoises come from the Galápagos Islands, off the coast of South America. Long ago many giant tortoises lived on the islands. But today Galápagos tortoises are in danger of disappearing from Earth. What is happening to them?

Hawks like to eat the eggs and baby tortoises. People sailed their ships to the islands and hunted the tortoises. Animals that came on the ships ate tortoise eggs and the food the tortoises needed to eat. With all these problems, very few tortoises lived.

20a



Scientists wanted to save the tortoises, so they put them in a special program when the tortoises were young. The tortoises were let back into the wild when they were old enough to be safe from animals eating them. Zoos also helped. Some tortoises, like Elvis and Mr. Potato Head, live in zoos all their lives. Because of programs that protect tortoises, the number of Galápagos tortoises is getting larger.

Galápagos tortoises were in danger of disappearing from Earth until scientists and zoos started programs to save them.

A very large number of Galápagos tortoises live on islands off the coast of South America.

Elvis and Mr. Potato Head are Galápagos tortoises that will live in a zoo all their lives.

**STAAR ALTERNATE 2
GRADE 3
Reading
April 2019**

ISD21060

Printed in the USA

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