

# ***Reading Comprehension Workbook***

## ***Level 3***

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# The Bundle Of Sticks

## Learn the Key Words

<b>bend</b>	(bend)	to push or pull something until it looks different <i>A strong wind came along and made the straight little tree <u>bend</u> way over.</i>
<b>bundle</b>	(bun' dl)	a number of things that are put together and kept together in some way <i>Mrs. Stone gathered the dirty clothes into a <u>bundle</u> before she washed them.</i>
<b>gather</b>	(gaʒH ə)	to bring a number of things into one place <i>Chipmunks <u>gather</u> nuts and put them in holes in trees.</i>
<b>root</b>	(rüt)	part of a plant that grows under the ground <i>A tree will die when its <u>roots</u> do not get enough water.</i>
<b>snapped</b>	(snapt)	to have broken quickly with a sudden sound <i>As Mary started to climb the tree, the branch <u>snapped</u> and broke in her hand.</i>
<b>son</b>	(sun)	male child of a father and mother <i>The elephant's <u>son</u> looks just like his father, but he is much smaller.</i>

### Preview:

1. Read the title.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
4. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

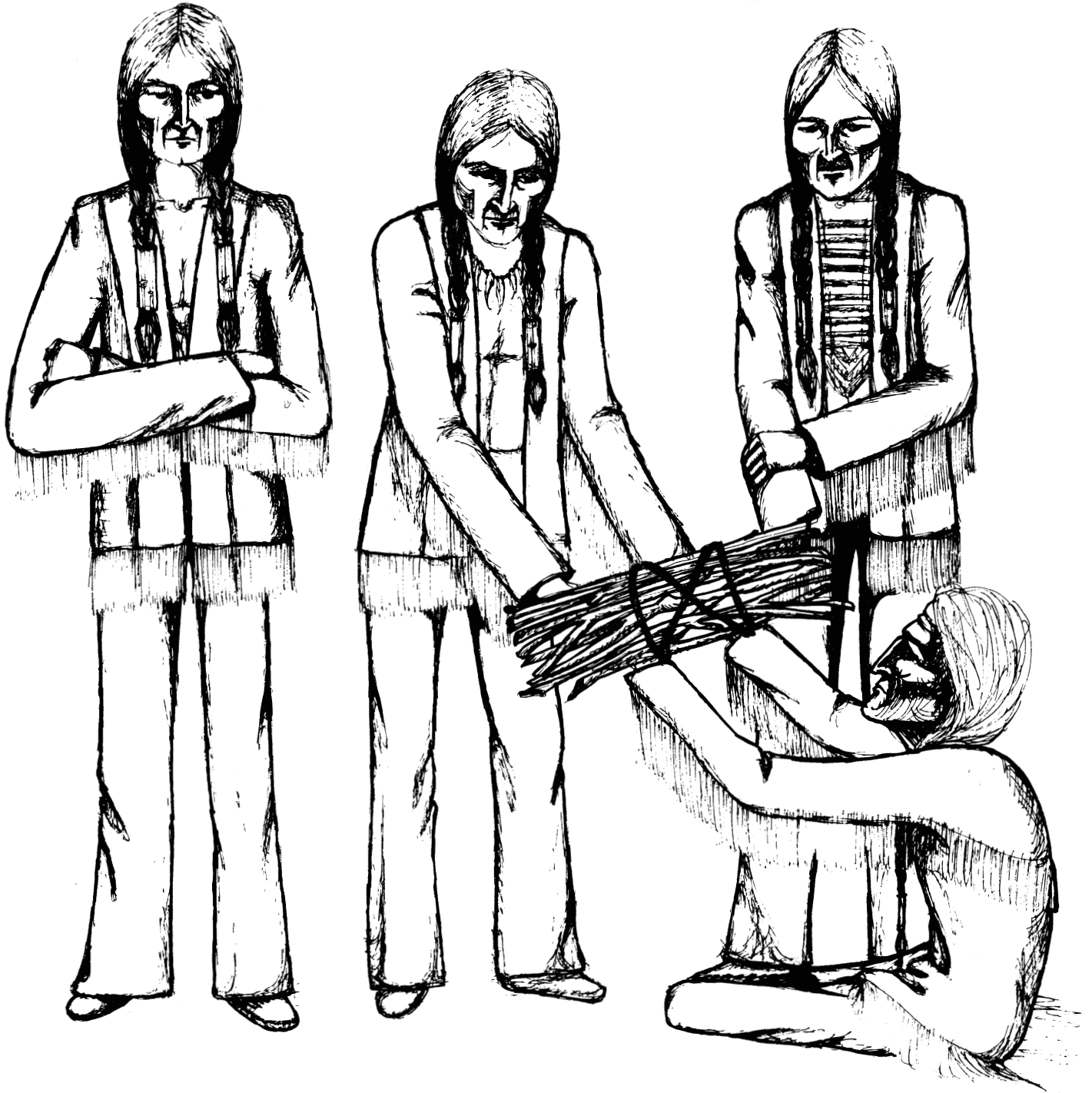
- \_\_\_ a. this story happened this year.
- \_\_\_ b. this story happened long ago.
- \_\_\_ c. this story happened in a big city.
- \_\_\_ d. this story happened on a farm.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 4 for the right answer.*

### Now read the story.

Read to find out how Clever Owl helped someone in trouble.

# The Bundle Of Sticks



Clever Owl is sitting on the ground. He is using a bundle of sticks to teach an important lesson.

# The Bundle Of Sticks

Long ago when our land was young, there was a quiet Indian village. An old man lived in the village. His name was Clever Owl. Clever Owl was very kind and very wise.

From far and wide, boys and girls came to hear Clever Owl's wonderful stories. Their mothers and fathers visited him and talked with him about their families. Everyone in the village loved Clever Owl very much.

One day, a sad and tired man came to the tent of Clever Owl. His name was Singing Wolf.

"Your face is like the dark sky before a storm," said the wise old man. "What is the trouble?"

"My sons trouble me," answered Singing Wolf. "They stand tall and straight like the trees of the mountain. They run fast like the river that races to the sea. They are strong and brave like the animals of the wild."

"But what is the trouble?" Clever Owl asked again. "You speak proud words about your sons. Why then are your eyes like the clouds that are filled with rain?" the old man wanted to know.

Singing Wolf sat down upon the ground beside Clever Owl. Slowly he told his story, as Clever Owl listened closely.

"Once I was proud of my sons," Singing Wolf said, "but now I am not. Once, we worked and hunted together. We were a strong and happy family. Now, all they do when they are together, is fight. They get nothing done.

"They fight over little things and big things and everything. They fight in our tent and in our fields. They fight even when they hunt the animals of the wild. No longer is ours a strong and happy family."

Old Clever Owl said, "Then you must teach your sons to get along together."

"I have tried," said the unhappy father. "But my words are like water that stands in a puddle upon the ground and does not move down to the roots. My sons do not seem to hear me."

"Send them to me," said the wise old man. "I will show them what you mean."

While Singing Wolf ran to gather his sons, Clever Owl gathered a bundle of sticks. He tied the sticks together with a strong rope.

Soon, the sons of Singing Wolf walked up to Clever Owl's tent. The old man showed them the bundle of sticks and said, "Try to break this bundle."

One at a time, each young Indian brave tried his luck. He tried with all his might. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not break the bundle of sticks. Not one of the strong young braves could even bend it one tiny bit.

Then Clever Owl took the bundle and pulled off the rope. The sticks fell all over the ground at the feet of Singing Wolf's sons.

Clever Owl handed one stick to each young man. "Now let me see you break your stick," he said.

Each young brave laughed as he snapped his stick in two. It was so easy, he hardly had to try.

Then old Clever Owl said, "You see! When you stay together, you are strong just like the bundle of sticks is strong.

"When you fight, you break the rope that holds your family together. Then you are strong no longer. You snap and break just like the sticks did in your hands."

The sons of Singing Wolf always remembered Clever Owl and his sticks. When they had children of their own, they gathered their own bundles of sticks.

# The Bundle Of Sticks

**Preview answer:**

b. this story happened long ago.

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. The story takes place
  - a. in a big city.
  - b. in an Indian village.
  - c. in a small town.
  - d. on a ship.
  
2. The wise man in the story was named
  - a. Wise Owl.
  - b. Clever Bird.
  - c. Clever Owl.
  - d. Old Owl.
  
3. Singing Wolf's face was
  - a. like the dark sky before a storm.
  - b. like a lake shining in the sun.
  - c. like a light making the night bright.
  - d. like the smiling flowers of the desert.
  
4. Singing Wolf was troubled
  - a. because his sons were not strong.
  - b. because his sons were afraid of everything.
  - c. because his sons were not good hunters.
  - d. because his sons were fighting with each other.
  
5. The sons of Singing Wolf were shown
  - a. clouds of rain.
  - b. animals of the wild.
  - c. a puddle of water.
  - d. a bundle of sticks.
  
6. Clever Owl told the young braves
  - a. to burn the bundle of sticks.
  - b. to break the bundle of sticks.
  - c. to throw the bundle of sticks.
  - d. to hide the bundle of sticks.
  
7. Singing Wolf's sons
  - a. were able to break the bundle of sticks.
  - b. would not try to break the bundle of sticks.
  - c. could not break the bundle of sticks.
  - d. burned the bundle of sticks.
  
8. The bundle of sticks stands for
  - a. a strong family.
  - b. a way to start a fire.
  - c. a way to save wood.
  - d. an unhappy father.
  
9. Another name for this story could be
  - a. "A Quiet Indian Village of Long Ago."
  - b. "A Family That Works Together Is Strong."
  - c. "Brothers Who Fight Each Other Cannot Break Sticks."
  - d. "How Indians Hunt Animals of the Wild."
  
10. This story is mainly about
  - a. magic sticks that couldn't be broken.
  - b. sticks that were used to hunt animals.
  - c. sisters who learned to get along with each other.
  - d. brothers who learned to get along with each other.

Check your answers with the key on page 53.

**Idea starter:** What are some other troubles that parents have with children?

# The Bundle Of Sticks

## VOCABULARY CHECK

I. Choose the best word to complete the following sentences:

bundle	roots	snapped	gather	bend	son
--------	-------	---------	--------	------	-----

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of papers fell off the truck.
2. "Please \_\_\_\_\_ over and tie your shoe."
3. After the leaves fell, we loved to \_\_\_\_\_ them into big piles.
4. The rabbit hopped into the garden and ate the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the plants.
5. Mr. Gray and his \_\_\_\_\_, John, went out to fly the new kite.
6. Jill \_\_\_\_\_ her cookie in two and gave one piece to her friend.

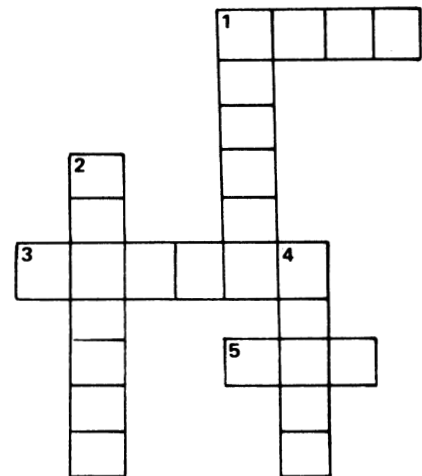
II. Use the words in the box above to complete the puzzle.

### Across

1. You do this when you put on your shoes.
3. Raccoons \_\_\_\_\_ berries and eat them.
5. A boy is a \_\_\_\_\_ to his father.

### Down

1. You carry a \_\_\_\_\_ of food from the store.
2. The branch \_\_\_\_\_ and broke.
4. All the hairs on your head have these.



Check your answers with the key on page 55.

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# A Home For The Winter

## Learn the Key Words

**blanket** (blang' kit)

something that covers

*He used a blanket to keep him warm.*

**chatter** (chat' ər)

talk in a quick, silly way

*We could hear the monkey chatter in his cage.*

**crept** (krept)

moved in a slow way

*The baby crept to his mother.*

**curtain** (kért ' n)

a cover on the glass of a window or a door

*The curtains are in the window.*

**enjoy** (en joi')

be happy with

*We will enjoy playing with the new toys.*

**freeze** (frēz)

turn to ice

*The water began to freeze when it got very cold.*

### Preview:

1. Read the title.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the first four paragraphs of the story.
4. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- a. this story took place in summer.
- b. this story took place in fall.
- c. this story took place in spring.
- d. this story took place in winter.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 9 for the right answer.*

### Now read the story.

Read to find out how the Mouse family found a warm home.