Practice Stories
For Beginning Readers

Includes All Of The Stories From
Basic Phonics Patterns, Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-6, 7-8
Practice Stories
For Beginning Readers

Kathryn J. Davis

Includes The Practice Stories From Basic Phonics Patterns, Books 1-8
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Level 4 - Phonics Patterns - The Main Idea

The English language is phonetic. It uses letters and letter patterns, called phonograms, as written symbols to represent the sounds in words. The Level 4 books in the Sound City Reading program teach the phonogram patterns and syllable patterns that are needed to begin reading and writing.

I. Students learn new phonics patterns and syllable patterns, one at a time.
   A. Students see new and review patterns and say the sounds.
      1. From sound charts that show sound pictures with phonics patterns
      2. From phonics pattern flashcards
   B. Students hear the sounds for letters and phonics patterns and write them from memory, while repeating the sounds.

II. Students immediately apply each new phonics pattern or syllable pattern to spell and read words and sentences.
   A. Students spell words with the new pattern from dictation, using a multi-sensory approach. As they spell they say the individual sounds in the words while writing the related letters or letter patterns.
   B. Students write a sentence from dictation.
   C. Students read words with the new phonics pattern.
   D. In the Basic Phonics Patterns books, students read a few sentences that have words with the new phonics pattern.

III. After several new phonics patterns or syllable patterns have been introduced, students read a short practice story containing words with both new and review patterns. The practice stories include only the phonetic patterns that have been taught. Students who are already reading may continue to read materials at their current reading level.
   A. Students learn new suffixes as needed before reading a new story.
   B. Students learn new contractions as needed before reading a new story.
   C. Students learn common sight words as needed before reading new sentences and stories. Sight words are introduced after a new phonetic pattern has been taught. For example, first students learn to read words with the long ē sound, shown with the ee pattern: feet, seed, heel, and sheep. Then they are introduced to the sight word been, which does not have the long ē sound.
Sight Words - Introduce sight words after students have studied phonetic words with the same pattern.

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Jan has a fish.

She got it at a pet shop.

It is in front of a big shell.

It has fins. It can swim.

Jan is glad she has a fish.
I Wish

This is a cat.

That is a dog.

This is a pig.

That is a frog.

I wish I had a cat.

I wish I had a dog.

I wish I had a pig.

I wish I had a frog.
Go Fish

I will go with dad.

We will go in the van.

We will fish.

We will get a lot of fish.
This Is For ...

This is for Dad.

This is for Mom.

This is for Beth.

This is for Tom.

This is for the cat.

This is for the dog.
Read the story.

**Rick And Jack**

This is Rick.

And this is his dog Jack.

Jack is a gift from Mom and Dad.

Rick is fond of Jack.

He pets Jack. Jack is soft.

Jack is fond of Rick.

He licks his hand.
A Duck

I am a duck.

I have a bill.

I can quack.

I go to a pond.

I swim in the pond.

I dig in the mud.
I jump off a rock.

I sit on a log in the sun.

I can go up, up, up.
Jump

This is a frog.
It can rest in the soft mud.

The frog can jump.
It can get a bug.

The frog can swim in the pond.

The End
On A Bench

This is Chad.

He sits on a bench.

He has his lunch box.

He has his back pack.

Chad will catch the bus.

He will sit next to Beth on the bus.

He and Beth will have a lot of fun.
Read the story.

Who Is This?

Who is this?

This is Gus.

What will he do?

He will go on the bus.

When will he go?

He will go at ten.

With whom will he go?

He will go with Ben.
A Man

A man has a crutch.

A man has a stick.

A man gets a chest.

A man is rich.

The End
Read the story.

A Chicken

A chicken can peck.

A chicken can scratch.

A chicken can sit.

A chicken can hatch.

The End
Read the story.

In The Spring

In the spring,

robins sing,

eggs hatch,

and children swing.

Wings flap,

bugs sting.

Sing a song.

It’s spring,

it’s spring.
Get A Drink

When it’s hot,
and the sun is up,
stop and think,
and get a cup.

Or get a glass,
and fill it up.

Stop and think,
and get a drink.
Eve Gets A Pet

This is Eve.
Eve is at the pet shop.
She will get a pet.

Eve sees the dogs.
Will Eve get a dog?
No, she will not get a dog.

Eve sees the cats.
Will Eve get a cat?
No, she will not get a cat.
Eve sees the rabbits.  
Will Eve get a rabbit?  
No, she will not get a rabbit.

Eve sees the fish.  
A big fish swims up to Eve. It swims and swims. Will Eve get a fish?  

Yes, Eve will get a fish.  
She will get the big fish and a ten gallon tank.  
Steve gets the fish for Eve.  
It will be fun to have a fish for a pet.  
The End
A Trip To The Beach

Get the key.
Unlock the jeep.

We will go to the beach.

When we get to the beach, we run and kick.
We dig in the sand.

We splash and swim in the sea.

We pick up shells.

We see a weird crab.

It will pinch!
We sit on a blanket and rest.

We eat bread with honey for a snack.

We have a lot of fun at the beach.

The End
Kay

Kay hates to wait.

Kay hates to be late.

Kay hates to rake.

Kay hates to see a snake.

Kay hates caves.

Kay hates big waves.
Kay hates to take a bath.

Kay hates to do math.

Kay hates braids.

Kay hates bad grades.

Kay hates to pay.

Kay hates a bad day.
Read the story.

Mike

Mike is a child.

Mike likes to be wild.

Mike likes to hide.

Mike likes to slide.

Mike likes to hike.

Mike likes to ride his bike.
Mike likes to find a dime.

Mike likes to be on time.

Mike likes to smile.

Mike likes to run a mile.

Mike likes to eat pie.

Mike likes to go up high.
Mike likes to be right.

Mike likes to go to bed at night.
The Pet Shop

This is Pete.
And this is Steve.
Pete and Steve have a pet shop.

Here is a black dog.
The black dog wags his tail.

Here is a white dog.
The white dog stands up on its hind legs.
Here is a black cat.
The black cat licks its tail.

Here is a cat with stripes.
The cat with stripes takes a nap.

Here is a black rabbit.
The black rabbit likes to play.

Here is a rabbit with spots.
The rabbit with spots likes to rest.
Here is a black fish.
The black fish hides behind a rock.

Here is a gray fish.
The gray fish swims up to the top.

Pete feeds the dogs.
Then he gives them a bath.

Steve feeds the cats.
Then he brushes them.
Pete feeds the rabbits.  
Then he picks them up to pet them.

Steve feeds the fish.  
He won’t give the fish a bath. He won’t brush them.  
He won’t pick them up to pet them. 
Fish just like to swim.

Pete and Steve like to take care of the pets in the pet shop.
My name is Henry. This is my puppy.
His name is Patches.

Patches is a pretty puppy.
He is black and white.
He is not a big dog.
When he is happy he wags his tail.

Patches is a funny dog, too.
He likes to chase his tail until he gets dizzy.
On a sunny day,
Patches runs as fast as he can in the grass.

I take care of my puppy.
I feed him and brush him.
I play with him and keep him safe.

When it rains,
Patches gets muddy.
Then I have to give him a bath.

At night I let Patches sleep with me on my bed. I like my puppy and he likes me.

The End
Joe’s Truck

This is Joe.

Joe has a big black truck.

Joe likes to drive his truck.

Joe sees some logs
at the side of the road.

Will Joe get the logs?

Joe stops to ask.

Can he have the logs?

Yes, he can have the logs.
Joe loads the logs onto his truck. He takes the logs home.

Joe splits the logs and piles them up. Some day he will make a fire with the logs.

The logs will make a fine, hot fire.

The End
The Troll And The Gold

This is a troll.
He is a bad troll.
He likes gold.
Will he get some gold?

The troll hides behind a big stone at the side of the road. He sees a colt on the road. The colt has some gold.

The gold is in a bag on the colt's back. The troll sees the bag of gold.
Will the troll get the gold?
The bad troll jumps at the colt.
The troll grabs the bag of gold.
The colt does not like the troll. He steps on his toe. He bites the troll with his teeth. He kicks the troll with his feet.

The troll rolls in the grass. He is mad. He cannot get the gold.

The colt runs away fast. He does not come back. He goes home.
The bad troll does not go home.
He waits at the side of the road.
He hides behind a big tree.

The troll sees a goat on the road.
The goat has some gold.
The gold is in a bag on the goat's back.
Will the troll get the gold?

The bad troll jumps at the goat.
The troll grabs the bag of gold.
The goat does not like the troll.
He steps on his toe.  
He bites the troll with his teeth.  
He kicks the troll with his feet.  
Then he butts the troll with his horns.  

The troll rolls in the grass.  
He is mad. He cannot get the gold. The troll is afraid of the goat. He runs away fast. The troll does not come back.  

The goat stops to rest and have a bite of grass.  
Then the goat goes home.  
The End
Pink Or Blue?

Sue has a chair.
She paints it pink.
Andrew has a chair.
He does not like pink.
He paints his chair blue.

Andrew has some new shoes.
He has blue shoes.
He can run fast in his new shoes.

Sue has some new shoes.
She did not get blue shoes.
Sue likes pink. She got some cute pink shoes.
Sue has a new dress.
The new dress is pink.
Andrew has a new suit.
Andrew likes blue.
His new suit is blue.

Sue likes pink and Andrew likes blue.
But Sue still likes Andrew.
And Andrew still likes Sue.
Andrew and Sue can still have a lot of fun.

The End
Read the story.

**The Mule**

This old mule went across the bridge,

beside the hedge, and along the ridge.
Along the ledge it had to trudge.

When the mule got home it did not budge.

The End
Read the story.

A Boy Gets A Toy

This boy and his Mom went to get a toy. The boy pointed to a toy ship. Mom got the toy ship for the boy. The boy was filled with joy. He went to the pond. He had a lot of fun with his toy.
A Mouse In The House

Mom was in the kitchen.
She was fixing lunch.

Beth was stacking up blocks in the den.

“Mom,” Beth yelled.
"A mouse is in our house!"

Mom ran to the den.
She ran fast.
The mouse ran past the couch.
The mouse ran into the kitchen.

Then the mouse ran out of the house.

"Well," Beth yelled. "The mouse is out of the house!"

"Let's have our lunch!"
Read the story.

The Cow Got Out

This is Jeff.
Jeff has a big house.
He has a lot of land.
And he has a lot of cows. Jeff milks the cows.

This is Bess.
Bess is Jeff’s best cow.
She is a brown cow.
She gives a lot of milk.

Last month, Bess was at the pond. She was munching on grass. A bee stung Bess on the back.
Ouch! She ran fast.
She jumped out.

Jeff was mowing the grass.
Bess ran past Jeff.
“Bess is out!” he shouted.
“Now how did that cow get out?”

Bess ran and ran.
She ran south.
She ran up and down a hill.
She did not stop.
Jeff got his truck.
He followed the cow.
He went south.
He went up a hill and down a hill.
Jeff went fast.

Bess went into a town. Now she did not go fast. She was lost. She was sad.
Jeff found Bess in town.
He was glad.
Jeff towed Bess back home again.

Now Bess the cow is back at the pond munching on grass.
And she is not a bit sad.

The End
Get your boots. Get your backpacks.

Get the tent. Put them in the van.

Let’s go camping!

We go into the woods. We follow a path.

We look at the rocks and the trees.

We stop at a brook. Fish swim in the cool brook. We jump from stone to stone to cross the brook.
We go up a hill. We go up to the top.

We look at the clouds.

Then we put up our tent.

We get a lot of wood to make a fire.

We cook our food. It tastes good.

It is cool now. We sit on a log and sing songs. We look at the moon.

The moon is full. Then we go to sleep in our tent.
When we wake up, we pack up the tent and hike back to our van. We put the tent and our backpacks into the van.

We had a good time on our camping trip.

Now we will go back home.

The End
Home

A hawk has a home on a cliff.

A fish has a home in a pond.

A fawn has a home in the trees.

An ant has a home on the lawn.

A snail has a home on a stone.

A robin has a home in a nest.

A rabbit has a home in a hole.

But Paul’s home is the best.
Read the story.

Small Mouse

Small Mouse went for a walk in the woods.
He was looking for food.
Small Mouse saw a path.
So he walked on the path.

Small Mouse saw a wall.
So he walked on the wall.
Small Mouse saw a house.
The door was open just a crack. So he walked into the house.

Small Mouse saw a lot of toys.
But he did not want the toys.

Small Mouse saw a lot of books.
But he did not want the books.
Small Mouse walked into the kitchen.

Small Mouse saw a lot of corn.

It was in a basket.

He DID want the corn.

Small Mouse crawled

into the basket to get the corn.

He wanted ALL of the corn.

He stuffed corn into his

mouth as fast as he could.

All of a sudden, Small Mouse saw... a

CAT! The cat crept up and

sprang at Small Mouse.
Small Mouse jumped down and ran as fast as he could.
He ran down the hall.
He ran out of the house.

Small Mouse ran down the path, back into the woods.
The cat jumped up onto the wall and watched Small Mouse run away. Then the cat licked his paws.

The End
Read the story.

The Dragon And The Ring

This is the queen.

And this is the king.

The king has a crown.

The queen has a ring.

The king is fair.

He sits on a throne.

The queen’s gold ring has a red stone.
The king and the queen go to sleep.

A dragon takes the ring.

The queen begins to weep.

The king jumps up onto his steed.

He follows the dragon.

He goes at top speed.
The king must find the dragon.

He must catch him on the double,

to make the country safe

from all kinds of trouble.

The dragon has scales,

a long tail, and wings.

The dragon has fangs,

and he does bad things.
He soars above the town.

He goes past the mill.

He blows smoke and blows fire,
as he sails up the hill.

The dragon is back
at his hilltop lair.

He sits and he waits
at the top of the stairs.
The dragon is strong.

The dragon is tall.

Next to the dragon, the king is so small.

The king throws his sword at the dragon’s chest. The dragon falls.

Now the king can rest.
The king brings the ring back to the queen.

The queen is glad and so is the king.
Now you know how this fair tale ends.

That’s all there is. No more.

The End.
A Bird

This girl has a bird.

It is a white bird.

The bird is not wild.

It is tame.

The bird is a pet.

The girl likes the bird.

The bird likes the girl.

The bird can pick up a pencil.

And it can dance.
The bird likes to sit on the girl’s shirt sleeve.
The bird chirps at the girl.
The girl gives it seeds.

The girl is glad to have a bird.
The bird and the girl have a lot of fun.

The End
Jake’s Magic Show

This is Jake. He can do magic tricks on a stage.

He can pull a rabbit out of a hat.

He can get a bird out of a cage while the cage is still shut.

And he can change an orange into an apple.

Jake likes to do his magic tricks!
Mark’s Car

Mark has a car.

It is a large red car.

The car can go fast.

Mark likes to drive his car.

Mark says, “It is hard to drive a car, but I am smart. I am safe when I drive.”
First, he starts the car.

Next, he drives to his job.

Then, he parks the car.

At the end of the day, it is dark.

It is night time. So Mark drives home with the lights on.

The End
Oil

Oil comes from plants and animals that were covered with mud long ago.

Today, people dig deep holes in the soil to pump up the oil. These are called oil wells.
Gas can be made from the oil to run cars and trucks.

Plastic can also be made from oil.

Toys, bottles, and other things that we enjoy are made from plastic.

The End
The Life Of A Turtle

This is a turtle. She has a hard shell.

The shell keeps her safe.

Sometimes she sits on a rock in the warm sun.

The turtle lives at a lake.

She can not go fast on the land.

But she can swim well.

In the summer, the turtle catches bugs and fish in the lake.
In the winter, when it is cold, the turtle goes to the bottom of the lake. She digs down into the mud. She does not move. She just sleeps. She stays there until spring time. Then she wakes up and starts to swim in the lake again.

When it gets warm, the turtle goes up on the land. She digs a hole. She lays her eggs in the hole. Then she covers them up. Some day, little turtles will hatch from the eggs. The End
A Trip To The Farm

It was hot.

“Walter,” called Mom,

“do you want to go
to a farm?”

Walter’s Mom packed lunch in a basket.

Then Walter and his mom got in the car
and drove to a farm.
At the farm, Walter saw pigs, chickens, and sheep.

He saw a mule in a big, red barn.

He saw pumpkins and tall stalks of corn growing in a garden.

Walter’s Mom fed a large, white horse.
Walter got to ride on the horse. The horse walked and walked. The horse did not want to stop. Walter did not want to stop. But then his mom called, “Let’s wash our hands for lunch.”

Walter and his mom sat under a tree and had a picnic lunch.

Then it was time to go home. Walter and his mom had a lot of fun at the farm. The End
Baby Sally

This lady has a tiny baby. The baby is in the baby buggy. The baby has on a pink dress. The baby’s name is Sally.

The lady takes the baby for a long walk. As she walks, she talks to the baby. She says, “My sweet, sweet baby.” And she says, “My pretty, pretty baby.”
Sally is a happy baby. She likes to go on a walk. She can see the trees. And she can see the sky.

Sally and the lady go by the pet shop, the cloth shop, and the bank.
The lady keeps walking until she gets to a lake. Then she picks up baby Sally and sits on a bench beside the lake.

Sally sees a duck swimming in the lake. She sees a frog jumping into the lake with a splash. She sees a robin flying up into the sky.
All of a sudden, Sally begins to cry. Sally is not a happy baby. “I think this baby is sleepy. I think she needs to take a nap,” says the lady.

So the lady lays Sally in the baby buggy. She walks back home with baby Sally. The lady sings to the baby as she walks. Baby Sally stops crying.
Then the lady lays baby Sally in bed to take a nap. Baby Sally is sleeping. Shhhhh! Don’t wake the baby up!

The End
The Flagpole

This is Jack. This is Jack's wife, Rose.

Jack and Rose live on Hope Street.

Jack and Rose have a flag. They would like to put the flag up. But they do not have a flagpole. So Jack and Rose save some money. They save a lot of money for a flagpole.
Then Jack and Rose go to the store to get a flagpole. At the store, they find just the kind of flagpole they need. They pay for the flagpole and take it home.

The flagpole comes with a rope. Jack puts the rope on the pole. Rose puts the flag on the rope. Then Jack and Rose lift up the pole. They push and they pull. But the pole will not stay up.
Jack takes the flag off the rope.

Then Jack and Rose go back to the store. This time they get a shovel. They pay for the shovel and take it home.

At home, Jack and Rose dig a deep hole. They put the flagpole in the hole. They push and they pull. The flagpole will stay up, but it is not quite right.
Jack and Rose go back to the store.
They find a big bag of concrete. They pay for the concrete and take it home.

Jack and Rose mix up the concrete. They put the concrete in the hole with the flagpole. They push and they pull.
The flagpole stands up just right.
Jack puts the flag back on the rope. Rose pulls on the rope. The flag goes up the pole. It goes up high in the air. The flag waves in the wind. Jack is glad. And Rose is glad.

The End
I Like To Eat

I like to eat meat.

But I never eat a sheet.

I like to eat steak.

But I never eat a rake.

I like to eat a pear.

But I never eat a bear.

I like to eat beans.

But I never eat jeans.
I like to eat bread.

But I never eat thread.

I like ice cream.

But I never eat a dream.

I like to eat a peach.

But I never eat a beach.

I like to eat a meal.

But I never eat a seal.
I like to eat a feast.

But I never eat a beast.

I like to eat peas.

But it’s time to stop, please!

The End
A Birthday Treat

Jean has a dream. Jean wants to get a real puppy for a pet. She wants a puppy with a leather leash and a red ribbon on its neck.

Today is Jean’s birthday. She is eight years old. She will have a birthday meal. Dad is grilling steak fillets. Mom is heating French bread. Jean is fixing green beans. Their meal will be fantastic. A birthday cake with eight candles is ready for their dessert.
Jean hears a bark. She sees dad walk in with a puppy. The puppy is on a leather leash. It has a red ribbon on its neck.

Jean hugs the puppy. The puppy licks her face and wags its tail. Jean thinks this is a great day!

The End
Two Sleuths

Spencer and Eugene are sleuths. They are eight years old. They are best friends. Spencer and Eugene like to explore an empty field in their neighborhood. They look for clues in the grass. Spencer sees bent twigs. Eugene sees footprints in the dirt.

Was a person here?

Maybe it was a thief!

Or maybe it was an Indian chief!
Sometimes Spencer and Eugene get into a feud. They argue over the clues. They don’t agree about the footprints.

Eugene believes they are from a fierce bear.

Spencer believes they are from a knight with a sword and a shield.

After their feud, Spencer and Eugene have to make up and become friends again. Then they look for more clues.
Later on, Spencer’s mom calls the boys.

“Spencer and Eugene, do you want a piece of pizza? I also have cookies and apple streusel for you.”

Then Spencer and Eugene forget all about the clues in the field. They are so hungry they even forget that they are sleuths. Spencer and Eugene race inside. They like to be sleuths, but they like to eat, too. They will enjoy a piece of pizza with cookies and apple streusel for dessert.

The End
A Good Book

The weather was bad.
It was raining outside.
The wind was blowing.
Mike had to stay in the house. He didn’t have anything to do.

He went to his room and picked up a book. He took the book to his mom. “Hey, Mom,” said Mike. “This is a good book. Will you read it to me?”
“Not now, Mike,” said Mom. “I have work to do. I have to wash the dishes.”

Mike went to find his dad. “Hey, Dad,” Mike said. “This is a great book. Will you read it to me?” “No,” said Dad. “I have work to do. I have to fix a leak in the bathroom.”

Mike felt sad. He sat on his bed and looked at the book. Then he said, “I can’t wait for Mom and Dad. I will try to read this book myself.”
Mike looked at the letters in the book. It was hard to read the words. He read them slowly, one at a time. It was a good book. His mom and dad had read it to him many times. Mike liked it so much that he read all of it. Then he read it again. And then he read it again. He forgot about the bad weather. He even forgot to get his lunch. But how he liked reading that book!
At last, Mom and Dad came into the room. “We’ve finished our work,” they said. “Let’s read your book.”

Mike didn’t say a word. He just opened the book and began to read out loud. Now the words seemed easy. Mike read all of the book. Then he looked up at his mom and dad. They smiled and gave him a great big hug. They were very, very proud.

The End
At the River

A river is in the valley. It is spring time at the river. The sun shines on the water. Ducks swim on top of the water. Fish swim under the water.

A heron stands in the river. The heron has long legs. It wants to catch a fish or a frog for its lunch.
Two fat frogs sit under a fern on the river bank.

They want to catch a bug to eat. The frogs see the heron.

They hide under the fern so the heron will not get them.

A rabbit sits on the river bank, munching on grass.

A fox hides behind a tree. It sees the rabbit.
The fox runs after the rabbit. The rabbit dives into a hole under a log. The rabbit is safe there. The fox cannot get him.

Three otters live at the river. They can swim well. They like to slide in the mud. They like to splash and play in the water.
The sun sets over the valley at the end of the day. Now it is night, and the stars are bright.

A bat is high in the air. Tree frogs are singing. The rest of the animals have gone to sleep.

The End
A Night Visit

It was night time. It was dark out. The wind was blowing. Sam was in his bed. But he was not asleep. He was looking out the window at the moon.

Sam wanted to see his horse, Thunderstorm. So he got out of bed. He opened his window and went out. Sam hung onto a big tree. Hand over hand, he went down the tree.
Sam crept across the yard to the barn. An owl hooted in the dark.

A dog howled far away.

But Sam was not afraid.

He opened the door and went into the barn. It was dark inside. A tiny mouse ran across the floor. It hid behind the tractor.
Sam went into a stall. He laid his arm across the back of his big, white horse.

“You’re a good horse, Thunderstorm,” Sam said. “I’m sorry I can’t stay with you tonight. I’ll see you tomorrow.” Sam gave the horse a hug.
Then Sam went out of the barn, into the night air. He looked at the moon, high over the barn. He crept across the yard. Hand over hand he went back up the tree.

He went in his window and got back into bed. Sam stayed in bed for the rest of the night.

The End
Luke And The Lizard

Luke went out into the yard. He had his new baseball bat and glove. He sat on a wall to wait for Sue.

It was a sunny day in June. Bees buzzed around the fruit trees. Tulips grew in the garden. A blue jay flew up into a pine tree. Small sparrows hopped in the grass.
A lizard sat in the warm sun on the top of the wall. It was gray, with a long thin tail. The lizard’s tail was bright blue.

“Let’s go and play ball.”

The End
Rude June

June is a girl who is in the third grade.

She often is rude, but she’s never afraid.

June is as stubborn as a mule. She thinks that she can break the rules.

When she goes to the board, she breaks the chalk. When it’s quiet time, she likes to talk. She fusses at all of the girls and boys. She likes to make a lot of noise.
She leaves her journal under her desk. She won’t clean up when she makes a mess. She doesn’t like to walk in line. She wants to be first all of the time.
When she eats, she likes to burp.

When she drinks, she likes to slurp.

When she goes to music, she won’t sing the song. But when carrying things, she’s very strong.

If June could learn to be polite,

I think that she would be all right.

The End
Hello! My name is Kathy.

This is my home. Do you want to meet my family?

This is my baby sister. She is so cute! Her name is Jane Ellen. She sleeps a lot. I try to whisper when she is asleep.
If something wakes her up, she will cry. Then I give her a rattle. She plays with the rattle until it is time for her bottle.

This is one of my brothers. His name is Bobby. He is twelve. He likes to play football. And he can play the tuba. A tuba is huge!
This is another brother.

His name is Mike. He is ten.

He uses a shovel to dig deep holes in the yard.

And he likes to play the drums.

This is my sister Sally.

She is eight. She likes to be funny.

We play games together.

We pretend that we are acrobats.

Sometimes, we dress up in funny costumes.
This is my smallest brother.

His name is Pat. He is six.

He likes to swing and slide.

And he likes to make things.

I have a lot of fun

with my brothers and sisters.

We like to play outside.

We have races on our bikes.

We play basketball on the driveway.

And we play hide and go seek.
This is my father.

He works at a lumber mill.

He can play the banjo.

Every weekend in June, he takes us for a ride on the river.

But he is busy today.

He says, “I have a big job to do. I have to paint the house. It is not safe to play by the ladder. Go to the other side of the yard to play.”
This is my mother. She is very pretty. She takes care of me and my brothers and sisters.

I help her a lot.

When we are hungry, my mother makes something for us to eat. She fixes bacon and eggs when we wake up. She makes tuna sandwiches for lunch. And she makes tacos and nachos for supper.
At night, we all sit on the sofa in our pajamas. Mom reads us a story. Dad plays a tune on his banjo and sings a song. Then we all go to bed.

Did you like to meet my family? I’m glad you came to see them. Will you visit again another day?

Good-by!
On The Lawn

Joy liked to play in her yard.

She loved to sit on the sidewalk in the warm sunshine.

She saw ants walking in a straight line through the grass.

She saw ladybugs crawling up a flower stalk.

Sometimes she held a ladybug in the palm of her hand.

She was careful not to hurt it.
One time Joy saw a wren on its nest in a hanging basket.

Another time she saw a fat toad in the shade behind the trash can.

And she often saw a squirrel sitting on top of the gate.

One day Joy went outside early in the morning.
First, she searched for acorns under an oak tree.

Then she searched for small pebbles on the driveway.

She crawled under the bushes on her hands and knees to find small twigs and sticks.

She used the twigs and sticks to make a small house in the dirt.
She worked on the house for a long time.

Then she used the pebbles and acorns to make a wall around the house.

Finally she was finished.

Then she heard her mother call.

“Time for lunch, Joy.”

Joy knew she should go inside right away.

She knew it was wrong to ignore her mother.

But she did not want to go inside.

She was having too much fun.

She wanted to stay outside and play with her house.
Just then a big wasp landed right on the tiny house.

Another wasp landed and sat right beside the first wasp.

The wasps scared Joy.

She stood up quickly to go inside.

She did not want to be stung by a wasp.

Just then a third wasp landed right on Joy’s wrist.

Joy stood aghast while the wasp walked up and down her arm.

She wanted to run away.
She wanted to scream.

She almost started to cry.

But Joy knew she had to be calm.

Joy stood very still. She did not move.

She did not make a sound.

She did not want to upset the wasp.

She did not want it to sting her.
Joy waited for the wasp
to fly away. She had to wait a long time.
At last, the wasp did fly away.

“Where are you, Joy?” her mother called.

“I’m coming, Mom,” Joy yelled.

Then she ran inside as fast as she could.

She was hungry for lunch.

And she was glad to get away
from the wasps!

The End
A Day At The Park

It was a warm spring day. Andrew and Anna wanted to play tennis. So they called Ralph and Courtney on the phone.

The children lived in Memphis. They were neighbors. The four children met at the tennis court at the park.
They all brought tennis rackets. Courtney brought a lot of tennis balls. Andrew brought a jug of water and some cups. Anna brought a bag of snacks. The children played tennis for a long time. They had a lot of fun. Andrew and Anna won the match.

Then a bee stung Ralph on his finger.

It hurt so bad, he was about to cry.
So the children all sat in the shade under a maple tree to rest and have a snack. They poured cups of cool water. They munched on apples, crackers, and cheese. They had fun talking and laughing.

After that, the children played on the playground beside the tennis courts. They went down the slide. They went back and forth on the swings. They went up and down on the seesaw.
Then Anna and Courtney went up to the top of the monkey bars. Ralph and Andrew ran all over the playground playing chase. While they were playing, a big storm cloud appeared in the sky.

The children were too busy having fun to see the cloud. All of a sudden, rain started to pour down on the children.

That was enough for Andrew, Anna, Courtney, and Ralph. They did not like to get wet. So they all ran home as fast as they could.

The End
Dolphins

This is a dolphin. A dolphin has a big fin on top and a flat tail. It has two fins on the bottom called flippers.

A dolphin lives in the sea. It can swim fast and jump high above the water. But it is not a type of fish. It is a mammal.
A dolphin catches fish for food. It makes loud clicking sounds to help it find the fish in cloudy water. But a dolphin has very good eyes. It can see well above and below the water.

A dolphin can make many sounds. This is how it lets the rest of the dolphins know where it is and what it is doing. Sometimes a dolphin looks and sounds like it is laughing.
Dolphins swim in a group. The mother dolphins take care of the little ones. A young dolphin follows the sounds its mother makes. That way it won’t get lost.

Sometimes dolphins blow bubbles. We don’t know why. It is a mystery. Maybe it’s just to play and have fun.

Sometimes dolphins get into a squabble. They quarrel with other dolphins. They clap their jaws to make a loud sound. They may even bite another dolphin’s tail.
People have always liked dolphins. Long ago Greek people made drawings of them. We can still read Greek myths about dolphins from that time. The myths tell about dolphins who rescue people who are lost at sea. In modern times we hear about dolphins who help people, too.

Do you like dolphins? Have you ever seen one? If you are by the sea, look out at the waves. Maybe you will see a dolphin.

The End
Which One?

Which one is more?

Eighty or eight?

What goes on a train?

A rainbow or freight?
What glides in the snow?
A tree or a sleigh?

A horse makes which sound?
A hiss or a neigh?

Which one is a neighbor?
A jeep or a man?
Which needs a key?
A deer or a van?

Which can you weigh?
A box or a lake?

Which has eight legs?
An octopus or a snake?
Which ones are people?
A class or some clams?

What holds back the water?
A dragon or a dam?

Which one is purple?
A peach or a plum?
What can you chew?
Water or gum?

Which has a ripple?
A lemon or a lake?

What has a steeple?
A church or a cake?
Which one’s a tree?
A mushroom or a maple?

What fastens paper?
A stump or a staple?

What can you pour?
An apple or milk?
What makes a blouse?
   Paper or silk?

14  4

Which is the most?
   Fourteen or four?

What should you do if you see a ghost?
   Stop and talk, or run for the door?
Where can a finch live?
In a gourd or a bag?

What is played on a court?
Tennis or tag?
Do you wonder about all kinds of things?

If you can read books, your mind will have wings!
Now go read some books!
Find the kind that you like.
Read a lot of good books,
And have a good life.
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