

McGraw-Hill Reading
Wonders



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BIG
Book
Unit 6

Reading/Writing
Workshop



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Education

Bothell, WA • Chicago, IL • Columbus, OH • New York, NY



Reading/Language Arts Program

Program Authors

Diane August	Jan Hasbrouck
Donald R. Bear	Margaret Kilgo
Janice A. Dole	Jay McTighe
Jana Echevarria	Scott G. Paris
Douglas Fisher	Timothy Shanahan
David Francis	Josefina V. Tinajero
Vicki Gibson	



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Unit 6

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Weekly Concept Taking Action



Essential Question

How can we work together to make our lives better?



Go Digital!



Make It Happen!



Talk About It

What are these people working on together?

Genre Fantasy

Essential Question

How can we work together to make our lives better?

Read about how a girl's forgotten writing tools work together to become useful again.



Go Digital!



Super Tools



A few weeks ago, Lucy's mom and dad **brought** a new computer home.

"This is so cool!" exclaimed Lucy.

Lucy used the computer all the time.

But not everyone was happy about the new computer.





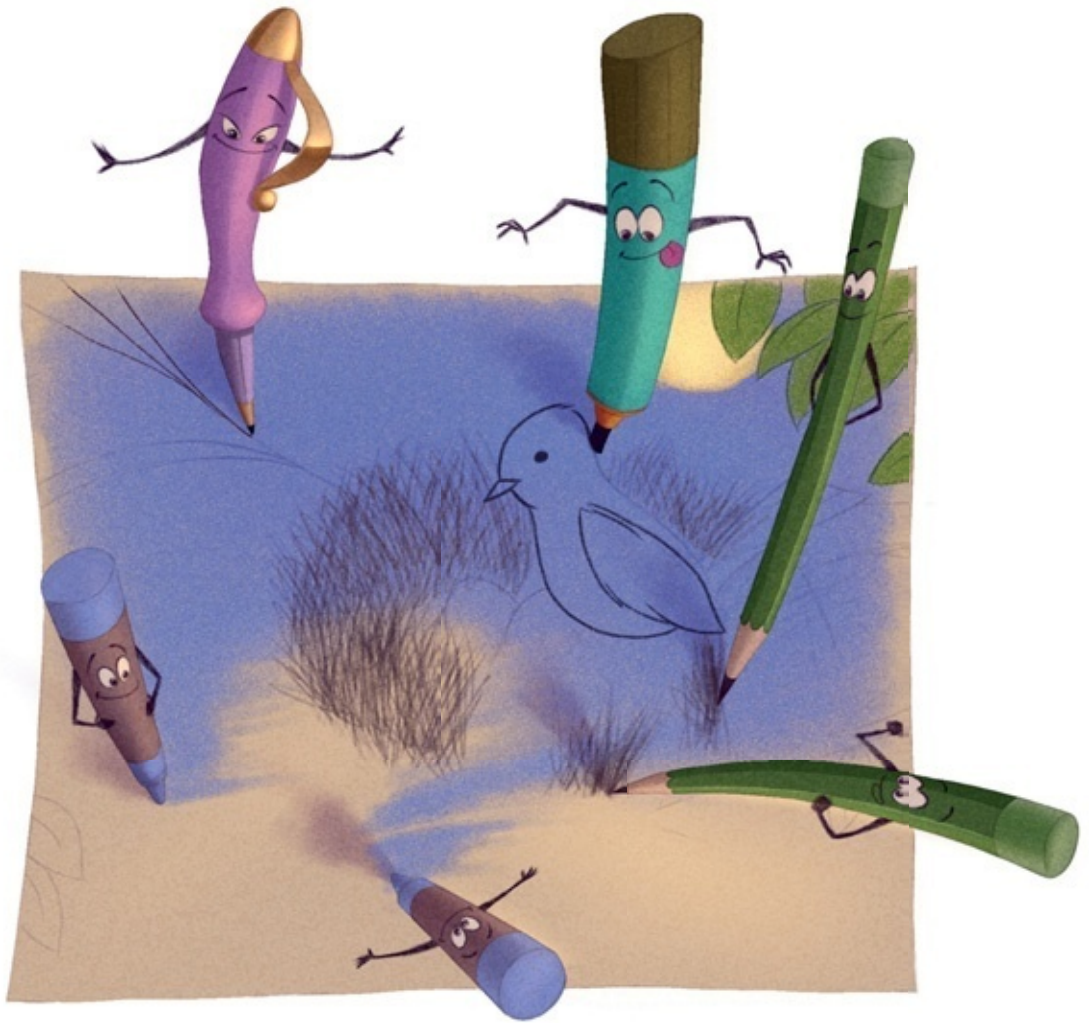
Lucy didn't know it, but her writing tools felt sad and useless. One day while she was at school, they had an **emergency** meeting.

"Lucy hasn't used us in weeks!" cried the markers. "Can we **demand** to be used?" asked the crayons. "No, that would be rude. But, we can remind her how great we are," said the pencils. "Yes!" they all agreed. "Let's remind her."

After school, as soon as Lucy came through the **door**, she grabbed a glass of juice and went right to her computer. She had to write a report about birds.

The writing tools watched and waited. When Lucy was done, she printed her report.





That night the writing tools got **busy**. They worked together to make a picture for Lucy.

The pencils made a sketch. The markers drew the birds in the tree. The crayons drew the sun in a blue sky. The picture was good **enough** to frame.



The next day was Saturday. Lucy woke up late. Then she went to get her report. Lucy gasped. She couldn't believe her **eyes!** "Who drew this great picture?" she asked.

“Did you draw this?” Lucy asked Mom and Dad.
“You know the **answer** to that!” they laughed.
“Stop joking! YOU drew that great picture.”

That made Lucy think she wished she had drawn it. “It is fun to draw,” she said.



Lucy hung the picture in her room. Then she took out her pencils, crayons, and markers. "I'll draw my own picture for my report," she said.



Lucy and her pencils, crayons, and markers worked together. They drew a super picture.

From that day on, Lucy kept drawing. And the writing tools felt happy and useful!



Make Connections



How did Lucy's writing tools work together to become useful again? **Essential Question**

Weekly Concept **My Team**



Essential Question

Who helps you?



Go Digital!



My Helpers



Talk About It

How does this girl get help from her coach?



Genre Nonfiction

Essential Question

Who helps you?

Read about the people in your community who help you and the different ways they help.



Go Digital!



All Kinds of Helpers





Every day, people help us in many ways. To help means to give what is needed and useful. It also means to make things better. So helpers are the people who give us what we need and who make our lives better.

Who are some of the people who help us?



Families can be helpers. The people in a family **love** and **accept** us. They also help us in many ways.

A family can include a **mother** and a **father**. This boy also has a big **brother**. His brother **often** helps him with his homework. His mother and father help him learn about the world.





Teachers help you in many ways. In school, a teacher helps you learn how to read and write. A teacher teaches you such subjects as math and social studies. A teacher helps you understand new ideas.

Sports coaches are helpers, too. The baseball coach in this **picture** is teaching his team how to hold the ball. He talks to them and shows them what to do. Who taught you how to play a sport?



Doctors and nurses help keep you healthy. You visit the doctor for a checkup or when you feel sick.

The girl in this picture feels awful because she caught a bad cold! But the doctor will help her get better.





Do you walk or take a bus to school?
Either way, people help you get back
and forth safely.

Other helpers keep you safe, too.
Police officers and firefighters are
always protecting you.

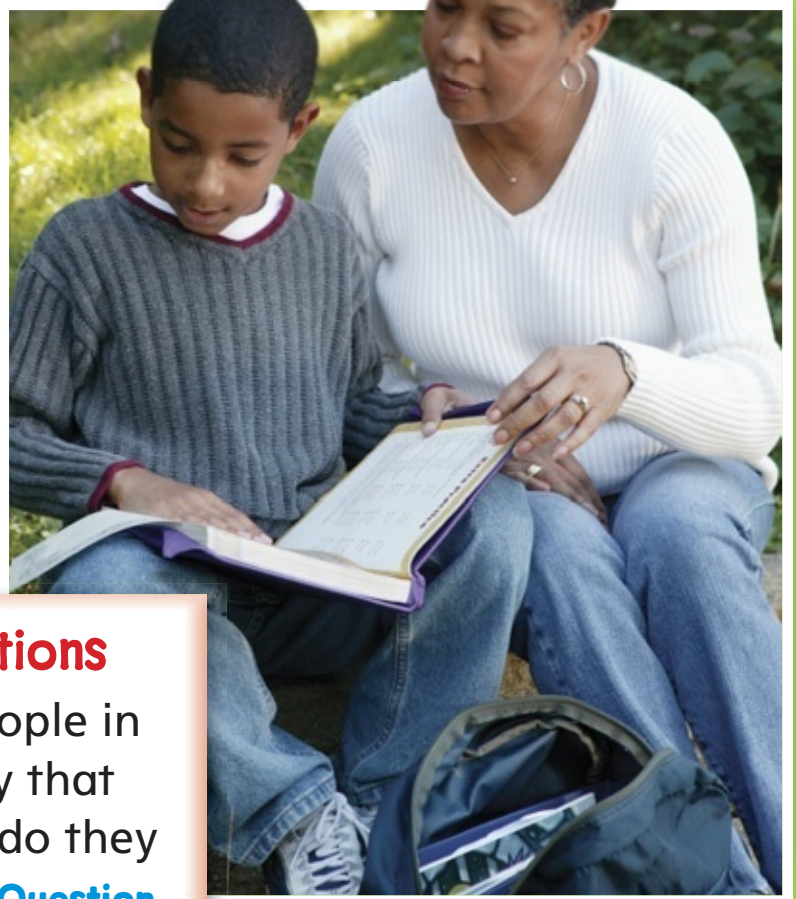
Some boys and girls need a grownup to talk to. Some groups match boys and girls with a grownup who will be their **friend**. What a good idea!



A special group called **Big Brothers Big Sisters** helps some children out.



There are many helpers around you. Families love you, and teachers help you learn. Doctors, nurses, and safety helpers keep you healthy and safe. Special groups help you in special ways. All of them give what is needed and useful.



Make Connections

Who are the people in your community that help you? How do they help? **Essential Question**



Weekly Concept **Weather Together**

Essential Question

How can weather affect us?



Go Digital!



Snow Day!



Talk About It

What are these people doing differently in the snow?

Genre Realistic Fiction

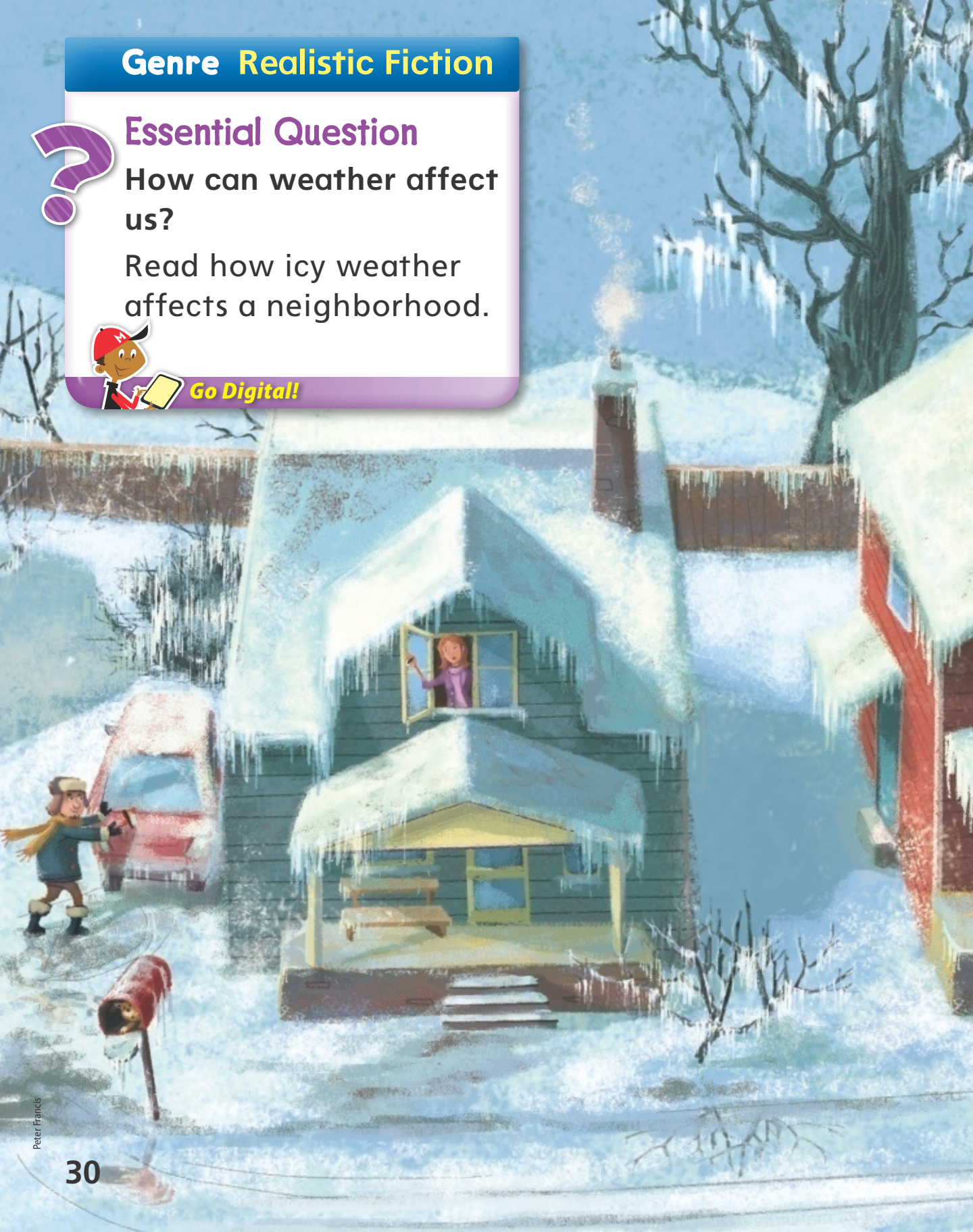
Essential Question

How can weather affect us?

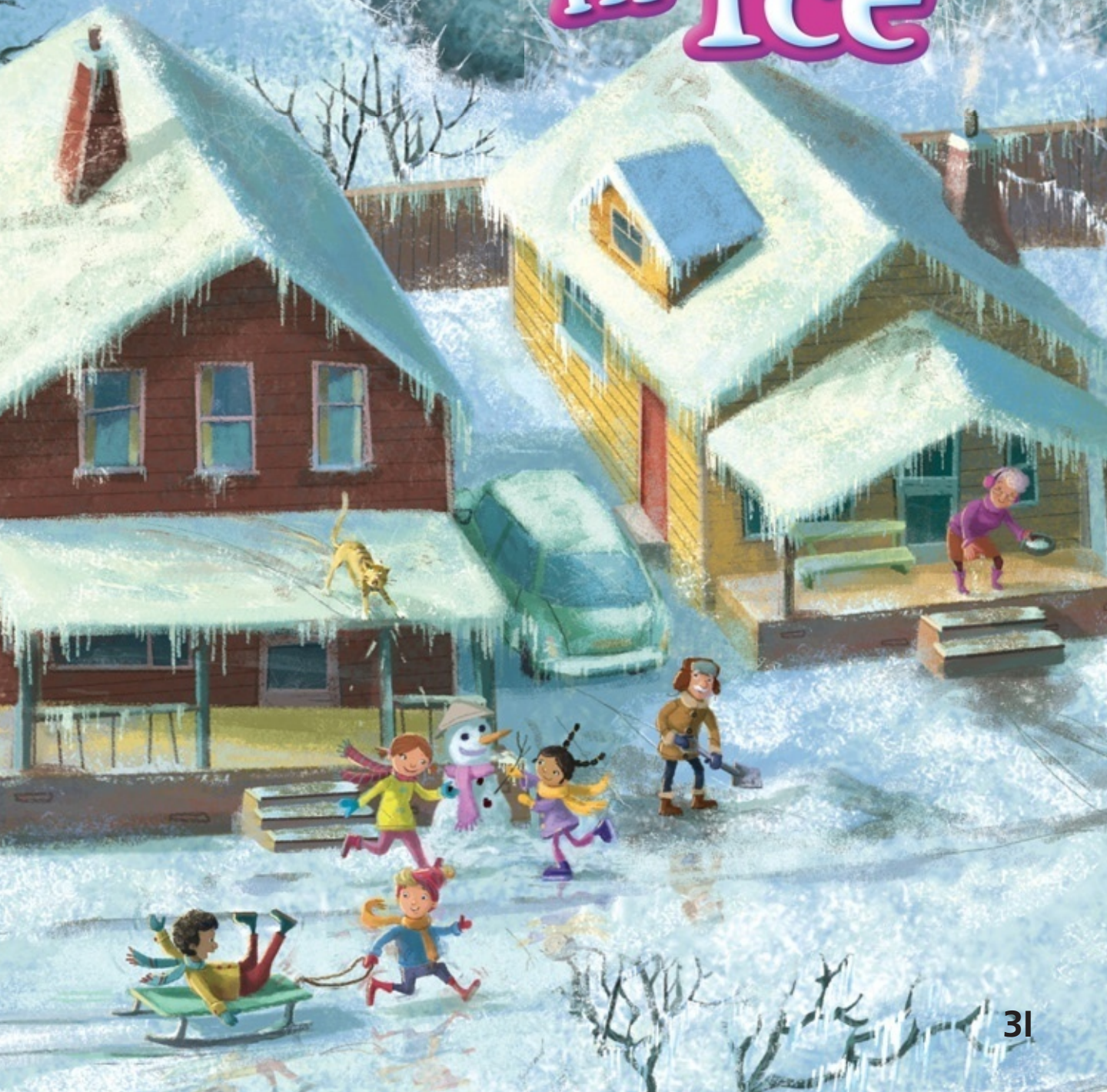
Read how icy weather affects a neighborhood.



Go Digital!



Wrapped in Ice



The sound of something hitting the window woke Kim up. *Ping! Ping, ping!* “What’s that?” Kim asked herself.

Kim peeked outside. The trees were coated with ice. The yard sparkled. The driveway was like a skating rink. Even the car was wrapped in an icy design.





“Mom, why is everything covered in ice?” Kim wanted to know.

“That’s a good **question**,” said Mom. “Good thing I’m a science teacher! It’s raining. But the air is very cold. So the raindrops freeze when they land on cold surfaces like signs, trees, and roads.”

Mom turned on the TV weather. A reporter said, “A winter storm has hit this part of the **country**. Freezing rain is making streets and roads icy. We advise you to stay inside! **Children** can stay home. Schools will be closed.”

“We have a snow day!” cried Kim.

“You mean an ice day!” laughed Mom.





Suddenly, all the lights went out!

“I guess some icy tree branches broke,” said Mom. “They must have knocked down power lines. We won’t have any power until the lines are fixed.”

Kim looked worried. But Mom said, “Let’s just pretend we are camping!”

Mom lit the logs in the fireplace. Kim got flashlights. They played lots of games. It was fun to eat **their** lunch by the fire.

Then Mom said, "Listen!" The *ping, ping, ping* had stopped!

"The storm must be over!" cried Kim.





Up and down the street, people came outside. There was so much to do. Everyone worked together. They put sand on the walks. They broke up the ice. Noses got red. Br-r-r-r! The air was very cold.

“I made a fire in the fireplace,” Mom called out. “Come in and warm up!”

Neighbors came with flashlights and snacks. Ms. Knox brought cider. Mr. Wright told about the **year** it snowed in the **month** of May. Kim told knock-knock jokes.

“It’s nice when everyone **gathers** together,” said Mom.



Just then, the lights came on. Everyone cheered.

“It’s **been** a big day!” smiled Mom.

“We were lucky to be cozy and safe.”

“We are lucky to have such nice neighbors, too,” said Kim. “We turned an ice day into an ice party!”



Make Connections



How does icy weather change Kim and her neighborhood?

Essential Question

Weekly Concept **Sharing Traditions**

Essential Question

What traditions do you know about?



Go Digital!

Talk About It

What is this boy learning from his grandmother?



Pass It On!



Genre Realistic Fiction

Essential Question

What traditions do you know about?

Read about how a family starts a new tradition.



Go Digital!



A Spring Birthday





May was a happy time for Marco. It was his birthday month.

“Can I have a party this year?” he asked.
“Then my friends can celebrate with me.”



“It’s our family tradition to have a birthday dinner,” said Gram. “**Your** friends can join us. I will make *empanadas* for everyone.”

“**Nobody** makes better *empanadas*, Gram!” Marco said. “But it would be fun to do something new this year.”



“How about a picnic?” Dad asked. “I **heard** about a nice spot in the park on Elm Street. It’s in **front** of the ball field. We can **push** the tables together.”

“That sounds like fun,” said Marco. “We can have hotdogs, burgers, and Gram’s *empanadas!*”

At last, it was the morning of Marco's birthday. He opened his eyes. He saw Mom and Dad and Gram. They were singing the Mexican birthday song, "*Las mañanitas*." Marco sprang out of bed. He could not wait for his party.



Mom and Dad went shopping **before** the party. First, they got a baseball mitt for Marco. Then they bought a birthday cake and a *piñata*.

Everyone met at the picnic spot. “Happy birthday! *Feliz cumpleaños, Marco!*” they shouted.





Mom hung the *piñata*. Dad spread out the food. There were hotdogs, burgers, and yummy *empanadas*!

After lunch, the children took turns striking the *piñata*. Each one swung three times. The *piñata* was **difficult** to hit! At last it split open. The kids shrieked and scrambled for the treats.



Next Marco opened his gifts. When he saw the baseball mitt, he cried, “Thank you! This is just what I wanted! I can use it in the game **tomorrow.**”

When it was time for cake, Marco’s family sang the Mexican birthday song again. Marco’s friends hummed along. Then Mom taught them the words so they could sing it, too!

“This is the best birthday party I’ve ever had!” Marco said. “Can we do this again next year?”

“Sure,” said Gram. “It’s fun to mix the old with the new. A spring picnic can be your birthday tradition.”



Make Connections

What traditions do you know about from other places in the world? **Essential Question**

Weekly Concept Celebrate America!

Essential Question

Why do we celebrate holidays?



Go Digital!



Red, White, and Blue



Talk About It

What are these people celebrating together?





Essential Question

Why do we celebrate holidays?

Read about how people celebrate the harvest.



Go Digital!

A vibrant display of autumn harvest produce. In the foreground, several large, orange pumpkins are arranged on a wooden surface. A bunch of leeks with green tops and white stalks is tied together with a white band. A purple onion sits next to the leeks. In the background, a wooden crate is filled with various gourds, including yellow and orange ones, and a basket of red apples is visible on the left. The overall scene is rich with autumnal colors and textures.

Share the Harvest and Give Thanks

Each year, farmers pick crops from their fields. This is called the harvest. It marks the end of the growing season—a fun time of the year.

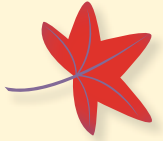
Say Thanks

In our **nation**, families celebrate the harvest in a number of ways. You can eat a harvest dinner at home, or you can go to a fair or festival. Harvest is a time to **unite** with friends and family. It is also a time when people share harvest foods.



Farm stands have harvest fruits and vegetables. These may include pumpkins and apples in the fall and berries and tomatoes in the spring.





All across the United States, people give thanks for the fall harvest. This day is called Thanksgiving. It is on the fourth Thursday in November. Families eat together and show that they are thankful. But are you aware of the very first Thanksgiving?

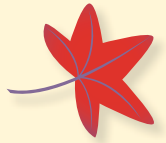




In 1620, the people we call Pilgrims sailed from England and landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Native Americans there taught the Pilgrims which crops to plant.

The first Thanksgiving in our nation was in 1621. The Pilgrims who had come to America had a feast to show thanks for the harvest. They ate duck, deer, corn, and squash. Can you compare that to a meal today?





Today, families still give thanks with a feast. But they may eat such **favorite** foods as turkey, corn, and green beans. People like to enjoy the harvest foods before they are **gone**.

Many families eat a special meal on Thanksgiving. Foods that are harvested in the fall may be part of the celebration.



Festivals and Fairs

In many states, Thanksgiving is a fun affair! Some places hold big parades where people march, sing, and dance. At one parade, **young** actors wear costumes. They act out the first Thanksgiving. That is so you can see what harvest was like so many years ago.

In Plymouth, the city of the first Thanksgiving, some people dress up like Pilgrims and Native Americans.



At the Kentucky Harvest Festival, the corn crop is the star. Kids have a contest to peel the most ears of corn. Families join teams to play a Cornhole Toss game. The teams toss a **few** bags filled with corn kernels. They follow rules to score. The winning team gets a **surprise!**



A bean-bag toss game is popular at Kentucky and Ohio harvest festivals. Players pitch their corn bags and try to get them into a hole.

Kwanzaa is also a harvest celebration. Kwanzaa means “first fruits.” At this time, people give thanks for crops such as corn, apples, and pears.

In some places, pumpkins are a BIG deal! Large pumpkins are dug out and used as boats. After the race the pumpkins are used for compost, or to make new dirt.



Kwanzaa begins on December 26. It celebrates the harvest of Africa. Many people in the United States celebrate Kwanzaa traditions.

Row, row, row your pumpkin! These giant pumpkins make a splash at Oregon’s Giant Pumpkin Race.





Key



Pumpkin Race in Oregon



Corn Festivals in
Kentucky and Ohio



Pilgrims at the First
Thanksgiving in
Massachusetts

Across the nation, people celebrate the harvest. At home or with others, it is no **wonder** that harvest is a fun time for all!

Make Connections



How do you celebrate the harvest? **Essential Question**

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978-0-02-119562-6
MHID: 0-02-119562-5

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