

WinterPromise First Grade

Sampler

“Frolic in the Forest
with Acorn & Friends”



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Illustrations by Christy Beckwith Studios.

Welcome to WinterPromise's New LA 1 Resources!



The Write-In Reader

The WinterPromise LA 1 Write-In Reader features wonderful stories of mischief and adventure with Acorn and his friends. Acorn has several good friends: Dash and Scoot the chipmunks, and Tatty the mouse. During the year these friends will meet other critters, including Shelly Shrew, Bert the Beaver and his family, a badger named Dr. Derby, and more, including some rascally raccoons!

Each story focuses on one or more phonograms. This allows students to master decoding words that include the target phonograms more quickly, and works toward increasing reading speed and sight word vocabulary. The reader uses controlled vocabulary, so students can excel and receive a lot of reading practice.

In addition, each story features a reading comprehension exercise, to ensure that students are understanding what they are reading, not simply decoding. These fun exercises are varied, and help students think through what they read, and reinforce key words from the story.



Sneaky, Snacky Squirrel

This fun game is used in a variety of ways throughout the year to help reinforce key skills. Students play the games and answer phonics questions as they go. In addition, the playing pieces can be used for Acorn's Games, provided by WinterPromise. There's so much fun!





**Sample of the
Write-In Reader**

“Frolic in the
Forest
with Acorn &
Friends”

Frolic in the Forest with Acorn & Friends



For Parents:

The WinterPromise LA 1 Guide offers additional helps for using this resource. However, we would like to add a note here. Not all first grade students are at the same level of proficiency. For that reason, some students may struggle at first to read an entire section. That's okay. Here are some strategies for tailoring it to your student.

Strategy 1: Take Turns Reading

As you set out, it may help your student for you to read a paragraph and take turns back and forth with your student. This will be a help, especially as the year begins. As your student progresses, he or she will likely no longer need help after a certain time period.

Strategy 2: Save Some Reading

Each week includes enough reading for three days, but students should be working on language arts four or more days a week. You can split a long passage into two pieces and read for four or even five days, if you wish.

Strategy 3: Read Twice Per Day

Split longer passages and do some of the reading at a different time of the day. Complete some after breakfast, and finish it after lunch, for instance.

These strategies should help you give your student the right amount of practice to keep moving forward. In no time, he or she will be buzzing right along!

(Note found in front of the LA 1 guide for parents.)



Things to Know

A Blizzard in October? Is trouble ahead for our friends?



Phonogram Practice

These stories help you practice the phonogram WH with words like white, whip and whirl.



New Words to Learn

whisk: to sweep away or around in circles

whiskers: long hairs near animal noses that help them sense the wind or when they brush against something

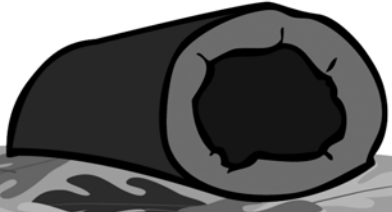
wheelbarrow: a garden cart that has one wheel and handles to push easily through loose dirt

wharf: a dock on the water where boats are tied down and stored

whittle: to cut a piece of wood down little by little, usually to make a shape or item out of the wood

wheat: yellow grain that can be dried and eaten or used for decoration

whimper: to make small cries, usually out of fear or pain

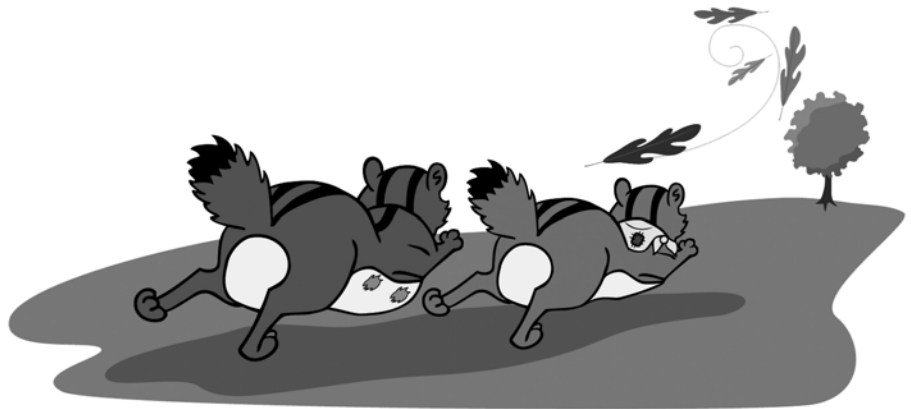


Cold is Coming

It was a cold October day in Walnut forest. All the critters in Pine Hollow were busy gathering nuts and seeds for the winter. The trees were bright with color -- red, yellow, orange and some purple. The large tree in the middle of Pine Hollow was called So-Tall Oak. It shook in the wind. Leaves fell onto the ground one after another.

Dash and Scoot chased the falling leaves that blew around. Acorn buried nuts and dug up other he had hidden to be sure he didn't lose any. Tatty gathered old grass and pine needles to line her small underground home to keep it warm.

"Hey, Dash! Scoot!" Acorn called. He held a nut in his paws. The twins were chasing a leaf that drifted outside Pine Hollow.



"Sorry, Acorn." Dash yelled. "If I catch this leaf, I will win the game."

"I going to beat you, Dash!" Scoot laughed, and ran ahead of Dash.

Acorn watched as the chipmunk brothers scurried to catch the large, purple leaf. Shaking his head, Acorn buried his nut. He was unhappy that Dash and Scoot were not getting ready for winter. The cold was coming soon!

Tatty tried to waved them Dash and Scoot back, but the wind whisked past her, whipping her hat away. The hat rolled across the ground. Tatty chased it, but the wind had whisked it far. Where did it go? It got stuck under a bush, and Tatty was finally able to catch it. Tatty

put the hat on her head. She held it down with her paw so it wouldn't blow away.

"Hello-oooo!" A voice called.

Acorn's ears pricked up. His tail fluttered and his nose wriggled. "What was that?"



"Did you hear that, Acorn?" Tatty said, as she walked toward Acorn.

"Yes, what do you think it is?" Acorn said.

"Someone said 'hello!' Who do you think said it?" Tatty asked.

"Why, Shelly Shrew, that's who!" Shelly Shrew said, as she came from behind a tree. "I have come for a visit!"

"Shelly!" Tatty shrieked. She was so happy to see her new friend. Tatty ran to greet Shelly, but forgot that her hat could blow off! Tatty gave Shelly a big hug. As she did, her hat blew off into Shelly's funny, wheeled cart.

Shelly hugged Tatty back. "I am so glad to see you,"

Shelly sniffed. Her whiskers tickled Tatty.

Tatty laughed. "Shelly, your whiskers are itching my ears!"

"Oops! Sorry, about that. I have big whiskers; they get in the way," Shelly said. "Hello, Acorn."

"Hi, Shelly. What is that cart you have with you?" Acorn asked.

"It's a wheelbarrow. I had some things I wanted to show you."

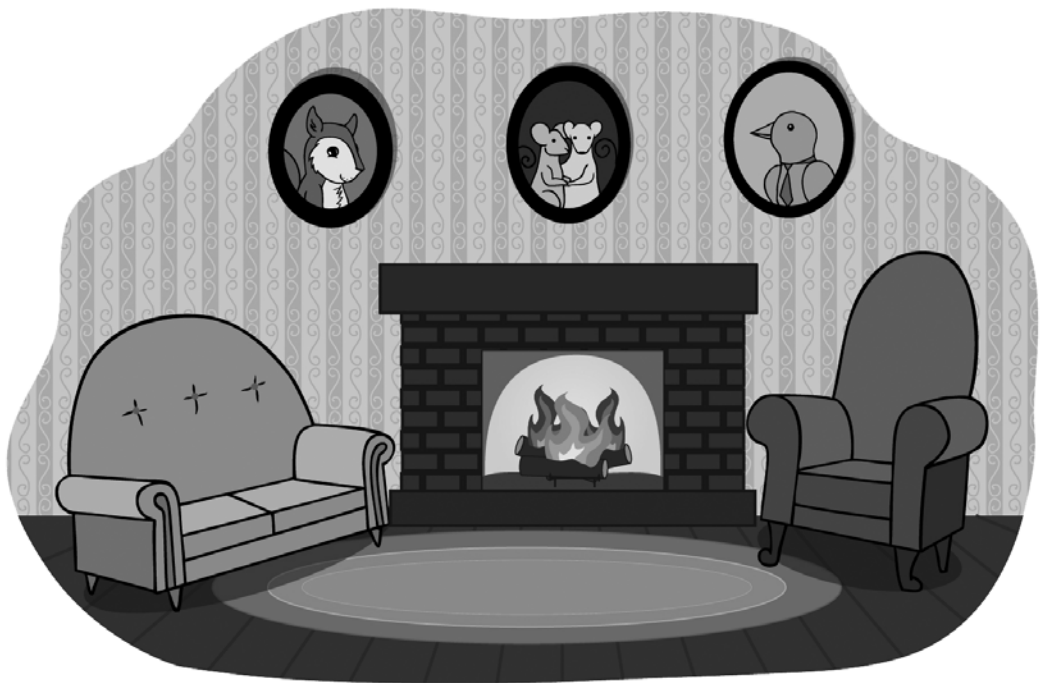
“Why does the wheelbarrow have only one wheel?” Tatty asked.

“I lift the end with the feet and push it.” Shelly showed them. She held the two handles on one end, and lifted that end. The feet came off the ground, and Shelly was able to push the shiny white wheelbarrow forward. “It does not need any more than one wheel. It would be a cart if it had more wheels.”

“What do you have in here?” Acorn was curious. He leaned over and looked inside. “Tatty, your straw hat is in here.” Acorn took out the hat to show Tatty.

“Oh! It must have blown off when I hugged Shelly.” Tatty smiled. “It is hard to keep it on when the wind is whipping.” Tatty tied her sash

under her
chin
tightly.
Tatty
thought
about how
cold it felt.
“Why
don't we
all go
inside and
drink a
cup of
cocoa?”



“Brrr-rrr, I did have a long cold trip in this whipping wind!” Shelly said, pinching her chin. “A hot cup of cocoa and a small fire to warm my paws would be great!”

“Sure! Let’s go into my burrow. I will get it all set!” Tatty led the way.

“Where are those twin rascals? I would like to see them too.” Shelly asked.

“Dash and Scoot? I don’t know. Where are they, Acorn?” Tatty asked.

“They were chasing leaves to see who could catch the most. Dash and Scoot ran off toward Silver Pond. They should be back any time.”

“Ooo-oo!” Tatty said. “It has gotten chilly! Let’s go inside.”

“I hope they will come quickly. All day it grew more windy and cold. I think a storm is coming in soon.” Shelly was worried about Dash and Scoot.

This or That.

Circle the right answer to each question about the story.



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Dash and Scoot chased . . . | leaves. | bugs. |
| Acorn was digging up . . . | nuts. | roots. |
| Tatty gathered . . . | pine sap. | pine needles. |
| Shelly brought with her a . . . | cart. | wheelbarrow. |
| Tatty's hat blew off when she . . . | hugged. | jumped. |
| Shelly's whiskers . . . | drooped. | tickled. |
| The wheelbarrow had only one . . . | side. | wheel. |
| The wheelbarrow was . . . | shiny. | old. |
| Tatty thought they could drink . . . | tea. | cocoa. |
| Shelly wanted to warm up with . . . | a blanket. | a fire. |
| Dash and Scoot headed to . . . | Silver Pond. | So-Tall Oak. |
| Shelly worried about a . . . | bear. | storm. |

The Snow Blizzard

As the friends headed towards Tatty's burrow, the wind grew worse. Tatty had a bad thought. "A snow storm might come!" Tatty gasped.

"It is too early for a winter storm, Tatty." Acorn said, for it was only October.

"Acorn, you are right, but I have been out there all day," Shelly said. "It was very cold. It feels like snow is in the air. The wind would whip around me as I pushed the wheelbarrow."

"I don't see any snow," Acorn said. "It's just really cold with the wind whipping around Pine Hollow. Let's go inside." The critters agreed to wait for Dash and Scoot inside Tatty's burrow.

Many in Pine Hollow felt Tatty's burrow was the coziest. Her door was at the base of a large pine tree which stood in the center of Pine Hollow. To go into her home, the critters entered through a hole in the ground. The hole had a wooden door which covered the top. Tatty pulled it open and showed Shelly inside. Acorn came in after he took care of Shelly's wheelbarrow. He pushed it close to Tatty's door, under a bush to keep it safe.



The critters crawled through the hole and entered the large room from the floor. "I made the entrance through the floor so I can keep out the cold." Tatty said, as the critters peeked their heads up. Once inside, Tatty showed her home to Shelly. Tatty was very proud of her home. It was one large room with two windows for part of the room was above ground.

Inside, to the right was a small black stove stood at the far side of the room next to the windows. This was Tatty's kitchen. A gold teapot sat on top of the stove. On one side of the stove were the windows. They had yellow flowered curtains with ties to keep them open. On the left side of the stove was a counter with doors underneath. This is where Tatty stored most of her things. On the counter was a bowl of apples and a jar of nuts.

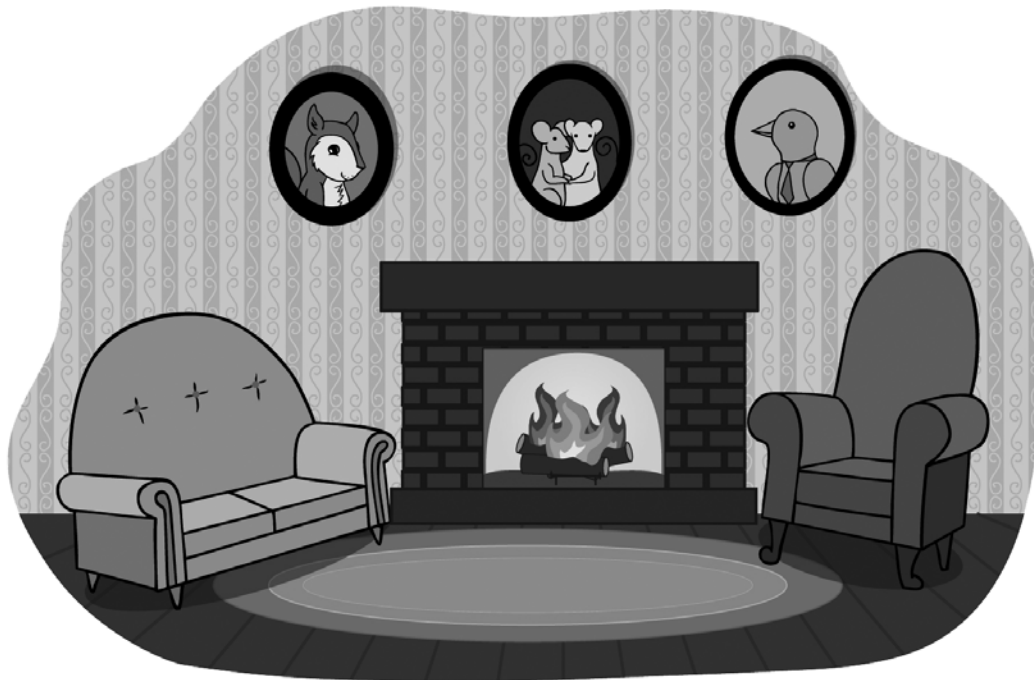
On the wall above the counter were three shelves. On the shelves were all of Tatty's kitchen things. The bottom shelf held pots and pans, glasses and plates and bowls, and silverware in cups. On the middle shelf, Tatty had a cake pan shaped like a heart and another pan shaped like a star standing up on the shelves. There were boxes of noodles, cereal and cake mix. Bags of flour and sugar were on the top shelf. So

were
cans of
beans,
corn,
carrots,
chili and
soup.

The floor
was
covered
all over
in dried

wheat and leaves so the dirt floor couldn't be seen. A small sofa and chair sat near the fireplace. A woven rug of green and pink lay on the floor between them.

In the middle of the room stood a short table with four chairs. Four small plates, four tea cups and a vase of dried flowers sat on top. The smell of warm muffins filled the room. Mmmmm! Tatty had been baking!

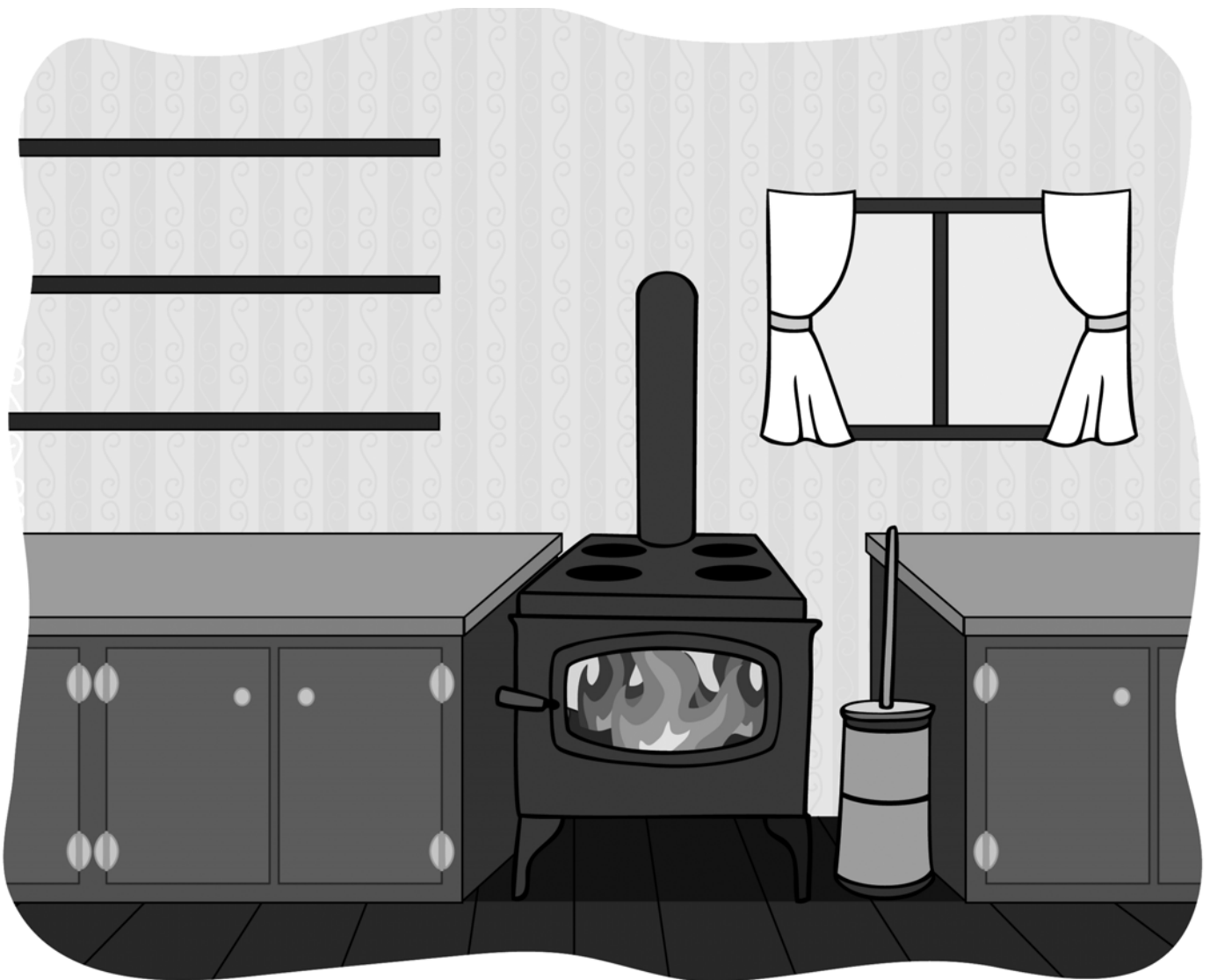


“What a pretty home, Tatty. Yum! I love berry muffins.” Shelly sniffed the air. The friends sat down to enjoy some cocoa and muffins.

Nobody noticed a few snowflakes starting to fall!

Tatty's Kitchen.

From your story, draw in detail about Tatty's curtains and what was on her kitchen shelves and stove.



The Snow Arrives

Shelly, who came to visit Tatty and her friends, had just sat down at Tatty's table with Acorn. They waited for Dash and Scoot to return from chasing leaves. No one saw it start to snow!



“So, Shelly, what did you bring in your wheelbarrow?” Acorn asked. “It was very heavy.”

While the critters sat enjoying their hot cocoa and muffins, Shelly told them all about it. She told them what she had come to do with all those things.

“I take a trip every fall to the other side of the large pond next to my home. There is a muskrat who owns a shop like mine. I think my shop is better, though! His name is Whiz. His shop is called Muskrat Wharf. We trade once every year. It helps us to have many new things.”

“What’s a muskrat?” Tatty asked.

“Muskrats look a little like beavers, but are smaller. They don't have a big tail and have small teeth. They eat almost anything. Whiz calls his place Muskrat Wharf. But he owns a shop, not a wharf.” Shelly laughed, but then coughed and choked on her muffin.

Shelly then told Acorn and Tatty about what she was going to trade. She had a small wooden whale, a silver whistle, and a sharp knife to whittle with. She even had some dried wheat and a wheelchair. Shelly said the wheelchair was for those who were hurt.

While Shelly talked to the critters, Tatty got more and more worried about Dash and Scoot. The whole time she listened to Shelly, she could not sit still. After a while, Acorn was worried too.

Thump! Whack! Thump! Rumm-mmble! Whack!

Shelly, Acorn and Tatty gasped. "What was that?" They all yelled.

The whole time the critters had been warm with their muffins and cocoa inside, a scary snow storm had come. The white snow whirled outside the windows. The wind whipped the windows with twigs and white snow.

"Oh, no!" Tatty cried. "Why didn't Dash and Scoot come back? Now they are out in a snow blizzard!"

WH Word Find.

Find the words below that begin with WH or W.

T	A	H	W	W	I	N	D	O	W	H
H	W	W	W	H	I	T	T	L	E	W
O	W	H	Y	A	W	O	H	W	T	I
W	H	E	E	L	B	A	R	R	O	W
H	I	A	E	E	W	W	H	I	Z	H
I	P	T	T	Y	L	H	K	H	W	I
R	P	J	I	L	H	C	A	B	H	S
L	E	W	H	A	R	F	H	C	Y	T
E	D	M	W	H	E	R	E	A	K	L
D	W	W	O	R	R	I	E	D	I	E
E	L	O	H	W	W	H	I	L	E	R

whale
whack
white
wharf

where
wheat
while
whole

what
who
why
Whiz

wheelbarrow
wheelchair
whipped
whittle

whistle
whirled
window
worried