

8th Grade Passages

Beginning of Year (BOY) Student Packet

Passage 1 *Jane Goodall: A Friend to Chimpanzees*

Passage 2 *Dolley Madison Saves the Day*

Passage 3 *Greta Von Trombone*

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Jane Goodall: A Friend to Chimpanzees

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When Jane Goodall was a child, her family heard that a baby chimpanzee had been born at a zoo in London. To celebrate this exciting news, Goodall's parents bought her a stuffed toy chimpanzee. She named it Jubilee after the real baby chimp at the zoo. From that day on, Goodall kept the stuffed animal by her side.

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Jane Goodall was born on April 3, 1934, in London, England. As a child she was fascinated with animals. At the age of four, she sat for hours in a henhouse, watching closely. She wanted to find out how chickens lay eggs.

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While walking to school, she often stopped to watch a bird or squirrel. By looking and listening, Goodall learned about animals.

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From an early age Goodall loved to read. One of her favorite books was *The Story of Dr. Dolittle*, a tale about a man who could talk to animals. Goodall also enjoyed reading about wild animals. She began to dream about going to Africa to study them.

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About three years after she finished high school, Goodall unexpectedly received a letter. It was from an old classmate whom Goodall had not heard from in a long time. The friend wrote that her family had moved to a farm in Africa. She invited Goodall for a visit, and Goodall accepted. For several months Goodall worked hard and saved money for the trip. She also read more about Africa. In 1957 Goodall sailed to Africa. After visiting her friend, Goodall began a job in Kenya. There she met a scientist who told her about a group of chimpanzees in nearby Tanzania. He helped arrange for her to study the chimps in the wild.

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At first Goodall did not see many chimps. They would run away when she approached, but eventually they began to accept her. Within a few months they did not flee when she was near. Goodall watched how the animals lived and behaved. She carefully wrote down her observations. While doing so, she made many important discoveries about chimpanzees. She learned that chimps do not eat only plants, as scientists had thought. Chimps also eat insects and sometimes meat. Another of Goodall's discoveries was even more amazing. One day she was watching a chimp that she called David Greybeard. David Greybeard poked a blade of grass into an insect mound. When he pulled out the blade of grass, it was covered with insects. Then he ate the insects off the blade of grass. Later Goodall saw the same chimp using a stick to collect insects. This showed Goodall that chimpanzees use tools to get food.

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Goodall has spent many years studying chimpanzees and has become an expert on their behavior.

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Now she travels around the world, giving speeches about chimps. She wants people to be

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concerned about animals, both in zoos and in the wild. Wherever Goodall goes, her stuffed

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chimpanzee Jubilee is by her side.

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Dolley Madison Saves the Day

During the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, British troops marched toward Washington, D.C. They had already defeated a group of U.S. soldiers nearby. Now they were headed for the nation's capital. They threatened to burn all government buildings, including the White House. The White House was the home of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, and his wife Dolley.

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On August 22, 1814, President Madison left the White House to join the U.S. soldiers. While Dolley waited to hear from him, she packed important documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. She sent them to Virginia for safekeeping. As the hours ticked by, Dolley began to worry. From her windows in the White House, she nervously watched people fleeing the city. On August 24 a courier delivered important information. He said that the British were approaching and that Dolley should leave immediately.

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However, Dolley refused to go until one more task was complete. A large painting of George Washington was fastened tightly to the wall, but no tools were available to remove it. Dolley ordered that the frame be broken in order to remove the canvas. After the painting had been rolled up and sent to a safe place, Dolley raced from the White House, leaving behind almost all of her personal belongings. At 8:00 that evening, British troops entered Washington. Although the troops completely burned the White House and other government buildings, both President Madison and Dolley were safe. The precious painting of the first U.S. President and all important papers associated with the United States had been saved. Many would call Dolley's actions heroic. But Dolley never thought of herself as a hero. She felt what she had done was her duty to the country as First Lady.

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Greta Von Trombone

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Greta Von Trombone has a special musical ability. She doesn't know who she inherited it from, her mom or her dad, but she thinks it's the greatest part of her personality. Greta plays the trombone and, while some think it's too boyish of an instrument for a girl, she thinks it fits her personality just fine. She loves to play in front of an audience. But she also loves to play alone, because a magical thing happens when she plays her trombone alone.

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When Greta plays Mozart on her trombone by the pantry door, the pantry becomes a whole new world. She can step inside and become anything she wants to be. For instance, one day she entered the pantry and gave the performance of her life as a member of a professional orchestra. Another time, she was whisked into a world where music did not exist. The people had never heard any type of music before. She thought that they looked sad, and she couldn't imagine living in a world without music.

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Her favorite adventure was the time she was called in as a special investigator to find Morris Dorgen's stolen trombone. Morris Dorgen was the country's most famous trombone player, and his trombone was stolen from his house. The police needed help and called Greta. She analyzed the scene, took notes, looked for fingerprints, and searched for any type of evidence that may have been left behind. She noticed a spill in the kitchen of some kind of red juice. The victim did not drink juice, so they assumed it was the burglar's. The only other thing that Greta found that didn't belong to Mr. Dorgen was a receipt bearing the name of a local dry cleaner.

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Greta and the police spoke with the manager, who couldn't be much help because all of the identifying marks on the receipt were missing. They decided to put the shop under surveillance to see if anyone suspicious came in with a red stain on an article of clothing. The manager was to call them if such a client arrived. Later that evening, as Greta and a policeman sat watching the store, a man with a large black case entered with a single item. Greta and the policeman moved closer to the store and waited. The phone call they were expecting came—a man with a red-stained shirt had just entered the shop. As they approached the man, he threw his hands in the air and begged for forgiveness.

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The man was arrested and sentenced to prison. Greta later found out that he had stolen several other musical instruments as well. Nobody ever discovered his motives.

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Greta always looks forward to her next adventure, but she knows that she has many real adventures ahead of her as well. When she grows up she would like to be a professional trombone player or possibly a detective. Maybe, she secretly hopes, she can be both.