

# 7th Grade Progress Monitoring

## August–November Student Packet

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## A Soothing Song

Kayla stood and stared into the box at her feet. The

11 puppy she had found had been crying for an hour.

21 Now Kayla was ready to cry, too. Kayla knew her

31 parents were tired of listening to the noise.

39 She had tried everything she could think of—chew

48 toys, food, a warm blanket. Nothing made the

56 puppy happy. She wanted to keep him, and her

65 parents had said he could stay if he behaved.

74 So Kayla didn't cry. She wouldn't give up! She sat

84 down on the floor and began to sing. The puppy

94 stopped howling. Kayla smiled and sang some

101 more. Maybe this would work after all.

108

## The Writing Pencil

Josh had to write a story for school. Time was  
10 running out. He had to turn in his paper in two  
21 days. He was beginning to worry. “What if I can’t  
31 think of a good story?” he wondered. Josh thought  
40 of flying cars and tall mountains and faraway lands.  
49 He picked up the new pencil that was a present  
59 from his aunt. Then he looked at the clean, white  
69 paper. No ideas came to him.

75 Josh went to sleep. He had a dream about a pencil  
86 that could write wonderful stories. All Josh had to  
95 do was hold the pencil on the paper.

103 When Josh woke up the next morning, he looked  
112 at his new pencil. He knew what he would write

122 about. He wrote so fast that the pencil seemed to

132 be writing the story all by itself!

139

## Titanic

April 10th, 1912, was the most exciting day of my  
10 life. Little did I know that it was a prelude to the  
22 most terrifying time of my life as well.

30 My father had moved to America several months  
38 prior to then. He found a good job. He had finally  
49 saved enough money to bring my mother and me to  
59 join him. He surprised us with second class tickets  
68 on a ship called the RMS Titanic. My mother told me  
79 it was the biggest ship in the world.

87 I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it. It was  
98 enormous! My mom let me wander around alone  
106 and explore the ship. I was 8 and grown up enough  
117 to know not to get into trouble or to be a nuisance.

129 I quickly made a friend on board. Her name was

139 Marjorie. She was going to visit America with her  
148 parents. We spent nearly the entire trip playing  
156 together and watching the other passengers. We  
163 had hours of fun!

167 Everything was normal when I went to bed on April  
177 14th. Around midnight I was startled awake by  
185 the voices of men yelling and women screaming.  
193 My mother ran into the hall. She heard someone  
202 say we had hit an iceberg. The ship was filling with  
213 water. We had no time to gather our belongings  
222 or get dressed. We followed the panicking crowd  
230 toward the main deck. My mother clutched my  
238 hand tightly.

240 Someone was yelling that the boat was sinking.  
248 How could this be? I looked at my mom. I could  
259 tell it was true. People were frantic to get to the  
270 lifeboats. There were so many people. I wondered  
278 how they could all fit into so few boats. People were

289 pushing each other. I was knocked to the ground.  
298 I heard my mother scream. A kind man picked me  
308 up before I was trampled. He led my mom and me  
319 to a lifeboat and made sure we were safely aboard.  
329 As other people boarded with us, I saw Marjorie  
338 and her family waiting in line. I yelled for them,  
348 but they didn't hear me. I was scared for them. I  
359 wanted them to come on my boat. I wanted them  
369 to be safe, too. I told the crewman that I would  
380 make room for them, but he gave the order to  
390 release our boat without hearing what I had said.  
399 We had to leave without them.

405 I don't know how long we floated in the sea. We  
416 were freezing, wet, and scared, but we were the  
425 lucky ones. We were alive. So many people were  
434 left behind that night. I wondered what happened  
442 to Marjorie. I never saw her again.

449 When we got to America, my father was waiting  
458 for us. His eyes were filled with tears, and he  
468 sobbed as he held us tightly. Years later I realized  
478 that those tears weren't only for us, but for all  
488 the people who never made it to America. Ever  
497 since then, even though my name is Jessica, he  
506 has called me Joy. He gave me that new nickname  
516 to reflect how he felt when he was told that we  
527 survived.  
528



## Koalas

7 Koalas live in Australia. Sometimes people call  
16 them koala bears. But koalas are not bears. They  
23 are marsupials. Marsupials are mammals that have  
pouches.

24 When koalas are born, they immediately go to  
32 their mother's pouch. They stay there for about six  
41 months. This is where they grow and develop. Baby  
50 koalas are called joeys. When they are born, they  
59 are very tiny. They are no bigger than a peanut.

69 Joeys cannot see or hear when they are born.  
78 These senses develop in the pouch. After they leave  
87 the pouch, they ride on their mother's backs until  
96 they are ready to be on their own. Koalas can be on  
108 their own when they are about a year old.

117 Koalas are very gentle animals. They keep to  
125 themselves and don't hurt other animals. They are  
133 nocturnal. Koalas sleep for about 18 hours each  
141 day. They have large, rubbery noses. Their ears are  
150 big and floppy. And they have thumbs that make  
159 it easy to grip trees and food. Their soft fur makes  
170 them look cuddly and cute.

175 Koalas live in eucalyptus trees. They spend most of  
184 their days there. They eat only eucalyptus leaves.  
192 Koalas rarely drink water. They get all the water  
201 they need from the eucalyptus leaves.

207 When a koala is around the age of 2 or 3, he is  
220 considered fully grown. At this age, a female koala  
229 can have a baby of her own.

236 The number of koalas has dwindled over the years.  
245 People used to hunt koalas for their fur. Their  
254 forests have been destroyed to build houses. Many

262 have been killed or injured by cars. Because of this,  
272 Australia has made it a protected animal. People  
280 are no longer allowed to hunt them. But there are  
290 no laws protecting their forests. Many koalas now  
298 live in zoos or special areas where people can make  
308 sure they stay safe.

312

## What Was Amanda's Message?

Once there was a village beside a river. The lovely  
10 river flowed quietly to the sea. The river gave the  
20 people of the village water to drink. It also gave  
30 them water for their plants and animals.

37 In this village lived a family with a young daughter  
47 named Amanda. She was quiet like the river.

55 Amanda often walked through the forest near her  
63 house. She loved looking at all the beautiful trees.

72 Her favorite was the willow tree. Its branches bent  
81 toward the ground as if reaching down to her.

90 Amanda had a special ability. She noticed things  
98 that other people did not. Walking through the  
106 forest, she would see a squirrel sitting on the  
115 highest branch of a tree. She would notice the first

125 golden leaf as summer turned to fall. During spring  
134 Amanda was the first to notice that wildflowers  
142 were beginning to bloom.

146 One year there was very little rain. By summer the  
156 river had dried up. The people of Amanda's village  
165 dug a well, but they did not find water. They had  
176 to go to another village far away to get water. It  
187 was a long, hard journey. Sometimes the people  
195 could not carry as much water as they needed. This  
205 caused them to worry.

209 While walking through the forest one day, Amanda  
217 noticed the leaves of the trees. Without rain they  
226 had turned dry and brown. Then she came upon  
235 the willow tree. Its branches still had tender green  
244 leaves!

245 "The willow's leaves are still soft and green, but all  
255 the other leaves are dry and brown," she said to

265 herself. "Perhaps the willow's roots can seek and  
273 find water that other trees cannot."

279 Amanda ran home as fast as she could. She  
288 couldn't wait to relay what she had noticed to her  
298 family. When she reached her house, she saw that  
307 other people from the village were there. They were  
316 talking about how to find water.

322 "The leaves of the willow tree are still green,"  
331 Amanda announced eagerly. "We should dig a well  
339 where the willow's roots end. We might find water  
348 there."

349 The people of the village stared at Amanda in  
358 surprise. She was generally very quiet. In fact,  
366 many villagers had never heard her speak. They  
374 knew that her message must be important, so they  
383 followed Amanda to the willow tree. There they dug

392 a deep well where the willow's roots stopped. Water  
401 filled the well just as Amanda had promised.

409 The people of the village were happy. They began  
418 to sing and dance around their new well. Amanda  
427 was happy, too. She and the willow tree had helped  
437 save her village.

440

## Mistippee

In November 1825 a group of Creek Indians met  
9 with men who worked for President John Quincy  
17 Adams. The Creek men needed help because people  
25 were taking their land. The following letter is from  
34 James, the son of one of the men who went to the  
46 meeting.

47 November 30, 1825

50 Dearest Mama,

52 I went with Papa today to meet with the leaders

62 of the Creek Indians. Papa needed me to help

71 him with the horses. There were many Creek

79 **men** sitting at the table when we walked into the

89 meeting place. The Creek men sat tall and straight.

98 They were very quiet. Their eyes were kind, and



107 their voices were gentle. Papa told me that the man  
117 sitting at the head of the table was a chief.

127 Standing behind him was a boy who looked 12  
136 years old, like me. The first thing I noticed about  
146 the boy was his clothes. He wore a white cotton  
156 shirt, like mine. However, he also wore boots, a  
165 vest, and pants all made from deerskin. These  
173 clothes were very different from mine. I was  
181 wearing pointed black leather shoes, a button-down  
189 coat, and wool pants. The Creek boy had markings  
198 on his face. There was a line of blue dots painted  
209 on each side of his face and an orange sun painted  
220 above his nose. Papa told me later that each mark  
230 had a meaning.

233 Papa and the boy's father told us to go outside  
243 while the men talked. The boy spoke perfect  
251 English. He said that he could read and write in  
261 English, too. He told me his name was Mistippee.

270 He said that his father had educated him. Mistippee  
279 wanted to know everything about me and asked  
287 a lot of questions. I told him about our small farm  
298 where we grow wheat. I also told him that I share  
309 a room upstairs with my three brothers. Then  
317 he asked about my school. I told him that I go  
328 to school in the same room as my brothers even  
338 though we are not the same age. I also asked  
348 Mistippee many questions. He answered them all  
355 very politely. He told me his family has two houses  
365 built near each other. One is used in winter and  
375 one in summer. The winter house is made of wood  
385 and mud. Mistippee said that it is very warm. The  
395 summer house is made of wood and grass. It has  
405 open sides to let the air in. Mistippee told me his  
416 people fish and hunt. They hunt animals such as  
425 rabbits and deer for both food and clothing.

433 His family grows corn, beans, and pumpkins.

440 Some Creek children help their mothers dig in the

449 fields, plant seeds, and gather crops. His people  
457 also gather berries and many other wild plants for  
466 food. Mistippee said he must help chop firewood  
474 and take care of the horses. I told him that I had  
486 to do those things, too. He laughed when I told him  
497 about how I almost got kicked by my horse the first  
508 time I tried to put a horseshoe on it. He said he had  
521 almost been kicked by a horse once, too.

529 Before long, it was time to leave. Mistippee shook  
538 my hand and said farewell. On the way back to the  
549 inn where we would stay the night, I told Papa all  
560 about Mistippee. I hope that I get to see Mistippee  
570 again. Papa told me we should be on our way home  
581 in a few days. I miss you.

588 Your son,

590 James

591

## A Friend on the Trail

Doodle the rooster usually crowed at sunrise, but  
8 this morning Elizabeth awoke to the sounds of other  
17 birds. She poked her head through the curtain  
25 of her family's covered wagon and gazed at the  
34 unfamiliar surroundings. Late in the spring of 1856,  
42 her family had joined a train of covered wagons.  
51 They had begun their long journey to make a new  
61 home in the West. That was more than four months  
71 ago. Soon they would reach their destination.

78 After breakfast Elizabeth checked the cage tied to  
86 the back of the wagon. This was where Doodle and  
96 their three hens rode. Each night Doodle and the  
105 hens were allowed to roam freely. They had always  
114 returned by morning. Today, however, Doodle was  
121 not in the cage.

125 "Doodle, where are you?" Elizabeth muttered. She  
132 looked in all directions.

136 "Why don't you walk down to the stream," her  
145 mother suggested. "You need to get water for the  
154 day's journey. Perhaps you'll find Doodle there."

161 Grabbing the bucket, Elizabeth headed for the  
168 stream. She crossed through a field of lovely  
176 wildflowers. Along the stream's bank she saw a  
184 Native American girl. The girl wore a round hat  
193 made of woven grass. She dipped her hat into the  
203 water and took a drink. Looking up, the girl smiled.

213 "My name is Sisika," she said. "I'm Elizabeth.  
221 I've come to get water and to find my rooster,"  
231 Elizabeth explained.

233 Together they began searching. They did not have  
241 to look long before they found Doodle. He was  
250 feasting on large crickets in the tall grass.

258 "Doodle, you've found a good breakfast,"  
264 Elizabeth remarked.

266 "These are tasty crickets," Sisika replied. "My  
273 mother dries them, and we make delicious cricket  
281 soup."

282 "I like to help my mother cook, too," Elizabeth said.  
292 With these words Elizabeth realized something.  
298 It occurred to her that she and Sisika might have  
308 many things in common. She wished that she could  
317 stay and visit longer. Elizabeth carefully picked  
324 up Doodle in her arms. Then she remembered her  
333 empty bucket.

335 "I can help," Sisika offered. "I'll fill your bucket and  
345 carry it for you."

349 Together Elizabeth and Sisika walked back to the  
357 wagon. Elizabeth returned Doodle to the cage. The  
365 restless oxen tugged on the wagon, signaling that  
373 they were ready to depart. Elizabeth reached into  
381 the wagon for her favorite doll. With a sad smile of  
392 good-bye, she gave it to Sisika. Then Sisika placed  
402 her necklace around Elizabeth's neck. Just then a  
410 man rode up on a beautiful spotted horse.

418 "This is my father," Sisika explained to Elizabeth.  
426 The man helped Sisika climb up onto the horse.  
435 Then he noticed the doll that she was holding. He  
445 also recognized the necklace Elizabeth was wearing.

452 "The river up ahead can be treacherous. There are  
461 places where it is deep and the waters are fast," he

472 said to Elizabeth. "Tell your father that Sisika and I  
482 will lead your wagons safely across the river."

490 Sisika and Elizabeth waved to each other. Then  
498 Sisika and her father rode to the front of the wagon  
509 train. Moments later the wagons jerked forward.  
516 The wagon train began to roll westward again.

524 Crossing the river, Elizabeth studied her new  
531 necklace happily. She had made a friend on the  
540 trail.

541



## Suni

My name is Suni. I am a Chinese White Dolphin. Do

11 you know what's special about the Chinese White

19 Dolphin? I'm pink. Most people have never heard

27 of, or seen, a pink dolphin.

33 I want to tell you about a serious problem that we

44 are all facing. But first, let me describe myself.

53 I live off the shores of Hong Kong and Southern

63 China. This area is called the Pearl River Delta.

72 There are less than 200 of us here. We are not

83 born pink. In fact, when we are born, we are black.

94 As we get older, our color turns to gray. Then it

105 becomes pinkish gray with spots. It is when we

114 enter adulthood that we become pinkish white and

122 our spots fade. As adults, we usually reach a length

132 of eight to nine feet. Unfortunately, most of the

141 calves born today don't reach adulthood. Thus,  
148 they never get to show off their beautiful pink  
157 color. We could live up to 40 years, but because of  
168 the many hazards we face most of the calves don't  
178 even survive. We are endangered. Our population is  
186 dwindling.

187 The water we live in is unhealthy. Raw sewage has  
197 been routinely dumped into our waters. There are  
205 so many fishermen that sometimes we get stuck  
213 in nets or hit by boats. I have a scar on my right  
226 side from when a boat hit me. Some nice humans  
236 found me. They helped me get well again. My  
245 wound hurt a lot, but I was one of the lucky ones.  
257 I've known dolphins that haven't survived that type  
265 of accident. The high numbers of fishermen pose  
273 another threat to us as well. They're catching so  
282 many fish that there aren't enough to sustain all of  
292 us here.

294 We can't leave the area. It is part of our nature to  
306 stay close to the shore and to be in these types of  
318 waters. Legislation in Hong Kong has attempted  
325 to keep us safe, but that has not helped much. To  
336 raise money to help keep us safe, Hong Kong has  
346 started a dolphin-watching program. They bring  
353 people out on boats to watch us. We don't like that  
364 very much. We're kind of shy around people. We  
373 tend to go away from boats coming toward us,  
382 especially since so many of us have been hurt by  
392 them. However, sometimes we do perform and let  
400 them see us jump and dive.

406 I want everyone to know about us. I want us all  
417 to be protected. We all want our calves to live and  
428 grow to be adults. We hope that these rules and  
438 many more new ones will help us survive. We don't  
448 want to be extinct.

452

## Vickie and the Kitten

Vickie wanted a kitten more than anything. When  
8 she was old enough to take care of a pet, her  
19 parents bought her a kitten as a surprise. It was  
29 tiny and as white and soft as cotton. In fact, Vickie  
40 named him Cotton. After her parents brought him  
48 home, Vickie and her brother Kevin played with  
56 Cotton. They watched him chase a piece of string.  
65 They took turns holding him and petting his soft  
74 fur. Vickie and Kevin held the kitten close. Cotton  
83 purred and looked up at them with big green eyes.

93 Then Kevin began to sneeze, and his eyes became  
102 red. The more he held the kitten, the more he  
112 sneezed.

113 “Uh-oh,” their dad said with a worried look. “Maybe  
122 Kevin shouldn’t be in contact with the kitten.”

130 “I’ll keep Cotton in my room away from Kevin,”  
139 Vickie suggested. “Then Kevin won’t sneeze.”

145 But Kevin kept sneezing, and his eyes watered.

153 Finally Vickie’s mom said, “I’m sorry, Vickie. We  
161 can’t keep Cotton if he makes Kevin sick.”

169 Vickie began to sob. Her mom hugged her and  
178 wiped away her tears. “Vickie, I know this is hard.

188 But we’ll find a good home for Cotton. With Kevin  
198 sneezing, this isn’t the right home for a cat.” Vickie  
208 understood, but she was disappointed.

213 The next day Vickie’s mom suggested that they call  
222 Mrs. Parsi, who lived across the street. She already  
231 had two cats, but she might know someone who

240 wanted a kitten. Vickie agreed sadly while Cotton  
248 purred happily.

250 "I do know a family who wants a kitten," Mrs. Parsi  
261 told them in a cheerful voice. "Their last name is  
271 Martin. They just moved into the house next door  
280 to me. They had planned to get a kitten once they  
291 were settled in their new home."

297 That evening Vickie and her mom knocked on the  
306 Martins' door. Mr. and Mrs. Martin greeted them  
314 warmly. They smiled with delight when they saw  
322 Cotton. "He's beautiful!" Mrs. Martin said. "Cotton  
329 is the perfect name for him."

335 Mr. Martin noticed Vickie's sad face. He said,  
343 "Vickie, maybe you can help us take care of Cotton.  
353 You can come over anytime and play with him."

362 Just then a girl about Vickie's age came down the  
372 stairs. "Oh, what a cute kitten!" she exclaimed  
380 when she saw Cotton. "I love his big green eyes."

390 "His name is Cotton," Vickie said. "He loves to  
399 chase string."

401 Together the girls played with Cotton. They laughed  
409 as Cotton jumped for the string and ran after it.  
419 They talked together as they played. Vickie learned  
427 that the girl's name was Marie. They would be in  
437 the same class at school.

442 A while later Vickie's mom said it was time to go  
453 home. Vickie smiled as she said farewell to Cotton  
462 and handed him to Marie. Vickie waved. She  
470 thought, "Cotton has the right home now, and I  
479 have a new friend."

483

## Jane Goodall: A Friend to Chimpanzees

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

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



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

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

168 About three years after she finished high school,  
176 Goodall unexpectedly received a letter. It was from  
184 an old classmate whom Goodall had not heard from  
193 in a long time. The friend wrote that her family had  
204 moved to a farm in Africa. She invited Goodall for  
214 a visit, and Goodall accepted. For several months  
222 Goodall worked hard and saved money for the trip.  
231 She also read more about Africa. In 1957 Goodall  
240 sailed to Africa. After visiting her friend, Goodall  
248 began a job in Kenya. There she met a scientist who

259 told her about a group of chimpanzees in nearby  
268 Tanzania. He helped arrange for her to study the  
277 chimps in the wild.

281 At first Goodall did not see many chimps. They  
290 would run away when she approached, but  
297 eventually they began to accept her. Within  
304 a few months they did not flee when she was  
314 near. Goodall watched how the animals lived  
321 and behaved. She carefully wrote down her  
328 observations. While doing so, she made many  
335 important discoveries about chimpanzees. She  
340 learned that chimps do not eat only plants, as  
349 scientists had thought. Chimps also eat insects and  
357 sometimes meat. Another of Goodall's discoveries  
363 was even more amazing. One day she was watching  
372 a chimp that she called David Greybeard. David  
380 Greybeard poked a blade of grass into an insect  
389 mound. When he pulled out the blade of grass, it  
399 was covered with insects. Then he ate the insects

408 off the blade of grass. Later Goodall saw the same  
418 chimp using a stick to collect insects. This showed  
427 Goodall that chimpanzees use tools to get food.

435 Goodall has spent many years studying  
441 chimpanzees and has become an expert on their  
449 behavior. Now she travels around the world,  
456 giving speeches about chimps. She wants people  
463 to be concerned about animals, both in zoos and  
472 in the wild. Wherever Goodall goes, her stuffed  
480 chimpanzee Jubilee is by her side.

486

## A Great Comet

For six months in 1997, people watched a glowing  
9 object in the night sky. Comet Hale-Bopp made a  
19 show in the sky that lasted from January to June.  
29 Its head shone as brightly as a star. Its tail swept  
40 back like a fan. Some people thought it might be  
50 the best comet to pass by Earth in 20 years.

60 Comets begin as dirty chunks of rock in an icy  
70 fog. Some of these rocks move toward the sun  
79 when its gravity pulls them. Once the rocks get  
88 near the sun, they begin to look like comets. Each  
98 comet forms a tail and a round head that are  
108 characteristic of all comets. The round head and  
116 tail make a comet easy to recognize. Comets travel  
125 in orbits, or circles, around the sun. These orbits  
134 can be big or small. Comets that make small orbits

144 around the sun come near Earth every 200 years  
153 or less. They are not very bright, but we see them  
164 more often.

166 Hale-Bopp is a comet that makes big orbits around  
176 the sun. It will not pass near Earth again for about  
187 2,400 years.

189 In the 1990s about 12 comets a year were  
198 discovered. Most of these could not be seen in the  
208 sky without special equipment because they did not  
216 come very close to Earth. Even though Hale-Bopp  
225 was far away from Earth, it could be seen because  
235 its head was huge. The heads of most comets  
245 are no larger than six miles in diameter. Hale-  
254 Bopp's head was about 25 miles across. Because  
263 of its size, Hale-Bopp glowed brightly. Most of  
272 the famous comets have had long, thin tails that  
281 streamed for millions of miles. Hale-Bopp's tail was  
290 wider and shorter.

291 People enjoyed watching Hale-Bopp for several  
298 reasons. It glowed brightly. Hale-Bopp could be  
306 seen without a telescope for six months, from an  
315 hour after sunset until an hour before sunrise each  
324 day. Everyone had sufficient time to see this bright  
333 traveler. There were plenty of chances to look at it.  
343 There will continue to be many more comets for us  
353 to see. Like Hale-Bopp, they will look like glowing  
363 balls in the night sky.  
368

## Jim Henson

Those of you who have seen the show Sesame  
9 Street know the wonderful puppets made by Jim  
17 Henson. When Henson was a child, he never played  
26 with puppets or saw a puppet show. But when he  
36 grew up, he made puppets that became famous.  
44 One of Henson's first puppets was a frog made  
53 out of his mother's old green coat. The frog's  
62 best friend was a pig. Soon many other puppets  
71 followed.

72 Jim Henson was born in Mississippi in 1936. He lived  
82 in a small town, where he rode horses and fished.

92 When Henson was in the fifth grade, his family  
101 moved near Washington, D.C. After high school  
108 Henson needed to find a job. A television station  
117 was looking for someone to work with puppets on a

127 new show. Henson had learned about puppets when  
135 he had joined a puppet club in high school. He was  
146 excited about a chance to be on television. He and  
156 a friend made three puppets and tried out for the  
166 job. They were both hired, but the show was on  
176 television for only three weeks.

181 People at another television station liked Henson  
188 and his puppets. They decided to put them on an  
198 afternoon show. Later Henson did another show  
205 called Sam and His Friends. Many people thought  
213 only small children would be interested in watching  
221 it. People of all ages, however, thought the show  
230 was funny. In 1958 it won a prize for being one of  
242 the best shows in town.

247 Henson's puppets began doing commercials on  
253 television, trying to get people to buy things such  
262 as coffee. His puppets also appeared on weekly  
270 television shows. In 1969 Henson helped make a



278 new show called Sesame Street. On this show his  
287 puppets helped children learn numbers, letters, and  
294 shapes.

295 Seven years later Henson's puppets had their own  
303 show. In 1980 the show was chosen as the greatest  
313 international television show of all time. It was seen  
322 in homes all over the world.

328 Henson worked below the stage so his puppets  
336 would be watched instead of him. When the camera  
345 was pointed in a certain direction, the people  
353 moving the puppets could not be seen. Henson  
361 always watched a television below the stage. This  
369 let him see exactly what the people at home saw  
379 during his show. Henson made his puppets seem  
387 real by turning their heads or changing the angle  
396 of their mouths. This made them appear to be sad,  
406 happy, or surprised.

409 Today people all over the world smile when they  
418 see these life-like puppets on television and in the  
428 movies.  
429

## Dolley Madison Saves the Day

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

67 On August 22, 1814, President Madison left  
74 the White House to join the U.S. soldiers. While  
83 Dolley waited to hear from him, she packed  
91 important documents, such as the Declaration of  
98 Independence and the Constitution. She sent them  
105 to Virginia for safekeeping. As the hours ticked

113 by, Dolley began to worry. From her windows in  
122 the White House, she nervously watched people  
129 fleeing the city. On August 24 a courier delivered  
138 important information. He said that the British  
145 were approaching and that Dolley should leave  
152 immediately.

153 However, Dolley refused to go until one more  
161 task was complete. A large painting of George  
169 Washington was fastened tightly to the wall, but  
177 no tools were available to remove it. Dolley ordered  
186 that the frame be broken in order to remove the  
196 canvas. After the painting had been rolled up  
204 and sent to a safe place, Dolley raced from the  
214 White House, leaving behind almost all of her  
222 personal belongings. At 8:00 that evening, British  
229 troops entered Washington. Although the troops  
235 completely burned the White House and other  
242 government buildings, both President Madison and  
248 Dolley were safe. The precious painting of the first

257 U.S. President and all important papers associated  
264 with the United States had been saved. Many  
272 would call Dolley's actions heroic. But Dolley never  
280 thought of herself as a hero. She felt what she had  
291 done was her duty to the country as First Lady.  
301

## Faces on the Mountain

In 1924 Doane Robinson of the South Dakota

8 Historical Society had an idea. He thought carving

16 huge stone faces into a mountainside would be a

25 wonderful gift to the people of the United States.

34 The monument would also attract tourists to his

42 state. He hired sculptor Gutzon Borglum to do the

51 carving. Mount Rushmore's giant faces now bring

58 millions of visitors to South Dakota to see one of

68 the largest public monuments ever created.

74 Borglum chose Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills

82 as the site for the carving. The mountain's rock

91 face was 400 feet high and 1,000 feet across.

100 The carvings would last because the rock was

108 hard granite without deep cracks or other obvious

116 flaws. Because it faced southeast, the rock face

124 was lit by the sun most of the day, so the carved  
136 faces would not be in the shadows. Robinson  
144 suggested carving the faces of western heroes  
151 such as Lewis and Clark. Borglum wanted to honor  
160 the Presidents who had helped make the United  
168 States a great nation. Borglum's vision won out. He  
177 chose George Washington, the first President, and  
184 Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of  
192 Independence. Next he chose Abraham Lincoln, his  
199 personal hero, and finally the great outdoorsman  
206 Theodore Roosevelt.

208 Work began on August 10, 1927. Artisans used  
216 dynamite to blast rock from the mountain. Then  
224 they cut away more rock to create the faces. These  
234 master craftsmen sat in special chairs on long  
242 cables that hung over the side of the mountain.  
251 Borglum used a five-foot-high plaster model of the  
261 faces to direct the workers. When workers started  
269 carving Jefferson's face, they found that the rock

277 on that side of the mountain was unstable. Borglum  
286 had to readjust his plans and carve Jefferson on the  
296 other side of Washington. The original carving of  
304 Jefferson's face was blasted away with dynamite.  
311 Lincoln was carved after Jefferson, and Roosevelt  
318 was carved last. It took workers six and a half  
328 years to finish the carving, though the memorial  
336 wasn't completed for 14 years because of financial  
344 problems.

345 The memorial's 50th anniversary was celebrated  
351 with an elaborate party on July 3, 1991. Nineteen  
360 of the men who had helped build the monument  
369 attended. Today the site is more popular than ever,  
378 attracting close to three million visitors each year.  
386