

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

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

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

Greta Von Trombone

Greta Von Trombone has a special musical ability.

8 She doesn't know who she inherited it from,

16 her mom or her dad, but she thinks it's the

26 greatest part of her personality. Greta plays the

34 trombone and, while some think it's too boyish

42 of an instrument for a girl, she thinks it fits her

53 personality just fine. She loves to play in front

62 of an audience. But she also loves to play alone,

72 because a magical thing happens when she plays

80 her trombone alone.

83 When Greta plays Mozart on her trombone by the

92 pantry door, the pantry becomes a whole new

100 world. She can step inside and become anything

108 she wants to be. For instance, one day she entered

118 the pantry and gave the performance of her life

127 as a member of a professional orchestra. Another
135 time, she was whisked into a world where music
144 did not exist. The people had never heard any type
154 of music before. She thought that they looked sad,
163 and she couldn't imagine living in a world without
172 music.

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

278 was a receipt bearing the name of a local dry
288 cleaner.

289 Greta and the police spoke with the manager,
297 who couldn't be much help because all of the
306 identifying marks on the receipt were missing.

313 They decided to put the shop under surveillance to
322 see if anyone suspicious came in with a red stain
332 on an article of clothing. The manager was to call
342 them if such a client arrived. Later that evening,
351 as Greta and a policeman sat watching the store,
360 a man with a large black case entered with a single
371 item. Greta and the policeman moved closer to
379 the store and waited. The phone call they were
388 expecting came—a man with a red-stained shirt
397 had just entered the shop. As they approached the
406 man, he threw his hands in the air and begged for
417 forgiveness.

418 The man was arrested and sentenced to prison.

426 Greta later found out that he had stolen several

435 other musical instruments as well. Nobody ever

442 discovered his motives.

445 Greta always looks forward to her next adventure,

453 but she knows that she has many real adventures

462 ahead of her as well. When she grows up she

472 would like to be a professional trombone player or

481 possibly a detective. Maybe, she secretly hopes,

488 she can be both.

492