

# Joe Is In This Story



Played

Sam and his friends played. They played with a ball. They played in the sand. They played with a dog. They went down the slide. They had a great time.

FRESH-ACTED GRADE LEVEL 1-2  
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Robot

"Can I have a robot?" said Cody.  
"A robot could play games with me."  
"A robot could read books to me."  
"A robot would be neat."

FRESH-ACTED GRADE LEVEL 1  
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Saw a Cat Look

"I saw a cat look at a bird. I saw the bird look at the cat," said Sam.  
"I don't know what they could have been thinking. Cats and birds are usually not friends."

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Airplane

"When I get older, I want to learn how to fly an airplane," said Sam.  
"I will fly it up into the sky and look down on the world. It will be so fun."

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## Cody Went to a City



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

Fiction



Falling Star

One night Cody was outside with his dad.  
"Help, help!" they heard from up in the sky.  
"Look, Dad. A star is falling," said Cody.

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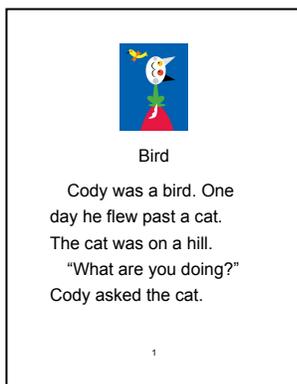


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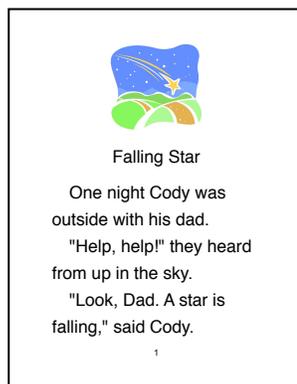


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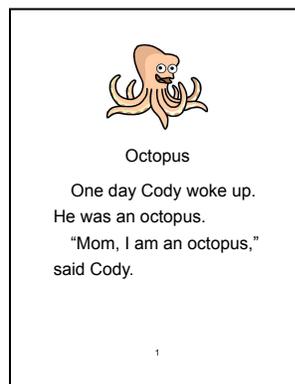
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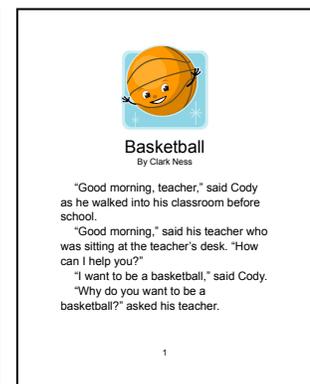
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# Played

Joe and his friends  
played. They played with a  
ball. They played in the  
sand. They played with a  
dog. They went down the  
slide.

They had a great time.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.8

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## Two Cows

“I saw two cows,” said Joe.

“The two cows saw me. I like these two cows. I hope the two cows like me.”

“Moo,” said the two COWS.

“Moo,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.8

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## Race

Joe likes to race. One day he was in a race. He ran and ran. He ran fast. Joe won the race. He was happy.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.7

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## Saw a Cat

“I saw a cat,” said Joe.

“I wish I was a cat. I could run fast. I could climb trees.”

“It would be neat to be a cat,” he said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.5

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## Out of the Water

Joe was a fish. One day he swam fast. He went so fast that he jumped out of the water.

He went up high. He could see far and wide. He had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.3

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## Fox

Joe went for a walk and met a fox.

“How do you do?” said Joe to the fox.

“I do very well, thank you. It is a nice day for a walk, isn't it?” said the fox.

“Yes, it is,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

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## Crocodile

One day Joe woke up.  
He was a crocodile. He  
went to school. He scared  
his teacher.

His friends thought he  
looked cool.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.0

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## Singing Flower

Joe is a flower. He loves  
to sing. He is a singing  
flower. He sings and sings.

Joe thinks that singing is  
fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.0

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## Christmas Tree

Joe helped with the Christmas tree. He put candy canes on it. He put balls on it.

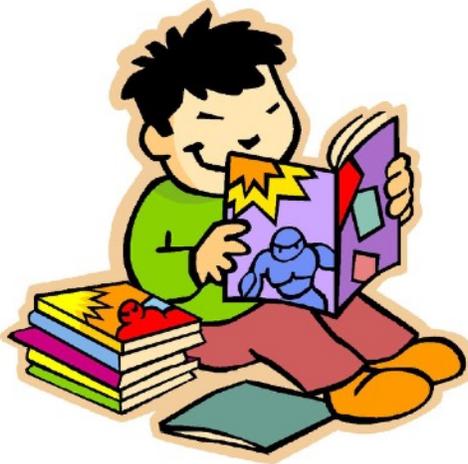
His dog helped too. The tree looked great.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.9

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## Read a Book

“I think I will read a book,” said Joe. Soon he was done.

“I think I will read some more,” said Joe.

Soon he was done reading seven books.

“That was fun,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.8

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## Ice Cream Truck

“I hear the ice cream truck coming,” said Joe.

“I hope it stops by my home.”

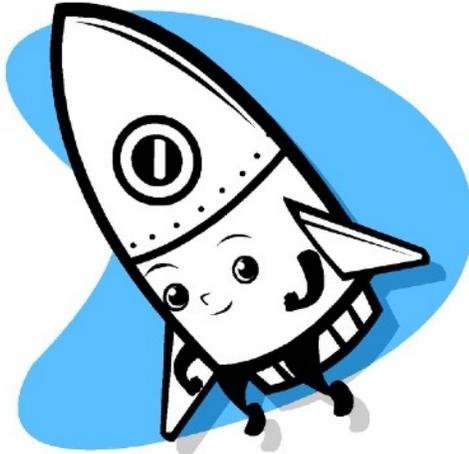
“I want to buy an ice cream treat.”

“It will taste so good.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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## Rocket

“I want to be a rocket,”  
said Joe.

*Poof!* He was a rocket.  
*Whoosh!* He flew up into  
the sky and went to the  
moon.

“Now that was fun,” said  
Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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## Surfing Dog

Joe is a cool dog. He has a surf board. He loves to go to the beach with his surf board. He goes surfing at the beach.

Joe thinks surfing is cool.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.6

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## Cat Lover

Joe is a cat lover. He loves cats. He loves big cats.

Joe loves little cats. He loves pretty cats. He loves ugly cats. Joe loves all cats.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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## Dog Lover

Joe is a dog lover. He loves dogs. He loves big dogs.

Joe loves little dogs. He loves pretty dogs. He loves ugly dogs. Joe loves all dogs.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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## Fly to School

One day Joe said, “I think I will fly to school today.”

He put on his flying suit. He flew to school.

“Wow! You flew to school,” said his teacher.

“It was easy,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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## Happy Cat

“Can you see me?” said  
Joe.

“I am a cat.”

“I am a happy cat.”

“I am Joe the happy cat,”  
said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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## Happy Dog

“Can you see me?” said  
Joe.

“I am a dog.”

“I am a happy dog.”

“I am Joe the happy  
dog,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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## Rhino

Joe is a rhino. He likes to play soccer. He can kick the ball. He can score a goal.

Joe likes being a rhino.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

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## A Deer

Joe went for a walk. He was very quiet. He looked.

He saw a baby deer. It had spots on its back.

Joe was glad that he saw a baby deer.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.3

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## Pet Dragon

“I want a pet dragon,”  
said Joe.

“It could play with me.”

“It could read books to  
me.”

“A pet dragon would be  
neat,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.3

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## Owl

Joe went for a walk and  
saw an owl.

It sat up in a tree.

The owl said, “*Whoo,  
whoo, who, who.*”

“I think that owl just said  
*hello to me,*” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.2

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## Horse With Wings

One day Joe became a horse with wings.

He flew to his school.  
Joe took each of his friends for a ride up into the sky.

They all had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.1

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## Astronaut

“I want to be an astronaut,” said Joe.

“I want to go out in space.”

“It would be neat to go to the Moon.”

“It would be neat to go to Mars.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.0

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## Happy Turtle

This is Joe. He is a happy turtle. He likes to run.

“I am a happy turtle. I like to run,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Giraffe

“I am a giraffe,” said Joe.

“I like to go on hikes.”

“I wear a hat. I take a pack.”

“I use a walking stick.”

“It is neat to be a giraffe,”  
said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.2

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## Bubbles

Joe made bubbles.

Some bubbles were big.

Some bubbles were small.

Joe made a lot of  
bubbles. He had fun.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Chicken

“I saw a chicken,” said Joe.

“She wore glasses and had a book.”

“She was reading to her chicks.”

“I wonder if all chickens can read?” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Horses

Joe saw two horses.  
One horse was brown.  
One horse was white. The  
horses were big.

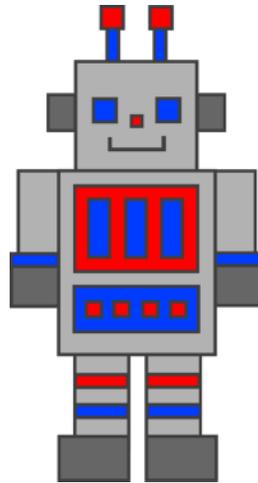
Joe liked seeing the  
horses.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Robot

“Can I have a robot?”  
said Joe.

“A robot could play  
games with me. A robot  
could read books to me.  
A robot would be neat.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Sheep

“I saw a sheep near my home,” said Joe.

“It was knitting a sock.”

“I told the sheep that it was a nice sock.”

“The sheep smiled and kept on knitting,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Snow Skiing

“I want to go snow skiing,” said Joe.

“It would be so much fun.”

“I would be out in the nice cold snow.”

“I could go fast.”

“Snow skiing would be a blast,” he said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.1

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## Rabbit

“I want to be a rabbit,”  
said Joe.

“I would have two long  
ears.”

“I could hop and hop.”

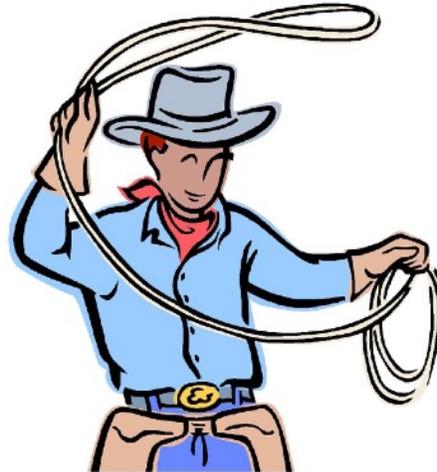
“I would even like to eat  
carrots,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.2

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## Cowboy

“I am going to be a cowboy,” said Joe.

“I will have a rope.”

“I will ride a horse.”

“I will herd my cattle.”

“It will be neat to be a cowboy,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.3

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## Bear

Joe went for a walk and met a happy bear.

The bear wore boots, mittens, and a stocking hat.

“It must be a cold day,” said Joe.

“Yes, it is,” said the bear.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.5

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## Soccer Ball

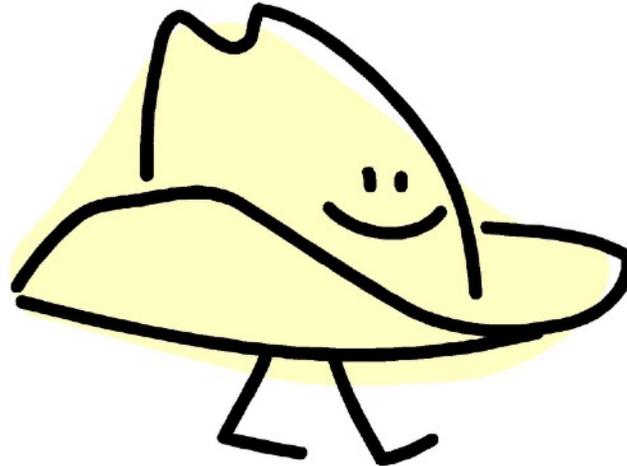
Joe has a soccer ball.  
He plays soccer with it  
every day.

“I love playing soccer. It  
is a great sport. Soccer is  
fun,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.5

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## Hat

Joe saw a hat walk by.  
“Where are you going?”  
asked Joe.

“I am going to a cattle  
ranch,” said the hat.

“I want a cowboy to find  
me so that I can become a  
real cowboy hat.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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## Rat

One day Joe saw a rat.

“That rat is on a skateboard,” said Joe.

“I love to go on my skateboard,” said the rat.

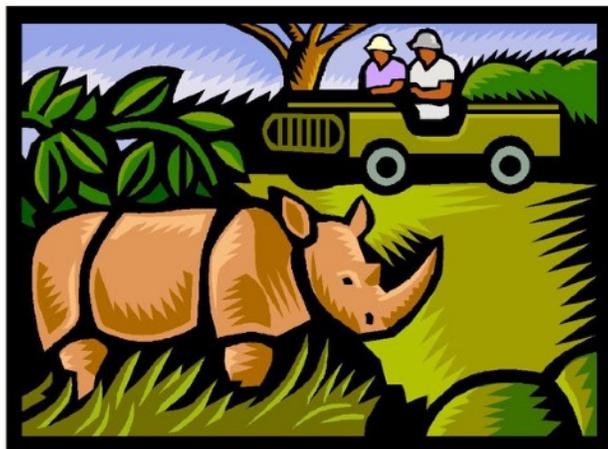
“Hope you have fun,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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## Safari

“I went to Africa,” said  
Joe.

“I went on a safari.”

“We drove out in a jeep  
and saw a rhino.”

“It was so neat.”

“I took a lot of pictures.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.7

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## I Have a Pencil

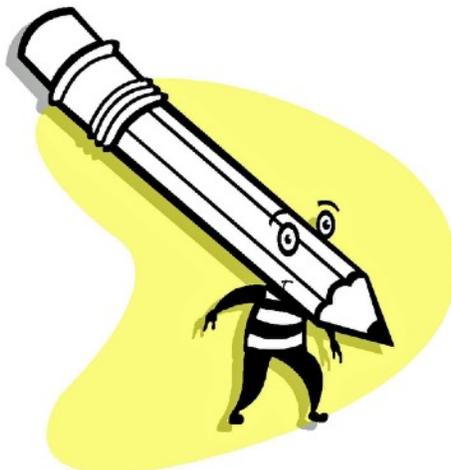
“I have a pencil,” said Joe. “I use it every day. I write stories with it. I answer questions. I solve math problems.”

“My pencil is a great tool to have.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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## Pencil

One day Joe woke up.  
He was a pencil.

“I think I will write a  
story,” said Joe. He wrote  
a story. It was about being  
a pencil.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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## Pink Elephant

“I saw a pink elephant,”  
said Joe. “It had a green  
balloon and wore a yellow  
hat.”

“There was a bird sitting  
on its back. I wonder  
where it was going?” said  
Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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## Saw a Cat Look

“I saw a cat look at a bird. I saw the bird look at the cat,” said Joe.

“I don’t know what they could have been thinking. Cats and birds are usually not friends.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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## Snake

“I think I would like to be a snake,” said Joe.

“It would be fun to slither along the ground.”

“I would hunt for food and have a good life.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 0.9

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## Elephant

“I went to a pet shop,”  
said Joe.

“I got a nice elephant. I  
took my elephant home.”

“Mom said it was too big  
for me to keep.”

“So I took the elephant  
back,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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## Monsters

“I saw three monsters today,” said Joe.

“They were happy monsters going for a walk.”

“I wonder where they were going?” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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## Pet Shop

“I am going to go to a pet shop,” said Joe.

“I will see all kinds of animals there.”

“I will see fish, cats, dogs, mice, and birds.”

“It will be fun to go to a pet shop,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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## Singing Apples

“I went to the store. I saw some apples. Three of the apples jumped up and sang a song to me,” said Joe.

“I had never seen singing apples before.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.1

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## Happy Snowman

“I am a happy snowman,” said Joe.

“I wear a hat and a scarf, and I hold a broom.”

“My nose is a carrot.”

“I am happy to be a snowman,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.2

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## Snail

“Last night I had a dream. I dreamed that I was a snail,” said Joe.

“I was a happy snail, but it took a long time to get anywhere.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.2

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## Singing Fish

“I want to be a fish that can sing,” said Joe.

“I would sing songs about the sea.”

“I would sing songs to sailors and to people who go fishing.”

“It would be fun to be a singing fish,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.6

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## Airplane

“When I get older, I want to learn how to fly an airplane,” said Joe.

“I will fly it up into the sky and look down on the world. It will be so fun.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.7

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## Kangaroo

Joe is a kangaroo. He likes to play basketball. He can jump. He can shoot.

Joe likes being a kangaroo.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.9

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## Lemonade

Joe made some lemonade. He set up a lemonade stand. He sold lemonade to his friends and family.

Joe made \$5.00 in one day.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.9

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## If I Were a Dog

“If I were a dog, I would want to be able to drive a car,” said Joe.

“I would put on my yellow hat and get in my red car. People would smile when I went by.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.0

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## Submarine

“I went on a submarine,”  
said Joe.

“We went down  
underwater.”

“I saw all kinds of fish.”

“It was fun to go on a  
submarine.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.0

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## Treehouse

“I am going to build a treehouse,” said Joe. “It will be so much fun.”

“I will have a good view and get to see birds and little animals every day.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.5

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## Helicopter

“I want to fly a helicopter,” said Joe.

“It would be neat to fly it up in the sky.”

“I could help save people by flying a helicopter.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.8

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## Opened a Book

“I opened a book last week and a pirate story came out,” said Joe.

“It was a very good story about pirates and pirate ships. I liked the part about buried treasure.”

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 4.4

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## Hippo

Joe saw a hippo. It was on a unicycle. It was playing a violin.

“Be careful when you play your violin on a unicycle,” said Joe to the hippo.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 4.7

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# Joe Saw



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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

# Cat



Joe saw a cat.

It was a big cat.

“I saw a cat,” said Joe.

“It was a big cat,” he  
said.

# Bat



Joe saw a bat.

It was a big bat.

“I saw a bat,” said Joe.

“It was a big bat,” he  
said.

# Rat



Joe saw a rat.

It was a big rat.

“I saw a rat,” said Joe.

“It was a big rat,” he  
said.

# Ant



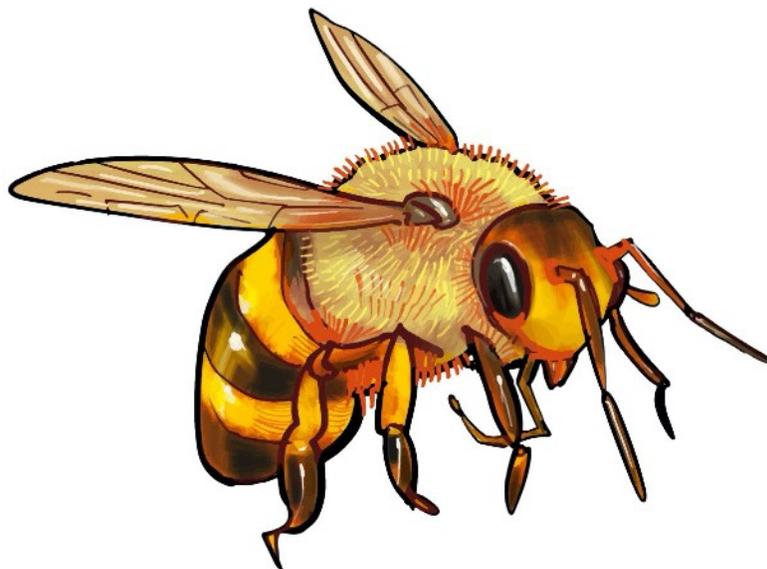
Joe saw an ant.

It was a big ant.

“I saw an ant,” said Joe.

“It was a big ant,” he  
said.

# Bee



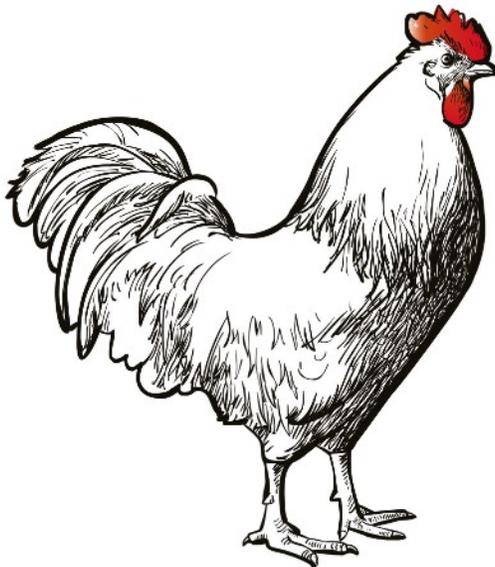
Joe saw a bee.

It was a big bee.

“I saw a bee,” said Joe.

“It was a big bee,” he  
said.

# Hen



Joe saw a hen.

It was a big hen.

“I saw a hen,” said Joe.

“It was a big hen,” he  
said.

# Elk



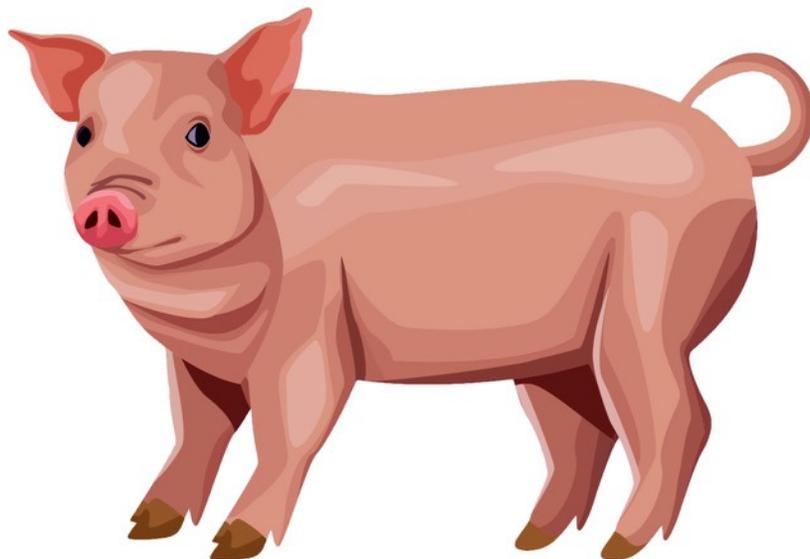
Joe saw an elk.

It was a big elk.

“I saw an elk,” said Joe.

“It was a big elk,” he  
said.

# Pig



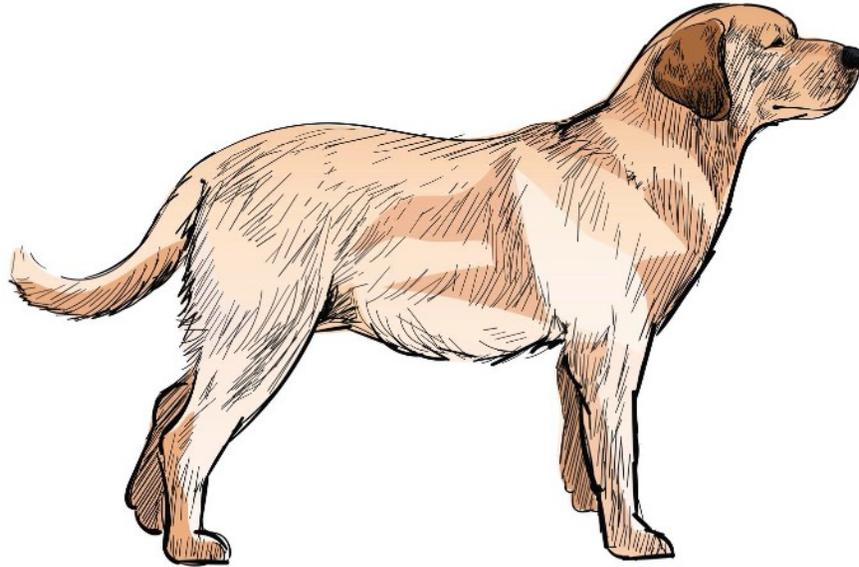
Joe saw a pig.

It was a big pig.

“I saw a pig,” said Joe.

“It was a big pig,” he  
said.

# Dog



Joe saw a dog.

It was a big dog.

“I saw a dog,” said Joe.

“It was a big dog,” he  
said.

# Cod



Joe saw a cod.

It was a big cod.

“I saw a cod,” said Joe.

“It was a big cod,” he  
said.

# Fox



Joe saw a fox.

It was a big fox.

“I saw a fox,” said Joe.

“It was a big fox,” he  
said.

# Cow



Joe saw a cow.

It was a big cow.

“I saw a cow,” said Joe.

“It was a big cow,” he  
said.

# Owl



Joe saw an owl.

It was a big owl.

“I saw an owl,” said Joe.

“It was a big owl,” he  
said.

# Bug



Joe saw a bug.

It was a big bug.

“I saw a bug,” said Joe.

“It was a big bug,” he  
said.

# Pup



Joe saw a pup.  
It was a big pup.  
“I saw a pup,” said Joe.  
“It was a big pup,” he  
said.

# Fly



Joe saw a fly.

It was a big fly.

“I saw a fly,” said Joe.

“It was a big fly,” he said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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# Joe Saw a Cab



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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

# Cab



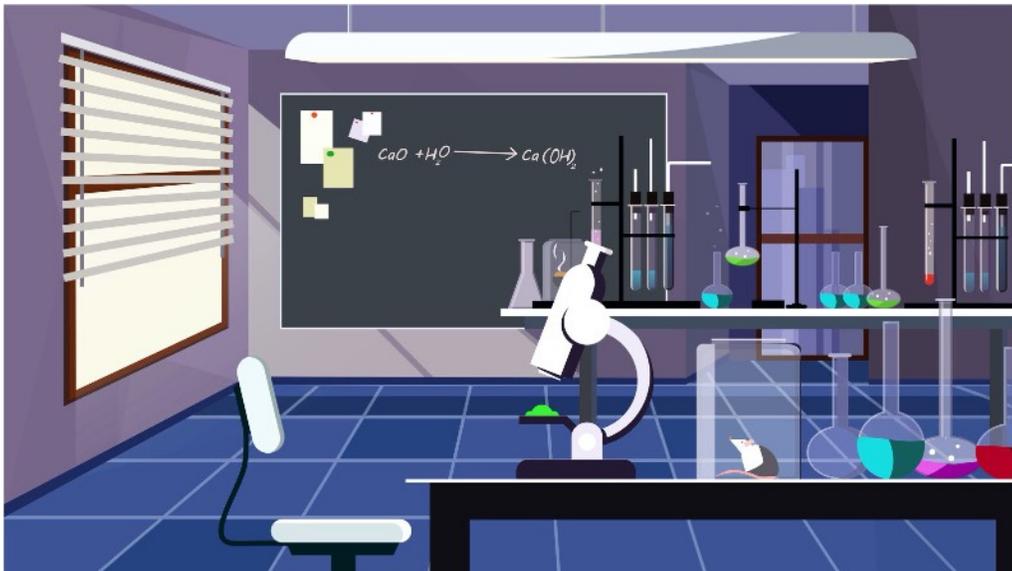
Joe saw a cab.

It was a nice cab.

“I saw a cab,” said Joe.

“It was a nice cab,” he  
said.

# Lab



Joe saw a lab.

It was a nice lab.

“I saw a lab,” said Joe.

“It was a nice lab,” he  
said.

# Bag



Joe saw a bag.

It was a nice bag.

“I saw a bag,” said Joe.

“It was a nice bag,” he  
said.

# Rag



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Joe saw a rag.  
It was a nice rag.  
“I saw a rag,” said Joe.  
“It was a nice rag,” he  
said.

# Yam



Joe saw a yam.

It was a nice yam.

“I saw a yam,” said Joe.

“It was a nice yam,” he  
said.

# Can



Joe saw a can.

It was a nice can.

“I saw a can,” said Joe.

“It was a nice can,” he  
said.

# Fan



Joe saw a fan.

It was a nice fan.

“I saw a fan,” said Joe.

“It was a nice fan,” he  
said.

# Pan



Joe saw a pan.

It was a nice pan.

“I saw a pan,” said Joe.

“It was a nice pan,” he  
said.

# Van



Joe saw a van.

It was a nice van.

“I saw a van,” said Joe.

“It was a nice van,” he  
said.

# Cap



Joe saw a cap.

It was a nice cap.

“I saw a cap,” said Joe.

“It was a nice cap,” he  
said.

# Map



Joe saw a map.

It was a nice map.

“I saw a map,” said Joe.

“It was a nice map,” he  
said.

# Bat



Joe saw a bat.

It was a nice bat.

“I saw a bat,” said Joe.

“It was a nice bat,” he  
said.

# Hat



Joe saw a hat.

It was a nice hat.

“I saw a hat,” said Joe.

“It was a nice hat,” he  
said.

# Mat



Joe saw a mat.

It was a nice mat.

“I saw a mat,” said Joe.

“It was a nice mat,” he  
said.

# Vat



Joe saw a vat.

It was a nice vat.

“I saw a vat,” said Joe.

“It was a nice vat,” he  
said.

# Sax



Joe saw a sax.

It was a nice sax.

“I saw a sax,” said Joe.

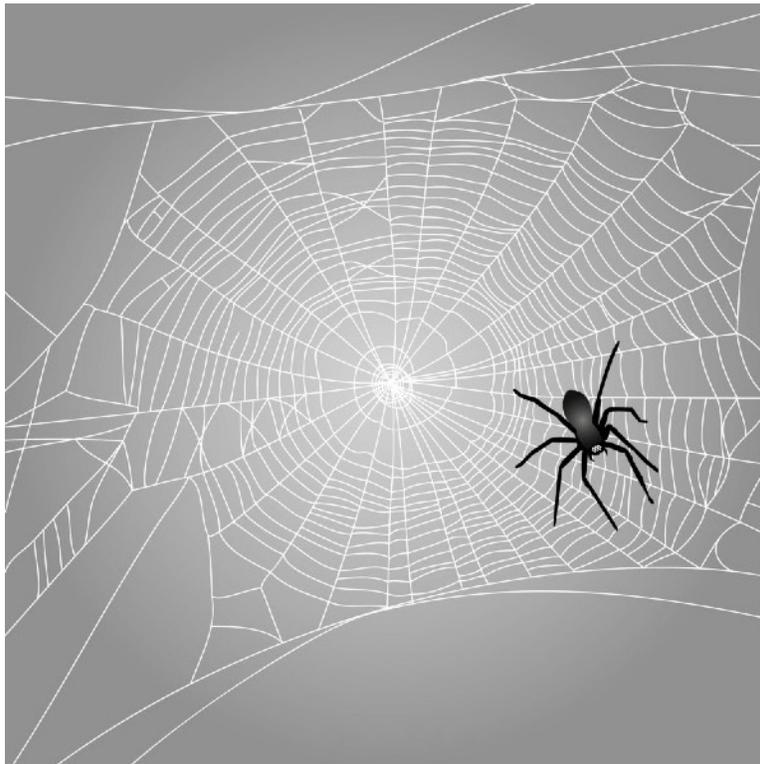
“It was a nice sax,” he  
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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# Joe Saw a Web



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

# Web



Joe saw a web.

It was a cool web.

“I saw a web,” said Joe.

“It was a cool web,” he  
said.

# Gem



Joe saw a gem.

It was a cool gem.

“I saw a gem,” said Joe.

“It was a cool gem,” he  
said.

# Pen



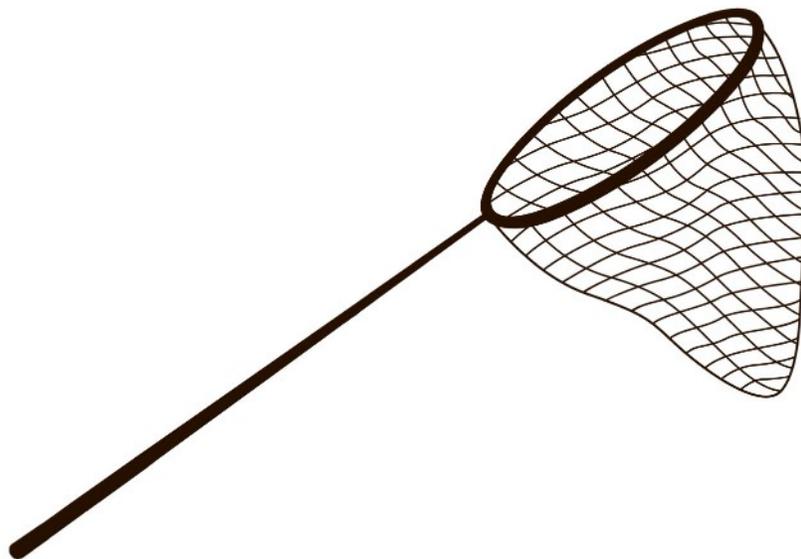
Joe saw a pen.

It was a cool pen.

“I saw a pen,” said Joe.

“It was a cool pen,” he  
said.

# Net



Joe saw a net.

It was a cool net.

“I saw a net,” said Joe.

“It was a cool net,” he  
said.

# Jet



Joe saw a jet.

It was a cool jet.

“I saw a jet,” said Joe.

“It was a cool jet,” he  
said.

# Wig



Joe saw a wig.

It was a cool wig.

“I saw a wig,” said Joe.

“It was a cool wig,” he  
said.

# Bin



Joe saw a bin.

It was a cool bin.

“I saw a bin,” said Joe.

“It was a cool bin,” he  
said.

# Fin



Joe saw a fin.

It was a cool fin.

“I saw a fin,” said Joe.

“It was a cool fin,” he  
said.

# Pin



Joe saw a pin.

It was a cool pin.

“I saw a pin,” said Joe.

“It was a cool pin,” he  
said.

# Rod



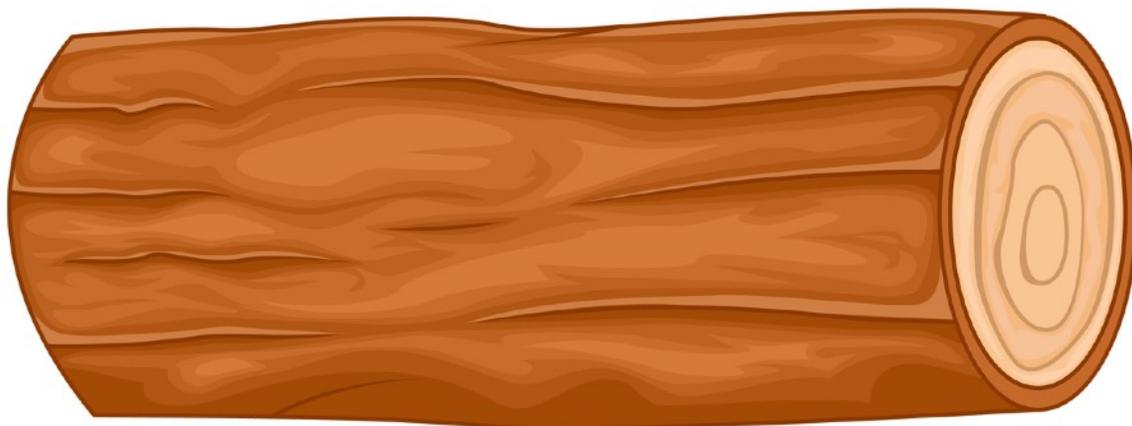
Joe saw a rod.

It was a cool rod.

“I saw a rod,” said Joe.

“It was a cool rod,” he  
said.

# Log



Joe saw a log.

It was a cool log.

“I saw a log,” said Joe.

“It was a cool log,” he  
said.

# Mop



Joe saw a mop.

It was a cool mop.

“I saw a mop,” said Joe.

“It was a cool mop,” he  
said.

# Top



Joe saw a top.

It was a cool top.

“I saw a top,” said Joe.

“It was a cool top,” he  
said.

# Cot



Photograph © Rosenman - [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

Joe saw a cot.  
It was a cool cot.  
“I saw a cot,” said Joe.  
“It was a cool cot,” he  
said.

# Pot



Joe saw a pot.  
It was a cool pot.  
“I saw a pot,” said Joe.  
“It was a cool pot,” he  
said.

# Box



Joe saw a box.  
It was a cool box.  
“I saw a box,” said Joe.  
“It was a cool box,” he  
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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# Joe Saw a Tub



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

Fiction

# Tub



Joe saw a tub.

It was a neat tub.

“I saw a tub,” said Joe.

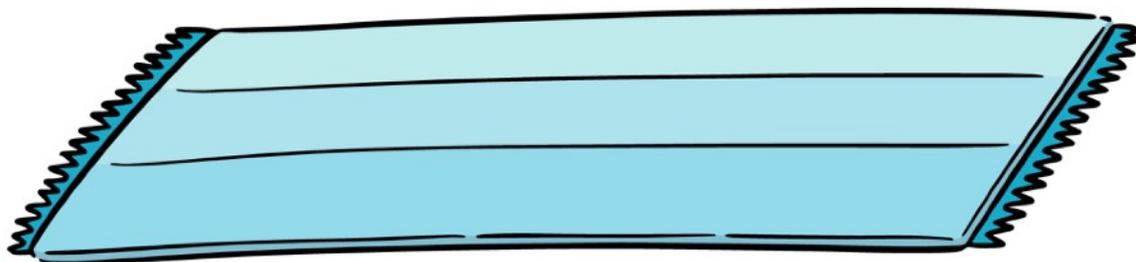
“It was a neat tub,” he  
said.

# Jug



Joe saw a jug.  
It was a neat jug.  
“I saw a jug,” said Joe.  
“It was a neat jug,” he  
said.

# Rug



Joe saw a rug.

It was a neat rug.

“I saw a rug,” said Joe.

“It was a neat rug,” he  
said.

# Bun



Joe saw a bun.

It was a neat bun.

“I saw a bun,” said Joe.

“It was a neat bun,” he  
said.

# Cup



Joe saw a cup.

It was a neat cup.

“I saw a cup,” said Joe.

“It was a neat cup,” he  
said.

# Bus



Joe saw a bus.

It was a neat bus.

“I saw a bus,” said Joe.

“It was a neat bus,” he  
said.

# Hut



Joe saw a hut.

It was a neat hut.

“I saw a hut,” said Joe.

“It was a neat hut,” he  
said.

# Nut



Joe saw a nut.  
It was a neat nut.  
“I saw a nut,” said Joe.  
“It was a neat nut,” he  
said.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.6

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# Joe Went to a Farm



By Clark Ness

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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

Fiction



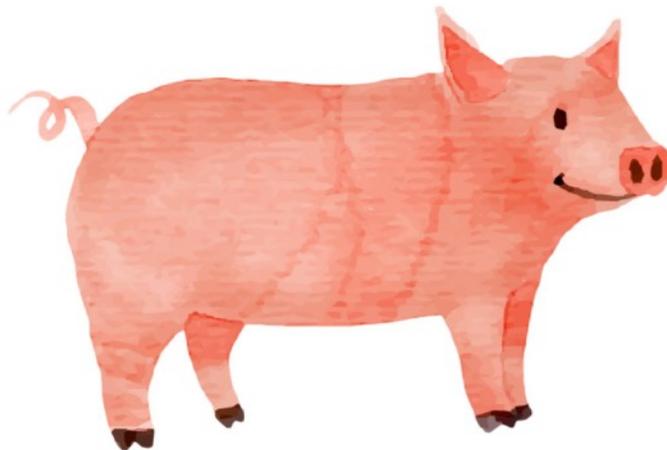
Joe went to a  
farm. He saw a  
horse. It was a nice  
horse.



Joe went to a  
farm. He saw a  
cow. It was a nice  
COW.



Joe went to a  
farm. A donkey was  
there. It was a nice  
donkey.



Joe went to a  
farm. A pig was  
there. It was a nice  
pig.



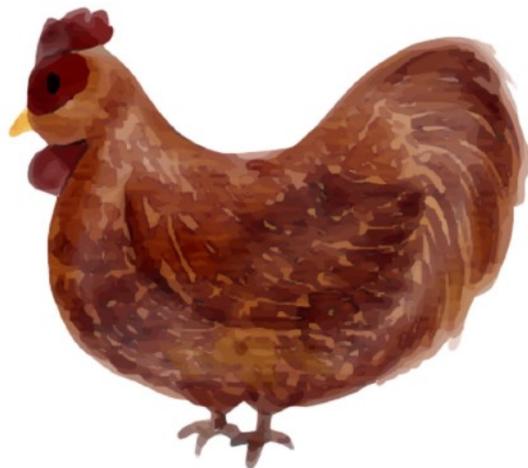
Joe went to a  
farm. There was a  
sheep. It was a nice  
sheep.



Joe went to a  
farm. There was a  
turkey. It was a nice  
turkey.



Joe went to a  
farm. It had a duck.  
It was a nice duck.



Joe went to a  
farm. It had a  
chicken. It was a  
nice chicken.



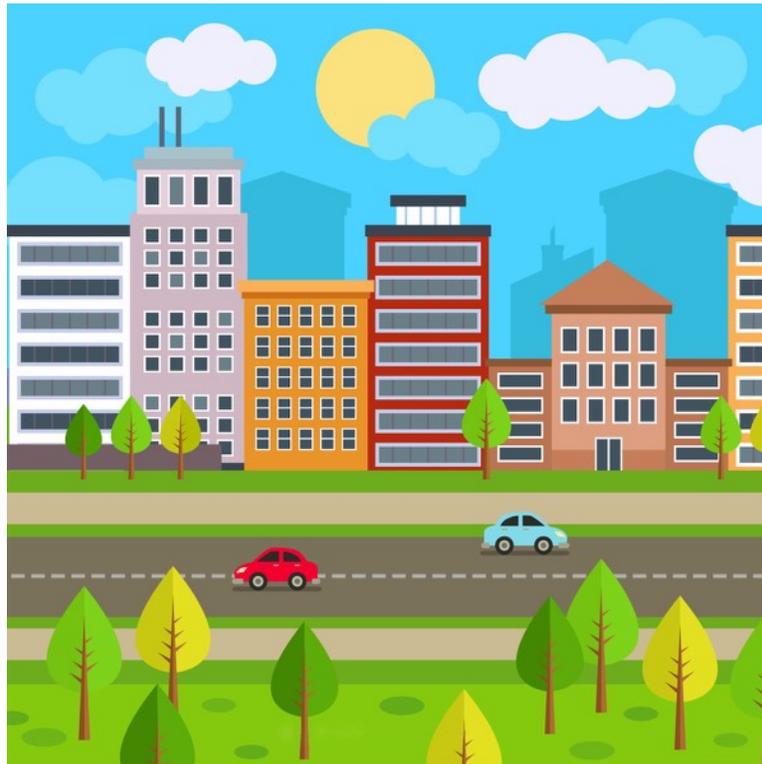
Joe was happy  
that he went to a  
nice farm.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -1.2

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# Joe Went to a City

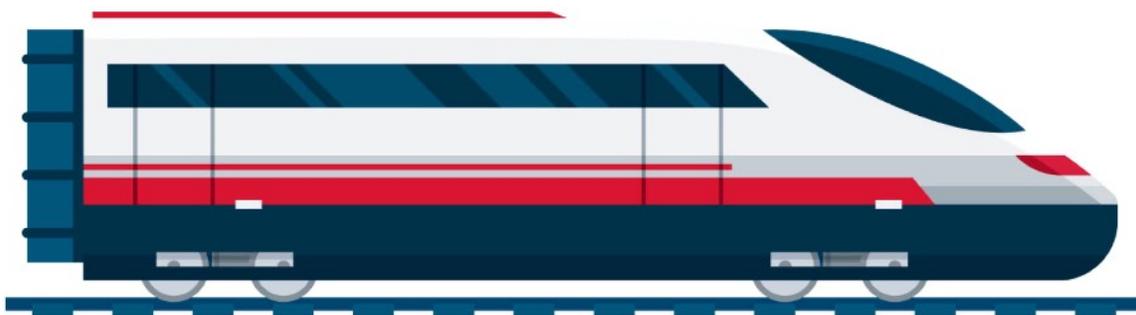


By Clark Ness

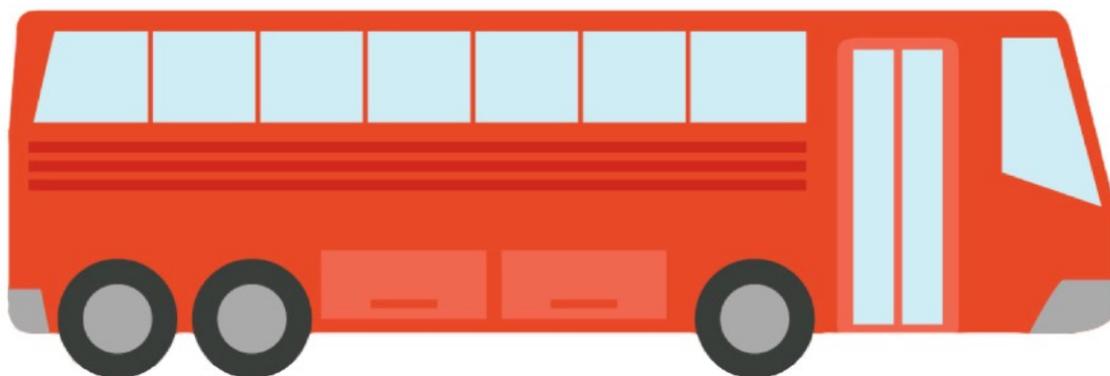
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Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

Fiction



Joe went to a city.  
He saw a train. It  
was a nice train.



Joe went to a city.

He saw a bus. It  
was a nice bus.



Joe went to a city.

A truck was there. It  
was a nice truck.



Joe went to a city.

A fire truck was

there. It was a nice

fire truck.



Joe went to a city.

An ambulance was  
there. It was a nice  
ambulance.



Joe went to a city.

There was a police  
car. It was a nice  
police car.



Joe went to a city.

There was a taxi. It  
was a nice taxi.



Joe went to a city.

There was a

motorcycle. It was a

nice motorcycle.



Joe was happy  
that he went to a  
nice city.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.4

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# Joe Is In This Story



Bird

Cody was a bird. One day he flew past a cat. The cat was on a hill. "What are you doing?" Cody asked the cat.

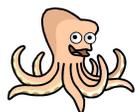
1



Falling Star

One night Cody was outside with his dad. "Help, help!" they heard from up in the sky. "Look, Dad. A star is falling," said Cody.

1



Octopus

One day Cody woke up. He was an octopus. "Mom, I am an octopus," said Cody.

1



Basketball

By Clark Ness

"Good morning, teacher," said Cody as he walked into his classroom before school. "Good morning," said his teacher who was sitting at the teacher's desk. "How can I help you?" "I want to be a basketball," said Cody. "Why do you want to be a basketball?" asked his teacher.

1

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By Clark Ness

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## Bird

Joe was a bird. One day he flew past a cat. The cat was on a hill.

“What are you doing?”  
Joe asked the cat.



“I am sitting on a hill,”  
said the cat.

“Come and fly with me,”  
said Joe.

“I cannot fly,” said the  
cat.

“That is too bad,” said  
Joe.



“I will go and fly all around,” said Joe.

“I will then come back and tell you all about it,” he said.

“That would be nice,” said the cat.



So Joe went and flew  
all around.

He then came back to  
the cat.

Joe told the cat what he  
had seen.

The cat was happy.



“Thank you,” said the  
cat.

“You are welcome,”  
said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level -0.5

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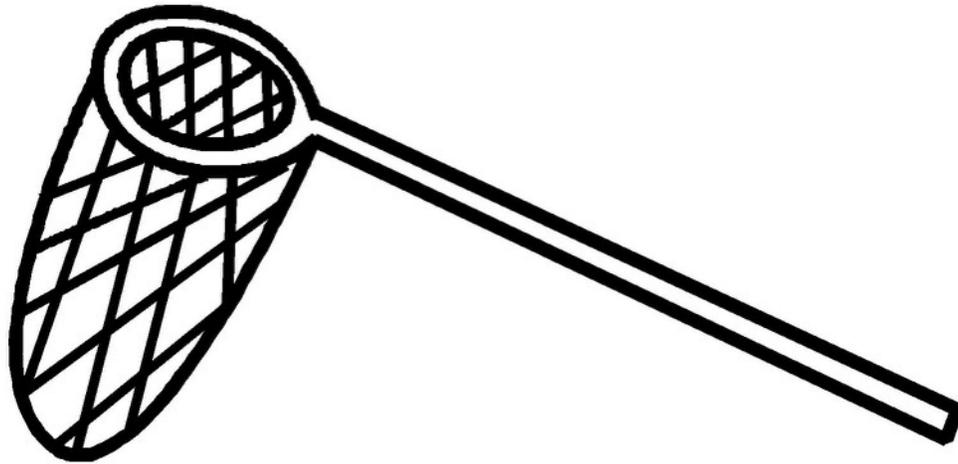


## Falling Star

One night Joe was  
outside with his dad.

"Help, help!" they heard  
from up in the sky.

"Look, Dad. A star is  
falling," said Joe.



"What should we do?"  
said his dad.

"I know what to do,"  
said Joe.

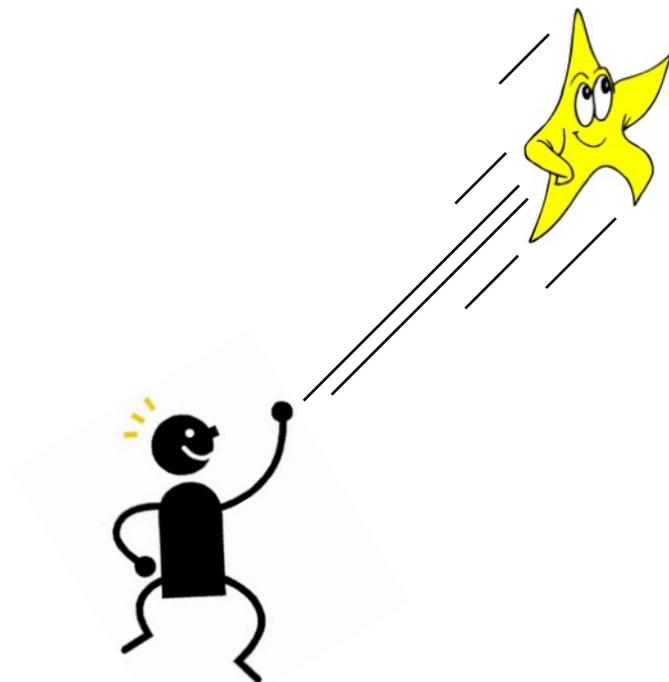
He ran and got a big  
net.



Joe took the net and quickly caught the star just before it hit the ground.

"Thanks for saving me," said the star.

"What should we do with this star now?" asked Joe's dad.



"We need to throw it back up into the sky," said Joe.

Joe grabbed the star out of the net and threw it back up into the sky.



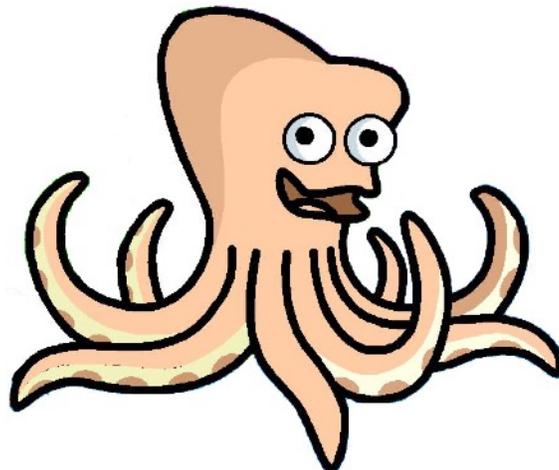
"Thanks so much," said the star from high up in the sky.

Joe was proud that he had saved a falling star.

Flesch Kincaid Grade Level -0.1

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## Octopus

One day Joe woke up.  
He was an octopus.

“Mom, I am an  
octopus,” said Joe.



“That is nice. Now figure out what to do with your eight arms,” said his mom.

Joe thought and thought.

“I think I will play some music,” he said.



He got out a guitar and played it.

He got out a trumpet and played it.

He got out a drum and played it.

He then got out a maraca and played it.



“I bet I can play all of these at once with my eight arms,” said Joe.

He picked up the maraca. He put the drum next to him. He picked up the trumpet. He then picked up the guitar.



He began to play music with the guitar, the trumpet, the drum, and the maraca.

“Your band sounds great,” said his mother.

“Thanks, Mom. It is fun to be a one octopus band,” said Joe.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 1.0

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# Basketball

By Clark Ness

“Good morning, Teacher,” said Joe as he walked into his classroom before school.

“Good morning,” said his teacher who was sitting at the teacher’s desk.

“How can I help you?”

“I want to be a basketball,” said Joe.

“Why do you want to be a basketball?” asked his teacher.



“I think it would be fun to fly in the air and then go *swish* through the basketball net,” replied Joe.

“Okay you can become a basketball. Please come over here,” said the teacher. Joe’s teacher reached inside the teacher’s desk and pulled out the lucky buffalo coin. Joe walked over to the teacher’s desk. His teacher held the coin above Joe’s head.

“Basketball, basketball, basketball,” said the teacher.



There was a loud *poof*, followed by some white smoke, and Joe was a basketball.

One of Joe's friends walked into the classroom just at that time.

“Do you want to go out and play basketball?” asked Joe the basketball. His friend stopped right in his tracks and looked at the talking basketball.

“How can a basketball talk?” he asked.



“It’s me, Joe,” said Joe. “Our teacher used the lucky buffalo coin and turned me into a basketball.”

“Boy, you must have done something really bad for our teacher to turn you into a basketball,” said the friend.

“No, I didn’t. I asked our teacher to turn me into a basketball because I wanted to be a basketball,” said Joe with a big smile.



“You kids can go outside and play,” said the teacher. “You have about five minutes before school will start. Just remember to bring Joe back inside.”

Joe’s friend grabbed Joe the basketball and ran outside with him.

“Cool basketball,” said the other kids on the playground.

“It is just me, your friend, Joe,” said the basketball.

“Neat,” said the kids.



The kids all played basketball with Joe the basketball.

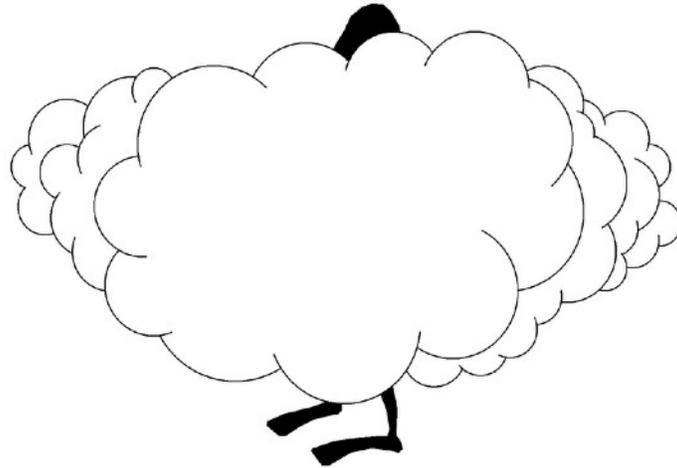
“Does it hurt being a basketball?” asked one of the friends.

“Not a bit,” said Joe. “Shoot me through the hoop again.”

One of the kids picked up Joe and took a shot. *Swish* went Joe.

“That sure is fun,” said Joe.  
“Thanks.”

The school bell then rang. Joe’s friend went back into the classroom with Joe and walked over to their teacher.



The teacher held up the lucky buffalo coin and said, “Joe, Joe, Joe.” There was a *poof*, then some white smoke, and Joe was Joe the boy again.

“Thank you. It was a lot of fun being a basketball. Maybe tomorrow I can be a baseball,” said Joe.

“I am glad you had fun. We can see about you being a baseball tomorrow. Now, time for school,” said the teacher.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 2.6

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