

### The Ant Hill 1.1

Dad and I took a hike in the woods. We walked for a long time and stopped to take a rest. We sat down on a log and had a drink of water. A big hill was nearby.

Dad said, "Look, there's an ant hill."

I walked up to the hill and took a closer peek. At first it looked just like a dirt hill. Then I noticed a few ants running around. I looked closer. I saw little ants carrying pieces of mushroom. The pieces were almost as big as the ants.

"What are they doing, Dad?" I asked.

"They're taking food inside the hill. They probably have thousands of ants to feed inside." Dad said, "Watch this." He gently poked a twig into a small hole on the hill. All of a sudden, many ants came out.

"The ants are on alert, trying to protect their hill," he said.

I bent down to look closer. Some ants climbed on my shoes.

"We should leave now," Dad said. Dad and I walked and walked until we were home. Now whenever I see one ant, I stop and think about the city of ants they might be feeding and protecting.

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<u>Practice in class</u>	<u>Practice at home</u>
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Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Rainy Day Picnic 1.2**

**I was so sad. This was the day we were going to the park for a picnic. I wanted to go to the playground. I wanted to swing. I wanted to lay on the grass and look up at the fluffy clouds. But that morning it was raining. There were puddles everywhere. And we could hear thunder. I started to cry.**

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**My mother said, "Wait! We will still have the picnic!"**

**I cried, "But how? It won't be fun if it's wet!"**

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**She told me to sit down and read a book. Then she said she'd make an indoor picnic for us. I could hear her doing things in the kitchen. She told me not to look. Then, when she was ready, she said to come into the living room.**

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**I saw a blanket on the rug. I saw the picnic basket full of sandwiches and potato chips and fruit. I saw pillows to lie on. My mother was wearing her straw hat and sunglasses.**

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**"Come on," she said. "It's picnic time!"**

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**It was the best rainy-day picnic I ever went to.**

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<u>Practice in class</u>	<u>Practice at home</u>
<b>M</b> _____	<b>M</b> _____
<b>T</b> _____	<b>T</b> _____
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**Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

### Visiting Aunt Rose 1.3

**My Aunt Rose invited me to spend the weekend. Aunt Rose doesn't have kids. She said I could be her kid for two days. She's like my big sister.**

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**I like to go to visit my Aunt Rose's home. She likes to do the same things I like. I like to go swimming. So does my Aunt Rose. The pool where she goes also has a hot tub. I like to sit in the hot tub. So does my Aunt Rose. I always bring my swimming suit when I visit.**

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**Our weekend was perfect. On Saturday we went out for breakfast. I had strawberry pancakes with whipped cream. Then we went shopping. She bought me a pink shirt. Then we went swimming and sat in the hot tub.**

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**On Sunday she helped me make oatmeal cookies. Then we painted each other's nails. Our fingers and toes match. They are bright pink. Then we went to the movies. We saw *The Lion King*.**

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**Aunt Rose drove me home. I handed my mother a plate of the oatmeal cookies. I showed my brother my new shirt. Dad admired my bright pink nails.**

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**"Dad," I asked, "Could I live at Aunt Rose's?"**

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**"No," he said. "If you went there all the time it wouldn't be a special treat."**

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<u>Practice in class</u>	<u>Practice at home</u>
M _____	M _____
T _____	T _____
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Th _____	Th _____

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**The Robin’s Nest 1.4**

<b>There was a robin’s nest outside our kitchen window. The nest was in a tall bush. The mother robin sat in the nest all day long. One day when I was watching, the mother bird flew away. I saw the eggs she was sitting on. There were four blue eggs.</b>	<b>10 25 37 50</b>
<b>I watched and watched. Pretty soon the eggs started to move. I watched some more until the eggs started to crack. Finally, the eggs hatched. I saw four baby birds. The baby birds opened their beaks wide. I heard them peeping. Soon the mother bird came back. Then the mother robin put worms in their mouths.</b>	<b>61 73 85 96 106</b>
<b>Every day I watched the baby birds and their mother. Pretty soon the babies were so fat there was no room for the mother. Then one morning the nest was gone from the bush.</b>	<b>117 130 140</b>
<b>“Mom!” I cried. “Something has happened to the robins!”</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>We went outside and looked around. The nest lay on the ground. It was still in one piece. But there were no robins anywhere. Just then, we heard chirping. We looked up, just in time to see five robins fly away.</b>	<b>160 172 183 190</b>
<b>Goodbye, little robins!</b>	<b>193</b>

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**Parent’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Rock Collection 1.5**

**I started a rock collection. It began when I visited the coast. There were so many rocks on the beach. They were wet and shiny from the water. They came in many beautiful colors. They were pink, green, black, and white. Some rocks had been worn by the waves. One even had a hole in it. When the rocks dried they were not so colorful.**

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**I found more rocks when we went to the desert. They are made of sandstone. They are dark red and tan. They are rough. Some sparkle like gold and silver.**

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**When we went to the mountains I found more rocks. They are red and full of little holes. They are called lava. Lava is rock that became so hot it melted. Then it cooled. There are different kinds of lava. Some kinds of lava are shiny and black. They feel like glass.**

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**My favorite rocks came from the river. They are round and smooth. They got that way when the water ran over and over them.**

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**I like rock collecting. Wherever I go, I can pick up new rocks. It doesn't cost a penny. I keep my rocks in a shoebox under my bed. I'm going to take them to school for sharing day.**

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<b>M</b> _____	<b>M</b> _____
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## The Snow Person 1.6

This morning when I woke up it was freezing cold. I looked out and the ground was covered with white. It had snowed during the night. Mom said there would be no school because of the snow. She said I could go outside and play in the snow. I had to eat a hot breakfast first.

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I dressed in my warm clothes. I wore mittens and a stocking cap. Mom helped me with my rubber boots. I was so bundled up I could hardly walk.

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The grass was covered with soft snow and it was very quiet. Then all my friends came out to play. It wasn't quiet for long! My friends helped me make a snow person. We made snowballs first. We rolled them up until they were big. Then we stacked three big balls of snow on top of each other.

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Mom let us use one of Dad's old hats. We used rocks for buttons and eyes. My friend found a carrot to use for the nose. We made arms from branches and ears from small snowballs. Our snow person sure looked handsome.

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Then we lay down on the snow. We moved our legs and arms back and forth. That's how you make snow angels. Mom brought out cups of steaming hot chocolate. They had marshmallows on top and tasted wonderful.

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The next morning all that snow had melted. Only the hat lay where the snow person had been.

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