The Perez Twins, Carla and Carlos, are determined to win this year’s science fair. Because they are fabulous, they definitely don’t want to do anything boring. What could be less boring than a machine that needs no power and never stops? Gathered together with parents, a reporter, and their friends Larry and Effie, they give their perpetual motion machine a test run to make sure it works. The machine does seem to run forever, but with one small problem—everything in the house that runs on electricity stops working! The fabulous twins lose no time looking for another fabulous project to enter in the science fair.

Activity
People throughout history have come up with ideas for inventions that aren’t possible. Think of a crazy invention that would help you and your family if only you could make it work. The more fantastic it is, the better! Either draw a diagram of your machine with labels for the different parts, or write a description about what it does and how it works.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know
Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading The Fabulous Perpetual Motion Machine. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words
applauds shows approval by clapping hands, shouting, etc.
browsing looking here and there
fabulous wonderful; exciting
inspecting looking over carefully; examining
project a special assignment planned and carried out by a student or group of students

Comprehension Skill
Sequence
Sequence is the order in which the events of a story or article take place, from first to last. Clue words such as first, next, and then may show sequence, but not always. Other clues are dates and times of day. Sometimes two events happen at the same time. Clue words that show this are meanwhile and in that same year.
Sequence

- **Sequence** is the order in which events take place, from first to last.
- Clue words such as *first, next, and then* may show sequence in a story or article, but not always.
- Several events can occur at the same time. Words such as *meanwhile* and *during* give clues that two events are happening at the same time.

**Directions** Read the passage. Then use the diagram and the passage to answer the questions.

I went to an astronomy conference last week. Before attending any of the lectures I signed in and was given my free copy of *Earth: Its History and Future*. My favorite lecture was the very first one on the first day of the conference. The only speaker that I didn't enjoy was the person who spoke about Einstein's theories. It was great to be a part of the award ceremony at the close of the conference on the last day, but I have to admit that I was very tired at that point. Other than that, I learned a lot and would recommend the conference to anyone.

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<th>Mon.</th>
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<th>Wed.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Black Holes in our Galaxy</td>
<td>Einstein's Theories</td>
<td>Asteroids and the Earth</td>
<td>Jupiter's Moons</td>
<td>Supernovas</td>
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<td>1:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Life in Our Solar System</td>
<td>Space Travel in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Supernovas</td>
<td>The Expansion of the Universe</td>
<td>The Future of NASA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. What is the first thing the author did? 

2. What was topic of the first lecture on Wednesday? 

3. Which lecture was given right after lunch on Monday? 

4. On what day and time did the speaker discuss Einstein's Theories? 

5. What was the last part of the conference? 

**Home Activity** Your child read a passage including a schedule of lectures to determine sequence. Work with your child to have him or her produce a weekly schedule of extracurricular activities or chores. Then ask your child questions about the sequence of his or her activities.
**Vocabulary**

**Directions** Choose the word from the box that best matches each definition. Write the word on the line.

1. examining closely

2. claps hands in appreciation

3. especially good or unique

4. tasks planned and performed to achieve a specific goal

5. viewing randomly or casually

**Directions** Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line.

6. Building the scenery for the spring play was a _______, or plan, that took us most of March to complete.

7. After carefully examining, or _______, the burned building, the chief decided that the fire had been an accident.

8. _______ through the latest catalog, Shelly found just the right hat to go with the jacket she’d bought last weekend.

9. If Dr. Omachi _______ after a performance, you know that the orchestra was excellent.

10. I can’t remember a more _______ warm, sunny summer day.

**Write a Newspaper Article**

On a separate piece of paper, write a newspaper article about an imaginary new invention. Describe one or two failures the inventor experienced before he or she was successful. Use as many of the vocabulary words as you can.

**Home Activity** Your child identified and used vocabulary words from *The Fabulous Perpetual Motion Machine*. Choose items in the room where you and your child are sitting. See if your child can guess what you are describing based on the clues you offer.
Words with Schwa

<table>
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<td>factory</td>
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<td>garage</td>
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<td>pajamas</td>
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<td>operate</td>
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<td>celery</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Word Clues  Write the list word that fits each clue.

1. This may have rides, contests, costumes, and parades.  1. _______
2. This type of place has palm trees and year-round warm weather.  2. _______
3. This is a type of board for special announcements.  3. _______
4. This is what you do at birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays.  4. _______
5. This is a time that is not yesterday or today.  5. _______
6. This is where royalty lives and rules.  6. _______
7. This green vegetable has long, crisp stalks.  7. _______
8. This is anything with fancy, classic style.  8. _______
9. This is what you do when you draw pictures.  9. _______
10. This is a kind of nightwear. 10. _______

Words in Context  Write the list word that best completes each sentence.

11. The national ____ is a counting of everyone who lives in the U.S.  11. _______
12. Can you ____ the number of students in your school?  12. _______
13. Our car needs to be put in the ____ for the night.  13. _______
14. We’ll need to fill the tank with ____.  14. _______
15. That ____ makes parts for lawnmowers.  15. _______
16. Air conditioning is used in places with lots of heat and ____.  16. _______
17. The doctor had to ____ on me to remove my appendix.  17. _______
18. A diamond is a valuable and precious ____.  18. _______
19. The largest city in Illinois is ____  19. _______
20. That was one ____ roller coaster ride!  20. _______

Home Activity  Your child wrote words with the schwa sound. Ask your child to spell three list words, telling you where the schwa sound is in each word.
Vocabulary • Multiple-Meaning Words

- Some words have more than one meaning. They are called multiple-meaning words.
- When you see a word you don't know, you may find clues about the word's meaning in the words near the unknown word. These are called context clues.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below. Use context clues to help you.

The two-wheeled vehicle known as the bicycle was invented in Europe in the nineteenth century. A French version, called a “boneshaker,” ran on wooden wheels covered with iron. Its front wheel was slightly larger than the rear one. As indicated by its name, this was not a comfortable bike to ride.

In the 1880s, the English inventor John Kemp Starley took on the project of improving the bicycle. In 1885, he manufactured the Rover Safety Bicycle, a more stable bike. The air-filled tire and the “bicycle built for two,” or tandem bicycle, contributed to the popularity of the bicycle in the 1890s.

Today, many cyclists still applaud the bicycle as a convenient and flexible way to get from place to place. Because bikes don’t pollute, many people consider them a fabulous way to get around town.

1. What context clues helped you figure out the meaning of stable?

2. What is another meaning of stable?

3. What are two meanings of the word tire?

4. How do you know which meaning of tire is used here?
Advertisement

- An advertisement is meant to sell a product or service. Written advertisements may appear in newspapers or on the Internet. Advertisers use many techniques to persuade the reader.
- Loaded words affect the reader by creating emotions or making value judgments.
- A slogan is a short phrase that is easily remembered.
- A generality is vague. It lacks specific details and supporting evidence and facts.
- Getting on the bandwagon is another way of saying “everyone else does it.”
- A sweeping generalization has inadequate evidence and speaks for a large group.

Directions Read this advertisement for a car dealership and answer the questions.

Best Deals Ever on Pre-Loved Cars!

If you've ever wanted a luxury sports car with all the extras, now's the time to buy. Carz-for-U Sales is having its biggest sale ever on many of its top-of-the-line sports cars. Most cars come equipped with many of the latest luxury features! Choose from the exciting new fluorescent colors that everyone's buying. These are orange, white, green, or pink. Have you had credit card problems? Don't worry. We always find a way for you to buy your dream car with a just small down payment. Carz-for-U Sales—the best deals on wheels!

1. Which technique is the advertisement’s headline an example of? Why do you think the advertiser calls the cars “pre-loved” instead of “pre-owned” or “used”?

2. Which technique is being used in the third sentence?

3. Which sentence in the ad uses the getting-on-the-bandwagon technique?

4. The advertiser says that at Carz-for-U Sales, “We always find a way for you to buy your dream car with just a small down payment.” What kind of technique is being used? What doesn’t the advertiser tell the reader?

5. How might this advertisement be different if it were made for TV?
ACT NOW!

**Diamond Classic Plus**

New, Promotional 5.9% APR! *  
- No annual fee  
- Online account and bill payment  
- FREE additional cards  
- Special cardmember privileges

Your Credit Limit: Up to $15,000  
Reply within 10 days

Can you believe it? The holidays are just around the corner. Impress your friends with your new **Diamond Classic Plus Card** with no annual fee.

Save hundreds of dollars with free coupons to your favorite stores and restaurants—as part of your cardmember privileges. All you have to do is sign up before December 1. Pay your bill online and save with our special online Shopping Mall. Need cash? You can use your new card to receive cash within seconds.*

How can you benefit from this offer? It’s easy. Just fill out the Application below and mail it today!

*See details on reverse.

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6. List two statements the advertiser uses to convince the reader to take immediate action.

7. Identify three examples of loaded words used in the advertisement.

8. The advertiser uses an asterisk twice to refer to the note at the bottom of the page. Why do you think the advertiser refers the reader to the other side of the letter?

9. List three services or extras the advertiser offers beyond being able to buy now and pay later.

10. Would this advertisement most likely appear on a billboard or in a letter mailed to a person’s home? Why do you think so?

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**School + Home**  
Home Activity  
Your child learned about advertisements. Write an advertisement for an imaginary product or service with your child using some of the advertising techniques your child has learned about. Discuss how the advertisement tries to persuade the reader.

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Research and Study Skills
Words with Schwa

Proofread a Letter  Laura wrote this letter to her aunt. Circle six spelling errors. Write the words correctly. Find one punctuation error. Write the sentence correctly.

Dear Aunt Betty,

Next week we will celebrate at the carnaval. We’ve been decorating a float. Our theme will be the city of Chicago. The city has many elegant buildings. We want to illustrate this on our float. We were a little off on our estimate of how long it would take to complete it. It probably won’t be easy to get this beautiful, decorated platform out of the garage. Even so, we are looking forward to a terrific day!

1. 2.
3. 4.
5. 6.

Proofread Words  Circle the correct spelling of the list word.

8. We moved to a ____ climate this winter.
   tropical tropical tropickle
9. The ____ made people feel sticky when they went outside.
   humidity humiduty humidety
10. My favorite ____ have feet in them.
    pajamas pajamers pajamas
11. The ____ shows that the population of our town has doubled.
    sensus census censis
12. The weather ____ says that snow is on the way!
    bullatin ‘bulliten bulletin

Home Activity  Your child identified misspelled words with schwa. Have your child tell you the three hardest words and then spell the words aloud.
Dramas, or plays, are stories that are to be acted out for an audience. Dramas are divided into numbered acts and scenes consisting mainly of dialogue and stage directions for the actors. Characteristics of dramas include the following:

- Characters and setting
- Dialogue
- Scenes

Directions As you read *The Fabulous Perpetual Motion Machine*, look for examples of characters and setting, dialogue, and scenes. Write those examples below.

Characters and Setting

Dialogue

Scenes

Explore the Genre

Think about characters and setting, dialogue, and scenes in another drama that you've read. What similarities and differences do you find between that drama and *The Fabulous Perpetual Motion Machine*? Write about it. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.
Words with Schwa

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Synonyms: Write the list word that has the same or nearly the same meaning.

1. great
2. festival
3. count
4. carport
5. tasteful
6. gem
7. rejoice
8. nightclothes
9. moisture
10. guess

Scramble: Unscramble the list words and write them on the lines.

11. seloaing
12. slurtileat
13. tulelin
14. wormorto
15. plorcita
16. troycaf
17. torapee
18. coaCgih
19. midkong
20. rylcee

Home Activity: Your child learned to spell words with the schwa sound. Ask your child to name three words with this sound and spell them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Time</th>
<th>Title and Author</th>
<th>What Is It about?</th>
<th>How would you rate it?</th>
<th>Explain your rating.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td>Great</td>
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<td>From _____ to _____</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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