



HONEYCOMB

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Honeycomb

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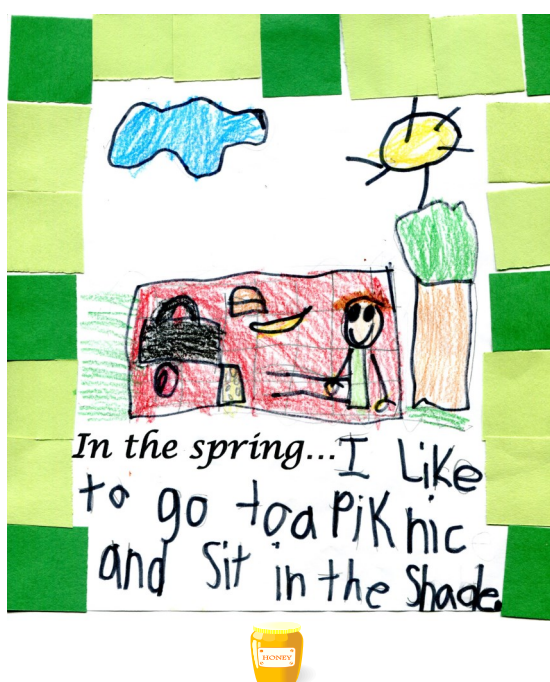
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Spring Picnic

Ricardo R.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Watson



The Editors' Corner

Goodbye, Mr. Curley

Six years ago, we wrote, "Welcome, Mr. Curley!" You'd already been with us for several months at that point, and had already put your stamp on things. We loved it.

Now it's time to say goodbye. We only have a few more days together. We know we'll see you at district events, and march next to you at the Irvine Junior Games. We will miss your positive attitude, your sense of humor, and your commitment to students.

Thank you for all you have done for Bonita Canyon. Thank you, particularly for your support of writing, in all its forms.

Best wishes for a successful launch of Beacon Park. We know you'll be a great principal there, just like you were here.

More or Less Homework?

Megan E.

Fifth Grade

Miss Walsh



I think schools should have less homework. By that, I mean schools should have a limited amount of homework, not cancel all homework out. In the text "Rethinking Homework", by Brenda Iasevoli, it says that second and third grade students should receive up to thirty minutes of homework, and fourth and fifth grade could receive up to fifty minutes of homework. Some homework is good, but too much could be a problem.

Some teachers are right. Homework prepares students for the future, but too much is just repetitive. If you keep just speeding up more and more on learning, there will be no more to learn. Harris Cooper, of Duke University, also says that when kids get tired, they turn off after a while, and they are no longer learning anything new! Too much homework can cause a repetition of education.

Homework can sometimes get in the way of fun time with your family. It might also affect your sleeping schedule. Jacob Berg, a teacher in Lydiksen Elementary, says that kids should be able to relax on the weekends! After all, isn't that what weekends are for? Weekends should be hassle free, not full of stressful homework!

Free weekends and steady education result from less homework, not full-of-over-learning and no-time-to-do-weekend-stuff! Those are my reasons why I think less homework is better.



The Hero in My Family

Faraz A.

Second Grade

Mrs. Gramata & Mrs. Pursley

A hero is someone who other people look up to. The hero in my family is my dad. First, my dad is a role model. He is a role model because he sets a good example for me. He also teaches me for homework. This is how my dad is a role model. Next, my dad is smart. He is smart because he wants to go to Mexico. Another reason my dad is smart is he eats food. He is the smartest person I know. Finally, my dad is fair because he doesn't pick favorites. He also follows the rules. This is very fair.



The French Language

Ryan C.
Sixth Grade
Miss Reeser

Essential Question: What is the origin of French and where is it spoken?

French is a Romance language. Other Romance languages are Spanish and Italian. French is the official language of 30 countries, three of those countries being France, Congo and Canada. French is still spoken in many other countries, such as the United States. The language descended from Latin and uses the Roman alphabet. Standard French is based off of the Paris dialect, Francien. Ten percent of France is made up of immigrants and French isn't their first language. However, they still speak French as their second language. It is the first language of 75 million people. French has been the official language of France since 1459. In the United States, Louisiana and Maine are the two states that have the most French speakers.

The first appearance of French was in 842 AD. It appeared in the Strasbourg Oath. In the 10th-11th centuries it was seen in writings, religions and documents. By the 13th century, French started to be used more and more. From the 17th to 20th century, French was the diplomatic or international language.

Today, new French words are controlled by *The French Academy*. *The French Academy* is made up of 40 people who decide if new French words should be allowed into the official dictionary. *Franglais* is a mixture of French and other languages, and it is illegal to be used in public announcements and/or advertisements. Public *Franglais* has been illegal since 1994, and the law was passed by the legislative branch. You can only make public announcements in standard French.

French is the official language, or very commonly spoken, in five European countries, three Australian/Pacific countries, five countries in the Caribbean/Americas and 29 African countries. Some French words that are used in America or in English are ballet (a type of dance), bouquet (bunch of flowers), decor (decorations), depot (Home Depot), entrepreneur (founder or creator of something), fiancé (engaged), genre (type), Mardi Gras (a party/holiday in New Orleans), omelet (breakfast dish), role (in a play), reservoir (artificial lake) and silhouette (shadow).



This is a bouquet of flowers. The word "bouquet" is French.



Ballet is a form of dance. "Ballet" is French.



The Great Hawk

Ryan H.

Third Grade
Mrs. Oehlman



I think hawks are the most amazing birds in the world. One reason I admire hawks is because they are awesome hunters. I believe they are great hunters because they have incredible eyesight, which gives them an advantage over their prey. Additionally, I think it's cool that they use their beak and claws to catch food. Their beaks are so sharp that once it sinks into their prey, it dies instantly. How cool is that?!

In my opinion, hawks are interesting birds. For example, they fly fast in low areas within the forest and somehow they can avoid hitting trees. I like that about them, because that means they have great accuracy when flying. In addition, I think it's intriguing that hawks are related to many other types of birds. For instance, they are related to eagles, harriers, buzzards, and some types of vultures. Don't you think that's fascinating?

Lastly, hawks have an interesting appearance. I love that they have long tails and short, rounded wings. Some hawks have grey backs and a brown underside, which looks beautiful. On top of that, their fur and feathers look incredibly soft. As can be seen, hawks are amazing birds.

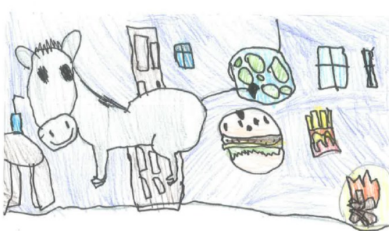


If You Give a Donkey Some Hamburgers

Ethan C.

First Grade
Miss Nguyen

If you give a donkey some hamburgers, he'll want some French fries to go with it. You'll need to take him to McDonald's. When he goes inside, he's going to see a basketball game on TV. He'll want to play. He'll call his friends to meet at the Bonita Canyon playground to play basketball. All the running up and down will make him tired. He'll want to go inside the classroom and relax and draw with his colored pencils. The colored pencils will remind him of long yellow French fries. He'll ask you for some. And chances are...if you give him French fries, he'll want some hamburgers to go with it.



Levi Strauss

Eli F.

Fourth Grade
Miss Porter

Most people know Levi Strauss as the creator of the blue jeans, which helped miners in the California Gold Rush carry their tools. That is true, but there is much, much more to his life besides being a famous entrepreneur.

Levi was born in the city of Buttenhiem, in Bavaria, on February 26, 1829. He was the baby of Hirsch Strauss and his second wife, Rebecca Haas Strauss. In the Strauss family, Levi was the youngest of three older brothers and three older sisters. Two of Levi's oldest brothers owned a store, making most of the Strauss family's money. The dry goods store that they owned was called "J. Strauss & Brothers Co" and it never ran out of business.

Levi got out of a Catholic school with successful grades, and made it to Wedler Junior High.

It was an awful event in Levi's life when his dad died of tuberculosis, a disease that was going around Bavaria at the time. His family became broke, and right about then, Buttenheim heard about the Gold Rush. Levi was the one in his family who had to set out for the family to make a fortune. He wasn't very lucky with finding gold and soon found out that this was not his favorite idea. He decided to open a "J. Strauss Brothers & Co." on the west side of the U.S. He started the store in San Francisco. At work one day, Levi met a woman, who asked if he could make a strong pair of pants for her husband. Levi met a tailor named Jacob Davis. It was Davis who got the idea of selling blue jeans made of denim, a strong material. The jeans were made to also help miners carry tools in their back pockets. It worked! Miners from all over the goldfields came to buy the blue jeans processed by Levi Strauss. It was amazing how Levi made a fortune, not on gold findings, but on selling those denim-blue jeans.

Levi Strauss's life ended up revolving around processing jeans and selling them. He was rich! He hired people to do some of his jean-processing work and lived in a humongous house. If you look in clothing stores these days, you will see how his jeans are still a popular fashion style today!

I would think it would be cool to go to the California Gold Rush to seek a fortune.... And doing it off selling jeans would be even cooler! Levi Strauss was important in the Gold Rush because he did a fabulous job of inventing jeans that could hold miners' equipment in the back pockets. There is a big chance that Davis and Levi's work on jeans will stay in business for a long time.

Levi Strauss lived a long and dedicated life. He ended up dying on September 26, 1902 in his huge house in San Francisco. Levi's partner, Jacob Davis, died in 1908, 6 years after Levi's death. In the fashion world, Strauss is always a favorite.



What Kind of Sports and Games do South African People Play?

Emma Z.

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Pipp & Mrs. Cassaro



South Africa has many different types of sports and games. Some of the most popular sports that South Africans play are football (soccer), cricket, rugby, and track and field. A popular South African board game is called “Morabaraba.”

Soccer is the most popular sport in South Africa. Unlike people in the United States, South Africans call soccer “football.” Many South African children dream of become famous football stars. Everywhere in Africa kids can be found playing soccer. Some

of the famous South African football stars are: Yaya Toure, Didier Drogba, and Michael Essien.

Cricket is another sport that is popular in South Africa. Most African countries learned the sport of cricket from early English and Dutch settlers. South Africans originally thought of cricket as a “white” sport. Yet cricket is the sport that has made the most important contributions to social and political reforms in South Africa. South African cricket organizers regularly hold training, support and talent search programs in poor communities.

Unfortunately, the popularity of cricket in South Africa was hurt in 2000. The captain of most famous Proteas cricket team, Hansie Cronje, was charged with a crime for illegally gambling. Cronje took bribes in return for losing cricket matches. Proteas was once among the best cricket teams in the world. It is still trying to regain the trust of the cricket community after Cronje’s crimes.

Major cricket competitions take place in Africa from November until March (South Africa’s summer months). There are national competitions called the “Supersport Series,” which run for 4 days. There are also single day matches called “Standard Bank Cup” matches.

Rugby is also a popular sport in South Africa. Rugby was also brought to South Africa by early Dutch and English settlers. Rugby is still very important to the “white” population of South Africa. In particular, the Afrikaners (descendants of the early Dutch settlers) consider rugby the most important sport of all. Most sport reporters consider South Africa rugby teams to be very good and competitive.

South Africa was among the countries that started the Rugby World Cup matches. South Africa did not participate in the first two World Cup series because of anti-apartheid sporting boycotts in South Africa. Finally, in 1995 South Africa became a democracy and joined the World Cup competition. The 1995 Rugby World Cup was then hosted by South Africa. The South African team, the Springboks, won the 1995 Rugby World Cup. That victory was an important step for South Africa, for the sport of rugby and for all South African sports because rugby had always been considered an exclusively “white” sport.

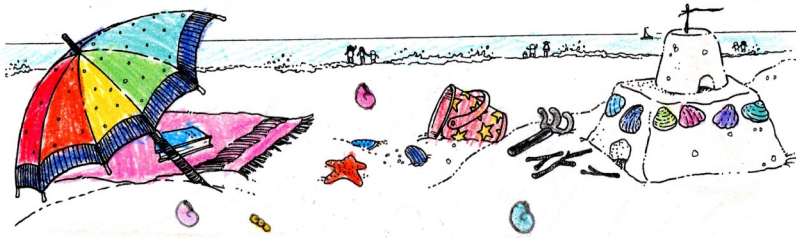
The Super 14 is another exciting annual rugby competition. The Super 14 is a competition between rugby teams from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Matches are played in each of the three countries. From late February until June, Super 14 matches are held in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. Finally, the Tri-Nations, another annual international rugby competition involving South Africa, Australia and New Zealand is the Tri-Nations games. These games are played between June and August each year.

(Continued on page 9)

It's Summer

Cosette C.

First Grade
Mrs. Bohannon



It's Summer!

Summer is here.

I see the bright colorful fireworks
booming in the dark night sky
on the fourth of July. I hear

the loud sea gulls squawking in the sky
as they hunt for scaly fish.

I smell salty popcorn when
I go to challenging baseball games.

I taste the yummy icy popsicles when
I go to fun fairs. I feel the soft
sand between my toes and the
cool water touching my feet.

Hooray! It's Summer! Hooray!



Freedom and Equality to All

Jasmine L.

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Derby

Dear Loyalist,

We know you have friends and family in England, and it is difficult to break these loyalties. However, it is time for us to fight for our own rights and freedom.

We colonists are being treated unequally in comparison to British citizens in England, even though we remain British citizens here in America. It is not fair that the British Parliament passed the Quartering Acts which allow the British Redcoats to stay in our homes, use our possessions, and force us to do work for them. The Lobster Backs should not be allowed to sleep in our bedrooms while we sleep on the floor in front of the fire. Nor should we make them dinners with our food or wash their clothes. British soldiers are destroying our homes, and causing violence and even death. Surely, you must hate these conditions as much as we Patriots do. If you Loyalists join us, we could fight against the British and kick all those British Red Coats out of the colonies.

We colonists in the thirteen colonies of England are asked to pay taxes with no benefit. Nobody likes taxes, so you must understand why this upsets us. We Patriots are fighting against taxation without representation. First, the colonists have to pay for the French and Indian War, which was a fight between England and France—it wasn't even the colonists' fight. Because of the French and Indian War, we can't even live in the Ohio River Valley. King George III has now declared this Indian Territory. Second, we have to pay extra high taxes on things we use every day. According to the Stamp Act, we have to pay taxes on playing cards, newspapers, and anything made of paper. Here in the colonies we work as hard to make money as the British citizens in England, so we should not have to pay any more taxes than they do.

The British Parliament passed trade laws on imports and exports, which don't allow us to trade with other countries. It is not fair that we have to buy all our finished goods from Britain. Under these laws, for example, if we want to buy wine, we have to buy it from England and not from France. We should have the freedom to choose who we trade with.

Colonists in America are treated unequally, pay taxes unfairly, and cannot choose who to trade with. So it is time for us to fight for freedom. If you Loyalists will unite with Patriots, then together we could defeat the British. When we win the battle, we will give freedom and equality to all men.



Sincerely,
A Patriot



But I Want a New Bike!

Elias P.

Third Grade

Ms. Dent

“You will NOT get a new bike!” Mrs. P. blared at me. It was nighttime and I was STILL bugging my mom to get me a new bike.

“How about we sleep on it?” my dad said. He usually wasn’t the peacemaker.

I slumped back to bed after I had finished my chicken dinner. I had been arguing with my mom for about 3 months about getting a new bike with 3 gears, bigger wheels, and better mountain tires instead of my dumb BMX bike.

The next morning I hopped out of bed and devised a plan. My mom said that getting a new bike is too expensive, I already have a bike, and I would barely use it anyway. I would say that I would ALWAYS use it, it’s worth the price, and I would outgrow the BMX bike. I presented my argument to my mom. She said she’d think about it.



(Continued on page 12)

Sports and Games in South Africa

(Continued from page 6)

Track and field is another sport that is important to South Africans. A South African athlete, Wayde van Niekerk, became the first runner in history to break records for the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 400 meter track events. Van Niekerk, who is 23 years old, ran a 9.98 seconds 100 meter race in Bloemfontein and qualified for the 100 meter sprint at the Olympic Games. Van Niekerk’s other personal bests are 19.94 seconds (200 meter) and 43.48 seconds (400 meter). Van Niekerk is the first athlete in history to run the 100 meters in under 10 seconds, the 200 meters in under 20 seconds and the 400 meters in under 44 seconds.

The most popular board game played in South Africa is called “Morabaraba.” Morabaraba is played with each player receiving 12 game pieces called “cows.” One of the players receives black/red cows. The other player receives white/brown cows. A player takes his/her turn by putting a cow on the board. The player can only put cows on the board where red lines cross. The goal is to form a “mill” of cows--which means three cows together in a straight line. Players with “mills” can “shoot” one of his/her opponent’s cows but cannot shoot any cow in a “mill.” “Shot” cows are taken off the board. A player wins when he/she is only player with cows still on the board.

Finally, Africa has its own version of the Olympic Games. Those games are called the “All African Games.” South Africa participates in the All African Games. The All African Games were first organized by French-speaking African countries. Over time, other African nations joined the games. Like the Olympic Games, the All Africa Games are held every four years and, each time they are played, the Games are hosted by a different country. African countries, including South Africa, are also represented in the International Olympic Games.



Snowshoe Thompson

Sophie B.

Fourth Grade
Miss Kayashima

Snowshoe Thompson is the “Legendary Viking of the Sierra Nevada.” He made 90 mile treks. He crossed over snowdrifts up to 50 feet high. He skied through blizzards up to 80 mile an hour winds.

Thompson was born on April 30, 1827. He came to America with his family from Norway. In 1851, he mined in the gold rush at some mining towns. After, he used the little money he saved to buy a small ranch at Putah Creek. Once he settled there, he applied for a job. Shortly after, he moved to Wisconsin to stay with his brother.

Thompson married an English woman, Agnes Singleton, in 1866. Arthur Thomas, their son, was born on February 11, 1867. Thompson taught Arthur how to ski. He also made him a small pair of skis for his very first birthday. Thompson enjoyed teaching his son how to ski.



Snowshoe Thompson's first mail run was in January, 1856. Very few people believed that Thompson would make it on his homemade skis. Thompson had many mail runs that took up to four days. People would usually expect his arrival in the village, throwing mail out onto their yards. Thompson had no idea that he was going to become the father of California skiing.

Thompson never used a compass to find his directions. Instead, he used the formation of stars to guide him. He always wore a Mackinaw jacket and a wide brimmed hat. He would snack on dried meats, and crackers. Snowshoe Thompson always brought matches and his bible.

Thompson often saved prospectors caught in the snow. An accident took place in 1856, where he found a trapper named James Sisson. Sisson had frozen feet for 12 days with no fire or food. Thankfully, Thompson had saved James Sisson's life.

His mailbag often weighed up to one hundred pounds because he carried medicine, supplies, and clothing. Thompson was asked to take a blue rock which seemed to be gold dust. It was actually not gold dust like they thought it was. It was actually very rich in silver!

Snowshoe Thompson died on May 15, 1876, of appendicitis which developed into pneumonia, a deadly disease.



My Special Place

Jacob P.

Sixth Grade

Mr. Dodge

Everyone has a place. A place that puts them in the zone. A place that helps them cope with the hardships of life. My definition of this is the outside world. Sure, it might be nice being cooped up inside, but when you go outside, everything changes. The air becomes fresher. Bright green grass, as far as the eye can see. No matter what time of day it is, there's always something beautiful to see that makes your day. In the morning, you feel a pleasant breeze, you see trees blowing in the wind, and their leaves slightly shaking. The sunrise soothes you, as the sun gets ready to provide the world warmth and keep it alive. Knowing that the sun is there every morning for you makes you feel grateful. After all, without it, you wouldn't have life.

In the afternoon, the beautiful sun shines on you, while the grass is greener than ever. The breathtaking blue sky is filled with clouds of all shapes and sizes, and you can just sit with friends and family and decide what you think the clouds look like. If you have a wild imagination like me, you would have lots of fun playing this particular game. In fall, colorful leaves fall from trees. A wonder to behold. You can also see the beautiful, colorful sunset twinkling in the sky.

At night, the bright white moon gleams in the dark sky, giving us life. Just like the sun, the moon is an important part of our life. Without the beautiful moon, we wouldn't have light and the world would never be the same. At night, we can also see the twinkling stars, perpetually shining and they don't stop shining until the blazing sun comes out and they slowly start to fade away. There are many other great parts about the outside world, like the amazing animals. Although zoos are great places, I don't think it's right to enslave animals. They should be free in their natural habitat. Sure, it's cool to see animals, but, in my opinion, they should be free.

Being outside is also fun because of playing sports. You can play soccer and football in the grass, volleyball at the beach, and, my personal favorite, playing basketball on outdoor courts. In conclusion, the outside world is a great place, and the world would never be the same without nature.



But I Want a New Bike!

(Continued from page 9)

The next day the CRAZIEST thing happened. My breakfast (oysters) went everywhere! Just kidding! I actually won the argument. I was victorious! “You can have your new bike,” my mom said in a melancholy tone.

“Aw, chin up, Mom,” I said happily. “You’ll be glad I got a new bike.

“I guess you’re right,” my mom said as she smacked a kiss on me.

I went to my room and said, “I got a new bike, I got a new bike!” while doing the robot dance. “I got a new bike, I got a new bike!”



Heroes

Richard L.
Second Grade
Mrs. Hinkle



Heroes are ordinary people who do good things for others. My mom is responsible. She takes care of me. She is helpful. She helps me with a lot of things, like how to tie my shoelaces. My mom is smart. She is good at cooking. I love her fish sticks. My mom is my hero.



Calamity Jane

Claudia K.

Fourth Grade

Mr. Ngo

WOW! I may be a tomboy, but Calamity Jane was the tomboy of history! Calamity Jane was born as Martha Jane on May 1, 1852. Her parents were Robert W. and Charlotte Burch Cannary. Martha was the eldest of 6 children (Wow! That's a lot of siblings. No wonder she was so fierce!). She had two brothers and three sisters. Sadly, both her parents died before she turned 13, so she started living the life of a man.



In 1875, Calamity Jane traveled with a US Army troop. One day, she saved seven people by rescuing a runaway stagecoach fleeing from a Cheyenne Indian war party by bravely taking over the driving from the wounded stage coach driver and driving them to Deadwood, her hometown. She appeared at Rawlins, Wyoming and pretended to be a man. She was hired for some “men only” jobs, like a mule skinner, bull whacker and a railroad worker. People found out she was a girl while skinny dipping and sent her back. In 1870, people decided to let her still work at men’s jobs because she was as strong and big as one.

She was recruited as a lookout for General George Armstrong Custer wearing the uniform of a soldier and was later moved to Fort Russell as a guard. Later, she was moved to Fort Custer, where she arrived in the spring of 1874.

When she was finally able to ride, she headed to another fort named Fort Laramie, where she met “Wild” Bill Hickok who was traveling in Charles Utter’s wagon train to Deadwood. There is a myth that Bill and Martha married and there is actually proof. Here is an article from a newspaper from 1941. “This year our Department of Public Warfare granted public assistance to a woman who claims to be the offspring of Calamity Jane and Bill Hickok. Could it be true that Calamity Jane had a daughter? This woman says that her name is Jean Burchark McCormac. She was adopted because her father died in a poker accident.” Calamity Jane was also a fierce rider for the Pony Express. Sadly, Calamity Jane died on August 1, 1901.

Calamity Jane will always be known for being an all-around tomboy, a great rider from the Pony Express and the fiercest girl in the West!





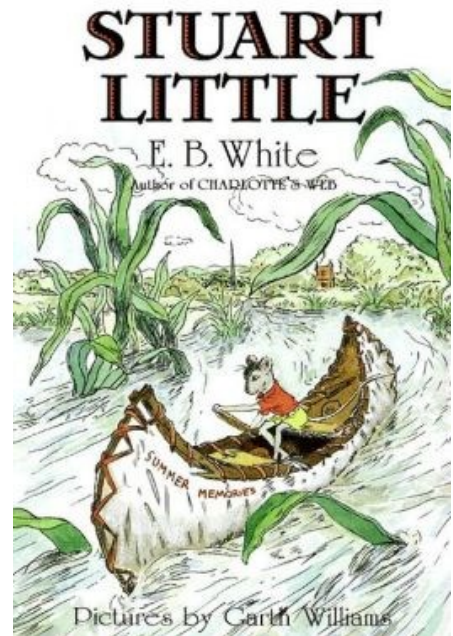
Stuart Little vs. a Real Mouse

Quinne D.

Third Grade
Mrs. Singery

Stuart and a real mouse are similar in many ways. First, they are alike because they are both in a mouse form. Also, they are both small mammals with short, soft fur. They can both go into very small spaces and can burrow down into holes. These are some ways that Stuart and a real mouse are alike. Now I'll say how they're different.

Stuart is like a real mouse, but he is also very different. First, they are different because Stuart wears clothes and carries a cane, and an ordinary mouse wouldn't. Next, Stuart speaks English, and a normal mouse doesn't. Also, a regular mouse can't sail a schooner, while Stuart can. These are a few ways that Stuart is different from a real mouse.



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In the Spring

Evan W.

Kindergarten
Mrs. Piesik

