

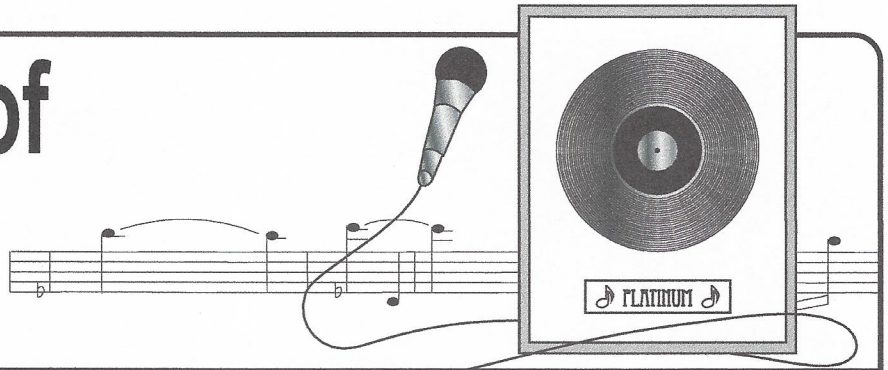
Home Learning Week 8 Reading Activities

Complete one reading activity for each English session.

Read the text then answer the questions.

1. History of Hip-Hop music
2. How the Internet travels across the ocean
3. Ashputtel

The History of Hip Hop



Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

It is said that hip hop music was born at a birthday party in the Bronx, NY. This popular genre of music started out as party music in the 1970s. It was played by local DJs in the city neighborhoods.

DJs put different pieces of music together. They did this to make new sounds. Then, rapping was added. Rapping is a way of talking over the music with words that rhyme. DJs arranged the beats so that rappers could find a rhythm. Then, the rappers would speak in time with the beat. Rappers often wrote lyrics, or the words of a song, about their own lives.

At first, hip hop served as a response to disco. Disco was a dance music craze in the 1970s. Disco was all about wealth and status. Hip hop emphasized reality and community. Hip hop music and culture became helpful to musicians and listeners. It was a way for them to deal with the difficult things about city life.

Hip hop quickly became an artistic outlet for African Americans. It was a new way to tell stories. From there, hip hop evolved from just a type of music to an entire lifestyle.

Hip hop is an art form that continues to evolve and impact communities today. New artists and new sounds are brought into the genre. The new styles continue to become popular. Hip hop is a genre that is heard and enjoyed all over the world.

1. How are hip hop and disco related? _____

2. Why do you think hip hop is an important music genre for African Americans? _____

3. What are two things that make hip hop unique? _____

4. What is one notable fact about how hip hop music was created? _____

5. In your own words, write a definition for *rapping*. _____



Name _____

Date _____

How the Internet Travels Across the Ocean

DIRECTIONS: Read the nonfiction passage and then answer questions about the text.

Have you thought about how much you use technology, or more specifically, the internet? Have you used it today? The internet has opened the door to international communication. Jobs, schoolwork, and entertainment rely on the internet in some form or another.

The internet is a network that allows for computers to talk to each other. Computers work together and share information as part of a giant, global network. This network is not located in a building, but rather is connected by cables around the world. These cables even run through oceans!

Did You Know?

Even internet cables have felt the strength of a shark's jaw. Sharks have bitten into cables many times.

When one computer communicates with another, it sends information through a network of cables. The information is sorted into packets, which are small pieces of information similar to a puzzle, and then sent through the cables. Packets can travel millions of miles per millisecond through

transoceanic cables. Cables emerge from the sea at landing stations where they connect up to wires on land.

When a computer receives a packet, the pieces are mixed up. Then it's the computer's job to piece together the information that was sent and share it with the user. It's this interconnected system that allows people to communicate across oceans.

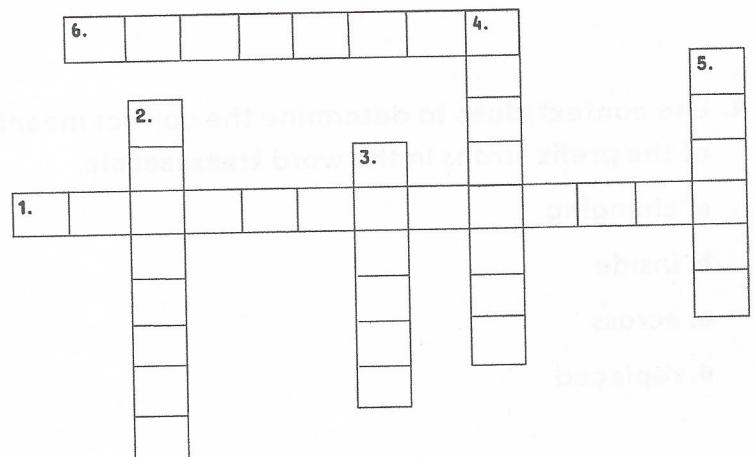


Across

1. Between nations
6. Systems of interconnected things

Down

2. Opened the door for global communication
3. A ____ is a small amount of information
4. Cables connect at the landing ____
5. Needed to send messages across the ocean



Name _____

Date _____

How the Internet Travels Across the Ocean

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions based on the text above.

1. Can you imagine what a day might look like without any internet connection?

Consider this thought experiment and take it one step further: What would your day look like without technology? Sketch or write your answer.

2. Write a caption for the image in the text.

3. Explain the relationship between the cable network and the internet.

4. Use context clues to determine the correct meaning of the prefix *-trans* in the word **transoceanic**.

- a. changing
- b. inside
- c. across
- d. replaced

Read this adaptation of the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale "Ashputtel." Then answer the questions that follow.

ASHPUTTEL

A long time ago, the wife of a rich man fell sick. When she felt that her end drew near, she called her only daughter to her bedside and said, "Always be a good girl, and I will look down from heaven and watch over you." Soon afterwards, the woman died and was buried in the garden. Filled with sorrow, the girl remembered her mother's wish and continued to be good and kind to everyone.

Not long after her mother died, the girl's father remarried. The new wife had two daughters who were fair in face, but foul at heart. They took away her fine clothes, laughed at her, and made her sleep in the kitchen. The sisters began to call the girl "Ashputtel" or "dirt-girl" because she slept in the ashes by the fireplace.

One day, Ashputtel's father went into town. He asked the girls what he should bring back from his trip. The stepsisters requested that he bring back jewels and dresses. Ashputtel only asked for the first branch that touched his hat as he rode back home. When her father returned, he had beautiful jewels and dresses for his stepdaughters and a hazel branch for Ashputtel. She planted the branch near her mother's grave in the garden. Ashputtel visited the branch three times a day and watered it with her tears. The branch soon grew into a tree, and then a white dove came and built its nest in the branches and watched over the girl.



Not long after this, the king of that land held a celebration that was to last for three days. Ashputtel begged her stepmother to let her go. The stepmother sneered. "You, Ashputtel? You have nothing to wear and can't even dance." And when Ashputtel kept on begging, her stepmother said at last, to get rid of her, "I will throw this dishful of peas into the ashes, and if you can pick them all out in two hours, you may go." Thinking she had given Ashputtel an impossible task, the stepmother left. Then Ashputtel went to the garden

and called the white dove to help. The bird brought all of its companions to help, and they flew in through the open windows and set to work, peck, peck, pecking to sort the peas from the ashes. They finished in less than an hour and flew away as soon as they were done.

Ashputtel brought the dish to her stepmother, overjoyed that she might go to the festival. But her stepmother looked at the bowl of peas and shook her head. She then dumped two bowls of peas into the ashes, and said, "If you can pick all the peas out in one hour, you may go." The birds came again to help, but when Ashputtel showed her stepmother the bowls of peas, she simply said, "No, you still cannot go because you have nothing to wear and you cannot dance. We would only be ashamed of you." With that, the stepmother and her daughters left for the festival.

Continue reading.

When they had all gone out, Ashputtel ran to her mother's grave and cried. The white dove heard her cries and felt sorry for the kind girl. The bird tossed down a gold and silver dress and golden slippers. Ashputtel quickly got cleaned up, put on the fine gown and shoes, and ran to the celebration.

When Ashputtel appeared at the festival in her golden dress, nobody recognized her. They thought she must be a princess from a foreign land. Even her own family never thought it could be Ashputtel, taking it for granted that she was safe at home in the dirt.

When the king's son met her, he took her by the hand and danced with her. He would dance with no other maiden and never let go of her hand. When it got late, the prince offered to escort the girl home, but Ashputtel didn't want him to see where she lived. So she slipped away and ran back home so the prince could not follow her. When her family returned home, she was fast asleep, curled up in the ashes.

The next night, when all the others had left for the celebration, Ashputtel again cleaned off her face, the bird tossed her a beautiful dress, and off she went. The prince was delighted to see her, and they danced together all night. But when the hour grew late, Ashputtel once again ran away so she could get back home before her family arrived and found her missing. However, on the third and final night of the festival,



the prince was prepared. He painted sticky pitch* on the stairs, and as Ashputtel ran away, one of her golden slippers stuck fast on one of the steps.

The prince took the dainty golden shoe and knew he could use it to search for the mysterious girl. When he came to Ashputtel's house, the eldest sister went first to try it on. But the shoe was much too small for her, and her big toe wouldn't

fit. When her mother saw this, she shoved the elder sister out of the way and pulled the younger sister forth. As before, the girl went to try on the golden slipper, but her heel wouldn't fit in the shoe at all. The prince asked if there were any other young ladies in the house, and the stepmother snapped angrily, "Of course not! None but the dirty kitchen maid." When the prince insisted that this girl should also try on the shoe, the stepmother glared, but called for Ashputtel.

Ashputtel cleaned the ashes off her face and went to where they were all gathered. She took her plain shoe off her left foot and put on the golden slipper; and it fit her as if it had been made for her. And when the prince drew near and looked at her face, he knew it was the girl he sought. The stepmother and both sisters were frightened and turned pale with anger as he took Ashputtel on his horse and rode away with her. The white dove sang a song of triumph and then flew and perched upon Ashputtel's shoulder, and went home with her to live happily ever after.

*pitch: a dark and sticky liquid, also called "tar"

Answer the following questions about "Ashputtel." Use the text to support your thinking.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What is the genre of the story?
A. fantasy B. horror
C. science fiction D. mystery
2. Who is telling the story?
A. Ashputtel B. the stepmother
C. a bird D. an outside narrator
3. What does Ashputtel ask her father to bring back from his trip?
A. jewels B. a dove
C. a branch D. dresses
4. Who helps Ashputtel get to the festival?
A. a white dove B. her stepmother
C. a fairy godmother D. her father

CONNECTIONS

5. Name some other stories that feature a main character dealing with cruel relatives.

1.	_____

2.	_____

3.	_____

DEEPER ANALYSIS

6. Why is the main character called "Ashputtel"?

7. How is Ashputtel described in comparison to her sisters? What do her actions show about her character? Give evidence from the story.

8. Why does the stepmother dump the peas in the ashes?

Answer the following questions about "Ashputtel." Use the text to support your thinking.

9. Summarize the key events of the story. Explain how each event leads to the next.

10. What is the theme of the story? Give evidence from the text to support your thinking.

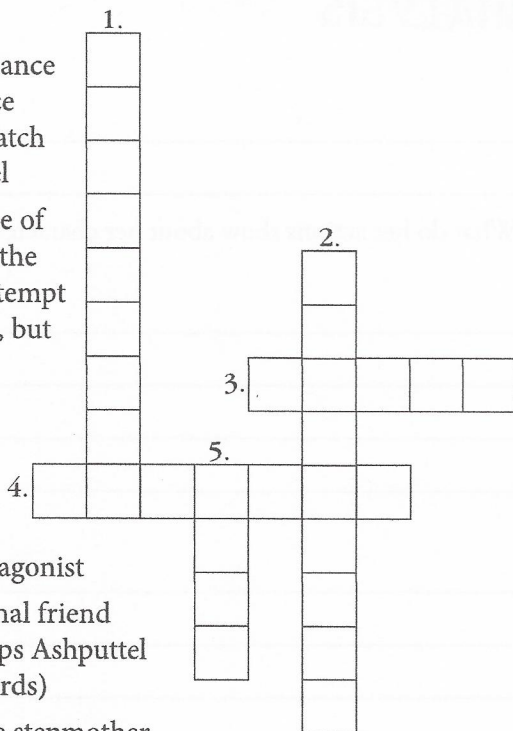
11. Below are some common elements of fairy tales. Go back to the text and underline or highlight examples of these elements in the story.

- Magic
- Happy endings
- Helpful animals
- Happens long ago
- Royalty
- Groups of three
- Teaches a lesson
- Good and evil characters

12. CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

3. the substance the prince uses to catch Ashputtel
4. the article of clothing the sisters attempt to try on, but fail to fit



Down

1. the protagonist
2. the animal friend who helps Ashputtel (two words)
5. what the stepmother spills in the ashes

13. "Ashputtel" is one version of the famous tale "Cinderella." There are many versions of this story from around the world, including "Ashputtel," "Cinderella," and "Yeh-Shen." Think about or read several variations of this story and brainstorm some elements that the stories have in common. What makes a story a "Cinderella" story?
