

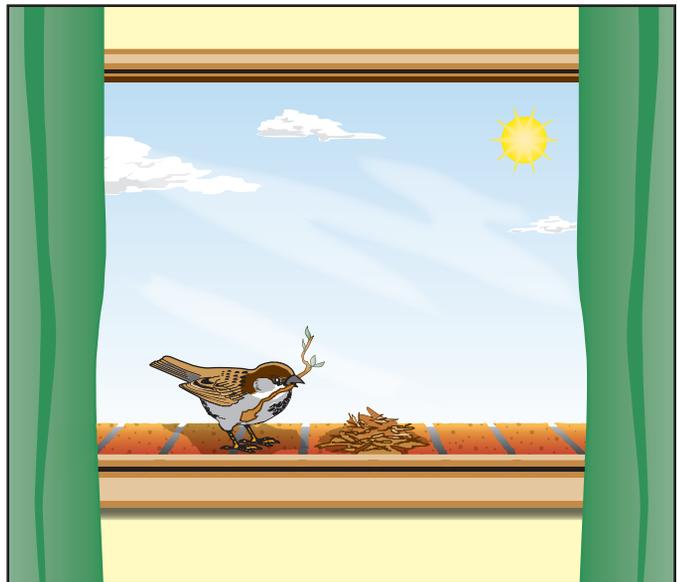
K-PREP
Sample Items
2012

Reading Grade 4

Read this passage about a young boy whose interest in birds is rewarded. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Nest of Memories

- 1 Tommy was a true bird-watcher. He could spend hours in his backyard lying on his back looking up toward the trees watching birds flying from branch to branch. He imagined where each bird came from and where each bird was going. He was curious about bird habits and behaviors. He even chose to watch videos about birds rather than watching cartoons. As Tommy's interest in bird-watching grew, he received permission from his parents to join a class offered after school where he could learn more about birds and how to study them further. It was in this class that Tommy learned about how birds build their nests.
- 2 Tommy learned in the bird class that birds build their nests in many different places and with many different materials. He also learned that one way to understand birds better is to watch them build their nests. Tommy wished he could do just that, but he didn't know how that would be possible.
- 3 He looked up in trees as he walked home from school. He walked near a river bed hoping to find a bird's nest in a cliff wall. He inspected the shrubs in front of his house. He even loaded up the bird feeder in his backyard with more seed than usual with the hope that the food would encourage a bird to build its nest near his house. None of this seemed to work, though. Tommy felt discouraged because he couldn't find any nests. He was ready to give up on his hope of observing a bird build its nest.
- 4 Then one morning Tommy spotted something that made his heart start to beat faster. He noticed some movement right outside the window. A bird was building a nest



right on Tommy's window sill! Tommy was overjoyed. He wanted to scream with excitement, but he controlled himself because he did not want to frighten the bird. Not daring to put on his shoes, Tommy ran as quietly and quickly as he could through the house to make sure no one in his family did anything too loudly that day.

- 5 Tommy turned off the lights in his room, gathered his bird-watching books, and inched nearer to his window to watch the bird. By sitting at an angle to the window, Tommy could get right up next to the window and see the bird without scaring it away. All day long, the bird would come and go with nest-building materials. Tommy thought it might be fun to imagine the places the bird visited to find each piece of the nest. The first pieces the bird brought were small, flexible twigs. Tommy envisioned that the bird must have found the twigs in different places around the neighborhood. He imagined the bird visited the nearby park, a few of his friends' houses, and his own backyard.
- 6 After about an hour, the bird had the outside frame of the nest completed.
- 7 Next, the bird began to bring strips of shredded paper. Tommy watched with great interest as the bird carefully wove the strips of paper all through the nest's frame. The bird brought blue, purple, red, and white fragments of paper. Tommy pretended that the bird found the paper in the recycling bin behind his school. He remembered seeing lots of paper in the container at school. He even wondered if some of the paper came from his classroom.
- 8 The next things the bird used were little bits of string. The bird brought string of multiple colors to the nest. Tommy wondered if the bird found the string at the Garcias' house. Mr. and Mrs. Garcia were from Guatemala and used brightly colored string to weave scarves and rugs and belts. He had felt these scarves and rugs, so he knew how strong the woven string could be. Tommy liked thinking about all the places the bird might be traveling to find materials.
- 9 Finally, the bird brought something that surprised Tommy. The bird brought strands of hair! Tommy wondered if the bird had visited Roy's Barbershop, since Roy always swept the scraps of hair into the grass behind his shop. He also thought the bird might have gone to Mrs. Williams's house. Tommy often saw Mrs. Williams cutting her husband's hair on their back porch. Tommy even

wondered if maybe the bird was somehow finding some of his own hair. Tommy liked birds before, but he was even more interested in them now.



10 The nest was finally finished, and Tommy was so happy. He couldn't wait to go back to his class to tell everyone about watching the bird bring twigs, paper, string, and hair to build its nest. Tommy was sure of one thing: He was going to continue watching birds. He knew that this up-close opportunity to see the nest completed from start to finish was really special. Since most birds build new nests each time, he decided he would take this nest from the window sill after the birds were finished with it and keep it as a lasting nest-building memory.

1

Tommy learned that watching birds build their nests is a good way to understand them. How does watching the birds build their nests help Tommy understand birds better?

2

Sherlock Holmes was a great detective who solved crimes by noticing clues others missed. After reading "The Nest of Memories," explain how Tommy is like Sherlock Holmes.

Reading

A large rectangular box with a thick black border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the box. The top line is slightly shorter than the others, starting from the left margin. The box is intended for students to write their responses to a reading passage.