



## Passages

**There are two types of passages included on the next pages.**

**The Taylor (standard passage) and Grade Level passages (Grades 1-5).**

The Taylor (standard passage) on the following page is an original passage created for the purpose of this tool. It is a standard passage and it is used for grades 1-5.

The Grade Level passages are chosen according to the student's current grade. These passages are copyrighted by the Children's Educational Services, Inc.

*“Permission to use these passages is granted only when they are used with the IOWAN and only on students in Iowa. Any other use of these passages would require additional permission from the Children's Educational Services, Inc.”*

Children's Educational Services, Inc.  
16526 West 78th Street, Suite 162  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346-4358



Taylor had a new red sled with silver stripes. He climbed the very big hill behind Mr. Smith's house. He pushed the sled to the edge of the hill and started down the hill. Faster and faster it went. Taylor laughed as snow flew into his face. The ride was over too soon. If he wanted another ride, he would have to climb up the hill again. There has to be an easier way he said to himself. The next time I will bring my little brother to pull the sled!



## THE WALK

Tommy and his dad went for a walk. They were in the woods. It was pretty that day. The trees were very green and the sky was blue. The sun shone brightly and Tommy felt warm.

Then Tommy heard a noise. He looked up into a tree. In the tree was a blue and white bird. The bird saw Tommy. “Chirp,” went the bird and then the bird flew away. “I wish I could fly like that,” Tommy told his dad. “Some day you may,” said his Dad.

Later on their walk Tommy heard a splash in a pond. When he looked closer he saw a fish jump out of the water and then swim away. “I wish I could swim like that,” he told his dad. “Some day you may,” said his dad.

Just as they were ending their walk, Tommy saw a deer. It was brown with a white tail. Tommy thought it was very pretty. Soon the deer ran away into the woods. Tommy turned to his dad and said he wished he could run that fast. His dad said that maybe he would some day. Tommy thought about what his dad said and felt happy.



## GOING HOME

My mother always likes to go home. She was born on a nice farm in a valley. Her father started the farm before she was born. When she was a little girl they lived in a very old log house on the farm.

One day her father said that they were going to build a new house. That made my mother, her sister, and her brothers very excited. Her father said that he was going to build the house himself with help from their neighbors. Since my uncles were already very big boys, they said they would help.

They picked a place on top of a hill to build the house. My mother stood on that place and looked in every direction. She could see their little town in the distance. She could also see the railroad tracks that went right through their farm and into town. At the bottom of the hill was a creek that ran under the railroad tracks. She loved to watch the trains as they crossed the creek on the bridge. The place that they had chosen to build the new house was perfect. It became their new home and they all loved it, especially my mother.



## SCHOOL

I spend almost all day at school. Each day when I get home my mother asks me what I did in school. She thinks that I should be able to tell her many things about what I have learned. What I usually tell her is what I did with my friends. Of course, I don't tell her everything that we did! I just tell her about the things that aren't secrets! After I tell her about what I did with my friends she asks me, again, to tell her what we studied. I always have a hard time remembering what the teacher had us work on in school. The things I remember the best are what we did at recess and at lunch. My mom doesn't give up easily. Even after I tell her what we did at recess and lunch she still wants to hear more about what I learned. I'm glad she wants to know, but sometimes I just can't remember!

I wonder if her mom always asked her what she learned in school. I'll bet she did, and I'll bet my mom couldn't remember things any better than I can. Maybe next time I'll ask her what she learned in school.



## FIRE

Last night was Friday night and the whole family stayed up late playing cards and popping corn in the fireplace. Just before bedtime, Jimmy watched his father put the fire out. But after everyone went to bed, the fire in the fireplace started up again. Soon a spark flew from the fire and onto the rug. The rug began to smoke and soon a small fire had begun. Everyone in Jimmy's family was sound asleep. But not Jimmy's dog. Rex smelled the smoke and ran into the living room. When he saw the fire near the fireplace he began to bark.

At first, Jimmy's Dad was mad that Rex was barking and waking him up. But soon he also smelled the smoke. Jimmy's Dad quickly walked into the living room and tried to put the fire out. Soon everyone was up and ran outside. Jimmy called the fire department.

The fire truck came just in time. There were five firemen and they put the fire out. Part of Jimmy's house was ruined, but Jimmy and his family were safe and sound. Jimmy's Dad said he was glad Rex had barked. The family knew Rex had saved them. Rex was a hero!



## SATURDAY

When you're a kid Saturday is the best day of the week. That's the day that you have free time. It's also the day that you can sleep in the morning if your parents will let you. Of course, if you have a little brother the way I do he probably won't let you sleep.

Even if my parents and my brother do let me sleep, I have a hard time staying in bed. There are just too many things I want to do.

Most of all, when Saturday comes I want to call my friends. They are just as excited about Saturday as I am. But when we start calling each other on the telephone we usually find out that each one of us has a job to do or some place to go with our family. Our problem is it's hard finding time on Saturday when all of us are free to play at the same time.

When my parents make plans for me on Saturday I don't like it. I usually argue with them about what they want me to do. Arguing with my parents spoils all the fun of Saturday. I wish they would call my friends' parents to find out what their Saturday plans are. Then they could arrange it so that we all have free time at the same time.

