

The Student Special

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

Summer 2009

We're Here!

By Joan Lange Keller

Dad came home and said, "I took off tomorrow. We'll go to the beach. Start packing." Mom, Ted, and Liz were glad to go. It was their first trip this summer.

The next morning Dad was in the van. "I'm waiting for you," he called. Mom, Ted, and Liz ran to the van. They threw their bags in the back and jumped in.

"Hope we didn't forget anything," said Mom.

Off they rode. Soon Ted yelled, "Where's Butch?" The family forgot to take Butch, their dog.

"We'll go back to get him," said Dad.

They got Butch and started again. "Are we there yet?" asked Liz.

"There's a lot of traffic," said Dad. "We still have a ways to go."

Soon Mom called out, "I forgot my bathing suit."

"Oh, no!" they all cried.

"We'll stop at a mall and get you a new one," said Dad.

Two hours later they were on their way again. "Are we close to the beach?" asked Ted.

"We still have some miles to go," said Dad.

Soon Mom said, "This is a long ride today."

"We're almost there," answered Dad.

Just then they heard a bang. "What's that?" they cried.

"Looks like we just got a flat tire," said Dad.

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“Not another stop,” said Liz. “We'll never get to the beach.”

Dad found a garage. While the car was getting fixed, Mom, Ted, and Liz took a nap. Two hours later Dad woke them. “We're here,” he said. “We made it to the beach. Butch is here. Mom has a new bathing suit. The van has a new tire. Now let's head for the water.”

Carmen

By Linda Del Bene

Skill Book 2 and *City Living*, page 8

New words: **cow, fat**

Ann and Fred are farmers.
They have a big farm in the valley.
On the farm they have a barn.
They have a big, red barn.

Ann has a cow.
The name of her cow is Carmen.
Carmen is a fat, happy cow.

“Is the cow in the barn?” says Fred.
“Is the fat cow in the barn?”

“She is not fat!” yells Ann.
“She is not fat!”
“Her name is Carmen,” says Ann.
“My cow is Carmen.”

Fred laughs.
“Is Carmen in the barn?” he says.
“Is fat Carmen in the barn?”

“Yes, Carmen is in the barn,” says Ann.

Fred and Ann visit the barn.
Carmen is standing in the barn.
Ann kisses Carmen.
She kisses her fat cow on the neck.
Fred pets Carmen on the head.
Carmen is a happy cow.
Carmen is a fat, happy cow.

The Titanic

By Lynn O'Connell

Skill Book 3, Lesson 20

New words: **Titanic** (Ti tan ic) **sail** **sailors** (sail erz) **iceberg** (ice berg)

The first sail of the Titanic was April 10, 1912. The Titanic was the largest boat ever made to sail. Something sad happened on April 14, 1912. This is what happened that night:

Sailors on the Titanic see something in the water. They see an iceberg. The sailors tell an officer. The Titanic tries to sail by the iceberg, but there is no time. The iceberg hits the side of the boat.

Everyone is getting ready for bed on the Titanic, and everyone feels the iceberg hit. Water is coming into the boat. The officer and sailors know the boat is going under the water. The iceberg hits hard. The officer and sailors want to save everyone, the women and children first.

The sailors tell everyone they must get into lifeboats. No one thinks the boat is going under the water. They think the boat will still sail. The people do not want to get into lifeboats. The officer says, "The lifeboats are your one hope." They need more lifeboats.

The Titanic goes under the next day – April 15, 1912. The water closes over the Titanic. Everyone but 700 people in the lifeboats dies. The Titanic will sail no more.

The Student Special

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Editor: Ron Wise

You are invited to write pieces for *The Student Special*. Send them to the Editor, Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.

We Need Your Help

The Student Special is for the students of the Literacy Council. It would like to have more stories written by students. The stories do not have to be long. They can be about things that really happened or about things you make up. Your name will not be printed if you don't want it to be.

So try writing something for *The Student Special*. Send it to the Editor, in care of the Literacy Council office. Happy writing!

Ned's Pup

By Ron Wise

Skill Book 1 and *In the Valley*, page 16

New word: **dinner**

Ned has a pup.
The pup's name is Queen.
Ned and Queen are in the valley.
They are at the river.

Queen gets a snake.
“No, Queen, no!” yells Ned.
Ned gets the snake.
He puts the snake in the river.
The snake is not hurt.

Ned and Queen are in the river.
They are jumping and kicking.
Queen gets a fish.

“No, Queen, no!” yells Ned.
Ned gets the fish.
He puts the fish in the river.
The fish is not hurt.

Ned and Queen are at their tent.
They have dinner.
Ned has an egg and an apple for dinner.
He has wings for dinner.
Queen gets an egg.
“No, Queen, no!” yells Ned.
Queen runs and runs.
She has an egg for dinner.

A New Law in Virginia

Virginia has a new law. It took effect July 1. The law says that you can't send a text message while you're driving.

Text-messaging while driving is dangerous. You have to take your eyes off the road. Texting while driving causes people to have accidents. Persons can even get killed.

Tell your family members and friends who drive about this new law. Tell them they must not send a text message while driving.