

The Student Special

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

Winter 2011

The Wedding Dresses

By Joan Lange Keller

Skill Book 2 and *City Living*, page 21

New word: **wedding**

John and Pam are getting married.

John is Kim's brother.

Pam is Molly's sister.

Kim and Molly are friends.

They are five.

Kim's mother starts the car.

She tells the girls they are going to a dress shop in the city.

"It has many dresses," she says.

"You can look at the dresses and pick two dresses for John and Pam's wedding."

At the dress shop the girls look at a lot of dresses.

They come in many colors.

They are very pretty, and it is hard for the girls to pick.

Kim's mother is looking at some dresses.

She picks two dresses and brings them to Kim and Molly.

"What do you think?" she asks.

"Do you think they are pretty?"

"Yes, they are," the girls tell her.

"And pink is a pretty color.

Will you get them for us?"

"Yes, I will," says Kim's mother.

"I am happy you are happy with pink dresses.

I think you girls will look very pretty at John and Pam's wedding."

Snow or No Snow

By Joan Lange Keller

The holidays are over. Now is the time to think about snow. Will we get a lot of snow? Will work places have to close? Will schools be closed? Will there be so much snow that we can't drive?

Some of us want snow. Some of us don't want snow. Those who work hope they can get to work. They need to earn money for food, rent, and other things for their families. Children want schools to close. They want to play in the snow.

What will the winter months be like? Snow or no snow? We have to wait to see what happens. Some people will be happy. Some people will be sad. They may have to wait for next year for snow. But whatever happens, enjoy each winter day. Then spring will be here.

York Street Fish

By Linda Del Bene

Skill Book 1 and *In the Valley*, page 13

New word: **dinner**

Bob lives in the valley.

Bob has a shop on York Street.

Bob sells fish in his shop.

The shop is York Street Fish.

Pam and her girls visit York Street Fish.

Bob sells a fish to Pam.

Pam and her girls are going to have fish.

They are going to have fish for dinner.

The Hills visit York Street Fish.

Mr. Hill picks a fish for their dinner.

Bob sells the fish to Mr. Hill.

The Hills are going to have fish for dinner.

Bob looks at his fish.

Bob picks a fish.

Bob is going to have fish for dinner.

Go For a Hike!

By Linda Del Bene

Do you like to walk? Do you like the outdoors? Go for a hike!

Hikers like to walk on trails in the woods and in the mountains. They like the fresh air. They like getting away from the city. They even like the exercise.

Hikers like to see trees and wildflowers. They like to see birds and animals. They like to climb up and down a mountain, or walk by a river or a lake.

They like the peace and quiet.

You can go for an afternoon hike or an all-day hike. There are many places nearby to go hiking. Here are some places you can check out:

1. Rock Creek Park in Washington,
2. Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria,
3. Shenandoah Park in Virginia,
4. Catoctin Park in Maryland.

You don't have to hike by yourself. There are hiking clubs to join. And you don't need a lot of special equipment – just a good pair of boots and a backpack.

Pack some food and water. Bring a map. Go for a hike!

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!

I Hate Winter

By Ron Wise

Skill Book 3 and *Changes*, page 25

New words: **hate**, **winter** (win ter), **yard**, **wet**, **too**

"I hate winter!" Tom says to his sister Kim.

"Why do you hate winter?" asks Kim.

"Winter is cold," says Tom. "I do not like the cold. I like to play in the yard. I like to play in the park. It is not fun playing in the yard or the park when the days are cold."

"But there is snow in the winter," Kim says. "You can play in the yard in the snow. You can play in the park in the snow. You can make snowmen. There are many things you can do in the snow."

"Snow is wet," Tom says. "I hate getting wet when it is cold. I have fun getting wet when the days are hot. But getting wet is no fun when the days are cold. Sometimes I even get sick!"

"Maybe you can put on more clothes," says Kim. "More clothes will help keep you dry."

"I have tried that," says Tom. "If I put on more clothes, I get too hot. And the clothes are heavy. It's not fun to have too many clothes on when I am playing."

"Is there anything you like to do in the winter?" asks Kim.

"I cannot think of anything," Tom says. "But I know what I want to do."

"What is that?" Kim asks.

"I want to go far, far away from here," Tom tells her. "I want to go to a place where it is not too cold. I want to go to a place where it never snows. I want to go to a place where I can play in the yard and in the park every month of the year."

"If you do that, won't you miss your family?" asks Kim.

"No, I won't miss you", answers Tom. "Not even a little. Do you know why?"

"No," Kim answers.

"If I go to live in another place, I will take the family with me."