



# Smarty Ants at Home

Printable Activities for Young Readers

**Second Grade**

**Level 14: Fiction**

**Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise**

**LEVEL 14 PREVIEWING THE LEVEL -**  
*Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*



**Main Concept**

- Predicting
- Questioning
- Following plot development
- Drawing conclusions

**Additional Concepts**

- Understanding setting in a story
- Dividing two-syllable words that have the VCCCV pattern
- Reviewing the VC/CV syllable-division pattern
- Recognizing compound words

**Details**

*Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise* is a fictional storybook with three chapters found in Lessons 78, 79, and 80. Throughout these lessons, students strengthen comprehension skills while exploring new vocabulary words, phrases, and common English-language expressions. Students are introduced to *setting* as an important element in a story. Through Interactive Teaching Videos, students also practice recognizing common syllable-division patterns and recognizing compound words.

Students review each chapter of the book by building and recording a script for their chosen character from each chapter that is produced as a reader’s theater. The reader’s theater activity provides fluency practice for students.

A reinforcement lesson follows the three chapter lessons in this level. This lesson teaches new skills based upon concepts and skills that students have already explored, like homophones, vowel pattern *ew*, and common phonograms *\_old* and *\_ight*. Additional personalized reinforcement lessons are available for students who experience difficulty with the skill areas presented in the three main lessons of the level.



# Oral Reading Fluency Passage

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 78: "Sad"

**Directions:** You will read the story "No Rainy Day" out loud. Try to read each word in order. If you do not know a word, ask for help. Start reading when your teacher tells you to begin. You may use your finger to mark your place as you read.

## No Rainy Day

Carly stood in the living room, looking sadly out the window.	11
Outside, the sky was sunny and blue, and the trees were full of green leaves. "What's wrong?" asked Carly's brother, Brett.	25
"Just look at this day," said Carly with gloom in her voice. "All my plans are ruined."	32
Brett did not understand his sister's feelings. To him, the day was perfect. He could hardly wait to ride his bicycle to the park and play baseball with his friends. "What plans could be ruined by a beautiful day?" Brett asked.	45
Carly turned toward her brother. "Reading plans can be spoiled," she said. "I wanted stay inside and read my new library book," she explained. "I was hoping for a rainy day, but today is too nice. How could anyone stay inside on a day like this?"	49
Brett smiled at his sister. "This is an easy problem to solve," he said. "Take your book outside and put a lawn chair under the big oak tree. Sit in the chair and read your book."	60
"That's a great idea," said Carly. "Thanks for reminding me that you don't need a rainy day to read a book."	74
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TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

# Student Writing

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 78: "Sad"

**Directions:** Read the prompt in the box below. Then write your story on a separate sheet of paper.

Catina sees that Houndsley is sad. She wants to help her friend feel better.

What are some ways to help someone who is sad?

Write a story that tells about someone helping a person feel better. In your story, include three ways to help someone who is sad.

## WRITING TIPS

- Read the prompt carefully. Look for clue words that tell you what kind of story to write. This prompt asks you to **write a story** about **helping someone who is sad**.
- Be sure to include details in your story. Answer questions such as these:  
What are three things to do to help someone who is sad feel better?  
Why are these good things to do?
- Your story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

## WRITING CHECKLIST

- My story includes ways to help someone who is sad feel better.
- My story has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- I used details that tell *who, what, when, where, why, and how*.
- Each sentence in my story tells a complete thought.
- I used correct spelling, capital letters, and punctuation.

# Oral Reading Fluency Passage

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 79: "The Cake"

**Directions:** You will read the story "Noodles for Dinner" out loud. Try to read each word in order. If you do not know a word, ask for help. Start reading when your teacher tells you to begin. You may use your finger to mark your place as you read.

## Noodles for Dinner

Carlos wanted to surprise his parents by making dinner for 10  
them. He looked around the kitchen. When he found some dried 21  
noodles and a jar of tomato sauce, he decided to make spaghetti. He 34  
had never cooked a meal. 39

Carlos read the directions on the package of noodles and jar 50  
of sauce. Then he filled a large pot with water and set the pot on the 66  
stove. He asked his older brother to turn on the heat so the water for 81  
the noodles could boil. 85

Next, Carlos opened the jar of sauce. He tried to pour the 97  
sauce into a pan, but it missed the pan. It made a puddle in the 112  
middle of the floor. Carlos cleaned up the mess. Then he asked his 125  
brother to help cook the noodles. 131

When the noodles were done, Carlos's brother put them in 141  
a big bowl. Carlos added butter, salt, and pepper. Then he told his 154  
parents that dinner was ready. 159

Carlos explained why they were having only noodles for 168  
dinner. Mom and Dad made him feel better about the meal. They 180  
said the noodles were very tasty. Mom told him that the best cooks 193  
always begin by learning to make simple meals. 201

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

# Student Writing

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 79: "The Cake"

**Directions:** Read the prompt in the box below. Then write your story on a separate sheet of paper.

Houndsley wants to have a party for Catina. Sometimes people play games at a party.

Write a story about a game you like to play. Tell how to play the game. Make sure to include all the steps for playing the game, in their correct order.

## WRITING TIPS

- Read the prompt carefully. Look for clue words that tell you what kind of story to write. This prompt asks you to **write a story** that tells **how to play a game**.
- Be sure to include details in your story. Answer questions such as these:
  - What game do you like to play?
  - What are the rules for the game?
  - How many people can play the game?
  - What are the steps of the game?
- Your story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

## WRITING CHECKLIST

- My story tells about a game I like to play.
- My story has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- I wrote the steps of the game in the correct order.
- Each sentence in my story tells a complete thought.
- I used correct spelling, capital letters, and punctuation.

# Oral Reading Fluency Passage

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 80: "The Surprise"

**Directions:** You will read the story "Party Practice" out loud. Try to read each word in order. If you do not know a word, ask for help. Start reading when your teacher tells you to begin. You may use your finger to mark your place as you read.

## Party Practice

Lisa was almost ready to leave for Sally's birthday party. First,	11
she wrapped the gift she had made for her friend. Lisa had taken a	25
picture of a rainbow and had placed it in a frame she had made.	39
After wrapping the gift, Lisa checked her clothes and hair in	50
the hallway mirror. Then she said goodbye to her parents and walked	62
down the street to Sally's house.	68
She rang Sally's doorbell. Sally opened the door and smiled	78
to see her friend. Lisa saw that Sally had on a pair of old jeans and a	95
faded T-shirt. Then she saw that Sally was looking at her nice clothes.	108
"You seem to be dressed for a party," said Sally.	118
"I am," said Lisa. "Isn't your party today?"	126
Sally's eyes grew wide. "My party is tomorrow," she told Lisa.	137
Lisa clapped her hand over her mouth. "I cannot believe I	148
came on the wrong day," she said. Both girls laughed.	158
"Oh, well," Lisa said, "This was like a kind of practice." She	170
waved goodbye to her friend and walked back home.	179

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

# Student Writing

Level 14: *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*

Lesson 80: "The Surprise"

**Directions:** Read the prompt in the box below. Then write your story on a separate sheet of paper.

Houndsley and Catina want to make each other feel better, so they plan birthday surprises for each other.

Suppose that next year, the friends of Houndsley and Catina had a surprise birthday party for the two.

Write a story about the party. Tell how Houndsley and Catina's friends surprised them.

## WRITING TIPS

- Read the prompt carefully. Look for clue words that tell you what kind of story to write. This prompt asks you to **write a story** that tells **how Houndsley and Catina's friends surprised them with a birthday party**.
- Be sure to include details in your story. Answer questions such as these:
  - Who planned the party?
  - How did the friends keep Houndsley and Catina from finding out about the party?
  - How did the friends get Houndsley and Catina to come to the party?
  - What happened at the party?
- Your story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

## WRITING CHECKLIST

- My story tells about a surprise birthday party for Houndsley and Catina.
- My story has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- I used details that tell *who, what, when, where, why, and how*.
- Each sentence in my story tells a complete thought.
- I used correct spelling, capital letters, and punctuation.