Read Along with Max & Mia

27 story worksheets | 9 practice levels | Answer keys

Match by level, book number, and title

This edition matches all 27 stories in the current app content reviewed November 2, 2026, including the nine Next Steps stories. The printed story text and app comprehension questions match that content. Paper word work, writing, and drawing are companion extensions.

Practice together

- Choose one story, read or listen together in the app, then use its matching sheet. The story is printed for offline practice.

- Read directions aloud. Explain unfamiliar words and model sounds or word parts. Accept oral answers, pointing, or dictated responses when writing is difficult.

- Read the story again or retell it. Note what help was needed. Completion, app points, and animation playback are not reading assessments.

- Levels are practice groupings, not grade placements. These stories are not presented as a fully controlled decodable reading sequence. Pair practice with explicit, systematic reading instruction.

Research and product evidence

The cited guidance concerns general teaching methods. It did not evaluate DB Edu Apps or this worksheet pack. No controlled learning-outcome study of these products is presented here. App scores, rewards, device checks, and family feedback are not independent evidence of learning gains.

General reading guidance: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/21/

Printing and privacy

Print US Letter at 100%, single-sided, in black and white. Print only the needed story and relevant key. A nickname is enough; keep completed work at home or school. Pages 3-29 contain stories; pages 30-34 contain adult answer keys.

Find the matching worksheet

Level 1: First words

Book 1: Run with us - page 3
Book 2: Pip and the ball - page 4
Book 3: A cat on a mat - page 5

Level 2: Short vowel words

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Book 2: A sunny spot - page 7
Book 3: Hop with Pip - page 8

Level 3: Blends & digraphs

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Level 4: New vowel patterns

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Level 5: Longer sentences

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Level 6: Little stories

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Level 7: Sounds in the park

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Level 8: Vowel detectives

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Level 9: Read and discover

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Levels 7-9 are the app's Next Steps stories. Adult settings can limit which levels are shown.

Run with us

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

See Max.
See Mia.
Max can run.
Mia can run.
Run, Max, run!
Max and Mia run.

2. Circle every run.

run see run can Max run

3. Who can run?

A. Max and Mia B. The cat

4. Finish: Max can _____.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

Pip and the ball

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

See Pip.
Pip is a dog.
See the ball.
The ball is red.
Pip can run.
Run, Pip, run!

2. Circle every ball.

dog ball Pip ball red ball

3. What color is the ball?

A. Blue B. Red

4. Finish: The ball is _____.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

A cat on a mat

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

See the cat.
See the mat.
The mat is red.
The cat can sit.
Sit, cat, sit.
The cat is on the mat.

2. Circle every cat.

cat mat sit cat on cat

3. Where is the cat?

A. On the mat B. In the ball

4. Finish: The cat is on the _____.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

The red ball

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max has a red ball.
Pip is a dog.
Pip can run and hop.
Max lets Pip get the ball.
Pip has the red ball.
Max and Pip have fun.

2. Write the missing vowel. Use e, o, u once each.

r __ d d __ g f __ n

3. Who gets the red ball?

A. Pip B. The cat

4. Copy: Pip has the red ball.

5. Draw your favorite part.

A sunny spot

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

The sun is up.
Max can sit on the mat.
Mia can sit on it, too.
The cat has a nap.
Max and Mia let the cat rest.
The sun is hot.

2. Write the missing vowel. Use a, i, u once each.

n __ p s __ t s __ n

3. What does the cat do?

A. Takes a nap B. Gets the ball

4. Copy: The cat has a nap.

---

5. Draw your favorite part.

Hop with Pip

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

See Pip hop.
Max can hop, too.
Mia has a red ball.
Pip runs to the ball.
Max and Mia clap for Pip.
Pip has fun.

2. Write the missing vowel. Use a, o, u once each.

h __ p r __ n cl __ p

3. Who has a red ball at first?

A. Max B. Mia

4. Copy: See Pip hop.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

Stop and look

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max and Mia skip on the grass. Pip runs past them. Stop and look at Pip! Pip can dash to the ball. Max claps for the dog. Then Max and Mia skip back.

2. Underline st or sk at the start.

stop skip stand

3. What do Max and Mia do at the end?

A. Skip back B. Take a nap

4. Finish: Max and Mia _____ back.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

This little cat

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

This cat has a soft mat. The cat can stretch and sit. Max stops to look at the cat. Mia pats the mat next to it. The cat shuts its eyes. Shh! Let the cat rest.

2. Underline th or sh. Two letters make one sound.

this shuts the

3. Why should they be quiet?

A. The ball is red B. The cat is resting

4. Finish: Let the cat _____.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

A quick dash

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Pip spots the red ball. The dog makes a quick dash. Max and Mia stand on the grass. They clap as Pip runs past. Pip stops next to the ball. What a quick little dog!

2. Underline the first two consonants.

spots clap stops

3. Where does Pip stop?

A. Next to the ball B. On the mat

4. Finish: Pip stops next to the _____.

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5. Draw your favorite part.

A day to play

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

It is a good day to play. Max and Mia race on the grass. They see Pip chase the red ball. The cat stays on its mat. Max waves to Mia by the tree. They smile and play some more.

2. Underline ay or ee.

day play see tree

3. Which animal stays on the mat?

A. Pip B. The cat

4. Write one thing Max and Mia do in this story.

By the lake

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max and Mia can see the lake. The water looks blue in the sunshine. They stay on the grass with Pip. Max rolls the ball away from the water. Pip runs after the ball. They all play safely by the lake.

2. Circle final silent e and underline the earlier vowel.

lake safe wave

3. Where does Max roll the ball?

A. Away from the water B. Into the lake

4. Where do the friends stay while playing by the lake?

Time for home

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max and Mia have had time to play. Pip has had a good run. The cat wakes up on the red mat. Mia says it is time to go home. Max picks up the ball and the mat. They wave goodbye to the lake.

2. Circle final silent e and underline the earlier vowel.

home time wave

3. What does Max pick up?

A. The tree and the lake B. The ball and the mat

4. Why do the friends stop playing?

Everyone can play

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max likes running, and Mia likes skipping. Pip likes chasing the bright red ball. The cat likes sitting quietly on the mat. Max asks Mia to run with him, but she wants to skip. They take turns choosing what to play. Everyone has fun because each friend gets a turn.

2. Use and and but once each.

Max runs, ____ Mia skips.
Max wants to run, ____ Mia wants to skip.

3. Why does everyone get to choose a game?

A. They take turns B. They lose the ball

4. Tell or write how taking turns helps the friends.

A rest in the shade

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

The sun is bright, and the grass feels warm. Max and Mia have been running with Pip. They stop under the tree because they need a rest. Pip lies beside them while the cat stays on its mat. Mia smiles when a cool breeze moves the leaves. After resting, the friends are ready to play again.

2. Choose because or but.

They stop under the tree ____ they need a rest.

3. Why do Max and Mia stop under the tree?

A. They need a rest B. They cannot find Pip

4. What do the friends do after resting?

Helping a friend

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Mia wants to play with Pip, but Max has the ball. Max notices Mia waiting beside the tree. He gives her the ball so she can have a turn. Mia rolls it gently, and Pip races across the grass. Max smiles because his friend is having fun. Then Mia gives the ball back to Max.

2. Choose so or but.

Max gives Mia the ball ____ she can have a turn.

3. How does Max help Mia join the game?

A. He hides the mat B. He gives her the ball

4. How does Mia give Max a turn at the end?

The best kind of game

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max wants to race. Mia wants to play with the ball. They think of a game they can enjoy together. Mia rolls the ball across the grass. Max runs beside Pip to see who can reach it first. Pip is very quick! When they return, Max rolls the ball for Mia. Now she can race with Pip. The cat watches from the red mat. It does not want to run. Max and Mia laugh together. Taking turns has made their game more fun.

2. Number these events 1, 2, 3.

____ Max rolls the ball for Mia.
____ Max and Pip race after the ball.
____ Mia rolls the ball across the grass.

3. How do they make the game fun for both children?

A. They take turns rolling and racing B. They ask the cat to race

4. Why is the game fun for both children? Use a story detail.

A quiet visitor

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

The cat is resting on the red mat. Max wants to see it up close. He walks slowly across the grass. Mia reminds him to use a quiet voice. Max sits beside the mat and waits. The cat opens its eyes and looks at him. Pip comes running with the ball nearby. Max asks Mia to play with Pip away from the mat. The cat settles down again. Max is glad he gave it a quiet place to rest. Soon Max joins Mia and Pip. He can enjoy the game while the cat enjoys its nap.

2. Number these events 1, 2, 3.

____ Max joins Mia and Pip.
____ Max sits beside the mat and waits.
____ Mia reminds Max to use a quiet voice.

3. Why does Max ask Mia to play away from the mat?

A. He wants to hide the ball B. He wants the cat to rest quietly

4. How does Max show kindness to the cat? Use a story detail.

One more turn

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

The friends have played in the park all afternoon. It is almost time to leave. Mia asks for one more turn with the ball. Max agrees and waits beside the tree. Mia rolls the ball across the grass. Pip races after it while Max cheers. When Pip stops, Mia picks up the ball. Then she carries it back to Max. Max folds the mat after the cat steps off. Mia checks that they have everything. They leave the park together, happy and tired. Tomorrow they can plan another game.

2. Number these events 1, 2, 3.

____ Max folds the mat.
____ Mia rolls the ball.
____ Mia carries the ball back to Max.

3. What does Mia do after her last turn?

A. Carries the ball back to Max B. Throws the ball into the lake

4. Give two details showing how the friends get ready to leave.

The park map

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max and Mia stop at a map in the park. They want to find the big tree. A red star marks the tree on the map. Mia points to a short path beside the grass. The path splits near a bench. Max starts to turn left, but Mia asks him to stop. “Look at the map,” she says. “The tree is on the right.” Max checks the red star again. They turn right and soon reach the tree. Pip rests in the cool shade beside them. “The map helped us,” Max says. Mia smiles. “And we took time to check it!”

2. What helps them find the tree?

A. A park map
B. A red ball
C. A bird

3. Why does Mia ask Max to stop?

A. She wants a snack
B. He is about to turn the wrong way
C. Pip is asleep

4. What do they do just before reaching the tree?

A. Go home
B. Draw a star
C. Turn right

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

A bird in the fern

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Mia hears a soft chirp near a fern. A small bird hops on the ground. Max wants to get a closer look. He takes one step, and the bird stops hopping. Mia holds out her arm to stop Max. “Let us watch from here,” she whispers. They stand still beside the path. The bird starts to hop again and finds a little seed. Pip stays with Max on his lead. The children keep their voices soft as the bird eats. Soon the bird flies up to a branch. “We saw more when we were quiet,” Mia says.

2. Where do they first see the bird?

A. In a boat
B. Near a fern
C. On the map

3. Why do they stand still?

A. To watch without disturbing the bird
B. To wait for rain
C. To hide the ball

4. Which clue shows the bird feels ready to move again?

A. Max takes a step
B. Mia speaks loudly
C. It starts hopping again

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

The short stick

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Pip spots a long stick beside the path. He tries to carry it between two small trees. The stick bumps against the trees. Pip drops it and looks at Max. Max does not push Pip through. He calls Pip back to the open grass. Mia finds a shorter stick on the ground. She sets it down near Pip. Pip picks up the short stick. This time, he walks past the trees with room to spare. “That one fits,” Max says. The friends return to the grass and rest.

2. What is Pip’s problem?

A. He cannot find the lake
B. His stick is too long for the gap
C. He lost the red mat

3. What changes when he tries again?

A. He has a shorter stick
B. The trees move
C. The path gets longer

4. Which title also fits this story?

A. The Missing Boat
B. A Rainy Day
C. A Stick That Fits

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

After the rain

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Rain taps on the window in the morning. Max and Mia wait inside with Pip. By noon, the rain has stopped. A grown-up takes them to the park with their boots on. A big puddle covers part of the path. Mia stops before her feet reach the water. Max points to a dry path around it. They walk that way and keep Pip close. On the grass, they find wet leaves shining in the sun. Drops hang from the low branches. Mia looks up at the bright sky. “The park looks different after the rain,” she says.

2. What happens first?

A. They see wet leaves
B. Rain taps on the window
C. They walk around a puddle

3. Why do they choose another path?

A. A puddle covers part of the first path
B. They want to go swimming
C. They have lost Pip

4. Which detail tells you the rain has recently stopped?

A. Pip has a lead
B. Max points
C. Drops hang from branches

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

The little boat

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max folds a paper boat at home. At the park, a grown-up fills a shallow tray with water. Mia sets the tray on a flat table. Max gently places his boat on the water. The boat floats near the edge. Mia blows softly, and it moves across the tray. Max blows too hard on his turn. Water splashes, and the side of the boat gets wet. They lift the boat onto a cloth. Its paper feels soft, so they let it dry. “Next time, a soft puff,” Max says. Mia nods and helps him empty the tray.

2. Where does the boat float?

A. In a lake
B. In a shallow tray
C. In a cup

3. Why do they take the boat out?

A. The paper gets wet and soft
B. They hear a bird
C. It is made of wood

4. What will Max probably try next time?

A. A bigger splash
B. No water at all
C. A softer puff of air

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

The brown bag

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Mia brings a brown bag to the park. Inside are a red ball, a cloth, and two apples. She puts the bag by the tree. Then she joins Max for a game on the grass. When they return, the bag has tipped over. One apple is resting on the cloth. “Where is the other apple?” Mia asks. Max looks down the small slope beside the tree. They find it in the grass below. It has a round shape and could easily roll down the slope. A grown-up puts the fallen apples away to wash at home. Max and Mia set the bag on flat ground.

2. Where is the missing apple found?

A. In the tree
B. In Pip’s mouth
C. In the grass below the slope

3. How did it most likely get there?

A. It rolled when the bag tipped
B. A bird carried it
C. It grew there

4. Why do they move the bag to flat ground?

A. To hide the cloth
B. To help it stay upright
C. To make the apples roll

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

A helpful plan

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max and Mia unpack their basket under the tree. They have a blanket, cups, and a snack. Mia starts spreading the blanket. A breeze lifts one corner and folds it over. Max puts down the cups to help her. Together, they smooth the blanket on the grass. A grown-up sets the basket on the corner. Now the blanket stays flat while they finish. After their snack, they check the grass for scraps. Mia holds the bag while Max collects their rubbish. They leave the spot tidy. “Helping each other made that easier,” Max says.

2. What is the main idea?

A. Working together helps solve small problems
B. Baskets can fly
C. Snacks are always cold

3. What holds the blanket corner down?

A. A cup
B. The basket
C. Pip

4. Which action shows care for the park?

A. Leaving scraps behind
B. Folding a corner
C. Checking for rubbish

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

The missing ribbon

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Mia ties a bright ribbon to the handle of their basket. It makes the basket easy to spot. After a game, she notices the ribbon is missing. Max offers to help her look. They remember where they have been. First they sat by the tree, then they walked to the bench. They check the tree and the path. At the bench, Max sees something bright beneath a leaf. It is the ribbon! Mia ties it back on with help from their grown-up. “We followed our steps,” Mia says. “Remembering the order helped us know where to look.”

2. Which order matches their visit?

A. Bench, tree, game
B. Tree, bench, then search
C. Search, bench, tree

3. How do they decide where to search?

A. They remember where they went
B. They ask Pip to read
C. They draw a new park

4. What does “beneath” mean in this story?

A. Beside
B. Above
C. Under

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

A different kind of race

Name or nickname: _____ Date: _____

1. Read the matching story. Read again together.

Max wants to race across the grass. Mia has been walking all afternoon, and her legs feel tired. “I would like to play, but I need to sit,” she says. Max thinks for a moment. He puts three leaves on the picnic table. “We can race to find matching leaves,” he suggests. Mia stays at the table and looks closely. Max brings a leaf for her to compare with the first one. “The shape matches, but the edge is different,” she says. They try again and find a match together. They decide to stop racing and keep comparing. Their new game lets both friends join in.

2. Why do they change their game?

A. Mia needs a game she can play sitting down
B. The park is closed
C. Max loses his shoes

3. How do they compare the leaves?

A. By listening to them
B. By looking at shape and edge
C. By counting the trees

4. What does their new game show?

A. Only running is fun
B. Friends must always race
C. A game can change to include everyone

5. Tell a grown-up one story detail that helped you answer.

Grown-up answer key

Accept equivalent wording for open responses. Oral and dictated answers are welcome. Drawing responses vary.

Level 1, Book 1: Run with us (page 3)

2. run in positions 1, 3, and 6.
3. A. Max and Mia
4. run

Level 1, Book 2: Pip and the ball (page 4)

2. ball in positions 2, 4, and 6.
3. B. Red
4. red

Level 1, Book 3: A cat on a mat (page 5)

2. cat in positions 1, 4, and 6.
3. A. On the mat
4. mat

Level 2, Book 1: The red ball (page 6)

2. red: e; dog: o; fun: u.
3. A. Pip
4. Pip has the red ball.

Level 2, Book 2: A sunny spot (page 7)

2. nap: a; sit: i; sun: u.
3. A. Takes a nap
4. The cat has a nap.

Level 2, Book 3: Hop with Pip (page 8)

2. hop: o; run: u; clap: a.
3. B. Mia
4. See Pip hop.

Grown-up answer key

Accept equivalent wording for open responses. Oral and dictated answers are welcome. Drawing responses vary.

Level 3, Book 1: Stop and look (page 9)

2. stop: st; skip: sk; stand: st.
3. A. Skip back
4. skip

Level 3, Book 2: This little cat (page 10)

2. this: th; shuts: sh; the: th.
3. B. The cat is resting
4. rest

Level 3, Book 3: A quick dash (page 11)

2. spots: sp; clap: cl; stops: st.
3. A. Next to the ball
4. ball

Level 4, Book 1: A day to play (page 12)

2. day/play: ay; see/tree: ee.
3. B. The cat
4. Accept race, play, smile, or wave (Max).

Level 4, Book 2: By the lake (page 13)

2. Circle e; underline a in each word.
3. A. Away from the water
4. On the grass.

Level 4, Book 3: Time for home (page 14)

2. Circle e; underline o in home, i in time, a in wave.
3. B. The ball and the mat
4. It is time to go home.

Grown-up answer key

Accept equivalent wording for open responses. Oral and dictated answers are welcome. Drawing responses vary.

Level 5, Book 1: Everyone can play (page 15)

2. and; but.
3. A. They take turns
4. Everyone gets a choice or has fun.

Level 5, Book 2: A rest in the shade (page 16)

2. because.
3. A. They need a rest
4. They play again.

Level 5, Book 3: Helping a friend (page 17)

2. so.
3. B. He gives her the ball
4. She gives the ball back to Max.

Level 6, Book 1: The best kind of game (page 18)

2. Top to bottom: 3, 2, 1.
3. A. They take turns rolling and racing
4. They take turns rolling and racing.

Level 6, Book 2: A quiet visitor (page 19)

2. Top to bottom: 3, 2, 1.
3. B. He wants the cat to rest quietly
4. Quiet approach, waiting, or moving the game away.

Level 6, Book 3: One more turn (page 20)

2. Top to bottom: 3, 1, 2.
3. A. Carries the ball back to Max
4. Any two: Mia carries ball; Max folds mat; Mia checks belongings.

Grown-up answer key

Accept equivalent wording for open responses. Oral and dictated answers are welcome. Drawing responses vary.

Level 7, Book 1: The park map (page 21)

2. A. A park map
3. B. He is about to turn the wrong way
4. C. Turn right
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 7, Book 2: A bird in the fern (page 22)

2. B. Near a fern
3. A. To watch without disturbing the bird
4. C. It starts hopping again
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 7, Book 3: The short stick (page 23)

2. B. His stick is too long for the gap
3. A. He has a shorter stick
4. C. A Stick That Fits
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 8, Book 1: After the rain (page 24)

2. B. Rain taps on the window
3. A. A puddle covers part of the first path
4. C. Drops hang from branches
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 8, Book 2: The little boat (page 25)

2. B. In a shallow tray
3. A. The paper gets wet and soft
4. C. A softer puff of air
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 8, Book 3: The brown bag (page 26)

2. C. In the grass below the slope
3. A. It rolled when the bag tipped
4. B. To help it stay upright
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Grown-up answer key

Accept equivalent wording for open responses. Oral and dictated answers are welcome. Drawing responses vary.

Level 9, Book 1: A helpful plan (page 27)

2. A. Working together helps solve small problems
3. B. The basket
4. C. Checking for rubbish
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 9, Book 2: The missing ribbon (page 28)

2. B. Tree, bench, then search
3. A. They remember where they went
4. C. Under
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.

Level 9, Book 3: A different kind of race (page 29)

2. A. Mia needs a game she can play sitting down
3. B. By looking at shape and edge
4. C. A game can change to include everyone
5. Accept a relevant detail from the printed story.