

Weather Tales

Illustrated by Ilene Richard and Eldon Doty

Rain, Rain, Go Away

By Marilyn Sprick

The Grumpy Groundhog


By Jessica Sprick and Marilyn Sprick

Flip, Flop, Kerplop





By Shelley V. Jones

UNIT 36 STORIES

Rain, Rain, Go Away	6
Introduction	7
Chapter 1, An Afternoon Shower	9
Chapter 2, Come Again Another Day	11
Chapter 3, It's a Fact!	11
The Grumpy Groundhog	13
Chapter 1, A Foolish Fear	15
Chapter 2, A Sunny Winter Day	18
Story Summary	19
Flip, Flop, Kerplop	19
Storybook Decoding Review	21



Vocabulary Words

	cloud	A cloud is made of tiny drops of water. A cloud floats high in the sky.
	rain	Rain is water that falls in drops from the clouds.
	shower	A shower is a short fall of rain. In a shower, it doesn't rain very long.
	storm	A storm is a strong wind with rain, ice, or snow.



fiction = something that is made up
 fact = something that is real

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Introduction

When someone makes up a story, the story is called fiction. The stories about the detectives, Zack and Alexander, were fiction. Bats do not have hats. Raccoons do not have wedding rings, and zebras are not detectives.



When you read this next story, it may be hard to tell whether it is fact or fiction.

CHAPTER 1

An Afternoon Shower

When does this story take place? The chapter is called "An Afternoon Shower." A shower is a light rain. So what do you think this story is about?



One summer day in a small English town, clouds began to darken the sky. It had been a dry summer. The people looked up at the clouds and said, "The rain will be welcome!"

Why were the people looking forward to the rain?

The people expected an afternoon shower. However, when the rain started to fall, it was more than just a shower.



The people could hear funny sounds all around them. Whack! Plop, plop, plop! Plop, plop, whack! Everyone ran indoors.

Where did the people run? Why do you think they ran indoors?

CHAPTER 2

Come Again Another Day

The people looked out at the rain from the safety of their houses. They started to see funny things in the rain. People asked, “What is happening?”

One man said, “It’s raining cats and dogs!”

A woman said, “Maybe the sky is falling!”

It did look as if lumps of mud were falling from the sky.



Do you have any ideas about what might have been happening?

Another man asked, “Do you think that rain could be from another planet?”

Just then, someone shouted, “That rain is green.”

Then another woman shouted, “The rain is green and it is hopping!”

What did the people see? What do you think could be green and hopping?

It was raining frogs! Frogs were falling from the clouds. Hundreds of frogs landed in the trees, on the cars, and on the ground. There were frogs everywhere.



Have you ever seen frog rain? Do you think this story is fact or fiction? What is a fact? Do you think the frog rain really happened? If the story is real, it is . . . If the story is made up, it is . . .

CHAPTER 3 It's a Fact!

As odd as it may seem, it is a fact. Frogs have fallen from the clouds.

In "Come Again Another Day," you learned that frogs rained down on an English town. It happened about seventy years ago. Strong winds had sucked lots of little frogs up into the clouds. When the rain started, the frogs fell from the clouds with the rain. It really was a froggy day!



What made the clouds rain frogs?

Frog rain isn't the oddest thing that has ever happened. About one hundred fifty years ago, thousands of fish fell into the streets of another town. No one ever found out where the fish came from. But the fish soon began to smell. Fish rain wasn't very funny for the people who had to clean it up!



You know why it rained frogs. Do you think you know why it rained fish?

The Grumpy Groundhog

CHAPTER I A Foolish Fear



Some people say that groundhogs can predict weather. They say if a groundhog comes out of his hole on a sunny day in late winter and sees his shadow, he will go back into his tunnel and spring won't come. Do you think groundhogs can really predict the weather? Your next story is about a groundhog named Greg. Greg has decided never to come out of his hole, so it is always winter. Do you think this story is fact or fiction?



Long ago, there was a grumpy old groundhog named Greg. Grumpy Greg lived in a dark, round tunnel and never came out. It was all because of a foolish fear—the big black thing he saw whenever he went out. So Greg stayed underground for years and years. Spring never came, and it was always cold. What do you think Greg's foolish fear was? Yes, given what we know about groundhog stories, Greg's foolish fear was his shadow. Read the passage again.

Who is the story about? Greg is causing a problem. What's the problem? Is this story fact or fiction?

One day, a hip gray rabbit in dark glasses happened into Greg's tunnel. The rabbit's name was Jack. Jack said, "What a hoot! You're the old coot—the groundhog that went missing. It's oh so cold, man. We need you to come out."



Greg just grumped and grumbled. Jack laughed and said, "Do not frown. I'll set your clock for late winter. And when it rings, together we will go up and jump start spring."

If Greg doesn't come out, it will always be winter. Spring will never come. What did Jack do to get Greg ready to go above ground?

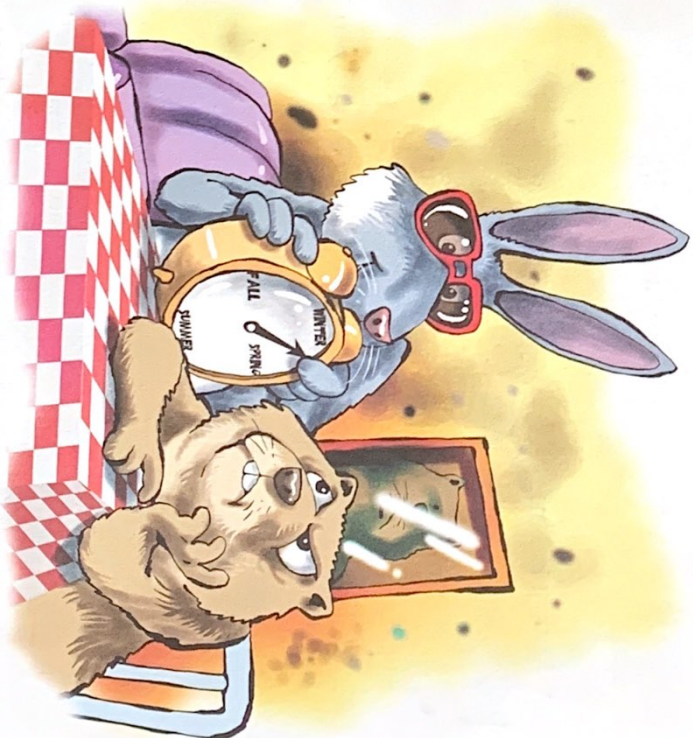
CHAPTER 2

A Sunny Winter Day

Do you think Greg will leave his tunnel when the clock rings? Do you think he will run back underground if he sees his shadow?

Jack Rabbit and the grumpy old groundhog, Greg, were tucked underground. Jack said, "When the clock rings, we are going out on the town. There will be no more of this foolish hanging around in the dark."

Greg just grumped and grumbled.



Did Greg want to go outdoors? Why not?

All of a sudden, the clock rang. Jack jumped and shouted, "That's it, man. We are going to jump start spring." Jack plopped his dark glasses on Greg and did a little jitterbug. Before Greg could mutter a sound, Jack scooted him around. Then as quick as a wink, they were up on the ground.

When the clock rang, what did Jack do?

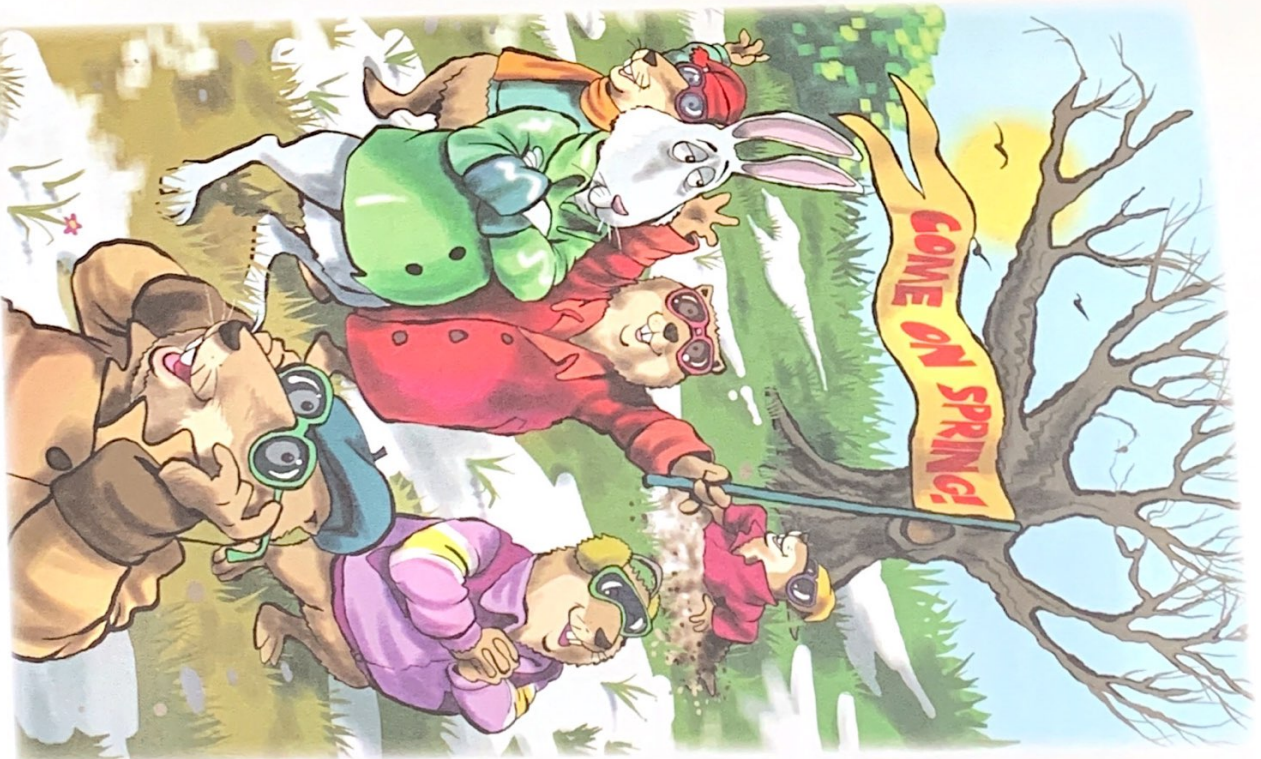
Groundhog Greg looked at the sun. There were no clouds in the sky. There was no big black thing. The dark glasses kept him from seeing his foolish fear. Greg giggled, then shouted, "Come on spring!"

Jack jitterbugged some more and said, "You did it, man."

Greg had a foolish fear of his shadow. How did Jack keep Greg from being afraid of his shadow?

Now, thanks to Jack, groundhogs are happy to set their clocks and wish for spring. With no more foolish fear, they pop up out of their tunnels when their clocks ring.

Did this story have a happy ending? According to this story, why does spring come every year? Do you think this story is fact or fiction? We learned earlier that some people say if a groundhog comes out of his hole in the winter and sees his shadow, he will go back in his hole and winter will continue. Do you think this saying is fact or fiction?



The Grumpy Groundhog

We're going to retell "The Grumpy Groundhog." Look at the picture. Who was the story about?



At the beginning of the story, Greg was causing a problem. What was the problem?



In the middle of the story, what did Jack Rabbit do to get Greg ready to go above ground?



At the end of the story, what did Greg say and do?



According to this story, what do groundhogs do now? Let's go back to the beginning and retell the whole story by looking at the pictures. Look at the first picture. This story was about...

Flip, Flop, Kerplop

Plop, drop, kerplop,
Wow! Wow! My, my!
An afternoon shower
Falls from the sky.

Plop, drop, flip, flop,
What's raining down?
Raindrops, raindrops,
All around the town.

Flip, flop, kerplop,
Is it raining fish?
See the rain wiggle,
Hear it swish!
Plop, drop, kerplop,
You silly goose!
It isn't raining fish.
Fish are not on the loose.



Plop, drop, flip, flop,

They don't stop!

Green, green raindrops,

That hop, hop, hop!

Plop, drop, kerplop,

Frogs are everywhere!

It's raining frogs.

Look! See them there.

Plop, drop, flip, flop,

Now I've seen it all,

Frogs in the clouds

And frogs that fall.

Flip, flop, kerplop,

Now it's sunny.

Frogs on the ground,

How very, very funny.



Storybook Decoding Review

UNIT 36, EXTRA PRACTICE

Words with the new sound:

out	shout	round	pound
Now	cow	shower	flower
loud	wow	about	However

Words you can sound out:

torn	play	gusts	asleep
also	even	planet	expected
sixty	lake	shelter	brown

Words you have learned:

two	very	because	of
any	where	earth	laugh

Phrases you can read:

up the river	around the block
an English town	in her backyard

Sentences you can read:

Father said, "There is no shouting in this car."
 In school I learned that one and one make two.
 Will it be sunny or rainy today?