

**UNIT OVERVIEW**  
*Mr. Popper's Penguins*  
*A Novel Study*

**OVERVIEW**

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts as students develop a love for reading longer materials like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) *Chapter Questions*

For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is key as students must read and understand the *entire* book in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students *must understand* the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.)

2) *Vocabulary and Language*

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, antonyms/synonyms, syllables, punctuation and grammar.

3) *Writing and Creativity*

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills.

**EVALUATION**

Teachers can use the optional marking form provided or devise their own. Certain assignments, especially in the *Vocabulary and Language* section are well suited to marking by students. However, it is important that teachers mark assignments requiring answers in complete sentences to monitor student progress in this crucial area.

### READING STRATEGIES

A variety of reading approaches seems to work best. One proven method is for the teacher to read the book outloud to the entire class the first time through, stopping after a chapter or two. In answering the questions, students will essentially be required to reread the chapter on their own. Not only does this "outloud" method insure that students are read to daily, but it also helps all of the students to understand the book, regardless of reading level.

Having the students read sections silently by themselves, outloud with partners or in small groups are all possible variations that will help keep student interest high.

### \*\*\* Note \*\*\*

One way to gain a measure of the effectiveness of the novel study and to gauge student interest is to instruct students *not* to read ahead on their own. Basic reverse psychology dictates that students will invariably be slouching down into their desks to sneak in a chapter while the teacher knowingly turns a blind eye.

### ASSIGNMENTS

With the assignments, teachers can photocopy entire booklets for each student or only the portions that the teacher wishes to use. One possible method of reducing this large amount of photocopying is to have students write down the chapter questions and answers in their notebooks.

### \*\*\* Note \*\*\*

If your school uses passwords for the photocopier and you are worried about the photocopy police slapping your wrists for extreme overuse, simply bribe the secretary into giving you the password for the grade two teacher and "have some fun"!

Teachers are free to pick and choose assignments as they see fit as well as adding in any optional lessons they develop.

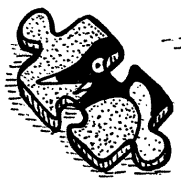


## CHAPTERS 1 - 3 Questions



### Chapter I "Stillwater"

1. What month of the year was it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In his job as a house painter, what did Mr. Popper have spattered and clinging to him?  
a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_ c) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the housewives in Stillwater have two-coloured kitchens?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. For what reason was Mr. Popper so absent-minded?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name the faraway places that Mr. Popper dreamed about.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_ d) \_\_\_\_\_  
Draw a RED CIRCLE around the place that Mr. Popper loved the most!
6. What is the Popper's address in Stillwater?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When he was home all winter, what did Mr. Popper spend his time doing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is worrying Mrs. Popper?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## CHAPTERS 4 - 6 Vocabulary and Language



1. Use your dictionary to find the meanings of the following words:  
a) revolution \_\_\_\_\_  
b) pause \_\_\_\_\_  
c) curiosity \_\_\_\_\_  
d) pompous \_\_\_\_\_  
e) ventilate \_\_\_\_\_  
f) squat \_\_\_\_\_  
g) indignant \_\_\_\_\_
2. Circle the word in each group of words that does not belong.  
a) yelled                      jumped                      leaped  
b) market                      store                              home  
c) refrigerator                icebox                            stove  
d) repair                        break                              fix  
e) discovered                 found                              lost  
f) sensible                      lost                                smart  
g) missed                        noticed                            saw  
h) frightened                 afraid                              brave  
i) roared                        whispered                        yelled  
j) painted                        talk                                speak  
k) shiny                         dull                                bright  
l) circular                        round                              square



## CHAPTERS 4 - 6 Writing and Creativity

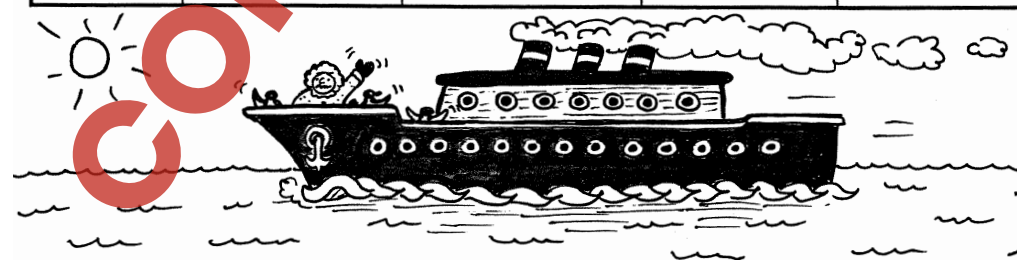


1. Finish the sentences with the reasons that each happened.  
a) Mrs. Popper screamed and retreated into the hallway because  
\_\_\_\_\_  
b) Captain Cook did not eat the food that they put out because  
\_\_\_\_\_  
c) The penguin crawled into the refrigerator because  
\_\_\_\_\_  
d) Holes were needed in the refrigerator door because  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. WORD SCRAMBLE - Unscramble each word below to make a word from the story:  
a) WITSELLAR \_\_\_\_\_  
b) DITLXNOPE \_\_\_\_\_  
c) RESPLIFF \_\_\_\_\_  
d) NUNEPIG \_\_\_\_\_  
e) PITACAN \_\_\_\_\_  
f) CATTOILA \_\_\_\_\_  
g) SOUPPOM \_\_\_\_\_  
h) HILDGOFS \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fill in the timeline with five events that have happened in the story up to now. Use one good sentence for each timeline box. Remember your capitals and periods.

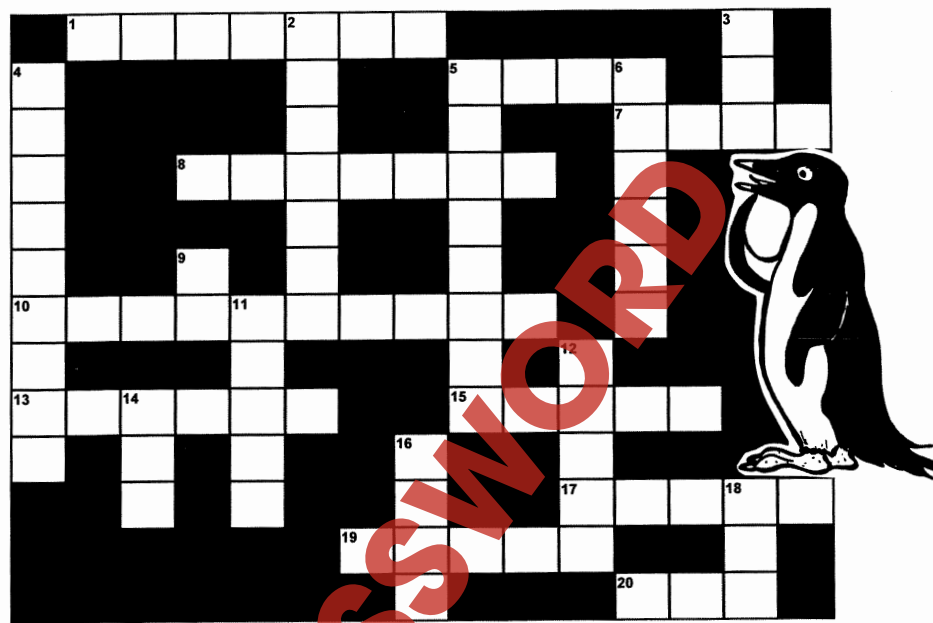
3. Make a comparison between the pets we usually have in our lives and the penguins that the Poppers had! Use the chart below to compare the pets:

COMPARE	APPEARANCE	COMMUNICATION	FOOD	HABITAT
DOG				
CAT				
HORSE				
PENGUIN				



### Mr. Popper's Penguins - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



#### ACROSS

- Mr. Popper was also a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Louisa held a small \_\_\_\_\_ in her beak.
- Nelson always \_\_\_\_\_ the fight.
- Mr. Popper almost looked like a \_\_\_\_\_ when he got dressed up!
- The penguin \_\_\_\_\_ down 3 flights of stairs with Mr. Popper.
- Penguins make nests using pebbles and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The penguin used the refrigerator to \_\_\_\_\_ in.
- Penguins are from the \_\_\_\_\_ Pole.
- Polar bears are from the \_\_\_\_\_ Pole.
- Columbus always \_\_\_\_\_ the fight.

#### DOWN

- The newspaper was called the Stillwater \_\_\_\_\_ Chronicle.
- Did Admiral Drake send Mr. Popper a penguin?
- Mr. Popper wished that he had been a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Captain Cook flapped his \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mrs. Popper played the piano with her \_\_\_\_\_ on.
- Was Admiral Drake's expedition on TV?
- Dr. Smith send a penguin named \_\_\_\_\_.
- A clothesline was used for what?
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the first sound the penguin made.
- Captain \_\_\_\_\_ was the penguin's name!
- Greta laid a total of \_\_\_\_\_ eggs.

### EVALUATION

*Mr. Popper's Penguins*  
A Novel Study

Chapters	Questions	Vocabulary and Language	Writing and Creativity	TOTAL
1, 2, & 3	___	___	___	___ = %
4, 5, & 6	___	___	___	___ = %
7, 8, & 9	___	___	___	___ = %
10, 11, & 12	___	___	___	___ = %
13, 14, & 15	___	___	___	___ = %
16, 17, 18, 19, & 20	___	___	___	___ = %

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ = %

#### COMMENTS

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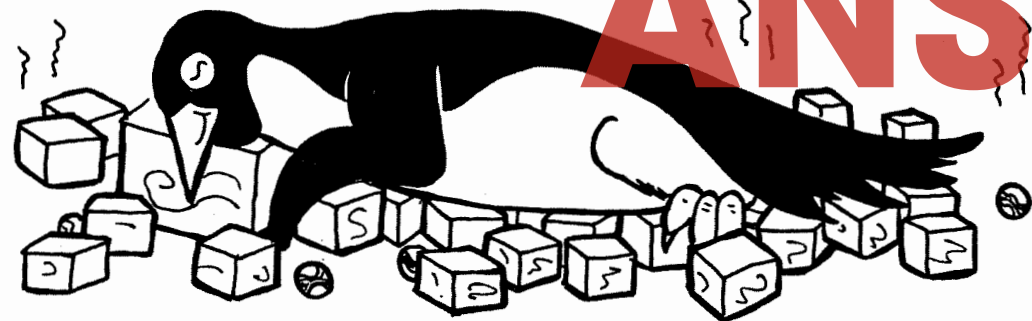


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# Mr. Popper's Penguins - WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A N T A R C T I C S E A L S S  
 P M O C L L N O I C E B O X G  
 K M B G U D G F L I P P E R S  
 X V O A R R E S T E D B G V R  
 J O G G F E I P E N G U I N O  
 A Q G E I A T O K T Y L F L O  
 O B A I L M D A U I C C D E L  
 J A N I E E N M Y S H I P K E  
 P E R F O R M W I T S R Q G V  
 R O O K E R Y K R R A D I O X  
 M S M O N E Y A C U A C X C V  
 X I T P Y S R Q X T K L N Z W  
 O S G Q O T H E A T E R I A N  
 H X X G J U Q J A E W H T X L  
 A S L O F A S O W D R J J B Y



# WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY

N T A R C T I C S E A L S S  
 M O C L L N O I C E B O X G  
 M B G U D G F L I P P E R S  
 V O A R R E S T E D B G V R  
 O G G F E I P E N G U I N O  
 Q G E I A T O K T Y L F L O  
 B A I L M D A U I C C D E L  
 A N I E E N M Y S H I P K E  
 E R F O R M W I T S R Q G V  
 O O K E R Y K R R A D I O X  
 S M O N E Y A C U A C X C V  
 I T P Y S R Q X T K L N Z W  
 G Q O T H E A T E R I A N  
 X X G J U Q J A E W H T X L  
 S L O F A S O W D R J J B Y

# ANSWER KEY

- |           |          |         |           |          |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| ADMIRAL   | BILL     | ICEBOX  | POMPOUS   | SEALS    |
| ANTARCTIC | CURIOUS  | JANIE   | RADIO     | SHIP     |
| ARCTIC    | DREAMER  | MONEY   | READ      | STRUTTED |
| ARRESTED  | FLIPPERS | PENGUIN | ROOKERY   | THEATER  |
| BAIL      | GRETA    | PERFORM | SCIENTIST | TOBOGGAN |