

November

51

Author, Author

November 1 is National Author's Day. In honor of this day, try your hand at being an author. Finish the following story: "This was truly amazing. Darrell and Katie could not believe it. If you opened the special door, on the other side was . . ."

52

Fearless Fiona and the Temple of the Amazon

King Tut's tomb was discovered in Egypt on November 4, 1922. Imagine that you made an exciting archaeological find: the Temple of the Amazon, maybe, or the Lost City of Antarctica. Give yourself a cool explorer's name like Fearless Fiona and write about your discovery in an Adventure Log.

53

Multiple Mel

Multiple Mel can do the following things:

- A) Say something funny
- B) Do a somersault
- C) Eat something
- D) Go someplace different
- E) Say, "Awesome!"

Pick out ten letters among *A* through *E* in any order. For example, you could choose CECADDBCAE. That means Multiple Mel eats something (letter *C*), then says "Awesome!" (letter *E*), then eats something else (letter *C*), and so on. That might lead to the following Multiple Mel adventure: "Multiple Mel ate a cantaloupe and shouted out, 'Awesome!' and then . . ." Pick your ten letters first. Then, write your own Multiple Mel adventure.

54

Yard Skiing

James Naismith was born on November 6, 1861. He invented the game of basketball. Can you name a sport you would like to invent? Write down the rules and describe how it is played.

55

Coining a Coin

There's a new one-dollar coin featuring the Native American hero Sakajawea. Pretend you are creating your own new coin. How much would it be worth? What famous person would you feature on it and why?

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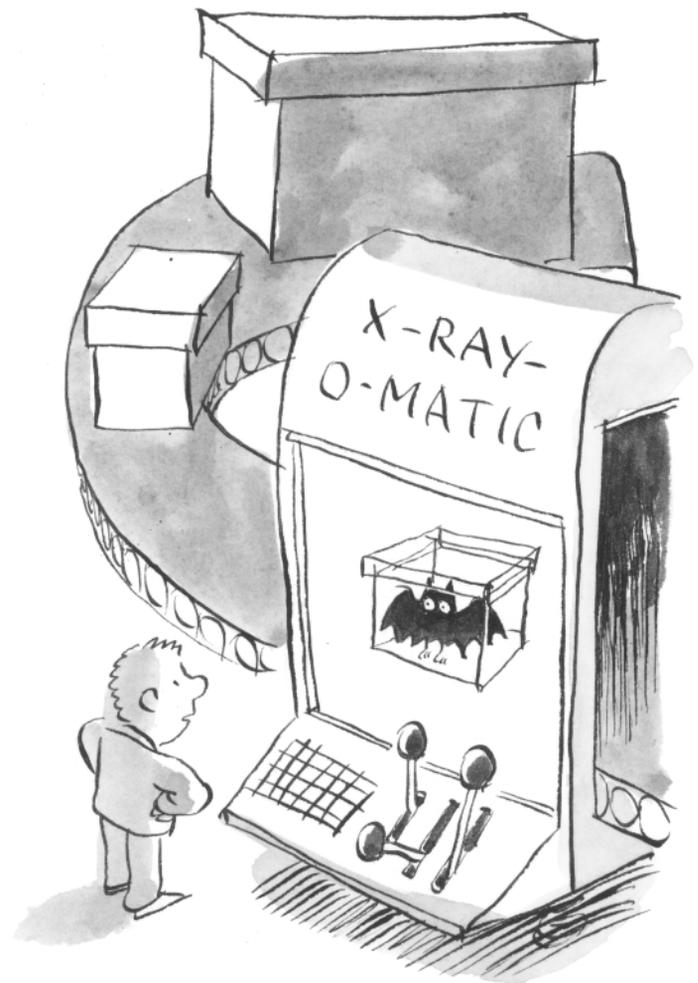
Huge Tale

A Tall Tale is a story that is simply too strange to be believed. Here's an example: Once, a boy blew a bubblegum bubble the size of a hot-air balloon. He floated up into the air and traveled all the way to China. Make up your own Tall Tale. Really stretch your mind so that yours will actually be a Huge Tale.

57

X-Ray Vision

The X-ray was discovered on November 8, 1895. An X-ray makes it possible to see inside of things. Imagine that you have your own X-ray machine. What if you went home and found three boxes in your room: one huge, one medium-sized, and one tiny. You could use the X-ray to see inside the boxes, right? Use your imagination and describe what you see inside the three boxes.



58

Kid TV

The show *Sesame Street* first appeared on television on November 10, 1969. It had popular characters such as Kermit the Frog and the Cookie Monster. If you could create a children's show, what would you name it? Who would be some of the characters? Now, write a short script of your very own kids' TV show.

59

Don't Trash It!

November 12 is America Recycles Day. Maybe you already recycle cans and newspapers in your home. Make a list of ten other things people can do to help the environment.

60

Book Report

National Children's Book Week is November 13 through 19. What is your favorite book? Write a book report in which you discuss the characters and the story and explain why you especially like this book.

61

Strange Street

Here are a couple of shops that might appear on Strange Street. There's a pharmacy. That's where chickens go to get medicine. There's also a pie cleaner. That's where you go to have your pies cleaned, of course! Think of ten other shops that belong on Strange Street. If you like, write a story about your shops, Strange Street, and the unusual things that happen there.

62

Hidden Treasure

Robert Louis Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850. He is the author of the classic adventure story *Treasure Island*. If you had a treasure, where would you hide it? Think carefully, because you wouldn't want to lose it, and you wouldn't want anyone else to find it either. Write down careful directions that will allow you to find your treasure even many years in the future. You can also draw a map.

63

Face Time

Stories often include great descriptions of people's faces. Here's a description of an imaginary character named Dibblyhoo, the World's Silliest Man: "He had big elephant ears, fuzzy caterpillar eyebrows, and google eyes." Here are three more characters: Dr. Goptar, the Wacky Genius; Princess Petunia; and Secret Agent Sam Steele. Describe the three characters' faces.

64

Happy Mouse Day

On November 18, 1928, the very first Mickey Mouse cartoon was shown. That makes November 18 Mickey Mouse's birthday. How do you think Mickey Mouse would celebrate his birthday? Write about it.

65

Group Exercise

"On a windy November day, Ted took a walk in the park." Copy this sentence down on a piece of paper. Then, you or someone in your class should add a second sentence. Pass it around until everyone in the class has added one sentence. As a group, you will have written a story!

66

Fan Mail

Think of someone to whom you would like to send a letter. It can be absolutely anyone—a famous athlete, a character on TV, someone from history. Make up an e-mail address for that person. For example, Abraham Lincoln might be HonestAbe@logcabins.com. Now, write an e-mail that you would like to send to that person.



67

Everything Day

Thanksgiving is known for turkey. The Fourth of July is known for fireworks. Christmas is known for presents. But what if there were one big holiday that mixed together all these holidays and more—with Halloween pumpkins and Easter eggs, too. Pretend this nutty new holiday is called Everything Day. Write a story describing your family during a typical Everything Day.

68

Rah, Rah, Shish-Bang-Boom

Here's a cheer:

Hip hurrah hip hooray,
We are going to win today.
From the East to the West,
You know we're the very best.

Make up your own cheer. It can be for yourself, your family, your school, your town, whatever. Just make sure you shout it loudly!



69

Turn That Smile Upside Down

Frown! November 19 is official “Have a Bad Day” Day! Make up an Extremely Awful Day Story that includes the following things: wet shoes, lost homework, a broken bicycle, and a messy food like spaghetti for lunch.

70

The First Thanksgiving

The fourth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving. This holiday is celebrated to honor a meal that the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians ate together way back in 1621. The Pilgrims were very thankful that the Indians were friendly and brought delicious foods like corn. Write a brief essay about something for which you are thankful.

71

Autumn Play

Here are two characters for an autumn play: Willard Wind and Kelly the Kite. Write some more lines for each character and finish the play.

Kelly the Kite: "I'm ready to come down, Willard. I've been up here a long time."

Willard Wind: "Should I hold my breath?"

72

Loopy Leftovers

Thanksgiving dinner is a very big meal. People often have lots of food left over. Come up with a list of ten ways to use your Thanksgiving leftovers. Be creative. Don't be shy about suggesting turkey pizza or cranberry and corn soup.

73

The Rules of the Game

The fourth week of November is National Game and Puzzle Week. Think of a game that you really like. It can be baseball or checkers or hide-and-seek. Write down the rules as carefully as you can so that other people can learn to play your favorite game.

74

Fly Like a Turkey

Benjamin Franklin wrote a letter to his daughter in 1784. In it, he said he wished the turkey had been chosen as the symbol of America instead of the eagle. Write your own Ben Franklin-style letter. Come up with some strong arguments for why the turkey should be America's official symbol.

75

Spiral Story

Writing in straight lines from left to right gets boring, don't you think? How about writing a spiral story. Start at the outer edge of a piece of paper and write around and around. This will help you get started: "The penny rolled through the crowded grocery store. Ricky Rounder chased after it . . ."

