

D is for Dandelion

Assignment 21

- **Reading.** Read and study all the material of contained in Lesson 21. You will be reading “The Balloon” and “The Barber of Bagdad” and answering questions on the first.
- **Handwriting.** Complete Lesson 20 of the D is for Dandelion handwriting book.
- **Poetics.** Memorize the first stanza of “The First Day of Spring.”
- **Writing.** Complete Exercise 2 of Composition 2.
- **Dictation.**

This week students will continue learning about the simple predicate, called the *verb*. In the last lesson, students learned that the verb can express action. Verbs, however, can also connect the subject with either a noun or an adjective (a describing word), in which case it is called a *linking verb*. The verb *be* and its various forms—*am, is, are, was, were, be, been, and being*—are the most common linking verbs. Before

completing the following dictation exercise, students should have all these forms of *be* memorized. Students should underline the verb in each of the dictation sentences and then after the sentence, should write “A” if the verb is an action and “L” for linking if it is linking verb.



EXERCISE A

1. It is the girl's third birthday. L
2. First stir it as much as possible. A
3. His companion obeyed the caliph's orders. A
4. Touching your insult, Sir, my bird is not mangey! L
5. Five of the thirty elephants were very old. L

EXERCISE B

1. The tired children squirmed in their seats. A
2. I saw Bob's excitement about the special bargain. A

3. His handshake was firm. L
4. Before his walk, he wiped the dirt off his feet. A
5. His speech was in spirits. L

The Balloon

1. Which of the following describes Dana best.
 - a) She is always very practical.
 - b) She has no time for thinking or talking about things that are impossible or what may appear ridiculous to other people.
 - c) She is not adventurous and does not want to take risks.
 - d) She thinks of things the way they should be rather than what they truly are.
2. Dana's example of a golden sidewalk to China is an example of ____.
 - a) a possible adventure
 - b) an impractical idea
 - c) a weird plan
 - d) Dana's sense of humor
3. Which of the following best describes the message that Dana sent with the balloon on her seventh birthday?
 - a) secret and romantic
 - b) simple
 - c) luxurious
 - d) both familiar and strange

It was a beautiful farm that had chickens, horses, cows and goats. Even though it didn't have an elephant, it had an alpaca and rabbits.

4. The word alpaca in the sentence above means ____.
 - a) a barn
 - b) a kind of rabbit
 - c) a kind of animal similar to a llama
 - d) a large kind of goat
5. Which of the following is true of the ending of the "The Balloon"?
 - a) It is ironic because finding the balloon goes against Dana's desires or dreams.
 - b) It shows that romantic ideas may be enjoyable to think about, but they never come to pass.
 - c) It is a romantic ending in that what happens is unlikely but agrees with the protagonist's ideas about life.
 - d) It is an unresolved and disturbing ending in which the reader is encouraged to wonder how the balloon came into the barn.