

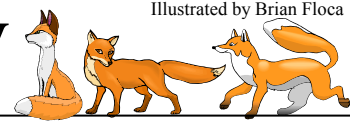


Ereth's Birthday

by Avi



Illustrated by Brian Floca



Miniature Farmer

A Revision and Editing Exercise

Objectives: ... recognize appropriate organization of ideas in written text
...recognize correct and effective sentence construction in written text
...proofread for correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in written text

Molly enjoyed reading Ereth's Birthday and looked forward to writing her own animal story. One day, Molly's teacher asked each student to write about a wild animal. Molly wrote about one that was causing problems for her family. This is a draft of her paper. Molly wants you to help her revise and edit it. Read Molly's paper and think about changes you would make to help her improve it. Then answer the questions that follow.

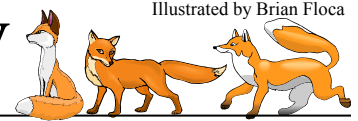
(1) Our back yard is filled with wildlife. (2) We have butterflies, birds, squirrels, and something that used to sneak in to dig up our lawn at night. (3) Dad said it looked like a little farmer had come in with a tractor and plowed part of our yard up after we all went to bed!

(4) The next day, dad asked me to help him catch the rascal that was turning our lawn into a dirt pile. (5) "Sure!" I chirped, grabbing my butterfly net from my toy box. (6) He told me his plan. (7) We gathered the things we would need. (8) Then all we had to do was to wait until midnight. (9) I was pretty excited because I had never stayed up that late before in my whole life, and I couldn't wait to see who that little farmer was.

(10) Before the sun went down, we put two empty garbage cans in the middle of the yard. (11) We lay their lids right beside them. (12) On each side, we put big fishing nets. (13) My heart thumped loudly as I watched the sun sink into the creek outside our chain link fence. (14) We had eaten chicken strips and salad for dinner. (15) Then we hid in bushes, flashlights in hand, and waited for night to cover us with its invisibility blanket. (16) I got pretty bored sitting in that dark bush, and every time I tried to say something to Dad, he shushed me. (17) By 11 p.m, I started getting sleepy, and I had to tickle myself with the bushes' twigs to stay awake.

(18) Suddenly, we heard a shuffling noise coming from the corner. (19) My eyes flew open and my heart began to pound wildly. (21) We watched five shadows,





Miniature Farmer

(A Revision and Editing Exercise, Continued)

one larger than the others, creep into the yard and begin digging. (22) What were they? (23) “Now!” my daddy whispered as he grabbed a garbage can and popped it over the top of the larger shadow. (24) Meanwhile, I had grabbed the closest fishing net and threw it over the four smaller shadows. (25) We flipped on our flashlights. (26) We were amazed! (27) In my net four miniature animals with leathery armor and pointed noses jumped around, grunting, trying to free themselves from the net. (28) Dad slid the lid under the trash can and turned it over. (29) When we peep inside, we saw a large armadillo thrashing about.

(30) “An armadillo family!” I exclaimed, jumping up and down with excitement.

(31) “It’s no wonder they were making such a mess of our yard! Let’s get them into the car and drive them to a new home in the country,” Dad said, still breathing hard.

(32) The next day, I looked up “armadillo” on the internet and learned some fun facts about them. (33) Did you know that armadillos always have four babies? (34) Did you know that all of the babies are either all boys or all girls, not some of each? (35) I found out a lot of other interesting things, too. (36) If we ever catch another armadillo family I have decided to name one of its babies Dirtbag and keep it for a pet.

1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?

- A. Change *was* to *were*
- B. Capitalize *dad*
- C. Change turning to turning
- D. Make no change

2. What would be the BEST way to combine sentences 6 and 7?

- A. He told me his plan, then we gathered the things we would need.
- B. After he told me his plan, we gathered the things we would need
- C. He told me his plan, but we gathered the things we would need.
- D. Telling me his plan and gathering the things we would need.

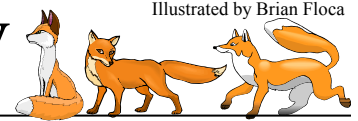




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3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

- A. Change *whispered* to *whispers*
- B. Capitalize *daddy*
- C. Change exclamation point to a period
- D. Make no change

4. Which sentence could BEST be added after sentence 23?

- A. My eyes were getting heavy and I almost fell asleep.
- B. The shadow began clanking around in the trash can.
- C. We don't have any new trash cans.
- D. Our trash is picked up twice a week.

5. What would be the best way to combine sentences 25 and 26?

- A. Clicking on our flashlights and amazed.
- B. We clicked on our flashlights, then we were amazed.
- C. We clicked on our flashlights because we were amazed.
- D. When we clicked on our flashlights, we were amazed.

6. Sentence 29 can be improved by~

- A. changing *saw* to *seen*
- B. change *thrashing* to *thrashed*
- C. changing the period to a question mark
- D. changing the *peak* to *peeked*

7. What change, if any, should be done to improve sentence 31?

- A. Change *Dad* to *dad*
- B. Change *Its* to *It's*
- C. Change *them* to *it*
- D. Make no change

8. Which sentence does not belong in the passage?

- A. Sentence 10
- B. Sentence 14
- C. Sentence 25
- D. Sentence 29

9. What would be the best way to combine sentences 33 and 34?

- A. Did you know that armadillos always have four babies and did you know that all of the babies are either all boys or all girls, not some of each?
- B. Did you know that armadillos always have four girl babies and four boy babies?
- C. Did you know that armadillos always have four babies that are the same sex?
- D. Did you know that armadillos always have four babies and some of them are boys?

10. What change should be made in sentence 36?

- A. Change *Dirtbag* to *dirtbag*
- B. Add a comma after family
- C. Change *babies* to *baby's*
- D. Change *it's* to *its*





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Answers for Pages 17-18

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. B

Cut out this answer box. Paste it on page 201 in *Defeating Giants*. Please forgive us for the inconvenience.

OR

Trim the edges of the **next** page (page 201) and paste it over page 201 in the book.

Ereth's Birthday

Page 13: Seeing the Forest in the Trees

- 1. C squeaking and squealing 4. B the weather or seasons
2. B 5. A
3. D 6. A
4. B the weather or seasons 7. B

Page 14: Salt, Humans, and Death

- 1. B --his desire for salt
2. C --He was cold, tired, and hungry.
3. B --the salt
4. A "His frustration abetted by curiosity."
5. D
6. Ereth promised to help the fox.
The fox asked Ereth to take care of her kit The fox died.
Ereth bellowed, "Dying! It's such a stupid way to live! It makes no sense at all!"
Ereth came to a bluff at the end of a field.
He got a sharp smack on his nose.

Pages 17-18

- 1. B 3. D 5. D 7. B 9. C
2. B 4. B 6. D 8. B 10. B

Page 19: Animal Tracks from left to right

- 1st track—Beaver 2nd track—skunk 3rd track—porcupine
4th track—raccoon 5th track—black bear 6th track—red fox

Page 22: Erethmetic

- 1. North
2. 8 1/4 inches
3. Ereth had to walk 16 1/2 miles from his log to the cabin. Since each inch equals 8 1/4 inches, I added 8 1/4 + 8 1/4. I could also multiply 2 X 8 1/4 or use cubes divided into fourths to show the answer with manipulatives.
4. Answers vary.
5. It was 8 miles farther from the log to the cabin than it was from the cabin to the den. From Ereth's log to the hunters' cabin it is 16 1/2 miles. From the hunters' cabin to the foxes' den it is 8 1/2 miles. I subtracted 8 1/2 from 16 1/2 to find 8 miles difference.
6. They could eat for 28 days. First find out how many pounds the three kits eat each day: 1 1/2 + 1 1/2 + 1 1/2 = 4 1/2 Convert the 4 1/2 to a decimal, 4.5. Then, divide the 126 pounds by 4.5 to figure out how many days the food would last.

Tough Stumpers:

- 7. He would have saved 12.5 miles. From the foxes' den to Ereth's log is 6 1/4 inches. When I multiply 6 1/4 times 2 miles per inch, I get 12 1/2 miles if he had come straight home from the foxes' den. From the foxes' den to the cabin was 8 1/2 miles. Then from the cabin to the log was 16 1/2 miles. Add these two together and I get 25 miles. To find how many miles he would have saved, I subtracted 12 1/2 miles from the 25 miles and got 4 miles.

- 8. In twenty-four steps a porcupine would travel 9 feet.

We knew that 3 fox steps equal 4 porcupine steps and that 1 fox step equals 1/2 foot. We had to figure out how many feet a porcupine could travel in 4 steps. We decided to multiply the number of feet in one fox step by 3. We converted the fraction 1/2 into the decimal of .5 3x.5=1.5 Thus in three steps the fox travels 1.5 feet. Since three fox steps equals 4 porcupine steps, a porcupine travels 1.5 feet in four steps. Now we had to figure out how many feet a porcupine could travel in 24 steps. 24 could be divided by four. 24÷4=6 Then multiply 6 times the number of feet in 4 steps which is 1.5. 6x1.5ft=9ft. Thus in twenty-four steps the porcupine travels 9 feet.

Another Explanation:

The porcupine would cover 9 feet in 24 steps.

First I made a note by saying 4 porcupine steps = 3 fox steps. The question asks for the distance covered by 24 porcupine steps. But, we know only the fox step measurement - which says that 1 fox step is 1/2 feet. To find the answer I had to convert 24 porcupine steps into fox steps. I put 24 small lines and broke every 4 lines with a big line. Then, for every break I put 3 lines for equivalent fox steps. For 24 porcupine steps I got 18 fox steps. Now I can find the distance by multiplying 18 by 1/2 feet which comes to 9 feet. So, the porcupine would have covered 9 feet in 24 steps.

- 9. They could clear 12 feet of ground in an hour. 10 minutes is 1/6 of an hour, so I multiplied the 2 foot path X 6 and got 12 feet.

Page 23: Homecoming

Clockwise beginning at 12:00:

Sassafras, Snowberry, Flip, Walnut, Mariposa, Columbine, Scruboak, Nimble, Tumble, Locust, Ragweed II, Pipssewa, Crabgrass, Berbena

Radio Rescue

Page 26: Read a Message, Send a Message

Sometimes the old ways are the best ways.

... --- - . - . -- . . . / - / --- / . - . - . -
- . . . / - . . . / - / - - / - . - . - . - .

He gives double who gives unasked.

... / - / . . - / - . -
/ - / . - - . - . - . - . - . - . -

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

... - . - . - . . / - . - . - / - . - . -
... / - ... - . - / - . - - / - . - . - . - . / - . /
- . - . / - / / - . - . - - /
- - - / - / / - . - . - - /
- - - / - / -

I think I love you.

.. / - - . - / .. / . . - . - . . . / - . - . - . . - . - . -

Page 27: More Morse Mysteries

- 1. Who discovered the connection between electricity and magnetism? Michael Faraday How old was he when he died? 76 years old
2. Who invented the telegraph? Samuel Morse How old was he when he died? 81
3. What caused the danger in Florida in 1926? A hurricane
4. How far could the wireless radio signals reach? Around the world

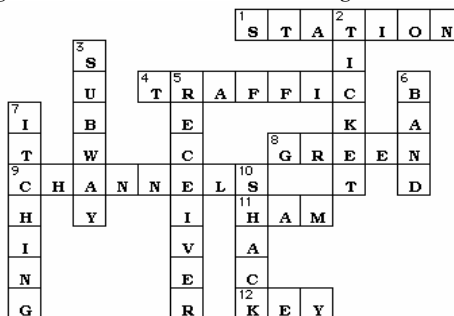
Page 28: In the Old Days

- 1. D 2. D disappointed 3. A 4. C 5. D 6. C 7. A

Page 29: Rescuing Meaning

- 1. D 2. A 3. D 4. B 5 B

Page 30: Word Traffic: Double Meanings



Edwina Victorious

Page 36: Treasures in the Attic

- 1. China Dishes—2 drawer chest
2. Dolls—Padded Seat
3. Musical instruments—13 drawer dresser
4. Jewelry--desk
5. Calculator—3 Drawer Chest
6. Scuba diving supplies-trunk