

# INTRODUCTION

*Wonder Stories* is a series of books designed to improve the reading comprehension of older students whose reading skills are below grade level. The series is also ideal for challenging the abilities of elementary students functioning at or above grade level.

Each factual article begins with a question about a topic that has prompted thoughts like, "I wonder how . . . , I wonder why . . . , I wonder what . . ." Comprehension questions follow each story.

The high-interest stories in all five books appeal to all ages, making it possible to tailor the appropriate book for individual students depending upon their reading abilities. In order to ensure that stories were at the desired reading levels, readability scales were used.\*

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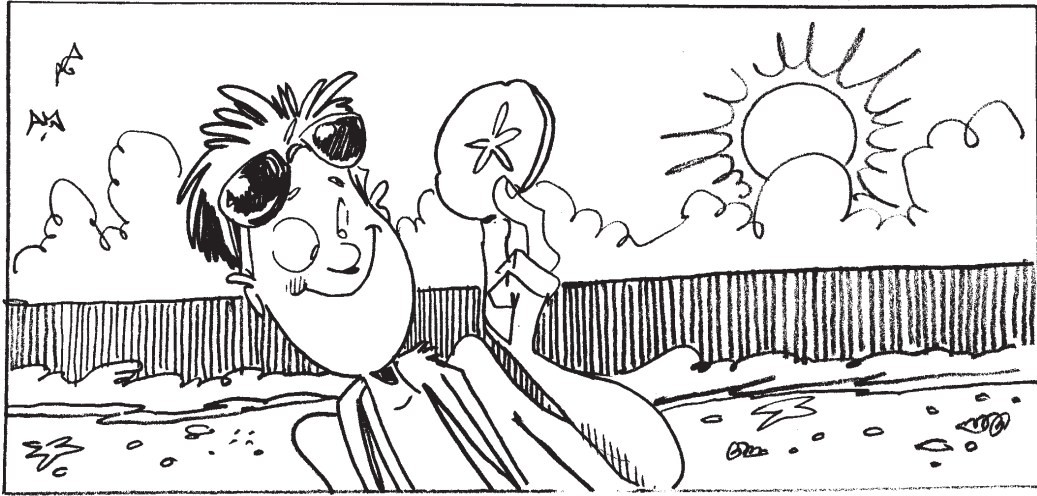
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### A Note About Readability Scores

Readability scales are useful as long as one realizes their limitations. Results are approximate guidelines only, with a minimum margin of error of (+ or -) 1.5 grade levels. In other words, a story measured at a second grade readability level could easily be suitable for both first and third graders. Another limitation is that two different readability scales can be applied to the same sample, yet yield widely varied results. In spite of the inexact nature of readability scales, we at Remedica use them because they measure word and sentence length, both valid predictors of readability. They also help us provide vocabulary-controlled materials in order to meet the special education needs of many of our valued clients. At the same time, we realize that these scales are not designed to measure every other factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. We are also aware of the variance in standards and expectations set for each grade level. What is first grade material in one school may be second grade in another. At Remedica we strive to take all these factors into consideration as we develop and revise materials. We leave the rest in your capable hands. Regarding readability, you—and your students—will be the final judge.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

What is a sand dollar?



Do you like to walk on the beach? Then maybe you have seen a sand dollar shell. It is gray and round. It looks like a silver dollar. It also has spots on it. They are in the shape of a star.

How does this shell get on the beach? The tide brought it there. Once it was part of a sand dollar. A sand dollar is a small animal. It lives in the water by the shore. It has spines. It uses them to dig and crawl. When the sand dollar dies, it decays. It leaves its shell behind.

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1. This story is about a small animal called a \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. When the animal dies, it leaves its \_\_\_\_\_ behind.
  3. What brings the shell to the beach?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. What word in paragraph 2 means the same as *land along the ocean*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. What does the sand dollar use to dig and crawl?  
\_\_\_\_\_