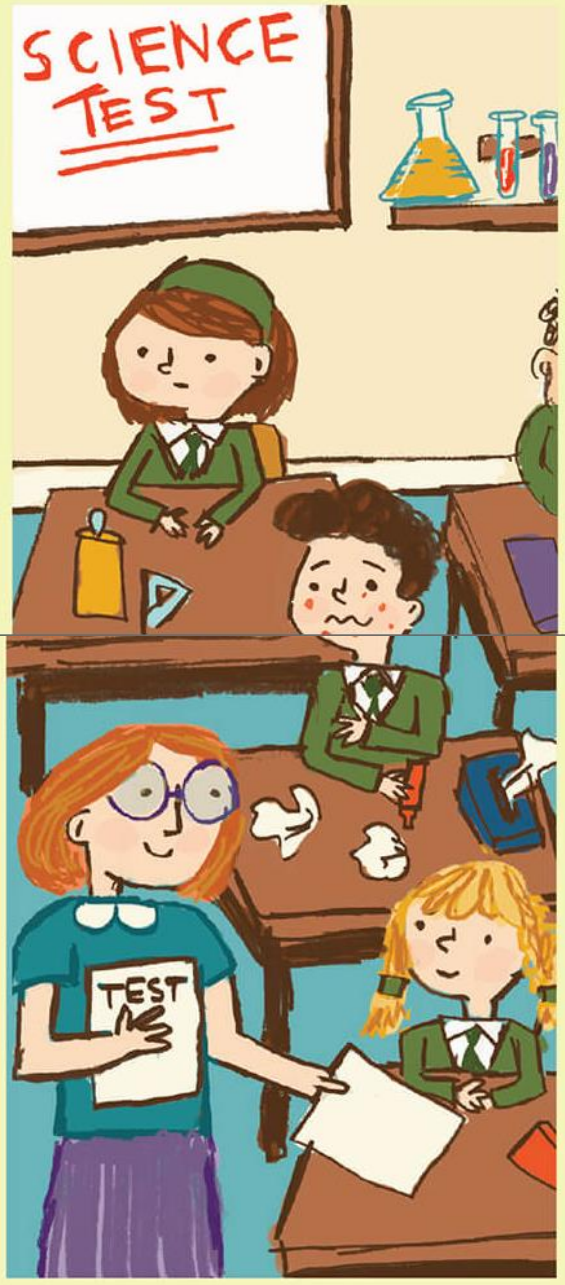
A Ready to read

Let's **predict**! When we make predictions, we start to think about what might happen in a story. Paige uses the title of the poem and the illustrations to help her make good predictions. Can you predict what this poem might be about?

B Let's read!

Sick Day

I'm feeling sick and getting worse.
I think I'd better see the nurse.
I'm sure I should go home today.
It could be **fatal** if I stay.
I'm **nauseated**, nearly ill.
I have a **fever** and a chill.
I have a cold. I have the flu.
I'm turning green and pink and blue.
I have the sweats. I have the shakes,
a stuffy nose, and bellyaches.
My knees are weak. My vision's blurred.
My throat is sore. My voice is slurred.
I'm strewn with head lice, ticks, and mites.
I'm covered in **mosquito** bites.
I have a cough, a creak, a croak,
a reddish rash from poison oak,
a **feeble** head, a weakened heart.
I may just faint or fall apart.
I sprained my ankle, stubbed my toes,
and soon I'll start to **decompose**.
And one more thing I have today
that makes me have to go away.
It's just as bad as all the rest:
I also have a science test.
– *Kenn Nesbitt*



Comprehension

A Quiz time!

1 What is wrong with the child?
2 Who does the child want to see?
3 Where does the child want to go?
4 What colours is the child turning?
5 What part of the child's body aches?
6 What is wrong with the child's vision?
7 What insect has bitten the child?
8 What caused the red rash?
9 What part of the child's body is sprained?
10 What is the one thing that is as bad as all the sickness?

B Think about it!

1 Is the child really sick? Why do you think so?
2 Do you think the child will be able to avoid their science test? Why or why not?

fatal nauseated fever mosquito feeble decompose

C Read the words. Write the correct one for each definition. Use your dictionary to help you.

1 An insect that sucks blood from animals and people.
2 A high body temperature.
3 To decay.
4 Filled with a sickening feeling.
5 Causing death.
6 Lacking physical strength.

D Read the words. Finish the sentences.

1 She felt _____ by the smell of the rubbish dump.
2 There was a _____ accident on the building site.
3 The old lady was very _____ and could not stand up without help.
4 The doctor took the child's temperature to confirm she had a _____.
5 There is a terrible smell from the bin when the food starts to _____.
6 Dad had 10 _____ bites after the first day of our holiday.

We use a **dictionary** to find the meaning, or definition, of words. In a dictionary, words are listed in alphabetical order.

To put words in **alphabetical order**, we look at the first letter of the word. If two words have the same first letter, we look at the second letter, and so on.

A Put these words in alphabetical order.

1	create	accommodate	acorn	bounty
2	sphere	radioactive	pulse	rustic
3	lonely	encyclopaedia	physical	excitement
4	tender	oracle	tornado	manager
5	fragile	file	founder	forgot
6	logic	length	linger	legitimate

B Use your dictionary to find the word that comes after each of these words. In your copybook, write the word and its definition.

1	car	3	umbrella	5	tone
2	simple	4	mistake	6	deliver

C These words and their definitions are jumbled up. In your copybook, write the correct definition for each word.

1	computation	An unexpected, difficult or dangerous situation.
2	disease	An object that is hard but easily broken.
3	pistachio	The results or effects of something.
4	climate	Something that is not understood or known.
5	sinew	An illness caused by bacteria or infection.
6	emergency	Not complicated, easy to understand.
7	consequence	Small green nut.
8	mystery	General weather conditions of an area.
9	brittle	A cord in the body that connects muscle to bone.
10	simple	A mathematical calculation.

Oral language

A **Think about a time when you wanted to avoid doing something.**

What excuse did you use? Did it work out as you had planned? Work in pairs. Explain the situation to your partner.

Cloze

B **Read the cloze. Fill in the missing words.**

nest bookshop strength normal type solve solution stresses
scarf detectives suspect Tullabogey incidents hobby

Peace Once More

I'm happy to say that Tullabogey is once again a peaceful place to live. You see, last year a few _____ took place that made us all very concerned. First Zelda's _____ and handbag went missing, next the postman's sack was stolen and finally sausages were taken from the butcher shop.

The people of _____ were terrified. Everyone became suspicious of one another. I'm sorry to say that I had even begun to _____ my best friend, Wally. Anyway, would you believe that the thief was in fact a dog named Grouse?

Grouse had been expecting puppies and wanted to make a comfortable _____ for them. When the puppies eventually arrived Grouse needed her _____, so that's where the sausages came in handy. Everybody was very happy to know that Grouse was the _____ to the mystery.

Life has gone back to _____ in Tullabogey. Al and Vanessa (my mum and dad) are the same as ever. They are busy running the _____ and organising meditation classes with Zelda. They are also trying to encourage me to join them in their new _____: making art from mud and leaves. Honestly, the things that pair gets up to!

They say that I should try to disconnect from the _____ of everyday life and be at one with nature. I love learning about trees and animals and all that kind of stuff, but I also love reading. My favourite _____ of books are detective novels.

I got a gift of a tablet from the last Garda who served in Tullabogey. Garda Illcatchya gave me the tablet for helping her to _____ the Great Tullabogey Robberies last year. I'm determined to put the tablet to good use. It may just help me to become as good at solving crimes as the _____ I love to read about. Here's hoping!