

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fluency Practice: Anthology Stories  
Fourth Grade Unit 5- Communication

	Voices Across the World	Messages By the Miles	"We'll Be Right Back After These Messages"	Breaking into Print: Before and After..	Koko's Kitten	Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind	My Two Drawings
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<b><u>Voices Across the World</u></b>	4
By Philip Wilkinson and Jacqueline Dineen	10
People have always needed to communicate with each other across long distances. Bonfires on hilltops were an early method of signaling danger. In ancient China, bonfires were lit along the Great Wall to warn of attacks from barbarians. The Romans flashed messages with mirrors turned to catch the sun. Flashing lights and flags have been used in a similar way.	20 31 44 54 68 70
Sending messages in this way was all right in certain circumstances. But the people receiving the signals had to be able to see them, so they had to be sent from a prominent viewpoint which was not too far away. If the messages were complicated, a code had to be used, which had to be understood by everyone. Such signals were usually only used to send messages in times of war, but until the nineteenth century, the only other way of communicating was to send a written message, which took time if the people involved lived any distance apart.	81 96 111 125 136 149 162 169
The Telegraph	171
Then, in the nineteenth century, a new discovery at last brought more efficient methods of communication.	182 187
By 1831, British scientist Michael Faraday made the first electric generator. He found that moving a loop of wire over a magnet produced an electric current. He then tried moving the magnet instead of the wire and found that an electric current was produced again.	197 210 223 232
Once the link between electricity and magnetism had been established, it could be used in other ways. The first telegraph was patented by British scientist Sir Charles Wheatstone and an Indian Army officer, Sir William Cooke, in 1837. It used magnetic needles which pointed at different letters in response to electric currents.	241 253 264 275 284
Another type of electric telegraph was invented by an American inventor, Samuel Morse. He devised "Morse code," a system which could be tapped out on an electric key.	294 305 312

## Messages By The Mile

By: Margery Facklam

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Fin whales swim fast and travel alone, but they stay in touch with other fin whales hundreds of miles away. You might think the world's second-largest animal (only the blue whale is larger) would have the loudest voice, but we can't even hear a trace of the fin whale's long-distance song. Its sound is infrasonic, meaning it is below the level humans can hear. The rumblings of earthquakes, volcanoes, and severe thunderstorms are also infrasonic as they are building. We may feel them before they erupt, but we don't hear them. Divers swimming near big whales say they can feel the sound tingle right through their bodies. In the days before the churning engines of big ships filled the oceans with noise, the songs of fin whales may have carried for two or three thousand miles.	20 32 44 58 70 80 92 104 117 130 144 145
How whales make their sounds is still a mystery. They have no vocal cords. As one scientist put it, whales have a lot of complicated "plumbing" in their heads, as we don't know how it all works. Whales often sing near canyons on the ocean bottoms. Sounds echo from these deep hollows and trenches. Musicians say the songs sound as if they've been amplified in a recording studio.	158 171 186 198 211 213
Dr. Roger Payne and Dr. Katherine Payne, a husband and wife team, studied whale songs for twenty years. They began by recording the sounds made by the humpback whales feeding in the cold waters of the Arctic and Antarctic oceans in the spring. They could hear long, low rumbles, shrill whistles, grunts, eerie groans, and high squeaks like a door opening on a rusty hinge (much like the sounds of the dolphins). Some noises were used when whales met. Perhaps they were asking, "Who are you?" or warning others to stay away; perhaps the sounds were simply a form of greeting. All the "conversations" were short.	225 236 249 261 273 286 298 311 319

## We'll Be Right Back After These Messages

By: Shelagh Wallace

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You're watching your favorite show, it's just getting to a really good part and then... a commercial. What do you do? Go to the kitchen? Press the mute button? Watch the commercial?	22 36 42
If you're an average TV viewer, you'll find yourself in this situation many, many times- during a year, you see (or perhaps choose not to see) at least 20,000 commercials. Commercials pay for most of the programs you watch; networks charge advertisers to air the advertisers' ads, then use the money they receive to cover the costs of producing the shows. But TV advertising isn't limited to just commercials. These are other kinds of ads on TV as well.	54 69 80 91 104 116 121
Sometimes you watch an ad on TV without even knowing that's what it is. A well-known soft drink prominently displayed during a prime-time TV show, a Saturday morning cartoon with popular characters that are also toys you can buy, "infomercials," and even music videos are, in fact, advertisements. They're all intended to persuade you to buy something, whether it's a can of cola, an action toy, an amazing new mop, or a compact disc.	133 146 157 170 180 196 197
How effective are these kinds of ads at convincing you to buy their products? When an American music video channel started showing videos in 1981, music sales boomed. Record companies found that actually being able to see bands perform their songs made people more likely to buy the group's records and concert tickets. The constantly changing camera shots, usually camera angles and, of course, memorable music are exactly the same things advertisers use in "regular" commercials to get your attention and make sure you remember their ad.	210 220 231 245 254 265 276 284

<b><u>Breaking Into Print</u></b>	3
By: Stephen Krensky	6
In a long room with seven tables and seven windows, a French monk sat hunched over a parchment page. He dipped a goose quill in some ink and began to write. The quill made a scratching sound, like a cat clawing at a closed door.	19 33 47 51
The monk worked six hours almost every day for many months. He hoped to finish before the first snow fell. The monk was making a book.	63 77
The monastery was a small part of a great empire, an empire with far more soldiers than books. Its emperor, Charlemagne, both read and spoke Latin, but he could write little more than his name.	90 101 112
His scribes, however, created a new script that made writing easier to understand. Across the countryside, reading and writing counted for little. Few roads were free of robbers or wolves. In the villages, warring peasants lived and died without ever seeing a book.	124 134 146 155
In time, the villages knew longer periods of peace. The peasants began to eat better and made goods to trade on market day. Successful merchants learned to read and write so that they could keep records of their business. Sometimes their children were taught as well.	166 179 192 201
More books were now needed, more than the monks could manage alone. In the new book-making guilds, many hands worked together.	212 223
Many such books were made with a new material called paper. It was much cheaper than parchment and especially useful for wood or metal block printing.	235 247 249
In faraway China, printers had been using paper for centuries. And around 1050, the Chinese printer Pi Sheng had invented movable type using baked clay tablets. Yet few Chinese printers were excited about the invention. Their alphabet has thousands of characters. Only in a dream could printers create so much type. And even if they managed this feat, organizing the type would turn the dream into a nightmare.	258 269 280 291 304 315

<b><u>Koko's Kitten</u></b>	2
By: Dr. Francine Patterson	6
Koko's full name is Hanabi-Ko, which is Japanese for Fireworks Child. She was born on the Fourth of July. Every year, I have a party of Koko with a cake, sparkling apple cider, and lots of presents.	17 33 44
Koko know what birthdays are. When asked what she does on her birthday, Koko answered, "Eat, drink. (get) old."	56 63
Three days before Koko's party, I said, "I'm going shopping today. What do you want for your birthday?"	74 81
"Cereal there. Good there drink," Koko signed.	88
"But what presents do you want?" I asked.	96
"Cat," answered Koko.	99
Later, she repeated, "Cat, Cat, Cat."	105
I wasn't surprised that Koko asked for a cat. I have been reading to Koko for many years and two of her favorite stories have been "Puss in Boots" and "The Three Little Kittens."	118 133 139
Koko gets very involved in the stories I read her. When reading the story of the three little kittens who lose their mittens, Koko sees that their mother is angry and that the kittens are crying.	151 164 175
"Mad," Koko signs.	178
"Koko loves picture books. Gorilla books are her favorites. Cat books are next. She likes to go off on her own with a book to study the pictures and sign to herself.	188 205 210

<b><u>Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind</u></b>	10
By: Margaret Davidson	13
It's just a show-off trick! So the busy months passed. And Louis grew happier and happier with his life at school. Only one thing was wrong- but it was the most important thing of all.	26 39 49
Louis was taking reading lessons. But it wasn't anything like what he had dreamed of for so long. In 1820 there was only one way for the blind to read. It was called raised-print. Each letter of the alphabet was raised from the page. It stood up from the paper background so it could be felt with the fingers. This sounded easy. But it wasn't.	60 76 90 104 115
Some of the letters were simple to feel. But others were almost impossible to tell apart. The Q's felt like O's. The O's felt like C's. The I's turned out to be T's and the R's were really B's.	127 142 154
But Louis was determined. Again and again his fingers traced the raised letters until he could tell them apart- most of the time. Then letter by letter he began to feel out words.	165 178 187
But it was so slow! Louis was one of the brightest boys in the school. But often even he forgot the beginning of a sentence before he got to the end of it. Then he had to go back to the whole way and start over again.	201 214 232 235
It would take months to read a single book this way!	246
"This isn't really reading," Louis cried one day. "It's just a show-off trick!"	259 260
"It's the best we can do," a teacher answered. "People have tried to find a better way for years."	272 279

<b><u>My Two Drawings</u></b>	3
By: Antoine de Saint-Exupery	8
Once when I was six I saw a magnificent picture in a book about the jungle, called <i>True Stories</i> . It showed a boa constrictor swallowing a wild beast.	23 35 36
In the book it said: "Boa constrictors swallow their prey whole, without chewing. Afterward they are no longer able to move, and they sleep during the six months of their digestion."	47 59 67
In those days I thought a lot about jungle adventures, and eventually managed to make my first drawing, using a colored pencil. My drawing Number One looked like this:	78 90 96
I showed the grown-ups my masterpiece, and I asked them if my drawing scared them.	109 112
They answered, "Why be scared of a hat?"	120
My drawing was not a picture of a hat. It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant. Then I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so the grown-ups could understand. They always need explanations.	136 148 158 159
The grown-ups advised me to put away my drawings of boa constrictors, outside or inside, and apply myself instead to geography, history, arithmetic, and grammar. That is why I abandoned, at the age of six, a magnificent career as an artist. I had been discouraged by the failure of my drawing Number One and of my drawing Number Two. Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children to have to provide explanations over and over again.	171 181 194 207 219 230 241