

The Boys' and Girls' Own Page

SPORTS, STORIES, GAMES, PUZZLES, HANDICRAFT, SCIENCE, ADVENTURE, JOKES, CARTOONS

A STRANGE CHRISTMAS TRADE

THE STORY SO FAR: Warren Knowles, getting me . . . I'll tell you later. Wait here."

He slipped out of the room the way he had come. Warren hurried into his clothes, locked his bag, and waited nervously. He heard footsteps down the hall and jumped back under the covers, but the heavy tread went on past.

Then there was a light tap at the window. Warren hoped out of bed. Budge clung there with a wondering how he could have entered from the outside. The first words Budge said explained that. "Don't look so startled," he grinned, and then went on in a whisper, "I pulled myself up to the eaves out of my window and then slipped down to your window."

"But I don't see how—" "Oh, it ain't so hard. I'm used to climbing around. But I sneaked in to tell you'd better go. Beat it, sez? The old man's suspicious of you and I don't know what he's likely to do. It's stopped snowing."



By the flicker of light he saw there was an oaken door opening off the side of the passage. He raised his eyes and noticed in the top a square opening and across this three bars of iron. The door was fastened by a sliding iron bolt. He bent over curiously to try to look in the crack at the door, but could see nothing.

He went into the kitchen, where Rags lay close to the door. As he opened the door he suddenly realized that his watch was missing from his pocket. He thought he'd dropped it when he stooped over in the passageway, so he went back.

"The watch was on the floor. He picked it up and hesitated a minute. His curiosity was always greater than his fears, and he was burning up to see behind that mysterious door. He held his breath and pulled the bolt cautiously. It slipped easily.

Suddenly something threw itself against the door and the door flew open, pinning Warren behind it. He pulled himself out just in time to see a big, black shape hurtle through the back door, which he had left open.

He rushed to the door. He heard the car chugging and Budge screaming at him. The black thing was out of sight. Warren grabbed Rags under one arm and his bag, under the other and leaped into the car. They reached the road just as the old man opened a window and yelled at them. "Now you've done it," shouted Budge, and shot down the road. "I don't know what'll happen now!"

"You mean that?" the boy's eyes shone. "I'd give most anything to get away before . . . before it . . . (To be concluded next week.)"

SNOPPYQVOPS

| January - 1924 | | | | | | | February - 1924 | | | | | | | March - 1924 | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
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| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| April - 1924 | | | | | | | May - 1924 | | | | | | | June - 1924 | | | | | | |
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| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| July - 1924 | | | | | | | August - 1924 | | | | | | | September - 1924 | | | | | | |
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| October - 1924 | | | | | | | November - 1924 | | | | | | | December - 1924 | | | | | | |
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| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

FUR TRAPPING The Otter

The lumbering otter, with his whiskers and webbed feet, is something of a stunt performer. Living beside the water as he does, with his diet composed almost entirely of fish, he soon becomes an expert swimmer and diver. Like the beaver, when the March sun shines strongly upon the woods, the old otter takes delight in climbing, crusted slopes and sliding on a snow chute to the bottom. The trick is not one of which the trapper approves, for it is harmful to the fur, just as is the otter's habit of basking for hours in the hot rays of the sun.

Otters Differ Little
The otter is found from Alaska to Labrador, from the Arctic to the southern United States, a distance of 3,000 miles from north to south, but no matter from what locality he comes, he differs very little from other otters. This is in marked contrast to other animals, as the mink or coon, whose size and appearance depend so largely upon the region where they live.



Caught in Many Ways

The animals are caught by spearing, by clubbing, or with nets. Sometimes they are even shot with rifles. In Alaska five thousand people obtain their living by capturing them. The largest are four and one-half feet long, but because of the rolling looseness of the skin, as you will notice in the picture, the pelt may be stretched even larger. Few animals are as hard to skin as the otter. Its hide is tough and cannot be pulled or peeled off, but must be carefully cut.

All water animals caught for their fur—otter, mink, beaver and muskrat—change the looks of their pelts three, if not four times, during the twelve months. In the Summer, the pelt is a burnt greasy color and the hair is thin. The hair grows thicker in early Autumn, while the pelt turns blue. By the time the cold months come, the pelt has become white and the hairs are luxuriant. In Spring the fur declines again to the thin coat of Summer. Otters caught in Winter, when the fur is prime, or at its best, are consequently most valuable.

(Next week: "The Raccoon.")

This family calendar album of the great house of Quop includes all the indoor and outdoor varieties. It is the most famous border in the world rivaling the Canadian and Mexican borders. Color it, cut it out and mount it on cardboard. Send it for a Christmas gift to a friend with a sense of humor, inclosing the following sentiment: "Pray send a telegram (collect), for every Snoppy you detect."

IN SNOPPYQUOP LAND

WHERE NOTHING SEEMS QUEER



Who sees the man with the skates?
"I see!"
"Icy" is right—brrr—rrr—rr—shiver—shiver—how'd you like to be in his fix—skating along on an iceberg? See how this Snoppy has pushed ahead in the world. His feet are skates, and he pulls the skates along by holding a magnet in front of them. Simple, isn't it? Simple is right; if he goes faster than the iceberg, there's one less Snoppyquop within the Arctic circle. What's that in his mouth? A candle, dearie. Eskimos chew candles when they run out of pies, and this is the source of the Northern Lights you've read about in your arithmetic book moral— "If you chew the candle at both ends, you'll only singe your whiskers," or "All roads lead to Grease."

A VOCABULARY GUESSING GAME

When days are too cold for outdoor play, you may wish you knew an indoor game to while away the time. "I speak your language" is a game that will test your wits. To play it, one of the group thinks of a word with two meanings. Without telling what it is, he begins to describe the word, first for one meaning, then for the other, and back to the first meaning until the word is guessed.
Suppose, he says, "I am thinking of a word that is a small section of ground. It is what detectives try to solve; it is something that thickens; it is what gardens are made in; it is found in a story." When some one in the group realizes that the word described is the word "plot," he does not tell, but crying, "I speak your language," asks the describer to describe with bits of his own.

PETER PUZZLE AND RANDY RIDDLE SAY—

A Word Square
Each word has four letters. 1. A river of Egypt. 2. A bright thought. 3. A king made famous by Shakespeare. 4. To make money.

A Word-Square
My first is something that grows on trees; my second means leisure and rhymes with trees, my third is a country covered with trees, and my fourth is what you've performed when you climb a tree. The whole forms a four-letter word-square.

Detective Work
Find in this sentence the names of two well-known characters of juvenile fiction, and the title of a poem: "Said tiny Tim to the captain, 'January will find us snowbound.'"

Fractions
Two-fifths of a witch, one-half of a chip and three-fifths of Italy make a town in Kansas.

Cancellation
If you mark off letters in this sentence with an equal number of letters between, beginning with the first letter, they will spell a month of the year: "Fred bars up a gray pigeon."

Some Questions
Why would a Chinaman make a good actor?
What type of vessels did Salem harbor in the old days?
What tree keeps the warmest in winter?

Answers
Answers to today's word puzzles: The words that form the square are: Nile, Asia, feat, Tiny Tim, Capt. January, "Snowbound." By cancelling the letters in the sentence you get the word February. Two-fifths of a witch, one-half of chip and three-fifths of Italy equals Wichita. The word square is: Nile, Iowa, Lear, Earn.

Answer to today's riddle: Because he always has his cue. Witchcraft. The fir trees keeps warmest in winter.

HOW TO CARTOON



Children

When drawing a baby or young child's head it will be well to keep in mind that the forehead is very high and the distance from the nose to the chin is comparatively small. Notice this in Figure 1.

In drawing the entire body remember that the head is much larger in comparison to the rest of the body than a full-grown man's head is in relation to his figure. So don't be afraid to put fairly good-sized heads on your children.

The sketches in the accompanying chart show a few simple positions that you may often be able to use.

The special technique for drawing animals will come next in this study.

LET'S GET READY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS



A Sewing Box

The sewing box is such a worthwhile gift to give, and so much fun to make, that the girl who is interested in handicraft may find herself making two or three or four of them.

Very strong cardboard or corrugated board should be used for the backing. Cut the sides and bottom as in figure I. The sides are 9x5 inches, the bottom, 9x2 1/2. Lay them in the order you find them in the first figure, with a piece of cretonne underneath. Leave a quarter-inch space between the boards and an inch margin of cretonne all around.

Put a light coating of paste on the backs of the boards, pressing and keep the box closed when it is in use.

A THINK-QUICK GAME OF COPS AND THIEVES

How's for a big game of cops and thieves, a good old game that keeps you moving and watching out for yourself all the time?

Choose up equal sides and let the two captains decide, by the flip of a coin, which side will be cops and which thieves. The thieves, once chosen, are given a five-minute start and then the cops go after them, in order to round them up.

Every thief has a paper heart pinned on his coat, outside, and every cop has a paper star similarly placed. If a cop is to capture a thief, he must get the paper heart from the thief without losing his own star. A thief, once caught, is given a star and becomes a cop. A cop, deprived of his star is given a heart and becomes a thief.

The game goes on until the last thief is captured or until the last cop is made a member of the thieves' gang. You fellows must play fair and try to catch the thieves when you have been made a cop, even and you cops must make good all the cops you can.

