

BUILDING

OUR LIVES



Measuring a Promise

The cold, January wind blew fiercely against the Bontrager children as they trudged to school. Its icy breath seemed to go right through their clothes and its strong fingers grabbed at Sam's paper bag. But Sam hardly even noticed. He held the bag tightly and kept his head down. This was the first day of school since Sam's birthday. Just wait until John and Elam saw what he had made on Saturday. He smiled to himself and walked even faster.

At school Sam wasn't disappointed. Soon he was surrounded by curious children, eager to see what was in the large brown bag. Sam couldn't help but feel pretty important.

"This is my birthday present from Uncle Jake," he said, pulling a large green and white object from the bag. "Well, this isn't the present, but the tools I used to make it are."

"A birdhouse!" exclaimed Sarah. "Surely, you didn't make that!"

"Of course I did," retorted Sam proudly.

"What tools did your uncle give you?" John wanted to know.

"Do your uncles always give you birthday presents?" Elam asked at the same time. Elam and John were both in Sam's grade at school.

Sam laughed a bit smugly. "No, our uncles don't usually give us presents," he said, answering the last question first. "But I guess he remembered how much I played with his jigsaw. That's what he gave me — a jigsaw."

Everyone wanted a turn to look at the birdhouse. They felt its glossy paint and smooth corners. Sam explained how he had used sandpaper to make it so smooth and then he told them about the next project he was working on — a pull toy for little Joseph.

"Dad gave me the idea for the pull toy," Sam admitted. "He drew a duck and showed me how to fasten the wheels so the duck would wobble."

"Say," interrupted Ivan Troyer suddenly. "I have some good wheels at home that came off an old toy truck. Could you make a wagon for me? I'd give you my...my..." He was trying to think what he would have to give in exchange for the toy wagon.

"How big are the wheels?" Sam asked.

"About an inch through the middle, I think," answered Ivan. "I know, I'll give my super ball in exchange." He remembered how Sam had admired it once.

"It's a deal," Sam agreed. "Now we have to draw a wagon exactly like the one you want me to make."

By the end of the week Sam had a dozen orders. He enjoyed looking them over and especially liked to think of all the different things he would get in exchange. But when he started making the things, he discovered that each item took longer than he had expected it would. His enthusiasm wore off in a hurry. It took a whole week of evenings to make Ivan's wagon. It was very well-made, though, and Ivan was pleased with it.

The next week Sam didn't work with the jigsaw at all. On Saturday afternoon he had free time, but there was good sledding. In the evening he got lost in a storybook. And so it went week after week. Again and again the children at school asked if their orders would soon be finished, and each time Sam promised to have them done soon.

Then came the Sunday in February when the Bontrager family was invited to Uncle Jake's house for dinner. How eagerly Sam awaited the day. He put the little notebook with the orders into his pocket. He knew Uncle Jake would be interested in hearing what he was doing with the jigsaw. So that afternoon when Uncle Jake asked, "Well, Sam, is your jigsaw still working?" he got the notebook and handed it to him.

Uncle Jake leafed through the notebook. "Hmm-m," he smiled, "a super ball for a wagon; a pen for a pair of toy horses. You must have quite a collection by this time."

Sam only shrugged, but his brother Dave spoke up quickly. "Nope, just the super ball, because Sam hasn't made the other things."

Sam darted an angry look at his brother as he felt his face get hot. He dropped his eyes in embarrassment before his uncle.

Uncle Jake chuckled. "Well, he can't expect to be paid before he gets those things made." Then more seriously, he asked, "Are you still taking orders, Sam?"

Sam was glad he could say he hadn't taken any for quite a long while, but then Dave

Workbook for

BUILDING

OUR LIVES



THINKING ABOUT THE STORY / Measuring A Promise

Following are some facts from your story. Tell on which page and in which paragraph each fact is found.

- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 1. Uncle Jake had given Sam a jigsaw for his birthday.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 2. Sam agreed to make a little wagon for Ivan.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 3. By the end of the week Sam had a dozen orders from his classmates.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 4. Sam soon lost interest in his jigsaw and did other things instead.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 5. One Sunday at Uncle Jake's Sam broke his leg.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 6. At first Sam enjoyed having his leg in a cast.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 7. Sam soon grew tired of having nothing to do and being left out of things.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 8. Sam wished Grandmother would make gloves for him like she did for Dave.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 9. Sam promised to cut quilt patches for Grandmother every day.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 10. Grandmother agreed to knit gloves for Sam if he kept his promise.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 11. On the fourth day Sam didn't cut quilt patches for Grandmother at all.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 12. Four weeks passed and Sam's visits to Grandmother became fewer and fewer.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 13. Finally the doctor took the cast off Sam's leg.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 14. Sam needed gloves badly and couldn't understand why Grandmother hadn't finished them.
- Page _____ Paragraph _____ 15. The only time Grandmother had worked on Sam's gloves was when he cut quilt patches for her.

What does the statement mean, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."?

On the line after each word, write the word, dividing it into syllables. Put in the accent mark.

resentment _____

venture _____

shelter _____

approved _____

tempted _____

tempted _____

Workbook for

BUILDING

OUR LIVES



Teacher's Edition

WORKING WITH WORDS / Measuring A Promise

Match the words in the word box with their meanings at the right.

fiercely	1. a plan	<i>project</i>
jigsaw	2. looking at closely; examining	<i>searching</i>
project	3. promised; declared	<i>vowed</i>
collection	4. newness; new or unusual thing	<i>novelty</i>
novelty	5. not able to speak	<i>speechless</i>
occupied	6. wildly; in a raging way	<i>fiercely</i>
astonishment	7. take what is given to one	<i>accept</i>
accept	8. things gathered together	<i>collection</i>
vowed	9. great surprise	<i>astonishment</i>
ragged	10. a saw with a narrow blade	<i>jigsaw</i>
speechless	11. kept busy; lived in	<i>occupied</i>
searching	12. worn out; torn	<i>ragged</i>

Make new words by adding the suffix "ful" to each word below.

cheer	<i>cheerful</i>	use	<i>useful</i>
help	<i>helpful</i>	doubt	<i>doubtful</i>
harm	<i>harmful</i>	faith	<i>faithful</i>
care	<i>careful</i>	fear	<i>fearful</i>
cup	<i>cupful</i>	thank	<i>thankful</i>
hand	<i>handful</i>	pain	<i>painful</i>

The suffix "ful" also has several meanings. Below are some examples of them.

- "full of" as in cheerful and fearful
- "having" as in careful and doubtful
- "enough to fill" as in cupful and handful

THINKING ABOUT THE STORY / Measuring A Promise

Following are some facts from your story. Tell on which page and in which paragraph each fact is found.

- Page 249 Paragraph 3 1. Uncle Jake had given Sam a jigsaw for his birthday.
- Page 250 Paragraph 3 2. Sam agreed to make a little wagon for Ivan.
- Page 250 Paragraph 4 3. By the end of the week Sam had a dozen orders from his classmates.
- Page 250 Paragraph 5 4. Sam soon lost interest in his jigsaw and did other things instead.
- Page 252 Paragraph 3 5. One Sunday at Uncle Jake's Sam broke his leg.
- Page 252 Paragraph 4 6. At first Sam enjoyed having his leg in a cast.
- Page 253 Paragraph 1 7. Sam soon grew tired of having nothing to do and being left out of things.
- Page 254 Paragraph 1 8. Sam wished Grandmother would make gloves for him like she did for Dave.
- Page 255 Paragraph 3 9. Sam promised to cut quilt patches for Grandmother every day.
- Page 255 Paragraph 6 10. Grandmother agreed to knit gloves for Sam if he kept his promise.
- Page 256 Paragraph 3 11. On the fourth day Sam didn't cut quilt patches for Grandmother at all.
- Page 257 Paragraph 1 12. Four weeks passed and Sam's visits to Grandmother became fewer and fewer.
- Page 257 Paragraph 2 13. Finally the doctor took the cast off Sam's leg.
- Page 258 Paragraph 7 14. Sam needed gloves badly and couldn't understand why Grandmother hadn't finished them.
- Page 260 Paragraph 4 15. The only time Grandmother had worked on Sam's gloves was when he cut quilt patches for her.

What does the statement mean, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."?

Don't promise more than you can do.

On the line after each word, write the word, dividing it into syllables. Put in the accent mark.

resentment re-sent-ment

venture ven-ture

shelter shel-ter

approved ap-proved

tempted tempt-ed

tempted tempt-ed