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Reading Notes

Stillwater	the pleasant little city in which the Poppers live
calcimine	whitewash
daresay	expression that means “think it likely”
litter	objects thrown about

Vocabulary

1. he was rather an **untidy** man _____

2. Mr. Popper was so **absent-minded** ... always dreaming about far-away countries _____

3. That was what he **regretted** most of all. _____

4. He had never seen those great shining white **expanses** of ice and snow

5. he might have joined some of the great Polar **expeditions** _____

6. When he came to the gate of the neat little **bungalow** _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What is Mr. Popper's occupation? _____

2. What does Mr. Popper dream about most? What far-away places does Mr. Popper wish to see most of all?

3. Why are evenings the best time of all for Mr Popper? _____

4. Why is Mr. Popper happy it is the end of September? _____

5. What is Mrs. Popper worried about? How will the family manage during the winter months? _____

Quotations

No one knew what went on inside of Mr. Popper's head, and no one guessed that he would one day be the most famous person in Stillwater.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one word that adequately sums up Mr. Popper's character?
2. Although Mr. Popper cannot join a Polar expedition, how does he compensate for this?

Enrichment

1. Draw a picture of the Popper family. Use details from the book.
2. Find the locations Mr. Popper dreamed about on a map. Guess why each might appeal to him.
3. Think of an exotic place you would like to visit. Explain your choice.
4. Write five sentences that describe Mr. Popper and his family. Use details from the book and choose your own strong adjectives.

Reading Notes

spectacles	eyeglasses
Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society	an organization formed by the women in a town or church
broadcasting	the sending of messages through electronic means, such as radio

Vocabulary

1. answered Mrs. Popper, a little **sharply** _____

2. She was not at all a disagreeable woman, but she sometimes got rather **cross**

3. They walk **erect** like little men _____

4. They sound to me like pretty **heathen** birds. _____

5. It's a **queer** thing. _____

6. Mr. Popper put down his book ... and moved **hastily** to the radio. _____

7. from the South Pole, a **faint** voice floated out into the Popper living room _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What impresses Mr. Popper most about the Drake Expedition? _____

2. What words does Mr. Popper use to describe penguins to Mrs. Popper? _____

3. How are penguins different from other birds? _____

4. Why is Mr. Popper excited about September 29th? _____

5. What unexpected event happens that day? _____

6. What does Admiral Drake tell Mr. Popper to watch for? _____

Quotations

“Hello, Mr. Popper, up there in Stillwater. Thanks for your nice letter about the pictures of our last expedition. Watch for an answer. But not by letter, Mr. Popper. Watch for a surprise. Signing off. Signing off.”

Who said this? _____ From where? _____

Discussion Questions

1. In Chapter 1, Mr. Popper was described as a dreamer. How would you describe Mrs. Popper in contrast to her husband?

Enrichment

1. Find an old *National Geographic* magazine and read about exotic places.
2. Make a picture collage of exotic places you would like to visit. Locate them on a map or globe.
3. Learn about the differences between the North and South Poles.
4. Research the Poles and penguins. Write a paragraph detailing a penguin’s natural habitat and daily routines.

Reading Notes

receipt	a paper that lists the money or goods you have received
debris	waste
Captain Cook	a famous explorer in the 18th century from England

Vocabulary

1. "Very well, my love," said Mr. Popper **meekly** _____

2. It was an **expressman** with the largest box Mr. Popper had ever seen. _____

3. part of the packing, which was a layer of **dry ice** _____

4. His hands were trembling so that he could **scarcely** lift off the last of the wrappings.

5. Down the hall it went and into the bedrooms, with its strange, **pompous** little strut.

6. the **inquisitive** bird kept reaching over and trying to bite the faucets _____

7. with outstretched flippers, **tobogganed** down on its white stomach _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the package that is delivered to Mr. Popper. _____

2. What emerges from the box? _____

3. Describe the gift in detail. _____

4. Why is the bathroom so attractive to the guest? _____

5. Why does Mr. Popper fill the bathtub? _____

6. How does the guest get his name? _____

Quotations

It was a stout little fellow about two and a half feet high. Although it was about the size of a small child, it looked much more like a little gentleman, with its smooth white waistcoat in front and its long black tailcoat dragging a little behind. Its eyes were set in two white circles in its black head. It turned its head from one side to the other, as first with one eye and then with the other, it examined Mr. Popper.

Whom is this describing? _____

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Mr. Popper have a difficult time sleeping that night?
2. When morning comes, why is Mr. Popper sorry that he has nowhere to go and nothing to do?
3. Describe Mr. Popper's reaction as he opens the package and discovers the penguin.

Enrichment

1. Research the historical significance of the name Captain Cook.
2. Track the real Captain Cook's route on a map or globe.
3. Write a vivid description of the package that Mr. Popper received. Be sure to appeal to each of the five senses. Consider how you want your reader to respond to your description. Do you want him to be scared of the box? Excited about the box? Curious about it? Try to appeal to your reader's emotion when describing the package.