

## Reading Notes

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

## Vocabulary

1. he was rather an **untidy** man \_\_\_\_\_  
messy
2. Mr. Popper was so **absent-minded** ... always dreaming about far-away countries \_\_\_\_\_  
forgetful
3. That was what he **regretted** most of all. \_\_\_\_\_  
\*felt dissatisfaction
4. He had never seen those great shining white **expanses** of ice and snow  
open spaces
5. he might have joined some of the great Polar **expeditions** \_\_\_\_\_  
trips, journeys, explorations
6. When he came to the gate of the neat little **bungalow** \_\_\_\_\_  
small house

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is Mr. Popper's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_  
He paints houses, inside and out.
2. What does Mr. Popper dream about most? What far-away places does Mr. Popper wish to see most of all?  
He dreams of far-away places. Mr. Popper longs to see the North and South Poles or  
the Arctic and the Antarctic.

3. Why are evenings the best time of all for Mr Popper? \_\_\_\_\_  
\*He gets to read and find places on the globe. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is Mr. Popper happy it is the end of September? \_\_\_\_\_  
His work season has ended until spring. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is Mrs. Popper worried about? How will the family manage during the winter months? \_\_\_\_\_  
She worries about having enough money to get through the winter. Mrs. Popper has \_\_\_\_\_  
saved a little money, but they will not be able to buy luxuries, such as roast beef or ice \_\_\_\_\_  
cream. They may have to eat beans every day. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_  
abruptly; with an edge in her voice
2. She was not at all a disagreeable woman, but she sometimes got rather **cross**  
upset; angry
3. They walk **erect** like little men \_\_\_\_\_  
\*upright in posture or position; not bent or leaning
4. They sound to me like pretty **heathen** birds. \_\_\_\_\_  
uncivilized
5. It's a **queer** thing. \_\_\_\_\_  
strange; unusual
6. Mr. Popper put down his book ... and moved **hastily** to the radio. \_\_\_\_\_  
quickly
7. from the South Pole, a **faint** voice floated out into the Popper living room \_\_\_\_\_  
difficult to hear; not loud

## Comprehension Questions

1. What impresses Mr. Popper most about the Drake Expedition? \_\_\_\_\_  
He likes the penguins best.
2. What words does Mr. Popper use to describe penguins to Mrs. Popper? \_\_\_\_\_  
He thinks they are funny and intelligent.

3. How are penguins different from other birds? Penguins don't fly like other birds; instead they walk erect like little men. When they need a rest from walking, they lie on their stomachs and slide. They are also very intelligent about the way they catch shrimp to eat. Crowding to the edge of the water, they push one penguin in, and if it doesn't get eaten, they know it is safe to go in.
4. Why is Mr. Popper excited about September 29th? The Drake Antarctic Expedition is to broadcast from the South Pole.
5. What unexpected event happens that day? \*Admiral Drake speaks to Mr. Popper over the radio.
6. What does Admiral Drake tell Mr. Popper to watch for? Mr. Popper had written Admiral Drake a letter and the admiral tells him to watch for an answer, but not by letter. Instead, Admiral Drake tells Mr. Popper to watch for a surprise.

## 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? Admiral Drake From where? the South Pole

## 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

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

## Vocabulary

1. "Very well, my love," said Mr. Popper **meekly** \_\_\_\_\_  
agreeably; without argument
2. It was an **expressman** with the largest box Mr. Popper had ever seen. \_\_\_\_\_  
package delivery person
3. part of the packing, which was a layer of **dry ice** \_\_\_\_\_  
solid carbon dioxide
4. His hands were trembling so that he could **scarcely** lift off the last of the wrappings.  
hardly; barely
5. Down the hall it went and into the bedrooms, with its strange, **pompous** little strut.  
proud; arrogant
6. the **inquisitive** bird kept reaching over and trying to bite the faucets \_\_\_\_\_  
curious
7. with outstretched flippers, **tobogganed** down on its white stomach \_\_\_\_\_  
\*coasted or slid down

## Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the package that is delivered to Mr. Popper. \_\_\_\_\_  
It is a wooden crate with instructive words on the sides and air holes in it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What emerges from the box? \_\_\_\_\_  
A penguin comes curiously out.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the gift in detail. \_\_\_\_\_  
The penguin has white circles for eyes and looks as if it wears a black tailcoat.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is the bathroom so attractive to the guest? \_\_\_\_\_  
Perhaps the white tiles remind it of ice and snow.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Mr. Popper fill the bathtub? \_\_\_\_\_  
He thinks the penguin will like cold water, as he is used to it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does the guest get his name? \_\_\_\_\_  
He was saying “gook” and it sounded like “cook.”  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_ the penguin in the package from Admiral Drake

## 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.