

# Flat Stanley

by Jeff Brown

## Teacher's Guide

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# CLASSROOM FAVORITES

A Perma-Bound Production

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## Synopsis

### Chapter 1

During the night, a bulletin board has fallen on Stanley, squashing him. After his parents peel the bulletin board off him, they discover that he's fine...but as flat as a pancake. They are very matter-of-fact about the event. Mrs. Lambchop takes Stanley to Dr. Dan, who also takes the change in stride.

### Chapter 2

Stanley enjoys the advantages of being flat. While taking a walk with his mother, her favorite ring falls down a shaft. Stanley ties together his shoelaces and has his mother lower him into the shaft, where he retrieves the ring. The police think Mrs. Lambchop is a "cuckoo," but apologize when they realize what Stanley is doing. Stanley gets a letter from his friend Thomas Anthony Jeffrey, who has moved to California. Since the Lambchops cannot afford the plane fare, they mail him across the country. He arrives and returns in fine shape.

### Chapter 3

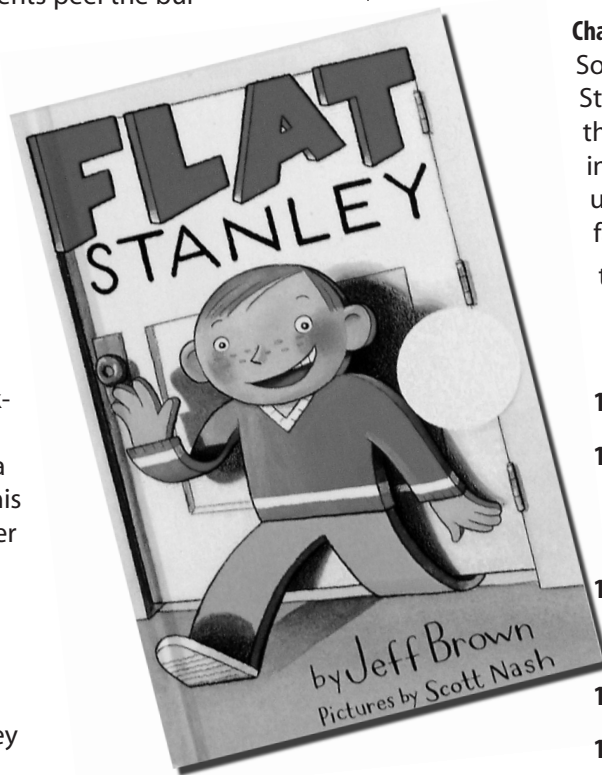
Mr. Lambchop rolls Stanley up and carries him under his arm to protect him while they are out on Sunday afternoon excursions. On one such trip, they meet Ralph Jones, an old college friend of Mr. Lambchop's. He remarks on Stanley's flatness, and Mr. Lambchop says that Stanley is very smart and hardworking—he is third from the top at his class in school. Jealous, Arthur tries to squish himself with the encyclopedia. To make it up to his brother, Stanley lets Arthur fly him as a kite. Arthur wanders off and Stanley gets tangled in a tree.

### Chapter 4

Stanley solves the mystery of the museum thieves by posting as a shepherdess in a painting. Stanley watches the thieves sneak through a secret trap door entrance into the museum from outside. He calls for help and saves the day. Stanley gets his picture in all the newspapers and becomes very well-known.

### Chapter 5

Soon, however, his fame fades and Stanley is mocked. Stanley tells Arthur that he no longer wants to be flat. Arthur inflates Stanley back to his usual shape, using a bicycle pump. The Lambchop family has hot chocolate to celebrate the occasion.



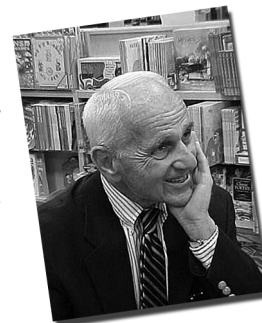
## Timeline

- 1926 Jeff Brown born
- 1927 Babe Ruth sets home-run record  
First talking movie, *The Jazz Singer*  
Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic Ocean
- 1928 Bubble gum invented  
First *Mickey Mouse* cartoon  
Penicillin discovered
- 1929 New York Stock Market crashes
- 1930 Gandhi's Salt March  
Pluto discovered, identified as a planet  
Sliced bread first available
- 1931 Al Capone imprisoned for income tax evasion  
Empire State Building completed
- 1932 Air conditioning invented  
Amelia Earhardt becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
- 1933 Loch Ness monster first sighted  
First Nazi concentration camp established
- 1934 The Dust Bowl
- 1936 Hoover Dam completed
- 1937 Amelia Earhardt vanishes
- 1939 First commercial flight over the Atlantic Ocean  
World War II begins

- 1941 December 7: America enters World War II
- 1948 State of Israel founded
- 1950 Korean War begins
- 1952 Elizabeth II crowned Queen of England  
Car seat belts introduced  
Polio vaccine invented
- 1954 Supreme Court issues Brown v. Board of Education, making segregation in public schools illegal
- 1955 Disneyland opens  
McDonald's corporation founded
- 1956 Sabin invents oral polio vaccine
- 1957 Dr. Seuss publishes *The Cat in the Hat*
- 1958 NASA established
- 1960 First televised U.S. presidential debate
- 1961 Peace Corps founded  
Berlin Wall built  
Alan Shepard is first American in space
- 1963 President Kennedy assassinated
- 1964 *Flat Stanley* first published
- 1967 First Super Bowl  
First heart transplant  
Six Day War in Middle East
- 1969 Neil Armstrong is the first human on the moon
- 1974 President Nixon resigns
- 1976 *Abel's Island* published
- 1979 Sony introduces the Walkman
- 1981 First woman appointed to the US Supreme Court  
Pac-man video game is very popular
- 1983 Sally Ride becomes first woman in space
- 1989 Berlin Wall taken down
- 1990 Nelson Mandela is freed in South Africa
- 1991 Collapse of Soviet Union
- 1997 Scientists clone sheep  
China resumes control of Hong Kong
- 1999 World population reaches 6 billion
- 2001 Sept.11: Al-Qaeda terrorists destroy World Trade Center in New York City
- 2002 Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wins Nobel Peace Prize
- 2003 Jeff Brown dies of a heart attack

## Author Sketch

Born Richard Chester Brown in 1926, in New York, NY, Jeff Brown died of a heart attack in 2003. Within those 77 years, Brown managed to excel at several very demanding careers.



Brown's first career began when he was very young: he was a child actor. He started by providing children's voices for radio programs. By his teenage years, Brown was performing in Broadway shows. His name came from his acting career: he had to change his name because there was already somebody by that name listed in the Actors Equity union.

After completing his education at the Professional Children's School in New York City, Brown moved to Los Angeles, where he turned his stage career into a movie career. Starting at the bottom — as an assistant to Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.—Brown moved up the ladder to become an independent producer and later a story consultant at a subsidiary of Paramount Studios. For his third career, Brown turned to writing, excelling as he had done in the theatre and the movies. Returning to New York City, he became a staff writer for the *New Yorker*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, and *Esquire*. This in turn led to a career in magazine editing, and then to book editing, with Brown becoming senior editor at Warner Books. He retired when he was 54 years old.

*Flat Stanley* was created quite by chance. One evening when tucking his two sons, J.C and Tony into bed, one claimed that he was scared that the bulletin board over his bed would fall on him while he slept. As a joke, Brown told his son not to worry because if the bulletin board did fall on him, it wouldn't hurt and he'd be nicely flat by the morning. When the kids laughed, Brown made up stories about a flat child. In 1964, Brown published his stories as the first *Flat Stanley* book.

Twenty years later, Brown published a sequel, *A Lamp for the Lambchops*, which was later reissued as *Stanley and the Magic Lamp*. This was followed by *Stanley in Space*, *Stanley's Christmas Adventure*, *Invisible Stanley* and *Stanley, Flat Again!*

## Critic's Corner

At the time of Brown's death in 2003, his half-dozen titles featuring the boy who had been flattened by a bulletin board had sold a million copies worldwide and had inspired a pen pal program, the *Flat Stanley* Project, for schoolchildren to send cut-outs of the fictional character all around the world.

One critic notes: "though the adventures are in themselves pleasingly entertaining, it is Brown's dry handling of the concept that makes it so delicious. [Stanley] is the perfect all-American boy with charming manners and a regular smile, but with this one unusual feature: he is only half an inch thick."

Emilie Coulter, reviewing the book for Amazon.com, had similar praise: "Jeff Brown's matter-of-fact tone... tickle the funny bone, making this 1964 classic a perennial favorite."

## Other Books by Jeff Brown

*A Lamp for the Lambchops* (1983, published as *Stanley and the Magic Lamp*, 1996)

*Invisible Stanley* (1996)

*Stanley's Christmas Adventure* (2003)

*Stanley in Space* (2003)

*Stanley, Flat Again!* (2003)

Contributor of stories to *Saturday Evening Post*, *New Yorker*, and other magazines.

## Bibliography

*Booklist*, May 15, 2003, Kay Weisman, review of *Stanley, Flat Again!*, p. 1660.

*Chicago Tribune*, December 10, 2003, section 3, p. 14.

*Guardian* (Manchester, England), January 1, 2004, p. 17.

*InStyle*, July, 2002, Sonal Dutt, "The Flat Pack," p. 116.

*Kirkus Reviews*, January 1, 2003, review of *Stanley, Flat Again!*, p. 57.

*Los Angeles Times*, December 6, 2003, p. B29.

*New York Times*, December 6, 2003, p. C16.

*School Library Journal*, March, 2003, Debbie Stewart, review of *Stanley, Flat Again!*, p. 178.

*Times* (London, England), December 31, 2003, p. 32.

*Washington Post*, December 8, 2003, p. B4.

## General Objectives

1. To recognize the author's use of fantasy
2. To distinguish between realistic and unrealistic story events
3. To identify the techniques the author uses to create humor
4. To enjoy the author's offbeat humor
5. To compare and contrast the characters
6. To understand the novel's conflicts
7. To understand the plot structure
8. To understand how the plot is resolved
9. To visualize the story's action
10. To identify with Stanley

## Specific Objectives

1. To understand how Stanley becomes flat
2. To understand that a person could not become flat as Stanley does
3. To determine how the matter-of-fact tone creates humor
4. To appreciate the humor in Stanley being mailed to California
5. To visualize Stanley being flown as a kite
6. To understand why Arthur is jealous of Stanley
7. To understand how Stanley foils the art thieves
8. To determine why Stanley no longer wants to be flat
9. To understand how he becomes three-dimensional again
10. To evaluate his parents' reaction to the changes that Stanley undergoes

## Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Jeff Brown's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**Humor:** parts of a story that are funny. Humor can be created through tone, exaggeration, word play, and irony. Jeff Brown creates humor in *Flat Stanley* primarily through tone. On page 4, for example, when Arthur says that Stanley is flat, Mr. Lambchop reacts to his son's new state by saying, "As a pancake. Darndest thing I've ever seen." Mrs. Lambchop is equally matter-of-fact. She says, "Let's all have breakfast." This objective tone creates humor through contrast: The Lambchops accept Stanley's flatness as though it were an everyday occurrence.

**Hyperbole:** exaggeration used for a literary effects such as emphasis, drama, or humor. Brown uses a great deal of exaggeration in *Flat Stanley* to make the story funnier and more enjoyable. For instance, Stanley is so flat that he can fit in an envelope and be mailed cross-country, fit down a sewer, fly like a kite, and be rolled up like wallpaper.

**Characterization:** the different ways an author tells readers about characters. Sometimes, writers tell about characters directly. Other times, writers let readers reach their own decisions by showing the comments, thoughts, and actions of the other characters. Brown uses indirect characterization to portray the Lambchops as proud but oblivious parents. For instance, when Ralph Jones points out that Stanley is flat, Mr. Lambchop smugly replies, "Smart, too. Stanley is third from the top in his class at school."

## The Importance of Setting

The setting is not a factor in *Flat Stanley*; indeed, it is not even specified. Neither the time nor place is ever mentioned. This is intentional, because it gives the book a universality that has helped ensure its lasting appeal. Nonetheless, details about the setting can be inferred. The setting is typical of early 1960s: a middle-class white family in a city. The father has attended college; the mother appears to be a homemaker. Both parents stress the values of that era: obedience, conformity, and school success.

## Cross-Curricular Sources

### Books

Lloyd Alexander, *The Castle of Llyr*  
Judy Blume, *Freckle Juice*  
Andrew Clements, *Frindle*  
Andrew Clements, *The Landry News*  
Roddy Doyle, *The Giggler Treatment*  
Jack Gantos, *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*  
John Reynolds Gardiner, *Stone Fox*  
Eva Ibbotson, *The Secret of Platform 13*  
Kate Klise, *Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in Letters, of Liars and Leaks*  
Alex Kathleen Krull, *Fitzgerald's Cure for Nightmares*  
Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*  
Dav Pilkey, *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopyants: The Fourth Epic Novel*  
Lemony Snicket, *The Miserable Mill*  
William Steig, *Abel's Island*

### DVDs and Videos

*James and the Giant Peach* (1996)  
*Matilda* (1996)  
*The Muppet Movie* (1979)  
*The Last Unicorn* (1982)  
*My Neighbor Totoro* (1993)  
*The Parent Trap* (1961)  
*The Princess Bride* (1987)  
*The Red Balloon* (1956)  
*Simon Birch* (1998)  
*The Wizard of Oz* (1939)

### Audio

*Flat Stanley*

### Internet

*Flat Stanley* Project Web site, (November 3, 2004)  
<http://www.enoreo.on.ca/>  
Jeff Brown  
<http://www.harpercollins.com/> (November 3, 2004)

## Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Jeff Brown's *Flat Stanley* should include these aspects:

### Themes

- flatness
- differences
- adaption
- travel
- family
- mystery
- helping others
- fantasy
- humor
- size and shape

### Motifs

- undergoing a drastic change
- dealing with unexpected situations
- coping with sibling rivalry
- being willing to help others
- appreciating the U.S. Postal Service
- having good manners
- distinguishing between fantasy and reality
- enjoying new experiences
- becoming famous for your bravery
- finding a creative solution for an unusual problem

## Meaning Study

Below are words phrases sentences or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. He pointed to Stanley's bed. Across it lay the enormous bulletin board that Mr. Lambchop had given the boys a Christmas ago so they could pin up pictures and messages and maps. It had fallen, during the night, on top of Stanley (Chap. 1, p. 2)  
*(This is the novel's inciting incident: during the night, a bulletin board has landed on Stanley, flattening him out. Miraculously, it has not caused any harm; Stanley is fine, just flat.)*
2. Stanley was four feet tall, about a foot wide, and half an inch thick. (Chap. 1, p. 7)  
*(Have students to measure half an inch or draw half an inch on the board. Then measure several average students to see how wide a person really is. Clearly, Stanley is quite flat!)*
3. When Stanley got used to being flat, he enjoyed it. (Chap. 2, p. 9)  
*(For the fantasy to work, the main character must like his altered state and Stanley does. As with any child, the possibility of possessing unusual powers has enormous allure. Stanley is excited by the possibilities that his flatness present.)*
4. "People should think twice before making rude remarks," said Mrs. Lambchop. "And then not make them at all.) (Chap. 2, p.15)  
*(Amid the fantasy and humor, Brown manages to weave in some lessons in deportment. Mrs. Lambchop's smug tone contrasts nicely with the novel's silliness.)*
5. The envelope had to be folded to fit through the slot, but Stanley was a limber boy, and inside the box be straightened right up again. (Chap. 2, p. 18)  
*(To save on airfare, Stanley's parents mail him to California to visit his friend. If it wasn't absurd enough that he's being mailed, Brown adds to the humor by having him folded inside the envelope. Since the tone is so matter-of-fact, the absurdity of the situation can easily pass without notice.)*
6. They found Arthur lying on the floor near the bookcase. (Chap. 3, p. 26)  
*(Jealous that his brother is getting so much attention and having so much fun now that he is flat, Arthur decides to try to make himself flat as well. To that end, he piled encyclopedias on top of himself, but to no avail. This clever twist on sibling rivalry is sure to delight all readers who have brothers or sisters.)*

7. "Well, it may not be art, but I know what I like." (Chap. 4, p. 46)  
*(Stanley dressed as a shepherdess is surely not art, showing that Brown is having fun playing with the old cliché. Jokes such as this make Flat Stanley appealing to adults as well as children, ensuring its popularity as a read-aloud when parents have long since grown weary of less sophisticated books.)*
8. "POLICE! POLICE!" (Chap. 4, p. 51)  
*(Stanley bravely blows the whistle on the sneaky art thieves, foiling their attempt to steal the most expensive painting in the world. This scene is classic slapstick in the tradition of "The Three Stooges.")*
9. "The thing is," he said, "I'm just not happy anymore. I'm tired of being flat. I want to be a regular shape again.(Chap. 5, p. 58)  
*(Invite children to brainstorm ways that Stanley could regain his original shape. Then have them read on to see how he accomplishes this.)*
10. "Aha!" He had found what he wanted—an old bicycle pump. (Chap. 5, p. 60)  
*(Arthur has come up with a clever way to help Stanley return to his original shape: he pumps him full of air. It's both humorous and ironic that a child should be able to solve the problem that had baffled Dr. Dan as well as the other adults.)*

## Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How does Stanley become flat?  
*(A bulletin board falls on him one night while he is sleeping.)*
2. What reaction do Stanley's parents have to his being flat?  
*(They are very matter-of-fact and accept it as simply another daily event. Then they use Stanley's new shape to make life easier. For instance, Mr. Lambchop rolls Stanley up to make it easier to take him to a museum.)*
3. How does Stanley retrieve his mother's ring?  
*(He takes the laces out of his shoes, makes them into a rope, and ties one end around his belt and gives the other end to his mother. She lowers him into the sewer and he retrieves the ring. Then she pulls back him up.)*

4. What does Stanley do to solve the mystery of the art thieves?

*(He poses as a picture to catch the thieves in the act. Then he blows the whistle on them and the police arrest them.)*

5. How does Stanley return to his original shape?
- (His brother Arthur fills him with air, using a bicycle pump, as one would blow up a balloon.)*

### Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. What parts of the book are not realistic or true-to-life?

*(It's not realistic that a bulletin board would fall on a boy, not injure him, but make him flat. This is the book's central premise. It is also not realistic that all the adults would be very matter-of-fact about it. An event such as this would no doubt attract widespread media attention.)*

7. What parts of the book are realistic or true-to-life?
- (It's realistic that Arthur would be jealous and that Stanley would enjoy being flat for a while and then want to return to his original shape.)*

8. What effect does Brown achieve by using a third-person narrator?

*(Brown gives readers distance from the story. This helps readers accept the fantasy because they are removed from the action.)*

### Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What is the author's tone in this novel? How does the tone affect the story?

*(The tone is dry and matter-of-fact. This increases the humor because it makes the events seem normal—when they are anything but! Brown is like a comedian keeping a poker face to make his outrageous jokes seem plausible.)*

10. *Flat Stanley* is over forty years old. Do you think the book is old-fashioned or dated? Why or why not?
- (Possible responses: No, because the book is a fantasy and still very funny. Yes, because families have changed a lot in forty years.)*

### Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, write one more adventure for him. Your group story should be similar in tone to the ones in the novel.
12. With a partner, discuss what your life would be like if you were as flat as Stanley.

## Across the Curriculum

### Language Arts

1. *Flat Stanley* was inspired by a bedtime conversation that Jeff Brown had with his two sons. Write a short story based on a conversation that you had with one of your parents or another family member.
2. Stanley is squashed flat by a falling bulletin board. List three other ways that Stanley could be squished. Which one is the funniest and why?
3. Mr. and Mrs. Lambchop use clichés, overworked expressions. For example, they say "Hay is for horses." List five other clichés. Then rewrite them into fresh, new expressions.
4. Suppose that it's the day after Stanley foiled the art thieves. Interview him for the newspaper.
5. Writing as Stanley, explain what you liked the most about being flat. Which adventure was the most fun and why?

### Art/Music

1. The Jeffreys return Stanley home in a beautiful envelope they made themselves. Make an envelope like the one described in the book (p. 20) or one of your own design.
2. Seeing Stanley as a shepherdess in a painting, Mr. Dart says, "Well, it may not be art, but I know what I like." Tell what kind of art you like. Cite specific works of art.
3. Stanley becomes flat when a bulletin board lands on him. Design a bulletin board that highlights *Flat Stanley*. Your bulletin board should make people want to read the book.
4. Create a new picture for this book. Illustrate a scene that you especially liked, one that Scott Nash did not draw.
5. Participate in the "*Flat Stanley*" project. Create a self-portrait of yourself flat. You can use a computer, crayons, paints or any medium you like. Mail or email your picture to another school. You can learn more about this international project at [www.flatstanleyproject.com](http://www.flatstanleyproject.com).

## History/Social Studies

1. The Lambchops mail Stanley across the country. This is illegal, of course, but someone did mail himself from one place to another. Find out who did, when, and why.
2. Mr. Lambchop takes his sons to museums on Sunday afternoons. Visit a real museum or go online and visit a web page for one. Report on two of the exhibits.
3. Stanley is famous only briefly. List five famous people from 50 years ago who are not well known today at all. Include politicians, athletes, performers, and so on.
4. Jeff Brown was born in New York City and spent much of his early life there. Create a travel brochure for "The Big Apple."
5. Jeff Brown performed in many Broadway plays. What is "Broadway"? Why is it famous? Report on this part of New York City. Include a map showing the location of at least ten theaters and the shows playing in them now.

## Speech/Drama

1. Mr. and Mrs. Lambchop are polite and speak carefully. Work with a partner to show commonplace manners, such as the polite way to introduce people and to let someone go before you.
2. Working with some classmates, put on a play showing how the average family would react if their son woke up flat.
3. Imagine that you were flat. Demonstrate how you would use your new shape to help people.
4. The police accuse Mrs. Lambchop of playing with a yo-yo. Model how to use a yo-yo.
5. Select a lesson from this book, such as the one Mrs. Lambchop teaches the police about thinking twice before making rude remarks. Write and perform a skit about the lesson. At the end of the skit, ask students what they learned from your skit and if they agree with the lesson.
6. Select your favorite chapter in the book and act it out for a small group of your classmates. Be sure to explain why you liked the chapter so much.

## Mathematics

1. How wide is the average person? Measure ten people and then calculate the average.
2. Stanley is four feet tall, about a foot wide, and half an inch thick. Draw this on mural paper. Then measure yourself against the outline. What is the difference in the measurements?
3. The Lambchops mail Stanley across the country. Of course this is illegal, but mailing packages is an everyday event. Find out how much it costs to mail a 50 pound package from New York to California. Get different rates, depending on the mail service selected.
4. Stanley's home is never identified, but assume that it is New York City. Calculate the distance from New York City to California, Thomas Anthony Jeffrey's home.
5. The art thieves are determined to steal the most expensive painting in the world. List the ten most expensive paintings at this time. Find out where at least three of them are displayed.

## Science/Health

1. The police think Mrs. Lambchop is a "cuckoo." They mean that she is deranged, but what is a cuckoo really? Report on these creatures.
2. Arthur flies Stanley as a kite. Fly a kite with some friends.
3. Explain how kites are able to fly.

## Alternate Assessment

1. Working with a small group of friends, hold a panel discussion interviewing the different characters about their experiences after Stanley became flat. Take turns being the characters and the interviewers.
2. As a child, Jeff Brown performed in radio shows. Research an old-time radio show or write your own script. Then, working with some friends, stage the radio show for your class. Be sure to include sound effects and music.
3. Read another book in the *Flat Stanley* series. Compare and contrast it to this one. Which one did you prefer and why?
4. Clearly, no one would use a child to foil an art robbery. Devise another, safer way to catch the sneaky art thieves.

## Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle with the following words from *Flat Stanley*.

### Word Bank

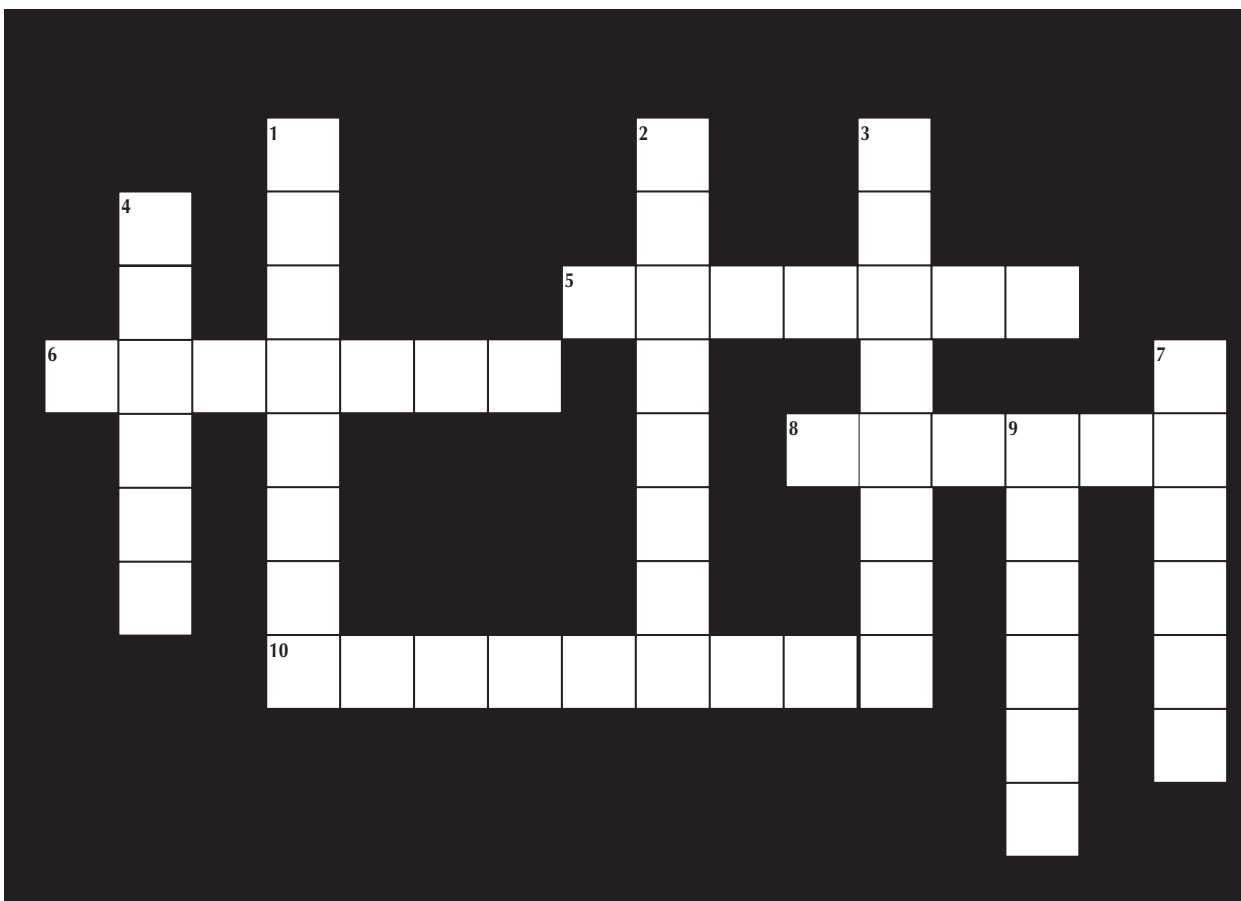
marvel      disguise      enormous      valuable      gloomy  
fragile      expensive      jostled      parcel      cuckoo

### Across

- 5. knocked into
- 6. easily breakable
- 8. bundle, package
- 10. costly

### Down

- 1. masked costume
- 2. huge
- 3. worth a lot
- 4. wonder
- 7. sad, depressed
- 9. bird, slang for crazy





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## Comprehension Test A

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Max and Luther          | A. the director of the Famous Museum of Art |
| ___ 2. The police              | B. Mr. Lambchop's college friend            |
| ___ 3. George Lambchop         | C. A boy who gets flown like a kite         |
| ___ 4. A shepherdess           | D. Stanley's doctor                         |
| ___ 5. Stanley Lambchop        | E. Stanley's friend in California           |
| ___ 6. Mr. O. Jay Dart         | F. the art thieves                          |
| ___ 7. Dr. Dan                 | G. call Mrs. Lambchop a "cuckoo"            |
| ___ 8. Arthur Lambchop         | H. Stanley's younger brother                |
| ___ 9. Ralph Jones             | I. Stanley's disguise in the art museum     |
| ___ 10. Thomas Anthony Jeffrey | J. the boys' father                         |

### Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the term that best completes each sentence.

1. During the night, **(an encyclopedia, a bulletin board)** falls on Stanley, squashing him.
2. Stanley is as flat as a **(pancake, telephone book)**.
3. While taking a walk with his mother, her favorite **(necklace, ring)** falls down a sewer.
4. Stanley travels to his friend in California by **(airplane, mail)**.
5. The boys often go with their father on Sunday afternoons to **(museums, baseball games)**.
6. Jealous of Stanley, Arthur tried to squish himself with the **(pile of bricks, encyclopedia)**.
7. The thieves want to steal the worst most expensive **(diamond, painting)** in the world.
8. **(Mr. Lambchop, Arthur)** inflates Stanley back to his usual shape.
9. Stanley is inflated back to his usual shape with a **(bicycle pump, medical operation)**.
10. The Lambchop family has **(hot chocolate, a vacation)** to celebrate the occasion.

## Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Stanley is badly hurt when he is squished and becomes flat.
- \_\_\_ 2. The doctor puts Stanley in the hospital.
- \_\_\_ 3. Stanley ties together his shoelaces and has his mother lower him into the shaft, where he retrieves the jewelry.
- \_\_\_ 4. Mr. Lambchop rolls Stanley up and carries him under his arm to protect him while they are out on Sunday afternoon excursions.
- \_\_\_ 5. Mr. Lambchop says that Stanley is very smart and hardworking—he is third from the top at his class in school.
- \_\_\_ 6. The thieves sneak through a window into the museum.
- \_\_\_ 7. Stanley gets his picture in all the newspapers and becomes very well-known for a short time.
- \_\_\_ 8. Soon, however, his fame fades and Stanley is mocked.
- \_\_\_ 9. Stanley decides that he no longer wants to be flat; he wants to be his usual shape again.
- \_\_\_ 10. The Lambchops are very sad that Stanley is no longer flat.

### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Tell one funny story from the book.
- 2. After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages. Explain two advantages of being flat that Stanley discovers.
- 3. Describe how Mr. and Mrs. Lambchop react to Stanley being flat.
- 4. Explain how Jeff Brown creates humor in this book.

## Comprehension Test B

### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Stanley Lambchop       | A. Mr. Lambchop's college friend            |
| ___ 2. Arthur Lambchop        | B. Stanley's disguise in the art museum     |
| ___ 3. George Lambchop        | C. Stanley's friend in California           |
| ___ 4. Dr. Dan                | D. the director of the Famous Museum of Art |
| ___ 5. Thomas Anthony Jeffrey | E. one of Stanley's adventures              |
| ___ 6. Ralph Jones            | F. the boy who becomes flat                 |
| ___ 7. Mr. O. Jay Dart        | G. Stanley's younger brother                |
| ___ 8. Max and Luther         | H. thieves                                  |
| ___ 9. A shepherdess          | I. Stanley's doctor                         |
| ___ 10. A kite                | J. Mrs. Lambchop's husband                  |

### Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the term that best completes each sentence.

- Stanley gets flat when a (**bulletin board, bookcase**) falls on him.
- When he first got flattened, Stanley felt (**sore, tickly**).
- Stanley is four feet tall, a foot wide, and (**half an inch, five inches**), thick.
- When Stanley is down the sewer, the police think that Mrs. Lambchop is (**playing with a yo-yo, trying to rob the museum**).
- They call her a (**cuckoo, sport**).
- On the way to California, Stanley brings along (**food, books**).
- Stanley returns from his visit to the West Coast by (**airplane, mail**).
- Mr. Lambchop carries Stanley (**wrapped like wallpaper, flat like a pancake**).
- Arthur wanders away in the park and Stanley gets (**stepped on, caught in a tree**).
- (**Arthur, Mrs. Lambchop**) helps Stanley regain his usual shape.

**Comprehension Test B (Page 2)**

**Part III: Identification (20 points)**

Briefly describe each person, place, or thing and explain why it is important in the story.

- 1. the bulletin board \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Mrs. Lambchop's ring \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. kite \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. the bicycle pump \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

- 1. Tell two advantages of being flat is good and two disadvantages.
- 2. What lessons does this book teach?
- 3. Based on what you read in *Flat Stanley*, would you want to be flat? Why or why not?
- 4. Describe how Jeff Brown creates humor throughout the story.

## Answer Key

### VOCABULARY

#### Across

5. jostled
6. fragile
8. parcel
10. expensive

#### Down

1. disguise
2. enormous
3. valuable
4. marvel
7. gloomy
9. cuckoo

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. A  |
| 2. G | 7. D  |
| 3. J | 8. H  |
| 4. I | 9. B  |
| 5. C | 10. E |

#### Part II: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. bulletin board | 6. encyclopedia   |
| 2. pancake        | 7. painting       |
| 3. ring           | 8. Arthur         |
| 4. mail           | 9. bicycle pump   |
| 5. museums        | 10. hot chocolate |

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F  |
| 2. F | 7. T  |
| 3. T | 8. T  |
| 4. T | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

#### Part IV. Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. A  |
| 2. G | 7. D  |
| 3. J | 8. H  |
| 4. I | 9. B  |
| 5. C | 10. E |

#### Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

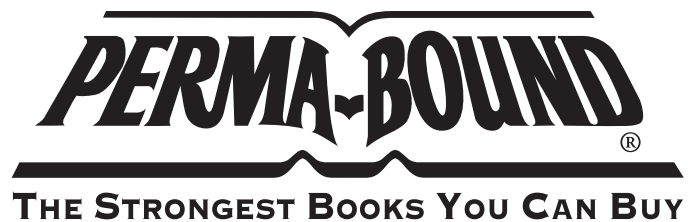
- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. bulletin board       | 6. food                   |
| 2. tickle               | 7. mail                   |
| 3. half an inch         | 8. wrapped like wallpaper |
| 4. playing with a yo-yo | 9. caught in a tree       |
| 5. cuckoo               | 10. Arthur                |

#### Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. The bulletin board falls on Stanley, making him flat. This sets off the action.
2. Mrs. Lambchop's ring falls through the sewer. Stanley retrieves it for her, slipping through the bars on the grating and down into the sewer.
3. Arthur puts the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on his chest to make himself flat as Stanley. This shows how Arthur is jealous of Stanley and the attention he is getting because he is flat.
4. In an attempt make Arthur feel less jealous, Stanley lets his brother fly him like a kite. Arthur walks off with some friends and Stanley gets stuck in a tree.
5. Arthur uses the bicycle pump to restore Stanley to use normal shape. Arthur inflates Stanley as one would a balloon.

#### Part IV. Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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