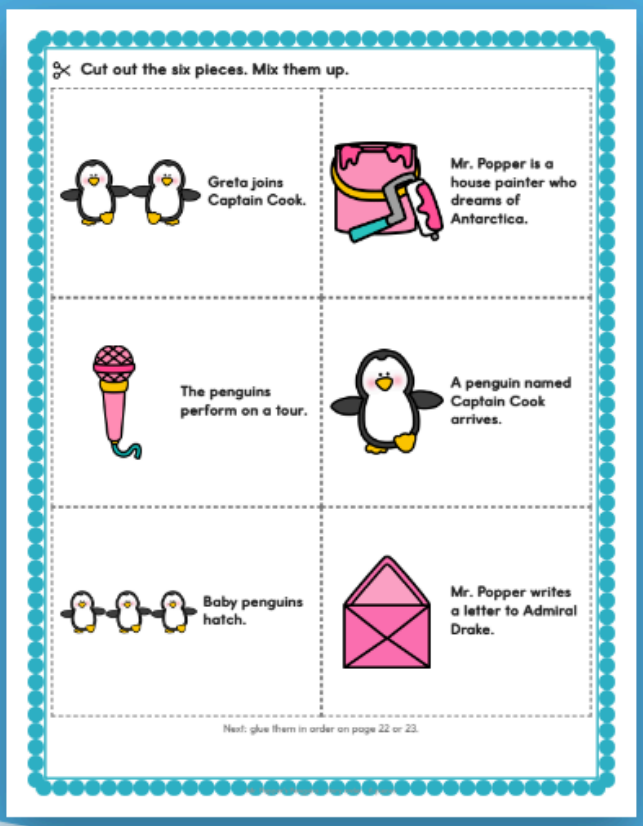
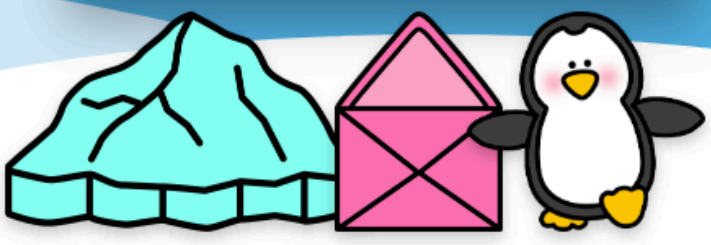
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS NOVEL STUDY

Chapters 1-20 · Grades 3-5







20 CHAPTERS · 35 PAGES

Bright Path Sped

Mr. Popper's Penguins: Start Here

What's inside (35 pages)



- **12 words to know** (page 4) and word work at 3 levels (pages 5-7)
- **A character page** (8) and **chapter questions** for all 20 chapters in 12 sets of 3 (pages 9-14)
- **5 daily skills**: context clues, inference, point of view, cause and effect, summarizing (pages 15-20)
- **Story order**, cut and glue at 2 levels, then a retell in your own words (pages 21-24) and **a penguin craft** (25-26)
- **End-of-book test** (27-28), **answer key** (29-32), class data page, family letter, credits



Use it with the book

This companion is made for use with the novel *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. The book is not included: students read their own copy. Not affiliated with the author or publisher; for use with the book. Every question, word meaning, passage and page here is our own writing, and the pictures are not from the book.

How to run it

- **Before you read.** Read the words to know together (page 4). Do word work at each child's level (pages 5-7).
- **Chapter by chapter.** After each chapter (or short run of chapters), the child answers that set's 3 questions. The questions ask about what happens in this book, in our own words. The reading plan on page 3 lists the 12 sets, the chapter titles we know and a skill of the day.
- **Skill days.** Each skill page teaches on a short passage that is not from the book, then asks the child to find the same skill in the book.
- **Story order.** Cut the six pieces and glue them in order (page 21-23), or write the story in your own words (page 24).
- **Finish.** Build the penguin, then give the end-of-book test (pages 27-28).

Three levels, marked with shapes

● **Starting** (circle the word; the faint pictures show where each piece goes) ■ **Building** (fill in from a word bank; numbered boxes) ▲ **Ready for more** (write your own sentences and your own retelling). Levels use a shape, not a number, so children are not comparing papers.

Scoring, answers and prep

Closed items (word work, test parts 1 and 2, skill practice) have one right answer in the key. Chapter questions, character work and writing say **answers will vary**: score them 2, 1 or 0 with the notes on page 32. Print on paper; use card stock for the two cutting pages if you like. You need scissors, glue sticks and crayons.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read the words. Say each one out loud.

1 EXPLORER
a person who travels to places few people have seen, to learn about them

The explorer packed a map and a warm coat.

2 EXPEDITION
a long trip with a goal, like finding or studying something

The team's expedition lasted many months.

3 ANTARCTICA
the icy land around the South Pole

Snow covers almost all of Antarctica.

4 ADMIRAL
a high-ranking leader of ships in a navy

The admiral told the sailors where to steer.

5 PARCEL
a wrapped package sent through the mail

A parcel came to our door today.

6 CRATE
a strong box, often made of wood, for carrying things

The apples came in a wooden crate.

7 WADDLE
to walk with short steps, swaying from side to side

Ducks waddle across the yard.

8 LONELY
sad because you have no one with you

The kitten felt lonely when everyone left.

9 PERFORM
to do something, like sing or act, for people to watch

We will perform a song for the class.

10 AUDIENCE
the people who watch or listen to a show

The audience clapped when it ended.

11 TOUR
a trip to several places, often to show or do something

The band went on a tour to six towns.

12 HATCH
to break out of an egg

Three chicks will hatch soon.

My own words: _____ _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Circle the word that fits.

1. A _____ came in the mail today.

   parcel **audience**

2. A baby bird will _____ from its egg.

   crate **hatch**

3. We will _____ a play for our families.

   explorer **perform**

4. The penguin will _____ across the ice.

   waddle **tour**

5. The _____ clapped at the end of the show.

   audience **crate**

PREVIEW

Preview : Bright Path Sped

My name _____ ▲

Write a sentence with each word.

EXPEDITION means a long trip with a goal, like finding or studying something.

AUDIENCE means the people who watch or listen to a show.

PERFORM means to do something, like sing or act, for people to watch.

LONELY means sad because you have no one with you.

A word from my book: _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read the chapter. Write your answers.

CHAPTER 1

Skill: Character

Stillwater

1. What is Mr. Popper's job? What faraway place does he dream about?

2. Find one clue that shows what Mr. Popper is like. Write the clue and one word that describes him.

3. Why do you think the story starts in a town and not in Antarctica? Predict what will happen next.

CHAPTER 2

Skill: Context clues

The Voice in the Air

1. What does Mr. Popper listen to, and who is speaking?

2. Find a word you did not know. Write the word, the clue words near it, and what you think it means.

3. How do you think Mr. Popper feels when he hears the voice? Why?

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read the chapter. Write your answers.

CHAPTERS 5-6

Troubles with a Penguin; More Troubles

Skill: Cause and effect

1. Name one trouble the penguin causes for the Popper family.

2. What caused that trouble? What did the family do because of it?

3. Was the effect good news or bad news for the family? Explain.

CHAPTER 7

Captain Cook Builds a Nest

Skill: Summarizing

1. Write the three most important things that have happened so far.

2. What does the title tell you Captain Cook is doing? Why might a penguin do that?

3. What do you want to find out in the rest of the book?

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read the chapter. Write your answers.

CHAPTER 11

Skill: Point of view

Greta

1. Does the book tell the story with I (a character telling it) or with he, she and they (someone outside the story)? How do you know?

2. Who is Greta, and how does Captain Cook seem to feel when she comes?

3. How would this chapter be different if Captain Cook told it?

CHAPTER 12

Skill: Cause and effect

More Mouths to Feed

1. What new arrivals does the title mean? What happened to cause them?

2. Finish this sentence with something from the chapter: Because _____, _____.

3. What problem does the family have now? Tell about it.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Use the clue words to find each meaning.

Remember: Clue words near a hard word help you figure out what it means. Underline them.

1. Mr. Popper was **fascinated** by Antarctica. He read book after book about explorers and could talk about the icy south for hours.

   Clue words: _____

   fascinated means: _____

2. Captain Cook did not walk like a person. He **waddled**, swaying from side to side on his short legs.

   Clue words: _____

   waddled means: _____

3. Money was tight for the Poppers. They had to be **thrifty**, so they counted every coin and bought only what they truly needed.

   Clue words: _____

   thrifty means: _____

IN MY BOOK

A hard word I found: _____

Clue words: _____

I think it means: _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read the scene. Tell how each person feels.

Remember: Point of view is how a character sees what is happening. Two people can feel different about the same thing.

When the penguin came to live with them, Mr. Popper was thrilled. He had waited a long time for something like this. Mrs. Popper was happy for him, but she wondered how a family with little money could take care of a penguin.

MR. POPPER FEELS

_____

because

_____

_____

MRS. POPPER FEELS

_____

because

_____

_____

Who tells my book? Circle one.

a character, using **I**

someone outside the story, using **he, she, they**

IN MY BOOK

Pick two characters. How does each feel about the same thing?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Tell the story in five parts.

Remember: A summary tells only the big parts, in your own words. Use it after chapters 1-5, 6-10, 11-15 and 16-20.

SOMEBODY

Who is the story about?

WANTED

What did he or she want?

BUT

What got in the way?

SO

What did he or she do?

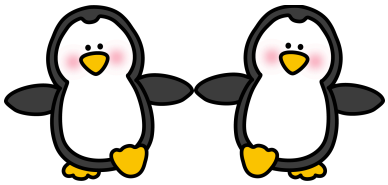
THEN

How did it end?

My summary in one sentence:

PREVIEW

Cut out the six pieces. Mix them up.



Greta joins Captain Cook.



Mr. Popper is a house painter who dreams of Antarctica.



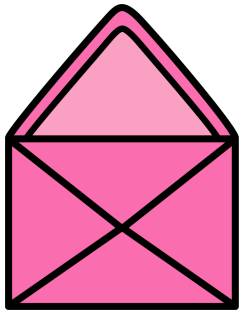
The penguins perform on a tour.



A penguin named Captain Cook arrives.



Baby penguins hatch.



Mr. Popper writes a letter to Admiral Drake.

Next: glue them in order on page 22 or 23.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue the pieces in order, 1 to 6.

1

2

3

4

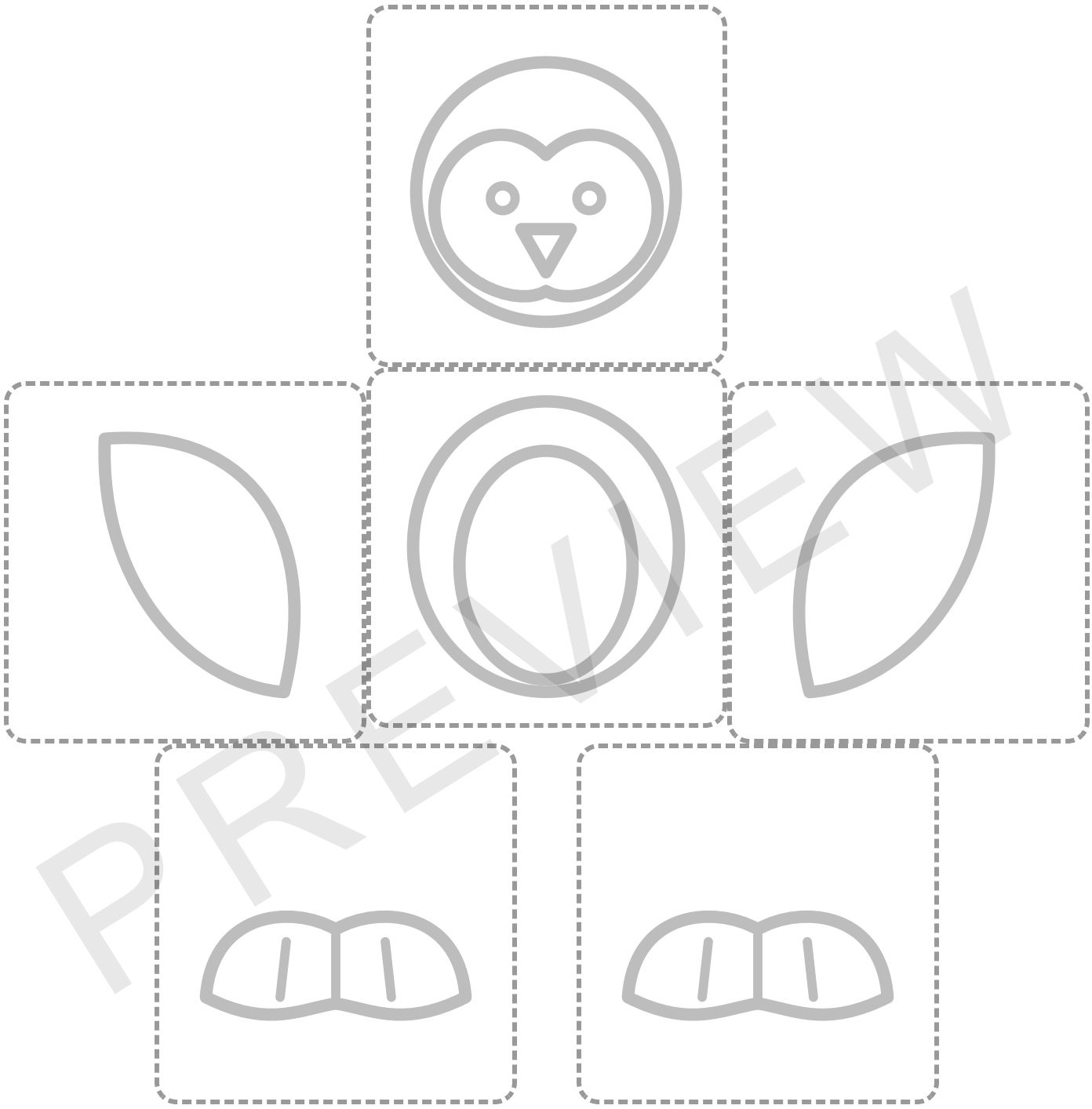
5

6

PREVIEW

My name _____

Glue each piece on its twin.



My penguin is named _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Part 1. Circle the best answer.

1. What is Mr. Popper's job?

   A baker | B house painter | C ship captain

2. Which place does Mr. Popper dream about?

   A Antarctica | B a hot desert | C the moon

3. Who does Mr. Popper write a letter to?

   A Captain Cook | B Greta | C Admiral Drake

4. What is the first penguin named?

   A Captain Cook | B Admiral Drake | C Greta

5. Who joins Captain Cook later?

   A Admiral Drake | B Greta | C Mrs. Popper

6. Which of these happens FIRST?

   A The penguins perform | B Baby penguins hatch | C Mr. Popper writes a letter

7. Which of these happens LAST?

   A The penguins go on tour | B Greta joins | C Captain Cook arrives

8. What do the penguins do on the tour?

   A fly to a show | B perform for people | C paint houses

9. Captain Cook waddled across the floor, swaying on his short legs. Waddled means:

   A flew fast | B walked with short steps, swaying | C slept

10. The Poppers counted their coins twice and frowned at the empty fish bowl. What can you infer?

    A They are worried about money. | B They are going on a trip. | C They have too much food.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Words and Story Order

Word work, starting (page 5)

1. parcel
2. hatch
3. perform
4. waddle
5. audience

Word work, building (page 6)

1. explorer
2. admiral
3. Antarctica
4. lonely
5. tour
6. crate

Left over: expedition, audience.

Word work, ready for more (page 7)

Answers will vary. Score each sentence 2 (uses the word the right way and shows what it means), 1 (uses the word, but the sentence does not show its meaning) or 0. Check the child's own word from the book against a dictionary.

Words to know (page 4)

The meanings printed on the page are the answer key for any word you quiz orally. The words are suggestions for a story about explorers and penguins; add or swap words from your own copy of the book.

Story order (pages 21-24)

1. Mr. Popper is a house painter who dreams of Antarctica.
2. Mr. Popper writes a letter to Admiral Drake.
3. A penguin named Captain Cook arrives.
4. Greta joins Captain Cook.
5. Baby penguins hatch.
6. The penguins perform on a tour.

The starting level (page 22) has a faint picture in each box to match; the building level (page 23) has numbered boxes only. On page 24, answers will vary: look for the six events in order, told in the child's own words (First, Next, Then, After that, Later, Last).

PREVIEW

Answer Key: End-of-Book Test

Part 1: circle the best answer (10 points)

1	B. house painter
2	A. Antarctica
3	C. Admiral Drake
4	A. Captain Cook
5	B. Greta
6	C. Mr. Popper writes a letter
7	A. The penguins go on tour
8	B. perform for people
9	B. walked with short steps, swaying
10	A. They are worried about money.

Part 2: match (5 points)

Word	Letter
expedition	B
audience	D
crate	E
waddle	A
lonely	C

One point for each right letter.

Part 3: written answers (9 points)

Answers will vary. Score each of the three answers 0 to 3:

Score	What the answer shows
3	Answers every part of the question, uses a detail from the book and makes sense.
2	Answers the question, but the detail is thin or missing.
1	Partly answers, or the book detail is wrong.
0	No answer, or it has nothing to do with the question.

Question 1 (character): a real character, a describing word and one example. **Question 2 (cause and effect):** a because-sentence with a true cause and effect from the book. **Question 3 (summary):** beginning, middle and end in 3 or 4 sentences, no tiny details.

Total: 24 points

Parts 1 and 2 add up to 15 points and Part 3 to 9. Scores are for your own records; use your class's grading scale. Score the written answers with the table above; for any opinion answer, a reasonable one with a reason from the book earns credit (see also page 32).

PREVIEW

Who Did What: Novel Study

One row per child. Mark each part done, the level shape used, and the test score.

Class: _____ Book started: _____ Teacher: _____

Student	Word work (level)	Sets 1-6	Sets 7-12	Skill pages	Story order (level)	Craft	Test (of 24)

Level shapes: ● starting ■ building ▲ ready for more. The test is 24 points: 10 circle, 5 match, 9 written (page 31).

Chapter check

Mark the chapters each child has finished (the book has 20; boxes follow the 12 question sets):

1	2	3	4	5-6	7	8-9	10	11	12	13-15	16-20
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Words to reteach: _____

Next we will: _____

PREVIEW