

**THE MYSTERY IN THE  
OLD ATTIC**

## Puzzle It Out

It snows a lot in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In fact, it snows more there than anywhere else in the continental United States.

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny love the snow. They know that once it stops falling, they can go skiing and skating, build snowmen, and even have a few snowball fights. But while a blizzard is raging, they have to stay inside.

But that's okay, too, because they can spend lots of time solving puzzles.

Are you stuck inside because of a storm? Never fear, the Boxcar Children Super Special puzzles are here! In fact, they start on the very next page!

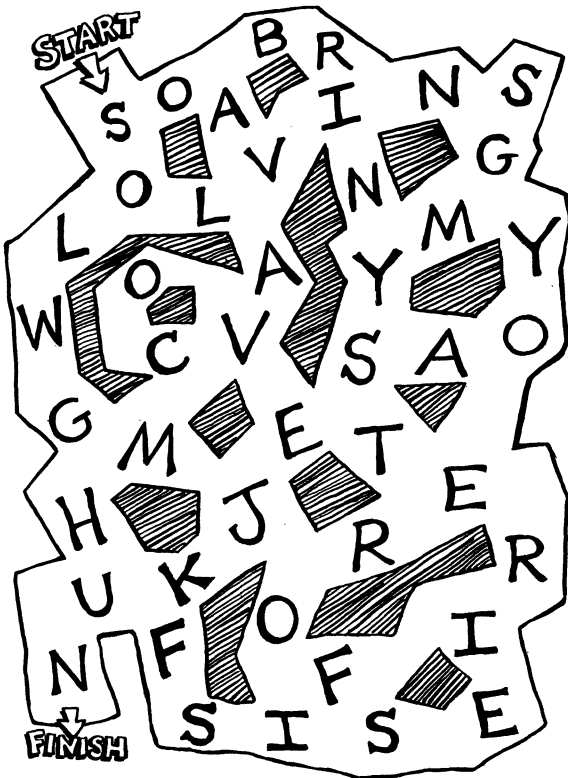
You can check the answers to all of the puzzles on pages 132–135.



## It's a Mystery!

It's wintertime! The snow is falling really hard, and the temperature is way below freezing. All you really want is a cup of hot cocoa, a yummy muffin, and a few good laughs.

If you're looking for something to do while you're stuck in the house, follow the maze below. After you find the right path, write down each of the letters as you come to them.



## Outdoor Fun!

Hooray! The snow has stopped. Now the Aldens can go outside and play! But they don't know which cold-weather sport to try first. There are so many to choose from.

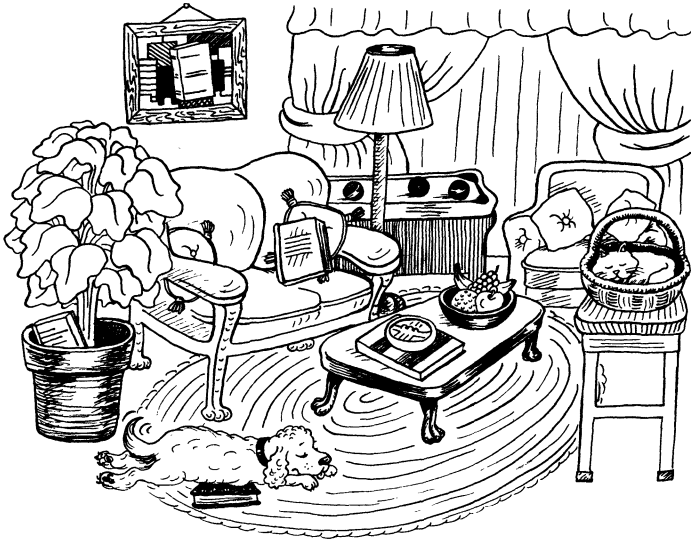
There are plenty of cold-weather sports hidden in this word search. The words go up, down, sideways, backwards, and diagonally. Look for: SKI, SLED, SKATE, SNOW ANGELS, SNOW, SNOWBALLS, SNOW FORT, SNOWMAN, HOCKEY, ICE COLD, ICE FISHING, TOBOGGAN.

S	N	O	W	I	C	E	C	O	L	D	I
S	S	N	E	P	M	O	N	W	M	S	C
L	K	O	T	L	Y	E	K	C	O	H	E
E	A	I	O	Y	S	Y	A	T	M	S	F
D	T	A	B	M	L	N	E	R	N	N	I
V	E	A	O	O	E	I	S	O	A	O	S
W	G	M	G	A	G	D	W	F	I	W	H
L	C	O	G	N	N	M	S	W	O	B	I
C	Y	N	A	A	A	I	C	O	I	A	N
F	R	O	N	N	W	A	O	N	P	L	G
O	A	F	R	E	O	M	R	S	N	L	L
L	R	N	I	Z	N	T	O	R	C	S	I
O	N	E	S	S	S	O	P	G	E	A	P
A	B	S	P	L	N	A	M	W	O	N	S

## Bookmarks!

Grandfather Alden's old house in Michigan is full of beautiful rooms. But no room is more exciting than the library. It is filled with old books about adventure, mystery, romance, and history.

Five books have disappeared from the library. The kids think they might be in the parlor. Can you find them? Circle each book when you discover it.



## A Diamond a Dozen!

Emily's diary sends the Aldens on a search for a real diamond ring. There are twelve rings in this picture, but only one has a real diamond. Can you guess which one it is? It's different from the rest.



## The Joke's on You!

Emily's diary is filled with riddles and jokes. That makes Benny very happy! Nobody likes a joke better than Benny Alden.

Here are some of the oldest (and silliest) jokes in the world. Can you match the riddle to its punch line?

- A. When can five big men stand under a tiny umbrella and not get wet?
  - B. Waiter! What is this fly doing in my soup?
  - C. How do you catch a squirrel?
  - D. What has four wheels and flies?
  - E. What is green and can leap tall buildings in a single bound?
- 
- 1. Climb a tree and act like a nut.
  - 2. A garbage truck.
  - 3. When it is not raining!
  - 4. Super Pickle.
  - 5. I think it's doing the backstroke, sir.



## Photographic Memory!

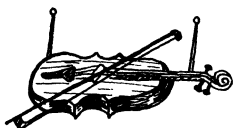
Violet spotted an old camera in a neighborhood pawnshop. But now she can't remember where in the shop it was. How good is your memory?

Color in this picture any way you'd like. Try to remember everything you can. Then turn the page and see how well your memory works!



## Photographic Memory Questions

Circle the picture in each row that is exactly the same as the one in the picture you just colored.

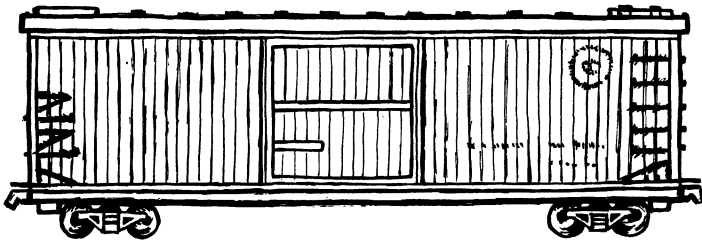


## Amazing Things to Make and Do!

When the Aldens lived in their little red boxcar, they had no money. They had to make everything they needed. Now that the kids live with their grandfather, they can buy almost anything they want. But the Aldens still remember how much fun it is to use something you've made yourself, or to eat a home-baked snack.

Now Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny want *you* to join in the fun. They've gathered some of their favorite recipes and craft ideas and written them down just for you!

Why not give them a try?



## ***Not from the Bakery Window!***

Henry's favorite blueberry muffins come straight from your oven. Ask an adult to help you make them, though!

*You will need:* 2 cups flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 cup sugar, 1 egg beaten, 1/4 cup of melted margarine, 1 cup milk, 1 cup blueberries (if you don't like blueberries, try raisins instead).

*Here's what you do:*

1. Ask an adult to preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
2. Mix the dry ingredients together in one bowl. Mix the wet ingredients in another bowl.
3. Use a mixing spoon to combine the ingredients in the two bowls. Do not mix the ingredients for too long (there should be lumps in the batter).
4. Stir in the blueberries.
5. Fill greased muffin tins 3/4 full with the muffin batter.
6. Ask an adult to put the muffins in the oven and bake for 25 minutes.
7. After the 25 minutes, ask the adult to take the muffins out of the oven. Wait for the muffins to cool.

*Makes 12–15 muffins*



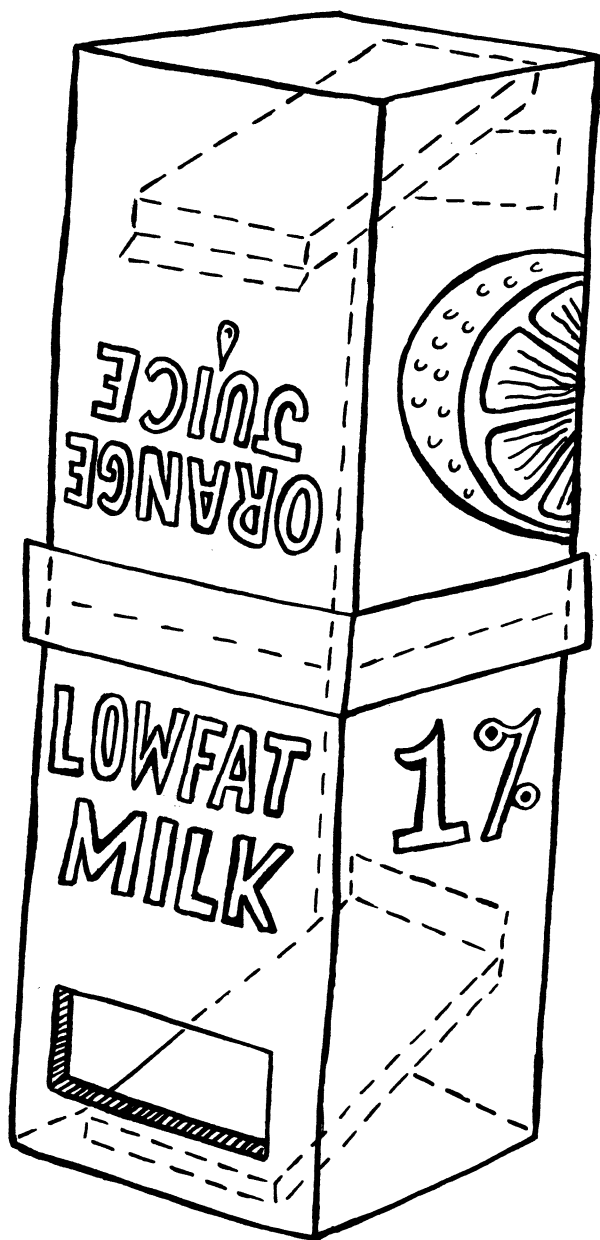
## Paper Periscope

The Boxcar Children sometimes spy on people to solve their mysteries. One of their best spy tools is this periscope. It allows the Aldens to see things that are not in their direct line of vision.

*You will need:* 2 half-gallon milk or juice cartons, scissors, 2 small mirrors, masking tape.

*Here's what you do:*

1. Ask an adult to help you cut the tops off of the milk or juice cartons.
2. Ask the same adult to help you cut a viewing square two inches wide and one inch high, one inch from the bottom of each carton. Cut only one viewing hole in each carton.
3. Tape the mirrors to the bottom and side of each carton at a  $45^\circ$  angle. (See drawing.)
4. Use the masking tape to connect the cartons together at their open ends. Tape the cartons so that the viewing holes are at opposite ends and opposite sides of the periscope.
5. Now you are ready to spy! Stand near something that is taller than you but low enough so the top of your periscope sticks up over it. (A fence is a good object to stand behind.) Look through the bottom opening of your periscope, and you will see what's going on over the fence!



## Peppy Peppermint Chocolate!

What goes better with muffins than a mug of hot chocolate? Here's Jessie's recipe for hot chocolate with a peppermint twist!

*You will need:* 1 cup milk, 1 teaspoon chocolate syrup, and a peppermint stick.

*Here's what you do:* Combine the milk and chocolate in a pot. Ask an adult to warm the chocolate milk for you. Then ask the adult to pour the warm chocolate milk into a mug for you. Place the peppermint stick in the mug. Then use the peppermint stick as a straw to drink your hot chocolate. (Be patient. A few strong sips and that peppermint stick will hollow itself out.)



## A Penny for the Page

Emily's diary is so fascinating, the Boxcar Children don't want to miss a single word! So they made this cool bookmark to make sure they keep their place. The best part is it doesn't cost much to make — just two cents!

*You will need:* rubber cement, a large paper clip, two pennies.

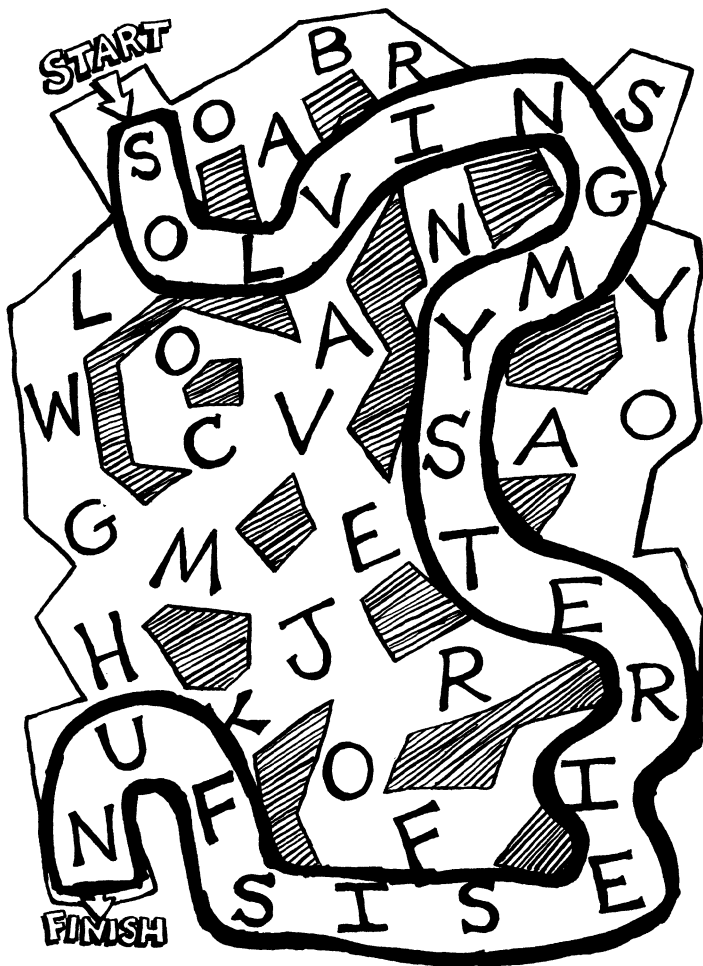
*Here's what you do:*

1. Put a dab of the rubber cement on the center of one of the pennies.
2. Glue the penny to the end of the paper clip that has one loop.
3. Put another dab of rubber cement on the second penny.
4. Glue the second penny to the paper clip so that the two pennies sandwich the paper clip. Allow the glue to dry completely.
5. To use your paper clip bookmark, slide the page of your book into the paper clip.

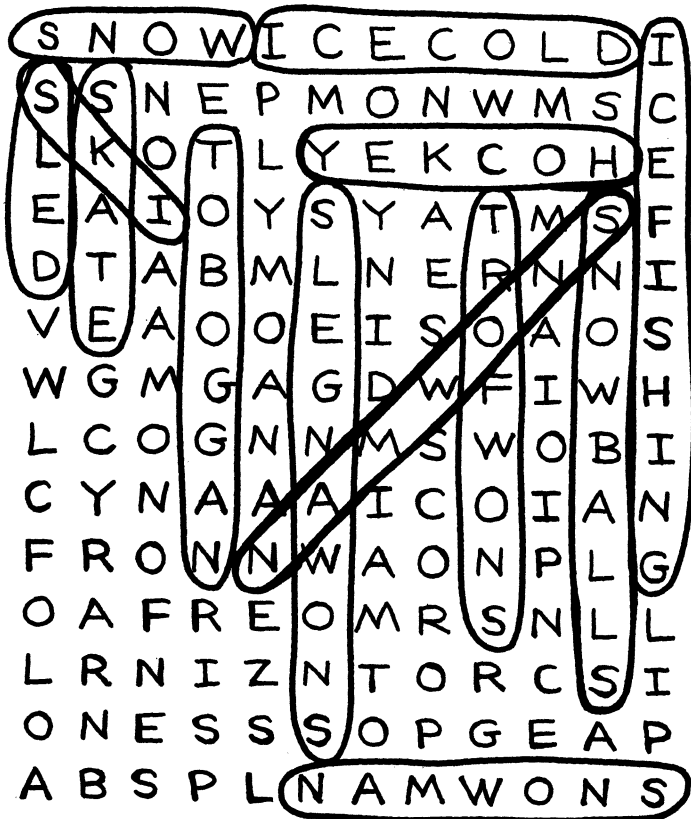


Answers

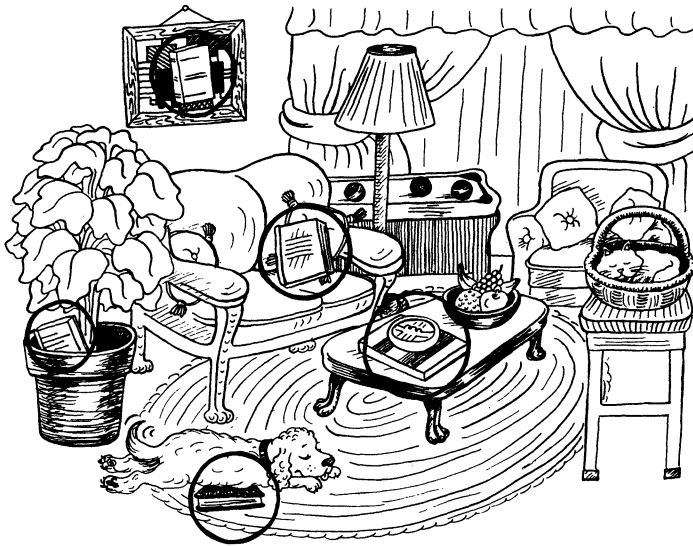
It's a Mystery:



## Outdoor Fun:



**Bookmarks:**



**A Diamond a Dozen!:** Number nine is the real diamond ring.

**The Joke's on You!:** A3, B5, C1, D2, E4

Photographic Memory:



