English
Home Language

A F de Villiers
E Jacobs
T Govender
M C W Hugo
H E de Villiers
C M R Harris

Core Reader
5

MACMILLAN
Contents

Relocating (Unit 1 – Short story) 1

A glimpse into the world of the giraffe (Unit 2 – Information text) 6

The five-year-old who took the music world by storm (Unit 3 – Information text) 8

The myth of Daedalus and Icarus (Unit 4 – Folklore) 10

Everyday emotions (Unit 5 – Poetry)
- Lunch break: the best part of the school day 13
- A family is like 15
- Duke: my precious pet 16

Money-wise … (Unit 6 – Information text)
- Part 1: Earning money 17
- Part 2: Saving money 19
- Part 3: Show some saving savvy 20

Justin Bieber did it: can you too? (Unit 7 – Information text) 21

A twist in the tale (Unit 8 – Poetry)
- My teacher took my iPod 24
- My dog has got no manners 25
- The crocodile 26
- My teacher sees right through me 27
Folklore (Unit 9)
1. How the leopard got its spots 28
2. A Virginia folktale 35

Heroes: Ayanda’s triumph (Unit 10 – Short story) 37

Private eyes (Unit 11 – Novel) 43

Buy me (Unit 12 – Information text) 71

How Zebra got his stripes (Unit 13 – Folklore) 74

Extreme conditions: The tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 (Unit 14 – Information text) 77

Drama (Unit 15)
● A princely wedding 80
● A lesson learnt 91

Man’s best friend (Unit 16 – Short story) 98

I have a dream (Unit 17 – Information and media text) 105

The Big Five (Unit 18 – Information text) 108

Need to know (Unit 19 – Information and media text) 111

Storytime: Able Fable and his children (Unit 20 – Short story) 115

Where stories come from (A traditional Zulu story) (Unit 20 – Folklore; additional reading passage) 120
Joshua White loved to play chess and he was also very good at it. Not only was he the school champion, but he was also ranked second in the national championships. Everybody was very proud of him. So it came as no surprise when Josh received a scholarship to attend a top school.

Josh lived with his mom and gran in Pietermaritzburg. His mother worked hard and only just managed to meet the daily expenses, so an all-paid scholarship was really a wonderful bonus. The problem was that it was for a boarding school, far away from Josh’s home and family.

Although Joshua was very excited at the thought of the scholarship, he was also not completely happy. He did not much fancy the idea of attending a boarding school in a big city far away. He would have to leave his family, as well as his much-loved pet and best mate, Duke. He knew his mom would take good care of Duke, but what about their little “chats” when he told Duke how he was feeling? Josh was sure that he and Duke were both going to miss their special times together tremendously.
The new school was in Durban, more than 80 kilometres away from his home in Pietermaritzburg. But his mom said, “There is no need to worry. Gran and I will take care of things. Remember, this scholarship is going to change your whole life. You are also going to receive the best coaching, so your chess will improve even more. Soon, you might even be number one in your age group. Just think of that!” Josh thought about it and had to agree – his mom was probably right.

Finally, the day when Josh had to leave home arrived. Although he tried to put on a brave face, he was tearful as he waved goodbye to Mom, Gran and a droopy-eyed Duke. Even the special taxi that had come to pick him up did little to make the young boy feel better. As he waved to his family through the window of the car, he could only think of what he was going to miss, rather than the joys that might lie ahead.

The smart new school was situated in the Durban suburb of Glenwood. Although Josh tried to be brave, he felt very uncertain. At times, he felt scared about being at a new school with boys and teachers he did not know. Everything was so unfamiliar to him, so new.

Soon after he had arrived, he was shown to his own room. It was huge compared to his bedroom at home. It had a soft carpet and a big cupboard, as well as a desk with his very own computer on it. Imagine that!

Josh hastily unpacked and then walked to the window and looked out. He saw colourful gardens with all kinds of pretty flowers and hedges. A few boys were merrily jogging along the pathways, while others were seated under the boughs of
the trees, chatting happily. It was a picture of contentment, yet his heart felt heavy with longing for his home and family.

Josh was still quite nervous as he entered the classroom the next day. He had overslept and was ten minutes late for his first lesson. He felt 20 pairs of eyes on him. The teacher, who seemed very strict, peered over his spectacles at the boy and did not really listen as Josh attempted to explain the reason for his late arrival. It did not do much to put the boy at ease when the teacher said, “Mr White, do not let this happen again. Do we understand each other?”

Josh muttered a response and found his seat, aware of the sniggers from some of the boys. The class continued and Josh became even more worried – the boys all seemed so clever and knew all the answers. Was he going to be able to keep up?

That afternoon, Josh met Mr Snyders, his chess coach and English teacher. Mr Snyders was very good, but appeared to be very strict.

Josh phoned home almost every day. Mom and Gran were doing fine, although they missed him greatly. He was saddened by the thought of Duke spending the better part of each day at the gate, waiting for Josh to return from school, as he had always done.

There were still eight weeks until the end of term. Josh worked very hard at his school work; his chess game also improved steadily. The boy missed his family tremendously and had not really made any good friends yet. However, that was soon to change …
“May I join you?” Josh was seated in the canteen, finishing his toasted tuna sandwich. He looked up into the friendly, brown eyes of a boy his own age. The boy was in Josh’s English class.

“That would be great,” Josh replied eagerly. He was tired of eating alone.

“My name is Peter. I know that you are Josh and come from Pietermaritzburg. I don’t play chess, but I know you are very good. Are you going to the chess trials tomorrow?” Peter bit into a juicy, red apple.

“You bet I am!” replied Josh. Soon both boys were talking about their different hobbies. At last, Josh thought, I have made a friend.

The two boys spent a lot of time together and enjoyed themselves. Josh even taught Peter to play chess. Some time later, Peter was selected to play in one of the school teams.

One Saturday, Mom, Gran and Duke visited Josh. They spent a lovely day at the beach. Josh invited Peter to come along. The two of them played with Duke in the water, while Mom and Gran relaxed in the shade of a big beach umbrella. Happily, they watched Josh and his best mates playing in the waves.

“Josh, I must admit that the past four weeks have not been easy for us at home. We miss you so much. But now that I see you have adjusted well, I am very pleased,” his mom said thankfully.
When his family left for home, there were many hugs and kisses. This time, there were no tears.

Time passed quickly and happily. Josh was selected as the number one player for the national chess team. He was also chosen as team captain. Those were the proudest moments in the short life of Josh White.

At assembly, he was called to the stage to address the school on what made him so successful. “I have worked very hard and am committed to the game. I want to thank my coach, Mr Snyders, for helping and encouraging me. I think all the teachers and learners at this school are great! One just wants to do well. Thank you to all.”

There was a roar of excitement in the hall when Josh said that. Mr Synders shook Josh’s hand warmly – he was no longer just the new boy at the school. He was one of them and a very special one at that.
A glimpse into the world of the giraffe

Michelle loves animals. She is hoping to become a vet (which is short for veterinarian) or a game warden. As you know, game wardens work in game parks and take care of all the wild animals there.

It saddens Michelle to think that animals are being hunted and that many species face extinction. Human beings can sometimes be thoughtless and cruel.

Michelle’s favourite animal is the giraffe. She particularly loves its beautifully spotted coat and the graceful manner in which it walks. She is a volunteer at the zoo and spends a great deal of time at the giraffe’s enclosure. She did some research on the giraffe. Read some of the interesting facts that she found out about this special animal.

The giraffe is a mammal: its young are born alive. The mother gives birth while standing. The calf falls more than 1,5 m to the ground. (Doesn’t that hurt?) Within half an hour of being born, the calf can stand up. Only ten hours later, the calf is able to run next to its mother – quite amazing.
The giraffe has very long legs as well as a very long neck. Luckily, this long neck enables the giraffe to spot its predators over the African grasslands.

A giraffe’s legs can measure up to 1.8 m in length – taller than the average adult man. These long legs enable the animal to run as fast as 56 km an hour.

The giraffe is a herbivore, which means that it only enjoys eating vegetation (not meat, unlike the big cats). Its favourite food is the leaves of the Acacia tree. It spends a great deal of time eating just those leaves. The giraffe’s height is a definite advantage when it comes to feeding. With its very long, purple tongue (an adult giraffe’s tongue can measure 53 cm), the giraffe can enjoy the juicy leaves that grow high up in the treetops.

However, being so tall also has disadvantages. At a watering hole, a giraffe struggles to drink water. It has to stretch out its legs at awkward angles, so that its head is low enough to reach the water. When it is stretched out in that position, lions and other predators can catch these big animals more easily.

Did you know a giraffe can weigh up to 1,270 kg and can live up to 25 years? Some live to be 28 or 29.

Michelle is relieved that the giraffe is not on the list of endangered animals. She hopes future generations will also be able to enjoy the beauty of this amazing animal.

Adapted from:
- http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/giraffe/
The five-year-old who took the music world by storm

In Unit 3 of the Learner’s Book, we admired Sally and Simphiwe for their special talents and gifts. We all have talents. Some people are good at sports such as soccer, tennis, swimming and rugby. Others are good at writing, singing and dancing.

Sometimes, we do not immediately realise we have our own special talents. However, once we discover a talent, we need to practise and perfect it, otherwise it goes to waste.

If we look back in history, we see that many talented people have made great contributions to our world. They will be remembered throughout the ages for their genius. Some people became famous scientists, others became writers, leaders and inventors. One such remarkable person was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who became a wonderful composer of music.

Mozart was born on 27 January 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. At the age of three, he could already play the harpsichord, which is a type of musical instrument rather like a piano.
When Mozart was five years old, he performed a musical piece on the piano at the University of Salzburg. All the adults and important people present were impressed by this amazing child. He became known as a child prodigy, which is a name given to a very talented child who has a special gift.

When he was just eight years old, he wrote his first symphony (this is a composition for an orchestra). He was still very young when he composed his first opera – just 12 years old! The following year, he and his family travelled throughout Europe, with Mozart performing in many different places. He learnt to speak many different languages.

When Mozart died on 5 December 1791, he was only 35 years old. He left behind more than 600 pieces of music that he had composed. Three of his most famous operas include *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*. Perhaps you have heard recordings of these pieces?

Mozart was indeed very gifted. Unlike most composers, who specialise in only certain kinds of music, Mozart wrote different types of music – for example, concertos, symphonies, operas and sonatas. He also wrote for different instruments, such as the piano, the organ, the horn and the bassoon.

Despite the fact that he was so talented, Mozart did not always spend his money very wisely. When he died, he was poor and in debt. Thus, one of the greatest composers of all time was buried in an unmarked grave in Vienna, Austria. No one knows exactly where his grave is.

Adapted from:
wolfgang-amadeus-mozart-the-six-year-old-composer-1
The myth of Daedalus and Icarus

No doubt you have already listened to and read many myths and legends about all kinds of animals and people. Now you are going to read a story that took place on the island of Crete.

This island, which still exists today, is not particularly big. It is quite some distance from the mainland of Greece – about 160 km away. So you can understand that if you were on Crete in those days, you could not get to Greece easily and quickly, unless … unless, perhaps, you had wings!

Many, many years ago, there was a great king. His name was Minos and he was the King of Crete. King Minos wanted a magnificent garden built around his palace. He sent for a famous craftsman, whose name was Daedalus, to design and build the gardens.
Folklore

Daedalus sailed to Crete from the mainland of Greece with his son, Icarus. Icarus was learning about craftsmanship from his father.

Daedalus decided to build the gardens in a labyrinth. Another word for a labyrinth is a “maze”, where plants are grown in a type of puzzle. Visitors can have fun trying to find their way through a maze. When the gardens were completed, King Minos was very excited. He simply loved them and was very pleased with the work that Daedalus and Icarus had done.

Most people who went into the king’s labyrinth lost their way. King Minos even imprisoned his enemies there because they would spend the rest of their lives trying to find their way out.

Once it happened that one of King Minos’s enemies was trapped in the maze. Daedalus felt sorry for the man and helped him through the labyrinth. When King Minos heard about it, he was furious and had Daedalus and his son arrested. The father and son were not allowed to board any ships in the king’s harbour. It was impossible to swim to the next island because it was too far.

They were prisoners on Crete and would have to stay there for the rest of their lives, or so the king thought. But the clever craftsman, Daedalus, set about thinking how he and his son could escape. Soon he came up with a plan. He began building two sets of huge wings, one for himself and one for Icarus.

Once Daedalus had constructed the lightweight frames for their arms, he and his son collected feathers to put on the
wings. They carefully glued all the feathers onto the wings with wax. They worked very hard because they wanted to finish the wings before the king found out about them. Very soon, the wings were completed and the father and son were ready to escape to Greece.

Daedalus warned his son, “Fly evenly and steadily like an eagle. Don’t fly too high or the sun will melt the wax.” Then they put on their giant wings and began to fly. Daedalus and his son glided over the ocean like birds, happy and free, away from Crete and the nasty King Minos.

While flying high in the sky, Daedalus frequently reminded Icarus to stay focused and to be careful not to fly too close to the sun. But the boy soon became so excited about being able to fly that he started zooming around crazily and wildly. Sure enough, Icarus forgot what his father had told him and finally zoomed so high that the sun melted the wax on his wings. The feathers fell off and the poor boy plummeted into the ocean.

The sea into which the unfortunate Icarus fell was given his name. Today, it is still known as the Icarian Sea.

Adapted from:
- http://search.myheritage.com/?q=the+story+of+daedalus+for+kids&cx=partner-pub-407478729887929%3Agiwg7y5iqcq&cof=FORID%3A11&safe=off&ie=UTF-8&hl=us
Everyday emotions

It is important to celebrate life. In the following poems, 12-year-old Paul tells us about the things he really enjoys and admires.

Lunch break: the best part of the school day

Thirty pairs of eyes fixed on the clock. Five more minutes and we will be out in the block. One, two, three! Tring, tring goes the bell; we are all free. Thirty minutes of absolute fun to sit, chat or just chill in the sun!

My lunchbox is filled with delicious food that is enough to brighten up my mood. “No, James, you certainly cannot taste!” I close my lunchbox in haste. “Greedy James, bring more lunch, even a few carrots, just to munch.”
Our tuck shop sells a variety of treats: fruit, sandwiches and honey-coated sweets. Peter has the most money to spend, so everybody wants to be his best friend!

The bully, Paul, pushes Trevor to the ground; there is an overpowering, deafening sound as all the children cheer: “Yes, yes! Please fight without any fear. Pull his hair. Is that his shirt? That is a huge tear!” The vigilant teacher walking around hears the overpowering sound.

The teacher pries them apart. “You are all to blame, from the very start! This area is out of bounds. Immediately move to the grounds! The entire school will be punished today. Yes, for contravening school rules, you must pay.

“Pick up every piece of litter from the ground. I don’t want to hear a single moan or sound! Paul, you are the main culprit; stop the grumbling and incessant mumbling.”

Everyone wants to go to class and is waiting for the bell to ring. What a sense of relief the end of break will bring! The break has become an absolute eternity, the torture of the punishment an undeniable reality.
A family is like

A family is like a circle
the connection never ends
and even if at times it breaks
in time it always mends
A family is like the stars
somehow they’re always there
families are those who help
who support and always care
A family is like a book
the endings never clear
but through the pages of the book
their love is always near
A family is many things
with endless words that show
who they are and what they do
and how they teach you so you know
but don’t be weary if it’s broken
or if through time it’s been so worn
families are like that –
they’re split up and always torn
but even if this happens
your family will always be
they help define just who you are
and will be a part of you eternally

Nicole M. O’Neil

Source:
● http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/a-family-is-like-a-circle
Duke: my precious pet

Duke, my dog, is my loyal friend. He has promised unspoken commitment till the end. Whenever I am in sight, he protects me with all his might.

He has shown me devotion, love and adoration. He asks for so little, just a juicy bone and peace to be on his own.

When he was a pup, he snuggled up in my bed and drank from my cup. He unearthed Mum’s flowers and nearly ruined her carpets during heavy showers. One day, he almost chewed an important book. A single stern look was all that was needed. From that day, my every command he has heeded.

Every day he loves to go for a leisurely walk. During this time, I love to talk to my mate, in whom I have absolute faith. He acknowledges me by wagging his tail, somehow assuring me that my plans will never fail. When I have a difficult day, Duke waits patiently for me to play one of my favourite games: Hop, Stop, or Pop – games with frivolous names.

To Duke, my silent companion: You are my true champion.
Money-wise …

Part 1: Earning money

Money does not grow on trees! How many times have you heard your parents say that when you asked them for something? I’m sure you walked away, wishing that you had your own money.

Well, your parents are right – money doesn’t grow on trees. (Trust me, I’ve searched high and low, but have never found that magical tree.)

It is true that it’s good to have your own money to spend as you like, however, money first has to be earned. Adults don’t get pocket money. They have to earn their money by working – and so do you. I can hear you say, “But I’m only in Grade 5. I can’t earn money yet.” Yes, you can. Here are a few ways to earn money.

1. Offer a pet service: Feed or play with dogs and cats when your neighbours go on holiday. Many people don’t want to take their pets to the kennels and are willing to pay someone to feed their cats and dogs while they are away.
2. **Jumble sales:** Ask your parents to give you things they don’t use or want any more. Clean them up, price them and have a sale that will attract passers-by. Keep the prices low to make sure the items are sold. Ask an adult or older sibling to help you at the “counter”.

3. **Help out more at home:** You should always help with household chores in the house and not expect to be paid for them. However, there may be extra tasks you can do to earn money, such as cleaning out the garage or tidying cupboards.

4. **Wash cars:** All you need is a bucket, water, soap and a few clean cloths and sponges. Ask your Dad to show you how to wash a car properly and then offer to wash your neighbours’ cars for a small fee.

Adapted from:
Part 2: Saving money

Now that you’ve earned money (or perhaps you got some as a birthday gift), what do you do with it? Save it all? Spend it all? Or save a little and spend a little?

It is time to learn how to be smart with your money. Anyone can spend money, but not everyone can manage money. Here’s what smart (and rich) people do with their money: they divide their money and use it for different things. Next time you get or earn money, split your money so that you have some for:

$ Little things – such as going to the movies or buying something at the tuck shop
$ Big things – such as a CD, a game or even a bike
$ Giving – always put some money to one side to give to those in need. Try to give 10% of whatever money you get to charity or to your church
$ Investing – put a little money aside that you don’t touch. When you have enough, open a savings account at a bank. Now you will also earn interest on your money – your money starts working for you.

Adapted from:
Part 3: Show some saving savvy

Trick 1: Four banks, not one
Ask your mom for four glass jars with lids. Use these jars as saving banks and label them Spend, Save, Give and Grow.

Trick 2: Set saving goals
Decide what you are saving for (a new game, an iPod). Now work out how much you should save to buy the item in six or 12 months’ time – you decide on the savings period. Make sure you save every month.

Trick 3: Save first, not last
The first thing to do when you get your money is to divide it. Don’t save the money that’s left over after you’ve spent most of it. Save first, then you won’t find you’ve spent everything.

Trick 4: Keep track of your expenses
Keep a money diary to show you how you spend (or waste) your money.

Trick 5: Be a smart shopper
Shop around for the cheapest prices. Always ask yourself whether the item you want to buy is really worth the money.

Adapted from: