



Precision Academics©

by Val Gray Assoc MAPS
Educational Psychologist
Registered: PSY0001188426

Level: H.S.L.S.
Individual Workbooks
Level 4 English
Tall Tales and Yarns



Student:

Section	Date Completed	Signature
1		
2		
3		
4		



Precision Academics resources are designed especially for students with special learning needs.

Keep your sessions short and very positive. Encourage your student to concentrate very closely on key visual and auditory information. Actively teach the student to listen carefully, complete all elements of each task and check their own work. Provide as much support as is needed to achieve 100% on every page. Praise often and sincerely. Cover the page with positive marks, check marks, messages of success etc. Encourage your student to do the same. Encourage as much detail in spoken language as possible. Language skills greatly enhance all aspects of learning. Actively teach your student to develop his or her skills using a range of strategies. Adapt each page to your student's individual needs. The final two pages are located in the booklet: **Individual Workbook Assessment: Level H.S.L.S. History & World Studies: Africa.** These pages contain Work Samples and Record of Progress towards Australian National Curriculum. The student should complete the work samples, and the helper should record the student's achievements on each outcome for this Workbook. These pages should be kept on each student's file as a permanent record.

Focus areas for all Individual Workbooks are Cross Curriculum so that the student is working towards their specific curriculum, such as Science, Geography, History etc. However, in every workbook, the student is also being given opportunities to develop their skills across a wide range of prerequisite learning skills to prepare them for adult life including:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Comprehension
- Instruction Following & Task Completion
- Concentration & Working Memory
- Communication Skills

Which students are the H.S.L.S. Individual Workbook series designed for?

The High School Life Skills Individual Workbooks are designed for students who are working towards Life Skills Outcomes in some or all of their subjects. In general, their literacy, numeracy and independent working skills are more closely aligned to Years Three and Four Levels of the National Australian Curriculum. In most cases, students working on the HSLS Individual Workbooks are also working on the higher levels of the Precision Academic Resource Bank (such as Spiral English, Spiral Mathematics etc).

As with all students, it is fully expected that the students working on these HSLS Individual Workbooks will be completing as much as possible of the mainstream curriculum activities. These Individual Workbooks are designed to enhance and compliment the curriculum, as ONE element of the students' Individual Learning Program. Whenever possible, students working towards Life Skills Outcomes should be completing as many activities as possible with their same age peers. Many schools use the buddy system. For example, if all students are studying "Volcanoes". The Life Skills student would complete as much as possible of the mainstream activities, then work independently or with a buddy, to complete the HSLS Individual Workbook: Volcanoes while other students are completing tasks that are beyond his or her literacy/numeracy skills (eg. reading and answering textbook questions). These Workbooks, in whole or in part, can also be used as homework, assignments and even "examinations" to ensure that students' working towards Life Skills.

Section 1

1. Read these words aloud, tick each word as you read it.

around		
jewelry		
treasure		
minute		
imagine		
enjoyed		
knees		
buried		
surprised		
chocolates		

2. A **Tall Tale** or a **Yarn** is a story in which some or all of the information has been made up or made to sound more exciting than it really was.

When we tell a story and make it sound more exciting than it really was, we call this

exaggerating

There is no harm in telling a story this way, in fact it can be lots of fun to write and even more fun to read or listen to. But we must not pretend what we are writing is real or completely true. And when we read tall tales and yarns, we must remember that they are not true stories. In this Workbook, we will be reading and writing some yarns.

3. Read this aloud.

Put check mark next to each paragraph as you read it.



Last summer, my brother Ling and I were really bored. We didn't have anything to do. Every time we told our parents we were bored, they just found us more and more jobs around the house. So we soon worked out it was better to find something to do all by ourselves. But what?

We rented some videos, we went to the shops, and we even went swimming, but most of the time we just hung around being bored.

But one day, all that changed.

Our dad made me mow the grass on a really hot day. Ling came over and helped me. As we were picking up the leaves that had fallen from the big trees at the back of our yard, I saw a small package hidden under a fallen branch.

I picked it up and saw that it was a small, very old book wrapped in plastic to keep it dry.

I showed Ling, and we sat down under the tree to open it. We were really surprised because on the cover of the book we saw the words, "Secret Map to Buried Treasure, by Captain Flagstaff, 1839".

We flicked through the pages, and saw a long list of all sorts of gold and jewelery. The last two pages of the book showed a map, with a big X marking a spot next to a river. "Wait a minute," said Ling, "that's a map of our town. I can tell because our river looks just like that."

"I bet we could find that treasure" I said. "Then we would be the richest boys in town."

“Yes,” answered Ling, “and then we would never be bored again.”

And so, for the next few weeks we searched high and low, carefully following the map to find the buried treasure. Finally, we found the right spot. We found the bend in the river that looked just like the place on the map marked with an X.

We dug and dug for hours. It was nearly dark, but we couldn’t stop until we found the treasure.

Finally, we heard a loud THUD as Ling’s shovel hit something hard. We fell to our knees and grabbed the dirt with our bare hands. We reached into the hole and grabbed out a box. We threw the lid open and inside we found

more gold and silver and jewels and treasure than we could even begin to imagine. Our lives changed overnight. We became rich and famous and all of the other boys and girls in town couldn’t wait to be our friends. We bought a castle in France and our very own jet plane to fly us around the world.

Except for one small thing, that’s not quite what happened.

What really happened was... We reached into the hole and pulled out a box. We threw the lid open and inside we found ... nothing except a note

And the note said,

Dear Ling and Lee:

I hope you enjoyed your treasure hunt. At least you weren’t bored for a few days. Sorry that there isn’t any treasure, but when you come home, we will give you a big box of chocolates.

Love, Mum and Dad

So that was the end of our search for buried treasure, we didn’t get rich, but at least we had fun looking for a few days.

4. Answer these questions

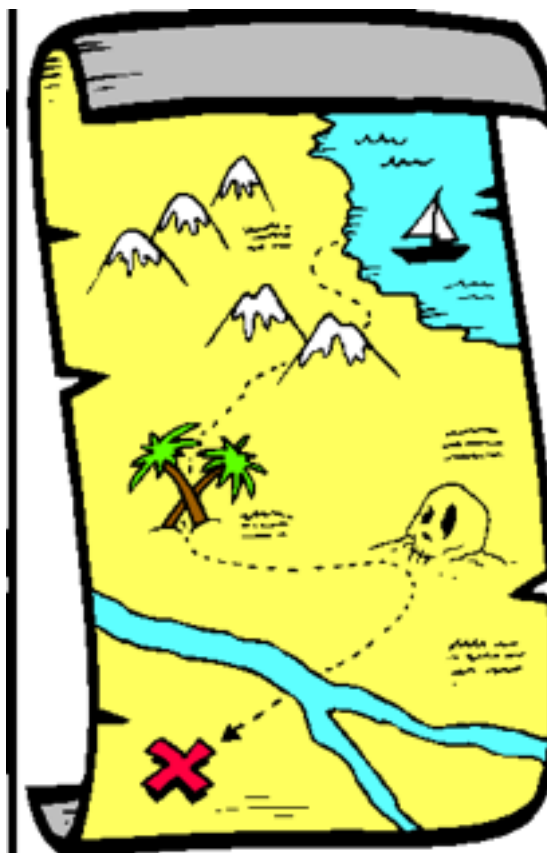
What are the names of the two boys in this yarn?

How did the boys know the map was buried in their town?

What did the boys expect to find?

What did the boys really find?

5. Draw your own version of a treasure map on the next page.



6. Captions

A Caption is one sentence, or just a few words, describing a picture.

Each of the following pictures shows something that is most likely not true, or has been exaggerated.

Write a caption for each picture. The first one has been done for you.



Boy knocked out as computer game strikes back.





6. From your perspective:

Imagine that you and your dad are fishing, in a small boat out in the middle of the sea. Suddenly, you feel a sharp tug on the end of your fishing line. You pull and pull as hard as you can, but the fish is so big that it might just pull you into the water. The fish is as big as a car! Write a short description of how you feel while this is happening. What are you going to do next? How will you catch this giant fish?

Draw a picture to illustrate this yarn.

**Outstanding Work. Sign and/or put a sticker on Ribbon 1
on the front cover of this workbook.**

Section 2

1. Read these words aloud, tick each word as you read it.

wheelchair		
trouble		
leather		
travelling		
bright		
ordered		
exciting		
surprise		
pointing		
laughing		

2. Martha's Race

I used to know a girl called Martha. She wasn't able to walk, so she rode in a wheelchair. But she could make that wheelchair go as fast as lightening. The other kids used to run beside her, but she got too fast for them. Sometimes she would let the other kids have a ride on her lap, or standing on the back of her wheelchair.

One day, her parents bought her a really, really big dog called Brutus. He loved to run next to her wheelchair, and he never got tired. They would race around town for hours.

Martha was always thinking of new and exciting adventures. She loved to take on a challenge, the bigger the better. Then she had a great idea. She decided to put a harness on Brutus, so that he could pull her wheelchair the same way a horse pulls a buggy.

She didn't tell anyone what she planned to do, because she wanted it to be a surprise.

And it certainly was!

She waited until all of the family had gone to a town picnic, and she told them all she would meet them at the picnic in a little while.

She put a bright red collar on Brutus, and tied on the leather straps. Then she shouted, “Go, Brutus, run like the wind.”

Brutus took off as fast as he could. He was so strong that he had little trouble pulling Martha and her wheelchair behind him.

By the time they reached the picnic, Martha and Brutus were traveling they could hardly be seen.

“What was that?” asked her mother.

“I think it was a rocket” said her brother.

“No, it was a sports car” said her father.

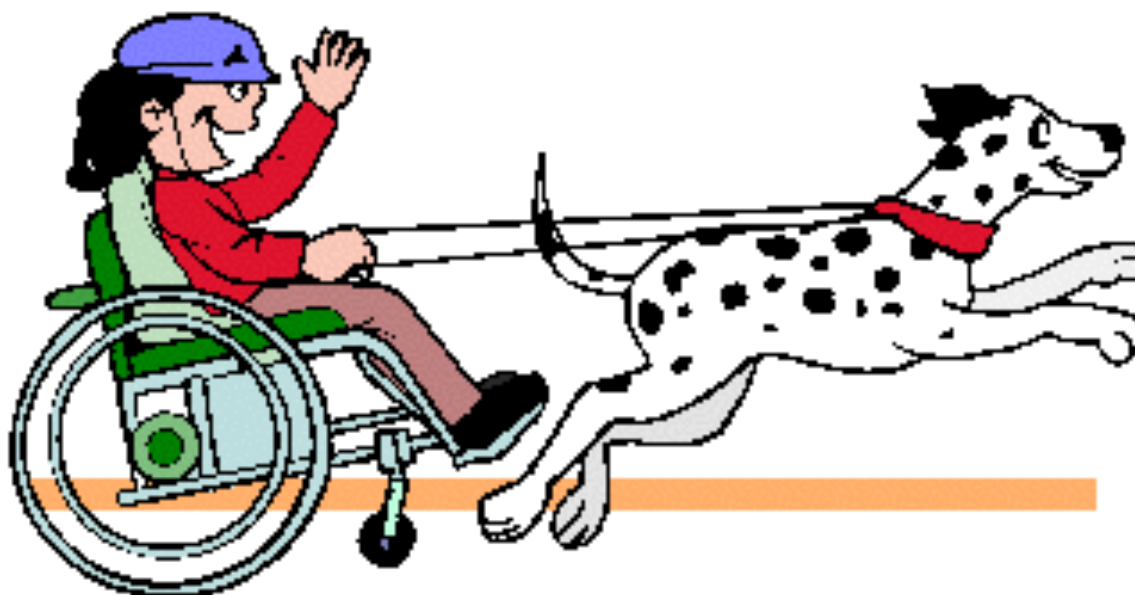
All of her friends and family were pointing and laughing.

“Stop, Brutus!” ordered Martha.

They came to a stop right in the middle of the picnic.

They spent the rest of the afternoon giving other children a chance to ride in the wheelchair while Martha watched and laughed.

Martha and Brutus were the talk of the town that year.



3. Illustrate this “Tall Tale” recount

“I stood at the top of the skateboard ramp and looked down. I was not scared, I knew I could jump and land safely. When the signal beeped, I turned and headed straight down the ramp, as fast as a rocket. I was traveling so fast my back wheels started to send off bright orange sparks. At the bottom of the hill, I steered onto the small ramp and jumped with my skateboard into the air, flying over the truck. The crowd cheered and shouted, I was the first person to jump all the way over a truck.”

Copy one sentence from this recount.

4. Oral or Verbal Description

Describe this picture “orally”, which means speaking not writing. Give as much detail as possible.



5. Finish these yarns

Each of these stories tells a yarn.

Your job is to read the first part of the yarn out loud, and then add one or two sentences to finish the yarn. Then, read each finished yarn out loud.

The first one has been done for you.

Start:

One day, I looked out of my window and saw a cow eating my prize winning roses.

Finish:

I was so angry that I ran outside and picked up the cow and threw her all the way to the top of a tree. She sat there eating the leaves at the top of the tree until her farmer came to take her home.

Start:

My Uncle Tom was the strongest man I ever knew. Last summer, his car rolled off the road and fell into a river.

Finish:

Start:

My grandmother was a kindly old lady most of the time, but when she got angry, she got really, really angry. I remember her telling us about the day a man ran up to her in the street and tried to steal her purse.

Finish:

6. I remember when.....

I remember the summer when the flies were so bad that some of them grew to be bigger than my house.

Copy this drawing as accurately as possible



**Wonderful Work. Sign and/or put a sticker on Ribbon 2
on the front cover of this workbook.**

Section 3

1. Read these words aloud, tick each word as you read it.

ground		
neighbor		
neighborhood		
carnival		
probably		
exaggerate		
friendly		
visitors		
cousin		
pony		

2. Write the dictionary definition of **exaggerate**

3. Read these stories aloud. Circle each story as

Probably True or **Probably A Yarn**

Story One

My brother used to do a lot of training.
He won all of the running races at his school carnival.

Probably True or **Probably A Yarn**

Story Two

My friend Eli grew his hair so long that when he wore it in a pony tail,
his hair dragged behind him on the ground.

Probably True or **Probably A Yarn**

Story Three

My next door neighbour, Mrs. Flatly, was able to shout very loud. When
she opened up her mouth to yell, all the windows in the neighbourhood
used to break.

Probably True or **Probably A Yarn**

Story Four

My cousin has a pet dog who is very friendly. Even though he is quite
old, and can hardly see or hear anymore, he still wags his tail when
visitors come over.

Probably True or **Probably A Yarn**

4. Illustrate ONE of the stories from Question 3.

5. Write a yarn to match this picture. Be sure to include lots of information about this man, such as how he grew so big, what happened to him, what he is doing, and what happens next.



6. Why do you think people like to tell or hear or read yarns?

7. Oral or Verbal Description

Tell a yarn about this picture “orally”, which means speaking not writing. Give as much detail as possible. The title of your story is...

“My muscles grew so big, that my head disappeared”



**Fantastic Work. Sign and/or put a sticker on Ribbon 3
on the front cover of this workbook.**

Section 4

1. Read these words aloud, tick each word as you read it.

excitement		
match		
matching		
complain		
circus		
imagine		
didn't		
plenty		
replied		
join		

2. Taming The Tiger

Imagine that you have run away to join the circus. At first, the only job they will give you is sweeping up after the elephants.

On a hot day, this can be a very smelly job indeed. But one day, after you complain to your boss that you want more excitement in your life, he said,

“OK. If it’s excitement you want, its excitement you are going to get. I am looking for a new person to tame my tiger. She is a very clever tiger, so don’t let her push you around.

You have to show her who is the boss, right from the start.”

“No problems,” you replied. You were sure you were more than a match for any old tiger.

But things didn’t go quite the way you planned.



When you turned up for work the next morning

Finish the story with plenty of fun, to make your story end up matching the picture.

3. Join up the words that are the same

miracle	matching
excitement	complain
matching	miracle
complain	match
replied	imagine
imagine	replied
match	excitement

4. Unscramble these words

ayrn y_____

rosty s_____

acmth m_____

igettr t_____

5. Describe and study this picture very carefully. Cover the drawing and draw it as accurately as possible from memory.



7. Read this story aloud. Try to remember as many details as possible, from the story as well as from the picture.



After I gave up taming tigers...
by U.N. Successful

OK, so my great adventure as a tiger tamer wasn't such a big success. Still, in time all of my cuts and bruises healed and soon I was back at the circus as good as new.

My boss wanted me to go back to cleaning up after the elephants, but I was sure I could do better than that.

I begged him for one more chance, so he suggested I spend some time working with Jingo, the circus juggler.

Jingo was a great guy, and he taught me everything he knew. It turned out I had quite a talent for juggling.

At first, I only juggled silk scarves, or soft rubber balls. But every week, I got better and better. And every week, I got braver and braver.

Soon, I was juggling anything I could get my hands on. Apples, chairs, small children, lamps... nothing was too hard for me.

People came from miles around just to watch me juggle.

Now, it is a truth well known that too much attention can go to your head. And that is exactly what happened to me.

Before long, I began to believe that I could juggle anything, anytime, anywhere.

One sad day, I pushed it all too far. I decided to juggle a dog (sitting on a ball with a flag in his mouth), a bomb with a lit fuse, an anchor, a horseshoe and a ham and lettuce sandwich. And what's more, I was going to do all of this juggling while standing on one foot, and twirling a ring with my other foot.

As the crowd sat and stared, mouths hanging open in shock, I began to work my juggling miracle.

All was going fantastic, I was a superstar. Until suddenly, the dog I was juggling spotted a cat hiding behind the stage curtain.

With a yelp, the dog leapt off the ball and scrambled across my face to chase the cat. One by one, all of my other items crashed to the ground.

The anchor knocked a man in the audience unconscious. The bomb rolled out the circus tent and exploded, sending a popcorn stand up into the sky. The horseshoe landed on my toe, and the sandwich landed on the ground next to an elephant. The elephant slipped on the sandwich and fell over, right on top of all the men playing in the band.

All in all, it was a fantastic afternoon that will never be forgotten. But I do have to say, I was never allowed to work at that circus again!

Cover up this story and answer the questions from memory. Check your work.

8. Answer these multiple choice questions about this recount

Who is the author of this yarn?

- a) P.U. Successful
- b) N.U. Successful
- c) U.P. Successful
- d) U.N. Successful

Which of the following jobs has the author NOT done?

- a) Tiger Taming
- b) Selling Popcorn
- c) Cleaning Up After Elephants
- d) Juggling

Which of the following did the author NOT juggle?

- a) an axe
- b) an anchor
- c) a bomb
- d) a horseshoe

Why did the dog run off?

- a) he was embarrassed
- b) he chased a cat
- c) he slipped on the sandwich
- d) he was afraid of the bomb

What happened to the elephant?

- a) she got knocked out by the anchor
- b) she ran off
- c) she broke her leg
- d) she slipped on the sandwich

Write a 6 line summary of this story. Be sure to include only the most important details of the story.

Read these words aloud, tick each word as you read it.

adventure		
bruises		
anchor		
lettuce		
horseshoe		
sandwich		
unconscious		
suggested		
miracle		
horseshoe		

Circle the correct spelling choice in each sentence.

One day I will begoing....gowing....on a great adventure.

I will be flying far away across theoshun....ocean.

When the plane lands, myadventure...adventur....will begin.

I will be climbing a very tall....mowntain...mountain.

I hope I don't get dizzy and fall....of....off... the mountain!!!!

Outstanding Work!
Sign and date and/or put a sticker on Ribbon 4.