April Fool’s Day

Pre-reading

Questions:
• What do you know about April Fool’s Day?

Definitions:
• Assign – to give as a task

Reading

“Look! There’s a camel walking down the street. April Fools!” “There’s a spider in your hair. April Fools!” A teacher says to her students, “I’m not assigning any homework tonight.” The students are thrilled; they have wide smiles on their faces. The teacher then says, “…April Fools!”

We can spread April Fool’s Day fun through our words and actions.

Sam took the sugar out of the sugar bowl and replaced it with salt. His Dad mixed a spoonful of what he thought was sugar into his morning cup of coffee. After just one sip, Sam’s Dad spit the coffee out and onto the table. It tasted awful! Sam, who was quietly eating his breakfast, proudly exclaimed, “Happy April Fool’s Day, Dad!” They both had a good laugh.

April 1st is April Fool’s Day. Many people like to play jokes or tricks on this day. These jokes are for fun only. They are silly, not harmful or mean. You will often hear April Fool’s Day jokes on the radio or TV. Some even appear in the newspapers. If you believe the jokes and silly stories on the radio, TV, or in newspaper, you are an “April Fool”.

Where did the April Fool’s Day holiday begin? Why on April 1st? No one knows where or when April Fool’s Day began. Some people believe it started in France in the 1500’s. Others believe it began in Italy. April Fool’s Day has been celebrated in England and Scotland since the 1700’s.

Some people think April Fool’s Day started because of the spring weather. In the spring, the weather changes every day. One day it may be 80 degrees, and the next day it could be 50. The spring weather tricks people.

No matter how or when it began, April Fool’s Day is a fun, silly holiday celebrated by people all over the world. People enjoy the fun and laughter of playing tricks on each other. Mark Twain said, “The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.”

Level 5.0
Understanding

1. What is a fool? ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

2. What does the word *exclaim* mean? _________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. Where did April Fool’s Day begin? __________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. How do people celebrate this holiday? ______________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. What does the word *harmful* mean? _________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. April Fool’s Day is celebrated in what season? Why? __________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

7. What does the quote from Mark Twain mean? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

Writing

Option A: In your own words write about April Fool’s Day.

Option B: How do you celebrate April Fool’s Day?

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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________________________

April Fool’s Day – Level 5.0