

Life of Fred[®]
Australia

Stanley F. Schmidt, Ph.D.



Polka Dot Publishing

A Note Before We Begin

This is the first language arts book in the Life of Fred® series. In these language arts books, we will cover English from every angle.

This first book will cover a zillion topics including:

- ★ the right way to hold a pencil
- ★ postscripts in letters
- ★ eight ways to make plurals in English
- ★ the 14 punctuation marks
- ★ silent letters
- ★ homonyms (a.k.a. homophones)
- ★ hyperbole
- ★ when to use *that* and when to use *which*

This is only a partial list.

For maximum happiness, let's not begin this book too early.



There are other things that need to be done before studying heteronyms.

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

Each chapter is a daily lesson. There are about four pages about the adventures of Fred and a Your Turn to Play.

Have a paper and pencil handy before you sit down to read.

Each Your Turn to Play consists of about three or four questions. Write out the answers—don't just orally answer them.

After all the questions are answered, then take a peek at my answers that are given on the next page.

Don't just read the questions and look at the answers. You won't learn as much that way.

A NOTE FROM STAN

The government schools and most textbooks practice a form of segregation. In the English class they study only English. In the math class they study only math. In history, only history. In geography, only geography.

I believe there is an inner coherence among all the subjects. I do not teach English. I teach kids. In some of the Life of Fred math books there is piano sheet music. In this book I include the geography of the oceans, the capital of Kansas, the four ways to try to figure out what a continent is,* and what to do if you are lost in an airport.

I believe in play, in having fun. Most textbooks are boring and dry. Who picks up a textbook to read in their leisure time? I have tried to write the

weltest books I can!


* A continent isn't just a big piece of land separated from other big pieces of land by water. Asia and Europe are different continents but are not separated by water.

Contents

Chapter 1	The World.	13
	telling time	
	population of the earth	
	beginning a paragraph—indentation	
	ending a sentence	
Chapter 2	Questions.	19
	$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2$	
	the day after Saturday	
	<i>when, who, how, why, and where</i>	
Chapter 3	Letter Writing.	25
	<i>alright</i> is not a word	
	postscripts = P.S. or p.s.	
	ps = picosecond (one-trillionth of a second)	
	<i>what</i> = the sixth question word	
Chapter 4	Snack Time.	31
	the correct way to hold a pencil	
	breaking a cookie in half does not give	
	you twice as much	
	three ways to make a word plural	
	ten baby teeth	
	how to keep your 32 adult teeth	
Chapter 5	The Call.	37
	each person has things he or she does best	
	figuring out what you are to do	
	opening salutation in a letter	
	the punctuation marks	
	closing salutation (only the first word is capitalized)	

Chapter 6	Geography.	43
	finding the right map	
	Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans	
	definition of geography	
	silent letters	
Chapter 7	Packing.	49
	when land completely surround by water	
	is not an island	
	four things to consider when determining whether	
	something is a continent	
	tectonic plates	
	the perfect bow tie for Australia	
	homonyms (homophones)	
	a circle and a square are the same thing in topology	
Chapter 8	How to Get There.	55
	how Daniel Boone blazed a trail	
	p.m. and a.m.	
	closing salutations always end with a comma	
Chapter 9	On the Bus.	61
	square, rectangle, rhombus, parallelogram,	
	kite, and trapezoid	
	how to get on a bus	
	hyperbole and telling the truth	
Chapter 10	Replacing the Bus <i>that</i> Smoked.	67
	using <i>that</i> and <i>which</i>	
	the Land of Nod	
	putting commas in a list of things	
Chapter 11	Wichita.	73
	five-year-olds vs. fifteen-year-olds	
	when to omit the <i>s</i> after an apostrophe	
	Pat's lunch	
	men's room	
	Venus's beauty	
	but	
	states' rights	
	employees' holiday	

Chapter 12	Ask..... 79 when you should ask questions the largest airport in Kansas what deplane means two different kinds of compasses magnetic north pole pole reversals
Chapter 13	Flying..... 85 <i>continual vs. continuous</i> <i>less vs. fewer</i> heteronyms
Chapter 14	Lost. 91 when a map doesn't help when it's logical to sit on the floor and cry periods, commas before close quotes
Chapter 15	Boarding..... 97 why Fred got on last present tense and past tense verbs
Chapter 16	Australia..... 103 59°F = 15°C how to fly across the Pacific Ocean and not see any water winter in Australia = summer in Kansas how to show the earth is flat two houses and no winters what real education should do prefixes Christina Rossetti's poem "May"
Chapter 17	Sydney. 109 alliteration footnotes time zones and the International Date Line how to make time pass very slowly a fifth way to make a plural two uses of an apostrophe

Chapter 18	In a Hurry.....	115
	all about Wagga Wagga	
	plurals in the language of the Wiradjuri	
	autobiographies	
	a sixth way to make a plural	
	a seventh and eighth way to make a plural	
Chapter 19	Wagga Wagga.	121
	who doesn't use the metric system	
	Champion and Hayes's hit song	
	advertising on the side of your car sometimes works	
Index.	126

Chapter One

The World

Fred was excited. It was Sunday morning and time to go to Sunday school. He brushed his teeth, put on a clean shirt, and ran to the chapel on the KITTENS University campus.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Fred teaches math at the university. On Sunday he gets to be a student.

He likes to teach, and he likes to be a student. Both are fun. Fred is five years old.

Fred was the first student to arrive. It was ten minutes to nine. Class started at nine o'clock. Fred liked to be early so that he could help Carrie set up the tables and chairs.



8:50 a.m.

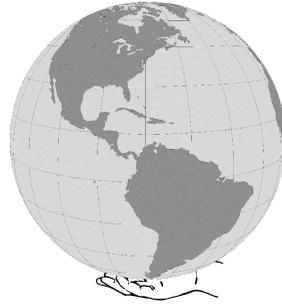


Carrie

Carrie taught Sunday School for the five-year-olds. She was a very popular teacher. All the kids had a good time in her class.

Carrie put up four tables and Fred put seven chairs at each table. That made space for 28 students. Fred knew that four times seven is equal to 28. He knew more math than most five-year-olds.

By nine o'clock all the chairs were filled. Carrie said, "Today we are going to look at something really big."



Kelly raised her hand. "That's not so big. It is only one foot tall."

Carrie explained, "This ball is the whole world. About seven billion* people live here."



Percy shouted, "I bet nobody is living here." He pointed to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Kelly disagreed. "Somebody could be on a boat out there."

Carrie continued, "No matter where people live, we are to do good things for all of them."

Percy shouted, "All seven billion of them?"

* Seven billion = 7,000,000,000 (nine zeros)

Kelly raised her hand and said, “Maybe seven billion and one if someone just had a baby.”

Fred thought about the day that he was born. Most people can’t remember the day that they were born. Fred has a very good memory.



Percy asked, “Is it snack time yet?” It was five minutes after nine.

Carrie told the class that it was time for the arts and crafts part of Sunday School.

Time Out!

Fred had trouble getting used to Sunday School for five-year-olds. Carrie held up a globe of the world and told the children that they were to do good things for everyone on earth. That was the end of her talk.

When Fred lectured to college students at KITTENS University, he talked for 50 minutes.

These five-year-olds couldn’t pay attention for even five minutes.

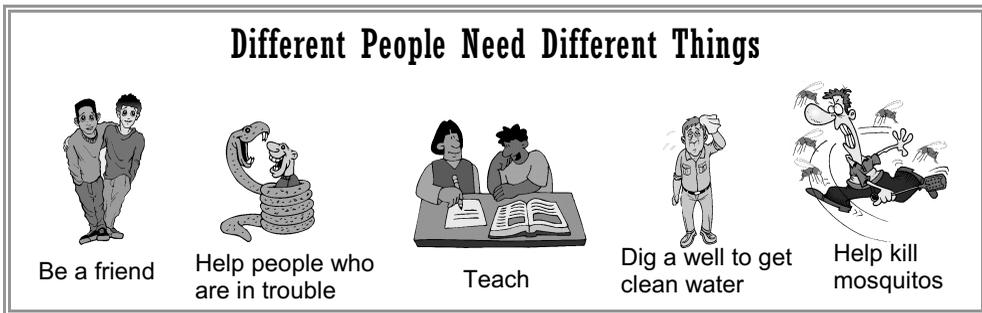
Kelly raised her hand and asked, “Can I help?”

Carrie let her pass out the crayons. Then she asked the class, “Is there anyone who would like to pass out the coloring sheets?”

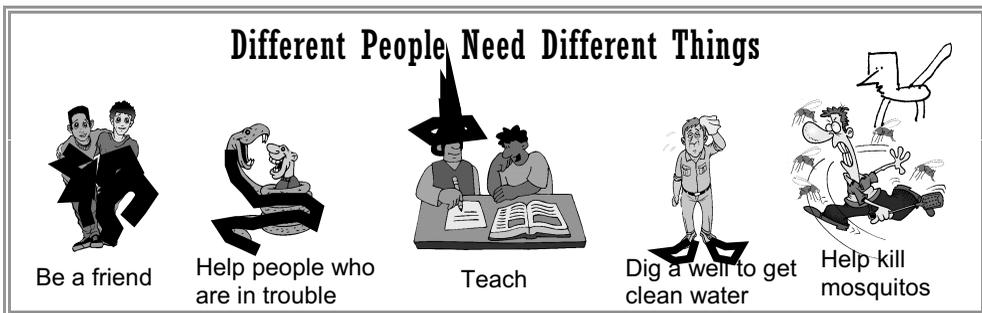
Percy shouted, “Me!”

Fred wondered why Percy was always shouting.

Here is the sheet that Percy tossed in front of each student:



Fred was very good at math, but he wasn't very good at coloring. This is the best that he could do:



Fred needed coloring lessons!

Fred wasn't very good at art either. The mosquito that he drew  doesn't look like the ones on the coloring sheet. 

This is your first Your Turn to Play. It deals with beginnings and endings.

To begin, please take out a piece of paper. Write down your answers before you turn the page and look at my answers. (To answer the first question you will write down either 1. A or 1. B or 1. C.)

Your Turn to Play

1. There are three paragraphs at the top of this page. How do you begin a paragraph?

A. You draw a cat to start a paragraph.



B. You make about five spaces and then start the first sentence.

C. You yell, "New paragraph coming!"

2. There are three ways to end a sentence.

A. You write a period (.) or a question mark (?) or an exclamation mark (!).

B. You yell, "I'm ending my sentence right now!"

C. You draw a dancing dog.



..... **ANSWERS**

1. The correct answer is *B*. *You make about five spaces and then start the first sentence.*

Those spaces are called an **indentation**. (four syllables!)

If you use a ruler, you can check that each indentation in this book is one-half inch long. One way to make an indentation is to hit the  key.

2. The correct answer is *A*. *You write a period (.) or a question mark (?) or an exclamation mark (!).*

Imagine a world in which there were no periods, question marks, or exclamation marks to end sentences—and no capital letters to begin sentences.*

i would hate to try to read in such a world everything would be jammed together with no periods it would be hard to tell when a sentence ended with no capital letters it would be more difficult to tell the start of a new sentence

Yucky!



* Actually, punctuation in the English language did not come into common use until the invention of the printing press (about 1450).

Index

- a.m. 58
abattoir. 39
adult teeth. 35
alliteration. 110, 113,
119, 121, 122
alright is not a word. . . . 25
Antarctica 50
apostrophes. 75-78,
84, 90, 114
Atlantic Ocean. . . . 14, 44, 45
baby teeth. 35
billion. 14
capital letters. 18, 60
capital of a state. 43
Christina Rossetti. 106
close-quotes
 periods and commas. . . .
 95, 96
closing salutation.
 41, 48, 60
commas in lists. . . . 69-72, 80
compasses—two kinds. . . 82
contiguous. 44
continent—definition. . . . 47
continent—four questions
 51, 52
continual vs. *continuous*
 86
Daniel Boone. 56, 57
deplane. 80
equator 104
flat earth—why people
 believed that. . . . 104
footnote. 111
geography—definition. . . 45
hemisphere. 106
hemistich. 107
heteronyms. 88-90
homonyms. 53, 54, 56, 90,
92, 95, 96
homophones. 53
how to hold a pencil. . . . 31
hyperbole. 64
indentation. 18, 42, 107
Indian Ocean. 44, 45
International Date Line
 111
irregular plurals. 36
islands vs. continents.
 46, 49
kilometer. 83, 121
Kingie's art. 38
kite. 61
KITTENS campus mail
 40, 41
less vs. *fewer*. 87
letter writing. 26, 39
lying—a definition. 64

Index

- Madagascar. 51
magnetic north pole. 83
Id sayings
 “a fish out of water”. . . 76
 “A place for everything
 and everything in its
 place”.. 73
 “Better safe than sorry”
 29
 “He headed off to the
 Land of Nod.”. . . . 68
 “Never leave till
 tomorrow what you
 can do today.”. . . . 55
 “The early bird gets the
 worm.”. 20
opening salutation. 41
 two ways to end an
 opening salutation . .
 42
p.m. 58
Pacific Ocean. 44, 45, 55,
 111
paragraphs 17, 107, 122
parallel lines. 62
parallelogram. 61
past tense. 98, 99, 101,
 102, 118, 119
plurals. 33-36, 113,
 118-120
pole reversal. 83, 85
population of the earth. . . 14
postscript (P.S. or p.s.).. . 27
prefix. 106, 107
present tense. 98, 102
ps = picosecond. 28
ps. = pieces. 28
Ps. = Psalm.. 28
punctuation marks. 41
question words.
 21, 23, 29, 30
real education—what it
 should do. 105
rectangle. 61
rhombus 47, 61
seasons reverse across the
 equator. 103-105
seven continents. 50
silent letters. 46, 47, 77, 78,
 81, 87, 98, 109, 124
sphere. 106
square. 61
stich. 107
subjunctive mood. 21
tectonic plate. 51
that vs. *which*. 67, 68, 71,
 72, 83, 84, 89, 90, 101
three ways to end a sentence
 17
time zones. 111
topology. 53

trapezoid. 61
travel agent. 56
trillionth 28
two halves. 32, 33
two summers each year
 105
two to the third power. . . 19
verbs. 100-102
vowel 118
what to say when your
 mother calls you. . . 28
when to ask questions. . . 79
where to put a stamp on an
 envelope. 29, 30

To see descriptions of
all the Life of Fred®
books . . .

LifeofFred.com

More are continually
(not continuously)
being added.

See the footnote on page 86 of this book.