



# Maggie's Activity Pack

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Making Dreams Come True

Read this story. Circle the words that tell what Pat did to make her dream come true.



Pat wanted to fly. She wanted to be a pilot. But she was very busy. How could she make her dream come true?

Pat went to school. She read books. She took tests. Now she had to fly with a teacher. The teacher showed her how to take-off in her plane. He showed her how to land her plane. Pat learned what to do if there was trouble. Now Pat flies her plane to many places.

Dear Colleague,

This story grows out of a Facebook experience. I'm sure you have been able to become reacquainted via the Internet with those you knew as you grew up, too. I have been fortunate as many of my high school friends now stay connected via Facebook. When I "re-met" Pat I knew I wanted to bring you and your students her story. I found it so fascinating that she persevered to make this dream come true. I love that she donates her time to help others in need. What an example of the "Miss Maggie spirit!"

Around the time I was writing this activity, one of my students sent me the link to this YouTube video as it was one of the inspirations for his decision to become a teacher. In this excerpt of his famous "last lecture," Dr. Randy Pausch shares his feelings about what is important in life. I think it correlates well with this activity and is a wonderful reminder for all of us as we struggle to meet standards, give tests, and complete paperwork that we are helping to shape young minds and that personal connection is the most important part of our jobs. Please take ten minutes to view [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjZwhcWY-KE&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjZwhcWY-KE&feature=youtube_gdata) Perhaps you will do as Alex and vow to watch it at least once a year to be reminded of the whole picture we, as teachers, must keep in mind .

I get so many questions from teachers about helping children to comprehend content-area material. As you likely know, researchers and teachers think about the reading act as consisting of three sections: before, during, and after reading. The biggest question has to do with the "during" reading phase of instruction. We know the importance of modeling thinking "before" reading. We show how we activate prior knowledge, connect to personal experience, make predications, etc. In the "after" reading phase, we summarize or retell. We may offer activities such as being a talk show guest (explained below). But, the "during" reading phase can be difficult for us to adequately suggest meaningful activities as we strive to build comprehension. I like to have children mark meaningful sentences or phrases as they read. That is why I designed this activity. Of course, children can't write in textbooks and that is why I adore Post-It notes. Have children stick papers alongside the text and ask them to star those sections that answer either the pre-reading questions they have asked or the pre-determined questions. Discuss how small pauses, to briefly consider the relevance of text, help to build comprehension. In this activity, the passages circled may vary. The activity is one that is not corrected or graded in the traditional sense. In fact, I don't think you should collect this activity at all. This is the perfect activity for peer sharing!

Happy teaching,  
Kathy

### **Talk Show Guest**

After children read the passage, assign pairs to discuss the ideas as if they were on a talk show. Someone can be Oprah, Ellen, Jay, Dave, etc. The interviewer writes questions and the guest (in this case, playing the role of Pat Beauchamp) answers them. Each role gives children the opportunity to better understand the passage on all levels of comprehension: literal, inferential, and critical.

### **Goals:**

Children will read a level-appropriate passage about a woman who achieved her goal of becoming a pilot. "During" the reading of the content-area text, **the students circle sentences and phrases that answer pre-reading questions.** Several ideas for furthering comprehension, on all three levels, are offered in the Dear Colleague letter. This activity is available on the emergent, primary, and intermediate levels and correlates with the National Social Studies Standards: Culture and Individuals, Groups, and Institutions.