Python Boy

1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

SIT TBOW, CAMBODIA **1**Oeun Sambath, 3, has an **unusual** best friend. It is a **huge** python*— four meters long! **2**Oeun and his python, Lucky, are always **together**. **3**When they sleep, Lucky makes a big **circle** with his body. Little Oeun is in the **middle**, with his head on Lucky's head. **4**Oeun's mother is not **worried** about her son.

5Oeun gets a lot of visitors. "He's a **special** child," they say. "Maybe he was a son of a dragon** in his last **life**." **6**The boy does not like to be away from his **favorite** friend. Once the family took a **trip**, but they did not stay away long. "My son **missed** Lucky," said his mother. "So we came back early."

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*python: a big, dangerous snake
**dragon: a big animal with fire in its mouth; it is not a real animal

NEW WORDS

unusual *adj*	circle *n*	special *adj*	trip *n*
huge *adj*	middle *n*	life *n*	miss *v*
together *adv*	worried *adj*	favorite *adj*	

>> See Glossary on page 88. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.

Not at All   A Lot
1   2   3   4   5

3. Check your comprehension

Check (✔) the endings that are true. The first one is done for you.

a. Oeun is

   ✓ a special child.

   ___ always with Lucky.

   ___ a dragon.

   ___ three years old.

b. Lucky is

   ___ a dragon.

   ___ a python.

   ___ Oeun's favorite friend.

   ___ very big.

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

a. Lucky is a h_ _ _ and unu_ _ _ _ friend for a small boy.

b. Lucky makes a big ci_ _ _ _ with his body, and Oeun sleeps in the mi_ _ _ _.

c. Oeun sleeps with his head on Lucky's head, but his mother isn't wo_ _ _ _ _.

d. Oeun m_ _ _ed Lucky when the family took a t_ _ _.

5. Listen to the story 🔵 track 4

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.

6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

a. How do the boy and the python sleep?
b. What do visitors say about the boy?
c. What happened when the family took a trip?
d. Would you like to meet Oeun or Lucky? Why or why not?

About you...

e. Who is your best friend? How often are you together?
f. What is your favorite animal? Why?
g. Where did you go on your last trip?
h. What do you miss most when you take a trip away from home?

8. Learn word partnerships

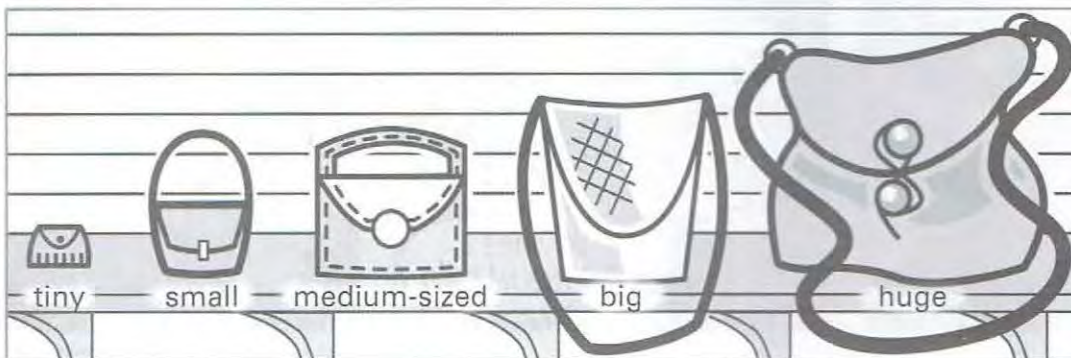Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

TRIP		
take plan	a trip	**Oeun's family took a trip.** *We are planning a trip to Hong Kong in August.*
a two-week a long/short an exciting	trip	*Ming wants to take a two-week trip to Seoul.* *John is planning a short trip to Egypt.* *Last summer, I took an exciting trip to Kyoto.*

a. I want to take a _____.
b. My family is planning _____.
c. Last year, I _____ a _____ trip to _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

SIZES

tiny — small — medium-sized — big — huge

a. I wear _____ shoes.
b. I would like to live in a _____ house.
c. I live in a _____ town, in a _____ country.

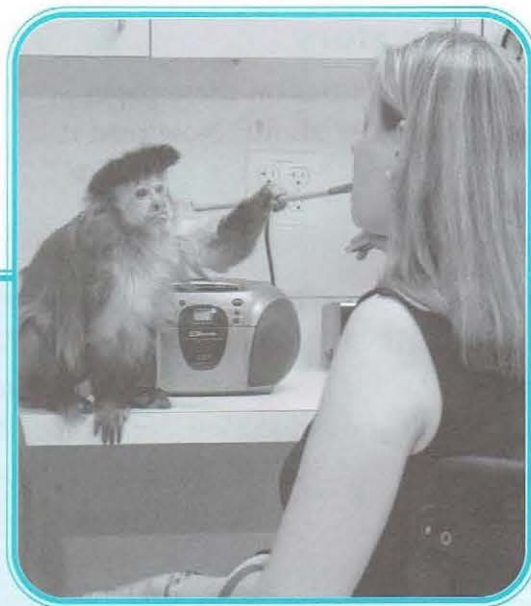## 10. Take a dictation ◉ track 5

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

worried	unusual	together	tiny	life	favorite

Monkey Is Woman's Best Friend

BOSTON, USA   Becky Thompson has a special best friend. She is a **(1)** _____ monkey*, and her name is Kristi. Kristi began to live with Thompson in 1998. Now they are always **(2)** _____. Thompson had an accident, and she cannot move her arms or legs. So Kristi does Thompson's hair. She helps her with the phone. She gets food** for Thompson and plays her **(3)** _____ CD.

Thompson needs a lot of help, but she is not **(4)** _____. "Kristi helps me with everything. Before I had a monkey, my **(5)** _____ was in black and white. Now it is in color, and everything is good. She is my baby***." Monkeys are **(6)** _____ helpers, but nearly 100 people in the USA now have a monkey to help them.

*monkey: an animal with a long tail that can run up trees
**food: people and animals eat food to live
***baby: a word that you use for someone you love

((👤)) Talk about the stories

Which animal would you like for a friend—a python or a monkey? Why?