

Back-to-School Punzle



At first glance, this may look like a typical hidden-picture puzzle, but it's far more. It's actually a Punzle, the unique invention of illustrator Michael Kline. Highlighted in red in the story below are words that cleverly describe certain items in the back-to-school scene. Instead of being literal clues, though, they are phonetic puns. For example, for the highlighted word "chalkboard," think "chalk bored," and for "makes sense" think "makes cents." See how many matches you can make. You'll find the answers on the following page.

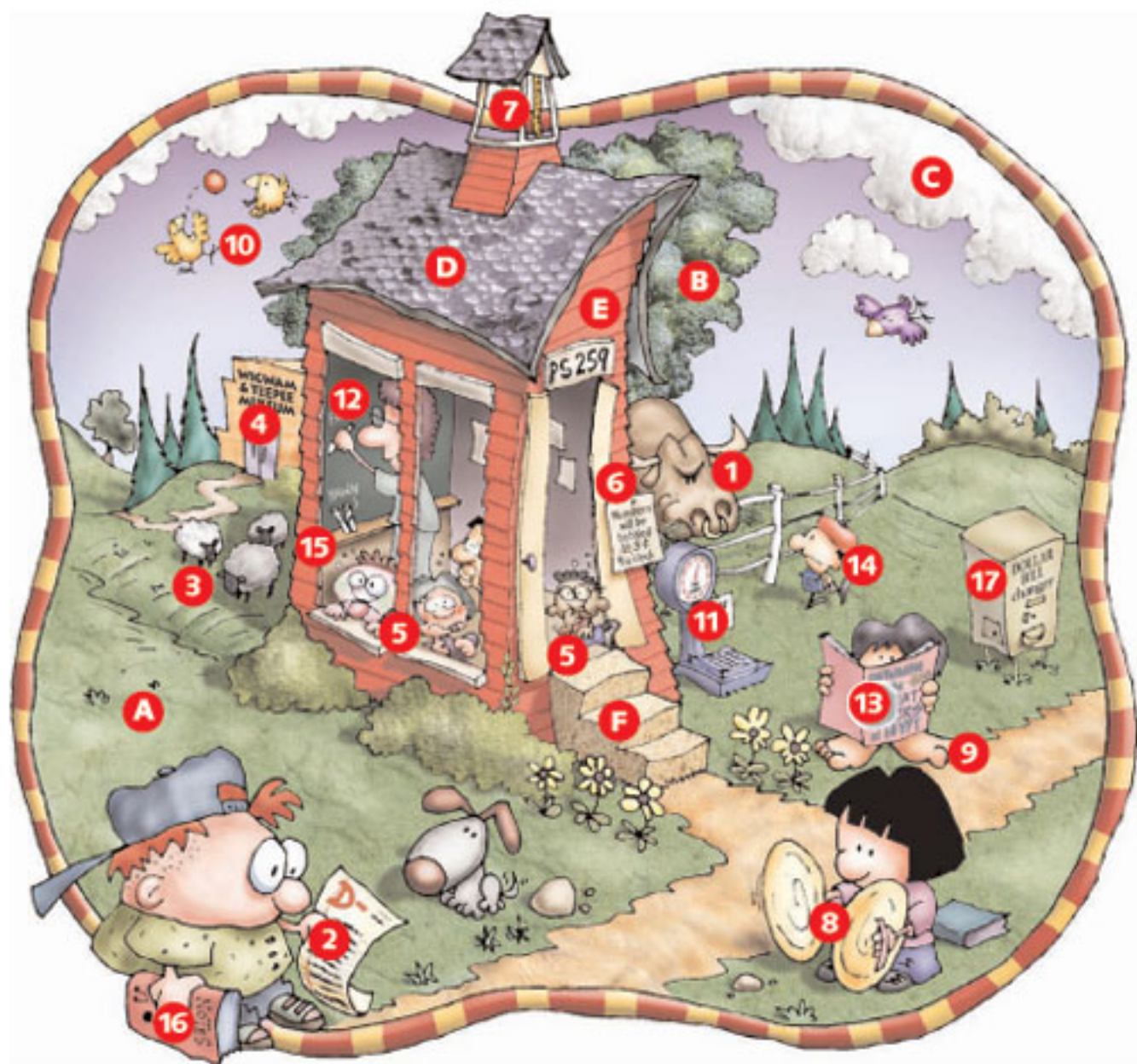
"Good morning. Come in and **choose** a seat!" the teacher said as she greeted her new students on the first day of school. "We're going to study lots of interesting things this year, such as what kinds of creatures live **below sea level** and whether to **use** a verb in the present or **past tense**. Each week, we'll read a new book, such as *Moby Dick* or some other **classic**, and **sometimes** we'll talk about authors who've won the **Nobel** prize. In chemistry class, we'll learn the **symbols** for all of the basic elements and explore the science behind an **incredible feat** or two. During gym class, we'll practice batting until everyone has hit a home run, or at least a **foul ball**. Anyway, there's **no way** you'll ever be bored. Last year's class can **attest** to that — and if they say otherwise, they're probably **in denial**. Keep in mind that attendance is very important, so please don't be absent if it is at all **avoidable**. Remember to check the **chalkboard** for important announcements and write them in your **notebook**. Above all, always feel free to ask questions if you don't think something **makes sense**, and have fun! ☺☞

Punzle Bonus Material

Once you've identified all the items related to the clues in the Punzle story, take a closer look at the back-to-school scene and see if you can find the following six hidden objects. Here's a hint: each was used to create one of the illustrated objects.

- A. Bottom of a scrubber sponge
- B. Broccoli C. Cauliflower D. Fish scales
- E. Cinnamon gum F. Whole wheat bread

Exercise Your Brain



The Words/The Pictures

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. choose/chews | 9. incredible feat/incredible feet |
| 2. below sea level/below C level | 10. foul ball/fowl ball |
| 3. use/ewes | 11. no way/no weigh |
| 4. past tense/past tents | 12. attest/a test |
| 5. classic/class sick | 13. in denial/in the Nile |
| 6. sometimes/sum times | 14. avoidable/avoid a bull |
| 7. Nobel/no bell | 15. chalkboard/chalk bored |
| 8. symbols/cymbals | 16. notebook/note book |
| | 17. makes sense/makes cents |

Puzzle Bonus Material Answers

- A. the grass
 B. the big tree
 C. the clouds
 D. the schoolhouse roof
 E. the schoolhouse siding
 F. the schoolhouse stairs