Life of Fred®
Australia

Stanley F. Schmidt, Ph.D.

Polka Dot Publishing
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

* 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.
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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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Be a friend</th>
<th>Help people who are in trouble</th>
<th>Teach</th>
<th>Dig a well to get clean water</th>
<th>Help kill mosquitos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Different People Need Different Things</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Be a friend</th>
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<td></td>
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</table>

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.
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 \( \text{Tab} \) 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).
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More are continually (not continuously) being added.

See the footnote on page 86 of this book.