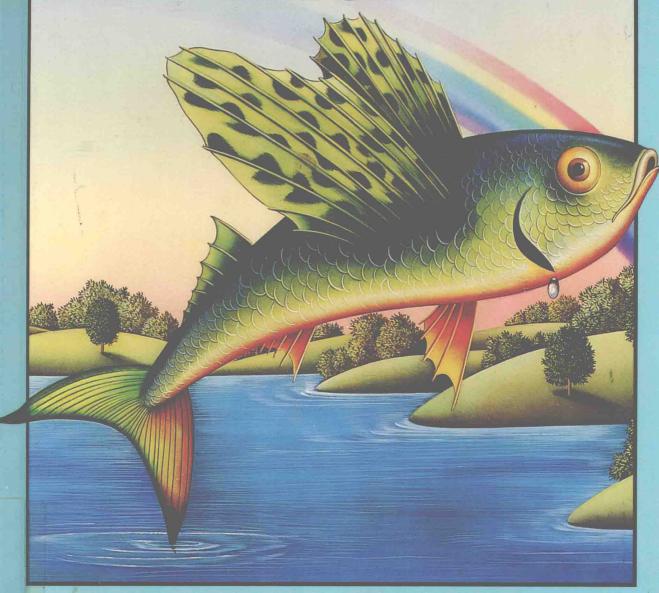


# RICACITING HIIGH



#### SCRIBNER READING SERIES

# REACHING HIGH



Jack Cassidy
Doris Roettger Karen K. Wixson

SCRIBNER LAICHAW
New York

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### REACHING HIGH

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## STRATEGIES TO USE WHEN YOU MEET A NEW WORD

#### PRONOUNCE THE WORD

Is it a word you know?
Is it a word you have heard other people use?

#### **EXAMINE THE WORD**

Is it a compound word? Do you know the meanings of the smaller words?

Are any parts of the word like another word you know? Does it have a familiar base word? Does it have a familiar prefix or suffix?

### **EXAMINE THE SENTENCE IN WHICH THE WORD APPEARS**

Are there any clues that help you understand the meaning of the new word?

If you are still not sure what the word means, look it up in the glossary or a dictionary to find out its meaning.

#### **STRATEGIES**

#### TO USE WHEN YOU WRITE

#### **PREWRITING**—Before you write,

- choose a topic.
- consider your purpose and audience.
- take notes and make an outline.

#### **WRITING**—When you write your first draft,

- use your notes.
- compose a topic sentence.
- compose detail sentences that support your topic.
- vary sentence length and structure for interest.

#### **REVISING**—When you revise,

- edit your first draft. Be sure you have kept to your topic, arranged your sentences in the best order, used vivid words, and achieved your purpose for writing.
- proofread. Be sure the punctuation, spelling, and grammar you have used are correct.

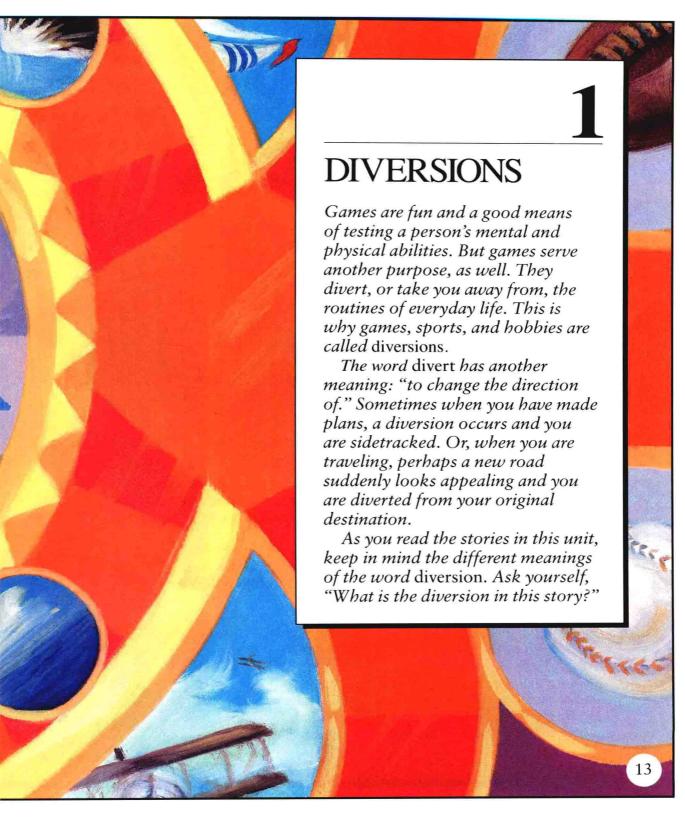
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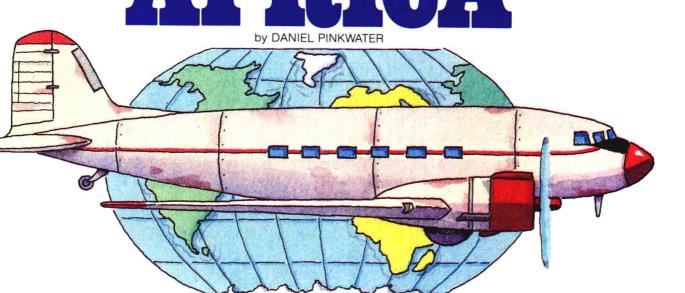
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# An Unscheduled Flight to



What could be a better diversion than traveling to a faraway place like Nairobi, Africa? In this story Ronald Donald Almondotter finds out that how you travel, not just where you travel, makes a difference.

What is the purpose of the trip to Africa? What reasons, besides the one they give, might the two pilots have for waiting in Africa until their passengers are ready for the return trip?

When Ronald Donald Almondotter took a summer job working for his rich, eccentric grandfather at The World Famous Salami Snap Company, he never dreamed that the work would include a trip to Africa. But Ronald's grandfather, Seamus Finneganstein, and Seamus's old friend, Sir Charles Pelicanstein, decide to go on a safari in search of the intelligent earthworm reported to live in remote Kukumlima, and Ronald is invited to join the expedition.



"Why do you want to go to Africa?" my parents said. "Wouldn't you rather stay home and have fun with your friends?"

"The boy is working for me," my grandfather said. "I am going to Africa, and he has to come along as my helper. I might get sick or suddenly become weak. You never know. I'm an old man."

"Seamus, you're as strong as an ox," my father said. "If I am half as healthy as you when I get to be your age, I'll be thrilled."

"Just the same, I think Ronald should come with me," Grandpa said. "He'll learn a lot. It's good for a young boy to travel and see things."

"But what could he learn on a trip to Africa?" my mother said. "I think he should stay here and play baseball, and learn to adjust and get along with people."

"Fooey!" my grandfather said. "In Africa he can get along with all kinds of people he's never seen before. Ronald is coming with us, and that's all there is to say about it."

"Well, Daddy, I'll never understand why it has to be Africa," my mother said. "If you went to California, you could have a wonderful time. You could see lots of things in Los Angeles and go to Disneyland."

"First of all, daughter," my grandfather said, "I have no desire to go to Disneyland. Second, I want to say that you never cease to amaze me. How could you be the child of a great man like myself and have no imagination whatsoever?"

"Oh, Daddy, you're so eccentric," my mother said.

In the end they decided to let me go. My grandfather said he was going to leave all his money to a medical school in the hope that someday a way would be found to bring people like my parents to life.

Grandpa said he had a lot to do before we left. He told

me I should take some time off and hang around with my parents because they weren't going to see me for the rest of the summer.

I wanted to stay on at work. I knew it wasn't going to be easy to wait until it was time to leave for Africa, and I thought it would be better if I had something to do. But Grandpa insisted, and I was laid off.

I like my parents, but I've seen them every day of my life—how interesting could it be, hanging around the house? I knew we were just going to make each other nervous.

My father got to like the idea of the trip. He said it was a great opportunity for me. My mother spent a lot of time sewing name tapes into the big bundle of safari clothes Grandpa had bought for me. This included everything from underwear to a hat, and all of it was nifty beyond belief, especially the safari suits with pockets all over. I also got a pair of boots, my own first-aid kit, a flashlight, and a multipurpose pocketknife.

Both my parents had the idea that we were going on an ordinary vacation. Grandpa hadn't gone into much detail about the search for Kukumlima and the intelligent earthworm. This was partially because Sir Charles Pelicanstein had asked him to tell as few people as possible about the real purpose of our trip and partly because he didn't want to put too much strain on my parents. He assured them that the trip would be perfectly safe.

I hoped that wasn't true. I mean, what's the point of going to Africa if there isn't going to be any danger? I checked a bunch of books about Africa out of the library and read as much as I could. I got all the way through four books and read parts of three others. From my reading, I gathered that it was possible to get bitten by something poisonous. Of course, not many tourists actually got fanged, but it was possible—and we were going where most tourists don't go. I was satisfied.

