Created By:

Mass Literacy Champion

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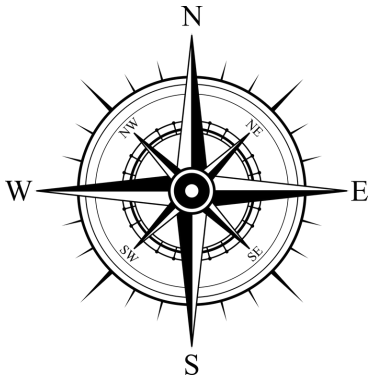
Topsfield Fair
America's Oldest
Founded 1818

LITERACY SCAVENGER HUNT



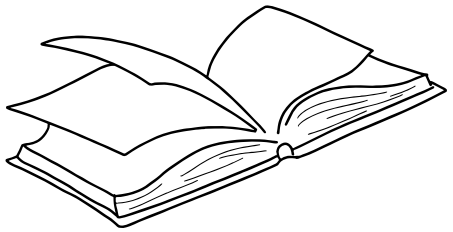
HOW IT WORKS

There are many children's books written about agricultural fairs that are similar to the Topsfield Fair. In this Literacy Scavenger Hunt we combined the books with our fair's exhibits and animals!

Step 1: Receive your Literacy Scavenger Hunt at one of the several locations: Education Shed, Information Booths and the Administration Building.

Step 2: Read each book prompt and the question. Each of the questions will take you to a different location on the fairgrounds. Please write in the answer to the question in your booklet on the last page.

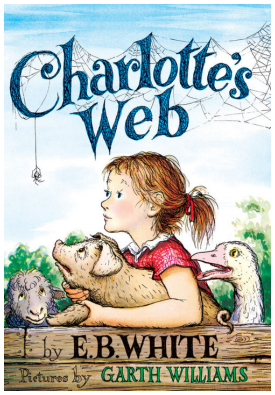
Step 3: After finding all the answers to the questions, please bring your booklet to either the Education Shed, Information Booths or the Administration Building to receive your certificate.



Answers

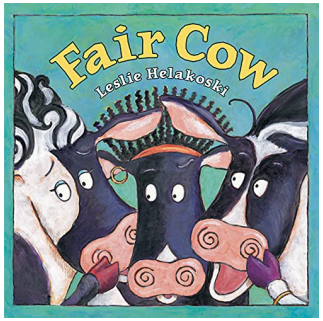
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Questions

1. 

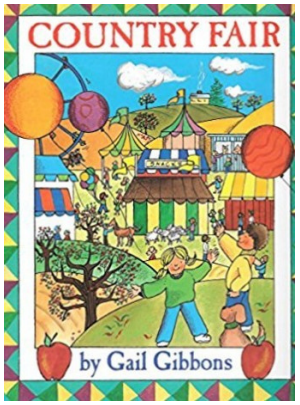
"Some pig," Charlotte the spider writes about her pig friend, Wilbur, in an amazing spider web she creates. The web makes him the star of the show at the County Fair in the book **Charlotte's Web** by E.B. White.

Question: *Each year there is a display of sows and their babies. What are the names of the mother pigs at the fair this year?*

2. 

Cows have self-esteem issues too? In **Fair Cow** by Leslie Helakoski, Effie, a cow, prepares for the State Fair as though it was a beauty pageant. Does she bring her *true* self to the competition?

Question: *Cows vary in color and markings, what are some of the different colors of the cows in the cattle barn?*

3. 

Gail Gibbons includes information about the history and planning of fairs in her book **County Fair**. She depicts all of the events at the fair, the Fairway and exhibits. A girl is pleased with the blue ribbon on the quilt that she has created.

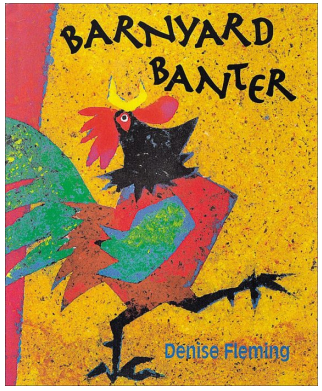
Question: *There are over 1000 different categories of entries in Coolidge Hall. Name one blue ribbon winner and the category.*

4.

Two mice, that don't know each other, admire the same pumpkin in the garden and give it lots of tender loving care. They create **The Biggest Pumpkin Ever** in Steven Kroll's book.

Question: *How big is the winning Giant Pumpkin at the fair? Hint: visit the Fruit & Vegetable Building.*

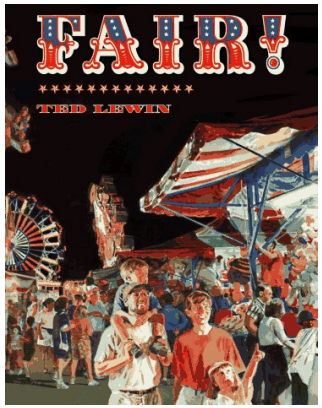
5.



What a commotion is created in **Barnyard Banter** by Denise Fleming? Roosters in the barnyard, hens in the henhouse – just like at the Topsfield Fair in great cacophony of sound.

Question: *How long does a chick take to hatch? Feel free to ask a volunteer in the Poultry Building.*

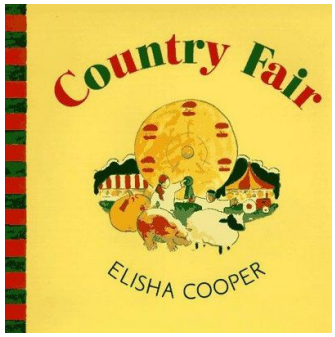
6.



Fair! by Ted Lewin documents the occasion from the opening parade, to the agricultural exhibits. This book highlights the participation of a group of agricultural fair participants.

Question: *What organization is featured in the Grange Building, home for this group and their numerous displays, exhibits and competitions?*

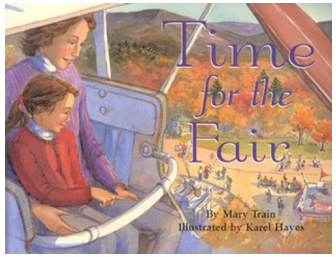
7.



Elisha Cooper thinks that rabbits always look as if they were about to sneeze in his book, **Country Fair**. He begins and ends his account of the fair with an empty field.

Question: *What is the name of a rabbit in the Rabbit Barn?*

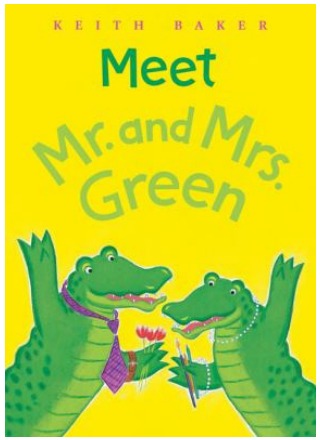
8.



Growing up, a young girl waits every year for the country fair. In a book by Mary Train, she remembers the special events at the fair and in an "are we there yet manner" asks if it **Time for the Fair**.

Question: *The Topsfield Fair is America's oldest agricultural fair. What year was the first Topsfield Fair? Look around you, the answer is in several places throughout the fair. Hint: Ask a volunteer, they are happy to help!*

9.



In **Meet Mr. and Mrs. Green** by Keith Baker two alligators win blue ribbons at the country fair; Mrs. Green for her painting and Mr. Green for his flower arrangement.

Question: *There are two different categories of competitors in the Flower Building; competitors that work with flowers for a job or simply enjoy working with flowers for their own personal enjoyment. What are these two categories?*