

Level 3-8
Hans Brinker

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

Hans Brinker is a story about a poor family that never gave up.

The Brinker family lived in Holland. They were poor. Hans and Gretel Brinker liked to skate on the frozen canals, but they could not afford to buy skates. Hans made wooden skates for them to wear, but they did not work well when the wood got wet.

Hans and Gretel had to work hard to help their mother earn money for food. Their father was very sick. Their mother could not work because she had to take care of their father.

Hilda tried to help Hans and Gretel. She gave Hans money to buy new skates so he could compete in a skating race. Hans wanted to do some work for the money, so Hilda asked him to carve a wooden necklace for her. Peter, her brother, wanted Hans to make another necklace for him to give another girl. Soon, Hans had enough money to buy two pairs of skates.

One day, Hans met the best doctor in Holland. He asked the doctor to look at his father. The doctor said that Raff Brinker needed to have an operation. But the operation could either save him or kill him. Hans and Gretel's father had the operation, and slowly he got better.

On the day of the skating race, Gretel won her race. Peter wanted to race, but his skates were broken. Hans gave his skates to Peter, and Peter won the race.

It was a great day for the Brinker family.

2. Section Summary

► **Pages 6-13:** The Brinker family was poor. Hans and Gretel had to work hard to help their parents. Their father was sick, and their mother had to take care of him. They could not afford to buy skates.

► **Pages 14-19:** Their friend, Hilda, told them about a race. The winner would get a pair of silver skates. She tried to give Hans some money to buy a pair of skates, but he would not

take it without working for it. She asked him to make a wooden necklace for her. Her brother, Peter, bought a necklace, too. Hans earned enough money to buy skates for Gretel and himself.

► **Pages 20-28:** One day, Hans asked a doctor for help. Dr. Boekman agreed to look at Hans's father, Raff Brinker. The doctor said Raff Brinker needed an operation. After the operation, Raff Brinker slowly got better. He was able to watch the races. Gretel won her race. Hans gave his skates to Peter because Peter's skates were broken. Peter won the race. Hans was a good friend to Peter.

B. Background and Themes

★ **Health vs. Wealth:** Some people are rich, and some are poor. But it does not matter how much money we have. What matters is that we are healthy. The Brinker family was poor, and their father was sick. They did not want more money. They wanted their father to be well. It was a very happy day when he was no longer sick.

★ **Putting Others First:** Some people are very selfish. They always think of themselves first. There are other people who are selfless. They always put others first. Several characters in this story put others first. Hilda tries to give her money away to Hans so he can get new skates. Hans wants to use the money to buy Gretel a new coat so she can stay warm. Gretel wants Hans to get new skates. Peter buys a gift for another girl. Dame Brinker takes care of her husband. Hans and Gretel work hard instead of playing and going to school, so they can earn money for their family. Hans gives Peter his skates so he can race instead of himself. Everyone in the story is very kind and generous to others.

★ **Responsibility:** As we get older, we usually have more responsibilities. But some children are given a lot of responsibility at a young age because their parents are unable to support their family on their own. Hans and Gretel had to help their parents. Since their father was sick, and their mother had to stay home and take care of him, the children had to work. They were unable to play or go to school every day. They had to work hard to earn money for food. Hans and Gretel were responsible, and they never complained about it.

★ **Friendship:** It is important to have good friends that you can count on. It is also important to treat your friends well. Hans and Gretel were poor, and many children were unkind to them. Hilda and Peter were kind to them. Hilda and Peter helped Hans and Gretel, and Hans

was able to help them, too. Having good friends is wonderful, but being a good friend to others is just as important.

Answer Key

Part A. Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. They live in Holland.
2. She was from the United States.
3. She had read about Holland, but she had never been there.

► Characters

1. Hans Brinker	2. Gretel Brinker
<u>earned money to buy new skates</u> <u>let Peter use his skates</u>	<u>won a skating race</u> <u>got silver skates</u>
3. Dr. Boekman	4. Dame Brinker
<u>best doctor in Holland</u> <u>saved Raff Brinker</u>	<u>looked after her husband</u> <u>grew vegetables</u>

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Beginning: Pages 6-13

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about children who like to ice skate.
2. People speak Dutch in Holland.
3. It is known for windmills, tulips, and wooden shoes.

B. Review Questions

1. They were made of wood.
2. They had to go home because their mother needed help in the house.
3. He was in an accident ten years ago.

► Middle: Pages 14-19

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about the boy earning money.
2. I went ice skating on a pond near my house.
3. I could walk my neighbors' dogs.

B. Review Questions

1. She told them about an ice skating race.
2. She asked him to make a wooden necklace for her.
3. He wanted to buy Gretel a new coat.

► End: Pages 20-28

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about the children skating in a race.
2. I would get a job to help pay for food.
3. I would help my friend win because it would be a nice thing to do.

B. Review Questions

1. They were worried because the operation could kill him.
2. There were twenty boys and twenty girls.
3. He wanted to give them to Peter because Peter was faster than him, and he could win the race.

Mini-Quiz!

a. It is better to give than to receive.

→ It is better to give someone a gift than to get a gift from someone. It feels good to make someone else happy.

b. A change is as good as a rest.

→ A change in routine is often as good as a break or a holiday.

c. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

→ When you are away from someone you love, you feel as if you love them even more.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. B: A snake is faster than a snail.
5. A: Motorcycles are faster than bicycles.

► Challenge

1. They were ice skating.
2. He made a wooden necklace for Peter.
3. They were going to race.
4. Hans let Peter use his skates for the race.

Part B. Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <u>vegetables</u> | 2. <u>necklace</u> |
| 3. <u>squeak</u> | 4. <u>cottage</u> |
| 5. <u>goose</u> | 6. <u>understand</u> |
| 7. <u>accident</u> | 8. <u>knit</u> |
| 9. <u>piece</u> | 10. <u>enough</u> |

B.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. skates | 2. race |
| 3. operation | 4. earned |
| 5. smart | 6. carve |
| 7. hurt | 8. pair |
| 9. coins | 10. sticks |

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Pages 6-13

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F

B.

1. c 2. d 3. a 4. b

C.

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a

► Middle: Pages 14-19

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

B.

1. Peter

2. Hilda

3. Gretel

4. Hans

C.

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. d

► End: Pages 20-28

A.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F

B.

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. c

C.

1. b 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. c

Think and Write

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. poor | 2. wooden | 3. work | 4. money | 5. good |
| 6. necklaces | 7. sick | 8. operation | 9. broken | 10. skates |

Vocabulary Review

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. necklace | 2. canals | 3. knitting | 4. finished | 5. accident |
| 6. skates | 7. thin | 8. doctor | 9. understand | 10. squeaked |

Summary

A.

a → b → d → f → c → e

B.

1. Hilda wanted to help Hans and Gretel.
2. Hans asked Dr. Boekman to look at his father.
3. Hans helped Peter win a race.

Book Report

Story b → d → a → c → e