A Game of Strategy

Chess is a game that everyone should learn. It takes skill and strategy. If you are patient enough to learn the rules, you will find it can be exciting and fun.

Chess is good exercise for your brain. Chess is challenging. Each piece on a chessboard can only move a certain way. You have to remember how each piece moves. Also, you have to think about what the other player might do with his or her pieces.

You feel good when you win a game of chess. To win, you play until your opponent’s king can’t make no moves without being captured. This is called checkmate. You feel proud when you win after a difficult game.

Chess is never boring. Chess can be a quiet game, or it can be a fast game. Some people play a kind of chess called “fast chess, where each player has a short amount of time to make its moves.
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The Riddle of the River

My family and I were cruising down the mighty Nile River one day. The sun was hot overhead, and thick green rainforest lined the river’s banks. We had been sailing for days.

My big sister Gloria was drawing a picture of the river and the trees. “Hey, Maria,” she asked. “What always runs but never walks?” Gloria and me like to kid each other sometimes.

“I don’t know, Gloria, I said. “what always runs but never walks?”

“A river!”

I groaned. Then I heard a rumble off in the distance. We continued floating down the river. The rumble grew louder and louder.

“Hey, Gloria,” I asked. “What suddenly stops running and falls down?”

“I don’t know, Maria. What suddenly stops running and falls down?”

“A river, when it’s about to go over a waterfall!”

The river was flowing fast now. The waterfall had become a roar. My family lunged into action. Mom steered the boat straight toward the west shore. Gloria and I paddled madly to help speed it along. Dad grabbed a rope and stood ready at the stern.

Although it seemed like forever, it probably took just a few minutes. We approached the shore close enough for Dad to loop the rope around a branch and tie the boat tight. We were safe!
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Socks, or Puppets, or Both?

When my Great-Grandma was a young woman, she loved to knit. She was great at knitting socks. She was a fast knitter. Her designs were beautiful.

What if a sock was old? She never threw it out! “Waste not, want not” is her motto. That’s how she began a sock-puppet collection—she made it herself. She would sew eyes, ears, and a nose onto her old sock and give it new life. Over time, Great-Grandma created a “family” of more than thirty sock puppetts.

My brother and me love to stage puppet shows with Great-Grandma’s sock puppets whenever we visit.
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My First Pet

I wanted pet for a long time. My parents said that I could have one. They asked me what kind of pet I wanted. I am quiet and like to sit by the window. So, I thought I'd ask for a cat. My sister is allergic to cat hair. So I asked for a rabbit instead.

At the Pet Store

We went to the pet store to pick out my rabbit. In the cage at the store, there were a bunch of rabbits. They were cute. I picked one out.

The man took it out of the cage and handed it to me. Its fur was nice. He told me how to feed it and take care of it.

Fluffy’s New Home

On the way home, my mom asked me what my rabbit’s name was. I said its name was Fluffy. Now Fluffy lives with my family and me. I feed Fluffy carrots and rabbit food, and change her water every day. I’m so glad to finally have a pet of my own!
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I wanted pet for a long time. My parents said that I could have one because I’m responsible and seem to take care of everyone in my family. They asked me what kind of pet I wanted. Since I like to spend time thinking, reading, and curling up by the window, I thought I’d ask for a cat. My sister is allergic to cat hair. So I asked for a rabbit instead.
There is no transparency for this lesson.