Story 1: Brian’s Magical Skill (TA)

Brian liked to perform for people. His teacher said that she was going to choose someone to be in a school show that would be in the spring. Brian wanted to be chosen. He sang a song for his teacher. It was not very good. His teacher did not choose him.

Brian decided to put on a magic act. He bought some fancy magic cards and a hat. He tried to do some tricks on a table. The tricks were difficult to do.

Brian wanted to learn other kinds of activities. He asked a magician if he would teach him. The magician agreed to teach him.

Brian visited every day for a month. He watched how each routine was done and practiced a lot. Brian learned how to perform different kinds of magic.

He selected tricks that he could do best. He put together a good act, showing his teacher. He made some pretty flowers come out of her ear and then made the flowers disappear. The magic act was a hit and was selected for the show.

Story 2: Mountain Heights (TA)

You have seen tall mountains in real life or in a book. You have probably listened to weather reports too. A weather report for mountains may tell you to plan for a warm spring rain. Or, this report may tell you that there will be heavy snow that day.

Temperatures often change with the height of a mountain. Some people get reports for various locations on the mountain. A valley might have warm temperatures and rain showers during the day. On the same day, higher places might have cold and heavy snow.

Plants and animals begin to change with different mountain heights too. Pines grow at lower levels of the Rocky Mountains. Higher in the mountains, firs and spruces appear. Bears, deer, elk, and many other kinds of animals live among the trees. On mountains there often is a very distinct height above which trees do not grow. Goats and sheep eat the grasses and other small plants that grow there.

Story 3: Candle Crafts for School (TA)

One day, Sally’s class had show-and-tell. Her best friend showed a picture that she had painted. She told the class how she had made the picture and everyone liked it.

Then Sally decided that she wanted to make something special for show-and-tell. So, she went to the library and checked out a book. Sally read that candles could be made by melting crayons and pouring them into a cup. Finally, she decided she wanted to make a red candle.

Sally found some crayons and a cup at home. She put the crayons into the cup. She melted the wax in the cup and held a string in it to make a wick. The wax hardened quickly. At last, the beautiful candle was finished. She put her new candle in a holder and began decorating it with ribbons.

The next day, Sally carried the candle to school. When she arrived, she asked her teacher if she could be in show-and-tell. She won the show-and-tell grand-prize for her candle. Her friend was happy for her and they celebrated after school.
Story 4: Living Underground: The Life of a Mole (TA)

The mole is a small furry animal that lives underground. It moves around in tunnels that it digs. The mole has changed its life in four ways because it lives underground.

First, the mole has short, solid legs that are good for digging tunnels. This helps the mole dig tunnels so it can hunt for worms to eat. The mole also digs a home tunnel where it sleeps.

Second, good hearing is important so the mole can tell when other animals are in its tunnels. The mole’s ears are tiny because larger ears would get in the way when digging.

Third, the mole’s eyes are very small and they can “see” only light and dark. This is because moles live underground where it is dark, so it is not important for them to see.

Finally, because it is dark underground, the mole has a special way of figuring out where it is going. When it is going forward, the mole feels its way with its nose and the hairs on its front feet. When the mole is going backward, its tail tells it which way to go.