

John Stone and the Wizard of the Sun



Back cover photos (clockwise):

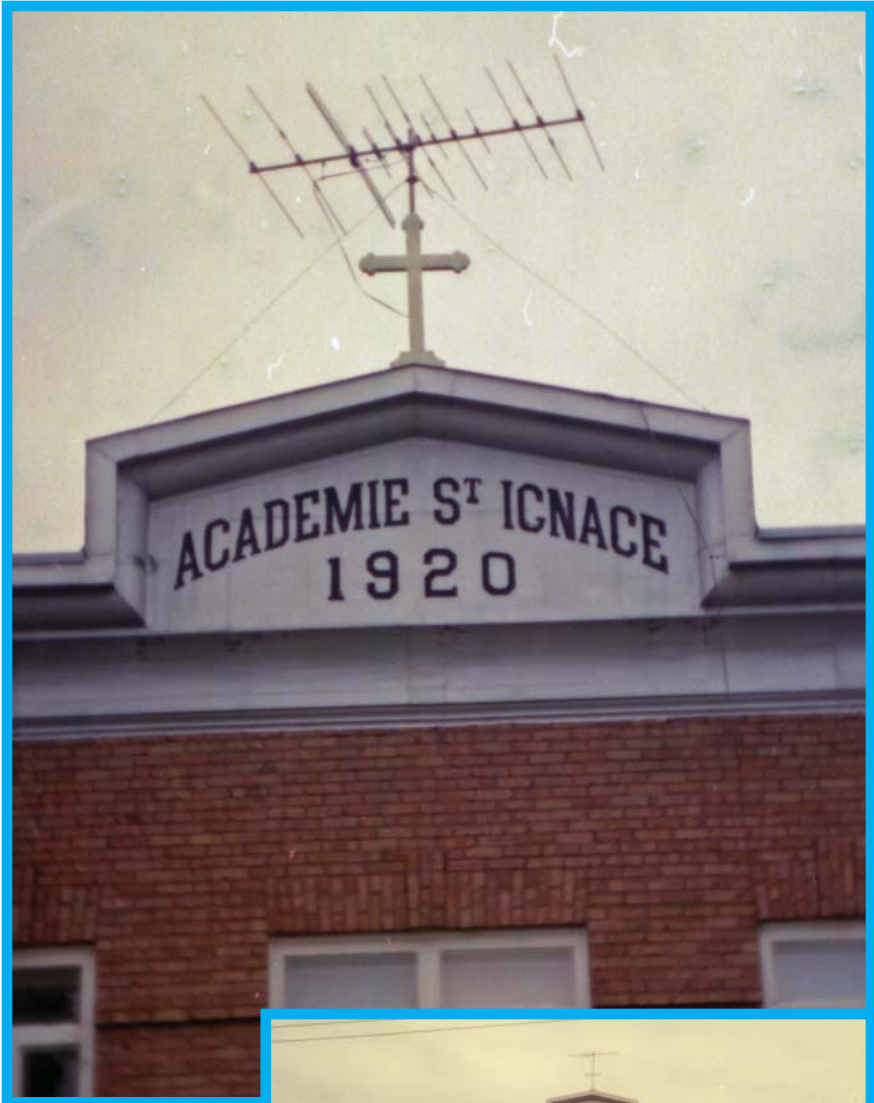
John Stone with his class; John Stone's house; Boxing day sleep-in with his Mum, Uncle, and Grandpa; John Stone with his sister and a balloon friend

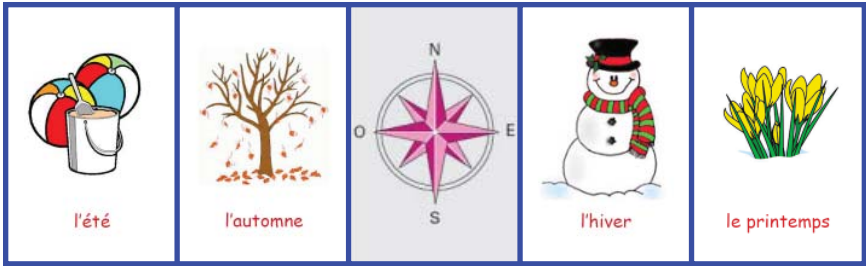
Copy ____ of 6

Forward

John Stone and his family moved to a small Québec village in 1978 when he was just six years old. This is a story about his adventures at a school where he did not understand the language.








John Stone first heard about the Wizard of the Sun at his new school.

All the children sang about the Wizard every morning.

He didn't understand all the words but John Stone knew he would like to meet this Wizard.


















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John Stone was very sure he would find out more about this Wizard if he kept going to school.






So each morning he climbed into the big yellow school bus with a mix of fear and excitement. Fear - because everything was strange to him. Excitement - because this might be the day he would meet the Wizard.



$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +5 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +6 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +7 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +8 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +9 \\ \hline 10 \end{array}$   
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It was comforting that his big sister climbed on the bus with him - even if she was focused on reading her book. She was in grade four and read wherever she went so it was just normal.








1  un	2  deux	3  trois	4  quatre	5  cinq
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One day when the teacher was introducing them to mathematics she pointed to the numbers lining the blackboard. Each one of the numbers was above a small group of frogs.

John stretched his arm up higher than all the other children since he wanted to be the one to count the frogs.



<p>6</p>  <p>six</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>sept</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>huit</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>neuf</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>dix</p>
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"Jean Pierre" said the teacher - and he knew it was his turn because that is what she always called him.

"One, two, three..." he began - all the way up to "ten". He finished and a big smile spread across his face.

"Ha, ha, ha" laughed all the children, "Ha, ha, ha"

John Stone sat down at his desk and for the first time he cried at school.








$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +2 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +3 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +4 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +5 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$   	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +6 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$   
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His teacher came over to his desk, wiped his eyes with a big tissue, and patted his hair. Then she turned to the class and spoke to them - but he couldn't understand what she said.

He wondered if the Wizard of the Sun had as much trouble understanding the teacher as he did.

There were many things about school that he didn't understand.



$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +7 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +8 \\ \hline 10 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +3 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +4 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +5 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$ 
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John Stone tried to find out about the Wizard from his friends at school.





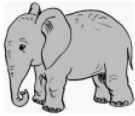
He made a big circle with his arms to show that the Wizard had a big head - and he pointed to his T-shirt to show them how yellow he was.

He wiggled his fingers near his ears to show how the Wizard had wisps of flame instead of hair.

He hung out his tongue and panted like a dog to show that the Wizard was hot to touch.

He flapped his arms out behind him and pointed to the red on his friend's shirt to show how the Wizard had a big red cape.

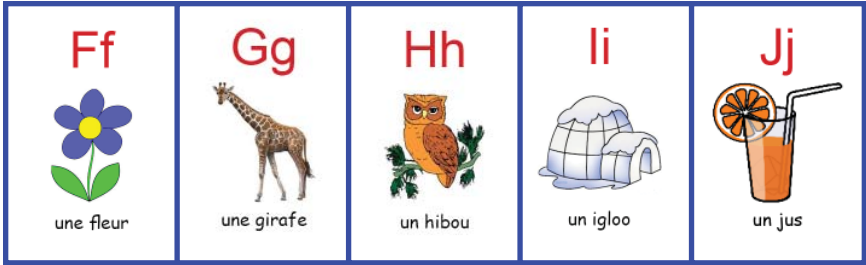


<p>Aa</p>  <p>un avion</p>	<p>Bb</p>  <p>une bicyclette</p>	<p>Cc</p>  <p>un cheval</p>	<p>Dd</p>  <p>un dinosaure</p>	<p>Ee</p>  <p>un éléphant</p>
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It didn't work. The children just shook their heads and shrugged their shoulders.

John Stone knew they didn't understand because that is what he had done over the last few weeks when he didn't understand.





John Stone already knew enough letters of the alphabet to recognize that the apple, the horse, and the owl were in the wrong order among the pictures lining the blackboard. Why was the horse so close to the beginning and the apple so far toward the end?

He couldn't understand why the teacher chuckled when he said "apple" as she pointed at the letter "A" with her long stick.

John Stone walked slowly back to his desk with big tears in his eyes. That is when he cried for the second time.





It was after this second time that he began to think he didn't like school. He also wondered if the Wizard liked school.

He was still thinking about it when he went home so he told his Mum.






She smiled, gave him a big hug and kiss, and then whispered in his ear. "Don't think about the bad times" she said "think about the good times at school."



It was hard to think about the good times but he tried.

He thought about the Wizard song they sang each morning. He liked to close his eyes while the children sang - and sometimes he imagined the Wizard was right beside him.



<p>Pp</p>  <p>une pomme</p>	<p>Qq</p>  <p>les quilles</p>	<p>Rr</p>  <p>un rhinocéros</p>	<p>Ss</p>  <p>le soleil</p>	<p>Tt</p>  <p>une tortue</p>
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He thought about 'gymnastique' - the class where the gym teacher would explain things using his whole body. He jumped when he wanted them to jump, he ran when he wanted them to run, and he threw the ball to show how it was done.

John Stone thought about it all day long but couldn't think of any more good times.



Uu



une usine

Vv



une vache

Ww



un wagon

Xx



un xylophone

Yy








un yoyo

After school he told his Mum that two good things weren't enough. His Mum said he had to go back to school anyway.

John Stone went back to school the next day - and the next - and the next. Each day he understood a few more words, each day he discovered a few more friends, and each day he learned a few more games.



<p>Zz</p>  <p>un zèbre</p>		$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +6 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +7 \\ \hline 10 \end{array}$ 	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +4 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$ 
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No one knows for sure exactly when the bad times turned into good times.

Maybe it was when the teacher let him watch what the other children were doing when he didn't understand her instructions.

Or, maybe it was the day that 'Dave puis Alan' invited him to come and play at their house after school.



$\begin{array}{r} 2 \text{ 🍎🍎} \\ -1 \text{ 🍎} \\ \hline 1 \text{ 🍎} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎} \\ -1 \text{ 🍎} \\ \hline 2 \text{ 🍎🍎} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎🍎} \\ -1 \text{ 🍎} \\ \hline 3 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎🍎🍎} \\ -1 \text{ 🍎} \\ \hline 4 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎🍎} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 6 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎🍎🍎🍎} \\ -1 \text{ 🍎} \\ \hline 5 \text{ 🍎🍎🍎🍎🍎} \end{array}$
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What we do know is that John Stone gradually decided not to go on looking for the Wizard of the Sun.

He knew that the Wizard would find him and he was quite sure that when he did, it would be easier and easier to remember the good times that happened at school, and harder and harder to remember the bad times.

The End

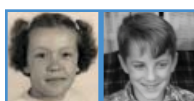


Afterward

John Stone's parents think that this is the song they sang every morning about the Wizard of the Sun. But, they never did find out for sure.

Soleil et lune
 bénissez le Seigneur
Montagnes et collines
 bénissez le Seigneur
Plantes de la terre
 bénissez le Seigneur
Et vous, tous les animaux
 bénissez le Seigneur
 (d'après Daniel 3 :75)





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