

### **\*\*\*Student Study Guide\*\*\***

#### **Mr. Popper's Penguins**

##### **Chapter 1 pp. 3-9**

1. Draw a picture of Mr. Popper going home from work from the description on p. 3
2. Why was Mr. Popper so absent-minded?
3. Above all, what did Mr. Popper wish for instead of a house painter?
4. How did Mr. Popper become an expert on Polar explorers?
5. Why did Mrs. Popper tell Mr. Popper to put his ladders away?
6. Why is this chapter called "Stillwater"?

##### **Chapter II pp. 9-14**

1. Why was Mrs. Popper worried about winter?
2. Why wasn't Mr. Popper worried about winter?
3. What does Mr. Popper say is the best part about Antarctica?
4. What did Mr. Popper say that proved penguins are smart birds?
5. How did Admiral Drake talk to Mr. Popper from the Antarctica?
6. Why is this chapter called "The Voice in the Air"?

##### **Chapter III**

1. Why didn't Mrs. Popper want her house painted?
2. Who was ringing the doorbell when Mr. Popper answered it?

3. Who was making the “Ork!” sound from inside the box?
4. Draw a picture of the penguin described on page 18.
5. How did Mr. Popper keep the bird busy in the bathroom?
6. What was the penguin’s new game in the bathroom?
7. Why did they call the penguin Captain Cook?
8. Why is this chapter called “Out of the Antarctic”?

#### **Chapter IV pp. 22-30**

1. Why was the explorer Captain Cook famous?
2. How long can a penguin go without food?
3. What did the penguin do with the bowl of goldfish?
4. Where will Captain Cook, the penguin, sleep at night?
5. Why will the repairman put holes in the door and a handle on the inside of the icebox?
6. Why is this chapter named “Captain Cook”?

#### **Chapter V pp. 31-37**

1. Why did the service man think that Mr. Popper “was not quite right in the head”?
2. How did Mr. Popper finally get the service man to put a handle on the inside of the icebox?
3. Why did the service man run out of the Popper house?
4. Why is this chapter called “Trouble with a Penguin”?

### **Chapter VI pp. 38-43**

1. Why did the policeman come to the Popper's?
2. What kind of animal did the policeman think Mr. Popper was?
3. How did the policeman say Mr. Popper could find out the penguin needed a leash and license?
4. Why wasn't it easy for Mr. Popper to find out if he needed a leash and license for Captain Cook?
5. When did Mr. Popper finally decide to hang up the telephone?
6. Tell why this chapter is called "More Troubles"?

### **Chapter VII pp. 44-49**

1. Why was Captain Cook going in and out of the refrigerator a lot?
2. What is a rookery?
3. Why was Mr. Popper all dressed up?
4. Why is the Chapter called "Captain Cook Builds a Nest"?

### **Chapter VIII pp. 50-56**

1. Why was it hard to take the penguin for a walk?
2. Why did Mr. Popper stop the first time on their walk?
3. Why did two men stop at the drugstore?
4. How did the clothesline leash get tangled in the cameraman's stand?
5. Why did Mr. Popper and Captain Cook go in the barbershop?
6. Why is this chapter called "Penguin's Promenade"?

### **Chapter IX pp. 57- 61**

1. What did the author mean that “the barber was a good friend of Mr. Poppers up to this time”?
2. How did Captain Cook get up and down the stairs?
3. How did Mr. Popper look when he returned home from the walk?
4. Why is this chapter called “In the Barbershop”?

### **Chapter X pp. 62-67**

1. How did the Popper penguin story end up in newspapers across the country?
2. How did the Poppers know there was something wrong with the penguin?
3. What did the vet say would happen to the penguin?
4. What was Mr. Popper’s idea to save the penguin?
5. What did the curator of the museum think the penguin was wrong?
6. How did Greta come to live with the Poppers?
7. Why is this chapter called “Shadows”?

### **Chapter XI pp. 68-73**

1. How did Mr. Popper say that Captain Cook showed that he was grateful for saving his life?
2. How will the Poppers tell the two penguins apart?
3. How will Mr. Popper keep the penguins comfortable if they move out of the icebox?
4. How did the Poppers get snow in their living room?

5. Why did Mr. Popper move the furniture to one side of the room?
6. Why is this chapter called “Greta”?

### **Chapter XII pp. 74-80**

1. What changes did the engineer make to the Popper house?
2. Why was Mr. Popper surprised that Greta laid 10 eggs?
3. Where did Mr. Popper get the names for the baby penguins?
4. How did Mr. Popper use the ice blocks?
5. Why didn't the penguins always eat canned shrimp?
6. How did the penguins use the ice rink?
7. Why is “More Mouths to Feed” a good name for this chapter?

### **Chapter XIII pp. 81-84**

1. Why did Mrs. Popper say that she was worried?
2. What was Mrs. Popper's solution to the problem?
3. What was Mr. Popper's solution to the problem?
4. Why did Mrs. Popper play three different kinds of music?
5. Why is this chapter called “Money Worries”?

### **Chapter XIV pp. 85-91**

1. Why does Mr. Popper think that he should see Mr. Greenbaum?
2. How did the Popper family and the 12 penguins get to the theatre?
3. Why did the passengers on the bus complain about the Popper's?
4. What did Mr. Popper call his act?

5. Why wouldn't Mr. Popper let Mr. Greenbaum call the act "Popper's Pink-toed Penguins"?
6. Why is this chapter called "Mr. Greenbaum"?

### **Chapter XV pp. 92-100**

1. What was Mr. Popper's idea so Mr. Greenbaum wouldn't lose money?
2. Which bird won the fighting part of the act?
3. When Mrs. Popper played "By the Brook", what did the penguins do?
4. Why did the audience laugh at the penguins?
5. What does Mr. Greenbaum think of the act?
6. What are the terms of the Popper's contract with Mr. Greenbaum?
7. Why is "Popper's Performing Penguins" a good name for this chapter?

### **Chapter XVI pp. 101-107**

1. What was the first thing the Popper's did with the \$5,000 advance money?
2. How did the Popper's and their penguins travel to Seattle?
3. Why did the penguins want to stop in the sleeping (Pullman) cars?
4. Why was Mrs. Popper worried about the children Janie and Bill?
5. Why did the tight-rope walker lose his balance?
6. What does the title "On the Road" mean?

### **Chapter XVII pp. 108-114**

1. Even though the penguins were in the basement, how did they bother the opera singer?

2. When Mrs. Popper, Janie, and Bill tried to catch the penguins where did they hide?
3. Why were hotels glad to have the penguins as guests?
4. Why didn't the penguins walk back and forth from the hotels to the theaters?
5. Why was feeding the penguins shrimp free?
6. Why was Mr. Popper glad that after New York their 10-week contract was over?
7. How did "Fame" affect the Poppers?

**Chapter XVIII pp. 115-122**

1. How did Mr. Popper make his "great mistake" talking to the taxi driver?
2. What did Mr. Swen Swenson say that his seals would do to Mr. Popper's penguins?
3. Why couldn't Mr. Popper let his penguins drive around in the taxi until it was their turn to perform?
4. When the policemen found the penguins, what were they doing with the seals?
5. When Mr. Popper and Mr. Swenson finally opened the door, what were the penguins and seals doing?
6. Why did the theatre manager want to have Mr. Popper arrested?
7. What is the title of this chapter?

**Chapter XIX pp. 123-131**

1. How much money did Mr. Popper need to get the penguins and him out of jail?
2. If it wasn't Mr. Greenbaum that bailed Mr. Popper out of jail, who did?

3. How did Admiral Drake plan to use Mr. Popper's penguins?
4. How does Mr. Klein want to use Mr. Popper's penguins?
5. What decision do you think Mr. Popper should make about the future of his penguins?

**Chapter XX pp. 132-139**

1. Why didn't Mrs. Popper try to help Mr. Popper make the decision?
2. What did Mr. Popper decide to do with the penguins?
3. Why did Mr. Popper say he made that decision?
4. Why will Mr. Klein give Mr. Popper \$25,000?
5. How do you know Mr. Popper was sad when he said goodbye to the penguins?
6. Why did Admiral Drake say he couldn't say goodbye to Mr. Popper?
7. Why is this chapter titled "Farewell Mr. Popper"?



**\*\*\*Teacher Key\*\*\***

**Mr. Popper's Penguins**

**Chapter 1 pp. 3-9**

1. Draw a picture of Mr. Popper going home from work from the description on p. 3
2. Why was Mr. Popper so absent-minded? (dreaming about far-away countries)
3. Above all, what did Mr. Popper which had been instead of a house painter? (Polar explorer)
4. How did Mr. Popper become an expert on Polar explorers? (reading)
5. Why did Mrs. Popper tell Mr. Popper to put his ladders away? (done working for the winter)
6. Why is this chapter called "Stillwater"? (name of Mr. Popper's home town)

**Chapter II pp. 9-14**

1. Why was Mrs. Popper worried about winter? (not enough money)
2. Why wasn't Mr. Popper worried about winter? (read about explorers)
3. What does Mr. Popper say is the best part about Antarctica? (penguins)
4. What did Mr. Popper say that proved penguins are smart birds (crowd one penguin into water to see if it was safe for the others)
5. How did Admiral Drake talk to Mr. Popper from the Antarctica?
6. Why is this chapter called "The Voice in the Air"?

**Chapter III**

1. Why didn't Mrs. Popper want her house painted ? (messy)

2. Who was ringing the doorbell when Mr. Popper answered it? (expressman)
3. Who was making the “Ork!” sound from inside the box? (penguin)
4. Draw a picture of the penguin described on page 18?
5. How did Mr. Popper keep the bird busy in the bathroom? (took a bath)
6. What was the penguin’s new game in the bathroom? (sliding)
7. Why did they call the penguin Captain Cook? (said Gook!)
8. Why is this chapter called “Out of the Antarctic”? (came penguin)

#### **Chapter IV pp. 22-30**

1. Why was the explorer Captain Cook famous? (sailed to South Seas)
2. How long can a penguin go without food? (one month)
3. What did the penguin do with the bowl of goldfish? (swallowed them)
4. Where will Captain Cook, the penguin, sleep at night? (frig)
5. Why will the repairman put holes in the door and a handle on the inside of the icebox? (air and opening it from the inside)
6. Why is this chapter named “Captain Cook”? (penguin’s name)

#### **Chapter V pp. 31-37**

1. Why did the service man think that Mr. Popper “was not quite right in the head”? (Popper wanted holes in the icebox door)
2. How did Mr. Popper finally get the service man to put a handle on the inside of the icebox? (gave him \$5.)

3. Why did the service man run out of the Popper house? (penguin pecked him)
4. Why is this chapter called “Trouble with a Penguin”?

### **Chapter VI pp. 38-43**

1. Why did the policeman come to the Popper’s? (wanted to check out the animal)
2. What kind of animal did the policeman think Mr. Popper was? (parrot)
3. How did the policeman say Mr. Popper could find out the penguin needed a leash and license? (call City Hall)
4. Why wasn’t it easy for Mr. Popper to find out if he needed a leash and license for Captain Cook? (people at City Hall didn’t understand him)
5. When did Mr. Popper finally decide to hang up the telephone? (when switched to the County Building)
6. Tell why this chapter is called “More Troubles”.

### **Chapter VII pp. 44-49**

1. Why was Captain Cook going in and out of the refrigerator a lot? (the penguin put things into the frig)
2. What is a rookery? (nest)
3. Why was Mr. Popper all dressed up? (taking the penguin for a walk)
4. Why is the Chapter called “Captain Cook Builds a Nest”.

### **Chapter VIII pp. 50-56**

1. Why was it hard to take the penguin for a walk? (didn’t like the leash)
2. Why did Mr. Popper stop the first time on their walk? (Mrs. Callahan)

3. Why did two men stop at the drugstore? (take penguin's picture for the newspaper)
4. How did the clothesline leash get tangled in the cameraman's stand? (penguin kept walking around)
5. Why did Mr. Popper and Captain Cook go in the barbershop? (to escape crowd)
6. Why is this chapter called "Penguin's Promenade"? (walk)

### **Chapter IX pp. 57- 61**

1. What did the author mean that "the barber was a good friend of Mr. Poppers up to this time"? (penguin bothering gentleman customer)
2. How did Captain Cook get up and down the stairs (climbed up and tobogganed down)
3. How did Mr. Popper look when he returned home from the walk?( a mess)
4. Why is this chapter called "In the Barbershop"?

### **Chapter X pp. 62-67**

1. How did the Popper penguin story end up in newspapers across the country? (Associated Press picked up the story)
2. How did the Poppers know there was something wrong with the penguin? (wouldn't play or eat)
3. What did the vet say would happen to the penguin? (die)
4. What was Mr. Popper's idea to save the penguin? (write museum)
5. What did the curator of the museum think the penguin was wrong? (suffering from loneliness)
6. How did Greta come to live with the Poppers? (museum sent her)

7. Why is this chapter called “Shadows”?

**Chapter XI pp. 68-73**

1. How did Mr. Popper say that Captain Cook showed that he was grateful for saving his life? (put checker at his feet)
2. How will the Poppers tell the two penguins apart? (paint white names on their heads)
3. How will Mr. Popper keep the penguins comfortable if they move out of the icebox? (open living room windows)
4. How did the Poppers get snow in their living room? (blizzard)
5. Why did Mr. Popper move the furniture to one side of the room? (sliding)
6. Why is this chapter called “Greta”? (girl penguin)

**Chapter XII pp. 74-80**

1. What changes did the engineer make to the Popper house? (put freezing plant in basement and furnace upstairs)
2. Why was Mr. Popper surprised that Greta laid 10 eggs? (normally, only 2 per season)
3. Where did Mr. Popper get the names for the baby penguins? (books)
4. How did Mr. Popper use the ice blocks? (made a castle)
5. Why didn't the penguins always eat canned shrimp? (put live fish in their pool)
6. How did the penguins use the ice rink? (paraded)
7. Why is “More Mouths to Feed” a good name for this chapter.

### **Chapter XIII pp. 81-84**

1. Why did Mrs. Popper say that she was worried? (money)
2. What was Mrs. Popper's solution to the problem? (eat the penguins)
3. What was Mr. Popper's solution to the problem? (train the penguins)
4. Why did Mrs. Popper play three different kinds of music? (tell penguins when to parade, fight, and tobaggan)
5. Why is this chapter called "Money Worries"?

### **Chapter XIV pp. 85-91**

1. Why does Mr. Popper think that he should see Mr. Greenbaum? (owns theatres where penguins could act)
2. How did the Popper family and the 12 penguins get to the theatre? (rode the bus)
3. Why did the passengers on the bus complain about the Popper's? (opened the windows)
4. What did Mr. Popper call his act? (Popper's Performing Penguins)
5. Why wouldn't Mr. Popper let Mr. Greenbaum call the act "Popper's Pink-toed Penguins"? (sounded like girl's ballet and penguins wouldn't like it)
6. Why is this chapter called "Mr. Greenbaum"?

### **Chapter XV pp. 92-100**

1. What was Mr. Popper's idea so Mr. Greenbaum wouldn't lose money? (let penguins perform)
2. Which bird won the fighting part of the act? (Columbus)
3. When Mrs. Popper played "By the Brook", what did the penguins do? (penguins climbed the ladder)

4. Why did the audience laugh at the penguins? (pushed and shoved their way onto the ladder)
5. What does Mr. Greenbaum think of the act? (it's a sensation)
6. What are the terms of the Popper's contract with Mr. Greenbaum? (10-week contract at \$5,000 per week)
7. Why is "Popper's Performing Penguins" a good name for this chapter?

### **Chapter XVI pp. 101-107**

1. What was the first thing the Popper's did with the \$5,000 advance money? ( paid for the freezer plant and live fish)
2. How did the Popper's and their penguins travel to Seattle? (by train)
3. Why did the penguins want to stop in the sleeping (Pullman) cars? (climb ladders)
4. Why was Mrs. Popper worried about the children Janie and Bill? (missing 10-weeks of school)
5. Why did the tight-rope walker lose his balance? (audience laughed at penguins watching him)
6. What does the title "On the Road" mean? (took the act to places)

### **Chapter XVII pp. 108-114**

1. Even though the penguins were in the basement, how did they bother the opera singer? (penguins' heads popped up in the orchestra pit)
2. When Mrs. Popper, Janie, and Bill tried to catch the penguins where did they hide? (in opera singer's skirt)
3. Why were hotels glad to have the penguins as guests? (neat and attracted business)
4. Why didn't the penguins walk back and forth from the hotels to the theaters? (tied up traffic)

5. Why was feeding the penguins shrimp free? (Mr. Popper wrote saying, “Mr. Popper’s Performing Penguins thrive on eating Owens’ Oceanic Shrimp”)
6. Why was Mr. Popper glad that after New York their 10-week contract was over? (too hot, irritable penguins)
7. How did “Fame” affect the Poppers? (nice hotels, meals, railroad cars)

### **Chapter XVIII pp. 115-122**

1. How did Mr. Popper make his “great mistake” talking to the taxi driver? (said Regal Theater instead of the Royal Theater)
2. What did Mr. Swen Swenson say that his seals would do to Mr. Popper’s penguins? (eat two or three)
3. Why couldn’t Mr. Popper let his penguins drive around in the taxi until it was their turn to perform? (too late to catch the cabs)
4. When the policemen found the penguins, what were they doing with the seals? (parading around them in a square)
5. When Mr. Popper and Mr. Swenson finally opened the door, what were the penguins and seals doing? (penguins wore fire hats and seals police hats)
6. Why did the theatre manager want to have Mr. Popper arrested? (broke into theater and threw place in a panic)
7. What is the title of this chapter? (April Winds)

### **Chapter XIX pp. 123-131**

1. How much money did Mr. Popper need to get the penguins and him out of jail? ( $\$500+1,200=\$1,700$ )
2. If it wasn't Mr. Greenbaum that bailed Mr. Popper out of jail, who did? (Admiral Drake)



3. How did Admiral Drake plan to use Mr. Popper's penguins? (take to North Pole and start a race of penguins there)
4. How does Mr. Klein want to use Mr. Popper's penguins? (put them in the movies)
5. What decision do you think Mr. Popper should make about the future of his penguins?

**Chapter XX pp. 132-139**

1. Why didn't Mrs. Popper try to help Mr. Popper make the decision? (his penguins)
2. What did Mr. Popper decide to do with the penguins? (give them to Admiral Drake)
3. Why did Mr. Popper say he made that decision? (best for the birds)
4. Why will Mr. Klein give Mr. Popper \$25,000? (pictures of birds and announcement)
5. How do you know Mr. Popper was sad when he said goodbye to the penguins? (dried his eyes)
6. Why did Admiral Drake say he couldn't say goodbye to Mr. Popper? (Mr. Popper was coming with him)
7. Why is this chapter titled "Farewell Mr. Popper"? (Mr. Popper went to Arctic)