

YO-YO-YOS ARE FOREVER

by Jim McCloskey

It's lunchtime. The schoolyard buzzes with activity. Jesse is rocking the cradle. Maria is walking the dog. Billy is going around the world. Are we kidding? No, we're not. Jesse, Maria, and Billy are playing with yo-yos. "Rock the cradle," "walk the dog," and "around the world" are yo-yo tricks.

People have always loved yo-yos. Why do people find yo-yos so **appealing**? For one thing, they are fun. Another reason is that toy makers keep trying to make better yo-yos.

Years ago, all yo-yo parts were made of wood. Wooden parts can wear out quickly. Toy makers tried new ideas. Some began using plastic instead of wood. Plastic parts do not wear out the way wood does.

Set Your Purpose

People never seem to tire of yo-yos. Read this article to find out why people of all ages like this toy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The people of the Philippines gave the yo-yo its name. The Philippines is in Southeast Asia.

Think About It

What do you look for in a yo-yo? Do you like unusual ones? Why?

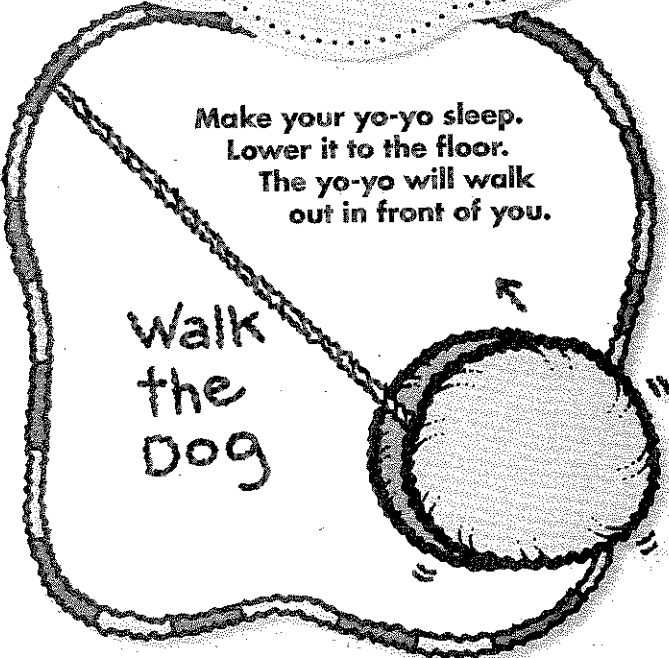
Believe it or not, the string is important. The string has to let the yo-yo glide up and down easily. It needs to be thin. Yet, it must be **durable**. It cannot break easily. Toy makers try to find string that is just right for a yo-yo.

Toy makers also make yo-yos that look different. Once, all yo-yos looked the same. Today you can find many **unusual** ones. Some have colored shapes painted on the outside. Some look like butterflies as they spin. One kind lights up and plays music. It looks and sounds like a merry-go-round. Some yo-yos have cloth **coverings** that make them look like round, furry animals. You can use these yo-yos for a trick such as walking a sheep or a bear or another animal.

We cannot predict what kind of new, **improved** yo-yo will appear next. But we know one thing. People will love playing with it.

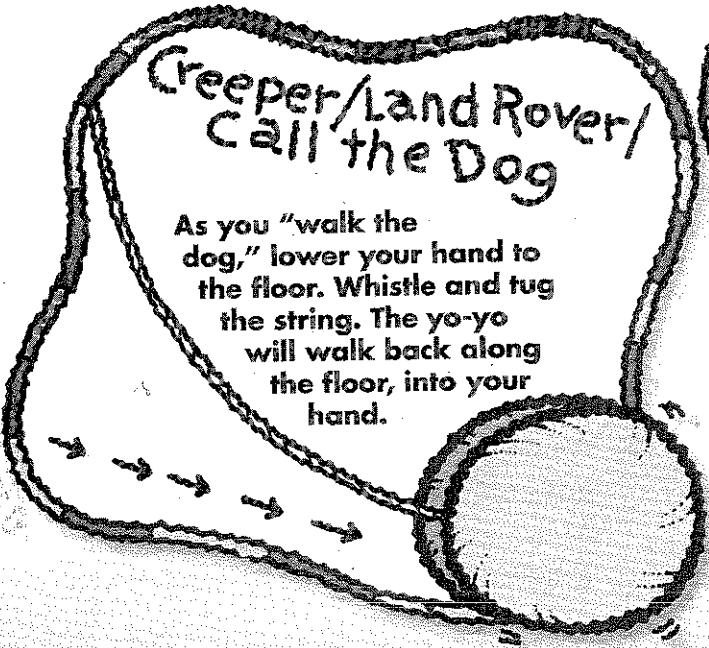
Make your yo-yo sleep. Lower it to the floor. The yo-yo will walk out in front of you.

Walk the Dog



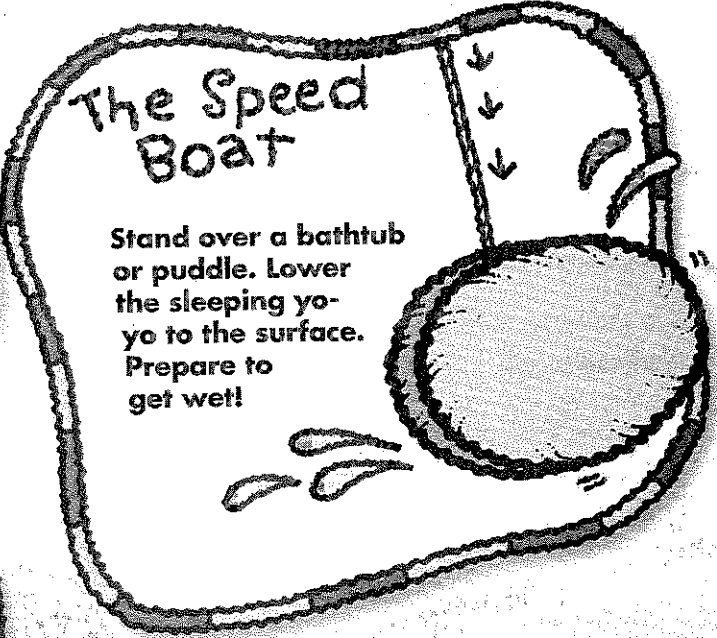
Creepier/Land Rover/
Call the Dog

As you "walk the dog," lower your hand to the floor. Whistle and tug the string. The yo-yo will walk back along the floor, into your hand.



The Speed Boat

Stand over a bathtub or puddle. Lower the sleeping yo-yo to the surface. Prepare to get wet!



Name _____

Date _____

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- How are today's yo-yos like yo-yos made years ago?
 - Many of today's yo-yos are made of wood.
 - Many of today's yo-yos are made of plastic.
 - They are enjoyed by children.
 - Most people do not like to play with today's yo-yos.
- How are today's yo-yos different from yo-yos made years ago?
 - Many yo-yos today are made of wood.
 - Many yo-yos today are made of plastic.
 - Yo-yos today do not use strings.
 - Yo-yos do not have colored designs painted on them.
- Which statement shows the difference between yo-yos today and yo-yos years ago?
 - Yo-yos today all look the same.
 - Yo-yos years ago played music.
 - Today there are many different yo-yos.
 - There were more different yo-yos years ago.
- What should a yo-yo string be like?
 - thin, rough, and lasting
 - short, thick, and smooth
 - thick, breakable, and rough
 - thin, lasting, and smooth
- Why did toy makers use plastic for some yo-yos?
 - Plastic is more colorful and attractive.
 - Plastic parts don't wear out the way wood does.
 - Plastic yo-yos sell better.
 - Wooden yo-yos are old.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- People find yo-yos appealing.
 - annoying
 - hateful
 - dull
 - pleasing
- The string must be durable; it cannot break easily.
 - very soft
 - easily broken
 - very long
 - long-lasting
- Today, you can find many unusual yo-yos.
 - seen all the time
 - very common
 - hardly ever seen
 - worn out
- Some yo-yos have cloth coverings that make them look like round, furry animals.
 - something that covers
 - something that lights up
 - new rings
 - without covers
- We cannot predict what kind of new, improved yo-yo will appear next.
 - disappointing
 - better than before
 - larger
 - experimental

Name _____

Date _____

Word Work

Synonyms are words with similar meanings. For example, *light* and *heavy* are synonyms.

Fill in the letter of the word that means the same as the word in dark type.

- Another word for **kidding** is
 (A) ringing. (C) singing.
 (B) joking. (D) spinning.
- Another word for **usual** is
 (A) rare. (C) unfair.
 (B) ordinary. (D) old.
- Another word for **easy** is
 (A) weak. (C) simple.
 (B) silly. (D) tired.
- Another word for **same** is
 (A) different. (C) few.
 (B) alike. (D) short.

- Another word for **quickly** is
 (A) rapidly. (C) slowly.
 (B) loudly. (D) softly.

Write the word that means the same as the underlined word.

appealing unusual durable similar quickly

- Yo-yos today do not all look alike.

- The butterfly yo-yo is very rare-looking.

- The musical yo-yo has a very pleasing sound. _____

- You learned how to walk the dog very fast.

- I have owned this long-lasting yo-yo for three years. _____

Write Now

Many yo-yos today are colorful. Some have attractive pictures painted on the sides. They come in packages. Words on the package tell why the yo-yo inside is special. Look at the list to the right. It shows the special features of one new yo-yo.

- Plan to create a new yo-yo package. Draw a picture of a yo-yo that you would like to own. Make it colorful and give it a name. Print the name above the drawing. Think of things that would make your yo-yo special. Write three phrases that describe these special things. See the example shown for some ideas.
- Create a yo-yo package. How can your package make people want to buy this yo-yo?

The Songbird Yo-yo

- sings while it spins
- spins longer
- made of durable plastic