**Thanksgiving**  (Marshall Reading 6.5)

What do you do on the fourth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of November?  Most people in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a national holiday. On this day, most people do not go to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They travel by plane, train, bus, or car to be together with family and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They gather to give thanks and share in great food and fun.

     Thanksgiving morning is a fun time for children. Many large cities throughout the United

States host wonderful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. New York City’s “Macy’s Day Parade” is one of the best known. Turn on your television Thanksgiving morning, and you can see a parade on almost every station!

     In the afternoon, families gather for a special \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dinner. They feast on the traditional meal of turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberries. Save room for dessert! The pumpkin pie is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. After dinner families relax and talk. Many people watch football games on TV.

     Thanksgiving began over 350 years ago. On December 11, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one hundred Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. They sailed from England on a boat called the Mayflower. Many came for religious freedom. All came for new lives.

     The first winter the Pilgrims were hungry, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and very cold. Many did not survive. Forty six of the original 102 people died. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Indians helped the struggling Pilgrims. They taught the Pilgrims to plant corn and build houses. They taught the Pilgrims about the land’s plants and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Without the help of the Indians, all the Pilgrims may have died that first year.

     In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims gave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for their new land and large harvest. They also gave thanks for the help of the Indians. The first Thanksgiving holiday lasted for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days. No one knows if turkey was served. We do know the Pilgrims and Indians feasted on venison and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They also had boiled pumpkin, berries, plums and fried bread made from corn.

     Today, Thanksgiving is more than giving thanks and sharing a tasty meal. It is also the  
beginning of the holiday \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ season. The biggest shopping day of the year happens the day after Thanksgiving. Many stores open their doors to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at 6 a.m. These early-birds find many special savings!