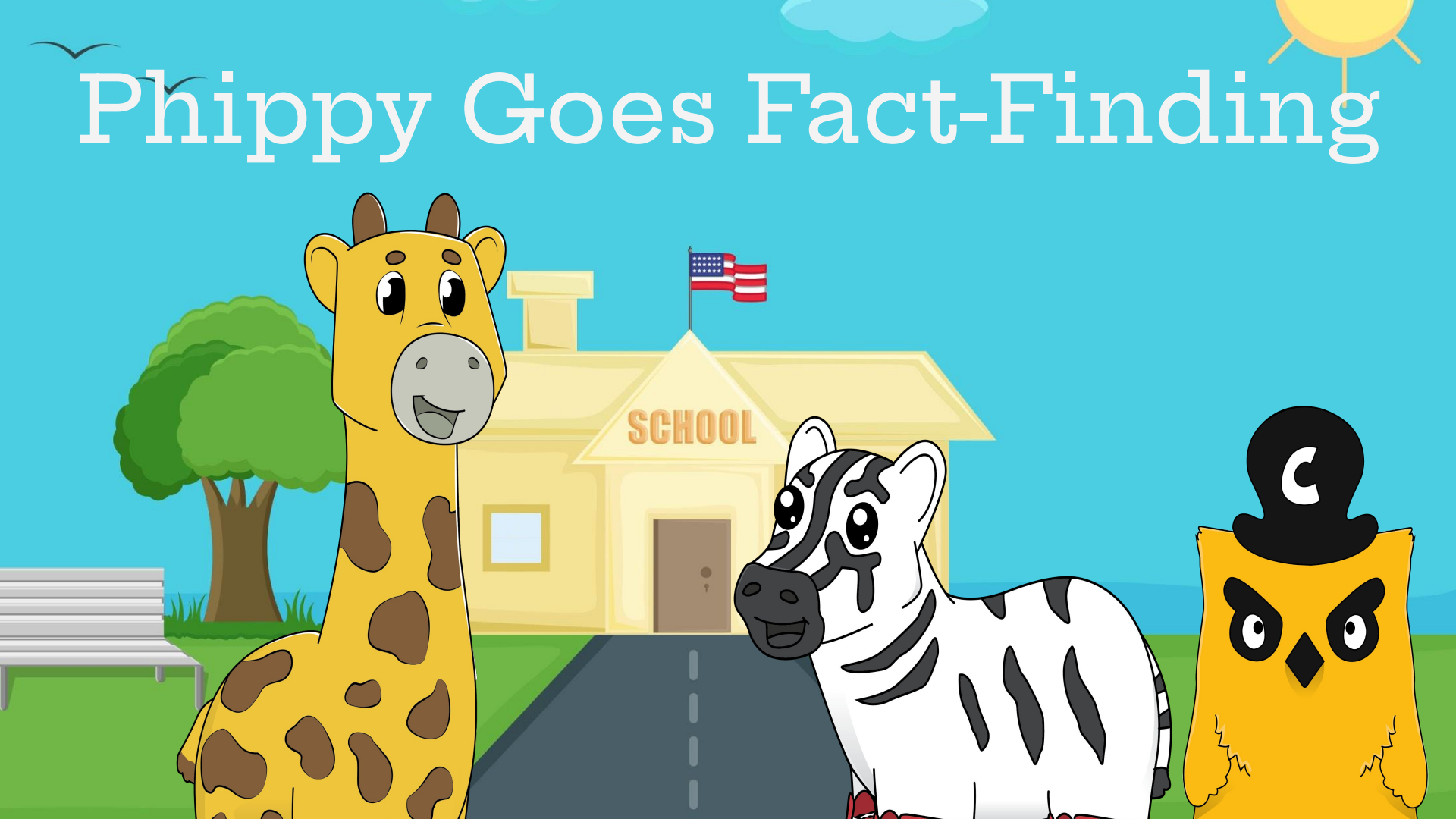
Phippy Goes Fact-Finding



Written and designed by: Doug Beatty

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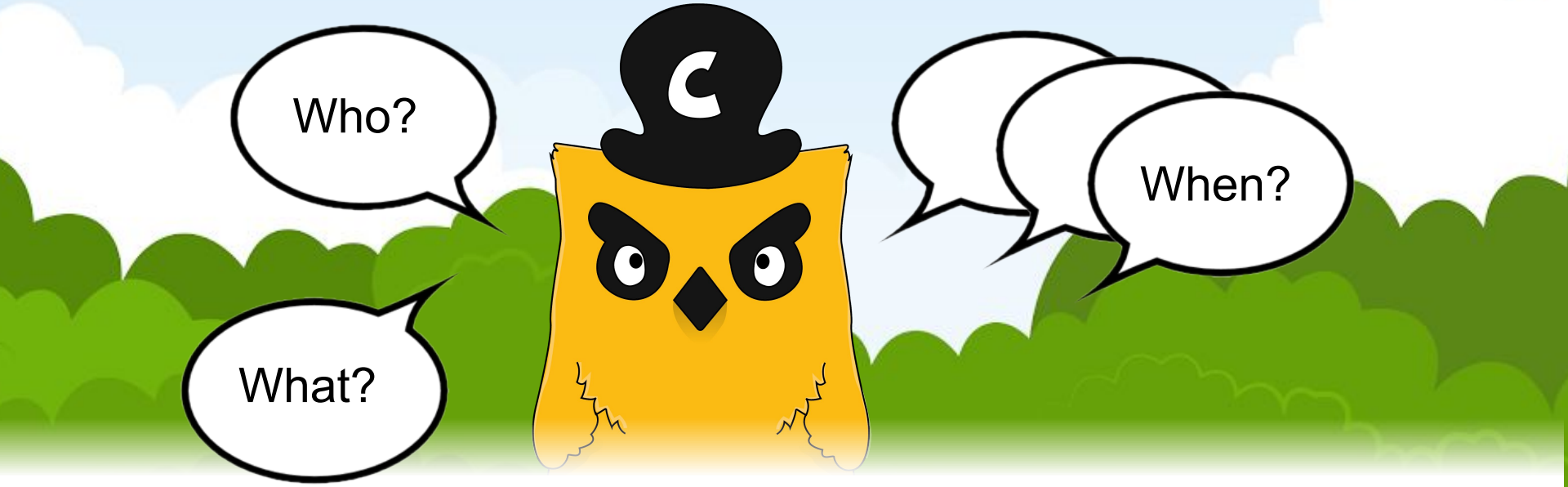
Sunday

Phippy: Can you teach me how to be a journalist?
Captain Kube: You can start to gather facts by answering question words like: who? what? when? where? how? and why?

Sunday

Phippy: That's a lot of different questions to answer!
Captain Kube: You can get a great start by just using "who", "what", and "when".



Captain Kube: A word of caution: the question of "when" is more complicated than it seems. There's at least **three** different ways to use it! If you pay close enough attention, you might be able figure out all three.

Sunday

Phippy: I'm practicing being a journalist, but I don't know what to inquire about.
Zee: We're having a "book week" at school. You could takes notes about that.

Phippy: That sounds fun! I'll keep notes in my journal. What is your favorite book?
Zee: My first favorite was "Good Night Moon". "Berenstain Bears" was my new favorite starting in kindergarten. Maybe I'll discover something new this week.

Sunday

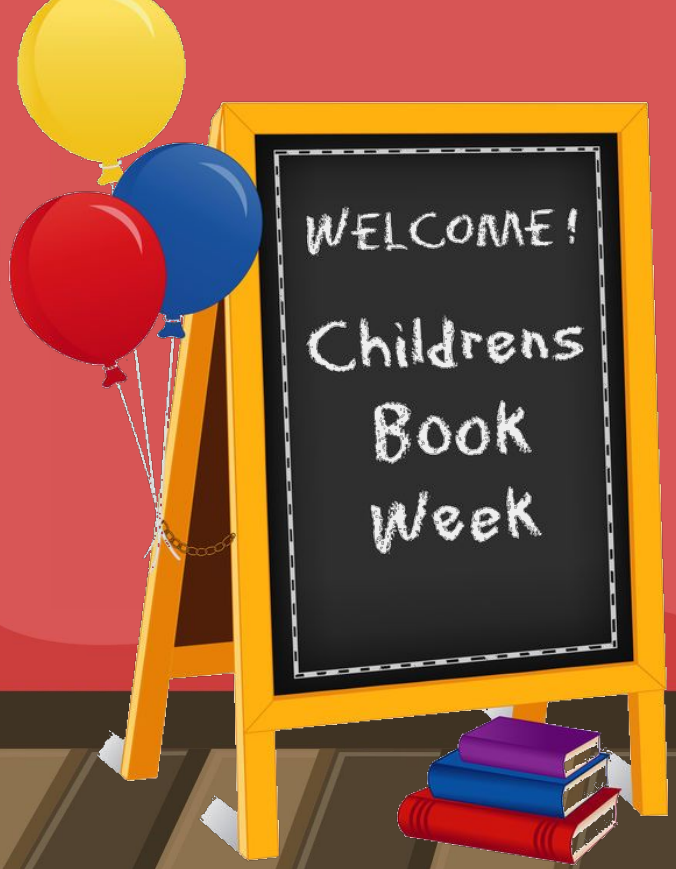
Who: Zee
What: favorite book is "Good Night Moon"
When: until Kindergarten

Who: Zee
What: favorite book is "Berenstein Bears"
When: Kindergarten until now

State time

- Phippy is recording “state time”
- It answers “when was this true, valid or in effect?”

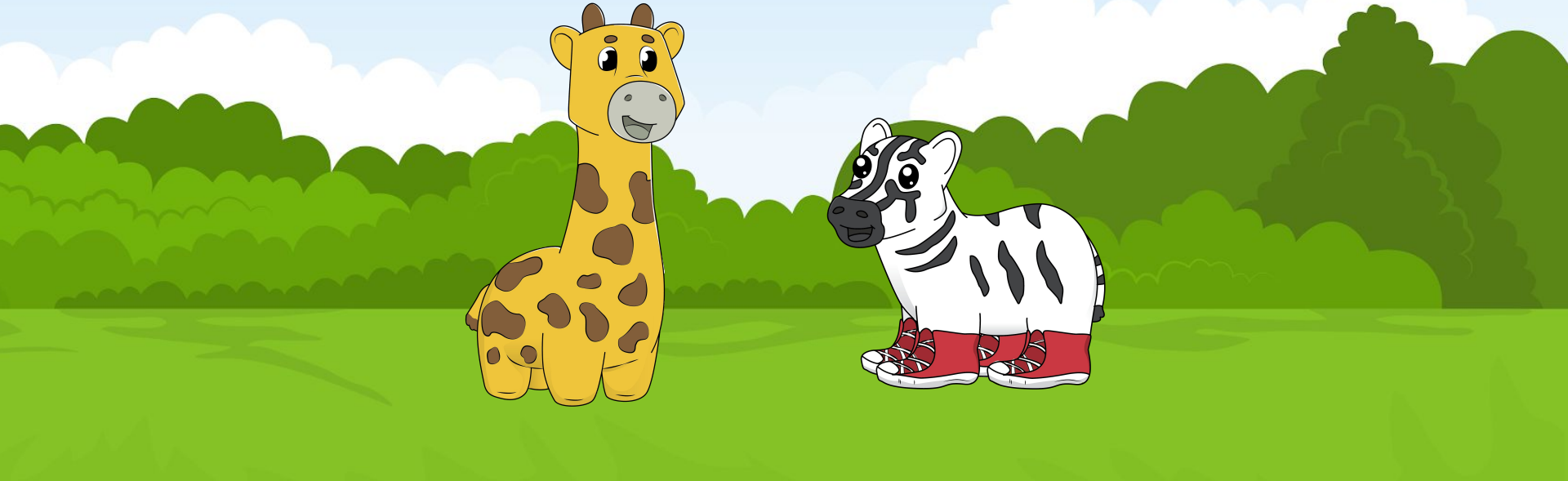
Monday



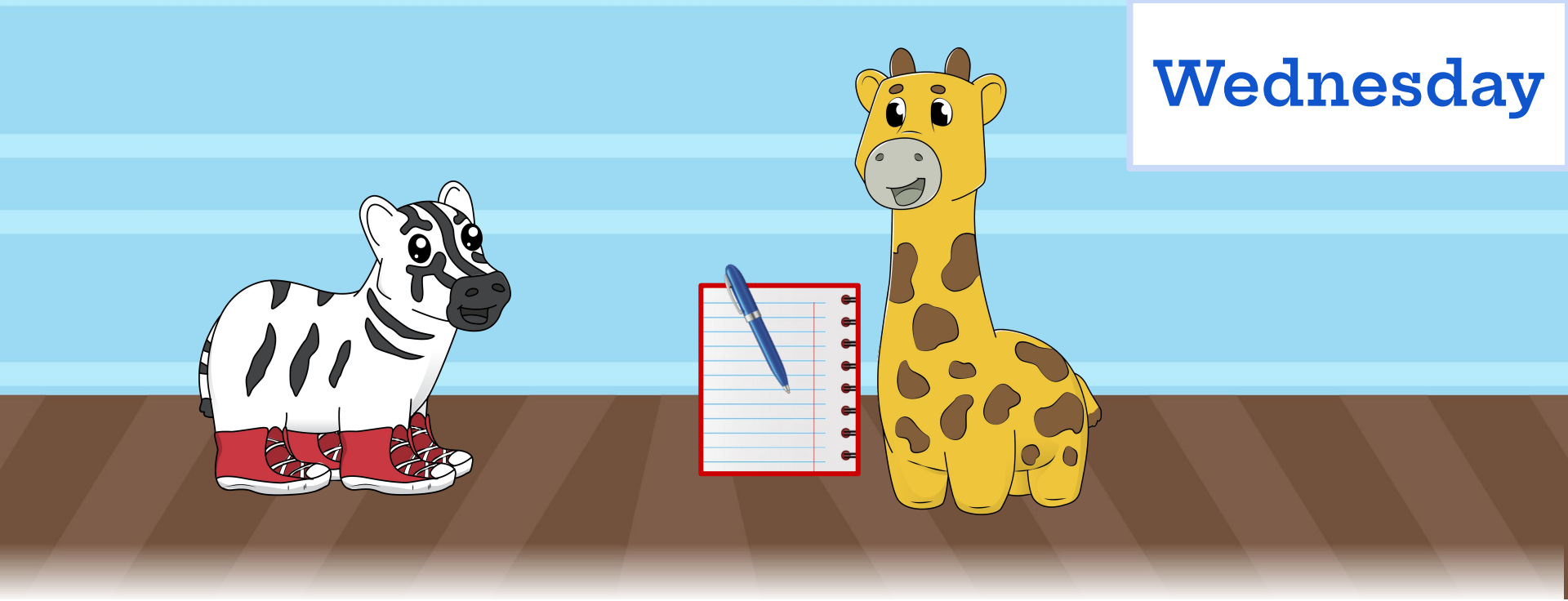
Zee starts book week and picks some books to read.

Tuesday

Zee: I read a great book yesterday, and it became my new favorite: “Encyclopedia Brown”.
Phippy: Oh, no! I forgot my journal at home. I’ll have to write this down later.

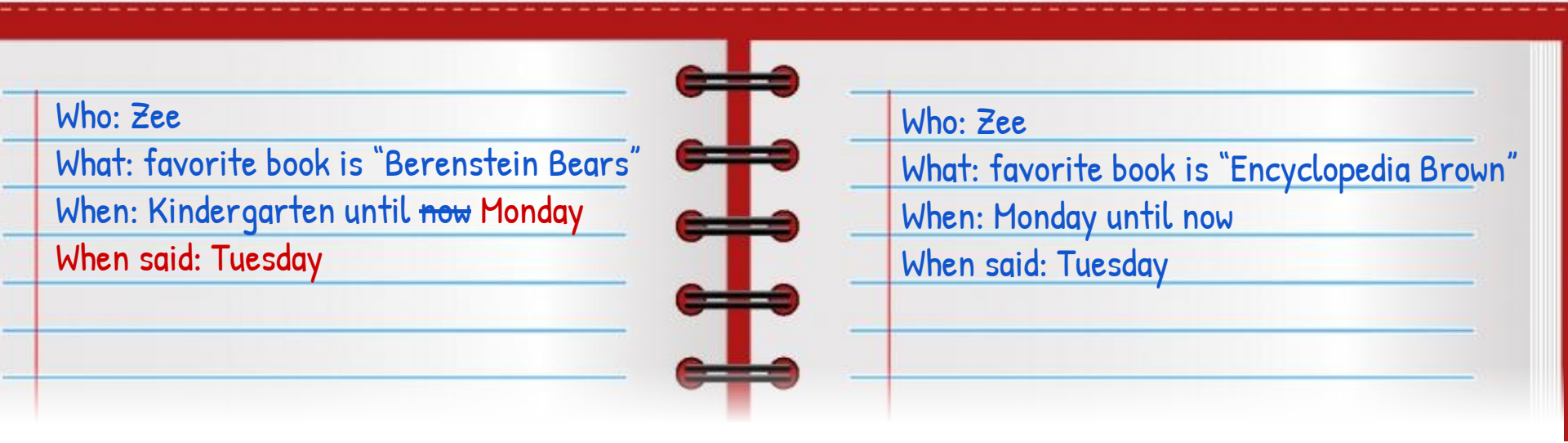


Wednesday



Phippy: I've got my journal and pen now. I'll write down what you told me yesterday. I'll also need to update the previous favorite book to give it an end date.

Wednesday



Phippy: There's two "when's" now. This must be the 2nd type of "when" that Captain Kube told me about!

Speech act time

- The “speech act time” is when Zee made the statement
- It answers “when was it stated by a person or group?”

Thursday

Zee: I was reading your journal, and I noticed that you spelled “Berenstain Bears” incorrectly.
Phippy: Thanks for letting me know! I’ll add the correct spelling and write when I make the change with a timestamp.

Thursday

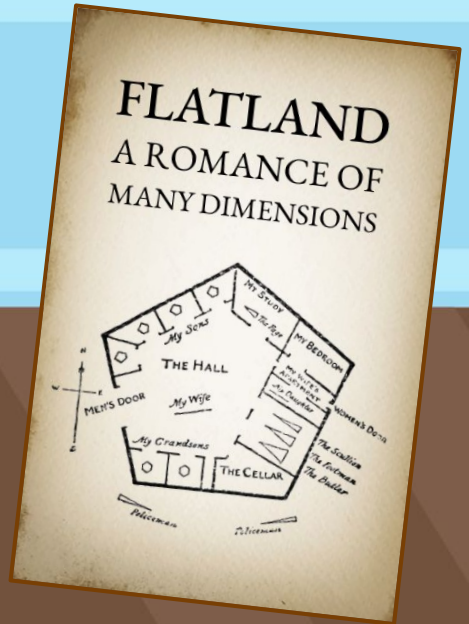
Zee: Hey, that is a 3rd "when"! Now you've found the three types of "when" that Captain Kube mentioned.
Phippy: This is complicated! My head hurts.

Inscription time

- The “inscription time” is when Phippy added it to the journal
- It answers “when was it added to the official information system?”

Friday

Zee: I read a book called “Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions” today. It reminded me of how hard it is to think about three different ways to ask about “when”.
Phippy: Mind-bending! But it was fun exploring this with you.



Saturday

Captain Kube: Phippy and Zee figured out the 3 different ways to answer “when” that I was thinking of.

Captain Kube: Can you use Phippy’s journal to answer the following questions about Zee’s favorite books?

1. What is Zee’s favorite right now?
2. What was it on Sunday (not including any updates after then)?
3. What was it on Sunday (including any corrections since then)?
4. What was it on Tuesday (not including any additions since then)?
5. What was it on Tuesday (including any additions since then)?

The End

Answer key

1. “Encyclopedia Brown”. Zee read “Flatland” most recently, but didn’t say it was a favorite.
2. “Berenstein Bears” (the misspelled version). Phippy didn’t make the correction until Thursday.
3. “Berenstain Bears” (the correctly spelled version)
4. “Berenstein Bears” since Phippy wasn’t able to write the new favorite down yet
5. “Encyclopedia Brown” since on Wednesday Phippy back-dated the journal to Monday

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