

Oral Fluency Record Sheet

Name _____ Date _____

Oral Reading Accuracy: _____%

Circle: Fall Winter Spring

Oral Reading Fluency Score: _____ words correct per minute

Prosody Rubric: (Circle Score) 1 2 3 4

Comprehension Question Responses

#1 _____

#2 _____

Saving Up

10 My class planned a trip to the aquarium. We decided
19 to raise money for everyone's admission ticket. We earned
19 the money by having a Good-to-Eat Sale at school.
30 Each morning for a week, everyone brought in
38 something that was both delicious and healthy. I brought
47 some enormous bran muffins. Miss Hansen brought in
55 granola bar cookies. Other students brought raisins, carrot
63 sticks, and banana bread.
67 We had a wide assortment of treats to sell. We set
78 up our table where the school buses and cars dropped off
89 their passengers. Each morning, we arranged the goods on
98 the table.
100 As students were dropped off, they saw the delicious
109 foods. Everyone was surprised to see what was for sale.
119 No one could pass our table without stopping.
127 The sale was a huge success. We earned enough
136 money for everyone to attend the class trip. The class
146 cannot wait to see all of the sharks and the rare fish
158 at the aquarium. 161

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Bumpy Travels

10 Last evening, Dad and I spent a couple of hours
19 reading a book about America's early pioneers. The book
27 described families traveling in covered wagons pulled by
37 horses, oxen, or mules. All of a family's possessions were
48 inside each wagon. The family had to carry food for their
journey, too.

50 I thought it would be fun to travel that way, but
61 Dad explained that back then, travel was difficult. He asked
71 how I would feel if I had to ride long distances in a wagon
85 that bumped all day long. If someone didn't want to stay
96 inside the wagon, the only other choice was to walk
106 beside it.

108 I told Dad I would have to think about that one.
119 Dad and I talked about our drive through Kansas last summer.
130 Even by car, the drive took a long time. We did not,
142 however, have to worry about feeding oxen along the way.

152 Traveling is easier and more convenient now, but I
161 still think a journey in a covered wagon would be a
172 great adventure. 174

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Basketball on Wheels

9 Basketball is a challenging sport to play. Players need
22 strength to move up and down the court and bounce the ball while
36 they are on the move. They also need to be alert for the opportunity
47 to pass. Basketball players cannot relax or let their attention stray
59 for a second. People who play basketball work as a team and
72 depend on each other for support. The same is true for people who
76 play basketball from wheelchairs.

84 The United States has many basketball teams for
93 children in wheelchairs. The children on these teams bounce
104 the ball, pass, and shoot from their wheelchairs. They learn to
116 move quickly in their chairs and keep track of the ball. They
129 must also be good at passing and shooting. They need a lot of
138 balance, energy, and upper-body strength. Just think how
148 high the basketball hoop looks when you are sitting down.

156 Wheelchair basketball is an excellent way for children
169 in wheelchairs to be on a team. These players show us we can
all be strong if we make the effort. 177

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Snakes of Many Colors

8 You might think snakes do not need protection,
19 but they do. Certain kinds of mammals, such as pigs and
28 mongooses, prey on snakes. Large birds, such as the
37 serpent eagle, think they make fine meals. Even other
47 snakes, such as the King Cobra, will hunt certain snakes.
55 Snakes often use colors to protect themselves from
64 predators. The bright colors of some snakes, like the
73 Mangrove snake, warn enemies that the snake is poisonous.
83 Other snakes only pretend to be poisonous. The bright red,
93 black, and white scales of the Pueblan milk snake, which
103 are arranged in bands, make animals think the snake is
109 poisonous even though it is not.
117 Snakes also use their colors to hide themselves
126 from predators. For example, the bright green cat snake
138 lives high in a tree in the rainforest. The snake stays coiled
150 around a branch during the day. It looks just like a vine,
160 fooling animals that might want to make it their dinner.
169 These snakes need their colorful scales to stay safe.
After all, it is a dangerous world, even for a snake. 180

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The Kitchen

10 Mama never wanted to be in the kitchen. She said
21 she had spent so much time helping her mama in the
35 kitchen that she never wanted to see a pot or pan or a cutting
45 board again. Still she managed to prepare good meals for
our family.

47 I didn't share my mother's feelings about cooking. I
56 especially loved baking. I loved the look of Grandma's old
66 mixing bowls and the smell and feel of finely sifted flour,
77 creamy butter, and cold eggs fresh from the refrigerator.

86 On the day before Mama's birthday, she decided
94 to treat herself to a new haircut. After she left, I went into
107 the kitchen and found Grandma's recipe book. In a jiffy, I
118 had flour, eggs, sugar, butter, and spices in a bowl. I mixed
130 them together, put the batter into a pan, and put the pan into
143 the oven. When Mama got home, I made her close her eyes.

155 "Happy birthday," I said, holding the biggest, best
163 birthday cake ever.

166 "My little baker," Mama said proudly. 172

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A Good Friend

8 Misha stumbled into her room and sank down
19 miserably onto her bed. She wished she could take back her
29 angry and thoughtless words. She had told her best friend
42 that she did not like her. She hadn't really meant it, but the
48 angry words had just poured out.
57 Misha knew that she was jealous of Anna's talent
66 for drawing. Anna could draw so beautifully, and Misha
77 so wanted to be an artist. Misha felt her tears dripping
87 onto her pillow, and then she felt something chilly and
98 damp touch her arm. She looked down and saw her playful
100 cat, Oliver.
107 Oliver meowed and rubbed against Misha's shoulder.
118 The tearful girl began to stroke the affectionate cat. She petted
128 him tenderly until her tears stopped. Oliver purred and rolled
138 playfully onto his back. He patted Misha's hand, and Misha
140 chuckled loudly.
150 Oliver knew how to make her forget her troubles. He
163 was a good friend. Misha wanted to be a good friend, too. She
decided to draw Anna a portrait of Oliver. 171

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Thunderhead Clouds

9 Forces that form a thunderhead cloud can build over
21 a long period of time. We do not recognize that these forces
31 are operating until a large dark cloud forms overhead. The
41 forces that create thunderhead clouds are hot and cold air.

41 Warm air rises into the clouds. The air keeps moving
51 up, spilling over the top of clouds. Water vapor, or
61 little drops of water, are in this warm air.

70 As the warm air rises, it causes the water vapor to
81 cool and form bigger drops of water and even small ice
92 crystals. The clouds rise up as more air travels upward.

102 Inside the cloud is a roller coaster of air. The air
113 goes up rapidly, then it gets very cold and falls down
124 rapidly. Heavy rain, lightning, thunder, and hail may come
133 from the thunderhead cloud. The forces of hot and cold air
144 have combined to create one of nature's most amazing
153 shows, a thunderstorm. 156

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The Polar Regions

- 10 There are two polar regions in the world: the South
Pole and the North Pole.
- 15 Antarctica lies in the South Pole. It consists of tall
25 mountains, icy glaciers, and miles and miles of frozen land.
35 Most of the land is covered by a thick layer of ice. Because
48 of the ice and the cold, very few forms of life can survive in
62 Antarctica.
- 63 The North Pole, however, can support some life. In
72 the summer, areas of the North Pole become warm enough
82 for berries and vegetables to grow. In other parts of the
93 North Pole, the ice melts, but the water cannot drain into
104 the frozen soil. Instead, the water remains on the surface.
114 Flowering plants, such as the Arctic poppy, can take root
124 and grow there. These pretty flowers bring color to this
134 white land.
- 136 The Arctic Ocean is also in the North Pole region. It
147 has thousands of islands and much of it is covered by ice all
160 year long. But even on the ice, many plants and animals
171 can live. 173

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The Pet Rock

10 Emma still has the pet rock she received for her
21 birthday five years ago. It is still one of her favorite
31 possessions. It is gray with fuzzy orange feet and a
42 lavender tail. Its eyes are outlined in blue and white crayon,
and its mouth is drawn in red crayon.

50 Rob brought the pet rock to Emma's birthday party
59 when she turned six. It was wrapped in a huge yellow box
71 with an enormous bright red bow. When Emma opened the
81 box, she found another box inside wrapped in sparkly green
91 paper. Inside that box was another box wrapped in pink
101 tissue paper. Finally, inside that box was her pet rock.

111 It was the best gift Emma got that year and the only
123 one she still has from her sixth birthday. It was special and
135 different because Rob had made it himself.

142 Emma keeps it on a shelf in her room next to the
154 trophy she won at last year's swim competition. When
163 Emma looks at the rock, she remembers Rob, her party that
174 year, and what friendship really means. It is still one of
185 her best memories. 188

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A Messy Job

8 The weekend had arrived, and more than anything,
20 Dad wanted to relax in his favorite chair on the front porch.
33 But he still had to wax and polish the car and paint the
43 garage door. Unless he found someone to assist him, Dad
52 realized it would be hours before he could relax.

62 Dad had an idea. He would walk to the hardware
73 store and pick up some paint supplies, and while he was
81 gone, Kyle, my brother, could wax the car.

93 Just as Dad left for the store, he told Kyle to use
102 some "elbow grease." Kyle was probably not paying close
110 attention to Dad. He was probably thinking about
116 something else he considered more important.

125 After Dad left, Kyle went down to the basement
134 and found a container labeled "Grease." When Dad returned,
143 there was Kyle with grease covering his elbows. Dad's
154 mouth dropped open in surprise. He laughed at the sight of
162 Kyle running his greasy elbows over the car.

171 Now when Dad gives Kyle something to do, he
chooses his words more carefully. 176

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Polar Bears

9 Polar bears live in the icy North, in regions
19 bordering the Arctic Ocean. In spite of their large size,
28 polar bears are excellent swimmers. They can swim long
38 distances through icy cold waters to hunt for fish, seals,
49 walruses, and other animals that live in the sea. They also
love to play in the water.

55 Polar bears have pads of fur on the soles of their
66 feet and five long, curved claws on each of their paws. The
78 fur keeps their feet warm while they walk on the ice, and
90 the claws help them grip the slippery ice.

98 A polar bear's fur is thick and heavy. This fur along
109 with a layer of fat helps to protect the polar bear's body
121 from the Arctic cold. The color of the fur is creamy white,
133 which helps the polar bear look like the snow and ice that
145 surrounds it. Thanks to the white fur, a polar bear can
156 creep up on a seal without being noticed.

164 Polar bears and their babies are happy in their
173 Arctic home. 175

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Sun Facts

9 The sun is important to everything on Earth. Light
21 and heat from the sun give warmth and energy to all life
on the planet.

24 But the sun is really just a star. It looks larger
35 because it is much closer to us than other stars. Compared
46 with other stars, the sun is just medium-size. But
56 compared with Earth, it is very large indeed. If the sun
67 were a hollow ball, it would take one million Earth-size
78 balls to fill it up.

83 The temperature of any place on Earth depends on
92 the position of the sun. Places near the equator are hot
103 because the sun shines almost directly overhead at noon.
112 On the other hand, places near the North Pole and the South
124 Pole are cold. This is because the sun almost never rises
135 above the horizon there.

139 Scientists know a good deal about the sun, but they
149 still have much to learn. As they learn, they hope to find
161 better ways to use the sun's power on Earth. 170

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The Wink

10 The day of the big winter concert had arrived. Rosa
15 played the violin in the school orchestra, and tonight she
20 would be giving a solo performance in front of an audience
25 for the first time.

30 Rosa was nervous all day, and she was even more
35 uncomfortable and scared when she left for the concert.
40 Rosa went backstage to wait for her turn. One after another,
45 members of the orchestra played their instruments. Kelly
50 played the trumpet, Jack played the drums, and Max played
55 the French horn. When it was time for her friend Sam to
60 play the piano, Rosa peeked out from behind the curtain
65 to watch. Sam looked confident, and his playing was
70 smooth and clear. Then Rosa saw her parents in the third
75 row. Her father caught her eye and winked.

80 Suddenly, Rosa felt very confident. She stepped onto
85 the stage, adjusted the music stand, and set her music in
90 place. Then she began to play. When the song was over, the
95 audience clapped loudly. Rosa grinned, winked at her parents,
100 and ran offstage. Rosa's stage fright was over. 101

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The Gift of Friendship

8 I never went anywhere without my favorite lucky
18 marble. It was very old, and it sparkled with incredibly
27 pretty swirls of silver, lavender, and green inside. Likewise,
37 my friend Hillary never went anywhere without one of the
47 lucky key chain animals she collects. Her favorites were the
57 camel and the octopus. Good friends know this kind of
thing about each other.

61 Hillary's birthday was approaching. I wanted to buy
69 her a new key chain animal, but I had already spent my
81 entire allowance. My friend Pam collects them, too, so I
91 traded my lucky marble for one of Pam's key chain
101 animals. It was a shiny little butterfly.

108 Hillary had been upset when I told her about my
118 marble, but just seeing the look on her face today at her
130 birthday party would make it worthwhile.

136 When Hillary saw what I gave her, she almost cried.
146 Then she told me that she had traded one of her key chain
159 animals for a marble just like the one I used to have.

171 Being good friends, Hillary and I had a good laugh
181 about our gifts. 184

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The Giant Panda

10 The giant panda is an animal with a chubby, black-
and-white body and black legs. Its head is large and round,
22 and its white face has black patches around each eye.

32 Panda cubs are extremely tiny when they are born,
41 weighing only about five ounces. As adults, however, giant
50 pandas can weigh as much as 350 pounds.

58 Giant pandas live only in places where there are
67 bamboo forests with plenty of bamboo shoots for them to eat.
78 Because of this, they are found only on high mountain
88 slopes in western and southwestern China. Giant pandas
96 can spend 16 hours a day eating. In one year, a panda can
109 eat more than 10,000 pounds of bamboo. Although the
118 giant panda eats chiefly bamboo shoots, it sometimes eats
127 other plants, fish, and small animals, too.

134 As a special gift to the people of the United States,
145 China gave two giant pandas to the National Zoo in
155 Washington, D.C., in 1972. The pandas lived there for many
165 years, eating bamboo shoots and making all of the zoo
175 visitors laugh. 177

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Fads

10 Suppose one day a girl comes to school wearing a
21 fake braid made out of yarn. The next day three girls
32 come to school with fake braids. Soon all the girls in
school are wearing the braids.

37 That is how a fad starts. A few people start doing
48 something different, and then all of a sudden everybody
57 starts to copy them.

61 In the 1950s, one popular fad for teenage girls was
71 wearing their father's big, white shirts. Another fad for
80 girls at the same time was wearing felt skirts with cutouts
91 of poodles on them. During the 1970s, people wore blue
101 jeans with fancy stitching on them as a fad. In recent
112 years boys have worn baggy pants and baseball caps
121 turned around backward.

124 Not all fads are about clothes. Some fads involve
133 sports. In the 1990s, students on college campuses kicked
142 around a small, colorful, leather ball. They called this game
152 hacky sack. Hacky sack players kept the ball off the ground
163 by using their knees and feet. Students loved playing this game
174 during their free time.

178 When people look back at certain fads they may wonder
188 why they were so popular. But when "everyone is doing it,"
199 fads are just a way for people to have some fun. 210

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One Birthday for All

7 Every family has traditions. Traditions are things
17 people do year after year. Beth King's family has many
25 traditions they celebrate, but Beth's favorite tradition is
about birthdays.

27 Because Beth has so many aunts, uncles, and
35 cousins, it is impossible to celebrate each birthday.
43 So once a year, on the third Saturday in July, Beth's
54 relatives have one big birthday celebration for everyone.
62 The adults stay at Beth's grandparents' house. The
70 children sleep in tents on the lawn.

77 Everyone brings food and every meal is a feast.
86 The cousins play soccer. Grandpa and the uncles sit
95 on the wide porch and drink homemade lemonade.
103 The aunts have a softball game. Everyone roots for their
113 favorite team.

115 Afterward, everyone eats hamburgers and fresh
121 corn. At the end, Grandma brings out a big frosted cake.

132 Every year, after the family birthday celebration,
139 Beth goes to bed and starts thinking about next year's
149 birthday party. 151

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Fruit Fun

7 Ellen's favorite pastime was making things, so
18 she was delighted when her aunt sent her a box of
28 modeling clay. The clay was soft and gooey, and Ellen
38 could press and mold it into all kinds of shapes.
45 Ellen started by creating different kinds of
51 fruits—apples, bananas, oranges, pears, plums,
58 grapefruit, peaches, and lemons. She arranged her
69 best pieces of fruit in a fancy china bowl, and when
80 her mother saw the bowl, she was amazed at how real
90 the fruit looked. That gave Ellen and her mother an
100 idea, and together they set the pretty bowl in the
106 center of the dining room table.
113 That evening when Dad came home, he
118 immediately noticed the fruit bowl.
125 "Those peaches look so ripe and delicious!"
127 Dad exclaimed.
134 Ellen started laughing and she couldn't stop.
141 "What are you laughing at?" Dad demanded.
149 Dad reached out and chose the prettiest peach.
157 Right away he realized why Ellen was laughing.
164 "You completely fooled me," he said. "This
peach certainly looks good enough to eat." 171

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Babe

8 Babe Ruth might be the most famous baseball
18 player who ever lived. His batting ability along with his
26 colorful personality brought huge crowds to his games.

26 But his road to fame was challenging and difficult.

35 Babe was born on February 6, 1895, as George Herman
45 Ruth, Jr., to a poor family in Baltimore. When Babe was
56 seven, his parents sent him to live at a school for boys.
68 Although he visited home several times over the next few
78 years, the school was his real home until he turned
88 nineteen years old.

91 The school was strict, and baseball was the only
100 game the boys were allowed to play. Luckily for Babe,
110 there was a teacher at the school who took a special liking
122 to Babe.

124 That teacher was also a wonderful baseball player.
132 He could hit a ball hard and far. The teacher worked with
144 Babe hour after hour, teaching him to hit and pitch and catch.

156 When Babe left the school, he was ready to make his
167 way in the world. And Babe's way was baseball. He became a
179 national hero. 181

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Power from the Wind

9 Every day we experience what the wind does. A
gentle wind may mess up our hair while a strong wind may
21 knock down trees.

24 Long ago, people experienced what the wind did,
32 too, and they learned how to put the wind to work.
43 Persians developed windmills about 1,500 years ago. They
51 used wind power to pump water for their crops and to grind
63 grain for bread. Before using wind power, people pumped
72 water and ground grain by hand or by animal power.

82 In time, the use of wind power spread to other parts
93 of the world. Windmills became very popular in Holland,
102 where people used them to drain water from the land and to
114 grind grain. These windmills had four long arms.

122 People all over the world still use windmills to
131 pump water and to grind grain, but now windmills are also
142 used to produce electricity. As other types of power
151 become more expensive, wind power becomes more
158 attractive and valuable.

161 People are finding new ways to use this source of
171 power that will continue as long as we have the wind. 182

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The Turtle Experiment

9 Joyce hopes to work as a scientist studying animals
all over the world. For now she practices by observing her
20 pet turtle, Marvin. Joyce keeps a record of Marvin's
29 activities, including charts to show which foods he prefers.

38 Joyce's mom suggests that Joyce do some more
46 research by talking to the owner of the local pet store.
57 Joyce thinks this is an excellent idea. When she speaks to
68 the pet store owner, he mentions that some turtles are
78 unhappy in glass cages. This information gives Joyce an
87 idea for an experiment.

91 Joyce decides to build a new home for Marvin. Her
101 mother helps her put up a fence around a clear space in the
114 backyard, and then they bring out stones and water. They
124 take Marvin from his glass cage and place him inside his
135 new home. Joyce studies Marvin to see if he prefers his
146 new home.

148 After a week of close observation, Joyce reviews
156 her records and sees that Marvin has been eating and
166 playing more than ever before! Mom and Joyce decide that
176 Marvin prefers the backyard to the glass cage.

184 "Great experiment," says Mom. 188

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Ruiz's Toy Chest

10 Ruiz is almost nine, and he has decided that he
21 has outgrown his old toys. He goes to his toy chest
30 and empties out all his old playthings. His wooden
37 helicopter, some coloring books, his stuffed giraffe,
48 his parrot puppet, and all his other old toys are spread
around him on the floor.

53 "I'll bet the little kid next door would really
62 enjoy playing with some of this stuff," Ruiz thinks to
72 himself as he looks at all of his old toys.

82 Ruiz picks up his stuffed giraffe with its black
91 nose, orange stripes, long neck, and funny feet. He
100 remembers how he used to pretend he was on the
110 grassy plains of Africa riding on his giraffe.

118 "Maybe I'll keep my giraffe after all," thinks
126 Ruiz, and he puts the giraffe back into the toy chest.

137 Ruiz peers into the toy chest. "My giraffe
145 looks really lonely in there," he thinks. "I'd better put
155 the other toys back in so that he'll have some
165 more company."

167 Ruiz collects all the other toys and puts them
176 back into the toy chest. "I think I'll keep all these old
188 friends a little bit longer," he says to himself. 197

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Oral Reading Fluency Score: _____ words correct per minute

Prosody Rubric: (Circle Score) 1 2 3 4

Comprehension Question Responses

#1 _____

#2 _____

The Largest Plants

9 Trees are the largest of all plants. They provide
20 homes for birds and other animals, and they protect us from
31 the sun and the wind. But trees are important in other
33 ways, too.

33 Wood from trees helps us build our homes and furniture.
43 Wood gives us pulp for paper which goes into making plastic.
54 Some trees produce the milky material that is used to create
65 rubber. Other trees provide substances used in medicines.

73 Trees give us many foods, too, such as grapefruits,
82 olives, chocolate, coconuts, and walnuts. In many states,
90 vast orchards make large quantities of cherries, peaches,
98 figs, plums, and apples.

102 Trees have three parts. The roots hold the tree in the
113 ground. They soak up water and vitamins needed to help
123 the tree grow. The trunk and branches carry sap and hold
134 the leaves in the sunlight. The leaves make the tree's food.
145 Leaves use the light from the sun to take a gas called
157 carbon dioxide from the air. The leaves mix this gas with
168 oxygen and water to make the food the tree needs
178 to grow. 180

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Chimps That Talk

10 Have you ever been to the zoo and watched the
17 chimpanzees? Chimpanzees are among the most playful,
26 curious, and interesting animals at the zoo. They often
34 entertain visitors by dancing around, waving their arms,
44 and making hooting noises. Often they come right up to
visitors as if they want to have a chat.

53 For many years, scientists have watched chimpanzees
60 use grunts, hoots, and howls to tell each other about things like
72 food and danger. Scientists wondered if chimpanzees could
80 talk with humans and decided to try to teach them sign
91 language. In sign language, hand and finger movements are
100 used to mean different things.

105 At first, the chimpanzees would copy the signs the
114 scientists made. For example, the scientist would make the
123 signs for "I want to eat" as the chimpanzees ate a meal and the
137 chimps would copy them. Later, the chimpanzees would make
146 the sign "I want to eat" all by themselves. After a while,
158 chimpanzees learned to make their own signs to show what
168 they wanted.

170 Would you like to have a conversation with a chimpanzee?
180 Maybe someday you will. 184

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Wolf Watchers

Benjamin was thrilled to be on vacation in Montana.
9 His parents wanted to observe timber wolves in their
18 natural environment.
20 The first day, his family woke up early and hiked
30 several miles with a guide to a wooded area. During the
41 night, they had heard a wolf's howl, so they were certain
52 there were wolves nearby. They knew that wolves were
61 becoming rare, that they avoided people, and that the best
71 time to spot a wolf was at sunrise. For a long time, they
84 saw deer and elk, but no wolves.
91 Suddenly they heard leaves crunching softly.
97 Nobody made a sound. Sure enough, it was a wolf!
107 Benjamin's family watched the large, gray wolf for ten
116 minutes before it vanished into the woods. They made
125 plaster casts out of the wolf's tracks. But Benjamin
134 wanted to do something to help the wolves survive.
143 "You can write a letter to show your support of
153 timber wolves," the guide said.
158 Benjamin wrote a letter after he finished breakfast.
166 He would remember the trip, and the wolf, for a
176 long time. 178

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Fire in the Locker Room

9 Jason was in the showers near the locker room
17 when he thought he smelled something burning. He
26 dashed into the locker room and saw flames shooting
out of several lockers.

30 Jason was unsure what to do. Other kids had
39 gotten into trouble for pulling the fire alarm, and
48 Jason didn't want any trouble. He ran outside and
57 began shouting "Fire, fire!" He was able to get the
67 attention of a teacher, but at first the teacher didn't
77 believe him. There had been a couple of false alarms
87 lately. But the teacher went into the locker room
96 and saw the fire spreading.

101 Jason, the teacher, and the track coach grabbed
109 the school fire hoses and managed to put out most of the
121 flames. But flames continued to pop up here and there,
131 and the fire department had to come to make sure the fire
143 was completely out.

146 No one knew how the fire had started, but the
156 principal thanked Jason for his quick action. Jason
164 had stopped more damage from happening to his school. 173

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Bill Peet, Writer and Artist

8 Bill Peet is a popular children's writer and
16 artist. Many of his books have animal characters
26 because he loved to draw animals. The animals act like
35 people and were often like people Bill Peet knew.
43 Before he began writing children's books, Bill Peet
52 wrote and drew illustrations for the movies. He worked
61 on famous films like *Peter Pan* and *Sleeping Beauty*.
71 Many of Bill Peet's books are very funny, but at
81 the same time they talk about serious problems. In his
92 book *Farewell to Shady Glade*, a group of animals has to
102 leave its home because people want to put up buildings
112 where they live. The animals lose their home, and the
122 reader doesn't know if they will find a new one.
130 Other books give lessons about life. The book
141 *Kermit the Hermit* is about a selfish crab. After a boy
149 rescues him, Kermit learns that it is important
151 to share.
158 Through Bill Peet's books, both children and
170 adults get to see the world through new eyes. They get to
181 laugh, but at the same time they get to learn important
lessons about life. 184

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Plants in Danger

Did you know that some plants are endangered?

8 One in eight plants on Earth is dying out, and we may
20 never see them again.

24 Scientists call a plant endangered if they expect it
33 to die off completely in the next 20 years. They hope that
45 special efforts will be made to protect the plant so that it
57 can continue to survive.

61 There are several reasons why some plants are
69 endangered. People damage the homes of many kinds
77 of plants when they build new homes or farms. When
87 they cut down trees to clear the land, they destroy the
98 places that have been the plants' homes. In some
107 places, too many sheep or other animals graze on the
117 land and eat all the plants that grew there. Sometimes
127 areas along the coast are filled in for homes and
137 businesses. The plants that grew there are destroyed.

145 A group called Green Kids has gotten together
153 to teach about endangered plants and to show that
162 kids can make a difference. Each spring, Green Kids
171 visit schools across Canada to perform funny skits
179 about the environment. The skits teach kids how to
188 help save our natural world. 193

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Tree Trouble

8 Scott overheard his mother and a neighbor outside
18 his apartment door. They were discussing the grove of oak
27 trees next to the apartment building. The city government
38 was planning to remove the trees to create space for new
apartments.

39 Scott was shocked. Surely they were not talking
47 about his favorite place! Scott loved the grove. It was shady
58 and cool in the summer, and it was the perfect spot for
70 building forts in the winter. And Scott could always go
80 there when he wanted to be alone.

87 Scott's neighbors were upset about losing the
94 grove, too, but no one knew what action to take. Scott
105 decided to hold a meeting for everyone in his apartment.
115 Almost everyone was interested and almost everyone came.
123 They discussed many ideas and finally decided to write
132 letters to the local newspaper.

137 After the newspaper printed the letters, more people
145 in the community became aware of the city's plans. Some
155 protested and wrote letters of their own.

162 Soon the city chose a new place for the apartments.
172 The grove was saved! 176

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Farmer Paul's New Scarecrow

7 Every summer Farmer Paul knew he would
16 have trouble with crows. The last time Farmer Paul
26 had put up a scarecrow, the crows had seemed to
37 realize that if it were real it would move. After a
46 while they had swooped down and pecked at the
56 straw under its shirt and pulled at the straw in
58 its hat.
66 One day, Farmer Paul noticed a man-like
76 figure made of lightweight plastic on the roof of a
86 store. The figure was filled with air, and every time
97 the wind blew, it waved its head, arms, and legs. The
103 plastic man looked very much alive.
111 Farmer Paul bought one of the plastic figures,
122 and after he planted his corn, he attached the figure to
135 a tall stick. He gave it overalls and a shirt just like the
146 kind he wore, and he covered its head with a dark
156 wig. Whenever the wind blew even a little, the plastic
158 man moved.
166 The plastic man worked, and the big, black
175 crows were fooled. Farmer Paul's crops grew tall and
184 healthy, and the crows did not bother his fields
ever again. 186

Number of words read: _____ Number of errors made: _____