



from *Sitting Bull*

by Sheila Black

First Reading

The Crow warrior on the other side could hardly believe his eyes. The Sioux coming toward him was only a boy, and he did not even have a real weapon. The Crow warrior raised his bow and fitted an arrow to it. But before he could fire—bam! [The boy called] Slow struck him on the arm with his coup stick, and the bow fell from the Crow’s hand.

The other Sioux warriors quickly fell upon him, and within minutes the Crow lay dead.

When other Crows saw how quickly their fellow brave had been killed, they fled over the hills, leaving horses and provisions behind them.

The Sioux burst into a song. It had been a good day. But the greatest honor of the battle belonged to Slow, for it was he who had taken the first coup against the enemy.

The boy was brave.

In triumph, the war party made its way back to camp. Returns-Again rode at the head of the Sioux warriors with his son beside him. He was proud and wanted everyone to know what the boy had done.

In the family tepee, he painted the boy from head to toe with the black color of victory. Then, placing him on one of his finest horses, he led him slowly around the . . . camp while everyone looked on.

“My son is brave!” Returns-Again chanted.

Words Read	Miscues
11	_____
24	_____
36	_____
49	_____
62	_____
69	_____
79	_____
84	_____
94	_____
105	_____
107	_____
121	_____
134	_____
142	_____
146	_____
158	_____
170	_____
182	_____
184	_____
197	_____
210	_____
220	_____
222	_____
228	_____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



from *Breaking Through*

by Francisco Jiménez

First Reading

What I feared most happened that same year. I was in my eighth-grade social studies class at El Camino Junior High School in Santa Maria. I was getting ready to recite the preamble to the Declaration of Independence, which our class had to memorize. I had worked hard at memorizing it and felt confident. While I waited for class to start, I sat at my desk and recited it silently one last time. . . . I was ready.

After the bell rang, Miss Ehlis, my English and social studies teacher, began to take roll. She was interrupted by a knock on the door. When she opened it, I saw the school principal and a man behind him. As soon as I saw the green uniform, I panicked. I felt like running, but my legs would not move. I trembled and could feel my heart pounding against my chest as though it too wanted to escape. My eyes blurred. Miss Ehlis and the officer walked up to me. "This is him," she said softly, placing her right hand on my shoulder.

"Are you Francisco Jiménez?" he asked firmly. His deep voice echoed in my ears.

"Yes," I responded, wiping my tears and looking down at his large, black shiny boots. At that point I wished I were someone else, someone with a different name.

Words Read	Miscues
------------	---------

13	_____
23	_____
35	_____
44	_____
55	_____
70	_____
76	_____
87	_____
100	_____
113	_____
127	_____
139	_____
151	_____
162	_____
175	_____
178	_____
188	_____
192	_____
203	_____
215	_____
221	_____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

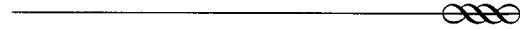
Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



from *Deadly Ants*
by Seymour Simon

First Reading



Suddenly a column of ants bursts forth. The ants lay down a scent trail as they move. Other ants begin to follow the trail the first ants have left.

The ants at the head of the column hardly seem to be brave leaders. They never move more than a few inches out in front. Even this forward march is caused by all the pushing going on behind them. After being pushed ahead, the leading ants quickly return to the sides of the column.

With the leading ants hanging back and the rear ants pushing ahead, the column finally forms a broad swarm. The swarm spreads out as it moves forward. A large raiding swarm may be sixty-five feet across and four to six feet deep.

The pressure of moving ants causes first one part of the swarm to break forward, then another. This results in a kind of encircling movement. In this way, small animals are caught and trapped by the wall of advancing ants. The ants grab any living thing which cannot manage to get away, and bring the soft pieces back to the nest.

The approach of a raiding swarm of army ants can be heard from quite a distance. There is a steady rattling and rustling of plants and leaves as the ants move along and small animals try to escape.

Words Read	Miscues
12	_____
25	_____
29	_____
42	_____
54	_____
66	_____
76	_____
83	_____
94	_____
104	_____
115	_____
125	_____
137	_____
149	_____
160	_____
172	_____
184	_____
186	_____
198	_____
210	_____
222	_____
224	_____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____

55
Nonfiction

The Money Pit

First Reading

Words Read	Miscues
------------	---------

In the summer of 1795, a teenaged Nova Scotia farm boy named Daniel McGinnis decided to do a little exploring. All his life he had heard stories about buried pirate treasure on Oak Island. In the middle of a clearing on the island, Daniel came across an ancient oak with a sawed-off limb. Directly underneath, the ground had sunk to form a saucer-shaped depression. Daniel could draw only one conclusion—pirate treasure was buried here.

11	_____
22	_____
33	_____
45	_____
55	_____
65	_____
75	_____
87	_____
98	_____
113	_____
124	_____
134	_____
145	_____
157	_____
170	_____
184	_____
197	_____
210	_____
213	_____

The next day, Daniel rowed back to the island with two friends. Dreaming of gold coins, the three boys began digging. Two feet down they hit a layer of flagstones. At 10 feet they hit a layer of oak logs. Deeper and deeper they dug, finding two more layers of logs before they finally gave up, 30 feet down.

Since that long-ago time, more than a dozen teams of explorers have dug in that mysterious hole on Oak Island. In 1803 one team hit a wooden chest at 98 feet. When they returned to unearth it the next day, the shaft was flooded. Today the hole is more than 150 feet deep. Vast sums of money have been spent on what has come to be called the Money Pit. But the mystery of Oak Island remains a mystery.

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



Louis Braille's Magic Dots

First Reading

Louis Braille was born in 1809 and lived in a small town near Paris. As a baby, Louis could see perfectly. But an accident in his father's workshop left Louis blind at three years of age.

When he was old enough, Louis entered the town school. He wasn't expected to learn much, but Louis surprised people. He was soon at the top of his class, though he could not read or write.

At age ten, Louis received a scholarship and attended a school in Paris for blind boys. Reading was part of the school program. With their fingertips, students felt raised letters stamped on paper. They read slowly, letter by letter. It was difficult for students to tell the letters apart.

Soon another system of reading was introduced at the school. The system was based on a method that soldiers had used for reading messages in the dark. Readers would read groups of raised dots rather than letters. Different groups of dots stood for different sounds.

By age 15, Louis had developed a more efficient system. Fewer dots were used, and they were grouped to represent letters, not sounds. This helped students be sure of what they were reading.

When Louis became a teacher at the school he had attended, he taught his system to his students—a system he called Braille.

Words Read	Miscues
13	_____
26	_____
36	_____
46	_____
56	_____
70	_____
72	_____
83	_____
95	_____
104	_____
115	_____
121	_____
131	_____
143	_____
153	_____
163	_____
166	_____
177	_____
188	_____
199	_____
210	_____
222	_____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



The 2,000-mile Ride

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

In 1860 the Wild West was still wild. It stretched over mile after mile of wide grassy plains, dusty desert, and high mountains.

12 _____

It took months to get from the East to California, and the trip was always dangerous. People died of sickness or from lack of water. Some were killed by American Indians, who were fighting to keep their land. The mail traveled very slowly across this land. By stagecoach, it could take two months for letters to reach California. Newspapers were always at least a month old by the time they reached the West coast.

23 _____

36 _____

47 _____

57 _____

69 _____

80 _____

91 _____

97 _____

Then some businessmen had a great idea. They would send the mail with messengers on fast horses. They would call this service the Pony Express.

107 _____

118 _____

122 _____

One hundred ninety stations, ten to fifteen miles apart, were established from Missouri to California. Five hundred horses were purchased. Eighty riders were hired. Some were no more than boys. The average age of the riders was just eighteen.

132 _____

141 _____

151 _____

161 _____

Riders carried the mail in waterproof bags. When a rider arrived at a station, a fresh horse would be waiting. The rider would jump off his horse, grab the mailbags, and jump on the new horse. He was gone again in less than two minutes.

171 _____

183 _____

195 _____

206 _____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Total Words Read _____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



Hidden in the Dark

First Reading

One afternoon four young men—armed with a knife, a small oil lamp, and a rope—made an amazing discovery. Earlier, one of the boys had noticed a deep hole in the ground next to a newly fallen tree. He asked his friends if they wanted to go exploring with him. He said they might find buried treasure. The year was 1940, and the place was southern France.

When the boys reached the hole, they cleared stones away from its entrance. Then they lowered themselves into the dark. They found that the hole was a passageway into a large cave. When they played the dim light of their lamp on the cave walls, they were amazed to see colorful paintings. The paintings showed red cows, yellow horses, and black bulls and stags racing across the walls and ceiling of the cave. The young men had indeed found a treasure, even though it was not the kind they had expected.

Excited by their discovery, they returned the next day. They searched farther into what turned out to be a series of caves. All around them were mysterious paintings. The boys couldn't keep this news to themselves. They told their families and friends. When the villagers heard about the paintings, they hurried to see the site. Soon the scientists followed.

**Words
Read** **Miscues**

11	_____
23	_____
37	_____
49	_____
61	_____
68	_____
78	_____
88	_____
100	_____
113	_____
123	_____
134	_____
147	_____
159	_____
169	_____
182	_____
191	_____
201	_____
211	_____
218	_____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



The Pride of Paris

First Reading

As it was being built more than a hundred years ago, some thought the strange tower would collapse. Others said it was ugly. It ruined the beautiful Paris skyline. Now people come from all over the world to see it—the Eiffel Tower.

In 1889 the French government was to host the world's fair in Paris. The fair was especially important to the French government. It gave France the chance to impress the world with the greatness of Paris and of their country. Now people would see how much had changed in France in the one hundred years since the French Revolution! The government commissioned a grand structure to be built. Gustave Eiffel was appointed to build what would be the tallest structure in the world, a structure that would bear his name.

Work on the tower began in 1887. Nothing like it had ever been built before. Some builders were not happy with the plans. A professor said that the tower should not be higher than 700 feet tall. Some artists and writers claimed that the tower looked like a big black chimney. They said its crude looks and large size ruined the views of Paris's churches and museums.

But work continued. And by March 1889—in time for the fair—the whole tower was finished.

Words Read	Miscues
------------	---------

12 _____

23 _____

34 _____

43 _____

55 _____

65 _____

77 _____

89 _____

101 _____

109 _____

120 _____

131 _____

133 _____

145 _____

156 _____

168 _____

179 _____

192 _____

200 _____

211 _____

217 _____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____

46
Fiction

Portrait of a Lion

First Reading

Words Read	Miscues
------------	---------

Inga and I were on assignment in Africa to write and photograph a magazine article on lions. After a long day of missed shots, we were tired and hot, and we began driving back to camp in our open car. Then Inga spotted a lioness in an acacia tree. It was asleep, stretched out on a limb perhaps 10 feet above the road.

11 _____

"I'll snap her picture as we pass underneath," Inga said.

22 _____

As we drove past, the lioness woke up and scowled down at us. "I missed the shot," said Inga. "Let's go around again." So we did, and then we tried a third time. By now the lioness was crouched, hindquarters high, front paws gathered under her chest. The black tuft on her heavy tail thumped on the bark. "She won't jump," Inga assured me as we approached a fourth time.

34 _____

48 _____

61 _____

63 _____

73 _____

84 _____

97 _____

111 _____

120 _____

133 _____

143 _____

"Don't be so sure!" I snapped. Just as we reached the tree, the lioness snarled loudly. My foot jumped spasmodically off the gas pedal, and the car stalled. Now we were directly under the angry cat! I frantically tried to restart the engine, fully expecting the lioness to pounce. Inga kept taking pictures. The lioness's heavy scent was in my nose as the car came to life.

156 _____

166 _____

178 _____

189 _____

199 _____

210 _____

"These shots will be fantastic!" Inga cried as we sped away.

221 _____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Paid attention to punctuation

Total Words Read _____

Needs Work 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent
Sounded good

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____