



Koko's Kitten

First Reading

Can a gorilla love a kitten? One 230-pound lowland gorilla named Koko did. Koko was part of a study in which gorillas were taught American Sign Language, the system of communication used by many hearing-impaired people. Koko learned and used more than 500 signs and understood another 500 signs.

Koko was fascinated by cats. "The Three Little Kittens" and "Puss in Boots" were two of her favorite stories. One day Koko signed to her trainer, Dr. Francine Patterson, that she wanted a cat. Dr. Patterson gave Koko a toy cat, but she just pouted. It was obvious that this was not what Koko had meant. When someone brought three abandoned kittens to the center where Koko lived, Koko signed, "Love that," so Dr. Patterson let her pick one for a pet. Koko's choice was a male kitten with no tail. She named him All Ball.

Koko treated her kitten as she would have treated a baby gorilla. She carried him tucked against herself or held him gently and petted him. As a child would, she even dressed her pet in napkins and hats! The huge gorilla and the tiny kitten enjoyed playing chase together, as well as Koko's favorite game, tickling.

As Koko held her pet, she often signed, "Soft good cat cat."

Words Read	Miscues
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10	_____
23	_____
31	_____
40	_____
49	_____
59	_____
71	_____
82	_____
96	_____
107	_____
117	_____
130	_____
143	_____
145	_____
156	_____
167	_____
180	_____
191	_____
201	_____
213	_____

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 **Babe Didrikson Zaharias:**

The Making of a Champion

by Russell Freedman

First Reading



During the day-long contest, the lead shifted back and forth. At the twelfth hole, Babe led by five points. But Chandler closed the gap and by the twenty-fourth hole was three up (three points ahead). Didrikson rallied and evened the score on the thirty-third hole.

Suspense mounted as the gallery followed the golfers to the thirty-fourth hole. Chandler reached the green on her third shot; the ball was within two feet of the cup, and she seemed certain to take the hole in four.

Babe's first shot, a powerful 250-yard drive, had landed in a ditch. Her second shot skidded across the green, rolled onto a roadway used by trucks, and dropped into a wheel rut holding a puddle of rainwater from the day before. The top of the ball was just visible above the water.

Babe studied her third shot carefully, then took a sand wedge and swung. With a splash of mud and water, the ball leaped out of the rut, bounced across the green, and rolled into the hole! The gallery burst into whistles, cheers, and applause. Dozens of people rushed forward to congratulate Babe, and in the excitement, she was knocked facedown into the mud.

Words Read	Miscues
10	_____
21	_____
32	_____
41	_____
45	_____
55	_____
65	_____
78	_____
84	_____
95	_____
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173	_____
183	_____
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199	_____

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 Great San Francisco Earthquake

First Reading

The evening of October 17, 1989, was warm and breezy. "Good earthquake weather," Sara Kidd thought as she left her San Francisco office. Moments later, the building began to shake. Sara watched in horror as the double-decker highway across the street collapsed onto the lower roadway, flattening cars like tin cans. All around, buildings swayed and crumpled. Roads bulged and rippled, bouncing cars around like an amusement park ride. This was no ride, though. It was the third most lethal earthquake in U.S. history.

As suddenly as it started, the shaking stopped. Sara remembered her grandfather's stories about the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. He had been awakened by a howling noise, he said. The earth rumbled, shook, and pitched. He ran into the street just before his house fell apart, reduced to kindling. Fueled by overturned stoves, scattered blazes joined together into firestorms that roared across the city. By the time the fires died out three days later, 28,188 buildings had been destroyed, and 2,500 people had died.

The city had learned its lesson from the quake of '06: Be prepared! Although the quake of '89 was costly, only about 100 people died. "I'm happy this wasn't 'The Big One,'" Sara said.

Words Read	Miscues
10	_____
20	_____
30	_____
40	_____
50	_____
59	_____
69	_____
81	_____
84	_____
93	_____
101	_____
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121	_____
133	_____
142	_____
153	_____
164	_____
170	_____
182	_____
193	_____
204	_____

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 _____

59
Nonfiction

The Eddystone Lighthouse

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

As long as people have loved adventure, they have braved the open seas. With only small, fragile boats to protect them, mariners of long ago set out to explore and to trade. And ever since mariners began traveling across oceans and lakes, they have faced danger. But if they were lucky, before trouble hit they would see the welcome beam of a lighthouse. Its light would guide them home.

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219	_____

Early lighthouses were all built on land. Even though ships often ran into trouble on offshore rocks, people thought it was impossible to build a lighthouse near a dangerous area. In 1965 a talented builder named Harry Winstanley took on the task of building an offshore lighthouse. He chose a spot where many shipwrecks had taken place—the Eddystone rocks in England.

Building the lighthouse took years. Only when the weather was good could the crew row the 14 miles to the building site. On bad days, waves would wash over the site and sometimes undo what had been done the day before. When the lighthouse finally opened, it became a tourist attraction. Winstanley’s Eddystone light operated for only five years before it was destroyed by a huge storm. A second and then a third light were built; each was destroyed. Today a fourth Eddystone light stands on the site.

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 _____

61
Nonfiction

A Silent Army of Clay

First Reading

The year was 1974. It was an ordinary day in the Chinese countryside. Farmers were hard at work digging a new well. One digger was surprised when his shovel hit a piece of hard clay. When he pulled out the clay piece, he discovered that it was the head of a statue. More digging revealed the rest of the life-sized statue of an ancient Chinese warrior dressed for battle. The farmers did not find the water they were looking for. Instead they discovered what is thought to be one of the most important finds of the 20th century.

The farmers were eager to share their find, so they reported it to local authorities. Excited scientists came to the site and started digging. They knew that the site was close to the ancient tomb of the first emperor of China. Was this statue the only one of its kind, or were there more like it? Could this statue be connected in some way to the emperor's tomb? The answers soon became clear as statue after statue was uncovered. Experts decided that the statues were part of a silent army put in place to defend the emperor after his death. Incredibly, nearly 7,500 clay soldiers dressed for battle have been uncovered.

Words Read	Miscues
12	_____
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34	_____
46	_____
59	_____
69	_____
81	_____
93	_____
98	_____
110	_____
121	_____
133	_____
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159	_____
170	_____
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194	_____
203	_____
209	_____

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

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Sounded good

Total Words Read _____

Total Errors – _____

Correct WPM _____



from "Sucker"
by Carson McCullers

First Reading

Words Read	Miscues
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Whenever I would bring any of my friends back to my room all I had to do was just glance once at Sucker and he would get up from whatever he was busy with and maybe half smile at me, and leave without saying a word. He never brought kids back there. He's twelve, four years younger than I am, and he always knew without me even telling him that I didn't want kids that age meddling with my things.

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51	_____
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75	_____
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93	_____
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119	_____
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142	_____
155	_____
169	_____
183	_____
195	_____
207	_____
209	_____

Half the time I used to forget that Sucker isn't my brother. He's my first cousin but practically ever since I remember he's been in our family. You see his folks were killed in a wreck when he was a baby. To me and my kid sisters he was like our brother.

Sucker used to always remember and believe every word I said. That's how he got his nick-name. Once a couple of years ago I told him that if he'd jump off our garage with an umbrella it would act as a parachute and he wouldn't fall hard. He did it and busted his knee. That's just one instance. And the funny thing was that no matter how many times he got fooled he would still believe me.

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

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Sounded good

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Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



from **Woodsong**
by Gary Paulsen

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

We have bear trouble. Because we feed processed meat to the dogs there is always the smell of meat over the kennel. In the summer it can be a bit high because the dogs like to “save” their food sometimes for a day or two or four—burying it to dig up later. We live on the edge of wilderness and consequently the meat smell brings any number of visitors from the woods.

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24	_____
38	_____
52	_____
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187	_____
197	_____

Skunks abound, and foxes and coyotes and wolves and weasels—all predators. We once had an eagle live over the kennel for more than a week, scavenging from the dogs, and a crazy group of ravens has pretty much taken over the puppy pen. Ravens are protected by the state and they seem to know it. When I walk toward the puppy pen with the buckets of meat it’s a toss-up to see who gets it—the pups or the birds. They have actually pecked the puppies away from the food pans until they have gone through and taken what they want.

Spring, when the bears come, is the worst. They have been in hibernation through the winter, and they are hungry beyond caution.

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

Total Words Read _____

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Sounded good

Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



from **Unconditional Surrender:**

U. S. Grant and the Civil War

by Albert Marrin

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

[Ulysses S.] Grant was liked by his [West Point] classmates, who admired his horsemanship. Even the half-wild York, demon of the stables, calmly went through his paces with Grant in the saddle. Moreover, Grant could stand up for himself. Jack Lindsay, a colonel's son and the faculty's pet, was the school bully. A big, strapping fellow, he thought it great fun to shove Grant, half his size, out of the drill line. Grant asked him to stop, but that only encouraged him. Then he shoved once too often. Grant spun around and, in a flurry of fists, knocked him down. The other cadets stood at attention, chins in, chests out, grinning from ear to ear. No one, of course, knew what had happened to poor Lindsay, and he was too ashamed to tell.

Grant's classwork left room for improvement. Although he excelled in mathematics, in other subjects he studied only enough to pass. He took no interest in military affairs. He read none of the military classics and knew little more of history's great soldiers than their names. Napoleon, for all he cared, could have been the inventor of a cream-filled pastry. The French emperor's campaigns, which others studied in minute detail, were a mystery to the tanner's son. His favorite reading was novels borrowed from the academy library.

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141	_____
151	_____
164	_____
175	_____
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Total Errors — _____

Correct WPM _____



Needles That Cure

by Henry and Melissa Billings

First Reading

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Everyone knows that feet are good for walking, running, and kicking a soccer ball. But did you know that your feet can also play a role in curing headaches, stomachaches, and toothaches? Some people say you can get rid of ailments just by having a specialist jab your foot.

It sounds crazy at first. But according to the ancient art of acupuncture, it works. A needle stuck into a specific point on the second toe is said to banish headaches. A needle between the second and third toe can get rid of a sore throat. A needle put into the outside of a foot can stimulate vision.

Acupuncture began in China more than four thousand years ago. It is based on the belief that there is a natural flow of energy inside each human being. This energy, or life force, is called *qi* (pronounced CHEE). The *qi* is said to flow along certain pathways in the body. These pathways, called meridians, are like rivers. When they flow freely, you feel strong and healthy. But if one of your meridians gets blocked, the flow of energy is disrupted. Too much *qi* builds up in one part of your body. By inserting needles in the right spots, specialists can unblock your meridians and get your *qi* flowing correctly again.

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10	_____
23	_____
32	_____
45	_____
49	_____
61	_____
72	_____
83	_____
97	_____
107	_____
116	_____
131	_____
143	_____
154	_____
164	_____
177	_____
188	_____
201	_____
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