



Operation Desert Fire

First Reading

Over the years, Red Adair and his crew put out dozens of seemingly unstoppable oil well fires. Then, in 1991, the Persian Gulf War resulted in a challenge that made all previous fires seem like child's play. Earlier, the nation of Iraq had invaded and conquered its tiny oil-rich neighbor, Kuwait. The United States and other nations responded by driving the Iraqis out of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm.

Before leaving Kuwait, however, the Iraqis ignited over 500 oil wells. These fires burned more than six million barrels of oil a day. Crude oil was going up in flames at a rate of \$1,000 a second! The black smoke was so dense it blotted out the noonday sun and fouled the atmosphere as far away as Hawaii. It seemed as if the whole nation was on fire.

It was little wonder that the task of extinguishing these fires was monumental. The job was far too big for the 75-year-old Red Adair and his company to do alone, so three other firefighting companies joined the effort. Nobody had ever seen a situation quite like this one. There was nothing but fire, smoke, and sticky pools of oil all over the place.

Words Read	Miscues
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12	_____
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22	_____
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34	_____
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193	_____
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200	_____
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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 *Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt!*

by Jean Fritz

First Reading

What did Theodore Roosevelt want to do? Everything. And all at once if possible. Plunging headlong into life, he refused to waste a single minute. Among other things, he studied birds, shot lions, roped steer, fought a war, wrote books, and discovered the source of a mystery river in South America. In addition, he became governor of New York, vice-president of the United States, then president. This was a big order for one man, but Theodore Roosevelt was not an everyday kind of man. He was so extraordinary that when people tried to describe him, they gave up on normal man-size words. "A cyclone," that's what Buffalo Bill called him. Mark Twain said he was "an earthquake." He was called "an eruption," "an express locomotive," "a buzz saw," "a dynamo."

But he did not start out this way. Indeed, he was so puny that his parents worried if he would ever grow up at all. Born in New York City on October 27, 1858, Theodore (or Teddy, as he was called) was the second of the four Roosevelt children, and he was the sickly one, the one with asthma. As a child, he spent much of his time struggling just to get his breath. Often he would have to be propped up with pillows and would sit up in bed all night.

Words Read	Miscues
10	_____
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43	_____
54	_____
63	_____
75	_____
87	_____
97	_____
108	_____
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170	_____
182	_____
196	_____
209	_____
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 Lincoln Highway

First Reading



In 1912 two pioneers in the automobile business, Carl Fisher and Henry Joy, proposed building a cross-country road. Fisher and Joy planned to get the job done by 1915. People with cars would then find it easier to drive to the San Francisco Exposition. Fisher and Joy suggested calling the road the Lincoln Highway. To promote their idea, they formed the Lincoln Highway Association.

The Lincoln Highway was a rough patchwork of existing roads. It wound through acres of cornfields and along the main streets of small towns. But people liked the idea. Businesses competed for an address on the Lincoln Highway.

By 1924 Iowans were paving their section of the Lincoln Highway. Farmers were moving more produce on the road, and more people were traveling by car. The idea grew, and more highways were developed.

In 1925 the United States government decided that named highways were too confusing. They began labeling them with numbers. The Lincoln Highway Association was disbanded in 1928, but work on the highway went on and people kept using the Lincoln name. Today, Interstate 80 follows much the same route as the old Lincoln Highway, the forerunner of our national highway system.

Words Read	Miscues
10	_____
19	_____
32	_____
44	_____
55	_____
64	_____
74	_____
85	_____
95	_____
102	_____
112	_____
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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 American Dream

First Reading

Early on the morning of April 19, 1775, Paul Revere raced past the village green in Lexington, Massachusetts. He stopped just down the street at a house where John Hancock and John Adams were hiding from the British. Within minutes the town bell rang out the alarm. Captain John Parker and his 70-man militia formed two battle lines on the green. Four and a half hours later the “shot heard round the world” shattered the morning’s stillness. “If they mean to have a war,” Parker said, “let it begin here.” The British did not want a war and did not wish to start one, but it happened. Two months passed before the American Revolution began in earnest, but the fighting in this village by a small group of armed Americans marked the beginning of a new era.

Spread across the mountains and valleys of the eastern United States are the battlefields and roads where the two great armies marched, the places they fortified, and the rivers they crossed. Each site played a role in the drama that shaped and molded a loosely knit group of colonies into a nation. Each helped form the dream that became the United States.

Words Read	Miscues
12	_____
21	_____
33	_____
44	_____
55	_____
69	_____
79	_____
92	_____
107	_____
116	_____
129	_____
137	_____
147	_____
158	_____
168	_____
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193	_____
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 _____



from "Satchel Paige"

by Bill Littlefield

First Reading

Words Read	Miscues
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The tall, skinny kid named Leroy Paige became Satchel Paige one day at the railroad station in Mobile, Alabama. He was carrying bags for the folks getting on and off the trains, earning all the nickels and dimes he could to help feed his ten brothers and sisters. Eventually it occurred to him that if he slung a pole across his narrow shoulders and hung the bags, or satchels, on the ends of the pole, he could carry for more people at once and collect more nickels and dimes. It worked, but it looked a little funny. "You look like some kind of ol' satchel tree," one of his friends told him, and the nickname stuck.

Even in those days, before he was a teenager, Satchel Paige could throw hard and accurately. Years later, Paige swore that when his mother would send him out into the yard to get a chicken for dinner, he would brain the bird with a rock. "I used to kill *flying* birds with rocks, too," he said. "Most people need shotguns to do what I did with rocks."

It was not a talent that would go unnoticed for long.

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137	_____
150	_____
163	_____
175	_____
183	_____
194	_____

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 _____

35

Nonfiction

The Florida Skunk Ape

First Reading

It was a cool February night in 1970. H. C. "Buz" Osborn and four companions were sleeping peacefully in their tents. They were all worn out after a day spent studying a Native American burial ground in southern Florida. Suddenly, at 3 A.M., a noise woke them. Looking up, they saw a strange eight-foot creature standing just outside the flap doors of their tents. It was covered with hair and, according to one of the men, "smelled awful." But the creature did not harm the men, and soon it disappeared into the dark night.

In the morning, the campers found five-toed footprints around their tent. The prints were 17½ inches long and 11 inches wide. They must have been made by the massive creature the men had seen the night before. Osborn was a no-nonsense kind of guy. An engineer and amateur archaeologist, he had never believed in the Florida legend about a Skunk Ape living in the remote regions of the Everglades. But, Osborn said, the visitor early that morning and the prints it left behind "made a believer out of me."

Osborn and his friends haven't been the only people to notice this odd creature. Since the 1920s, there have been numerous sightings of the so-called Florida Skunk Ape.

**Words
Read** **Miscues**

13 _____

22 _____

34 _____

45 _____

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67 _____

79 _____

91 _____

94 _____

103 _____

115 _____

127 _____

139 _____

149 _____

161 _____

171 _____

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204 _____

211 _____

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 Chicago Fire

First Reading

It was 1871 and Chicago was in the midst of a long dry spell. Though it was October, the air was warm and close, and little rain had fallen in weeks. On the night of October 8, many people were sitting outside their homes, trying to cool off in the gusty wind.

Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan stopped for visits at the homes of his neighbors, including Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. The O'Leary family lived on DeKoven Street on the city's southwest side. Behind their small wooden house was a barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her dairy cows.

The O'Learys had already "turned in" for the evening, and so Sullivan sat down in front of another neighbor's house. Before long, he noticed flames coming from the O'Learys' barn, and he raised the alarm, yelling "Fire!"

The O'Leary family was awakened and escaped, but the fire spread quickly. Its sparks flew in the dry wind from rooftop to rooftop. Soon a red glow lit the night sky.

The fire burned through the heart of the city and then jumped the river and continued its march north. It raged for over thirty hours, until rain began to fall.

When the fire finally died out, much of Chicago was in ruins. However, the O'Leary home still stood, almost untouched by the fire.

Words Read	Miscues
14	_____
27	_____
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52	_____
64	_____
72	_____
82	_____
93	_____
97	_____
108	_____
118	_____
129	_____
134	_____
144	_____
156	_____
165	_____
177	_____
189	_____
195	_____
206	_____
215	_____
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 _____

41

Nonfiction

A Maker of Mobiles

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

The American artist Alexander Calder became interested in making things when he was a child, and even then he often used wire in his constructions. When he went to college, he studied engineering rather than art. But he quickly realized that art was his real passion. He also loved the circus, and many of his early art works were small circus figures made with wire and a pliers.

In about 1930, Calder turned from realistic wire figures to abstract ones. He began constructing objects that had circles, squares, and other geometric shapes intersecting each other. To get the shapes to move, he used small motors or hand cranks. Then he went one step beyond these early mobiles. He got the shapes in his constructions to move by themselves.

A mobile may look simple as it shifts in the wind, but it requires careful construction to work properly. Calder used his engineering knowledge to create his first mobiles. Often these consisted of small pieces of brightly painted metal strung by wire to a thicker base wire. Calder learned how to find the precise point to connect each wire so that all the pieces would sway in harmony. In doing so, he created an art form for people all over the world to copy and enjoy.

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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 _____

51
Nonfiction

Passing the Buck

First Reading

Words Read **Miscues**

Recently, reports came into the Spokane regional Game Department office about a deer being kept as a pet. This is illegal. No facts about this report or names of persons involved could be found, but after some research the story was found to be true. When a wildlife agent went to the farm where the fawn was reportedly being held, he found that the people had moved away. The young deer was nowhere to be found.

8 _____
21 _____
33 _____
45 _____
57 _____
67 _____
76 _____

Off and on during the summer, stories circulated about a young deer that sometimes wandered into houses near Sherman Pass. The local people were pleased and excited by the young deer's presence, except when it raided their gardens.

86 _____
95 _____
106 _____
114 _____

The fawn made it through the fall and winter, showing up again in the spring. By now the deer was a yearling. It was larger and seemed to be quite tame. It followed humans around their homes and did little tricks, such as begging for food and playing with children.

125 _____
139 _____
150 _____
162 _____
164 _____

When this wild creature was taken from its natural environment by people who tried to tame it, its behavior patterns changed. It no longer behaved like a wild animal, and in many ways it did not know how to protect itself or how to survive on its own.

174 _____
187 _____
200 _____
212 _____

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 _____