



READING FOR SPEED AND FLUENCY

Sampler

SECOND EDITION

200-Word Passages
Vocabulary of 500 Words

Marcos Benevides • James Broadbridge • Joseph Siegel

Paul Nation

1

Using these books

You should follow these steps when you read the books. Your teacher can help you with this.

- Step 1:* Fill in the charts and learn the vocabulary at the beginning of each set of passages. Make sure you know these words well before you begin reading the passages.
- Step 2:* Before reading each passage, look at the time or start a timer. If you are reading in class, the teacher will tell you when to begin.
- Step 3:* Read the passage as quickly as you can while trying to understand it.
- Step 4:* As soon as you finish reading, write down how many minutes and seconds it took you to read the passage.
- Step 5:* Turn the page and answer the questions. While you are answering them, do not look back at the passage.
- Step 6:* Check your answers to the questions.
- Step 7:* Write your speed and question score in the Reading Speed Chart at the back of the book. Every passage in the book has the same number of words, so your reading time can tell you your reading speed.
- Step 8:* Look at your reading speed. You should try to read at around 250 words per minute. You may have to practice by reading many passages before you can get to this speed, but this should be your goal. When you read the next passage, try to go a little faster.

A few things to think about

These books are written to help you read faster. Your goal is not to be the fastest reader in the world, but you should learn to read at a normal, comfortable speed. For most people, this is around 250 words per minute, but some people can read faster.

Reading faster is only good if you also understand what you read. That is why there are questions after each story. If you get an answer wrong, that is not a problem. Your main goal is to read faster. However, the questions are easy so that you can read faster and get all or most of them correct.

About the authors

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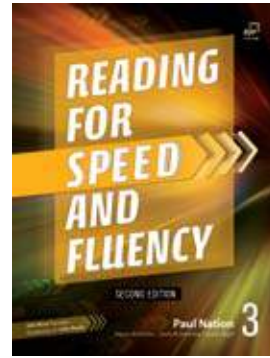
NEW FEATURES OF 2nd EDITION



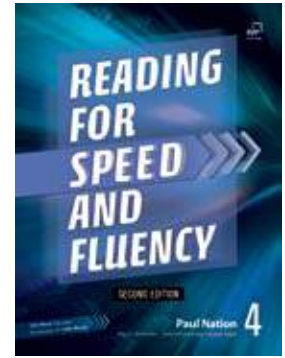
- ▶ 500 headwords
- ▶ 200 words per reading



- ▶ 700 headwords
- ▶ 250 words per reading



- ▶ 1000 headwords
- ▶ 300 words per reading



- ▶ 1400 headwords
- ▶ 350 words per reading

1st EDITION

- Books 1 & 2 had 300 words per reading
- Books 3 & 4 had 400 words per reading

- Total of 40 readings per book
- 8 chapter with 5 readings each

- Two-color page design

- Multiple-choice reading comprehension questions

2nd EDITION

- Rewritten passages with new topics
- Smoother transition in word count and number of headwords between each book

- Total of 40 readings per book
- 10 chapters with 4 readings each

- Revised with full-color page design
- Full-color visual layout on the chapter page to inspire more interest in each chapter

- A variety of reading comprehension question types that encourage students to recreate the content of each reading

DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS



DIGITAL MATERIALS



For students

For teachers

EYE-CATCHING CHAPTER OPENING

- ▶ Each chapter begins with a full-color photograph related to the chapter theme and opening questions.



- ▶ New vocabulary from the four readings are introduced at the beginning of each chapter.

READING & COMPREHENSION CHECK FOR SPEED AND FLUENCY IMPROVEMENT

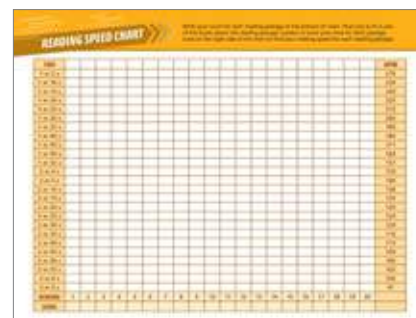
- ▶ Passages have been rewritten with carefully controlled word count and vocabulary level.



- ▶ Each reading is followed by comprehension and discussion questions to enable students' self-assessment and review of the reading content.

REINFORCEMENT AND TIMED READING

- ▶ Each chapter is completed with a summarization of the readings to reinforce understanding of the passages.



- ▶ Reading Speed Chart is provided at the back of the book to record the time spent on each reading.

CHAPTER WALKTHROUGH

Each book is composed of ten chapters with specific themes. Each chapter consists of four readings related to the chapter theme. After each reading, students can check their understanding of the content on the comprehension exercises page. The four readings are completed with a summarization page.

CHAPTER INTRO & VOCABULARY



- Full-color visual opening related to the theme creates the overall concept of the chapter.
- Three opening questions are provided to stir interest in the theme.

➤ New vocabulary for the four readings is introduced to anticipate learning.

READING 1 & COMPREHENSION CHECK

- A main-idea question is given at the beginning of each reading to focus reader's attention.
- Passages appear on the right-hand page so that students focus on reading rather than skimming or scanning for reading comprehension questions.



- Students proceed with the reading comprehension check by turning to the next page.
- Expansion questions enable further examination of the reading passage.

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1. Think about a hotel made of ice. What would it be like?
2. What is Australia famous for? Name three things.
3. Where is the Taj Mahal? Do you know anything about it?

JUKKASJARVI, SWEDEN—The door of the Ice Hotel.

09 Australia

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	unusual		not common	
	largest			The largest land animal is the elephant.
	strange		not normal	
	kangaroo	noun		
	carry			He carried all the books over to the table.
	several		a few; more than one or two	
	rock			Over time, rocks in a river become smooth.
	kind	noun		There are many kinds of birds.
	island		land with water all around	
	millions		many times 1,000,000	

10 The Bermuda Triangle

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	triangle		a shape with three sides	
	ship	noun		
	airplane			The Airbus A380 is the biggest airplane.
	missing	adjective		
	side			A square has four sides.
	dangerous		not safe	
	weather			The weather in Hawaii is always sunny.
	change	verb		
	quickly		fast	
	unusual		not common	

11 The Taj Mahal

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	building		a place with a roof and walls	
	king	noun		
	wife			A man's wife is the woman he is married to.
	million		1,000,000	
	top	noun		
	high		large from bottom to top	
	tower	noun		
	garden		a piece of land for growing plants	
	kill			I killed the bug that was flying around.
	show	verb		

12 Ice Hotel

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	ice		frozen water	
	building	noun		
	thousand		1,000	
	hotel			We stayed in a nice hotel on our vacation.
	around		all over; on every side	
	cost		having a certain price	
	build		to make out of parts	
	dinner			We usually eat dinner at 6 p.m.
	warm		not cold, but not hot	
	usually	adverb		

Australia

What is Australia famous for?



Australia is a very unusual place. It is the sixth-largest country in the world, but not many people live there. There are only two people in each km², the smallest number in all the world.

Because it is so far away from other places, Australia has many strange and unusual animals that only live

there, like the kangaroo. Kangaroos are big animals that carry their babies in the front of their bodies. There are several kinds of kangaroos. People think there are about 40 million kangaroos in Australia—that's around two for each person. Some people think there are now too many kangaroos.

Because Australia is the biggest island in the world, there is a lot of sea life as well. People come from all over the world to see the beautiful fish and the unusual sea life.

The west side of Australia is home to the world's biggest rock, Mount Augustus. It is millions of years old. Australia also has the second-biggest rock, which is even better-known—Uluru. These very big rocks look like they change colors at different times in the day—from brown in the morning to red when the sun is going down.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. The animals in Australia are special.
 - b. There are some interesting things about Australia.
 - c. Australia is a popular place with tourists.
 - d. Australia has too many kangaroos.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Many people come to Australia to see the fish. | T | F |
| 3. Only two kinds of kangaroos live in Australia. | T | F |
| 4. Uluru is the biggest rock in the world. | T | F |
| 5. Australia is a large island with few people. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 19.

Expansion Questions

1. Have you ever been to Australia? If not, would you like to visit it someday?

2. Are there any other famous things in Australia that you know about?

3. Why do you think there are some unusual animals that are only in Australia?

The Bermuda Triangle

Why do people think the Bermuda Triangle is dangerous?



The Bermuda Triangle is a real place. It is in the Atlantic Ocean to the east of Florida. There are many stories about ships and airplanes going missing inside this "Triangle of Death." For many reasons, it was known as a bad and dangerous place.

5 The three sides of the Triangle go from Florida to Bermuda, from Bermuda to Puerto Rico, and from Puerto Rico back to Florida. In the past 100 years, there have been many stories about ships and airplanes going missing there. Some ships are never seen again, and some come back years later with no people inside. People say that up to fifteen ships go missing in the Triangle every year.

10 There are many ideas about why the Bermuda Triangle is such a dangerous place. Some say that beings from another world take people from the ships. Others say that there are dangerous unknown animals under the water. Another idea is that the weather there changes very quickly, and bad weather takes the ships.

15 However, today most people think that stories about the Bermuda Triangle are not true. People like to tell each other unusual stories, and a "Triangle of Death" is a very unusual idea.

20

25



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Where to find the Bermuda Triangle.
 - b. Where the Bermuda Triangle is and why people think it is dangerous.
 - c. Strange stories about the Bermuda Triangle.
 - d. Reasons that Bermuda is a popular place to visit.

According to the reading:

2. There are stories of airplanes going missing in the Triangle. T F
3. Stories about the Triangle are from the past 100 years. T F
4. People have seen unknown sea animals in the Triangle. T F
5. Most people still believe the stories about the Triangle. T F

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 19.

Expansion Questions

1. Would you be scared to travel through the Bermuda Triangle?

2. Why do you think people started to tell strange stories about this area?

3. Are there any strange stories about areas in your country?

The Taj Mahal

What is the story behind this beautiful place?



The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. It was built by an Indian king in 1643 to remember his dead wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The building is big and is all white. It is now very well known all around the world, and about seven million people go to see the Taj Mahal every year. When people see a picture of it, they always think of India.

The Taj Mahal has a very big round top and four high towers around it. There is water and a beautiful garden in front of it. The towers at each side of the building are made so that if a tower falls down, it will fall away from the building and not break it.

There is a well-known story about the Taj Mahal. After the building was finished, the king killed all of the builders who had worked on it. This story says that the king did not want them to ever make another building as beautiful as the Taj Mahal. This story is not true, of course, but the Taj Mahal is still seen as a very beautiful building showing a king's love for his wife.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Why the Taj Mahal is famous.
 - b. Who built the Taj Mahal and what it looks like.
 - c. Where to find the Taj Mahal.
 - d. What happened to the men who built the Taj Mahal.

According to the reading:

2. The Taj Mahal was built by the wife of a dead king. **T** **F**
3. Millions of people go to see the Taj Mahal every year. **T** **F**
4. The Taj Mahal has seven high towers. **T** **F**
5. The story about the king killing the builders is not true. **T** **F**

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 19.

Expansion Questions

1. Why do you think the Taj Mahal is such a well-known building?

2. Do you think the Taj Mahal is beautiful?

3. What is a well-known building in your city or country?

Ice Hotel

Are there really hotels made of ice? 

Have you slept on a bed of ice, in a room made of ice, in a building that is also made of ice? Every year, thousands of people do that in ice hotels all around the world, and it costs them a lot of money.

5 The first ice hotel is called Icehotel. It was made in 1989 in Sweden. The idea for Icehotel came when a Swedish man went to look at things made of ice in the city of Sapporo, Japan. There, he saw many big, beautiful things that people were making out of ice. He had the idea to make an ice building.

10 Today, there are ice hotels all around the world. In Canada, one ice hotel has 85 rooms, all made of ice. Finland has two hotels, and they must be built again every year. People who go there can eat dinner on ice tables, sit on ice chairs, and sleep on beds of ice. But they have to dress very warmly.

15 Inside an ice hotel, it is usually -3 to -5° C. That is cold, but it is still warmer than outside of the hotel. Because everyone is dressed
20 warmly, it can be OK.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Building an ice hotel takes a long time.
 - b. A man in Sweden started an ice hotel.
 - c. It is not easy to stay in an ice hotel.
 - d. Ice hotels are special places to stay.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. There is only one ice hotel in Finland. | T | F |
| 3. It is warm inside an ice hotel. | T | F |
| 4. The ice hotels in Finland must be built every year. | T | F |
| 5. A man got the idea for ice hotels in Japan. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 19.

Expansion Questions

1. Would you like to stay at an ice hotel? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think people might want to stay at an ice hotel?

3. Where is the most unusual place you have ever slept?

SUMMARIZE

Summarize the key points in the readings. Complete the sentences. You can look back at the text when you do this.

09 Australia

Australia is a large country, but _____

There are many unusual animals there, like _____

There is lots of beautiful sea life, too.

Also, Australia has the two big _____

10 The Bermuda Triangle

The Bermuda Triangle is a real place.

It is between _____

There are stories about _____

People used to think _____

11 The Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal was built by _____

He built it for _____

The building is white and has _____

One story says the king killed all the builders, but this is not true.

12 Ice Hotel

There are many ice hotels around the world.

The first one _____

There are also ice hotels in _____

Inside, it is cold, but _____

Science and Technology

1. Do you know about any famous volcanoes?
2. What do you think phones were like 50 or 100 years ago?
3. Do you think you overuse your cell phone?

HAWAII—A river of orange lava flows out of a volcano.

17 Supervolcanoes

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	volcano		an opening in the earth where gases and hot rocks come out	
	explosion	noun		
	explode			The car exploded with a big noise.
	cover		to put something on top of something else	
	ash			After we burned the paper, only ash was left.
	national		relating to a country	
	serious		needing a lot of thinking and care	
	scientist	noun		
	winter			In Canada, the winter is very cold.
	lifetime		one's whole life, from birth to death	

18 Telephones, Then and Now

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	hold		to keep something in one's arms or hands	
	company	noun		
	caller		someone who calls on a phone	
	operator		someone who helps people talk to others by phone	
	connect	verb		
	whole			The whole family will like this movie.
	share	verb		
	line		a wire, as in a phone system	
	take turns			Let's take turns playing the game.
	office	noun		

19 Learning to Fly

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	airplane	noun		
	wing			All birds have wings.
	however		but; though	
	fill	verb		
	balloon		a bag filled with air and tied at the neck	
	finally		in the end	
	glider			A glider is a kind of plane.
	control			He lost control of the bike and hit the tree.
	motor		a machine that gives power to move something	
	second		1/60 of a minute	

20 Phone Overuse

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	overdo		to do something too much	
	careful			You should be careful when you use a sharp knife.
	overuse	verb		
	game	noun		
	problem		something harmful or not wanted	
	pay	verb		
	serious		needing a lot of thinking and care	
	check			Why are you checking the time so much?
	may	modal	used to express possibility	
	cut down	phrase		You should cut down on sugar or you'll get fat.

Supervolcanoes

What are supervolcanoes? Where are they?



One of the best-known volcanic explosions in history was in Italy. Mount Vesuvius exploded in the year 79 CE. It covered the city of Pompeii in very hot ash. There was so much ash that all the city was covered and forgotten for about 1,500 years. Vesuvius was a very large volcano, but it wasn't the biggest volcanic explosion. It was actually quite small.

The largest volcanoes are called supervolcanoes. Supervolcanoes can put more than 1,000 km³ of ash and rocks into the air. That is more than 1,000 times more than what covered Pompeii. The best-known supervolcano is in Yellowstone National Park in the United States. It last exploded more than 630,000 years ago, making a hole 55 km wide and 80 km long.

If a supervolcano like the one in Yellowstone exploded today, it would

be a very difficult time. Tens of thousands of people would die from the explosion, and many more people would die later. The rocks and ash that would go up into the air could make a long, dark winter which could kill the plants and animals we use for food. It would be many times more serious than Pompeii. But could it happen in our lifetime?

Some scientists think that the answer is yes—and it may happen in Italy again. Scientists think a supervolcano there could be coming to life again after 500 years. It happened in the past, and it can happen now. These scientists say that it could explode again soon. Let's hope not.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. The history of supervolcanoes started with Mount Vesuvius.
 - b. Another supervolcano might explode sometime.
 - c. There is a supervolcano in Yellowstone National Park.
 - d. There have been several supervolcanoes.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Mount Vesuvius exploded 79 years ago. | T | F |
| 3. A supervolcano in Italy might be the next one to explode. | T | F |
| 4. There are no volcanoes in Yellowstone National Park. | T | F |
| 5. The ash from a volcano can cause many problems. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 31.

Expansion Questions

1. Are there any volcanoes in or near your country?

2. Where in the world are there a lot of volcanoes? Can you name some countries?

3. Are you worried about a supervolcano erupting? Why or why not?

Telephones, Then and Now

What were telephones like long ago?



About 130 years ago, people started to use telephones in their houses. The first telephones had two parts: one was held up to hear, and the other was held near the mouth. There were no numbers on these early telephones. People talked to anyone else who had a telephone. However, they were very expensive, so not many people had one.

As more and more people got telephones, companies started to use operators to connect people. Operators connected the caller to the person they wanted to talk to. You would pick up the phone and say, "Operator, please connect me with Ms. Jane Smith on Main Street," and the operator would do it. It sometimes took a long time to connect a call.

In 1892, the first telephones with numbers were made. These telephones were cheaper and easier to use, so more people got one in their homes. By 1970, almost every house in the United States had a telephone. At this time, a whole family would share one telephone line, so they had to take turns using it. There were also telephones for people to use on the street, in stores, and in office buildings.

The first telephones in cars were used in the 1980s. They were still too big and too expensive to carry around.

Today, things have changed again. Most people have their own telephone that they carry around. You can see who you are talking to. It takes photos and connects to the internet. What's next?



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Phones have improved over time.
 - b. Early phones were not very useful.
 - c. Having telephones in cars was not a good idea.
 - d. The telephone has changed our lives in many ways.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. The first phones had two main parts. | T | F |
| 3. Operators used to sell people telephone lines. | T | F |
| 4. Telephones were in almost every US house by the 1970s. | T | F |
| 5. Phones in cars were used in the 1960s. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 31.

Expansion Questions

1. Think of some ways that the phone has made our lives better.

2. When did you get your first cell phone? What could it do?

3. What do you think phones will be like in another 20 years?

Learning to Fly

How did people fly before there were airplanes?



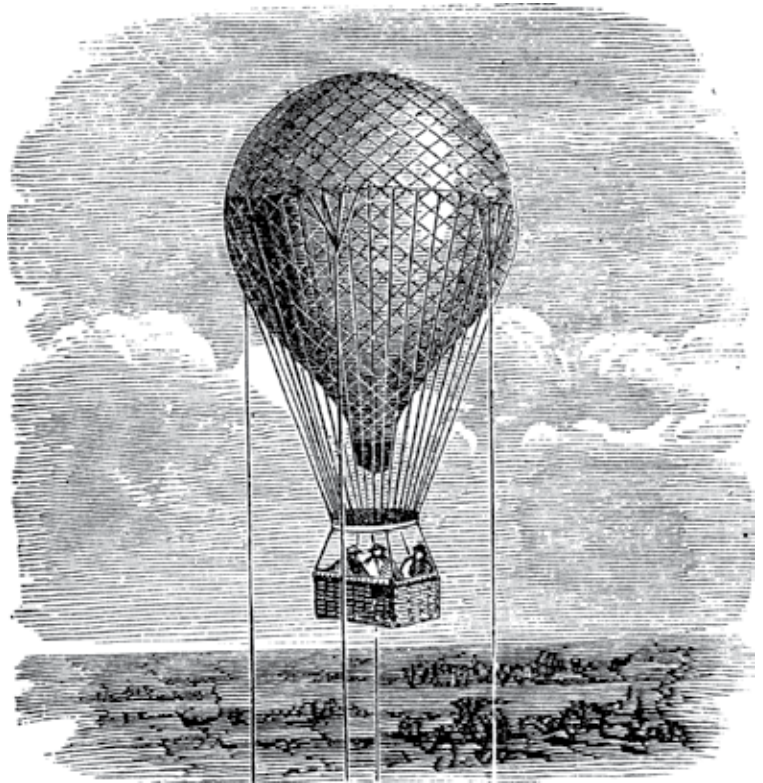
Before airplanes, people wanted to fly. At first, people tried to fly like birds. They made wings and put them on their arms. However, that did not work because birds' bodies are very different from our bodies.

The first time that a person really did fly was in 1783. Two brothers in France had an interesting idea. They knew that hot air is not as heavy as cold air. So, they made a bag out of paper and put it over a fire. The bag filled up with hot air and went up. This was the first hot-air balloon.

The brothers made larger and larger balloons. They sent up balloons with animals in them. It worked. Finally, they sent up a balloon with people in it. That was the first time that anyone could really fly. Balloons are still used today.

People tried other ideas to fly. One idea was called a glider. Gliders have wings, but a glider's wings don't move, and gliders have no power. So, the person did not have much control. In the 1800s, the first cars were being made. Soon, people had the idea to put a car motor on a glider. These were the first airplanes.

The most important thing in the history of flying happened when two American brothers flew the first powered airplane. In 1903, their airplane flew up in the air for twelve seconds. That does not sound like a long time, but those twelve seconds changed the world.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Animals were important in helping us learn to fly.
 - b. Two French brothers made the first airplane.
 - c. There were many problems with the early ways of flying.
 - d. People tried different ways to fly before the airplane.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. The first hot-air balloon was made of paper. | T | F |
| 3. At first, only animals went up in hot-air balloons | T | F |
| 4. The first gliders were not good flying machines. | T | F |
| 5. The first airplane flight was only twelve minutes long. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 31.

Expansion Questions

1. Can you think of some other flying machines not in the reading passage?

2. What kind of flying machine would you like to try? Why?

3. Would you like to learn how to fly?

Phone Overuse

Why is it a problem to use your cell phone a lot?



Most people know you should not overdo things, like drinking too much or not sleeping enough. We try to be careful not to do these things too much because they can be bad for us. However, other things are also bad for us if they are overused. Your phone is one of these things.

5 Most people use their phones every day. We use them to play games, talk to friends, learn new things, or listen to music. If you do these things only a little when you have free time, that's not a problem. However, some people can't stop. They use their phones all day, all the time—and that is bad.

10 It's not only about the time. Some people use their phones to pay to play games or to do shopping. Before they know it, they have spent all their time and money. Just like drinking too much, using a phone too much can make us lose our friends, our jobs, and even our money.

This is serious, so we should all think about how much we use our phones. Do you sleep with your phone? Do you feel bad when you don't have it with you all the time? Do you check your phone often during the day? You may be overusing your phone.

20 Do you want to cut down? Try leaving your phone at home sometimes. Or turn it off for a few hours a day. If this does not work, try asking a doctor for help.

25



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Using your phone too much is expensive.
 - b. Overusing your phone can cause problems.
 - c. You should not use a cell phone if you don't need to.
 - d. There are ways to cut down your use of your phone.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. You can waste time and money by overusing your phone. | T | F |
| 3. People can lose friends or jobs because of their phone. | T | F |
| 4. Not many people use their phones to buy things. | T | F |
| 5. If you feel bad about losing your phone, you may be overusing it. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 31.

Expansion Questions

1. What do you mostly use your phone for?

2. How much time every day do you spend using your phone?

3. Do you think you are overusing your phone?

SUMMARIZE

Summarize the key points in the readings. Complete the sentences. You can look back at the text when you do this.

17 Supervolcanoes

Mount Vesuvius exploded in 79 CE and _____

This volcanic explosion was small. Supervolcanoes can be much bigger.

If a supervolcano exploded, _____

There is one in Italy _____

18 Telephones, Then and Now

About 130 years ago, the first telephones were very simple and expensive.

Later, operators helped people _____

The first telephones with numbers _____

In the 1980s, telephones in cars were _____

Today we can carry around our phones and do many things with them.

19 Learning to Fly

First, people tried putting wings on their arms, but _____

In 1783, two brothers made _____

The next flying machines, gliders, _____

Then in 1903, _____

20 Phone Overuse

Most people know you shouldn't _____

We use our phones for many things, like _____

But if you overuse your phone, you might _____

You might be overusing your phone if you _____

If you are, you can try _____

The Universe

1. Who was the first person in outer space? Who was the first person on the Moon?
2. Would you like to live on another planet? Why or why not?
3. What do you know about the Big Bang?

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION—A view of our planet from outer space.

29 The Space Race

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	Soviet Union			The Soviet Union included Russia and many other countries.
	satellite			
	World War II			
	cold war		a war without physical fighting	
	president			
	the Moon	proper noun		
	statement			
	land	verb		
	leap		a long jump	
	mankind			

30 Moons for Living On

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	disaster			So many people died in the disaster.
	dinosaurs			
	humanity			
	planet			
	Venus		the second planet from the Sun	
	Jupiter			
	Saturn			
	Titan	proper noun		
	oxygen			
	materials			

31 Are We Aliens?

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	planet			
	alien		a living thing from another planet	
	professor			
	university			
	RNA	noun (acronym)		
	suitable			
	unlike			
	probably			I'll probably go, but I'm not 100% sure yet.
	virus			
	lifeform			

32 The Big Bang

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	deeply			
	religion			
	bang		a sudden, loud explosion	
	universe			
	packed			
	tightly			
	matter	noun		
	energy			Solar energy is used in more and more homes.
	blow up			
	bomb	noun		

The Space Race

Which country really won the space race?



After World War II, the two most powerful countries in the world were the United States and the Soviet Union. Although they had worked together during WWII, now they were not friends. In fact, they started fighting a “cold war” when WWII ended. One of the ways they fought with each other was through technology; both countries wanted to show that they were the most powerful and had the best technology.

The space race was started by the Soviet Union in 1957 when

it sent up the satellite Sputnik 1. It was the first time that humans put a satellite around the Earth. This surprised the United States. Four years later, the Soviets did it again when they sent the first person into space. That man, Yuri Gagarin, became a hero in the Soviet Union.

The United States could not believe it. They needed to do something bigger and better. President Kennedy, in 1962, promised that the United States would put a man on the Moon by 1969. It was a brave statement, and many people did not believe it was possible.

However, on July 20th, 1969, Apollo 11 safely landed on the Moon. Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon, with the well-known words, “That’s one small step for [a] man, a giant leap for mankind.” It was what the United States needed. They had won this part of the space race.

In the end, the Soviet Union never sent a person to the Moon, so the space race ended with the Americans winning. However, both countries have continued to travel into space since then. Today, many countries—and even companies—are going into space. Most people believe that a new space race has already started: who will be the first to reach Mars?



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. How and why the space race happened.
 - b. The good and bad points of having a space race.
 - c. Why the space race cost so much money.
 - d. The difficulty of landing a person on the Moon.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. The first person in space was an American. | T | F |
| 3. President Kennedy said, "That's a small step for man." | T | F |
| 4. Yuri Gagarin also went to the Moon after the Americans. | T | F |
| 5. Today there is a new space race to go back to the Moon. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 43.

Expansion Questions

1. Have you ever watched a spaceship taking off? How was it?

2. Why did people first go into space or to the Moon?

3. If you could go to the Moon, would you go? Why or why not?

Moons for Living On

Where else could we live in our solar system?



We have learned a lot about life on Earth. We know that terrible disasters often happen, and when they do, they can cause lots of deaths. We now know that such a disaster killed the dinosaurs and that there were many others.

So, some people worry about whether humans can continue to live on Earth. 5 They want humanity to be able to live on other planets. That way, if something serious happened on Earth, we would be able to live somewhere else. To do that, we would need to build homes on other planets, but where?

The Moon and the planets Mars and Venus are the nearest to Earth, but they are not very good for human life. Although we will surely visit Mars and the 10 Moon again, it may be difficult to build a place to live there. To do that, we would need a place where we can make air and water, grow food, and find different kinds of materials for making things.

Recently, scientists have discovered that some of the large moons around Jupiter and Saturn may be good places for humans to live. Saturn's moon Titan, 15 for example, has a lot of oxygen and is made of rock and ice, just like Earth. Although it is very cold (about -180°C), it also has many useful materials.

Jupiter's moons both have a lot of oxygen and water under ice. While they are far from the sun, they both have a hot center; this keeps the water inside from becoming ice and could be 20 used for power.

These moons are far from Earth, so they are not easy to reach. Even if we did get there, we cannot be sure that we could live there.

25 Still, perhaps we should try—our children may thank us for it!



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. The Earth's moon is very different from other moons.
 - b. It may be possible to live on moons around other planets.
 - c. We will soon be visiting Mars and other planets to live there.
 - d. The best place for humans to live is right here on Earth.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Mars and Venus are good places for human to live. | T | F |
| 3. Earth's moon is sometimes called Titan. | T | F |
| 4. Jupiter's and Saturn's moons have water and oxygen. | T | F |
| 5. Jupiter's and Saturn's moons are warm because of the Sun. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 43.

Expansion Questions

1. What are the most important things humans need to live?

2. If humans had to choose a new planet to live on, where should we go?

3. If you were going to a new planet, what would you take with you?

Are We Aliens?

Could life have come to Earth from outer space?



Over the past hundred years, books, movies, and games have told us stories about people from other planets. In many of these stories, the aliens come to Earth from the planet Mars. It is an interesting idea, but perhaps even more interesting is the fact that life from Mars may be real—and it may already be here on Earth!

Professor Steven Benner at Harvard University is one person who thinks this may be true. Benner has suggested that all life on Earth, including humans, could have come from Mars. He thinks life on Earth came from RNA, an important part of life. However, the young Earth was not a suitable place for RNA to grow, unlike young Mars. So, Benner suggested that maybe, billions of years ago, RNA formed on Mars and was carried to Earth on rocks.

Today we know a great deal about Mars. For example, we know that it used to have air and water and that it has many things necessary for life. We have not found life there, but if there was life on Mars, it was probably very small and very simple, like viruses. If these very small lifeforms took a ride on rocks from Mars, they could then have grown and changed here on Earth, becoming all the living things around us.

We have found many rocks from Mars on Earth. They are rocks which break off and fly into space when Mars is hit by another large body. Imagine shooting into a rock wall. Small pieces would break and fly off. They may fly far away. Some of these rocks from Mars flew all the way to Earth.

If Benner's idea is true, billions of years ago these rocks from Mars may have carried the first life to Earth.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Life on Mars may have come from Earth.
 - b. Stories about aliens coming to Earth may be true.
 - c. There are good and bad points about life on Earth.
 - d. Life on Earth may have started on Mars.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Rocks from Mars are sometimes found on Earth. | T | F |
| 3. When Mars was younger, it was full of life. | T | F |
| 4. When Earth was young, it may not have been good for life. | T | F |
| 5. Professor Benner believes that there is life on Mars now. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 43.

Expansion Questions

1. Do you think there is life on other planets?

2. What do you know about Mars? Is there water and air there? Is it hot or cold?

3. Have you watched many movies about aliens? What's your favorite alien?

The Big Bang

How did the universe start?



Where do we come from? This is a question that humans have thought about deeply for as long as we have been living. 5 Many people think that the answer can be found in religion; that is, that the Earth and all life on it were made by a god. Scientists have a different idea; 10 they believe that it all began with a bang—the Big Bang.

In the 1920s, many scientists were looking at the stars, but only two of them would shape 15 all thinking about where the universe came from. One of them was Georges Lemaitre, a Belgian. Lemaitre suggested that the universe is growing bigger and bigger and that everything is moving away from everything else.

Lemaitre said that at the beginning of the universe, everything must have been very small and packed tightly together. All matter and energy were packed 20 into a very small point, which then blew up like a great bomb. This big bang sent everything in the universe shooting away from everything else very quickly.

At the same time, in the United States, another scientist, Edwin Hubble, was also making some important discoveries. Hubble showed that, in fact, stars far away from Earth were moving away from each other at the same rate. This 25 discovery helped other scientists to look more closely at Lemaitre's ideas, and together, both men—Hubble and Lemaitre—became very well known among scientists.

The two men helped change science in the 1900s. Today, there is a lot of scientific information which supports the Big Bang. This does not mean we 30 understand it well. While we do not yet understand all of the things we need to know—for example, what caused it, or what was there before it—we do know that that the universe started with a bang.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. Why the Big Bang must be true.
 - b. What scientists don't yet know about the Big Bang.
 - c. How the Big Bang was discovered in the 1900s.
 - d. The good and bad points of our universe.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Lemaitre noticed that the universe was getting smaller. | T | F |
| 3. The Big Bang happened when a very big star blew up. | T | F |
| 4. Scientists today understand everything about the Big Bang. | T | F |
| 5. Most scientists today agree that there was a Big Bang. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 43.

Expansion Questions

1. What do you know about the origin of the universe?

2. Can you name any scientists who study space? Why are they well known?

3. If you traveled to the beginning of time, what do you think you would see?

SUMMARIZE

Summarize the key points in the readings. Include the words in the box. You can look back at the text when you do this.

29 The Space Race

Soviet Union

the Moon

cold war

Neil Armstrong

30 Moons for Living On

disasters

moons

planets

oxygen

31 Are We Aliens?

Mars

professor

RNA

lifeforms

32 The Big Bang

Lemaitre

packed

growing

Hubble

The Arts

1. Look at the picture. Do you know what these are?
2. Do you know how to fold origami? What can you make?
3. What do most famous stories of heroes have in common?

VANCOUVER, CANADA—Three totem poles are painted with the traditional colors of the Haida, a group of Native Canadians.

13 A Hero's Journey

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	power	noun		
	journey			
	in fact			I can see ghosts. In fact, there's one behind you right now.
	pattern			
	basic	adjective		
	train	verb		
	successful			
	suggest			
	partly			
	character			With so many characters in this book, it's hard to understand the story.

14 Origami

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	origami			
	fold	verb		
	pattern			
	instructions			
	corner			A square has four sides and four corners.
	directions	noun		
	triangle			
	reflect			A country's art reflects its culture.
	calm	verb		
	step	noun		

15 Totem Poles

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	totem pole			
	common			
	explain		to give details and make something clear	
	nature			
	event	noun		
	refer			
	similar		to be like something, but not exactly the same	
	therefore			It was raining. Therefore, we couldn't go to the beach.
	modern			
	quality		a characteristic of something	

16 Realism in Art

✓	Keyword	Category	Definition	Use in a sentence
	style			
	popular	adjective		
	Realism	noun		
	Realist		an artist who paints in the style of Realism	
	treat		to act a certain way towards someone or something	
	describe			He can't see, so we described the picture to him.
	event			
	ugly			
	social	adjective		
	soup			

A Hero's Journey

Why do many stories have so much in common?



Do you know the story of a young man who one day learns that he has a special power? An old teacher helps him to learn about this power and then sends the hero on a journey to save the world. At first, he doesn't want to go, but then he changes his mind. In his journey, he is helped by some unusual friends.

5 Did you think of Harry Potter? How about Luke Skywalker in *Star Wars*, or Frodo in *Lord of the Rings*? Maybe you thought about Shrek. In fact, you could be thinking of any of these stories and many more. They all follow the same basic
10 pattern.

This idea that there is one story pattern comes from a man named Joseph Campbell. Campbell said that many
15 stories are really just the same story over and over again. It starts when the hero, usually a young man, finds out about his special power.



20 Next, the hero trains to use his power with a smart, old teacher. For example, Luke Skywalker trains with Obi-wan Kenobi. This teacher often dies before the story ends. The hero is also helped by other characters; often, they are special animals. Sometimes there is a friend who doesn't seem to be completely good at first—Han Solo in *Star Wars* is an example of this. In the end, the hero saves the
25 world, an act which changes him. For example, Shrek learns to be kind to others. Usually, the hero is not successful in the early part of the story, but wins in the end.

We can see that there is a well-known pattern in these stories. However, was Campbell right to say that they are *the same* story? One way to test this idea is
30 to change characters between stories. For example, imagine changing Obi-wan Kenobi from *Star Wars* with Professor Dumbledore in *Harry Potter*. Would this change anything important in either story? Most people would agree that the basic story does not change at all. This suggests that Campbell's idea is at least partly right. Can you think of other stories like this?



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Shrek* have the same characters.
 - b. Most people like popular stories to be the same every time.
 - c. Some movies are very similar because they copied ideas from each other.
 - d. Joseph Campbell thinks many stories have a basic pattern in common.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Most Hero's Journey stories start when the hero finds a teacher. | T | F |
| 3. We can see how similar stories are by changing characters between them. | T | F |
| 4. There are animal characters who sometimes help the hero. | T | F |
| 5. The hero's old teacher often becomes bad during the story. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 55.

Expansion Questions

1. Do you agree with the ideas of Joseph Campbell? Why or why not?

2. When you were younger, what was your favorite book or movie about a hero?

3. What do you think stories about heroes can teach us?

Origami

What is origami, and why is it good for you?



Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper. To do origami, the artist starts with a square piece of paper. Some people like to use special origami paper that is two colors. The front of the paper is one color, and the back of the paper is another color. Other people like to use origami paper that has patterns on it.

5 After choosing your paper, you can find many instructions for folding the paper into different things. Many people enjoy making origami flowers, animals, or things to play with. For all of these things, there are a few kinds of folds that you need to use. For example, sometimes you need to fold the paper in half. Sometimes the paper must be folded from corner to corner.

10 If you follow the directions carefully, you can create a beautiful paper flower or animal. However, origami is more than just folding paper. First, origami reflects an important part of Japanese life. For example, nature is important in Japan. In Japan, people care about the seasons, weather, water, or other things in nature. Origami is also a part of nature. That is why the most popular origami shapes are
15 things like animals. Birds, fish, flowers, and stars are all popular shapes.

Origami is also good for your mind. It is a quiet activity that can calm the mind and body. People who do origami like the activity as much as the art. They like it because origami demands a lot of attention. When people think hard about creating something, they forget about their problems. This allows them to
20 calm down.

Origami is also good for teaching children. First, origami has many steps. Children must follow these steps exactly. This way, children can learn to follow instructions. They also learn to work carefully. Also, origami has squares and triangles. These shapes are
25 important in all kinds of learning. Origami helps children learn about these shapes.

Maybe you can try to do origami yourself. You only need some paper and a book of instructions. You can
30 find instructions for many origami shapes on the Internet.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. What origami is and why it is useful.
 - b. Why it is so difficult to fold origami.
 - c. The history of origami since the 1600s.
 - d. How to make origami birds.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Origami paper comes in different shapes. | T | F |
| 3. Many popular origami shapes come from nature. | T | F |
| 4. Origami can help people focus and relax. | T | F |
| 5. Origami can teach children how to draw flowers and birds. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 55.

Expansion Questions

1. Have you ever tried paper folding before? If so, what can you make?

2. Can you think of some other hobbies that can help people learn to focus?

3. What are your hobbies? Why do you enjoy them?

Totem Poles

What are totem poles, and what do they mean?



The art of storytelling can take many forms. Today, we usually use the written word to pass our stories on. However, it used to be more common to simply tell stories to each other. Stories were remembered because parents told them to their children, and their children in turn told their own children. This is how Native Americans passed on their stories. They used art to help their people remember the stories. Some Native American groups made totem poles.



Totem poles are made by cutting shapes into the thickest part of a tree. They are painted with different colors. These shapes are characters in the stories. These characters are often animals, but sometimes people can be used as well.

The stories explain things in nature. For example, there is one story that explains how there came to be light on earth. Sometimes, true stories or important events are put on totem poles, as well. For example, families might have their own totem pole that tells their story. In this way, totem poles can show how rich or important a family is.

You may have heard the saying, "he or she is low on the totem pole," to refer to a person who is not important within a group. Actually, this saying is not correct. The place of a shape on the pole does not show how important the person or animal is. In fact, artistically speaking, the lower shapes are more important because people can see them better. Artists who make totem poles take special care when they make the lower shapes because people will view them up close.

Totem poles are made of wood, so they do not last very long. For this reason, we do not really know what the earliest totem poles looked like. However, artwork made of bones and of stone does last a long time. We can see that more modern totem poles have a similar style to that seen in older pieces of art. Therefore, it is clear that the artistic qualities of totem poles have probably not changed very much over time.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. What the first totem poles can tell us about people.
 - b. What totem poles look like and what they are used for.
 - c. The most common designs on modern totem poles.
 - d. How totem poles are made and painted.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2. Totem poles are used to remember stories. | T | F |
| 3. Some totem poles tell the story of a family. | T | F |
| 4. The lowest shapes on a totem pole can be the most important. | T | F |
| 5. Some of the earliest totem poles found are from 10,000 years ago. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 55.

Expansion Questions

1. What are some of the most important old stories in your culture?

2. Why is it important for people to pass stories down to their children?

3. Think about an important story from your culture. What is its message?

Realism in Art

Why do some artists paint everyday scenes and not special events?



Often, one style of art will be popular among artists for a number of years, and then another style will take its place. One style which has come back again and again over hundreds of years is now known as Realism. This form of art tries to show people, animals, and things just as they are in real life.

5 Realism has been popular at many points in history, but it was in the middle of the 1800s that it became most popular. At that time, it took the place of a different style of art that had tried to show the real world in a more dream-like way.

Realists want to show what people can actually see, rather than what they can imagine in their minds. A Realist painting will look almost like a photograph. A
10 Realist story will describe real people and events as they might happen every day, not only in a beautiful or unusual way. Realism looks for beauty in common—even ugly—everyday things. A painting might show poor people working in a field. A book might describe what it is really like to live and work in a big city.

Realism started to become popular in France around 1850. One group of
15 Realist painters became well known for painting nature and country life. In the UK and the US, writers tried to teach people about the social and working situation of poor people. For
20 example, a book by the writer Upton Sinclair showed readers how badly workers in a US company were treated.

25 Like other styles of art, Realism began to become less popular as new artists came up with different ideas. By the early 1900s, it was no longer popular for artists to paint and write about real people and real things. However, realism did not
30 go away. In the 1970s, Andy Warhol, an artist from the US, painted one of the best-known realist paintings of all time. What was the subject of this expensive painting? A common can of soup.

Today, realism is still popular. For example, many filmmakers use a realist style in their films.



A Circle the right answer.

1. The main idea in this reading is:
 - a. The history of realism in art and what it is.
 - b. What realism in art looks like.
 - c. Why realism became popular in art in certain countries.
 - d. Some popular examples of realism in art.

According to the reading:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. France is where realism first started to become popular. | T | F |
| 3. Realism first became popular in art in the 1970s. | T | F |
| 4. Realism as a style can be found in many forms of art. | T | F |
| 5. A famous painting of a can of soup is an example of realism. | T | F |

B Check your answers.

Score _____/5

C Summarize the key points in the reading. Turn to page 55.

Expansion Questions

1. What are some of your favorite paintings? Describe them.

2. Why do you think some artists painted pictures of everyday life?

3. Do you think art should show us the beauty in real life? If not, what should it do?

SUMMARIZE

Summarize the key points in the readings. Include the words in the box. You can look back at the text when you do this.

13 The Hero's Journey

pattern hero teacher change

14 Origami

colors and patterns instructions mind children

15 Totem Poles

stories nature families lower

16 Realism in Art

1800s nature country life poor people

STUDENT DIGITAL MATERIAL: CLASS BOOSTER

A digital companion to *Reading for Speed and Fluency*, Class Booster provides fun, reinforcing activities for students. This easy-to-use component is accessible on mobile devices and PCs. A wide variety of activities are sure to keep the students engaged with the learning content. Packed with fun games and activities, Class Booster motivates learning outside the classroom.

HOW TO USE

► Students

Download the PC version of Class Booster from our website: compasspub.com/RSF2e or download the mobile app from Google Play and install it on your Android mobile device.

► Teachers

Sign up for a teacher's account at www.classbooster.net and share the email address with students to receive progress reports.



Word Flash



Word Match



Summary



Quiz



My Page



Games

FOR STUDENTS

- Complete additional new activities for each reading, including word flash, word match, unscramble, and quiz.
- Send activity reports to your teacher.
- Listen to MP3 recordings of each reading for additional listening practice.
- Collect points and stars by completing each activity to unlock games.

FOR TEACHERS

- Teachers can receive their student's activity report by logging in at the classbooster.net website.