

Your complete guide to...

# Cold Reading Passages

with Reading Comprehension Questions for each passage

*"What will you read about today?"*



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with Reading Comprehension Questions for each passage

## Editor's Note:

A "Cold Read"—or a "Fresh Read"—is a short passage that students have never seen before. In most cases, they are asked to read the passage and then answer a few short questions to gauge their comprehension of the what they just read. Let me stress that point: the goal is to rate the **comprehension** of the passage. "Reading" is the easy part. The real question is: *Did they get it?*

"Cold Reading" is a great exercise. It can be done quickly, easily, and it provides great feedback and yields great results. There is one catch. You have to first get your hands on a bunch of "Cold Reading" passages, along with comprehension questions to go with them. Of course, you need to make sure that the passages are the appropriate level, the questions are strong, and that the focus is clear. That's where we come in.

What you are holding in your hand is not really a book, or even a Teacher's Guide, but rather a catalogue. It allows you to choose from hundreds of "Cold Reading" passages. Each one has been included for a purpose, provided with specific "Editor's Notes," and accompanied by appropriate assessment questions. And every single one of them can be great practice for students.

This catalogue will guide you to the passages, which can be accessed via a special code at this site:

**<http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>**

Each passage that we've included has been rated for its readability (we've included approximate Lexile scores where appropriate), and we've done our best to place them into grade level bands. But this should be noted: **Readability scores are not a great way to rate a passage's readability.** These mathematical tests are a logical starting point, and can usually tell you if the vocabulary and sentence structure is fit for a certain grade level. However, there are so many other factors to consider: topic matter, writing style, pictures and images, captions, technical jargon, colloquialisms, and so on. These factors can either aid in comprehension, or make a seemingly easy passage (with a low readability score) rather difficult.

We've taken the extra step to try to correctly assign each passage based on a myriad of variables, including mathematical reading scores and the other factors mentioned above. We try to explain our reasoning through the "Editor's Notes". Shown below is a chart showing how our passages are arranged:

<u>Our Rating System</u>	<u>Grade Level Range</u>	<u>Approx. Lexile Score (for this range)</u>
<b>Starter</b>	Kindergarten - 1st grade	<i>Usually visual imagery is used rather than text</i>
<b>Very Easy</b>	Upper 1st grade - 2nd grade	200L to 500L
<b>Easy</b>	Upper 2nd grade - 3rd grade	400L to 700L
<b>Moderate</b>	Upper 3rd grade - 4th grade	600L to 900L
<b>Advanced</b>	Upper 4th grade - 5th grade	800L to 1000L

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<b>"The Angry Girl"</b>	<b>Type:</b> Fiction	<b>Focus:</b> Visual Scene	<b>Level:</b> Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)
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"The Menu"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Menu	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"Riding a Bike"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Directions	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"Free Puppies!"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Notice	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"Katy's Sandwich Shop"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Receipt	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"The Daily Routine"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Schedule	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)

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"The Great Seal"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Visual Image	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"A Thank-You Note"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Letter	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"General Admission"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Ticket	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"The Online Funhouse"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Website	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)
"The Trick Yo-Yo"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Advertisement	Level: Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)

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"The Airplane"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Adventure	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Amazing Ace"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Adventure	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Battle"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Science Fiction	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Briefcase"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Mystery	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"Finding Clues"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Detective	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"Eating"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Humor	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"The Fossil"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Adventure	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Checkup"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Dialogue	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

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"The Footprints"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Detective	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Diary"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Diary Entry	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"Gold Rush"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Western	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Group"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Stressful Task	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

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"Life"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Monologue	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

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"Mary's Story"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Detective	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Pool"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Point of View	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"Brian's Problem"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Setting	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

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"First Meeting"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Fantasy	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"Growing Up"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Philosophy	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Visitor"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Point of View	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Old Sailor"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Joke	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Witch's Plan"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Fairy Tail	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

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"A Wonderful Day"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Descriptive	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"The Can Opener"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Informative	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"Directions"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Directions	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"Lifecycle of a Frog"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Science	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"Toys"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Informative	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
"Washing Machines"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Informative	Level: Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)
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"The Burger"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Science Fiction	Level: Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)
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"The Introduction"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Science Fiction	Level: Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)
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"Heavy Conversation"	Type: Fiction	Focus: Mood / Tone	Level: Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)
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"Suprise"	Type: Fiction	Genre: Science Fiction	Level: Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)
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"April Fool's Day"	Type: Non-Fiction	Focus: Informative	Level: Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)
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<b>"Valient Little Tailor"</b>	Type: Fiction	Genre: Folk Tale	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Meet Buck"</b>	Type: Fiction	Genre: Adventure	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
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<b>"The Request"</b>	Type: Fiction	Genre: Detective	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
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<b>"The Times"</b>	Type: Fiction	Focus: Descriptive	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
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<b>"Whitewashing the Fence"</b>	Type: Fiction	Genre: Humor	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

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<b>"Teaching Agriculture"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Ancient Works"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Essay	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Collecting Artifacts"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Bathtubs"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Manual	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Benjamin Franklin"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Autobiography	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

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<b>"Book Binding"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Manual	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Breakfast"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Cookbook	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Making Candy"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Carpentry"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Word Combinations"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

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<b>"Household Spending"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Cutting Tools"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Informative	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Embroidery"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Informative	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Farm Houses"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Informative	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Feeding the Family"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Announcement	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

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<b>"Growing a Garden"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Grammar"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Speech	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Greek Plays"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Hats"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Informative	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Home Economics"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Biography	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

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<b>"Husbands"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Editorial	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Indigo Dying"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Instructions	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Irrigation"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Autobiography	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Margarine"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Advertisement	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)
<b>"Mozart"</b>	Type: Non-Fiction	Genre: Biography	Level: Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Angry Girl"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from  
[The Goop Directory](#)

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** angry536  
**Password:** ye67c

**Editor's Note:** *This is a drawing of a girl throwing a temper tantrum. Students should use clues to determine the tone of the scene, and draw appropriate conclusions.*

**Passage Name:**

**"An Upset Boy"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from  
[The National Nursery Book](#)

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** upset712  
**Password:** hg839

**Editor's Note:** *This is a drawing of an upset boy being comforted by a grown woman. Students should be able to notice the mood of the boy, and speculate as to what might have upset him.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Dance"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from  
"Old Christmas" from the  
sketchbook of Washington Irving

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** dance499  
**Password:** ns82g

**Editor's Note:** *This is a sketch of a man and a woman wearing their best clothes and dancing at a formal affair. Students should pick up on the tone and setting of the event.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Dinosaur Bones"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from  
[The New Gresham Encyclopedia \(Vol. IV\)](#)

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** dino932  
**Password:** as87p

**Editor's Note:** *This is a picture of dinosaur bones that might be found in a museum. Students need to recognize the setting of the picture, and determine why the bones are on display.*

**Passage Name:**

**"A Girl & Her Dolls"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from  
[More Russian Picture Tales](#)

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** doll529  
**Password:** ir64b

**Editor's Note:** *In this drawing, a girl is sitting in her room playing with her dolls. Students should be able to determine the setting of the picture, and the girl's mood.*



To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Dragon"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

[The Frog Prince & other stories](#)

0 Words

(Drawing)

Comprehension

Questions = 3

**Login:** dragon62

**Password:** xy624

**Editor's Note:** *This is an old-time drawing of a knight preparing to slay a dragon. Students should know that this is the sort of scene that fits a fairy tale, and they should also recognize the tone and setting of the drawing.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Family Meal"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

["Old Christmas" from the sketchbook of Washington Irving](#)

0 Words

(Drawing)

Comprehension

Questions = 3

**Login:** meal341

**Password:** jh62m

**Editor's Note:** *This is a sketch of a family sitting down to have a large meal. The reader should be able to determine the setting of the drawing and to make predictions about what is going to happen next.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The King"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

[The National Nursery Book](#)

0 Words

(Drawing)

Comprehension

Questions = 3

**Login:** king524

**Password:** ia92p

**Editor's Note:** *This drawing shows a spoiled king sitting in his royal chair as bored musicians perform for him. It's a great scene to talk about characters, setting, and tone.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Sailboat"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

[Captain Boldheart & the Latin-Grammar Master](#)

0 Words

(Drawing)

Comprehension

Questions = 3

**Login:** boat982

**Password:** ur837

**Editor's Note:** *This drawing shows a group of tired passengers on an old-time sailboat. Students must use visual clues to determine the setting of the drawing and the mood of the characters.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Circus Train"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

[Child's First Picture Book](#)

0 Words

(Drawing)

Comprehension

Questions = 3

**Login:** train743

**Password:** yt32b

**Editor's Note:** *This is a drawing of a circus train crossing the tracks. Students need to notice the design on the train cars to determine that it is carrying circus animals, as well as draw conclusions from other visual clues.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Scary Gate"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

"Old Christmas" from the sketchbook of  
Washington Irving

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** gate892

**Password:** xk473

**Editor's Note:** This drawing shows the gated entrance to what is most likely a haunted house. Students should be able to recognize the tone of the drawing, and predict what sort of story might include the scene.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Old City"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Drawing from

Shepp's Photographs of the World

0 Words  
(Photograph)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** city563

**Password:** as931

**Editor's Note:** This is a photograph of an urban area that was taken over a century ago. Students need to use visual clues to determine the setting and time period of the photograph.

**Passage Name:**

**"Children Playing"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

0 Words  
(Photograph)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** child212

**Password:** wg63m

**Editor's Note:** This is a sign that might be seen on the side of the road to caution drivers of "Children Playing." Students should be able to determine the appropriate setting for the sign, the purpose, and the intended audience.

**Passage Name:**

**"Basketball Fans"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

0 Words  
(Photograph)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** bball65

**Password:** rs992

**Editor's Note:** This is a picture of fans cheering at a basketball game. Students should be able to determine the setting of the scene, as well as information about the fans and their team.

**Passage Name:**

**"Beware of Dog"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

3 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** dog563

**Password:** kq246

**Editor's Note:** This is a "Beware of Dog" sign that might be seen in the yard of any dog owner. Students should determine the purpose of the sign, and where it would most likely be posted.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Envelope"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Letter

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

12 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** letter89

**Password:** te21c

**Editor's Note:** This is a picture of the outside of an envelope that is ready to be sent. Students should be able to draw conclusions about the contents of the envelope and its intended purpose (i.e. to be sent by the post office).

**Passage Name:**

**"The Fancy Room"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

0 Words  
(Photograph)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** room341

**Password:** ow14v

**Editor's Note:** This is a picture of an extremely fancy room that might be seen in a castle. Students should be able to describe the room, determine who might use it, and for what kind of event it would be an appropriate setting.

**Passage Name:**

**"Playground Rules"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

17 Words  
with images

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** play628

**Password:** yu53s

**Editor's Note:** This is a sign with very simple rules for playing on a playground. Students should recognize the purpose of the sign, and also use the rules to identify what is okay and what is not.

**Passage Name:**

**"You Must Be This Tall..."**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

12 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** ride943

**Password:** az32p

**Editor's Note:** This is an all-too-familiar "You must be this tall to ride this ride" sign that students are used to seeing at amusement parks. They must recognize the purpose, setting, and intended audience for this sign.

**Passage Name:**

**"No Skateboarding!"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph

0 Words  
(photograph)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** skate72

**Password:** lk21m

**Editor's Note:** This is a "No Skateboarding" sign, which is simply an outline of skateboard surrounded by a circle with a line through it. Students should identify the purpose of the sign (and similar signs), as well as its common setting.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Super Store"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Visual Scene    **Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph    20 Words    Comprehension    **Login: store542**  
with image    Questions = 3    **Password: hg32b**

**Editor's Note:** This is a sign for a grocery store that shows some of the specials for the day (such as "Peaches - \$.99 per pound). Students should identify the type of store being shown, and pull out relevant information from the text.

**Passage Name:**

**"Rebecca"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Book Cover    **Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph    5 Words    Comprehension    **Login: book98**  
with image    Questions = 3    **Password: eb51z**

**Editor's Note:** This is a picture of the book cover for a classic novel - "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." Using the title and drawing on the cover, students should predict the setting and main character of the book.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Track Meet"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Schedule    **Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Artwork    0 Words    Comprehension    **Login: track31**  
(Images)    Questions = 3    **Password: sh21k**

**Editor's Note:** This is a pictorial schedule for a track meet that shows the times different events will begin. Students need to recognize what the drawings represent (which may be a little tricky), and draw conclusions about the event.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Shoot Out"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Visual Image    **Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Photograph    10 Words    Comprehension    **Login: shoot22**  
with image    Questions = 3    **Password: cw45h**

**Editor's Note:** This is a picture of a trophy that might appear in a school's trophy case. Students need to use the inscription on the trophy and other visual clues to determine its purpose and context in which it was given.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Uniform"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Visual Image    **Level:** Starter (Kindergarten - 1st grade)

Original Drawing    0 Words    Comprehension    **Login: shirt34**  
(Drawing)    Questions = 3    **Password: eu875**

**Editor's Note:** This is a front and back view of a uniform that might be worn by a soccer team. Most students are probably familiar with sports uniform, and will have little problem using subtle clues to gather information.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Bus Stop"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

60 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** bus824

**Password:** ru21n

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a person in a rush asks the narrator for directions to the bus stop. The narrator helps him and is called a "life-saver." Students should notice the change in mood from the start to the end of the passage.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Fire!"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Visual Scene

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

0 Words  
(Drawing)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** fire798

**Password:** ye73u

**Editor's Note:** *This is an intense drawing where firefighters are rushing into a burning building. Students need to recognize the tone of the drawing and the goal of the characters, and to draw conclusions from the visual clues provided.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Meeting Face to Face"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** meet631

**Password:** bh45p

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a meeting between two characters who have spoken on the phone, but have never met face to face. Students should recognize that an "introduction" is taking place, and use clues to put the scene in context.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Assignment"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Monologue

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** teach82

**Password:** wx31n

**Editor's Note:** *This is a statement by a teacher who is giving her class its daily assignment (something that is all too familiar to students). Students should be able to determine the narrator, setting, and tone of the teacher's speech.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Two Astronauts"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Joke

**Level:** Very Easy (upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

41 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 4

**Login:** joke272

**Password:** qb57s

**Editor's Note:** *This is a very short joke about two astronauts who want to travel to the sun (they decide to go at night so it won't be too hot). Students need to know very basic information about the sun to "get" the joke, and they should also recognize the author's purpose in telling the joke (i.e. humor).*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Job Well Done"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Certificate

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

15 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** job631

**Password:** 65b3s

**Editor's Note:** This is a certificate rewarded to a 1st grade student for his achievements in the "Math Games." Students should be able to determine the purpose of the certificate, as well as the context surrounding it.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Circus"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Poster

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

20 Words  
with images

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** circus29

**Password:** s921m

**Editor's Note:** This is a poster declaring that the circus is coming to town. Students should be able to immediately recognize the purpose of the poster, as well as gather relevant information.

**Passage Name:**

**"Class Rules"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

75 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** rules72

**Password:** jw11b

**Editor's Note:** This is a simple set of rules that might be posted on the wall of any classroom (something students are familiar with). Students should recognize the purpose of the rules, as well as apply them in various scenarios.

**Passage Name:**

**"Cookout List"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** List

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

12 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** cook65

**Password:** 8sb21

**Editor's Note:** This is a grocery list that might be used to prepare for any cookout (hamburgers, mustard, and so on). Students should use the items on the list to draw appropriate conclusions about its purpose.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Coupon"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Coupon

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

12 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** coup79

**Password:** u23bw

**Editor's Note:** This is a simple coupon to get \$5.00 off of pet food. Students should recognize the purpose of the coupon, and also draw conclusions from the basic information that is provided.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Podiatrist"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Definition

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

12 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** define43

**Password:** ya53v

**Editor's Note:** This is the definition of the word "podiatrist," just like you'd see in a dictionary. Students need to recognize in which reference material this would appear, as well as what information is provided.

**Passage Name:**

**"Words of Wisdom"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Advice

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** advice73

**Password:** 76xw2

**Editor's Note:** This passage is just a few short sentences about how good things come to those who try their best. Students should recognize this as sound advice, as well as identify the narrator's purpose in giving it.

**Passage Name:**

**"A Birthday Party"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Invitation

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

25 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** party92

**Password:** 6rh28

**Editor's Note:** This is a typical birthday invitation that a child might receive. Students should recognize what it is, and pull the basic information from the invitation.

**Passage Name:**

**"Life Vest"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Images

0 Words  
(Images)

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** vest791

**Password:** 2dns9

**Editor's Note:** This is a set of pictorial directions for putting on a life vest. Students should identify the purpose of the images, and be able to identify with the basic steps.

**Passage Name:**

**"Meal Survey"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Survey

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Image

60 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** survey83

**Password:** h3b2b

**Editor's Note:** This is a survey card that might be seen on the table of a casual restaurant. Students should recognize the purpose of the survey, as well as the appropriate responses to various questions it may ask.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Menu"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Menu

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Image

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** menu924

**Password:** c298s

**Editor's Note:** This is a Kid's Menu that you might see at any family restaurant. Aside from recognizing it as a menu, students should be able to identify the various combinations of food that are being offered.

**Passage Name:**

**"Riding a Bike"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** bike457

**Password:** k6m2o

**Editor's Note:** This is a very simple set of directions for how to ride a bike (only four steps). Students should recognize the purpose of the passage, and also identify what is being shown with each step.

**Passage Name:**

**"Free Puppies!"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Notice

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

16 Words  
with picture

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** pups658

**Password:** s43m3

**Editor's Note:** This is a notice for "Free Puppies" that you might see posted around the neighborhood. Students should identify the author's purpose, and pull out basic information from the flyer.

**Passage Name:**

**"Katy's Sandwich Shop"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Receipt

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

12 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** katy955

**Password:** 2dg76

**Editor's Note:** This is a very simple receipt that you might get at a casual diner. It might be tricky for students who aren't familiar with receipts, but they can use clues to determine the intended purpose.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Daily Routine"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Schedule

**Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

35 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** daily84

**Password:** ab329

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a farmer's daily schedule, listed by the hour (the very short version). Based on the context, students should be able to draw conclusions about the author and his daily routine.



To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Great Seal"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Visual Image    **Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Created by the  
United States Government

15 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** seal672  
**Password:** 3kbn2

**Editor's Note:** *This is the Great Seal of the United States, which is one of our nation's most recognizable symbols. Students should understand the intended purpose of the Seal, and the concept of "symbolism".*

**Passage Name:**

**"A Thank-You Note"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Letter    **Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

35 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** thanks38  
**Password:** yh8gg

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is an informal thank-you note from one friend to another expressing gratitude for a baby gift she was given. Students should recognize the purpose of the note, as well as the tone of the author.*

**Passage Name:**

**"General Admission"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Ticket    **Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Photograph

15 Words  
with image

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** ticket54  
**Password:** 24mo7

**Editor's Note:** *This is a picture of a typical ticket that you might use to gain admission into a concert. Students should recognize what is being shown, its purpose, and gather some very basic information that is on the ticket.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Online Funhouse"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Website    **Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

20 Words  
with images

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** fun985  
**Password:** iw53b

**Editor's Note:** *This is a very basic website called "The Online Funhouse." Students should be able to recognize that it is a website (the "buttons" are clues), and to determine what information it provides.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Trick Yo-Yo"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Advertisement    **Level:** Very Easy (Upper 1st - 2nd grade)

Original Passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

15 Words  
with images

Comprehension  
Questions = 3

**Login:** yoyo74  
**Password:** 62nc8

**Editor's Note:** *This is a simple advertisement for a "Trick Yo-Yo." It's important for students to identify the purpose of advertisements and the techniques they use to get you take a certain action.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Airplane"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

98 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** plane93  
**Password:** gs422

**Editor's Note:** A very quick passage about a "James Bond"-type character in a high-pressure situation. A great scene to demonstrate the "climax" of a story, and at under 600L it's an easy read for most 3rd grade students.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Amazing Ace"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

270 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** ace872  
**Password:** a2nba

**Editor's Note:** A short adventure featuring a superhero and his secret identity. This passage works great to discuss characters (using the context, students have to figure out that the two main characters are a superhero and his alter-ego). At under 600L, it's an easy read for most 3rd grade students.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Battle"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

143 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** battle71  
**Password:** o8pnt

**Editor's Note:** An easy introduction into Science Fiction. The characters are being chased in a spaceship, and the comprehension questions focus on genre, setting, and tone of the passage. The vocabulary and sentence structure are very simple (about 500L), so the only challenge will be the unique setting.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Briefcase"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Mystery

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

237 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** case253  
**Password:** iy28g

**Editor's Note:** The passage (actually, it's two passages), features the same event from two different narrators. At around 400L, there are no surprises with word choice or sentence structure. However, it's interesting take on point-of-view will definitely provide a few challenges. It's a great opportunity to talk about POV, perspective, and tone.

**Passage Name:**

**"An Exchange"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Humor

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

77 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** exchange79  
**Password:** pw9nm

**Editor's Note:** Very snappy and funny dialogue between two unidentified characters. The readability is very low level (1st grade, if not lower), but it takes a more advanced reader to keep up with the fast pace of the conversation and to interpret the humor. It's a great passage to review dialogue.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Finding Clues"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

121 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** clues58  
**Password:** thg42

**Editor's Note:** A great passage where a confident detective walks into a crime scene. There is a great tone to the passage and the characters. The rating is under 500L, so it's suitable for a capable 2nd grader. The comprehension questions that focus on placing the scene in the context of a larger story can be more difficult.

**Passage Name:**

**"Eating"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Humor

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

114 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** eat912  
**Password:** ce25v

**Editor's Note:** A silly passage that makes great use of the onomatopoeia as a figure of speech. It features a boy who doesn't have the world's best table manners. The passage rates below 600L, so it's fit for an average 3rd grader if he or she can grasp the frequent use of onomatopoeias. It's good practice for this type of figurative language.

**Passage Name:**

**"Fluffy"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Disagreement

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

155 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** fluffy55  
**Password:** nh2g8

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, two neighbors argue over "Fluffy" (it is up to the reader to determine that Fluffy is a cat). The vocabulary is easy (lower than 500L rating), so the real challenge is grasping the tone of the argument. The comprehension questions focus on style, mood, and figurative language.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Fossil"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

87 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** fossil73  
**Password:** 63m23

**Editor's Note:** This passage is the climax of what promises to be a very exciting story. The main character reflects on what she's been through to get to her shining moment with an archaeological find. The rating is about 550L--a good fit for most 3rd graders. The questions focus on the character, and placing the scene in the context of a larger story.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Checkup"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

166 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** check35  
**Password:** re72v

**Editor's Note:** This passage is great to see if students can pick out the setting, and it should be a softball for any 3rd grader (rating is around 500L). Comprehension questions also focus on figurative language and author's word choice.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Footprints"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Excerpt from Arthur Conan Doyle's  
*The Hound of the Baskervilles*

208 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** foot729

**Password:** ak2n4

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a snappy dialogue where Sherlock Holmes and his colleagues discuss a set of footprints found on a crime scene. With a rating of 600L, most 3rd graders can handle it. However, they must use their own clues to determine the setting of the story and predict possible plotlines.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Diary"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Diary Entry

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

86 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** diary92

**Password:** bwk65

**Editor's Note:** *This is a very short diary entry from someone who is secretly writing a book. The length of the passage (two quick paragraphs) and the low readability (around 500L) make it an easy choice to discuss Point-of-View and mood, with a little figurative language thrown into the mix.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Gametime"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Action (sports)

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

177 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** game83

**Password:** h37sx

**Editor's Note:** *This features a great sports scene where the narrator hits the game winning shot. The sentences are short and the vocabulary is simple (rating is below 500L), so it's an easy passage to review setting, rising action, and climax. There are also questions about the narrator's perspective.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Gold Rush"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Western

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

202 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** gold24

**Password:** cm3e2

**Editor's Note:** *This passage takes place in the Old West, and it features an old man making a few last minute purchases before he heads to the hills to search for gold. It's great practice for reviewing dialogue, determining setting, and discussing "what happens next." The passage rates well below 500L, so not too many readability challenges.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Group"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Stressful Task

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

112 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** group96

**Password:** ui6ip

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a photographer tries to organize a large group of people for a picture. There are no challenges with readability (under 300L rating), but the tricky part is determining the setting and the goal of the narrator. This is a great passage to stress how "reading" and "comprehending" are two different things.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Hose"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Short-term Goal

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

133 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** hose825  
**Password:** t3gn7

**Editor's Note:** *On a scorching day, the narrator forces himself across the yard just so he can pour a hose over his head. This passage works well for determining the goal and mood of a narrator. There are also some great questions on figurative language. With a rating of around 500L, most 3rd graders can handle the vocabulary and grammar.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Johnny and Susan"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

207 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** john627  
**Password:** bq1g4

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, two old friends have a surprise reunion at an airport. It is a good opportunity to practice dialogue and setting. The vocabulary and grammar are simple (around 500L), so the focus here is on the characters and the setting.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Juggler"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Stressful Task

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

236 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** juggle49  
**Password:** hu5ed

**Editor's Note:** *This passage features a juggler going for the world record (13 beanbags at once), and the result is a tense action scene. The vocabulary is simple, but the events happen so fast that the reader needs to concentrate (although the rating is only around 300L). It's great practice for using contextual clues to draw conclusions.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Knight"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Inner Monologue

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

112 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** knight91  
**Password:** xm482

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a man is putting the finishing touches on his painting of a knight. It's not too difficult to read (less than 600L), but the narrator never comes out and says what he is doing. The reader must use contextual clues to place the scene in a broader context.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Life"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Monologue

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

113 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** life884  
**Password:** 58k3j

**Editor's Note:** *This passage features an old man's monologue in which he gives sound advice to an unknown "young man." There are no challenges as far as vocabulary and sentence structure, so the trick is for students to figure out who the speaker is, and what he is trying to say. There are also questions on figurative language.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Where am I?"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Inner Monologue

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

177 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** lost912  
**Password:** po6bg

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, the narrator wanders around aimlessly in the woods as if he has been lost for days (of course, it turns out it's only been a couple of hours). At a rating of around 300L, an average 2nd grader can handle the reading. What might be harder is navigating through the inner monologue to determine the setting and the conflict.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Mary's Story"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Detective

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

99 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** mary573  
**Password:** 7yhng

**Editor's Note:** *This takes place at the end of what was obviously an elaborate detective mystery. The passage is very short and simple (less than 500L), so it's an easy one to focus on genre, setting, and tone (with some figurative language thrown in).*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Pool"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Point of View

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

187 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** pool488  
**Password:** f26d9

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is easy enough to read (rating is under 400L) for a 3rd grader, but there is one major challenge -- the narrator is a diving board! This might throw an inexperienced reader for a loop, but it's a great chance to talk about Point-of-View, and also about an author's "creative license."*

**Passage Name:**

**"A Rainy Day"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Poetic Devices

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

135 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** rain643  
**Password:** iy74j

**Editor's Note:** *This passage combines a narrative with poetic devices. The main character sings a song to himself about the beautiful day. Then it suddenly starts to rain, so the narrator has to change his lyrics, but he is able to keep his great mood. This is a great chance to talk about tone and mood, as well as figurative language.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Brian's Problem"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Setting

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

205 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** brian85  
**Password:** 63t4u

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a boy visits a doctor's office with a stomach ache caused by an extra-cheese pizza with anchovies. The trick of the passage is that it never mentions the actual setting, so students must use contextual clues. It rates a little over 500L (i.e. most 3rd graders can handle the reading), so it's good practice with setting and context.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"First Meeting"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Excerpt from J.M. Barrie's  
Peter Pan

173 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** first91

**Password:** hnr56

**Editor's Note:** This passage introduces the legendary Peter Pan to the world. It is an awkwardly amusing conversation between Peter and Wendy, who will soon embark on a great adventure. The passage is a great study of dialogue, and at under 400L it's an easy read.

**Passage Name:**

**"Growing Up"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Philosophy

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Excerpt from J.M. Barrie's  
Peter Pan

108 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** grow823

**Password:** we42d

**Editor's Note:** This is a very short--but very powerful--passage that are the first lines of Peter Pan. It features the main character Wendy reflecting on the moment she realized that she would grow up, and it's filled with the emotions that loss of innocence bring. The reading is very easy, but it takes a more advanced reader to really grasp the concept.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Visitor"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Point of View

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

186 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** visit67

**Password:** zc8x9

**Editor's Note:** The challenge for this passage is not vocabulary, grammar, or sentence structure (rating is about 400L), but rather the Point of View. It is told through the eyes of a dog who gets excited when the doorbell rings. This same POV was famously used in the classic novel, Call of the Wild.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Old Sailor"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Joke

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

132 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** sail539

**Password:** mj3or

**Editor's Note:** This is a joke about an old sailor with bad luck. It appears to be a typical passage, until students are hit with the "punch line" at the end. Students need to be able to recognize that it is a joke, and they should also understand the author's purpose. To get the joke, they will need to follow the events of the passage.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Witch's Plan"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fairy Tail

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

175 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** witch24

**Password:** jq451

**Editor's Note:** This passage features the opening lines from a stereotypical fairy tale. Students must be able to make logical conclusions about the setting, characters, and the plotline. There are also questions on figurative language.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"A Wonderful Day"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Descriptive

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

104 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** day926  
**Password:** ye3hn

**Editor's Note:** *This is a descriptive passage where the narrator describes a perfect day at the beach. The reading isn't too difficult (about 700L), and the figurative language is abundant (as it often is in descriptive passages). Great review for tone, as well as similes, personification, word choice, etc.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Can Opener"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

191 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** can813  
**Password:** 48r3m

**Editor's Note:** *This passage gives a brief history of the can-opener. It rates under 700L, but the reading can be a little tricky (and the subject matter probably isn't too exciting). However, these informative passages are great practice because that's what students will be reading for the bulk of their academic careers.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Directions"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Directions

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

103 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** direct72  
**Password:** u2bg5

**Editor's Note:** *Here is a set of written directions to guide a driver to some tennis courts on a college campus. It's very easy to read, but the students must be able to follow them (this is sometimes difficult even for adults!). This is also good to review purpose, writing style, and even setting.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Lifecycle of a Frog"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Science

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

152 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** frog53  
**Password:** nb67g

**Editor's Note:** *A very easy read (less than 600L) detailing the lifecycle of a frog. The readability is fit for any 3rd grader, and there is a diagram that can be used to give further hints (a very important skill, especially when reading textbooks and other academic materials).*

**Passage Name:**

**"Hollywood Pets"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

110 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** pets91  
**Password:** 5brs2

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is about two of Hollywood's most famous canines -- Lassie and Rin-Tin-Tin. There are a few reading challenges (it rates over 700L, which will be challenging for a 3rd grader), but the fun topic will actually help students comprehend the material (comprehension levels are directly proportional to student interest).*



To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Friendly Letter"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Friendly Letter    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

109 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** friend74  
**Password:** qba93

**Editor's Note:** *This is a friendly letter written from one friend to another during summer vacation. Students must recognize that it is a friendly letter (as opposed to business), and draw conclusions about the author based on hints given in the text. It's a very straightforward introduction to friendly letters.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Friendly Letter Template"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Friendly    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

35 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** temp63  
**Password:** he2m4

**Editor's Note:** *This is not a passage, but rather a template showing the correct format for a friendly letter. The questions are designed to make sure that students know the purpose of the template, as well as how to use it. Very good practice when introducing friendly letters.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Pizza"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

126 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** pizza41  
**Password:** up6b6

**Editor's Note:** *This passage details the rise of the "pizzeria," starting in Europe and coming to America. It's short, but not too easy of a read for a 3rd grader. The trick is for students to be able to sort through just a couple of paragraphs to pick out a wide range of facts, dates, and other useful information. The conversational style makes it easier.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Fried Chicken"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Recipe    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

119 Words

**Login:** chick829  
**Password:** 4j5mf

**Editor's Note:** *This passage gives a recipe for preparing fried chicken. It's easy to read, but students need to be able to follow steps and make simple predictions about what is being prepared. It's also a nice break from the typical "reading comprehension passage."*

**Passage Name:**

**"Memorial Day"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Info Graphic    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Created by the  
United States Government

150 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** memorial42  
**Password:** h32bv

**Editor's Note:** *This is an "infographic" that provides a timeline on the history of Memorial Day. It's easy to follow, so long as students don't get distracted by the aesthetics. The comprehension questions focus on pulling out relevant information from the graphic that describe the holiday, and they can be a bit tricky (for a 3rd grader).*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Liberty Bonds"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Notice (poster)    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Created by the  
United States Government

20 Words + Picture

Comprehension  
Questions = 4

**Login:** liberty91  
**Password:** n27ma

**Editor's Note:** *This is a poster created during World War I (1918) that is trying to get people to buy "Liberty Bonds." There are a few slogans on the poster, along with a symbolic image of a valiant soldier who represents the United States. Students should be able to use these clues to determine the purpose and intended audience of the poster.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Rules"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** List of Rules    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

85 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** rules43  
**Password:** j3nbb

**Editor's Note:** *This is just a long list of rules that students are used to seeing posted in every classroom they walk into. The importance of comprehending this is very clear! It's also good practice for students to break down a long list that they would usually just glance over, but instead read every item line by line.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Soap"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

140 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** soap291  
**Password:** v4gh5

**Editor's Note:** *This passage gives a very brief history of soap. It's important for students to sort through a "dry" subject and still stay focused to pull-out necessary information. At around 700L, it will be a bit of a challenge for some 3rd graders, but it is short and to the point.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Children of Sparta"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

110 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** sparta56  
**Password:** 37bg2

**Editor's Note:** *This passage tells about the children of Sparta, who at a very young age were trained to be soldiers. The trick for students is to hold their concentration so that they can retain all of the important facts, dates, and relevant information. This passage is just a few paragraphs (and rates under 700L), so it's a very reasonable task.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Stamps"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

110 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** stamp24  
**Password:** gj2nc

**Editor's Note:** *This is an enthusiastic passage about the history of stamp collecting. It's full of information, but it's also easy to see the author's tone and views towards the hobby. The sentence structure and vocabulary are a bit challenging for 3rd grade, but it is short and to the point, so most students shouldn't have a problem.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Toys"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

142 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** toys794  
**Password:** v8x64

**Editor's Note:** This passage is about the toy industry, and how it has changed from simple toys to incredibly advanced ones with moving parts and sound effects. The readability of the passage is over 700L, so it's not too easy for a 3rd grader... but the conversational style and interesting topic will help with comprehension.

**Passage Name:**

**"Washing Machines"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

148 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** wash852  
**Password:** 7tt29

**Editor's Note:** This passage is about the history of washing machines. It's not an exciting topic, but students need to be comfortable with passages that aren't "exciting." In reality, it's more interesting than they might first expect, which is often the case when exploring a new topic.

**Passage Name:**

**"Index"**

**Type:** Reference    **Focus:** Index    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

141 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** index36  
**Password:** dj3hw

**Editor's Note:** This is a typical index that a student would find in the back of a book. It is a simple, straightforward version (i.e. no sub-topics), and the questions deal with identifying what is being shown and its purpose, as well as using the index to find basic information.

**Passage Name:**

**"Table of Contents (simple)"**

**Type:** Reference    **Focus:** Table of Contents    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

90 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** toc472  
**Password:** asb28

**Editor's Note:** This is a very simple Table of Contents that students will see at the start of most chapter books--in this case, the book is an autobiography. Students need to be able to recognize that the page is a TOC, and to pull basic information from it.

**Passage Name:**

**"Title Page"**

**Type:** Reference    **Focus:** Title Page    **Level:** Easy (upper 2nd - 3rd grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

50 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** title65  
**Password:** pqc39

**Editor's Note:** This is a simple Title Page that appears on the first page of every book. In this case, it's a novel about a young boy in the years after the Civil War. Students can pick up key information about the book from the Title Page, and they should all be familiar with the standard layout of the page.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Burger"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

292 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** burger83  
**Password:** 53bvf

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a humorous scene that fits into the Science Fiction genre (a space alien goes into a diner to order a burger). The passage rates about 700L (easy for most 4th graders), but there might be a few challenges with one of the main characters being an alien. It's good practice for genre, characters, and setting.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Confrontation"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Disagreement

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Charlotte Bronte's  
Jane Eyre

205 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** confront98  
**Password:** 6j2km

**Editor's Note:** *This passage features a vicious argument between a young girl and her aunt. The tone of the dialogue is immediately clear, and the author's word choice helps portray a very clear emotion to the reader (and that emotion is intense anger). With a rating that's just over 700L, this is a good fit for most 4th graders.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Introduction"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from H.G. Wells's  
The Time Machine

190 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** intro75  
**Password:** u2bga

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, the narrator travels into the future in a self-built time machine. He is disappointed to see that the people in the future are actually quite childish and ignorant. The reader must be able to recognize the science fiction genre, as well as the tone. With a rating close to 900L, it can be a tricky for 4th graders.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Cheshire Cat"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Lewis Carroll's  
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

335 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** cat923  
**Password:** iw4bv

**Editor's Note:** *This passage introduces one of the most well-known (non-human) characters in all of literature--the Cheshire Cat. It features a great bit of dialogue between Alice and the Cat, in which the Cheshire Cat declares that he can't tell Alice where to go unless she knows where she wants to get to. A challenging (over 600L), but great read.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Countryside"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Arthur Conan Doyle's  
The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

341 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** country48  
**Password:** hh3bv

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, Sherlock Holmes has a very cynical view of the countryside. He thinks that people living in rural areas have little reason to restrain themselves from committing vicious acts. It's a bit dark, but it's a challenging read and many of the questions focus on identifying the perceptions of the characters.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Fisherman's Wife"**    **Type:** Fiction    **Genre:** Fairy Tale    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from

Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm

473 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** fish242

**Password:** bw35v

**Editor's Note:** *This is the beginning of a fairy tale that obviously has a moral (which is "don't be ungrateful"). Students need to draw conclusions about what comes next for the characters, and what they will learn. The readability rates at 800L, so most 4th graders should be able to handle it.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Suffering"**    **Type:** Fiction    **Focus:** Inner Monologue    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from P.G. Wodehouse's

My Man Jeeves

228 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** suffer75

**Password:** 82bgp

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, the narrator reflects how pain and suffering can make you stronger. It's clear he's lived a privileged life up to that point, and he is just starting to appreciate what the "rest of us" go through. It's a short passage, but the stream of consciousness is so "flowing" that the reader has to keep up with that old-fashioned slang.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Power of Observation"**    **Type:** Fiction    **Genre:** Detective    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Arthur Conan Doyle's

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

246 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** power63

**Password:** uwb32

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a classic scene where Sherlock Holmes astounds his sidekick, Watson, by drawing huge conclusions with little evidence. The conversation is casual (around 700L), but the characters do have that old-fashioned style that won't be easy to follow at first.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Heavy Conversation"**    **Type:** Fiction    **Focus:** Mood / Tone    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Joseph Conrad's

Heart of Darkness

282 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** heavy89

**Password:** 73vg4

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a girl learns about the death of a friend and talks about her grief. The dialogue between the narrator and the girl is heavy and highlights the mood. The rating is around 500L (easy for a 3rd grader), but the figurative language, intense dialogue, and the author's style do make it a bit more challenging.*

**Passage Name:**

**"A Real Man"**    **Type:** Fiction    **Focus:** Monologue    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Mark Twain's

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

338 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** man528

**Password:** jeb22

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is an intense and passionate monologue from a man accusing the members of a faceless mob of being a bunch of cowards. The tone of the passage is clear, along with great figurative language and word choice (which you would expect from Mark Twain). Rated at around 800L, it's fit for most 4th graders.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Caught in the Act"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Characters

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Mark Twain's  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

329 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** caught37  
**Password:** 4tt8u

**Editor's Note:** This passage introduces Tom Sawyer to the world, and it's main focus is to show the reader what kind of boy he is (i.e. a bit of a lighthearted troublemaker). It is a great exchange between Tom and his aunt, and it is up to the reader to see what that exchange says about the characters. At around 650L, it's fit for most 4th graders.

**Passage Name:**

**"Education"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Alexandre Dumas's  
The Count of Monte Cristo

244 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** edu819  
**Password:** dcw24

**Editor's Note:** This is an excerpt from a great adventure story. The novel itself is a very tough read, but this passage is pretty straightforward (rating is around 750L, which most 4th graders can handle). There are "big words," so using contextual clues is a must. It's a great dialogue that discusses the difference between "knowing" & "understanding."

**Passage Name:**

**"Forgiveness"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Mood / Tone

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Oscar Wilde's  
The Picture of Dorian Gray

297 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** forgive48  
**Password:** 9e3bb

**Editor's Note:** This is a final scene from a famous novel. The heavy mood of the narrator is the highlight of the passage, and the author uses great imagery and figurative language. At just under 900L, it can be a challenge for 4th graders, but most won't have too much of a problem (and it is so well written, it's worth the effort).

**Passage Name:**

**"The Policeman"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Jules Verne's  
Around the World in Eighty Days

201 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** police25  
**Password:** u2b4g

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, the characters are approached by a police officer and arrested. The reader must be able to use contextual clues to gauge the setting and events that transpire, as well as the reactions of the characters. The readability is not too difficult (around 700L), but there are tricky words and some formal 19th century dialogue.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Hospital"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Victor Hugo's  
Les Misérables

194 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** hospital46  
**Password:** 7y42m

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a dialogue where a Bishop contemplates giving up his huge house to use as a hospital (which he decides to do at the end). The reader must be able to draw conclusions from the conversation to place it within the larger context of the novel. At around 600L, it's readability should be easy for a 4th grader.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Surprise"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Franz Kafka's  
Les Metamorphosis

241 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** surprise51  
**Password:** nb3vc

**Editor's Note:** This is the opening scene from a famous short story where the main character wakes up one day to find he has turned into a bug. The reader must be able to make the leap to comprehend the situation. The readability (about 900L) might be tricky for a 4th grader, but it's a worthy challenge to see if students can grasp the plotline.

**Passage Name:**

**"Freddie"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Mood / Tone

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from P.G. Wodehouse's  
My Man Jeeves

328 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** freddie28  
**Password:** 9g2pp

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, two men meet with a friend of theirs who is clearly heartbroken. They convince him to join them (reluctantly) on a trip to the beach. The emotions of the gloomy friend are clear, as are the intentions of the others to help. With a rating around 700L, it should be easy for 4th graders to grasp.

**Passage Name:**

**"Cindy"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Tragedy

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

106 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** cindy42  
**Password:** xe35s

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a heavy stream-of-consciousness from a woman who is down in the dumps. It's great practice to determine mood and tone. The rating is about 500L (easy even for a 3rd grader), but interpreting the heavy feelings of the narrator can be a little difficult -- but that's what reading comprehension is all about!

**Passage Name:**

**"The Memory"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Dialogue

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from J.M. Barrie's  
Peter Pan

263 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** memory83  
**Password:** de9tu

**Editor's Note:** This passage from Peter Pan features a grown-up Wendy trying to explain to her daughter how adults "forget the way." It is a nice dialogue between an adult and a child who have different perspectives on the world. At the end, Wendy agrees to join the girl in her imaginary game. At under 600L, readability is easy for most 4th graders.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Proposal"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Agatha Christie's  
The Secret Adversary

247 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** propose77  
**Password:** y2btv

**Editor's Note:** This passage is one of the final scenes of what is certainly an action-filled detective mystery. Students must be able to identify the tone and use the dialogue to place the scene in the context of the larger story. It's an easy read at under 600L, and Agatha Christie is a wonderful example when studying author's craft.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Race"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Agatha Christie's  
The Secret Adversary

195 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** race924  
**Password:** 63r4j

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, two boys out to solve a case rush to find a clue, only to find that someone has beaten them to it. Based on the dialogue, the reader should be able to conclude what happened and recognize the confused frustration of the characters. It's easy to read, but the fast-pace forces the reader to keep up.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Jefferson"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

207 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** jeff873  
**Password:** u2d49

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a bit of historical fiction that focuses on Thomas Jefferson as he writes the Declaration of Independence. It features great inner monologue that the reader can use to determine mood and tone. At around 600L, the readability should not be a problem for most 4th graders--the trick is grasping the intensity of the scene.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Facts"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Agatha Christie's  
The Mysterious Affair at Styles

230 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** facts91  
**Password:** hg42v

**Editor's Note:** *A great bit of dialogue. It's a challenge because the characters talk in that "old-timey", formal way, but it is very interesting conversation about the secrets of detective work. With a rating of around 600L, the readability isn't too difficult for a 4th grader (but there are some tricky words, so using contextual clues is a must).*

**Passage Name:**

**"Defending the Kingdom"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

210 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** defend72  
**Password:** a3bk2

**Editor's Note:** *This passage introduces three mythical characters who are preparing for a battle between good and evil. The challenge here is not the readability (about 600L), but rather the student's ability to imagine another world with giants, dragons, and fairies. Of course, many students are very comfortable with those skills of imagination.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Dilemma"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from Lewis Carroll's  
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

244 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** dilemma65  
**Password:** 4ggb8

**Editor's Note:** *This is a classic scene from a classic novel. Alice is confused and tries (unsuccessfully) to convince herself that she is not someone else. The mood of the narrator is clear, but the reader must work to follow her amusing logic. At about 600L, this should be an easy read for most 4th graders.*



To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"April Fool's Day"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

118 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** april954  
**Password:** h3z7c

**Editor's Note:** This passage briefly describes the origin of April Fool's Day. The language is informal, which makes it easier to read (it rates under 800L), but there are some "history book" qualities to it that require concentration to comprehend, which is always challenging for students.

**Passage Name:**

**"Basketball"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Informative / Biographical    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

230 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** bball82  
**Password:** i2gvs

**Editor's Note:** This passage describes the origins of the sport of basketball. At over 800L (4th grade level), it's not too easy to read, but the subject matter should interest many students, which will increase their comprehension. Nothing helps reading comprehension more than an engaged student!

**Passage Name:**

**"The Widget Company"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Business Letter    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

107 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** widget35  
**Password:** x3cc4

**Editor's Note:** This is a straightforward business letter. The only twist is that this is a business writing a letter to a customer after boggling an order (most of the time, it seems like we focus on customers writing to businesses). The questions not only focus on format, but also on tone and purpose.

**Passage Name:**

**"Every Morning"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Advice    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from  
Armour's Monthly Cookbook

176 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** morning24  
**Password:** m74vd

**Editor's Note:** This passage gives little bits of advice for every day of the week. It's the kind of thing you might see in a monthly magazine or newspaper column. The language is casual, but not too easy (around 900L), and the author certainly took some time with word choice and figurative language. It's great practice--and some great advice.

**Passage Name:**

**"Business Letter Template"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction    **Focus:** Business Letter    **Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

109 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** template68  
**Password:** p2ane

**Editor's Note:** This is not a passage, but rather a template showing the correct format for a business letter. The questions are designed to make sure the students know the purpose of the template, as well as how to use it. Very good practice when introducing business letters.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Author's Page"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Dedication /  
Acknowledgement

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

206 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** author92  
**Password:** n245m

**Editor's Note:** This is a standard "Dedications & Acknowledgement" page that you might see at the front of any book. This is a good chance to talk about purpose and tone, and you can have students find clues within the passages to tell you details about the author.

**Passage Name:**

**"Getting to Bed"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Advice

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

193 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** bed657  
**Password:** 4gr8b

**Editor's Note:** This passage is good reading practice (around 750L), but it's even better advice! It's about getting to bed early. The comprehension questions mainly focus on author's opinion and purpose. Recognizing the author's intentions (which are sometimes hidden) is an important skill developed in upper elementary school.

**Passage Name:**

**"Hot Air Balloons"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

138 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** hotair63  
**Password:** 9jev2

**Editor's Note:** This passage gives basic information about hot air balloons. It can be a challenging read for some 4th graders (rating is higher than 800L), but there is a diagram that highlights a lot of the information. Students need to learn to take advantage of these "scaffolding" techniques to aid with comprehension.

**Passage Name:**

**"Jackie Robinson"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Biography

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

205 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** jackie25  
**Password:** mb3ad

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a short biography about Jackie Robinson, who in 1947 broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. The readability is not too difficult (about 800L, which is a good fit for most 4th graders), so the focus is identifying the work as a biography and picking out relevant information about the subject.

**Passage Name:**

**"Poetry of Architecture"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Philosophy

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from  
[The Poetry of Architecture](#)

168 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** poetry54  
**Password:** nd2kk

**Editor's Note:** The author of this passage talks about how emotion is just as important to an architect as technical skill. The passage is written more like a philosophical speech than a scientific journal. It's a bit formal with a "sophisticated" style, which makes it a bit difficult. However, most 4th graders will be able to pick up on the tone and main idea.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Young Abe"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Biography

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Excerpt from

Story of a Young Abraham Lincoln

390 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** abe726

**Password:** qaz45

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a long one, but it's not hard to read (rating around 800L) and it's about a very familiar subject (Abraham Lincoln). Most of the passage is Abe Lincoln telling a story about the first dollar he ever earned. It's a good chance to review biography, as well as techniques like flashback and monologue.

**Passage Name:**

**"Air Show Ad"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Advertisement

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Advertisement created by the  
Air Force

50 Words  
with images

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** air249

**Password:** lop87

**Editor's Note:** This is a poster for an upcoming air show. The highlight is an intense picture of several jet planes flying in perfect formation, but students must read the small blocks of text around the poster to determine the purpose (i.e. to get people to attend the air show) and to pick up on other necessary details.

**Passage Name:**

**"Camera Ad"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Advertisement

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Advertisement published in

The Cosmopolitan, 1926

100 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** camera53

**Password:** jk2bm

**Editor's Note:** This is an old-time advertisement (1926) for a camera. Students need to first recognize that it is an ad, and then determine the author's purpose (i.e. to get them to buy a camera). They can also use the picture and text to find other clues about the product being sold.

**Passage Name:**

**"Frank and Dave"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Friendly Letter

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

259 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** frank78

**Password:** vb92g

**Editor's Note:** This is a friendly letter written from one co-worker to another. Students must recognize that it is a friendly letter, even though it is written between co-workers (and there is a little discussion about work). They should be able to draw a number of conclusions about the sender and the recipient from the letter.

**Passage Name:**

**"Magic Tricks"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

223 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** magic21

**Password:** fe29e

**Editor's Note:** This passage explains various types of magic, from "close-up magic" to "stage magic". It can be a challenging read for some 4th graders (rating is higher than 800L), but the subject matter is interesting and the language is informal, which always helps with general comprehension.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Making the Man"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Editorial

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

166 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** make82

**Password:** ew23h

**Editor's Note:** *This passage talks about what really "makes" a man. They say that "clothes make the man," but the author insists that it has more to do with actions and thoughts. It's great practice for editorial pieces, with questions focusing on author's purpose.*

**Passage Name:**

**"National Anthems"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

126 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** anthem33

**Password:** io43n

**Editor's Note:** *This passage explains why countries have national anthems. The readability is moderate (rated under 800L, so not a problem for most 4th graders), but the subject matter is a little dull, so your students need to concentrate to comprehend it. However, this ability to sort through the "not-so-exciting" is a tremendously important skill!*

**Passage Name:**

**"JumpRight Shoes"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Advertisement

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

138 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** shoe83

**Password:** ty73b

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is an extended advertisement for JumpRight shoes. The author uses a propaganda technique known as "assertion" (saying something as if it were fact, even if it's not). Students must be able to quickly recognize an author's purpose in this type of text. At around 800L, it's a reasonable read for most 4th graders.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Video Games"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

148 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** game92

**Password:** af3c4

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is about early video games, such as "Pong" (and, even before that, "Space War"). At over 800L, it's not an easy read, but it does focus on a fun subject and is written in an informal way. This should help with comprehension.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Timeline"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Timeline

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

110 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 4

**Login:** time563

**Password:** seb78

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a chronological list of events that basically serves as a timeline. This is a very important literacy skill for upper elementary students. It's also great practice for passages that aren't in traditional "paragraph" format, yet are still organized in a clear way.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Transportation"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Focus:** Informative

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

142 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** transport83  
**Password:** ue43n

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is about the wonders of modern transportation. It's short, but there's a lot of information condensed into a small space. At over 800L, it's not an easy read for 4th graders, but most should be able to handle it. Great practice for handling straightforward informative passages.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Table of Contents (advanced)"**

**Type:** Reference

**Focus:** Table of  
Contents

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

90 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** toc994  
**Password:** aj6m2

**Editor's Note:** *This is a more advanced Table of Contents with chapters and sub-sections. Students will see this in many non-fiction books--in this case, the book is about South Carolina history. Students need to be able to recognize the function of the page, but also predict where they would find relevant information.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Copyright Block"**

**Type:** Reference

**Focus:** Copyright

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

142 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** copy73  
**Password:** sge89

**Editor's Note:** *This is a short copyright block that might appear on the "verso page" (the back of the title page) of any book. It is as simple as it gets, but the idea of "copyright" is a little foreign to elementary students, so it might be a difficult concept to grasp.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Verso Page"**

**Type:** Reference

**Focus:** Copyright

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

220 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** verso82  
**Password:** poe24

**Editor's Note:** *This is a full "verso page" (located on the back of the title page) that appears in most books. It is usually ignored by most readers, and that is okay. But students should be familiar enough with it to know that it lists information about the publisher and other copyright information.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Library Filing"**

**Type:** Reference

**Focus:** Book Filing

**Level:** Moderate (upper 3rd - 4th grade)

Original passage created by  
Homecourt Publishers

160 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** library31  
**Password:** tre47

**Editor's Note:** *This is another version of a "verso page" (located on the back of the title page) that appears in most books, but it also includes filing information added by a local library. Although it's not important that students know all of the information, they should have enough knowledge of navigating the library to answer most questions.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Trial"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Agatha Christie's  
*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*

269 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** trial83

**Password:** z7s4r

**Editor's Note:** *This is a court scene near the end of a nail-biting crime thriller. The language is a little tricky (approaching 1000L), so it is essential that students rely on contextual clues and use key words throughout the passage. Questions focus on the setting and placing the scene in the larger context of the novel.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Beginning"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Lewis Carroll's  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

277 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** begin95

**Password:** ou33b

**Editor's Note:** *This is the opening scene from the renowned children's book when Alice first spots the White Rabbit. It rates around 1000L, but somehow seems much easier to read than that (a tribute to the author). Questions focus on genre, mood, point of view, and basic comprehension.*

**Passage Name:**

**"On the Sledge"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Jules Verne's  
*Around the World in Eighty Days*

296 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** sledge21

**Password:** mb54v

**Editor's Note:** *The characters in this passage are racing across the plains in a "sledge" (a wind-powered sled) in the middle of winter. It's a very exciting scene, but it's written in that formal 19th century style that can throw students for a loop (the rating approaches 1000L). The figurative language and imagery in this passage is excellent!*

**Passage Name:**

**"Briar Rose"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fairy Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
*Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm*

296 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** rose39

**Password:** jk3b2

**Editor's Note:** *This is an excerpt from "Briar Rose," which is now more commonly known as "Sleeping Beauty." The old-fashioned writing style can be tricky (rating is around 900L), but the storyline is so familiar that it will help with comprehension. Questions focus on setting, conflict, and figurative language.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Golden Bird"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fairy Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
*Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm*

284 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** bird782

**Password:** ne894

**Editor's Note:** *This is an excerpt from the fairy tale, "The Golden Bird," which teaches a lesson about greed. Only the start of the passage is included, so students must draw conclusions about what happens next and what the likely consequences are. It rates lower than 900L, but that "old-fashioned" writing style is always a challenge.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Hans in Luck"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fairy Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm](#)

437 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** hans312

**Password:** bv2gj

**Editor's Note:** This is the start of a folk tale in which the main character, Hans, is an optimistic fellow who realizes that having nice things is overrated. The reading is tough, mainly because of the old style sentence structure and word choice (it rates close to 1000L). There are also challenging questions dealing with characters and word choice.

**Passage Name:**

**"Old Man & His Grandson"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Folk Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm](#)

249 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** old644

**Password:** zx78r

**Editor's Note:** This folk tale has an important message--"treat everyone with respect." A young boy watches his parents treat his grandfather poorly, and as a result makes plans to treat them poorly in their old age (when they learn this, they change their ways). It's readability rates near 1000L, but it flows in an easy way that will fit most 5th graders.

**Passage Name:**

**"Old Sultan"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Fairy Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm](#)

584 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** sultan91

**Password:** 73vne

**Editor's Note:** This is the start of a fairy tale in which an old dog finds himself in debt to a scheming wolf. It is a long passage, but isn't too difficult to read for a 5th grader (rating under 1000L). The questions challenge the reader to focus on setting, character motivations, and plot predictions.

**Passage Name:**

**"Tom Thumb"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Folk Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm](#)

258 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** thumb24

**Password:** hd446

**Editor's Note:** This passage features the legendary folk tale hero, Tom Thumb. The character is introduced, and then the reader gets a glimpse at the clever nature of the small boy. It rates around 1000L, but the style is so conversational that it actually reads very easily (most 5th graders won't have a problem).

**Passage Name:**

**"Travelling Musicians"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Folk Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm](#)

274 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** travel83

**Password:** te33b

**Editor's Note:** This is an amusing passage where some would-be robbers let their imagination get the best of them and are scared away by farm animals. The trick to this passage is for the reader to distinguish what is real (i.e. the farm animals) and what is imaginary (i.e. witches, monsters, etc.).

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Valiant Little Tailor"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Folk Tale

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm

425 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** tailor79

**Password:** wq7yu

**Editor's Note:** This is the start of a folk tale in which the main character gets an ego boost when he kills seven flies at once. It is clear that later in the story he will learn a lesson about being humble. It rates at around 900L, so it's fit for most 5th graders. The challenges will be the length of the passage and that "old-timey" writing style.

**Passage Name:**

**"Meet Buck"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Jack London's

The Call of the Wild

290 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** buck836

**Password:** zmp8q

**Editor's Note:** This is an excerpt from a timeless classic where the narrator of the story is a dog. It's very clear in the passage, but it still might be a stretch for students to accept and follow. The readability level is certainly not easy (over 1000L), but it is so well written that it is great practice for characterization, imagery, figurative language, and so on.

**Passage Name:**

**"Windmills"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Miguel de Cervantes'

Don Quixote

310 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** wind532

**Password:** hge28

**Editor's Note:** In the most famous excerpt from the world's first novel, the confused Don Quixote prepares to fight against giant windmills. Students must draw the conclusion that Quixote is a little "crazy," and that the main conflict is really man versus himself. The readability is challenging (over 1000L), but manageable for a capable 5th grader.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Painting"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Oscar Wilde's

The Picture of Dorian Gray

457 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** paint81

**Password:** 25jk7

**Editor's Note:** This is the opening scene from a famous novel. There is great dialogue between two characters that reveals the personalities of them both. The reader should be able to read the conversation and draw a number of conclusions. It rates just above 900L, which makes the passage a good fit for most 5th graders.

**Passage Name:**

**"In the Sky"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Mystery

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Edgar Allen Poe's

Adventures of One Hans Pfaall

283 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** sky219

**Password:** vc3bm

**Editor's Note:** Most of Edgar Allen Poe's writing is tricky, and this is no exception. It rates at over 1000L, and his word choice and sentence structure requires concentration from the reader. However, it's great practice for 5th graders who are up to the challenge. The passage features a large crowd watching a strange flying object in the air.



To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Predicament"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Jonathan Swift's  
Gulliver's Travels

322 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** pred674  
**Password:** 832gb

**Editor's Note:** This is an excerpt from the most famous scene in Gulliver's Travels, when the narrator wakes up and finds himself tied up by a tribe of miniature people. The first person descriptions of the scene are excellent, and with a rating at around 900L it is something most 5th graders can absorb without too much difficulty.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Summary"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Adventure

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Jonathan Swift's  
Gulliver's Travels

416 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** sum354  
**Password:** 76gne

**Editor's Note:** This is one of the final scenes from the famous novel, and it's a tough one. The narrator is preparing to write down his adventures in a travel book, and he pledges to stick to the truth (no matter how crazy it sounds). The rating for this is over 1000L, and the author's formal style doesn't make it any easier. But it's well written and worth a try.

**Passage Name:**

**"On the River"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Mood / Tone

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Mark Twain's  
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

325 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** river92  
**Password:** 45bd3

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, Huckleberry Finn expresses the carefree joy of floating down the river. It's very informal, but Huck's way of talking might actually make things tricky (a lot of words like "ain't" and "yonder", and other old-fashioned slang). This is a good chance to discuss mood, tone, setting, and imagery.

**Passage Name:**

**"The Walk"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Inner Monologue

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Charlotte Brontë's  
Jane Eyre

194 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** walk712  
**Password:** d5g3h

**Editor's Note:** This passage features an impatient young girl taking a walk and inwardly expressing her frustration that "women are supposed to be very calm." She is obviously itching for an adventure. The passage rates around 800L, but the imagery and figurative language of the author is so "thick" that it is challenging (but very well-written).

**Passage Name:**

**"Meet Jeeves"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Characters

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from P.G. Wodehouse's  
My Man Jeeves

228 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** jeeves49  
**Password:** vp9s2

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, the narrator introduces the reader to a character named Jeeves. He does so by recalling a small event that demonstrates the essence of the character. Students should be able to get a good picture of Jeeves from the narrator's story. The author does a great job with characterization and figurative language.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"The Request"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Agatha Christie's  
The Secret Adversary

389 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** request35  
**Password:** bg5th

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, a girl is standing on a sinking ship when a man approaches her and makes a strange request. He needs her to deliver some unknown papers. It is the opening scene of a great mystery, and students need to determine setting, tone, and possible plot lines. At around 600L, the language is fit for most 4th graders.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Companion"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Detective

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Arthur Conan Doyle's  
The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

396 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** comp836  
**Password:** 74yr9

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, Sherlock Holmes and his colleagues stumble upon what might be a break in the case--but with a twist. One of the leading suspects is an animal! The readability rates under 800L (4th grade level), but a reader definitely needs to follow closely to keep up with the clues.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Times"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Focus:** Descriptive

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Charles Dickens'  
A Tale of Two Cities

135 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** time721  
**Password:** cc7ew

**Editor's Note:** *This is one of the greatest introductions in all of literature, beginning with the line: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The vocabulary and sentence structure are tough (around 1000L), so a 5th grader will really have to concentrate to see how these legendary lines are preparing the reader for the story that lies ahead.*

**Passage Name:**

**"The Invention"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Science Fiction

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from H.G. Wells's  
The Time Machine

414 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** invent82  
**Password:** 8ikm4

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a long monologue in which the narrator introduces his newly invented time machine to an undisclosed audience. He describes his first experience with time travel (which wasn't too pleasant). This passage is challenging because it is all a one-way speech, so the reader has nothing else from which to form conclusions.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Whitewashing the Fence"**

**Type:** Fiction

**Genre:** Humor

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from Mark Twain's  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

290 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** fence74  
**Password:** u3g6v

**Editor's Note:** *This is one of the most famous scenes in all of American literature--Tom Sawyer tricking his friend into whitewashing the fence. The dialogue is entertaining, but it might be a challenge with words like "ain't", "weren't", and other old-fashioned jargon. Still, it's a great scene from a great author.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Teaching Agriculture"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Agriculture for Beginners](#)

254 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** teach46

**Password:** tg5b3

**Editor's Note:** This passage is a message to teachers that might serve as an introduction to a textbook. The author is encouraging teachers to focus on agriculture, even if they might not be capable farmers themselves. The language is advanced (over 1000L), but an average 5th grade reader should still detect the author's viewpoints.

**Passage Name:**

**"Ancient Works"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Essay

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[The Problem of the Ohio Mounds](#)

170 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** ancient82

**Password:** p2ot9

**Editor's Note:** This passage is an introduction to a scholarly essay on ancient works found in Ohio--and there's nothing easy about it. The language is difficult, the topic is obscure, and the writing is dull. Nonetheless, it's important for students to focus to see if they can identify some of the key details of the passage (a skill that will serve them well).

**Passage Name:**

**"Collecting Artifacts"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[How to Observe in Archaeology](#)

159 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** collect93

**Password:** iut3b

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, an experienced archaeologist criticizes the sloppy way in which casual archaeologists handle artifacts. His tone is very clear (he is disgusted). At around 1000L, it's not an easy read (very formal and dry), but most 5th graders won't have any trouble grasping the author's intentions.

**Passage Name:**

**"Bathtubs"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Manual

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Elements of Plumbing](#)

131 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** bath957

**Password:** ewb5m

**Editor's Note:** This passage gives a very brief history of bathtubs, just like you might see in an advanced plumbing textbook. It's very short, but it's not an easy read (the rating is around 1000L), and the topic isn't too exciting. Nonetheless, it's important for students to learn to read and comprehend a "dry" passage like this.

**Passage Name:**

**"Benjamin Franklin"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Autobiography

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin](#)

148 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** ben632

**Password:** 73gvj

**Editor's Note:** This is an excerpt from Ben Franklin's autobiography that details how he started the first public library. The legendary author is obviously a great writer, but the "old-time" style of the passage makes it difficult. It's important for students to take it slow and work through the style to get to the substance.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Book Binding"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Manual

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Bookbinding, and the Care of Books](#)

260 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** book899

**Password:** azc34

**Editor's Note:** This passage is an introduction to a technical manual about book binding. It uses the "formal" writing style that can be intimidating to a student (rating around 1000L), but that's what makes it such great practice. Most 5th graders will have to concentrate, but it's important for them to grasp the main idea and the intended audience.

**Passage Name:**

**"Breakfast"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Cookbook (intro)

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Breakfast Dainties](#)

168 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** break63

**Password:** hy3bv

**Editor's Note:** This passage is an introduction to a cookbook that specializes in breakfast foods. The author has a strong tone and criticizes how breakfast has been neglected as a meal. There is a certain style to the writing which is great, but not too easy for a 4th or 5th grader. Still, the main idea and key information should be easy to gather.

**Passage Name:**

**"Making Candy"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Breakfast Dainties](#)

185 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** candy72

**Password:** ue6g2

**Editor's Note:** In this passage, the author promotes the advantages of amateur confectioners purchasing a candy-thermometer. It's definitely not a subject where most elementary school students have expertise, so that makes it challenging. This is great practice to help students learn how not to become distracted by technical jargon.

**Passage Name:**

**"Carpentry"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Carpentry for Boys](#)

331 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** carp913

**Password:** n3vc8

**Editor's Note:** This is a great passage where the enthusiastic author encourages young men to take up the field of carpentry because it is a direct path to architecture and other skilled professions. The tone of the passage and his agenda should be quite clear to most 4th and 5th graders. The casual style makes up for some difficult vocabulary.

**Passage Name:**

**"Word Combinations"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[On the Evolution of Language](#)

246 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 5

**Login:** words74

**Password:** bie45

**Editor's Note:** This passage is tough. It's about the methods for combining words in the English language, and it's what you might see in a college textbook. The key points are clearly listed, so if your students are up to the challenge they should be able to get the information. If they can do it here, they'll have no problem with their own textbooks.

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Household Spending"**    **Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Editorial    **Level:** Advanced (*upper 4th - 5th grade*)

Excerpt from  
Hints to Young Housekeepers

246 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** house26  
**Password:** n88je

**Editor's Note:** *This passage stresses the importance of living within your means (not a bad message for any reader). At around 900L, it's fit for most 5th graders. Aside from grasping the main points, this passage also has loads of figurative language and great word choice, and several comprehension questions focus on that.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Cutting Tools"**    **Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Informative    **Level:** Advanced (*upper 4th - 5th grade*)

Excerpt from  
Handwork in Wood

137 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** cut572  
**Password:** k3e9o

**Editor's Note:** *This passage discusses the subtle differences between different types of "cutting tools". It's not exactly an exciting topic, but it does provide a great deal of information in just a couple of paragraphs, so it's great practice to see how much of that information your students can absorb. The rating is around 1000L, but it seems easier than that.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Embroidery"**    **Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Informative    **Level:** Advanced (*upper 4th - 5th grade*)

Excerpt from  
Art in Needlework

218 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** embroid96  
**Password:** y7ti2

**Editor's Note:** *This passage goes through the different types of "embroidery", which range from tapestry to lace. It's another example of a straightforward passage (rated around 900L, it's challenging, but reasonable) that is most difficult because the topic matter is not exciting. As always, these are some of the most important types of passages!*

**Passage Name:**

**"Farm Houses"**    **Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Informative    **Level:** Advanced (*upper 4th - 5th grade*)

Excerpt from  
Farmhouses and Cottages

137 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** farm731  
**Password:** pe7wn

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is an editorial where the author is disgusted by the lack of quality architectural designs in the nation's rural areas. His writing style is very formal, which makes it tough to read. Still, the tone of the passage should be very clear, as well as the main points that frame the author's opinion.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Feeding the Family"**    **Type:** Non-Fiction    **Genre:** Announcement    **Level:** Advanced (*upper 4th - 5th grade*)

Excerpt from  
American Cookery Magazine

222 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** feed978  
**Password:** kb343

**Editor's Note:** *This passage introduces a women's club called "Feeding the Family" that focuses on providing education about healthy eating. The passage was taken from a magazine in the early 1920s, and the writing style clearly reflects that. It can be tough for 5th graders (rating of over 1000L), but it's certainly manageable.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Growing a Garden"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
Manual of Gardening

306 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** grow215  
**Password:** u8bta

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is from a very enthusiastic gardener who encourages all readers to try their hands at gardening, and to enjoy the task regardless of the results. Readers should easily pick up on his passionate tone and message. Also, the author makes great use of figurative language, sentence structure, and word choice.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Grammar"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Speech

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
Lectures on Language

230 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** grammar48  
**Password:** y3n2b

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, an enthusiastic (and a bit jaded) professor introduces his course on English grammar. Not surprisingly, the teacher is a master of sentence structure and advanced grammar, which might be a bit tough for a 5th grader. The rating is around 1000L, which is not too difficult, but definitely demands full concentration!*

**Passage Name:**

**"Greek Plays"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
Ancient Art and Ritual

357 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** greek92  
**Password:** 63vek

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, the author explains why performances of Greek tragedies are often confusing and a little disappointing to many first-time watchers. It's a lengthy passage with some tough vocabulary and structure (rating is over 1000L), but the key points can be recognized by a 5th grader who knows how to rely on contextual clues.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Hats"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Informative

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
Make Your Own Hats

254 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 5

**Login:** hats74  
**Password:** 2bg4o

**Editor's Note:** *This passage was written in the early 1900s and gives fashion tips for choosing the appropriate hat color depending on your hair and skin tones. It's written in a old-time style that is definitely tricky, but it is so straightforward that it shouldn't be too tough for a 5th grader (rating is around 1000L).*

**Passage Name:**

**"Home Economics"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Biography

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from  
American Cookery Magazine

261 Words

Comprehension  
Questions = 6

**Login:** home249  
**Password:** h3nz8

**Editor's Note:** *This passage was written in the early 1920s to honor a professor who was retiring from the Home Economics Department of a university. The list of achievements is clear, but the wording is very "formal" (not to mention nearly a century old), so it's a challenge for a 5th grader. The focus should be on tone and purpose.*

To view passages, go to <http://www.toolboxforteachers.com/coldreads>

**Passage Name:**

**"Husbands"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Editorial

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Armour's Monthly Cookbook](#)

210 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** husband74

**Password:** 6qeb5

**Editor's Note:** *This is an amusing passage from an old women's magazine. The author criticizes women who use their husband as an excuse when they don't want to do something. The tone and message are clear, and the article is amusing. With a rating at around 800L, it should be fit for a capable 4th grader.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Indigo Dying"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Instructions

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[of Woolen Fabrics](#)

[Dying](#)

258 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** indigo38

**Password:** 7ue3b

**Editor's Note:** *This passage gives a recipe for mixing indigo extract to dye wool. The writing style is a bit technical, and the subject matter is dry, so it forces a 5th grader to concentrate (a very important skill!). The passage is short and to the point, so pulling out the relevant information shouldn't be a problem.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Irrigation"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Autobiography

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Gardening without Irrigation](#)

273 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** irrig45

**Password:** unt69

**Editor's Note:** *In this passage, the narrator gives an account of when she moved to a new place hoping to grow all of her own food. As it turned out, the land was dry, and she was forced to make adjustments. Students should be able to recognize the autobiographical nature of the passage. The author also makes great use of figurative language.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Margarine"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Advertisement

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[The Kitchen Encyclopedia](#)

284 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** marg762

**Password:** jee4s

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is basically an extended advertisement for Swift's Premium Margarine. It includes comparisons, technical information, and even respected endorsements. In the end, students need to recognize author's bias and the use of propaganda, as well as the intended purpose of the passage.*

**Passage Name:**

**"Mozart"**

**Type:** Non-Fiction

**Genre:** Biography

**Level:** Advanced (upper 4th - 5th grade)

Excerpt from

[Ten Boys from History](#)

270 Words

Comprehension

Questions = 6

**Login:** mozart55

**Password:** 4hg3b

**Editor's Note:** *This passage is a biographical scene where a young Mozart amazes his father by composing a complicated concerto. The scene is nicely written with great dialogue between Mozart and his father. It's rating is around 900L, so most 5th grader should be able to determine what happens in the scene and its significance.*

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