Ready, Set, Purple!

Five stories inside

Living Fossils
Introducing... Barbie!
Ice Age Animals of Malta
Against the Odds
Ah Choo!

A motivating system to improve reading fluency at home
One Minute Reader™
Level 3

Ready, Set, Purple!

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1. Get ready to read.
Pick any story. Read the title, look at the picture, and think about what you might learn by reading the story.

2. Time yourself reading.
Set the timer, and read the story for one minute. If you don't know a word, underline it.

3. Mark your cold score in blue.
Get your cold score by subtracting the number of words you underlined from the number of words you read in a minute. Write your score on the blue line below the story. Then mark it in blue on the graph page.

4. Read along with the CD.
Read the story out loud with the CD three times or until you learn all the words.

5. Read alone, and raise your score.
Time yourself reading the story alone, without the CD, for one minute. Time yourself several times, until you can read the story well. Write your scores on the green lines below the story, and watch your scores go up.

6. Take the Quick Quiz.
Circle the correct answers, and then turn to the Joke Jumble page. Copy your answers to the numbered lines. Answer the questions for all of the stories to solve the joke.

7. Read for an adult.
Read the story while an adult times you for one minute and counts the words you don't know. Finish reading the story, and then talk about what you learned.

8. Mark your hot score in red.
Get your hot score by subtracting the number of words you didn't know from the number of words you read in a minute. Write your hot score on the red line below the story. Then mark it in red on the graph page.
Introducing... Barbie!

One of the most popular toys in the world was based on a real person. Barbara, or Barbie, Handler was the daughter of Ruth and Elliot Handler. Ruth and Elliot founded Mattel, Inc., a company that makes toys.

As Barbie Handler grew up, she stopped playing with her baby dolls. Instead Barbie liked to cut out pictures of models from magazines. She also cut out pictures of outfits she liked. Then she changed the clothes on the models by placing the outfit cutouts over them. Watching her daughter gave Mrs. Handler an idea. She decided to make a grown-up doll that girls could dress up.

The Handlers introduced Barbie at the 1959 Toy Fair in New York. No one had ever seen a doll like Barbie. Many of the toy buyers didn't think Barbie would sell. They were wrong. Since 1959, over a billion Barbie dolls have been sold. She is available in countries all over the world.

By the way, Barbara Handler had a brother. Can you guess what his name was? You've got it—Ken!
Quick Quiz

1. What is the main idea of *Introducing... Barbie!*?
p. Barbie and Ken dolls can be dressed up.
q. Barbie is one of the most popular toys in the world.
r. Barbie is a grown-up doll that was based on a real person.

2. Where was Barbie first introduced to the public?
d. at Mattel, Inc.
e. at a toy fair
f. in the Handlers' neighborhood

3. What does models mean in this story?
a. good examples
b. designs
c. people who pose for pictures

4. Why did toy buyers doubt that Barbie would sell?
t. They had never seen a doll like Barbie before.
u. They already had enough dolls to sell.
v. They wanted to sell Ken dolls instead.

Talk about what you learned
Why do you think Barbie dolls are so popular?
Ice Age Animals of Malta

Some strange animals lived on a tiny island called Malta 150 thousand years ago. The elephants and hippos were shorter than you. But the turtles, mice, and birds were huge.

The animals came to Malta from Europe during the Ice Age. At that time, Malta was not an island. It was part of southern Europe. As the north froze, the animals fled south to Malta. Later, when the earth began to warm up again, ice in the north melted. Water surrounded Malta, turning it into an island. The animals were trapped!

For thousands of years, these animals lived on Malta. The island kept them safe from predators, like wolves. But space and food were scarce for the elephants and hippos. They grew smaller and smaller, until they were only about three feet tall. The turtles, mice, and birds, however, found plenty to eat. They grew bigger and bigger. In fact, the swan was almost twice as tall as the elephant! It had a wingspan of ten feet, but it was so heavy it could no longer fly.

These strange animals died out long before the first people ever came to Malta. We know about them from the bones they left behind.
Quick Quiz

5. What is the main idea of *Ice Age Animals of Malta*?
   t. Strange animals lived on the island of Malta long ago.
   u. Food was scarce on Malta so big animals got smaller.
   v. We know about the animals of Malta from their bones.

6. Which animal grew to be twice as tall as the elephant?
   l. the wolf
   m. the turtle
   n. the swan

7. What does *feet* mean in this story?
   a. units of length equal to 12 inches
   b. what people and animals stand on
   c. the lowest parts of mountains

8. Why did the animals stay so long on Malta?
   a. Water surrounded Malta, trapping the animals.
   b. Malta was the only place with enough food.
   c. There were too many predators everywhere else.

Talk about what you learned
Which animal do you think would be more interesting to see—a giant swan or a little elephant? Why?
All dinosaurs died out millions of years ago, right? Or did they? The tuatara may not be a dinosaur, but it is a reptile that lived with the dinosaurs 200 million years ago. Tuataras did not die out though. They still live in New Zealand. Scientists call them living fossils. Tuataras have been slow to change. They look very much like they did 200 million years ago.

Tuataras do other things slowly too. They only need to breathe once an hour, and their hearts beat only ten times in a minute.

It takes a long time to make a tuatara. A female lays eggs only once every three or four years. She also doesn't begin to lay eggs until she is between 15 and 20 years old. Once the eggs are laid, they often take over a year to hatch.

A baby tuatara has a third eye on the top of its head. The eye cannot "see" anything but light. After a few months scales cover the eye.

Tuataras grow very slowly. They keep growing for 35 years. A full-grown tuatara weighs only one to two pounds and is about two feet long. They can live as long as 100 years.
Quick Quiz

9. What is the main idea of *Living Fossils*?
k. Tuataras are ancient reptiles that do everything slowly.
l. Tuataras have been around since the dinosaurs.
m. Tuataras are reptiles, like the dinosaurs.

10. How often do tuataras have to breathe?
h. once in an hour
i. ten times in a minute
j. once every three to four years

11. What does *scales* mean in this story?
m. machines used for weighing things
n. groups of musical notes
o. hard, flat coverings on fish and reptiles

12. What were tuataras like 200 million years ago?
n. They were extremely large like the dinosaurs.
o. They were small like they are today.
p. They had more eyes on their heads.

Talk about what you learned
Why do you think scientists call tuataras living fossils?
In 1954, a little girl was born in Mississippi. She did not have much. Her first home didn't even have an indoor bathroom. She **suffered abuse**. Early in her life, many people would have **predicted a bleak future** for her.

Yet, with belief in herself and hard work this little girl was able to **create** an **amazing** future. As a teenager, she lived with her father. He made sure she studied hard. She wrote a **book report** every week and learned five new words by dinner every night.

By the end of high school, she was on the radio. At 19, she became a news **anchor** on television. She continued to work hard. Eventually, she had her own television talk show. Later, she acted in movies and started a **magazine**. She became one of the most well-known and well-loved people in the United States.

Now this woman uses her **influence** to help people. She **supports** many **charities**. Many people follow her **example**. She was one of *Time* magazine's 100 most important people of the twentieth **century**.

Who is this woman? Her name is Oprah Winfrey. Her life **proves** what she says, "It doesn't matter who you are, where you are from. The **ability** to **triumph** begins with you."
Quick Quiz

13. What is the main idea of *Against the Odds*?
   x. Oprah suffered abuse before getting to where she wanted to be.
   y. Oprah's life proves that you can triumph no matter who you are or where you're from.
   z. Oprah uses her influence to support many charities and other good causes.

14. How many new words did Oprah have to learn every day?
   i. five
   j. six
   k. seven

15. What does anchor mean in this story?
   f. a heavy object that keeps a boat from drifting
   g. something that keeps you steady or grounded
   h. a person on television who reports the news

16. How does Oprah use her influence to help people?
   r. She works hard in her acting career.
   s. She reports the news on television.
   t. She supports charities and provides a good example.

Talk about what you learned
What do you think is most impressive about Oprah Winfrey?
Ah Choo!

First a little tickle starts in the back of your nose. Then comes a loud, wet bang. Ah Choo! Have you ever wondered why you sneeze?

A sneeze is a reflex you have when something tickles your nose. It doesn't take much to tickle your nose. Tiny particles like dust and pollen most often do the tickling. These particles can bring germs into your nose. When your body senses the particles, it wants to get rid of them right away. As a result, you sneeze.

A sneeze forces the particles out of your nose in a noisy burst. They fly from your nose with the force of a fire hose, over 100 feet per second.

Some people don't like to sneeze. However, stopping a sneeze can be bad for you. Before you sneeze, your body takes in a lot of air. It wants to use this air to push out the particles. If you don't sneeze, you keep the extra air and the particles inside. The extra air could damage your head and eardrums. The particles could make you sick.

So, the next time you feel a sneeze coming on, grab a tissue and let it rip!
17. What is the main idea of *Ah Choo!?*
   h. You sneeze to get rid of particles and germs in your nose.
   i. It is dangerous for your body to hold in a sneeze.
   j. Particles like dust and pollen tickle your nose.

18. How fast do the particles fly out of your nose when you sneeze?
   a. over 100 feet per second
   b. over 50 feet per second
   c. over ten feet per second

19. What does **reflex** mean in this story?
   n. an image that bounces off a surface
   o. a quick reaction you don't have to think about
   p. paying attention to what is going on around you

20. Why does your body want to get rid of the particles that come into your nose?
   o. The particles can bring in harmful things like germs.
   p. Your nose can only hold a few particles at a time.
   q. The particles damage your nose if you take in too many.

**Talk about what you learned**
Why do you think some people don't like to sneeze?
Imagine placing all the Barbie dolls that have been sold since 1959 head to toe. The line of Barbies would circle the earth several times.

Elephants are good swimmers. That's why scientists think that elephants may have reached the island of Malta by swimming.

At the zoo, tuataras eat baby mice, worms, mealworms, and insects. They are fed twice a month.

A baby tuatara uses a spike on the end of its nose to break out of its shell. Some people call this spike an egg tooth.

Oprah Winfrey has done more than host a talk show and run a magazine. She also has her own movie production company and television studio.

It is impossible to keep your eyes open during a sneeze.

Some people sneeze when they see the sun.
### Cold & Hot Scores

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Fill in each blank below with the letter you circled as the correct answer for each Quick Quiz question. The correct answers will give you the answer to this joke:

**How do noses travel?**

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</table>
Complete this crossword using the words listed to the right of the puzzle. You will not need all of the words. The solution is on the inside of the back cover.

Across
1  rare; hard to find
3  got very cold or turned to ice
5  to succeed or win
7  to cause harm to
10  ran away from danger
11  what people wear
12  a loud noise

Down
2  to make or form
4  began; started
6  more than enough
8  thousands of thousands
9  shows to be true

words:
- bang
- wondered
- create
- suffered
- damage
- proves
- founded
- predators
- plenty
- millions
- scarce
- outfits
- triumph
- froze
- fled
Glossary

Note: This glossary defines words for the context used in the stories in this book. See a dictionary for definitions beyond those listed here.

ability 18
Ability is the power to do something. Because I have legs that work, I have the ability to walk.

abuse 19
Abuse is bad, hurtful, or unfair treatment. Kicking and hitting someone again and again is abuse.

amazing 20
Amazing means very impressive or great.

anchor 21
An anchor is someone on television who reports the news.

available 22
Available means able to get. The swing at the playground was available because nobody was using it.

bang 23
A bang is a loud, powerful noise.

beat 24
Beat means to throb or pound again and again. Hearts beat because they expand and contract to move blood.

bleak 25
Bleak means sad or unfortunate; not hopeful. He brought us bleak news of many car accidents on the icy road.

book report 26
A book report is a written or spoken description of a book. The teacher told us to write a book report about the novel we read in class.

burst 27
A burst is an explosion or a forceful action. The firecracker went off with a burst.
century
A century is a period of time equal to 100 years. The year 1900 to the year 2000 was the twentieth century.

charities
Charities are groups that help people who are poor, sick, or need help.

company
A company is a group of people that work together to make or sell products.

create
Create means to make something or to cause something to be or exist. I plan to create a garden in that patch of dirt.

damage
Damage means to cause harm to something. A storm with heavy winds can damage a garden.

dust
Dust is tiny bits of dirt or other materials that float in the air.

eardrums
Eardrums are the thin coverings inside your ears that move back and forth when sound hits them.

example
An example is a model or pattern that can be copied or followed. The boy who sat quietly in class was an example of good behavior.

feet
Feet is a way to measure how tall something or someone is. My dad is almost six feet tall.

fire hose
A fire hose is a long, strong tube used to spray water and put out flames.

fled
Fled means ran away, usually from danger. The cat fled because it saw the big dog.
**force**
Force is strength or power. *John pushed Mary with such force that she fell down.*

**fossils**
Fossils are what is left of plants and animals that have been dead a very long time.

**founded**
Founded means started. *The new school was founded last year.*

**froze**
Froze means made very cold. *The wind froze the animals.*

**future**
The future is the things that will happen later. *Your next birthday is in the future.*

**germs**
Germs are very small living things that can make people sick.

**hatch**
Hatch means to be born from an egg.

**hippos**
Hippos are large, heavy animals that live in or near rivers and are active at night.

**Ice Age**
The Ice Age was a period of time very long ago when the earth was very cold and mostly covered with sheets of ice.

**influence**
Influence is the power to affect people or things. *The basketball coach had a lot of influence on his players, so the players did what he told them to.*

**introduced**
Introduced means showed to others for the first time.
island
An island is a body of land surrounded by water.

let it rip
Let it rip is an expression that means to go for it or let something happen.

magazine
A magazine is a publication that has stories, articles, pictures, and ads and comes out weekly, monthly, or at other regular times.

magazines
Magazines are publications that have stories, articles, pictures, and ads and come out weekly, monthly, or at other regular times.

melted
Melted means changed from a solid into a liquid because of heat. The ice cube melted into water.

millions
Millions are thousands of thousands.

models
Models are people who pose for pictures.

outfits
Outfits are sets of clothes people wear. The twins had on matching outfits—they were both wearing pink pants and white shirts.

particles
Particles are very small pieces or amounts of things. We cannot always see the dust particles in the air because they are so tiny.

plenty
Plenty is all you need or more than enough. The big, two-car garage had plenty of room for his one small car.
pollen
Pollen is small grains of powder made by plants to help them create new plants.

popular
Popular means liked by many people. *Many people went to see the popular movie.*

predators
Predators are animals that kill other animals for food. *Owls are predators that eat mice.*

predicted
Predicted means told what might happen in the future. *Before watching a football game, people predicted which team would win.*

proves
Proves means shows to be true. *The boy proves that he is the fastest runner when he wins the race.*

reflex
A reflex is something your body automatically does without you having to think about it. *If you touch a hot stove, a reflex will make you pull your hand away.*

reptile
A reptile is a kind of animal, such as a snake or lizard, that has a body temperature close to the temperature of the air around it.

scales
Scales are the hard coverings on the bodies of reptiles and most fish.

scarce
Scarce means not enough or hard to get. *He stayed thirsty because water was scarce.*

senses
Senses means becomes aware of something or knows what is going on around itself.
suffered
Suffered means experienced harm or loss. *He suffered from his illness for a long time before he got better.*

supports
Supports means helps or encourages something. *My dad supports me by taking care of me.*

surrounded
Surrounded means being on all sides. *An island is land surrounded by water.*

swan
A swan is a water bird that has a long neck and is usually white.

tickle
A tickle is a scratchy or twitchy feeling. *He thought he was getting sick because of the tickle in his throat.*

tissue
A tissue is a light, thin cloth, often used when you blow your nose.

triumph
Triumph means to succeed or win. *She will triumph if she comes in first in the race.*

twice
Twice means two times as much or as many. *Two cups is twice as much as one cup.*

wingspan
Wingspan is the distance from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other wing. *A large airplane has a greater wingspan than a smaller one.*

wondered
Wondered means thought about or imagined. *Jackie wondered what it would be like to be an astronaut.*
Quick Quizzes

Introducing... Barbie!, page 4
Ice Age Animals of Malta, page 6
Living Fossils, page 8
Against the Odds, page 10
Ah Choo!, page 12

Crossword!

Joke Jumble!

How do noses travel?
They take ah-choo choo train.

Answers

Quick Quizzes

Introducing... Barbie!, page 4

1. r
2. e
3. a
4. t

Ice Age Animals of Malta, page 6

5. t
6. n
7. a
8. a

Living Fossils, page 8

9. y
10. h
11. o
12. o

Against the Odds, page 10

13. y
14. a
15. t
16. t

Ah Choo!, page 12

17. a
18. a
19. a
20. a
Take time for fluency.

What is fluency? Reading fluency is the ability to read as easily as you speak.

Why is it important? Fluency is a key to comprehension and reading enjoyment.

Which books are right for you?

Level 1
The reader knows some letter sounds and some easy words.

Level 2
The reader can sound out words and read simple sentences.

This is a Level 3 Book.
The reader can read longer sentences with a few difficult words.

Level 4
The reader is ready to read text with more difficult words.

Level 5
The reader is ready for the challenge of more difficult concepts.

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