

Ready, Set, Purple!

Five stories inside

Living Fossils

Introducing... Barbie!

Ice Age Animals of Malta

Against the Odds

Ah Choo!

Read Alone ... Raise Your Score!
Read Along ...



LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 5

Minute Reader

A motivating system to improve reading fluency at home

TM



Ready, Set, Purple!

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One Minute Reader™

Level 3

**Ready, Set,
Purple!**

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HERE'S HOW...



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.



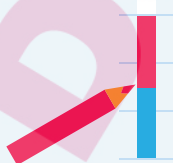
6. Take the Quick Quiz.

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!

6 One of the most **popular** toys
 14 in the world was based on a real
 18 person. Barbara, or Barbie,
 23 Handler was the daughter of
 27 Ruth and Elliot **founded**
 31 Mattel, Inc., a **company** that
 36 makes toys.

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

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

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



words read
 - errors
 = score

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.



Ruth Handler
inventor of Barbie dolls

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.

words read

- errors

= score

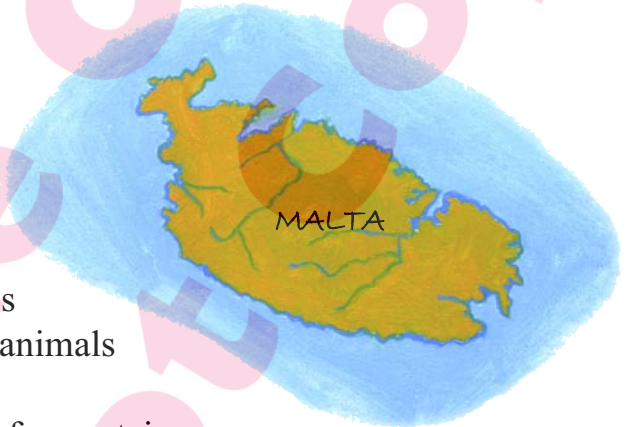
Quick Quiz

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?

Living Fossils

3 All dinosaurs died
 6 out **millions** of
 9 years ago, right?
 13 Or did they? The
 17 tuatara may not be
 22 a dinosaur, but it is
 26 a **reptile** that lived
 30 with the dinosaurs 200
 35 million years ago. Tuataras did
 43 not die out though. They still live in
 51 New Zealand. Scientists call them living **fossils**. Tuataras
 62 have been slow to change. They look very much like they
 67 did 200 million years ago.



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

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

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

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

words read

- errors

= score

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?



Against the Odds

8 In 1954, a little girl was born in
 13 Mississippi. She did not have
 19 much. Her first home didn't even
 24 have an indoor bathroom. She
 29 **suffered abuse**. Early in her
 34 life, many people would have
 39 **predicted a bleak future** for
 40 her.



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

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

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

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

words read

- errors

= score

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!

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

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

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

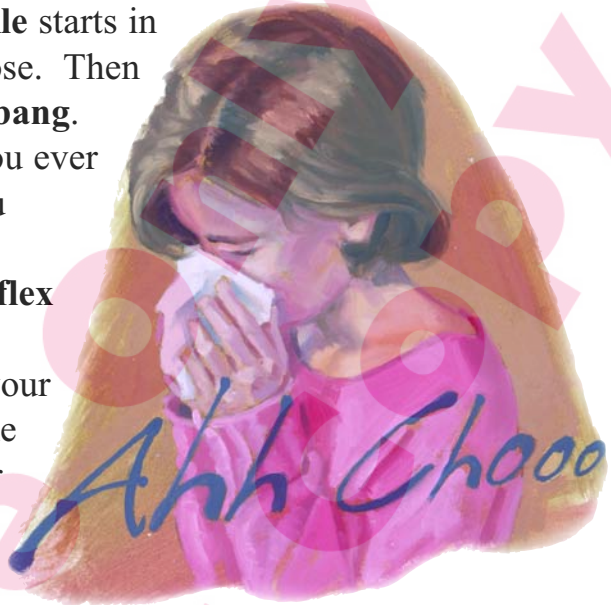
115 Some people don't like to sneeze. However, stopping a
 124 sneeze can be bad for you. Before you sneeze, your body
 135 takes in a lot of air. It wants to use this air to push out the
 151 particles. If you don't sneeze, you keep the extra air and
 162 the particles inside. The extra air could **damage**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

180 So, the next time you feel a sneeze coming on, grab a
 192 **tissue** and **let it rip!**

197 words read

- errors

= score



Quick Quiz

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?

DID YOU KNOW?

- 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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Hot Score



Story

Place your story sticker here.

Place your story sticker here.

Place your story sticker here.

Place your story sticker here.

Place your story sticker here.

Date

J KE JUMBLE!

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?

5	10	2	13	4	7	9	2
8	10	3	15	12	20		
3	17	19	11				
16	1	18	14	6			

CROSSWORD!

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.

bang
wondered
create
suffered
damage
proves
founded
predators
plenty
millions
scarce
outfits
triumph
froze
fled

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

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.

ability¹⁸

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

abuse¹⁹

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

amazing²⁰

Amazing means very impressive or great.

anchor²¹

An anchor is someone on television who reports the news.

available²²

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

bang²³

A bang is a loud, powerful noise.

beat²⁴

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

bleak²⁵

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

book report²⁶

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.*

burst²⁷

A burst is an explosion or a forceful action. *The firecracker went off with a burst.*

century²⁸

A century is a period of time equal to 100 years. *The year 1900 to the year 2000 was the twentieth century.*

charities²⁹

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

company³⁰

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

create³¹

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

damage³²

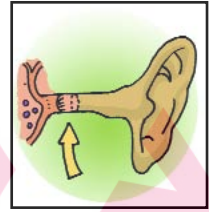
Damage means to cause harm to something. *A storm with heavy winds can damage a garden.*

dust³³

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

eardrums³⁴

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

**example**³⁵

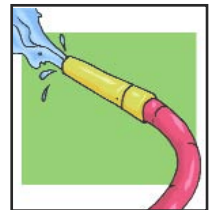
An example is a model or pattern that can be copied or followed. *The boy who sat quietly in class was an example of good behavior.*

feet³⁶

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

fire hose³⁷

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

**fled**³⁸

Fled means ran away, usually from danger. *The cat fled because it saw the big dog.*

force³⁹

Force is strength or power.
John pushed Mary with such force that she fell down.

fossils⁴⁰

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

**founded**⁴¹

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

froze⁴²

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

future⁴³

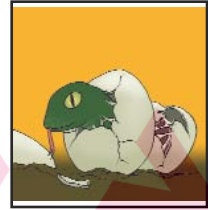
The future is the things that will happen later. *Your next birthday is in the future.*

germs⁴⁴

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

**hatch**⁴⁵

Hatch means to be born from an egg.

**hippos**⁴⁶

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

**Ice Age**⁴⁷

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

influence⁴⁸

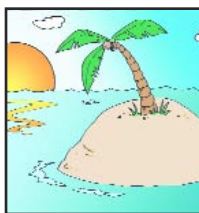
Influence is the power to affect people or things. *The basketball coach had a lot of influence on his players, so the players did what he told them to.*

introduced⁴⁹

Introduced means showed to others for the first time.

island⁵⁰

An island is a body of land surrounded by water.

**let it rip**⁵¹

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

magazine⁵²

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

**magazines**⁵³

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

melted⁵⁴

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

**millions**⁵⁵

Millions are thousands of thousands.

models⁵⁶

Models are people who pose for pictures.

outfits⁵⁷

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

particles⁵⁸

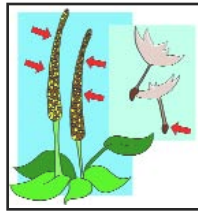
Particles are very small pieces or amounts of things. *We cannot always see the dust particles in the air because they are so tiny.*

plenty⁵⁹

Plenty is all you need or more than enough. *The big, two-car garage had plenty of room for his one small car.*

pollen⁶⁰

Pollen is small grains of powder made by plants to help them create new plants.

**reflex**⁶⁵

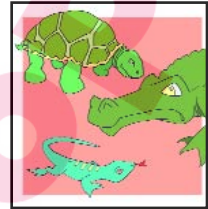
A reflex is something your body automatically does without you having to think about it. *If you touch a hot stove, a reflex will make you pull your hand away.*

popular⁶¹

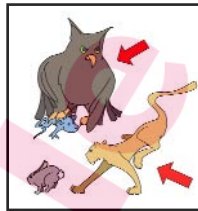
Popular means liked by many people. *Many people went to see the popular movie.*

reptile⁶⁶

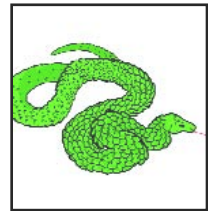
A reptile is a kind of animal, such as a snake or lizard, that has a body temperature close to the temperature of the air around it.

**predators**⁶²

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

**scales**⁶⁷

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

**predicted**⁶³

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

scarce⁶⁸

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

proves⁶⁴

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

senses⁶⁹

Senses means becomes aware of something or knows what is going on around itself.

suffered⁷⁰

Suffered means experienced harm or loss. *He suffered from his illness for a long time before he got better.*

supports⁷¹

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

surrounded⁷²

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

swan⁷³

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



tickle⁷⁴

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

tissue⁷⁵

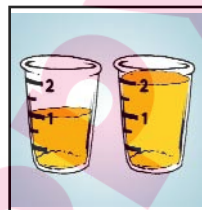
A tissue is a light, thin cloth, often used when you blow your nose.

triumph⁷⁶

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

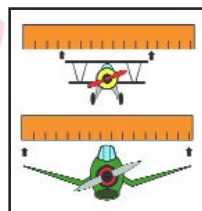
twice⁷⁷

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



wingspan⁷⁸

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.*

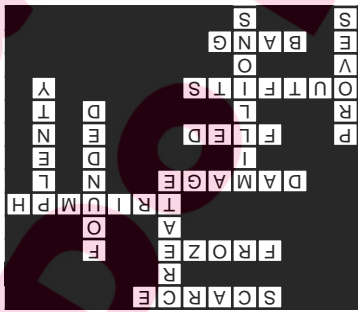


wondered⁷⁹

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

Answers

Crossword!



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

Joke Jumble!

How do noses travel?

They take ah-choo choo train.

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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