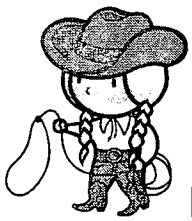
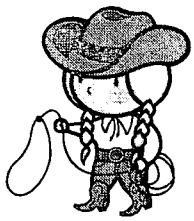


Reading Round Up



Objective: Students should be able to increase the number of words read in a passage

Materials:

Reading Passages (one for each week)

Timer (These can be found on most cell phones)

Pencil/Pen

Directions:

- Students will read one passage per week.
- Students will have one minute (using a timer on a cell phone) to read the passage.
- At the end of one minute, parents will mark the last place where the student stopped.
- Students will count the number of words to see if there is an increase.

Beth had wanted a pet for a long time. When her mom and dad asked her what she wanted for a gift, she said, "A pet! The kind I want most is a small colt, but if I cannot have a colt, I want a dog or cat."

Mom and Dad wanted to get a colt for their child, but they did not **know** where to find one. They also did not have a stall. A colt could not be kept in the den! Then, a man at Dad's job told them he had one to sell. It could **stay** in his stall if Beth fed it each day. It was not at all wild and would be a fun pet for a child.

The man sold Mom and Dad the colt. The plan was to put it in the **backyard** and then bring it to the stall at the end of the day. Mom had a thick string on the colt so that it would not bolt off and get lost. When Beth got up, Mom and Dad put a blindfold on her and led her to the yard. When they got to the back, they took the blindfold off and said, "Here is your gift, Beth!" But, there was no colt - just a string! "Where is the colt? We must find it!" said Mom and Dad. The colt was lost.

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The Lost Colt

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The man sold Mom and Dad the colt. The plan was to put it in the backyard and then bring it to the stall at the end of the day. Mom had a thick string on the colt so that it would not bolt off and get lost. When Beth got up, Mom and Dad put a blindfold on her and led her to the yard. When they got to the back, they took the blindfold off and said, "Here is your gift, Beth!" But, there was no colt - just a string! "Where is the colt? We must find it!" said Mom and Dad. The colt was lost.

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Mars is a small, rocky planet. It is cold and lifeless. It is one of the closest planets to Earth. It travels around the sun just like our planet Earth. It also has volcanos like Earth, but the volcanos on Mars are much bigger. They can be one hundred times as large as the volcanos on Earth. Mars also has very strong winds and bad dust storms that can last for months.

Spacecrafts have been sent to Mars to learn **more** about it. The first one landed on Mars in 1965. A **spacecraft** called the Mars Pathfinder landed there in 1997. There were no people on these **spacecrafts**. Mars is too cold for humans to survive there.

Mars is known as the red planet because of its reddish color and pink, hazy sky. The Romans were the first to call the planet Mars. Mars was the name of their god of War. Why do you think the Romans chose that name?

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It was a hot, steamy day. School was out for the summer. Most of the kids were thrilled, but Lee was not. He did not care for the heat. He did like to go for a swim with his friends, but he really missed the winter months. In the winter, Lee got to play hockey. He could skate all weekend and after school during the week. He had to be at the rink by five in the morning, but he did not mind at all. His dad drove him to the rink and they would eat donuts and have hot drinks on the way there.

Lee began to daydream about last season. His team had had a great year. They played well together and worked hard. They won most of their games and made the play-offs. Lee and his friend Pete were the key players on the team. They could both skate quite fast. It seemed that each time Lee passed the puck to Pete, Pete shot it in the net. One of the play-off games went into three overtimes. The next team to score would win the game. All the players felt weak. It is not easy to skate fast for a long time. Lee's team was short one player because Pete was in the penalty box. It seemed like the other team was going to win the game.

Lee stole the puck from the other team. He began to skate and picked up speed. He kept his **eyes** on the net. He snuck past three players from the other team. He shot the puck at the net and **saw** it fly into the top corner. Lee's team won the big game. Lee jumped into the air and landed on the ice. All of his teammates leaped on top of him. Lee would never forget this game-not **even** on hot, steamy summer days.

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Mr. and Mrs. Carlo wanted to have a surprise birthday party for their **daughter** Carly. She was turning seven years old. It would be easy to plan it while she was away on a week-long trip with her brother, Lee, and her grandparents. Carly's older brother, Jay, said he would enjoy helping to prepare for the party.

First, they sent notes in the mail to ask friends and family to join them. Jay helped to get these into the mail. He then gave Dad a hand setting up a tent so that rain could not spoil the party. The next step was to get snacks for the party. They went to the store and got plenty of hotdogs, hamburgers and tonic. They also picked up some chips and dip. They knew that kids could eat quite a bit. Mom ordered the cake from a bake shop that makes cakes that are rich and moist. She chose one with whipped cream frosting.

Mom checked with the other people in the apartment complex to see if they would mind a little **noise**. She told them the party would last until nine. All of the people said it was just fine. They did not mind a bit of **noise** and said they hoped the kids would enjoy themselves. They knew Carly and her friends were not the kind of kids who would destroy things or run around in the halls.

The only problem left was planning an activity for the kids' enjoyment. They had some games the kids could play and they got some videos and CDs. The problem was that it was likely to be quite hot and humid and there was nowhere to swim. At last, Mr. Carlo came up with a super **idea** - squirt guns! The kids would have a blast squirting each other and getting wet!

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Surprise!

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Do you ever wonder what happens to your socks when you put them in the laundry? It seems to me that I put many **more** socks in the laundry than I get back. I know that when I put a pair of dirty socks in the hamper or laundry basket that I put both of the socks in together. But, when I get my clean laundry back, very often only one sock returns.

I am not sure what causes this to happen. Perhaps my dryer is haunted.

Maybe there is some kind of a law that says only one sock can come back at a time. Maybe there is something in the dryer that grinds socks up into sawdust. All I know is that I get exhausted looking all over my house for my missing socks. Every time it happens my mother launches into a big long story about how I need to be **more** careful. I try to explain that it is not my fault, but she still gets mad at me. The funny thing is that many times the missing sock is later found back in my dresser **drawer**.

One day I was visiting my Aunt Dawn. I go over there all the time to play with my cousin Paul. It was raining so we were drawing and working on a jigsaw puzzle. Aunt Dawn was doing the laundry when I got there. All of a sudden, Aunt Dawn began to squawk at Paul. She was upset because she could not find all their socks. The kids said the last time they saw the socks they were in the laundry. I sort of crawled out of the way. There was no point in trying to help them find the socks. I was just glad that this time I was sure it was not my fault.

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