Oral Fluency Record Sheet

Name ___________________________ Date __________________

Oral Reading Accuracy: ___________% Circle: Fall Winter Spring
Oral Reading Fluency Score: ________________ words correct per minute
Prosody Rubric: (Circle Score) 1 2 3 4
Comprehension Question Responses
#1 ____________________________________________
#2 ____________________________________________

Saving Up

My class planned a trip to the aquarium. We decided
to raise money for everyone's admission ticket. We earned
the money by having a Good-to-Eat Sale at school.
Each morning for a week, everyone brought in
something that was both delicious and healthy. I brought
some enormous bran muffins. Miss Hansen brought in
granola bar cookies. Other students brought raisins, carrot
sticks, and banana bread.

We had a wide assortment of treats to sell. We set
up our table where the school buses and cars dropped off
their passengers. Each morning, we arranged the goods on
the table.

As students were dropped off, they saw the delicious
foods. Everyone was surprised to see what was for sale.
No one could pass our table without stopping.
The sale was a huge success. We earned enough
money for everyone to attend the class trip. The class
cannot wait to see all of the sharks and the rare fish
at the aquarium. 161

Number of words read: ___________ Number of errors made: ___________
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Bumpy Travels

Last evening, Dad and I spent a couple of hours reading a book about America’s early pioneers. The book described families traveling in covered wagons pulled by horses, oxen, or mules. All of a family’s possessions were inside each wagon. The family had to carry food for their journey, too.

I thought it would be fun to travel that way, but Dad explained that back then, travel was difficult. He asked how I would feel if I had to ride long distances in a wagon that bumped all day long. If someone didn’t want to stay inside the wagon, the only other choice was to walk beside it.

I told Dad I would have to think about that one.

Dad and I talked about our drive through Kansas last summer. Even by car, the drive took a long time. We did not, however, have to worry about feeding oxen along the way.

Traveling is easier and more convenient now, but I still think a journey in a covered wagon would be a great adventure.

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Comprehension Question Responses

#1 _______________________________________

#2 _______________________________________

Basketball on Wheels

Basketball is a challenging sport to play. Players need strength to move up and down the court and bounce the ball while they are on the move. They also need to be alert for the opportunity to pass. Basketball players cannot relax or let their attention stray for a second. People who play basketball work as a team and depend on each other for support. The same is true for people who play basketball from wheelchairs.

The United States has many basketball teams for children in wheelchairs. The children on these teams bounce the ball, pass, and shoot from their wheelchairs. They learn to move quickly in their chairs and keep track of the ball. They must also be good at passing and shooting. They need a lot of balance, energy, and upper-body strength. Just think how high the basketball hoop looks when you are sitting down.

Wheelchair basketball is an excellent way for children in wheelchairs to be on a team. These players show us we can all be strong if we make the effort. 177

Number of words read: __________ Number of errors made: __________
Snakes of Many Colors

You might think snakes do not need protection, but they do. Certain kinds of mammals, such as pigs and mongooses, prey on snakes. Large birds, such as the serpent eagle, think they make fine meals. Even other snakes, such as the King Cobra, will hunt certain snakes.

Snakes often use colors to protect themselves from predators. The bright colors of some snakes, like the Mangrove snake, warn enemies that the snake is poisonous. Other snakes only pretend to be poisonous. The bright red, black, and white scales of the Pueblan milk snake, which are arranged in bands, make animals think the snake is poisonous even though it is not.

Snakes also use their colors to hide themselves from predators. For example, the bright green cat snake lives high in a tree in the rainforest. The snake stays coiled around a branch during the day. It looks just like a vine, fooling animals that might want to make it their dinner.

These snakes need their colorful scales to stay safe. After all, it is a dangerous world, even for a snake.
The Kitchen

Mama never wanted to be in the kitchen. She said she had spent so much time helping her mama in the kitchen that she never wanted to see a pot or pan or a cutting board again. Still she managed to prepare good meals for our family.

I didn't share my mother's feelings about cooking. I especially loved baking. I loved the look of Grandma's old mixing bowls and the smell and feel of finely sifted flour, creamy butter, and cold eggs fresh from the refrigerator.

On the day before Mama's birthday, she decided to treat herself to a new haircut. After she left, I went into the kitchen and found Grandma's recipe book. In a jiffy, I had flour, eggs, sugar, butter, and spices in a bowl. I mixed them together, put the batter into a pan, and put the pan into the oven. When Mama got home, I made her close her eyes.

"Happy birthday," I said, holding the biggest, best birthday cake ever.

"My little baker," Mama said proudly.
A Good Friend

Misha stumbled into her room and sank down miserably onto her bed. She wished she could take back her angry and thoughtless words. She had told her best friend that she did not like her. She hadn't really meant it, but the angry words had just poured out.

Misha knew that she was jealous of Anna's talent for drawing. Anna could draw so beautifully, and Misha so wanted to be an artist. Misha felt her tears dripping onto her pillow, and then she felt something chilly and damp touch her arm. She looked down and saw her playful cat, Oliver.

Oliver meowed and rubbed against Misha's shoulder. The tearful girl began to stroke the affectionate cat. She petted him tenderly until her tears stopped. Oliver purred and rolled playfully onto his back. He patted Misha's hand, and Misha chuckled loudly.

Oliver knew how to make her forget her troubles. He was a good friend. Misha wanted to be a good friend, too. She decided to draw Anna a portrait of Oliver.
Thunderhead Clouds

Forces that form a thunderhead cloud can build over a long period of time. We do not recognize that these forces are operating until a large dark cloud forms overhead. The forces that create thunderhead clouds are hot and cold air.

Warm air rises into the clouds. The air keeps moving up, spilling over the top of clouds. Water vapor, or little drops of water, are in this warm air.

As the warm air rises, it causes the water vapor to cool and form bigger drops of water and even small ice crystals. The clouds rise up as more air travels upward.

Inside the cloud is a roller coaster of air. The air goes up rapidly, then it gets very cold and falls down rapidly. Heavy rain, lightning, thunder, and hail may come from the thunderhead cloud. The forces of hot and cold air have combined to create one of nature’s most amazing shows, a thunderstorm.
The Polar Regions

There are two polar regions in the world: the South Pole and the North Pole.

10 Antarctica lies in the South Pole. It consists of tall mountains, icy glaciers, and miles and miles of frozen land.

25 Most of the land is covered by a thick layer of ice. Because of the ice and the cold, very few forms of life can survive in Antarctica.

63 The North Pole, however, can support some life. In the summer, areas of the North Pole become warm enough for berries and vegetables to grow. In other parts of the North Pole, the ice melts, but the water cannot drain into the frozen soil. Instead, the water remains on the surface.

114 Flowering plants, such as the Arctic poppy, can take root and grow there. These pretty flowers bring color to this white land.

136 The Arctic Ocean is also in the North Pole region. It has thousands of islands and much of it is covered by ice all year long. But even on the ice, many plants and animals can live.

Number of words read: _______ Number of errors made: _______
The Pet Rock

Emma still has the pet rock she received for her birthday five years ago. It is still one of her favorite possessions. It is gray with fuzzy orange feet and a lavender tail. Its eyes are outlined in blue and white crayon, and its mouth is drawn in red crayon.

Rob brought the pet rock to Emma's birthday party when she turned six. It was wrapped in a huge yellow box with an enormous bright red bow. When Emma opened the box, she found another box inside wrapped in sparkly green paper. Inside that box was another box wrapped in pink tissue paper. Finally, inside that box was her pet rock.

It was the best gift Emma got that year and the only one she still has from her sixth birthday. It was special and different because Rob had made it himself.

Emma keeps it on a shelf in her room next to the trophy she won at last year's swim competition. When Emma looks at the rock, she remembers Rob, her party that year, and what friendship really means. It is still one of her best memories.

Number of words read: 185 Number of errors made: ________
A Messy Job

The weekend had arrived, and more than anything,

8 Dad wanted to relax in his favorite chair on the front porch.

20 But he still had to wax and polish the car and paint the

33 garage door. Unless he found someone to assist him, Dad

43 realized it would be hours before he could relax.

52 Dad had an idea. He would walk to the hardware

62 store and pick up some paint supplies, and while he was

73 gone, Kyle, my brother, could wax the car.

81 Just as Dad left for the store, he told Kyle to use

93 some “elbow grease.” Kyle was probably not paying close

102 attention to Dad. He was probably thinking about

110 something else he considered more important.

116 After Dad left, Kyle went down to the basement

125 and found a container labeled “Grease.” When Dad returned,

134 there was Kyle with grease covering his elbows. Dad’s

143 mouth dropped open in surprise. He laughed at the sight of

154 Kyle running his greasy elbows over the car.

162 Now when Dad gives Kyle something to do, he

171 chooses his words more carefully. 176

Number of words read: __________  Number of errors made: __________
Polar Bears

Polar bears live in the icy North, in regions bordering the Arctic Ocean. In spite of their large size, 19 polar bears are excellent swimmers. They can swim long distances through icy cold waters to hunt for fish, seals, walruses, and other animals that live in the sea. They also love to play in the water.

55 Polar bears have pads of fur on the soles of their feet and five long, curved claws on each of their paws. The fur keeps their feet warm while they walk on the ice, and the claws help them grip the slippery ice.

98 A polar bear’s fur is thick and heavy. This fur along with a layer of fat helps to protect the polar bear’s body from the Arctic cold. The color of the fur is creamy white, which helps the polar bear look like the snow and ice that surrounds it. Thanks to the white fur, a polar bear can creep up on a seal without being noticed.

164 Polar bears and their babies are happy in their Arctic home. 175

Number of words read: __________ Number of errors made: __________
Sun Facts

The sun is important to everything on Earth. Light and heat from the sun give warmth and energy to all life on the planet.

But the sun is really just a star. It looks larger because it is much closer to us than other stars. Compared with other stars, the sun is just medium-size. But compared with Earth, it is very large indeed. If the sun were a hollow ball, it would take one million Earth-size balls to fill it up.

The temperature of any place on Earth depends on the position of the sun. Places near the equator are hot because the sun shines almost directly overhead at noon. On the other hand, places near the North Pole and the South Pole are cold. This is because the sun almost never rises above the horizon there.

Scientists know a good deal about the sun, but they still have much to learn. As they learn, they hope to find better ways to use the sun’s power on Earth.

Number of words read: __________ Number of errors made: __________
The Wink

The day of the big winter concert had arrived. Rosa
played the violin in the school orchestra, and tonight she
would be giving a solo performance in front of an audience
for the first time.

Rosa was nervous all day, and she was even more
uncomfortable and scared when she left for the concert.

Rosa went backstage to wait for her turn. One after another,
members of the orchestra played their instruments. Kelly
played the trumpet, Jack played the drums, and Max played
the French horn. When it was time for her friend Sam to
play the piano, Rosa peeked out from behind the curtain
to watch. Sam looked confident, and his playing was
smooth and clear. Then Rosa saw her parents in the third
row. Her father caught her eye and winked.

Suddenly, Rosa felt very confident. She stepped onto
the stage, adjusted the music stand, and set her music in
place. Then she began to play. When the song was over, the
audience clapped loudly. Rosa grinned, winked at her parents,
and ran offstage. Rosa's stage fright was over.
The Gift of Friendship

I never went anywhere without my favorite lucky marble. It was very old, and it sparkled with incredibly pretty swirls of silver, lavender, and green inside. Likewise, my friend Hillary never went anywhere without one of the lucky key chain animals she collects. Her favorites were the camel and the octopus. Good friends know this kind of thing about each other.

Hillary's birthday was approaching. I wanted to buy her a new key chain animal, but I had already spent my entire allowance. My friend Pam collects them, too, so I traded my lucky marble for one of Pam's key chain animals. It was a shiny little butterfly.

Hillary had been upset when I told her about my marble, but just seeing the look on her face today at her birthday party would make it worthwhile.

When Hillary saw what I gave her, she almost cried.

Then she told me that she had traded one of her key chain animals for a marble just like the one I used to have.

Being good friends, Hillary and I had a good laugh about our gifts.
The Giant Panda

The giant panda is an animal with a chubby, black-and-white body and black legs. Its head is large and round, and its white face has black patches around each eye. Panda cubs are extremely tiny when they are born, weighing only about five ounces. As adults, however, giant pandas can weigh as much as 350 pounds. Giant pandas live only in places where there are bamboo forests with plenty of bamboo shoots for them to eat. Because of this, they are found only on high mountain slopes in western and southwestern China. Giant pandas can spend 16 hours a day eating. In one year, a panda can eat more than 10,000 pounds of bamboo. Although the giant panda eats chiefly bamboo shoots, it sometimes eats other plants, fish, and small animals, too. As a special gift to the people of the United States, China gave two giant pandas to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., in 1972. The pandas lived there for many years, eating bamboo shoots and making all of the zoo visitors laugh.
Fads

Suppose one day a girl comes to school wearing a fake braid made out of yarn. The next day three girls come to school with fake braids. Soon all the girls in school are wearing the braids.

That is how a fad starts. A few people start doing something different, and then all of a sudden everybody starts to copy them.

In the 1950s, one popular fad for teenage girls was wearing their father's big, white shirts. Another fad for girls at the same time was wearing felt skirts with cutouts of poodles on them. During the 1970s, people wore blue jeans with fancy stitching on them as a fad. In recent years boys have worn baggy pants and baseball caps turned around backward.

Not all fads are about clothes. Some fads involve sports. In the 1990s, students on college campuses kicked around a small, colorful, leather ball. They called this game hacky sack. Hacky sack players kept the ball off the ground by using their knees and feet. Students loved playing this game during their free time.

When people look back at certain fads they may wonder why they were so popular. But when “everyone is doing it,” fads are just a way for people to have some fun.
One Birthday for All

Every family has traditions. Traditions are things people do year after year. Beth King’s family has many traditions they celebrate, but Beth’s favorite tradition is about birthdays.

Because Beth has so many aunts, uncles, and cousins, it is impossible to celebrate each birthday. So once a year, on the third Saturday in July, Beth’s relatives have one big birthday celebration for everyone.

The adults stay at Beth’s grandparents’ house. The children sleep in tents on the lawn.

Everyone brings food and every meal is a feast.

The cousins play soccer. Grandpa and the uncles sit on the wide porch and drink homemade lemonade.

The aunts have a softball game. Everyone roots for their favorite team.

Afterward, everyone eats hamburgers and fresh corn. At the end, Grandma brings out a big frosted cake.

Every year, after the family birthday celebration, Beth goes to bed and starts thinking about next year’s birthday party. 151
Fruit Fun

Ellen's favorite pastime was making things, so she was delighted when her aunt sent her a box of modeling clay. The clay was soft and gooey, and Ellen could press and mold it into all kinds of shapes. Ellen started by creating different kinds of fruits—apples, bananas, oranges, pears, plums, grapefruit, peaches, and lemons. She arranged her best pieces of fruit in a fancy china bowl, and when her mother saw the bowl, she was amazed at how real the fruit looked. That gave Ellen and her mother an idea, and together they set the pretty bowl in the center of the dining room table.

That evening when Dad came home, he immediately noticed the fruit bowl.

"Those peaches look so ripe and delicious!"

Dad exclaimed.

Ellen started laughing and she couldn't stop.

"What are you laughing at?" Dad demanded.

Dad reached out and chose the prettiest peach.

Right away he realized why Ellen was laughing.

"You completely fooled me," he said. "This peach certainly looks good enough to eat."
Babe

Babe Ruth might be the most famous baseball player who ever lived. His batting ability along with his colorful personality brought huge crowds to his games. But his road to fame was challenging and difficult. Babe was born on February 6, 1895, as George Herman Ruth, Jr., to a poor family in Baltimore. When Babe was seven, his parents sent him to live at a school for boys. Although he visited home several times over the next few years, the school was his real home until he turned nineteen years old. The school was strict, and baseball was the only game the boys were allowed to play. Luckily for Babe, there was a teacher at the school who took a special liking to Babe. That teacher was also a wonderful baseball player. He could hit a ball hard and far. The teacher worked with Babe hour after hour, teaching him to hit and pitch and catch. When Babe left the school, he was ready to make his way in the world. And Babe's way was baseball. He became a national hero.
Power from the Wind

Every day we experience what the wind does. A gentle wind may mess up our hair while a strong wind may knock down trees. Long ago, people experienced what the wind did, too, and they learned how to put the wind to work. Persians developed windmills about 1,500 years ago. They used wind power to pump water for their crops and to grind grain for bread. Before using wind power, people pumped water and ground grain by hand or by animal power. In time, the use of wind power spread to other parts of the world. Windmills became very popular in Holland, where people used them to drain water from the land and to grind grain. These windmills had four long arms. People all over the world still use windmills to pump water and to grind grain, but now windmills are also used to produce electricity. As other types of power become more expensive, wind power becomes more attractive and valuable. People are finding new ways to use this source of power that will continue as long as we have the wind.
The Turtle Experiment

Joyce hopes to work as a scientist studying animals all over the world. For now she practices by observing her pet turtle, Marvin. Joyce keeps a record of Marvin’s activities, including charts to show which foods he prefers. Joyce’s mom suggests that Joyce do some more research by talking to the owner of the local pet store. Joyce thinks this is an excellent idea. When she speaks to the pet store owner, he mentions that some turtles are unhappy in glass cages. This information gives Joyce an idea for an experiment. Joyce decides to build a new home for Marvin. Her mother helps her put up a fence around a clear space in the backyard, and then they bring out stones and water. They take Marvin from his glass cage and place him inside his new home. Joyce studies Marvin to see if he prefers his new home.

After a week of close observation, Joyce reviews her records and sees that Marvin has been eating and playing more than ever before! Mom and Joyce decide that Marvin prefers the backyard to the glass cage. "Great experiment," says Mom.
Ruiz's Toy Chest

Ruiz is almost nine, and he has decided that he has outgrown his old toys. He goes to his toy chest and empties out all his old playthings. His wooden helicopter, some coloring books, his stuffed giraffe, his parrot puppet, and all his other old toys are spread around him on the floor.

"I'll bet the little kid next door would really enjoy playing with some of this stuff," Ruiz thinks to himself as he looks at all of his old toys. Ruiz picks up his stuffed giraffe with its black nose, orange stripes, long neck, and funny feet. He remembers how he used to pretend he was on the grassy plains of Africa riding on his giraffe.

"Maybe I'll keep my giraffe after all," thinks Ruiz, and he puts the giraffe back into the toy chest. Ruiz peers into the toy chest. "My giraffe looks really lonely in there," he thinks. "I'd better put the other toys back in so that he'll have some more company."

Ruiz collects all the other toys and puts them back into the toy chest. "I think I'll keep all these old friends a little bit longer," he says to himself.

Number of words read: _________ Number of errors made: _________
The Largest Plants

Trees are the largest of all plants. They provide
9 homes for birds and other animals, and they protect us from
20 the sun and the wind. But trees are important in other
31 ways, too.
33 Wood from trees helps us build our homes and furniture.
43 Wood gives us pulp for paper which goes into making plastic.
54 Some trees produce the milky material that is used to create
65 rubber. Other trees provide substances used in medicines.
73 Trees give us many foods, too, such as grapefruits,
82 olives, chocolate, coconuts, and walnuts. In many states,
90 vast orchards make large quantities of cherries, peaches,
98 figs, plums, and apples.
102 Trees have three parts. The roots hold the tree in the
113 ground. They soak up water and vitamins needed to help
123 the tree grow. The trunk and branches carry sap and hold
134 the leaves in the sunlight. The leaves make the tree's food.
145 Leaves use the light from the sun to take a gas called
157 carbon dioxide from the air. The leaves mix this gas with
168 oxygen and water to make the food the tree needs
178 to grow. 180

Number of words read: ___________ Number of errors made: ___________
Chimps That Talk

Have you ever been to the zoo and watched the chimpanzees? Chimpanzees are among the most playful, curious, and interesting animals at the zoo. They often entertain visitors by dancing around, waving their arms, and making hooting noises. Often they come right up to visitors as if they want to have a chat.

For many years, scientists have watched chimpanzees use grunts, hoots, and howls to tell each other about things like food and danger. Scientists wondered if chimpanzees could talk with humans and decided to try to teach them sign language. In sign language, hand and finger movements are used to mean different things.

At first, the chimpanzees would copy the signs the scientists made. For example, the scientist would make the signs for "I want to eat" as the chimpanzees ate a meal and the chimps would copy them. Later, the chimpanzees would make the sign "I want to eat" all by themselves. After a while, chimpanzees learned to make their own signs to show what they wanted.

Would you like to have a conversation with a chimpanzee? Maybe someday you will.
Wolf Watchers

Benjamin was thrilled to be on vacation in Montana.

His parents wanted to observe timber wolves in their natural environment.

The first day, his family woke up early and hiked several miles with a guide to a wooded area. During the night, they had heard a wolf's howl, so they were certain there were wolves nearby. They knew that wolves were becoming rare, that they avoided people, and that the best time to spot a wolf was at sunrise. For a long time, they saw deer and elk, but no wolves.

Suddenly they heard leaves crunching softly.

Nobody made a sound. Sure enough, it was a wolf!

Benjamin's family watched the large, gray wolf for ten minutes before it vanished into the woods. They made plaster casts out of the wolf's tracks. But Benjamin wanted to do something to help the wolves survive.

"You can write a letter to show your support of timber wolves," the guide said.

Benjamin wrote a letter after he finished breakfast.

He would remember the trip, and the wolf, for a long time.
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Fire in the Locker Room

Jason was in the showers near the locker room
9 when he thought he smelled something burning. He
17 dashed into the locker room and saw flames shooting
26 out of several lockers.
30 Jason was unsure what to do. Other kids had
39 gotten into trouble for pulling the fire alarm, and
48 Jason didn’t want any trouble. He ran outside and
57 began shouting “Fire, fire!” He was able to get the
67 attention of a teacher, but at first the teacher didn’t
77 believe him. There had been a couple of false alarms
87 lately. But the teacher went into the locker room
96 and saw the fire spreading.
101 Jason, the teacher, and the track coach grabbed
109 the school fire hoses and managed to put out most of the
121 flames. But flames continued to pop up here and there,
131 and the fire department had to come to make sure the fire
143 was completely out.
146 No one knew how the fire had started, but the
156 principal thanked Jason for his quick action. Jason
164 had stopped more damage from happening to his school. 173

Number of words read: __________ Number of errors made: _________
Bill Peet, Writer and Artist

Bill Peet is a popular children’s writer and artist. Many of his books have animal characters because he loved to draw animals. The animals act like people and were often like people Bill Peet knew.

Before he began writing children’s books, Bill Peet wrote and drew illustrations for the movies. He worked on famous films like *Peter Pan* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Many of Bill Peet’s books are very funny, but at the same time they talk about serious problems. In his book *Farewell to Shady Glade*, a group of animals has to leave its home because people want to put up buildings where they live. The animals lose their home, and the reader doesn’t know if they will find a new one.

Other books give lessons about life. The book *Kermit the Hermit* is about a selfish crab. After a boy rescues him, Kermit learns that it is important to share.

Through Bill Peet’s books, both children and adults get to see the world through new eyes. They get to laugh, but at the same time they get to learn important lessons about life. 184
Plants in Danger

Did you know that some plants are endangered?

8 One in eight plants on Earth is dying out, and we may
20 never see them again.
24 Scientists call a plant endangered if they expect it
33 to die off completely in the next 20 years. They hope that
45 special efforts will be made to protect the plant so that it
57 can continue to survive.
61 There are several reasons why some plants are
69 endangered. People damage the homes of many kinds
77 of plants when they build new homes or farms. When
87 they cut down trees to clear the land, they destroy the
98 places that have been the plants’ homes. In some
107 places, too many sheep or other animals graze on the
117 land and eat all the plants that grew there. Sometimes
127 areas along the coast are filled in for homes and
137 businesses. The plants that grew there are destroyed.
145 A group called Green Kids has gotten together
153 to teach about endangered plants and to show that
162 kids can make a difference. Each spring, Green Kids
171 visit schools across Canada to perform funny skits
179 about the environment. The skits teach kids how to
188 help save our natural world. 193
Tree Trouble

Scott overheard his mother and a neighbor outside his apartment door. They were discussing the grove of oak trees next to the apartment building. The city government was planning to remove the trees to create space for new apartments.

Scott was shocked. Surely they were not talking about his favorite place! Scott loved the grove. It was shady and cool in the summer, and it was the perfect spot for building forts in the winter. And Scott could always go there when he wanted to be alone.

Scott’s neighbors were upset about losing the grove, too, but no one knew what action to take. Scott decided to hold a meeting for everyone in his apartment. Almost everyone was interested and almost everyone came. They discussed many ideas and finally decided to write letters to the local newspaper.

After the newspaper printed the letters, more people in the community became aware of the city’s plans. Some protested and wrote letters of their own.

Soon the city chose a new place for the apartments.

The grove was saved!
Farmer Paul's New Scarecrow

Every summer Farmer Paul knew he would have trouble with crows. The last time Farmer Paul had put up a scarecrow, the crows had seemed to realize that if it were real it would move. After a while they had swooped down and pecked at the straw under its shirt and pulled at the straw in its hat.

One day, Farmer Paul noticed a man-like figure made of lightweight plastic on the roof of a store. The figure was filled with air, and every time the wind blew, it waved its head, arms, and legs. The plastic man looked very much alive.

Farmer Paul bought one of the plastic figures, and after he planted his corn, he attached the figure to a tall stick. He gave it overalls and a shirt just like the kind he wore, and he covered its head with a dark wig. Whenever the wind blew even a little, the plastic man moved.

The plastic man worked, and the big, black crows were fooled. Farmer Paul's crops grew tall and healthy, and the crows did not bother his fields ever again.

Number of words read: _________ Number of errors made: _________