



# acadience® reading 7–8

## Oral Reading

Student Materials

### Grade 8 | Progress Monitoring 6

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# Unity

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► The start of volleyball season was exciting for Isabella, but frustrating, too. She was ecstatic to have made the team as the starting setter, and she was also energized by the new coach, yet, things weren't coming together in quite the right way. The team had heaps of talent and athleticism, but they lacked the chemistry that would be vital to achieve success. Isabella sighed and mulled over how to best surmount this crucial problem.

After 2 weeks of practicing, Isabella noticed that everyone was still playing individually rather than as a team. The girls seemed to be trying to dazzle the new coach with their formidable skills. Did they not realize there was no "I" in the word "team"? Isabella wanted to be a shining star, too, but knew that her team would never be competitive if everyone failed to collaborate together. It occurred to her that her teammates might just need more time to become familiar with one another. Most of them had never met before tryouts and had certainly never played together. Isabella had competed with Riley and Brianna last year, but they were the only teammates she knew. This year was a whole new ball game! Two weeks wasn't enough time to develop the necessary camaraderie or establish the required communication between the various positions on the court. Isabella realized this even though she, too, was guilty of sticking mostly to her friends.

Isabella decided she would enlist Riley and Brianna's help to figure out this difficult dilemma in order to ensure the team's overall performance. That evening, the three girls came up with a plan. They decided that they would each ask another girl they didn't know to be their drill partner at practice the next day, and they would also host a dinner at Isabella's house for the entire team.

The next day the girls rotated partners during drills and tried to learn something about each teammate. After 2 hours of scrimmaging it was evident that communication was already improving. Later that evening, as the team enjoyed a pizza dinner, everyone joked and laughed as though they were old friends. There would still be obstacles to overcome, but it seemed that the ball was finally bouncing in the right direction.

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# Home Green Home

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► There are places on Earth, like Iceland, where parts of the surface water and land are naturally heated by volcanic activity. Early civilizations learned to harness this geothermal energy, or heat from the earth, to warm buildings and spas. Today, scientists are exploring how to efficiently and cost-effectively use geothermal energy to heat and cool buildings.

In most places around the world, the upper ten feet of the earth's surface remains at a fairly constant temperature between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Since thermal energy is inexpensive and exists around the world, scientists have been searching for ways to harness, or capture, this abundant source of energy. Scientists have experimented with conventional, accepted, and currently used equipment because it is more efficient to adapt an existing technology than to create something new. Therefore, in terms of current technology, the heat pump was an obvious choice to capture and process the ground's geothermal energy.

A heat pump is a machine that transfers heat energy from a heat source to a destination where more heat is desired. The amazing thing about a heat pump is that it can even transfer heat energy from a cooler source to a warmer destination. In most heat pump systems, air is the heat source. In the winter, heat from the outside air is transferred into the house to warm the inside air. In the summer, the reverse happens, and heat inside the house is moved outside which cools the house's interior.

In a ground-source heat pump system, the ground is the heat source. A carrier fluid, often consisting of water and antifreeze, runs through loops of pipe buried underground. The fluid absorbs heat from the ground as it circulates through the loops and transfers the heat energy into the house through the heat pump. A piece of equipment called a heat exchanger warms indoor air that is distributed through the house. The carrier fluid, now cooled, travels back through the loops of pipe to be reheated. In summer, the process is reversed, and the fluid absorbs heat from inside the house. The warm fluid flows through the loops of pipe in the cooler ground, where the heat is dissipated, or spread out.

While geothermal heat pumps still use electricity to operate, they are very efficient. A heat pump can save homeowners up to 70 percent in heating and 50 percent in cooling costs.

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# Indira Gandhi

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► Indira Gandhi was born in 1917 and her childhood in India was far from normal. Her parents were helping in the fight for Indian independence from Britain, so the police often came to the family home to arrest her mother and father and take them to jail. Indira spent her childhood among activists and copied their style of speaking by giving “thunderous speeches” to the workers in her house. Perhaps, in a way, she was practicing for her future role as India’s first female prime minister.

When India was at last free from British rule, Indira’s father became its first prime minister. Indira admired her father and became interested in politics. When her mother died, Indira became her father’s official hostess while he was leader, which gave her the chance to learn the inner workings of politics. She became active in the ruling Congress Party, and when the man who succeeded her father died, the party chose her to be the next prime minister. By this time, she was already known for her charisma and charm, as well as for her toughness.

India is not an easy nation to govern for many reasons, not the least of which is its huge population; more than a billion people live in India. Its history has been marked by poverty, religious conflict, and fighting among castes, or social divisions. As India’s leader, Indira faced great challenges. In the mid-1970s, her rivals accused her of misusing her power and going against election laws. Her response was to take strong control of the government. She had hundreds of her opponents arrested and put in jail, which caused more problems for her. In 1977, she was voted out of office, but 3 years later, she was elected again to lead the country.

In 1984, a faction of Sikhs used violence to attempt to gain the right to govern themselves in a state in northern India. Indira gave permission for government troops to attack the fighters in a place of worship for followers of the Sikh religion. Many people died in the attack. A few months later, as Indira Gandhi stood in her garden, she was killed by two of her bodyguards, both of whom were Sikhs.

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