



# acadience® reading 7–8

## Oral Reading

Student Materials

### Grade 7 | Progress Monitoring 1

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## A Few Crumbs

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► A solitary oatmeal blueberry muffin remained. Samuel had eaten two muffins, and his grandson, Justin, who loved blueberry muffins, had consumed three. Samuel wrapped the last muffin in aluminum foil to save for his granddaughter to enjoy. When Samuel entered the kitchen later, he discovered the aluminum foil on the counter surrounded by several stray crumbs. Justin was sitting on the front porch, trying not to look guilty as he licked crumbs from the corner of his mouth.

Samuel smiled, recalling a time when he had been in a similar position, and sat beside Justin on the top step and asked Justin if he could share a story with him. Justin grinned, knowing how much he loved Samuel's stories.

Samuel told Justin about a time when Justin's great-grandmother had made cookies for a student council bake sale. Each family who volunteered was required to bake 10 platters of a dozen cookies each. If all the cookies were sold, the student council would have just enough money to purchase a new school banner for the parade.

Samuel's mother toiled most of one Sunday afternoon preparing batch after batch of cookies. Samuel was responsible for arranging the cookies on the platters and covering the cookies with clear plastic wrap. Samuel loved his job because as he packaged the cookies, he could munch to his heart's delight.

When the last batch of cookies slid into the oven, Samuel's mother sighed in relief, knowing that batch would just round out the 10th platter. The next day as they loaded the cookies into the station wagon, Samuel couldn't resist and impulsively gobbled up a couple more scrumptious cookies. He snatched one from each of two platters, hoping no one would notice. But, of course, his mother caught him as the last crumb disappeared. Out of time, the student council sale was shorted a platter. Samuel explained to Justin that he still cringed thinking of his mother's disappointment and his inability to rectify the situation.

After listening to Samuel's story, Justin sat motionless with his eyes downcast and his mind churning. Justin realized that he had shorted his sister just the way Samuel had shorted the student council fundraiser. Then he looked up at Samuel and asked permission to bake oatmeal blueberry muffins for his sister. Samuel smiled, congratulating Justin for figuring out a way to make things right.

# Germ Warfare

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► The human body is under constant attack, not by other people, but by things the eye cannot see. Microscopic germs including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites can infect, or invade, cells in the body to cause illness. Fortunately, the body has many ways of protecting itself from these invaders. The first line of defense is to simply prevent germs from entering the body. Germs may attack body cells through the skin and through the air we breathe; and they may be in our food and drink. The skin, the body's largest organ, provides a physical barrier against germs. As a person breathes, foreign invaders are trapped by fine hairs and mucus in the nose, throat, and lungs. When a person sneezes or coughs, the invaders are expelled from the body. As a person eats, saliva, mucus, enzymes, and stomach acid in the digestive track attack foreign invaders before they can affect our cells.

When germs manage to get past the first line of defense, a powerful internal army known as the immune system is ready to attack. The immune system consists of many kinds of white blood cells and a network of vessels and organs that protect the body. This system transports the germ-fighting white blood cells in a special fluid called lymph throughout a large system of vessels and tissues.

When a microscopic germ such as the common cold virus enters the body, a white blood cell called a phagocyte attacks it. The phagocyte may also produce a chemical marker, much like a flag, called an antigen. This antigen "flag" is a call for help from other white blood cells. Different white blood cells called T cells come to the rescue. They divide rapidly and release chemicals that call for reinforcement from germ-fighting white blood cells called B cells. These B cells produce proteins called antibodies that mark the virus for special killer white blood cells.

Some B cells do not make antibodies. Instead, they remain on the look out for the virus. If the virus makes another attack, these patrolling B cells will remember the virus and call for reinforcements. The immune system is then able to fight off a second attack quite easily. When this happens, the person has developed immunity to the virus and will not get sick from it again. A strong immune system is important to keep us safe from microscopic germ invaders.

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# End of an Empire

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► In 1532, a group of about two hundred conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro had been traveling through South America for two years in search of gold and other treasures. Spanish conquistadors were explorers and conquerors. By November, the men had reached the highlands of what we know as Peru. They were the first Europeans to set foot in the heart of the Inca Empire.

The Inca people had their origins about one thousand years ago and built a large empire by defeating neighboring tribes. By the early 16th century, the Inca Empire stretched for 2,500 miles along the west coast of South America.

At their height, the Incas had a population of 12 million people from more than 80 ethnic groups, or distinct tribes. A powerful and advanced civilization, they developed a network of mountain roads that extended for 10,000 miles. They also developed high-altitude farming, a system for storing food, and a way to control inventory using colored and knotted cords.

When the Spaniards first appeared, the Incas had never seen horses or white men. They were not sure what to make of these strange men and their animals. They sent a messenger to their emperor, Atahualpa, who asked the strangers to join him at a camp near Cajamarca, a town in northern Peru.

Pizarro's men went to Cajamarca to meet the Inca leader. As they came near the town, they saw an army of tens of thousands of Incas. The Spaniards were frightened and did not go farther. They made camp that night, and Pizarro sent one of his men to meet with Atahualpa. The meeting did not go well, but Atahualpa said that he would meet with Pizarro the next day.

That next morning, Atahualpa and several thousand Inca warriors came to Cajamarca. Soon after this, the Spaniards launched a surprise attack against the Incas. They rode their large horses among the Incas, firing guns and using swords and other weapons the Incas had never seen before. The poorly armed Incas were helpless in the face of the attack.

Within a few hours, the Spaniards had killed 7,000 Incas and had captured their emperor, whom they later killed. The one-day massacre marked the beginning of the end of the mighty Inca Empire. In just a few decades following this defeat, Spain would gain control of most of South America.

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