



acadience® reading survey

Student Materials

Oral Reading Fluency / Level 3

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Northern Lights

► The days were getting shorter and the weather was turning cold. Winter in Alaska could be hard for many people, but not for Hanna. Winter was her favorite time of the year. Winter is always the best time to see the Northern Lights.

Hanna would see the Northern Lights in the Alaskan night sky when it was very dark. The bright, moving ribbons of light often appeared for a few minutes at a time, but could last for many hours. Hanna thought the lights were beautiful. Her family often saw them when driving home at night. They even had special family times when the lights were especially bright. Hanna, her dad, and her sister would bundle up in parkas and lie on the snow in their front yard. Bundling up to watch the lights was one of Hanna's favorite things to do in the winter.

Hanna remembered her grandfather telling her the legend of the lights. The lights were considered a gift to the people of the world as they moved north. The lights helped the people on their journey in winter when there was very little sunlight.

At school, Hanna learned more about the lights. They are caused by solar winds in the Earth's upper atmosphere. The winds collide with gas molecules to create light. This process is very similar to what happens in a neon sign.

Hanna loved learning about the Northern Lights so much that she chose to do a report on them. She even used the report as her science fair project at the end of the school year. Hanna never grew tired of watching for the lights. When she saw them, she felt connected to all her ancestors who had looked up on a cold Alaskan night to see the sparkling ribbons of light overhead.

Caring for Sheep

► Connor and his family lived on a sheep farm in New Zealand. There were always a lot of chores that needed to be done. All year long, Connor helped to care for the sheep. The sheep had to be fed every day. There were fences that needed repair and fields to plant. Connor also helped out with the newborn lambs.

Connor's favorite time of the year was the spring. Spring was the time of year for clipping the wool from the sheep. Clipping the wool is called "shearing." One reason Connor liked shearing was because visitors would often come to help. This year, some of Connor's cousins would be coming. The shearing would take three to five days. They would all be working hard, but it would be fun to be together. Even at its busiest, shearing time often seemed like a big family party to Connor.

Each day, the shearers began their work early in the morning and continued until the late afternoon. Four of them could shear more than eight hundred sheep in a day. Connor and his cousins helped to divide the wool, also called the "fleece." The dirty wool is pulled away from the cleaner, whiter fleece. The cousins also helped with sweeping. There was always a lot to sweep up after the shearing!

At the end of the day, all of the workers had dinner together. Connor liked this part the best. This time with his family and friends made the hard work seem like nothing at all.

Independence Day in India

► All over the world, different countries have their own special holidays. Some of these days honor an important person or day from the past. Many countries celebrate the day when the country became independent. This day is thought of as the nation's birthday. It is often called Independence Day.

India is one country that is proud to have such a day. For almost two hundred years, India was a part of Britain. The day India became a separate country is the day that is celebrated as its birthday. It is a day when everyone in India comes together to think about the country's freedom.

Each year, India's leader starts the day by raising the flag and giving a speech at the Red Fort in the nation's capital. Flags are placed on houses and roofs. Schools and offices are closed for the day. Groups of people line the roads across the land. They wave flags and wait for a parade to pass by. Some people sing songs and give each other small, round candies.

Many people like to fly kites on this day. Some enter contests to see whose kite can stay up in the air the longest. The skies fill up with a lot of kites of all sizes and colors. Some families meet for a special lunch or dinner, and others enjoy dances. People set off fireworks in many places as well. The day is filled with joy as India looks back on its past and forward to its future.
