



# acadience® reading survey

## Student Materials

### Oral Reading Fluency / Level 5

Kelly A. Powell-Smith

Roland H. Good III

Ruth A. Kaminski

Joshua Wallin

with

Kelli D. Cummings, Alisa Dorman, Chantal Dufour-Martel,  
Kathleen Petersen, and Stephanie Stollar

Acadience Learning Inc.

## For use with Acadience Learning Online

# Benjamin's Treehouse

---

▶ A giant oak tree stretched its branches toward the blue sky, and the sun bounced off its shiny green leaves. This tree stood apart from all the other trees in the yard. Benjamin and his father looked closely to decide if it would make a good place for a treehouse.

They walked around the tree, inspecting the small and large branches. Without saying a word, they agreed that this was the perfect tree for their building project.

Benjamin took a piece of paper and a pencil out of his pocket and started to draw a sketch of what he imagined the treehouse would look like. As his father made some design suggestions, Benjamin modified the drawing. Then the two brainstormed a detailed list of the materials they needed to gather before starting construction. Benjamin's father thought they should consider recycling old building materials, such as used boards and windows. He pointed toward the remains of the shed he had taken apart last summer, suggesting they could find many useful items there.

Benjamin and his father put on thick gloves and started sifting through the scraps to pick out what they wanted to use. They found pieces of wood, nails, screws, and fasteners. When all the materials were gathered, they started constructing the treehouse. Trees require room to move and grow, and can be easily damaged. They worked carefully to protect the tree.

The father and son followed all the safety precautions when working with the different kinds of tools. They built each part of the treehouse on the ground. Then they hoisted it up into the tree and carefully placed it in position. It was hard work, but Benjamin and his father had fun working together. When they were finished, they had a great treehouse. It was small and simple, but it would provide hours of outdoor fun.

---

# Ancient Trees

---

► You walk into the shadows of a dark and serene forest and are surrounded by the tallest trees you've ever seen. Even though you can barely see the sky, a feeling of peace settles over you. You have just entered the Redwood National Park on the Pacific Coast.

Redwood trees are among the tallest trees in the world. They begin as tiny seeds and grow to the height of small skyscrapers. They are members of the evergreen family and have needles similar to those of pine trees. Redwoods, like pine trees, also have small cones.

Redwood trees can be very old. In fact, they regularly grow to be six hundred years old, and some may even live for two thousand years. One reason that redwood trees live so long is that the bark of an adult tree is about a foot thick. This helps protect them from forest fires and keeps insects away. Redwood trees have existed for a very long time. Scientists believe that relatives of some of today's trees were alive one hundred and sixty million years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

When the pioneers first reached the West Coast, they began using the lumber in redwood forests for construction. Within a hundred years, the forests were a fraction of their original size. Redwood National Park was created to help preserve what was left of the forests.

Many visitors to Redwood National Park agree that seeing the park is very calming. The park contains plants and animals on land and in the ocean. People watch sea lions resting on beaches and bald eagles gliding above the cliffs. Some come just to see the migrating gray whales. Further inland, visitors may see elk, deer, and black bears. Others like to photograph the soft clouds of fog along the coastline.

If you go to Redwood National Park, be sure to take your camping equipment. Camping is allowed in the park and you can spend a few days or more in the shadows of the giant trees.

---

# The Respiratory System

---

► Take a deep breath. Can you feel the air expanding your lungs? What you are feeling is your body's respiratory system at work. This system is what allows you to inhale the air you need to survive. It has many parts that function together. Your respiratory system extracts oxygen from the air you breathe, and then sends this essential gas to the cells throughout your body.

When you inhale or breath in, air enters your body through your nose and mouth, which are connected to the windpipe. The windpipe has a small flap that closes to prevent food or liquid from accidentally going into the lungs. If you run your fingers down the front of your neck, you can feel part of your windpipe. The bottom of your windpipe splits into two separate branches, one branch leading to each of your two lungs.

Your lungs are an extremely important part of your respiratory system. You have two lungs, one on the right side of your chest and one on the left side. Your lungs are protected by your ribs. Inside your lungs there are numerous small tubes that resemble twigs on a tree, and at the end of these tubes are tiny air sacs. There are many blood vessels inside your lungs that allow your blood to pick up oxygen from the air. Your blood transports the oxygen to cells throughout your body. When the cells in your body use the oxygen, they create carbon dioxide as a waste product. Your blood carries this waste back to your lungs, where it is put back into the air. Consequently, when you exhale or breathe out, your respiratory system disposes of the harmful gas.

Whether you are inhaling or exhaling, your respiratory system is hard at work. It is providing the breath of life so you can thrive.

---