



acadience® reading survey

Student Materials

Oral Reading Fluency / Level 6

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A Note of Recognition

► It was Madison’s first day as a swim instructor, and she couldn’t stop thinking about her upcoming lesson. While buying hair ties at the convenience store before class, she was so distracted that she accidentally forgot her water bottle at the counter. The clerk hurried out to give it to her, smiling. Madison tried to organize her thoughts as she walked into the community swim center.

Madison met her five beginning swimmers and gave them some basic water safety information and swimming tips. Then they all grabbed kickboards and got in the pool. As the lesson went on, Madison felt her nervousness evaporate. She was an experienced swimmer and knew how to demonstrate the skills clearly and simply. She spent a lot of time working with a boy named Oliver who was nervous about taking his feet off the floor of the pool. By the end of the lesson, he was kicking back and forth across the pool with ease. Madison felt proud that she had been able to help him conquer his fear.

The following day, her supervisor at the pool called her into his office and said that he had received a note from Oliver’s father. The note said, “I just wanted to write and say how much my son enjoyed his swim lesson yesterday. He was hesitant about swimming, but he came back home so full of excitement and enthusiasm. His helpful swim instructor is much appreciated!”

Madison was thrilled to get some recognition for her hard work and was still smiling when she stopped back at the convenience store again for a bottle of juice. There, she saw the same clerk who had returned her water bottle the day before. Madison had an idea. She ran home and began to write a note to the store manager. “Your helpful clerk is much appreciated!” she wrote, glad to know that someone else’s hard work would be recognized.

Young Reader's Choice Award

► Keenan's social studies class was learning about the importance of voting. He was eager for the day to arrive when he could voice his opinions by casting a vote. He wondered if there was a way to participate in the voting process now, so he asked his teacher about possibilities.

"You have the opportunity to vote right now," she said. She told Keenan to visit the school's library to ask about the Young Reader's Choice Award. Keenan wasn't exactly certain how an award would help him vote, but he was anxious to find out. Keenan immediately walked to the library and asked Mr. Alvarez, the librarian, for more information about the program. Mr. Alvarez explained that Keenan would have to read at least two books from a list of novels written for younger readers that had been nominated to receive the Young Reader's Choice Award. When Keenan finished reading his books, he was eligible to vote for his favorite. Each book was available to check out from the school's library. Keenan grabbed a ballot. Then he checked out two of the books listed and started reading.

One week later, Keenan had already finished reading his first two books. He was trying to decide whether he should continue reading more books on the list before voting when he remembered something his teacher had said about being an informed voter. He remembered that an informed person gathered as much information as possible about an issue before voting. He decided to read all of the nominated books before voting.

After finishing all the books, Keenan confidently cast his vote for his favorite. Then he anxiously waited for the final results. On the day the winner was announced, Keenan went to the library to discover which book had won. When Mr. Alvarez told him the name of the winning book, Keenan beamed with pride. The book he voted for had won the Young Reader's Choice Award! He was thrilled to discover that not only could he vote, but his vote could also make a difference.

The Stream of Life

► A river of blood runs through every person’s body, powered by a pump called the heart. This muscle works tirelessly doing a big job: keeping us alive and healthy. It’s work that the heart does not do alone; rather, a human body has sixty thousand miles of vessels and arteries, along with tiny capillaries, that help carry the stream of life to every cell. These elements make up our circulatory system.

All the parts of the circulatory system work together to distribute nutrients and oxygen throughout the body as well as to remove carbon dioxide and other waste products from the bloodstream. The heart pumps two to three ounces of blood with each beat. The blood pumped from the heart to the majority of the body is oxygenated, or full of oxygen.

Arteries leave the left side of the heart, and since they transport blood away from the heart, they have thick walls to withstand the pressure of the blood rushing through them. Blood flows through increasingly smaller branches of the arteries until it reaches the capillaries. These tiny tubes have very thin walls, or membranes, allowing oxygen and nutrients to diffuse through them into the cells of tissues and organs of the body. At the same time, wastes enter the capillaries and make the journey back to the heart.

Veins are the vessels that carry blood back to the heart. Veins are not subject to the same amount of blood pressure, so their walls are thinner. In addition, veins have valves, or gates, that open one way and then close so blood cannot run backwards. If valves in a vein fail, blood can pool up and create a vein bulge, called a “varicose vein.” Blood from the veins goes into the right side of the heart.

The right side of the heart pumps blood from the veins to the lungs. There, the blood releases its carbon dioxide and absorbs oxygen. The lungs then exhale carbon dioxide and inhale more oxygen. This complex system for cleaning the blood and moving it through the body is essential to life.
