

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: _____

Form A / B Time: _____

Score: _____

**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

1 A B C D

2 A B C D

3 A B C D

4 A B C D

5 A B C D

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8 A B C D

9 A B C D

10 A B C D

11 A B C D

12 A B C D

13 A B C D

14 A B C D

15 A B C D

16 A B C D

17 A B C D

18 A B C D

19 A B C D

20 A B C D

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 1

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

1	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> D
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19	<input type="radio"/> A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
20	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> D

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 1

Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 2

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

1	<input type="radio"/> A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
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7	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
8	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input checked="" type="radio"/> D
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Name: _____

Date: _____









































Book #: 2









































Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 3

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

1 A B C D

2 A B C D

3 A B C D

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9 A B C D

10 A B C D

11 A B C D

12 A B C D

13 A B C D

14 A B C D

15 A B C D

16 A B C D

17 A B C D

18 A B C D

19 A B C D

20 A B C D

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 3

Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 4

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

1	<input type="radio"/> A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
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3	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> D
5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
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11	<input type="radio"/> A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
12	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> D
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15	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
16	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> D
17	<input type="radio"/> A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
18	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
19	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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Name: _____

Date: _____









































Book #: 4









































Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 5

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 5

Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

- 1 A B D
- 2 B C D
- 3 A C D
- 4 A B D
- 5 A C D
- 6 A C D
- 7 B C D
- 8 A C D
- 9 A C D
- 10 A B D

- 11 B C D
- 12 A C D
- 13 B C D
- 14 A B D
- 15 A C D
- 16 A B D
- 17 B C D
- 18 A B D
- 19 A B D
- 20 A C D

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 6

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D
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- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

- 11 A B C D
- 12 A B C D
- 13 A B C D
- 14 A B C D
- 15 A B C D
- 16 A B C D
- 17 A B C D
- 18 A B C D
- 19 A B C D
- 20 A B C D

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 6

Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Book #: 7

Form A B Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Name: _____

Date: _____









































Book #: 7









































Form A (B) Time: _____

Score: _____



**Make a heavy, dark mark that completely fills in the circle.
Erase completely any marks that you need to change.**

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Fluency Builders Series - Book 1, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 3.5-4.0

	Word Totals:
A golden bracelet, its sides covered with strange markings,	9
rested in a glass case. Next to it stood a mummy case.	21
The museum guide pointed to the glass case. "This bracelet	31
was found in a pyramid," she said. "It once belonged to Queen Kim.	44
Our museum is very lucky to have it."	52
The guide continued to talk about the bracelet. A crowd of	63
people had followed her around for an hour. In the back of the crowd,	77
Eddie put up his hand to ask a question.	86
"Yes," said the guide, pointing to a boy wearing a blue baseball	98
hat. "What do you want to know?"	105
"What do the marks on the bracelet mean?" Eddie asked.	115
"Is it a story?"	119
"We are not certain," explained the guide. "There are very	129
few people in the world who can read the kind of writing that is on	144
the bracelet. One of them, Dr. Ruth Fine, is coming to the museum	157
tomorrow. She will try to read the inscription. Until then, what it says	170
remains a mystery."	173
"Could it be a map?" asked Eddie.	180
"Some people think that's exactly what it is," said the guide.	192
"They think it tells where Queen Kim's jewels are hidden.	201

Fluency Builders Series - Book 1, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 3.5-4.0

Word Totals:

Sarah and Eddie crossed the hallway to investigate the noise.	11
They were terrified! The mummy could be alive--waiting to grab them the instant they set foot in the room!	23
They looked around. Everything seemed to be in place. The bracelet was still in its case, with the mummy case standing beside it.	30
Suddenly, Sarah saw something move. Eddie also saw it move.	40
“Look!” she shouted. “There’s a man lying on the floor.”	53
Eddie and Sarah raced to the man’s side. They helped him get to his feet. When the man got up, he rubbed his head and looked around.	63
“I’d like to get my hands on the man who hit me,” he said. “He gave me a terrible headache.”	73
“Why would anyone want to hit you?” asked Sarah.	84
“Whoever did it wanted Queen Kim’s bracelet,” explained the guard. “It’s my job to protect it.”	99
“But the bracelet is still in its case,” Eddie pointed out.	100
“The way I see it, he must have heard the two of you across the hall. He got scared before he could smash the case,” said the guard.	115
“However, I think he’ll return.”	120
“Perhaps the police should investigate,” said Sarah. “If he is coming back, we want to be ready for him.”	129
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Fluency Builders Series - Book 1, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 3.5-4.0

Word Totals:

Sarah called the police officer over. She told him about Albert.	11
“Are you certain it’s the same man?” asked the police officer.	22
“I thought you said the man in the hall was wearing a brown hat.”	36
“He’s the one all right,” said Sarah. “I will never forget his face.”	49
The police officer walked over to Albert and Mrs. Crown.	59
Eddie and Sarah followed. “Albert, Sarah and Eddie said you were	70
outside this room just about the time the guard was hit,” said the	83
police officer. “Were you?”	87
“Certainly not!” shouted Albert. His face became as red as his	98
hat. “I’ve been working in the bookstore all day.”	107
“I saw you,” said Sarah. “I ran into you in the hall.”	119
“Albert is not the kind of person who would steal the bracelet,”	131
said Mrs. Crown. “He’s been with the museum for years. He’s never	134
given us trouble. Albert would never do such a thing.”	146
“You see,” said Albert. “Even the head of the museum believes	153
me.”	164
“Whatever you say, Mrs. Crown,” said the police officer. “As	165
head of the museum, you must trust Albert very much.”	175
“But . . . ,” said Eddie.	185
“Get out of here,” said Albert with a scowl. “Don’t you think	188
you’ve caused enough trouble already?”	200
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Fluency Builders Series - Book 1, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 3.5-4.0

	Word Totals:
As Albert neared the room, Sarah and Eddie heard him talking	12
to someone.	13
“Albert is not alone!” whispered Eddie. He opened the curtain a	24
crack and peeked down the darkened hallway.	31
Albert’s friend was a short man with a bald head.	41
“Where’s that bracelet?” he asked in a low, rough voice.	51
“It’s in the case,” replied Albert, switching on a flashlight.	61
The man pulled a hammer from a paper sack and smashed the	73
case. Albert reached quickly into the case and grabbed the bracelet.	84
He held it up to the light.	91
“At last, the bracelet is ours!” he said. “I can hardly wait to get	105
to Mexico so my friend can read the inscription.”	114
“Well, you won’t have to wait long,” said the man. “Our plane	127
leaves for Mexico tomorrow at noon. I made all the plans today.”	138
“Good work, Spider,” said Albert, turning off the flashlight.	147
“Now let’s get out of this museum. The farther we get away from this	161
place, the better.”	164
Albert and Spider hurried away into the darkness. Sarah and	174
Eddie came out from behind the curtain.	181
“We’ve got them now,” said Sarah. “Come on. Let’s get to a	193
phone and call the police.”	198

Fluency Builders Series - Book 1, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 3.5-4.0

Word Totals:

The detective whispered, "Wait a minute. I hear something. It	10
sounds as though it's coming from the meeting room."	19
As he rushed toward the meeting room door, the detective	29
bumped the mummy case. "The mummy! It's alive! It's alive!" he	40
shrieked.	41
Just before the mummy case crashed into the man, Dr. Fine	52
reached out and caught it. The detective and Dr. Fine put the mummy	65
back on its stand.	69
"There must be someone locked in the meeting room," Dr. Fine	80
said. "Look, the key is still in the outside lock."	90
Dr. Fine unlocked the door and discovered Sarah and Eddie.	100
"What's this?" she said.	104
Once Sarah and Eddie were released from the room, they spilled	115
the details of their story to Dr. Fine and the detective.	126
The detective looked at his watch. "It's 10 a.m. now," he said.	138
"Their plane doesn't leave until noon. We should be able to catch	150
them if we leave now."	155
"Good thinking," said Dr. Fine. "I want to go with you. I must	168
see that bracelet."	171
Everybody ran to the detective's car. Off they raced to the	182
airport.	183
"I'm sure Spider and Albert think they'll never see us again,"	194
laughed Sarah. "It'll be a horrible surprise for them."	203

Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

Word Totals:

Mr. Benson pushed a button, and the car started. As he drove	12
away, he noticed the man jumping up and down and waving his arms.	25
“Wait!” the man was shouting. “There is something I forgot to	36
tell you. Whatever you do, don’t turn the red knob on the dashboard!”	49
The car was making so much noise that Mr. Benson did not hear	62
what the man said. It looked like the man was waving goodbye.	74
“Goodbye!” shouted Mr. Benson, waving back.	80
“Goodbye!” shouted Bobby excitedly.	84
Mr. Benson drove cautiously down the street.	91
“Let’s go faster,” said Bobby, after they had gone a short	102
distance.	103
“Let’s see,” said Mr. Benson. “I’m curious about these knobs on	114
the dashboard. I can’t tell which one I turn to go faster.”	126
“I’ll find out,” said Bobby. He started to turn some knobs. “One	138
of these must be the right one.”	145
None of the knobs seemed to do anything. Then Bobby twisted	156
the red knob; instantly, the car went into a wild spin. Around and	169
around it whirled, faster and faster.	175
“I don’t like to whirl around like this,” screamed Bobby. “I’m	186
getting dizzy.”	188
“So am I,” Mr. Benson shouted back, “but I cannot stop.”	199

Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

Word Totals:

Everything was whirling by so fast that Bobby and his father
could no longer distinguish the trees from the sky. They had no idea
where they were or where they were going.

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After spinning for what seemed like hours, the car slowed and
came to a gentle stop. For a while, Bobby and his father were too
dizzy to see anything. Finally, the spinning stopped in Bobby's head.
He sat up and looked around.

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"Dad, look!" he screamed. "We're in the middle of a jungle!"

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Mr. Benson shook his head and looked up. Bobby was right.
On all sides, there was nothing but jungle. There was no sign at all of
the town behind them nor the road they had traveled.

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121

While Bobby and his dad were wondering how they got here, a
terrible roar shook the jungle.

133
138

"A tiger!" said Bobby, grabbing his father's arm. "That sounds
like a tiger."

148
151

Immediately, a huge beast emerged from the jungle. It was a
tiger all right--a very strange-looking tiger. On each side of its mouth
was a huge, curved, long tooth.

162
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Bobby and his father ducked down, hoping the tiger would nei-
ther see nor smell them. "I've never seen teeth like that," said Bobby.

194
205

Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

	Word Totals:
“Now, Bobby, don’t make up stories because you came home late,” said his mom.	11
“Oh Mom, it really happened,” said Bobby.	14
“He’s absolutely right,” said Bobby’s father. “I know it sounds unbelievable, but we were thrown, spinning and hurling into the past.”	21
“Mom, look at my big white rock,” said Bobby.	31
“I found this rock in the past. Have you ever seen anything like it?”	42
“It looks strange,” said Mrs. Benson. “Bring it inside. I must hear this entire, incredible tale.”	51
Bobby and his father stayed up very late retelling all the remarkable things they had seen and done while in the past. At midnight, Bobby yawned and got up from the table.	64
“It’s been such a long, unbelievable day,” he said. “I’m going to bed now.”	65
“It is very late,” said Dad. “Take your white rock with you. You’ll see it each morning as you awaken and recall our adventure.”	76
“What a good idea,” said Bobby, picking up his rock. As Bobby said good night, he eagerly looked forward to his soft bed and familiar, friendly room.	81
The following morning when Bobby awoke, he saw a terrible sight. The white rock had been broken in half! “Oh, no!” he yelled.	92
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Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

	Word Totals:
“I have a plan I’d like to discuss with you,” said Mr.	13
Butterspoon. “Sit down, and I’ll tell you about it.”	21
Bobby sat down beside the man. “What is it you want?” asked	33
Bobby suspiciously.	35
“I have a simple request,” said Mr. Butterspoon. “I want to take	47
Dizzy around the country in my blimp.”	54
“That’s the silliest thing I’ve ever heard,” said Bobby. “Dizzy’s	64
much too big to get into your blimp.”	72
“Oh, no. Dizzy won’t ride inside the blimp,” he said. “I’ll tie	84
ropes around him and carry him under it. Everybody on the ground	96
will be able to see him.”	102
“I don’t think Dizzy would like this plan--nor do I!” said Bobby.	115
“Forget about Dizzy,” said Mr. Butterspoon. “Think of all the	125
money we can make. Everybody will pay to see him.”	135
“Money!” cried Bobby angrily. He got to his feet. “That’s all	146
anyone cares about. What’s wrong with people?” he asked. “Doesn’t	156
anyone care about Dizzy, except me?”	162
“Well, I guess I’d better be on my way,” said Harold	173
Butterspoon. “It looks like I’m wasting my time talking to you.”	184
“You certainly are,” said Bobby, clinging to Dizzy. “I wouldn’t	194
give up Dizzy for all the money on earth!”	203

Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

	Word Totals:
“That’s the creature,” he shouted, wildly pointing a finger at	10
Dizzy. “That’s the terrible creature that ruined all my flowers. He’s	21
not difficult to identify.”	25
Bobby jumped out of the car. “Don’t call Dizzy a terrible	36
creature,” he said.	39
“Now, now,” said the pet inspector, climbing out of the car.	50
“Please take it easy. It doesn’t help to get angry.”	60
“I don’t like people calling Dizzy names,” said Bobby angrily.	70
“Well, let’s sit down and talk this over,” said the pet inspector.	82
After everyone was seated on the lawn, Mr. Barker told his side	94
of the story.	97
“I was cleaning when I heard someone outside,” he began. “I	108
ran to the window and there, just starting to nibble on my flowers, was	122
a big green creature. I was so frightened, I notified the pet inspector.”	135
“By the time I arrived, Dizzy was gone,” said the pet inspector.	147
“I inspected the yard and found his tracks everywhere.”	156
“Well, maybe he was here,” said Bobby. “But he didn’t mean to	168
hurt anything.”	170
“I’m afraid that doesn’t matter,” said the pet inspector. “What	180
does matter is that your dinosaur ruined Mr. Barker’s flowers. For	191
that, he will have to be locked up.”	199
“Locked up!” cried Bobby. “Oh, no!”	205

Fluency Builders Series - Book 2, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.0-4.5

	Word Totals:
Dizzy was upset about all the people trying to take him away.	12
But he had new feelings too. He was lonely!	21
That night, Dizzy couldn't sleep. Long after Bobby had drifted off to sleep, Dizzy was still awake. He kept thinking about how great it would be to have another dinosaur for a friend.	31 44 54
As the first light of dawn shined into the cave, Bobby slowly woke up. He yawned twice and rolled over.	66 74
"Dizzy, wake up," he said. "It's dawn. Let's go out and see if we can find something to eat."	87 93
There was no answer. Not even a sound. Quickly, Bobby looked all around the large cave for Dizzy. Dizzy was nowhere in sight. Bobby leaped to his feet and ran out of the cave.	103 115 127
"Maybe he went to look for food," thought Bobby.	136
Bobby shouted Dizzy's name, but there was no answer-- only a distant echo.	147 149
Bobby was worried. Dizzy had never disappeared like this before. "I must find Dizzy," thought Bobby. "Is he in some kind of trouble? Otherwise, he would have answered my call."	158 171 179
Once Bobby found Dizzy's tracks, he followed them down the hill. The tracks took him back to the road.	189 198

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

Word Totals:

Ben began counting. Rebecca raced down the dock. Near a	10
large ship, she found a pile of wooden crates and barrels. They held	23
wares of all kinds. The top of one of the crates was open. She looked	38
inside. To her surprise, it didn't contain a thing.	47
“Ben will never find me here,” thought Rebecca, climbing in and	58
pulling down the top. “I couldn't have picked a better hiding place.”	70
While Rebecca was hiding, a large, burly man came by	80
carrying another crate. He dropped it on top of Rebecca's crate.	91
Then, he wrapped his big arms around both the crates, picked them	103
up, and went aboard a nearby ship. As soon as Rebecca realized what	116
was happening, she began to yell and scream. However, there was so	128
much noise on the ship, her cries were drowned out.	138
At last, the crates were set down. Rebecca stopped yelling. She	149
began pushing on the top. She pushed with all her might. Finally, she	162
knocked the top crate thumping to the floor. When she climbed out	174
of the crate, she discovered she was aboard the ship--trapped in the	187
ship's hold.	189
Rebecca wanted to get off the ship as quickly as possible.	200

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

Word Totals:

“I hear voices. Someone’s coming,” said Ben. “We’d better	10
hide.”	19
“Hide?” asked Rebecca. “Why should we hide? We haven’t	22
done anything wrong.”	35
“That may be true,” said Ben, “but the people on this ship don’t	48
know that. They might think that we sneaked on board, hoping to get	59
a free ride. Ship owners punish stowaways. That’s why we should	60
hide.”	67
“Of course!” whispered Rebecca. “Hurry! They’re coming	68
closer!”	81
Ben looked for a handy place to hide. At the bottom of the	86
ladder, a door stood open.	95
“That looks empty,” he whispered. “Let’s hide in there.”	106
Rebecca followed Ben down the ladder and into a small, messy	118
compartment. In one corner was a desk, piled high with rolled charts	129
and important-looking papers. Alongside the desk was a small, metal	145
safe. Except for a chair, the only other thing in the room was a pile of	148
empty, wooden boxes.	158
Suddenly, they realized that the voices they had heard earlier	163
were just outside the hatch.	172
“Quickly,” said Rebecca. “Hide behind those boxes. The voices	179
are becoming louder. They’re heading this way.”	191
Just as Rebecca and Ben ducked behind the pile of boxes, two	196
men walked into the room.	

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
“I’ll be back,” he said. “Protect yourselves behind these sacks	11
and boxes!”	12
The <i>Skeleton Queen</i> pulled along the starboard side of the <i>Sea</i>	24
<i>Witch</i> . “Give us your gold, or we’ll send you to Davy Jones’ Locker,”	38
came a tough voice from the <i>Skeleton Queen’s</i> deck.	45
“We’ll see who’s going to the bottom,” Big Red shouted.	55
Every cannon along one side of the <i>Sea Witch</i> fired at once. It	68
was called a “broadside.” It was used only in emergencies or for	80
surprise, because it would “shiver” (shake loose) the “timbers”	89
(masts) of the ship that was firing the broadside. Cannonballs shot	100
through the air and slammed into the <i>Skeleton Queen</i> . The <i>Queen</i> was	112
so badly damaged that she began to sink. Before the ship went under,	125
her crew was able to shoot one cannonball through the hull of the <i>Sea</i>	139
<i>Witch</i> . Rebecca and Ben were shielded by the boxes and bags in the	152
compartment, but there was a hole in the ship’s timbers, and water	164
was rushing in!	167
On deck, Big Red looked over the side at the hole in his ship.	181
“Curses,” he bellowed. “We’ve been hit. Launch the longboat, lads!	191
We’re taking on too much water. We can’t save the <i>Sea Witch!</i> ”	203

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
“Thank you,” said Rebecca to Big Red. “We won’t be a	11
nuisance.”	12
Within the next few days, the crew had bailed the water from	24
the ship’s hold, and the ship’s carpenter had fixed the hole in her side.	38
Once the repairs were complete, Big Red yelled, “Set the	48
mainsail--carefully!”	50
The ship was again under way! Now, Rebecca and Ben could	61
move freely on deck. Whenever they could, they helped the crew. No	73
matter whether the job was swabbing a deck or unfurling a sail,	85
Rebecca and Ben were always willing to work. The crew noticed	96
their hard work. They soon won the confidence of every pirate on the	109
ship.	110
“You do a full day’s work,” said a pirate. “We’re glad to have	123
you aboard.”	125
“We’re proud to be aboard,” answered Ben. “Rebecca and I are	136
having so much fun being sailors.” The pirates laughed at the remark.	148
As the <i>Sea Witch</i> neared the mid-latitudes, the weather	158
improved. The heat of the days carried into the nights. Rebecca and	170
Ben began sleeping on the deck. It was very late one evening, and	183
only the men on watch were awake. The two young sailors looked at	196
the stars shining in the night sky and the reflection of the moon on the	211
water.	212

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
“I want them on the island,” said Big Red furiously. Then,	11
lowering his voice, he said to Dogface, “I plan to abandon them	23
there.”	24
Rebecca and Ben were too far away and couldn't understand	34
what Big Red was saying, but Chavez overheard everything.	43
“The kids are in serious trouble,” he said to himself. “They	54
shouldn't trust Big Red. I should tell them what he's planning.”	65
The crew of the <i>Sea Witch</i> rowed to the island and went ashore.	78
The crew traveled along a long, white, sandy beach before arriving at	90
a thick, dark, green jungle.	95
“Must we cut our way through that jungle?” asked a man in the	108
crew. “It looks impassable.”	112
“Nay, the map says the treasure is under a lone tree at the west	126
end of the island,” said Big Red. “There's no jungle on the windward	139
side. It should be an easy walk along the beach as soon as we regain	154
our ‘land legs’.”	157
The crew of the <i>Sea Witch</i> started to travel down the beach.	169
Each pirate carried a shovel or pick. They walked in silence,	180
pondering on the gold that would soon be theirs.	189
The crew finally arrived at the windward end of the island. They	202
looked for the lone tree that guarded the treasure.	210

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
“At times you seem very nice,” said Rebecca, “but at other	12
times you can be terribly mean.” “You would never leave Ben and me	17
on an island, would you?”	29
“Don’t worry about that,” said Big Red with a sly smile. “I	42
would never think of doing such a terrible thing.”	50
The following day, Big Red and his crew landed on the real	62
Eagle Island. “This is where we want to be,” said Big Red, jumping	75
out of the boat.	79
“I hope this is it,” moaned Crocodile Bill, a tall, thin pirate with	92
a silver ring in his ear. “All this running around, from island to island,	106
is wearing on me.”	110
Once the boat was on the beach, the pirates quickly headed for	122
the west end of the island, where Dusty’s map promised they would	134
find the treasure.	137
As Rebecca and Ben walked along the beach, Chavez hurried	147
to walk with them. Betsy, the parrot, was riding on his shoulder, as	160
always.	170
“There’s trouble,” murmured Chavez. “I heard Big Red say that	180
he’s planning to abandon you on this island. He plans to leave the	184
island without you.”	187
“Without you! Without you!” screeched the parrot.	194
“Betsy, hush!” said Chavez sharply. “We’ll all be in trouble.”	204
“It sounds as though we’re already in trouble,” said Ben , “and I	216
don’t think there’s a way out.”	222

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 7: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
The crew began to dig near the base of the palm tree. The	13
pirates worked furiously. Sand flew everywhere. Less than an hour	23
had passed when one of the shovels hit something hard.	33
“I’ve found something!” shouted a happy pirate.	40
The chest was so heavy that it took five men to lift it out of the	56
hole.	57
Inside the chest were more jewels, gold, and silver than they	68
had ever seen. Shining up at them were piles of gold coins, diamonds,	81
bracelets, and rings. It was truly a beautiful sight.	90
“We’ve found it!” shouted Big Red, dancing around the trunk.	100
“It’s all ours, lads! We’re rich!”	106
“That’s not quite true,” said Rebecca. “That gold actually	115
belongs to other people. It was stolen from them.”	124
Big Red stopped dancing and wheeled around. “What did you	134
say?” he bellowed.	137
“The gold doesn’t truly belong to you,” said Rebecca. “You	147
should return it to its rightful owners.”	154
Big Red’s scowl slowly turned to a smile. Then he started to	166
chuckle. Finally, he laughed out loud.	172
“Shiver my timbers!” he said, laughing even louder. “That may	183
be the best joke I’ve heard!”	188
“Aye, that’s funny,” chuckled Crocodile Bill. “That’s a good	197
joke!”	198

Fluency Builders Series - Book 3, Chapter 8: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 4.5-5.0

	Word Totals:
Before they left the beach, Chavez dug 30 gold coins out of his pocket and set them on the sand.	13 20
“These are for Big Red,” he told a curious Rebecca and Ben.	32
“Now, I don’t owe him anything from that card game.”	42
Chavez, Rebecca, and Ben pushed the longboat into the water, jumped aboard, and silently rowed out to the empty <i>Sea Witch</i> .	52 63
“It will not be easy to sail this big ship without a crew,” said Chavez, as he pulled himself up over the rail. “Perhaps with fair winds and some luck, we’ll make it.” Chavez ran to the forecastle.	77 89 101
Rebecca and Ben climbed up the rope ladder and moved carefully out onto a yard. They slowly unfurled one of the sails. Then they signaled to Chavez, who was standing near the captain.	111 124 134
As quietly as he could, Chavez cut the anchor line, then ran to the helm. There was no wind, and for a time the <i>Sea Witch</i> was adrift. The dawn broke, and the breeze snapped open the sail. Chavez turned the ship’s wheel, and the <i>Sea Witch</i> moved slowly out to sea.	147 162 174 186
On shore, Big Red woke up just in time to see his ship starting to move.	200 213
“Come back!” he yelled, running down to the edge of the surf.	214

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

	Word Totals:
Maria-Luisa and Jim Donn watched as the snake silently	9
threaded its way through the jungle leaves. When it was about a foot	22
from the sleeping man, the snake pulled back. It coiled and prepared	34
to strike.	36
“That man is in terrible trouble,” exclaimed Maria-Luisa. “Do	45
you think he can escape?”	50
Jim lurched forward. “I don’t think he can.”	58
Just then, the television picture went blank, and the sound	68
stopped.	69
“Hey, what’s happening?” yelled Jim, jumping up and grabbing	78
the remote control. “What a horrible time for the TV to go out.”	91
While Jim pushed buttons on the remote control, Maria-Luisa	100
headed out the door.	104
“I’m going to check the antenna,” she said. “It’s possible that	115
something’s wrong with it.”	119
Maria-Luisa reached the antenna and began to adjust it.	128
“Yell if the signal comes back,” she shouted.	136
“Okay,” Jim called back.	140
Maria-Luisa turned the antenna to point in several different	149
directions, but the picture and sound did not return.	158
“It’s not any better,” Jim shouted. “The trouble must be in the	170
TV. Come back inside.”	174
As Maria-Luisa was turning to leave, she bumped into the antenna and	186
knocked it onto its side.	191
“Hey,” called Jim from below, “I have a picture!”	200

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

Word Totals:

Jim and Maria-Luisa started for home. They walked in silence	10
along the fence that enclosed the space center. On the other side of	23
the fence, they could see many large, powerful space vehicles. The	34
craft were lined up, waiting to be launched. People were loading	45
instruments and supplies aboard each ship.	51
“Those poor scientists,” said Jim sadly. “Can’t we find a way to	63
rescue them?”	65
“It may be that we can,” said Maria-Luisa. “I’ve been thinking.”	76
“What have you been thinking?” asked Jim curiously.	84
“Well,” said Maria-Luisa, “how would you like to visit planet	94
Zoon?”	95
“Visit planet Zoon?” he said, with a puzzled look.	104
“Well,” said Maria-Luisa, “it’s up to us to rescue Dr. Lee. It	116
doesn’t appear that anyone believes our story. Do you think we could	128
get aboard the supply ship that leaves for Zoon tonight?”	138
“Dr. Sharma will never let us aboard that ship,” said Jim.	149
“That’s true! So, we can’t let anyone know what we’re doing,”	160
said Maria-Luisa. “My plan is to hide ourselves inside one of the	172
supply crates before it’s placed aboard.”	178
“I don’t know,” stammered Jim. “That sounds awfully	186
dangerous.”	187
“Think of Dr. Lee and his assistant trapped inside Pyramid	197
Mountain,” said Maria-Luisa. “If we don’t get them out, they’ll	207
starve, or worse, suffocate.”	211

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

Word Totals:

“Wow, we’re headed for Zoon,” said Jim, carefully feeling the	10
rough floor beneath his feet. The floor felt sticky, as if it were made of	25
glue; it seemed to grab his shoes to keep him from floating.	37
Maria-Luisa, after exploring the cabin, found a seat under a	47
small round window; she peered out. The sky was filled with	58
millions of shining stars. Far behind them, Earth was becoming	68
smaller and smaller. The spaceship <i>Starflight</i> increased speed and	77
shot past the moon at the speed of light. Maria-Luisa gazed longingly	89
out the window.	92
“It’s so lonely here,” she said. “We’re very far from home.”	103
“I’m frightened, too,” said Jim. “I’ve never been more than a	114
hundred miles from our hometown. Home must be at least a million	126
miles away.”	128
The ship moved through space. It passed other planets; some	138
had more than one moon. It passed bits of rock and fire-torn stars. On	152
it raced toward the planet Zoon.	158
Maria-Luisa and Jim felt that space must be endless. They	168
hungrily ate from the food packages in the crate. After traveling for a	180
time at light-speed, the <i>Starlight</i> approached Zoon.	191
“What do you think we’ll find there?” asked Maria-Luisa,	201
moving from porthole to porthole. “Zoon is a very mysterious	208
planet.”	

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

	Word Totals:
“No, it’s not,” said the red head sharply. “It’s north--about	12
twelve gadells. I know it’s north.”	17
“You must not know much about direction,” said the blue head.	28
“Everyone knows Pyramid Mountain is south. It’s south, I say!”	38
Jim tried to interrupt, “What’s a ‘gadell’?” The two-headed	48
beast paid no attention to him.	54
“It’s north!” screamed the red head.	60
“It’s south!” shouted the blue head.	66
While the two-headed creature yelled at itself, Jim and	75
Maria-Luisa fearfully backed away.	79
“Let’s find help elsewhere,” said Jim. “Those two heads can’t	89
agree on anything.”	92
The two-headed creature was so busy shouting at itself, it didn’t	103
notice when Jim and Maria-Luisa turned and walked away.	112
After walking a great distance, Jim and Maria-Luisa waded	123
across a river of silver water. On the other side of the river, they	137
found a narrow road. Beside the road was a sign.	145
“We should have better luck in Diamond City,” said	154
Maria-Luisa. “Someone there must know the way to Pyramid	163
Mountain.”	164
“Let’s hope so,” said Jim, as he quickly turned to jog down the	177
road. “Hurry! We must rescue the scientists from that mountain.”	187
Maria-Luisa and Jim followed the road through some low,	196
pleasant hills. On the other side of the plain was a group of buildings	210
called Diamond City.	212

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

	Word Totals:
Czarina Happy kept a firm grip and spun the two visitors	12
around.	24
“Now!” she barked, as her eyes glared down at them from her	35
angry, blue face. “What’s the meaning of knocking on my door?”	46
Jim was shaking so badly, he could hardly speak. “We’re very	58
sorry,” he said, fearful of looking up. “We didn’t mean to bother	59
you.”	68
“Well, bother me you did!” said Czarina Happy. “Your	80
punishment is one hundred years of hard labor in my diamond mines.”	90
“One hundred years!” exclaimed Jim. “Oh no, please don’t send	104
us to your mines. If you let us go, we’ll never bother you again,”	106
pleaded Jim.	117
“It’s one hundred years of hard labor in the diamond mines,”	128
said the Czarina. “Furthermore, if you cause any more trouble, I’ll	135
send you to the mines for life!”	143
As she listened to the conversation, Maria-Luisa became	151
angrier. Finally, she could tolerate it no longer.	162
“What’s wrong with you?” she shouted. “All we did was to	176
knock on your door, and you threaten us with a lifetime in your mines!	188
Why, you’re a terrible Czarina. I think your name should be The	190
Unhappy Czarina.”	199
Maria-Luisa’s words surprised the Czarina. For a moment she	207
stared at Maria-Luisa with her blue mouth open.	

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

Word Totals:

“Now you understand why I’m so unhappy,” said the Czarina.	10
“As Czarina of the land, I’m supposed to take care of all people who live in this country; and as you see, I’m doing a very poor job.”	24
“It’s not your fault,” said Maria-Luisa. “You’re doing all you can.”	38
“Perhaps,” said the Czarina, “but I’m not doing enough.”	48
As the car rounded the last sharp curve in the mountains, Jim and Maria-Luisa were able to see Cannonball Dam. It was a huge rock pile covered by a thin layer of white plaster. Behind the dam was Cannonball Lake, and far below the dam was Diamond City.	49
The Czarina stopped the car and everyone got out.	58
“It’s a beautiful dam,” said Jim.	70
“It won’t be beautiful for long,” said the Czarina, getting out of the car. “Follow me. I want to show you something.”	82
Maria-Luisa and Jim walked with the Czarina to a spot on the ridge that overlooked the dam.	96
“Look at all of the holes the rock rats are chewing in the dam,” said the Czarina. “They’re destroying it.”	106
The face of the dam was alive with hundreds of rock rats. They were furry, little creatures that had the bodies of rats, the ears of rabbits, and the teeth of horses.	115
	121
	133
	143
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	160
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	180
	193
	206
	212

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 7: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

Word Totals:

Jim shook his head and sat down on a boulder. Maria-Luisa sat	12
down on another boulder, and Czarina Happy sat down between them.	23
They sat in silence, mourning poor Dr. Lee and Big Al.	34
“If only we could tunnel in,” said Jim after a while. “If only we	48
could open a space big enough to slip them some food.”	59
What Jim said caused Maria-Luisa to think. At first, the	69
thoughts tumbled around in her mind like clothes in a dryer. Then,	81
suddenly, everything came together.	85
“Jim, you’ve got it!” she shouted, jumping to her feet. “What a	97
wonderful plan!”	99
“What plan?” said Jim, looking at Czarina Happy, who also	109
didn’t appear to know what Maria-Luisa was referring to.	118
“Why, I mean your plan to tunnel into the mountain,” said	129
Maria-Luisa. “It’s a great idea!”	134
“I don’t get it. What’s so great about it?” said Jim. “It can’t be	148
done.”	149
“I don’t understand either,” said Czarina Happy.	156
Maria-Luisa motioned to her two, confused companions.	164
“Come with me. We’re going back to the dam. I’ll tell you	179
about it on the way. There’s work to be done!”	185
Jim and the Czarina suddenly found themselves racing back to	195
Cannonball Dam, not knowing what they were doing.	203

Fluency Builders Series - Book 4, Chapter 8: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.0-5.5

Word Totals:

“It’ll take the rock rats years to eat the entire mountain. When	13
they’re finished, you can move them to another mountain. Those rats	24
will stay wherever there is plaster. You shouldn’t have to worry about	35
them bothering you again,” said Maria-Luisa.	41
“Now, why didn’t I think of that?” said the Czarina. “Would you	53
like to stay on Zoon, as my advisors?”	61
“We’d like to stay,” said Maria-Luisa, “but we must return to our	73
home. The Starlight leaves for planet Earth tomorrow, and we must	84
be on it. Our parents are probably very worried about us.”	95
“I’ll be sorry to see you go,” said the Czarina. “It seems as	108
though you just arrived. It’s difficult to believe how much you’ve	119
helped us accomplish in such a short time.”	127
“We’ll never forget how much they’ve helped us,” said Big Al.	138
“If it hadn’t been for Jim and Maria-Luisa, Dr. Lee and I wouldn’t be	152
alive today.”	154
At that moment, one of the rock rats on the side of the mountain	168
turned around. It looked down at Jim and Maria-Luisa. With its front	180
paw it wiped a big patch of plaster from its face. Then, it snapped its	195
horse-like teeth together and smiled.	200
“The rock rats appreciate you too,” said the Czarina. “You’ve	210
altered their diet from old, dusty rocks, to delicious, dessert-quality	220
plaster.”	221

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

	Word Totals:
“It looks tiny,” he yawned. “I doubt they even have a baseball	12
field.”	13
“No, Matt,” laughed Mrs. Jungemann. “I don’t think many	22
villages in Spain have baseball fields. They don’t play much baseball	33
here.”	34
“No baseball, no television, no swimming pools, no restaurants,”	43
said Matt. “This is going to be a boring vacation.”	53
“You’ll find plenty of things to do,” said Mrs. Jungemann. “Just	64
wait and see.”	67
The blue car pulled into the town square of Rudolfo. Callie	78
looked out of the window at the village. She thought that it was the	92
most beautiful place she had ever seen. A row of little pink cottages	105
lined the dusty street. Green trees gave much-needed shade from the	117
hot sun. This was going to be a great vacation!	127
Mrs. Jungemann stopped the car and leaned her head out of the	139
window.	140
“Do you know where I can find Archie Fox?” she asked a man	153
who was standing nearby.	157
“The Fox-- <i>El Zorro</i> ,” said the man. “ <i>Sí</i> , lives in the big house	170
on the corner.”	173
Mrs. Jungemann started the car and drove up in front of the big	186
house. The sign over the door read: ARCHIE FOX IS THE MAN	197
FOR YOU, HE’LL RENT YOU A COTTAGE, OLD OR NEW!	207

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

	Word Totals:
The old man pushed the straw basket aside. He leaned over the	12
counter and looked very closely at the Jungemann family. He spoke	23
almost in a whisper.	27
“The legend says that anyone who visits the House of Rudolfo,	38
who is not a member of the Rudolfo family, will not live there long.”	52
Callie and Matt looked at each other.	59
“That’s a very mysterious legend,” Callie said. “I don’t	68
understand what it means.”	72
“No one in our village knows of anything beyond the legend,”	83
said the old man. “But we do know that it is not just a story. We have	100
seen it happen again and again.”	106
“Seen what happen?” asked Matt. Callie thought his voice was	116
shaking a little as he asked the question.	124
“Visitors come here for a peaceful vacation,” explained the man.	134
“They rent the Rudolfo mansion from <i>El Zorro</i> . He insists that they	146
pay him immediately. Then they journey to the Casa Rudolfo and stay	158
the night. They always leave hastily--and with great fear--the next	170
day. They are never heard from again.”	177
“What are they running away from?” asked Mrs. Jungemann.	186
“We have heard stories about ghosts, strange noises, and	195
frightening creatures,” answered the old man.	200

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

Word Totals:

Matt was frightened, but, more than that, he was curious to see	12
what they were talking about. He looked up and noticed what was	24
directly in front of him. He saw what had cast the strange, dark	37
shadow over him. It was a fountain, although it no longer had water	50
in it. In the middle of what was once a flowing pool, there was an	65
immense, copper statue of a handsome man on horseback. Callie and	76
Mrs. Jungemann were standing in the shadow of the fountain, looking	87
up into the statue's face.	92
“I wonder who he is,” Matt asked.	99
“Look,” said Callie. “There’s a sign attached to the bottom of	110
the fountain.” Like every other part of the property, it was covered	122
with moss. Callie scraped some of the moss away. She kneeled down	134
and noticed a faded, copper sign. She could hardly read the words.	146
“I believe it says <i>Casa Rudolfo</i> ,” she said. “Doesn’t that mean	157
the House of Rudolfo?”	161
“Yes,” answered her mother. “This must be a statue of one of	173
the first members of the Rudolfo family. My, he’s handsome.”	183
Matt, Callie, and Mrs. Jungemann stood silently, staring up	192
at the huge statue. Suddenly, the silence was broken by a voice that	205
sounded as loud as roaring thunder.	211

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

	Word Totals:
“Butler!” said Mrs. Jungemann. “El Zorro didn’t mention any	9
servants.”	10
“He doesn’t like to talk about us,” answered the man. “We live	22
in the stone cottage by the side of the mansion. My wife, Juliana, is	36
also a servant in this house. Our daughter, Antonia, helps also. We	48
will do everything we can to make your stay in <i>Casa Rudolfo</i>	60
interesting. We will try to make you as comfortable as possible. Now,	72
let’s go up to the house.”	78
The Jungemanns and Carlos continued walking toward the front	87
door of the mansion. The large, wooden door opened slowly. It made	99
a low, squeaking sound, as if it were groaning with old age. Standing	112
just inside the door was a tall woman. She had shiny, black hair and	126
deep, dark, troubled eyes. She was Juliana, Carlos’s wife.	135
“Come in and make yourselves comfortable,” she said to them.	145
“ <i>La cena estara en la mesa en un ratito.</i> I must finish cooking now.”	159
Carlos took Callie, Matt, and Mrs. Jungemann inside the	168
mansion. Juliana disappeared down a long hallway. Callie’s eyes left	178
her. She looked around the inside of the house. The wooden floors	190
were covered with scratches and dust.	196

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

Word Totals:

“ <i>Con permiso</i> ,” he said. “I’ll go downstairs now and help	10
Juliana in the kitchen. If you need me, please pull on one of the	24
tassels located alongside the door of each room.”	32
Carlos left the library. Callie and Mrs. Jungemann sat down.	42
Matt was still restless. He began looking at the books.	52
“This library will be the perfect place for me to focus on my	65
writing,” said Mrs. Jungemann to Callie. “It will suggest lots of good	77
ideas for the current story I’m writing.”	84
“Hey, Callie!” called Matt from a corner of the room. “Come	95
over here. Look at all the dusty, creepy books on this shelf.”	107
Callie walked slowly over to Matt. They looked at several of the	119
books.	120
“Why is everyone in this place so interested in ghosts?” asked	131
Matt. “I’ll tell you why. It’s because ghosts live here; that’s why	143
they’re interested!”	145
“Matt,” whispered Callie, turning around suddenly. “Be quiet	153
for a minute. I think I hear something.”	161
Callie tiptoed to the library door to listen. There was an eerie	173
noise in the hallway--a slow, clanking sound. Gradually, the	183
clanking seemed to be getting louder and louder. Eventually, it grew	194
softer and farther away. Then the mysterious clanking disappeared.	203
All was quiet again. Callie ran to the door of the library and threw it	218
open.	219

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

	Word Totals:
The once-beautiful, wooden floors were covered with large	9
scratches and dust. Pieces of old paint, that had long since fallen off	22
the walls, cluttered the corner of every room. A grand stairway,	33
covered with a tattered, red carpet, led to the upstairs hallway.	45
The green moss, that over the years had grown over most of	58
the windows, kept the sunlight out. It made the house seem dark and	70
gloomy.	82
Callie could tell that <i>Casa Rudolfo</i> had once been great and beautiful.	91
Now everything appeared to be very old and crumbling.	101
“I’ll put your suitcases in your rooms upstairs,” said Carlos.	108
“Juliana will have dinner ready in five minutes.”	117
Carlos picked up the Jungemann’s suitcases and gradually made	123
his way up the decaying stairway.	132
“Isn’t this place interesting?” Mrs. Jungemann said after Carlos	143
was out of sight. “What a refreshing change from New York.”	155
“It’s just what I had imagined Spain would be like,” said Callie.	167
“Well, I don’t like it one bit,” said Matt. “That Carlos looks	177
exactly like the statue of the man in the fountain.”	181
“So what?” asked Callie.	191
“So what!” repeated Matt. “It’s easy to see what’s happening	203
here. Carlos is the ghost of that statue in the fountain outside.	

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 7: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

Word Totals:

Callie walked to the stone fireplace that took up most of one wall	13
of the library. She leaned heavily against the fireplace. She placed	24
her head in her hands and tried to think clearly. Just then she heard	38
a creaking sound. She turned around and discovered that the entire	49
fireplace had moved slightly. She leaned harder on the wall. The	60
fireplace moved a little more. It was like a swinging door, leading to	73
undiscovered places. Callie turned to Matt. He was watching her.	83
His mouth dropped open in surprise.	89
“I think we’ve just found the answer to our question,” Callie	100
whispered to Matt. “This is a secret passage that probably leads to	112
some other part of the house. I’ll bet Mom found it and went	125
exploring. No doubt, somewhere inside this passage we’ll find our	135
mom.”	136
Matt shuddered at the thought of entering the dark, damp	146
passage. Yet he knew Callie was right. He knew that Mrs.	157
Jungemann had probably discovered the swinging fireplace. He also	166
knew that his mom’s curiosity would motivate her to explore	176
unknown passages.	178
Matt and Callie pushed against the fireplace. They made an	188
opening big enough to squeeze through. Inside, the passage was as	199
black as Carlos’s raven. They could not see one speck of light.	211

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 8: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

Word Totals:

Callie and Matt followed their mother out the door of the gallery	12
and into the empty hallway. A few quick steps led them to another	25
door. Mrs. Jungemann pushed open the door. Inside the darkened	35
room was the shadowy figure of Carlos Rudolfo. His eyes were	46
pressed up against two small holes in the wall. He was shrieking at	59
the top of his voice.	64
“There is your living portrait with the moving eyes,” said	74
Mrs. Jungemann with disgust.	78
Carlos turned quickly. He stared at the Jungemanns. They had	88
surprised him.	90
“When I woke up this morning,” said Mrs. Jungemann, “I	100
suddenly understood what’s been happening. This proves that I’m	109
right.”	110
She turned to Carlos and made solid eye contact. “You’ve been	121
trying to frighten us, haven’t you?” she said accusingly. “The rustling	132
sounds and the mysterious happenings, like the walking suit of armor	143
and the living portrait, were all part of a clever plan. You wanted us	157
to believe Casa Rudolfo was haunted. Why did you do this?”	168
Carlos, looking at the floor with shame, said in a soft voice,	180
“It’s a very interesting story. Come with me. I’ll explain the secret of	193
Rudolfo.”	194

Fluency Builders Series - Book 5, Chapter 9: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 5.5-6.0

Word Totals:

Mrs. Jungemann, Callie, and Matt followed Carlos along the damp,	10
underground passage until they finally reached a small, rusty door.	20
They walked through the doorway and found themselves in the living	31
room of Carlos's stone cottage. Antonia was feeding bits of corn to	43
Fright. Juliana was sitting by the window. They looked up in shock	55
at the sight of the three visitors.	62
“They know about us,” Carlos told Juliana. “They have	71
unraveled the mystery. I'd like them to know the real story.”	82
Juliana got up and pulled out a chair, providing room for the	94
Jungemanns to sit down on the couch.	101
“Please, sit down,” she said. “I know you have been very	112
frightened. My husband, Rudolfo, will explain everything to you.”	121
“Rudolfo!” said Callie. “I thought his name was Carlos.”	130
“My name is Carlos Rudolfo,” said the butler. He sat down next to	143
his wife. “I am a member of the family of Rudolfo. My father was a	158
(Knight of Rudolfo,) as was his father before him. I am a member of	172
what was once the proudest and grandest family in all of Spain.” “For	185
many years the Rudolfo family was very wealthy,” said Carlos. “The	196
fields for miles around the mansion were farmland.”	204

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
Snake Snaxon's covered wagon was painted bright red. Johnson's was blue. Speedy Sim was riding with Snake. Tom's daughter, Laura, was riding with him.	9 20 24
"Do you think Sneaky Snake and Speedy Sim are going to try anything?" Laura asked her dad.	36 41
"I wouldn't put it past them," said Tom. "I haven't seen those rascals do anything the honest way."	53 59
Just then Mr. Andrews, a stout man in a stovepipe hat, stepped into the middle of the street beneath a huge banner. The banner stretched from one side of the street to the other.	71 83 93
Mr. Andrews held up his hands. The crowd fell silent.	103
"Attention," he began. "Let me remind you. The big race is about to begin, and as you all know, this race will cover one thousand miles. The participants will go all the way from Cripple Creek to the town of Julian, California. The first person to reach Julian with a gold pan from my factory wins. That person wins the contract to deliver the pans to California."	116 129 142 155 167 170
"I don't think I need to remind anyone that there's a gold rush going all over California. Everyone out there is screaming for an Andrews Gold Pan. Whoever wins this competition can count on receiving thousands of dollars a year for delivering the pans from my factory to the California gold fields." said Mr. Andrews.	185 196 206 219 225

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
Laura and Tom carried the broken wheel back to Cripple Creek	11
to be fixed.	14
“If you could just prove Snake Snaxon filed through your	24
wheel, we could send the sheriff out after him,” said Mighty Marty,	36
the town blacksmith. “That was an awful thing he did, and it just	49
wouldn’t be fair if Snaxon won the race.”	57
Tom watched Mighty Marty as he welded the metal tire for the	69
outside of the broken wheel. “Laura and I will take care of Snake	82
by winning the race,” he said. “Seeing the look on his face when we	96
cross the finish line is all I need.”	104
“Well, I wish the two of you luck,” said Marty, rolling the	116
finished wheel to Laura. “I’d like nothing better than to see you win	129
the race.”	131
“We’re trying our hardest,” said Laura, rolling the wheel out of	142
the blacksmith’s shop. “You can count on that!”	150
After waiting for two or three hours, the wheel was back on the	163
wagon, and Laura and Tom were underway again. The road to	174
California was rough. It was nothing but a pair of deep wheel tracks	187
across the rolling plains. Sometimes the holes in the road were so	199
deep that Tom had to guide the wagon out across open country, and at	213
other times the road seemed to disappear.	220

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
“Yesterday, you saved my life. I realized then that you were no	12
longer a little girl,” said Tom. “You’re a grown-up now, and that	24
means you can do a grown-up’s work. What do you say, do you want	38
to drive?”	40
“Yes, sir!” said Laura, smiling at her dad. “You bet I want to!”	53
Laura called to the horses, as she flicked the reins.	65
“Come on, Crackers and Smokey, Let’s go!”	70
The wagon shuddered and slowly it rattled off down the uneven	81
dirt road. Tom looked over at Laura and smiled. He couldn’t	92
remember when he’d seen his daughter looking so extremely proud or	103
sitting so tall.	106
The canvas-covered wagon bobbed out across the plains toward	116
Julian like a wandering ship in a sea of grass.	126
Most of the time Laura and Tom were alone, but every once in a	140
while they passed other wagons along the way, filled with hopeful and	152
anxious men and women heading for the gold fields of California.	162
“We’re all going to be filthy rich and famous,” a woman shout-	175
ed from a nearby wagon. “There’s so much gold in California, they	187
pave the streets with it. Of course, you already know that.”	196
Laura didn’t know “that,” but she had no reason to doubt the	208
woman.	209

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
“While I was on the ground, the two of them jumped into my wagon; they took off, leaving me with this wreck.”	14 22
“Why don’t you come into Las Vegas with us?” said Tom. “If you can’t find your wagon there, you can always get a new wheel for this one.”	34 48 50
“You’re awfully kind,” said Dr. Horsefeld. “It will be my pleasure to ride with you.”	60 65
Tom and Laura climbed up onto the front seat, making room for Dr. Horsefeld to get into the back of the wagon. With Tom at the reins, they started off toward Las Vegas. Along the way, Dr. Horsefeld kept up a constant stream of conversation.	77 92 104 110
When Dr. Horsefeld wasn’t talking about the road, he was talking about the weather, or gold, or he chattered on about medicine. His mouth never seemed to rest, and Laura sat listening attentively.	120 132 143
“Yes, sir,” he said at one point, “those two wagon robbers got themselves a wagon full of good health, and if they drink up all the Spring Water Cure in that wagon, they just might live to be a thousand years old.”	155 169 183 185
“Really?” said Laura, her eyes growing wider.	192
“I wouldn’t lie to you,” said Dr. Horsefeld. “That spring water is the most powerful natural medicine in the world.”	204 212

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

Word Totals:

“If I can find even one bottle, I’ll be able to cure you instantly.”	14
“Please, Doctor Horsefeld,” called a woman seated near the back	24
of the room. “You’re our only hope, save us!”	33
“You can rely on me! There’s isn’t anything my amazing spring	44
water won’t cure.” shouted the doctor gradually backing out the door.	55
The well was in view, in a remote location at the far end of the	70
town. They walked quickly toward it and each time they passed a shop	83
or home, they could hear the moans of those inside.	93
“There doesn’t seem to be a single healthy person in this town,”	105
muttered Tom.	107
“That’s completely logical, because that’s the way it is with	117
Turtle Fever,” said Dr. Horsefeld. “It strikes down everyone in sight,	128
young and old.”	131
“Turtle Fever?” said Laura. “I thought you said it was Turner’s	142
Fever.”	143
“Oh yes, my mistake,” said Dr. Horsefeld stammering with	152
embarrassment, his face turning bright red.	158
“Indeed, it was Turner’s Fever. A silly understandable mistake. I	169
have the names of every disease in my head, but sometimes when you	182
have knowledge about that many diseases in your head, it’s hard to	195
keep all the information straight.”	198

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

Word Totals:

“I apologize,” said Dr. Horsefeld. “We’ll have to figure out	10
another way to cure you, because I reckon those wagon robbers	21`
wanted my wonderful medicine for themselves. They didn’t leave a	31
single drop behind.”	34
“That’s not entirely true,” replied Laura, examining two bottles	43
labeled,” Doctor Horsefeld’s Spring Water Cure,” from the bucket. “I	53
just found these in the bottom of the well.”	62
“For goodness sake!” shouted Dr. Horsefeld. “Let’s get everyone	71
ready. They’ll be cured in seconds with a few swallows of my	83
medicine.”	84
“I don’t think you want the entire town given Spring Water	95
Cure,” said Laura.	98
“What?” said Dr. Horsefeld, holding the bottle up in his fist.	109
“Would you have me keep this wonderful cure from the outstanding	120
people of Las Vegas?”	124
“Definitely,” said Laura. “I think your medicine poisoned the	133
water in the well.”	137
“No, that’s impossible!” thundered Dr. Horsefeld. “How could	146
you accuse me of such a terrible thing?”	153
“Perhaps not,” said Laura calmly. “But it’s very strange that the well	165
is full of bottles of your amazing medicine.”	173
It’s possible that Snake and Sim drank some Spring Water Cure	184
and got sick, so instead of carrying your medicine all the way to	197
California, they decided to throw it away. The well was close, so they	210
tossed all the bottles inside, and it certainly lightened their load.	221

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 7: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

Word Totals:

“It’s a hot-air balloon,” said Tom, as he admired the balloon. “I	12
haven’t seen one since the Rock Island Fair.”	20
“Where are you going?” asked Laura.	26
“Headed to California,” shouted the man in the balloon, tossing	36
a large stick onto his fire.	42
“You’re headed all the way to California in that crazy balloon?”	53
asked Laura, shading her eyes from the sun. “You a miner?”	64
“Nope, I’m going to California,” continued the man, “to get rich	75
selling candy bars.”	78
“You aren’t going to California to mine gold?” said Laura.	88
“I sell Hungry Rabbit Candy Bars,” answered the man. I plan	100
on making piles of money selling them in the gold fields to the hungry	113
miners.”	114
“Best of luck,” shouted Laura. “I hope the California luck rubs	125
off on you.”	128
“Same to you,” said the man, as he threw more sticks onto his	141
glowing fire, and the balloon rose higher and higher into the blue	153
desert sky. “See you in California!”	159
Laura and Tom watched the balloon slowly grow farther away.	169
It was covered with a picture of a rabbit munching on a chocolate bar,	183
and below the rabbit were the words, “Hungry Rabbit Candy Bars . . .	194
Worth Their Weight in Gold.”	199
For the rest of that afternoon, Laura and Tom followed the	210
balloon as it floated over the desert.	217
“California must be an interesting place,” Laura thought to	227
herself.	

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 8: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
“You must think I’m crazy,” said Snake, jumping into the	11
driver’s seat. “I’m not about to weigh down my wagon with your bro-	23
ken-down balloon, but Tom and Laura will gladly take you.”	35
Then, without so much as a thank you to Laura and Tom, Snake	49
charged his horses and the wagon shot away in a cloud of swirling	61
dust and sand.	75
“Come on, Pat and Laura. let’s go, we can’t let them get a lead,”	77
said Tom.	86
“What about my balloon?” asked Pat. “It was extremely	87
expensive.”	98
“I apologize, but we wouldn’t stand a chance with that heavy	104
basket weighing us down,” answered Tom.	114
Tom looked off at the wagon disappearing across the desert.	126
“Oh, alright,” he said. “Load it snugly in the back, but hurry.”	137
“I’ll pay you back someday for this; I promise,” said Pat	138
appreciatively.	150
Pat loaded the heavy basket into the wagon, Tom took the reins,	162
and off they went, blazing after Snake Snaxon. Tom chased Snake all	173
afternoon and all evening, but with the heavy basket weighing them	182
down, they slipped farther and farther behind their hurried	183
competitors.	194
The first light of dawn found the Johnson’s wagon entering a	202
rich, grassy plain, peppered with many small lakes.	210

Fluency Builders Series - Book 6, Chapter 9: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.0-6.5

	Word Totals:
“You should’ve allowed that balloon fellow to travel with us.	11
We could have been the winners.” muttered Speedy Sim.	19
“You decided you didn’t want him to come along,” yelled Snake.	30
“It wasn’t entirely my fault.”	35
“Of course it was!” bellowed Speedy Sim.	42
“Liar, it wasn’t my decision at all!” hollered Snake.	51
The last Laura saw of Sneaky Snake Snaxon and his counterpart	62
Speedy Sim, they were still arguing.	68
“Let’s have more fire,” said Tom to Pat encouragingly. “We’ve	78
got a race and thousands of dollars to win!”	87
Pat tossed more wood on the glowing fire, and the balloon, like a puff	101
of smoke, lifted into the sky.	107
After what seemed like forever, the balloon slowly descended	118
into the center of the crowded mining town of Julian, California. Tom	129
grabbed the Andrews Gold Pan and jumped out of the crowded basket,	141
with Laura following close behind.	145
“Laura and I have some business to take care of,” said Tom.	157
“Okay,” answered Pat. “I’ll meet you later at the hotel.”	167
As Laura and Tom hurried down the street, they rushed past	178
miners covered in dusty overalls and wood-framed shops until they	188
came to a sign that read: “Telegrams, sent from here to anywhere.”	200
“We want to send a telegram to Cripple Creek,” Tom said.	211

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 1: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

Diana Rush woke up with a feeling of excitement. She jumped	11
out of her cozy bed and raced to the mirror to look at herself. She	26
expected to see an entirely new person.	33
She saw the same round face she always saw, the same golden	45
brown hair, and the same small, hazel green eyes. Her mouth turned	57
up into a small sheepish smile, Diana had expected to see something	69
different today.	71
“Yesterday, I was only nine years old,” thought Diana to herself.	82
“Today, I’m ten, isn’t it funny? Today I’m a year older but I look	96
exactly the same as yesterday.”	101
A chill ran down Diana’s spine, and she realized that she was	113
shivering. Spring was cold in Cornwall, England. Diana dressed in	123
layers of warm clothes and she ran down the squeaking wooden stairs	135
into the kitchen. A comfortable fire was burning in the fireplace.	146
“Good morning, birthday girl,” smiled Mrs. Rush, Diana’s	154
mother.	155
“How does it feel to be ten years old?” asked Mr. Rush, giving	168
his energetic daughter a loving pat on the head.	177
“I don’t feel any different, but it is really cold,” answered	188
Diana.	189
“Here, have some of this hot cider,” said Mrs. Rush.	199

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 2: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

A huge smile spread across Diana's round, petite face. The	10
following morning Diana woke up early, threw on her clothes and	21
sprinted downstairs. She got some milk from the refrigerator and	31
poured it in the baby bottle. Then she grabbed a plum for breakfast	44
and headed out towards the stable.	50
Diana found the little filly standing up in a scattered pile of	62
straw near Ruby, her mother. Carefully, she inched closer and closer	73
to the foal, and she placed the bottle next to the filly's mouth. Slowly	87
the filly began to drink the refreshing milk as Diana held the bottle	100
and ate her delicious plum at the exact same time. The filly drank and	114
drank. Finally, the last drop of milk in the bottle was gone.	126
"You were hungry, weren't you, Did that milk taste good?"	136
Diana said, patting the foal on the head.	144
The excited filly shook her head and let out a soft whinny.	156
Suddenly she reached out and licked the half-eaten plum Diana held	167
in her hand. It must have been delicious for she took a second lick.	181
Then she took a third.	186
"So you enjoy plums, do you!" giggled Diana. "You're a funny	197
little horse. I've never heard of a foal eating plums for breakfast!"	209

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 3: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

	Word Totals:
“It’s the saddle and matching bridle!” Diana screamed, as she	11
saw what was wrapped inside the heavy box. “Mum, Dad, You’re	22
simply incredible, I appreciate it so much!”	28
“You’d better thank Art too,” said her father. “He’s been saving	39
money for weeks to help purchase your present.”	47
Diana glanced over at Art. He smiled a thoughtful smile.	57
“Well,” he uttered kindly, “I did it for both of you. I thought Plum	71
might appreciate a present for her birthday also.”	79
Diana ran around the table giving each person a tender hug and	91
Thank you. “You three are about the most wonderful family in the	103
entire universe,” she yelled enthusiastically. “I couldn’t wish for a	113
more generous family and friend.”	118
“Alright,” answered Art, slowly getting up from the kitchen	127
table. “That’s enough of that, are we planning to try out this saddle	140
and bridle, or are they just decorations?”	147
“I agree with you Art,” chuckled Diana. “Let’s travel outside	157
and figure out what Plum thinks of her beautiful birthday present.”	168
Mr. and Mrs. Rush, Art, and Diana all left the kitchen table, and	181
quickly walked out to the pasture. Plum was grazing quietly while	192
watching Diana carefully. When she Diana heading towards her, she	202
stopped chewing and trotted over to the fence.	210

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 4: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

“Diana, enter inside the pasture, carefully fasten the bridle on	11
Plum, and slip this bit gently into her mouth. If she doesn't mind that,	25
then we'll attempt to fasten the saddle.”	31
Diana grabbed the bridle and walked slowly and calmly inside	41
the grassy pasture. She walked slowly towards Plum, talking to her	52
softly in a whisper the entire time. Then she petted Plum and slowly	65
adjusted the bridle on her. She gave Plum a lump of sugar, and while	79
Plum was licking the sugar from her lips, Diana slipped the bit into	92
the filly's mouth. Upon feeling the pressure of the bit, the filly shook	105
her head gently and neighed, but after a few minutes, she became still	118
and quiet.	120
“What a gentle horse you are,” “You don't seem to mind the bit	133
at all.” Diana whispered to Plum, patting her soundly on the side.	145
“Here,” said Art, handing Diana the saddle over the wooden	155
fence. “See how she reacts to this. Put the cloth across her first.	168
Then put the saddle squarely on her back. Be sure to buckle that	181
saddle good and tight.”	185
Diana tossed the saddle cloth on Plum. Then she placed the	196
small saddle carefully and precisely on Plum's arched back. The little	207
filly looked around as Diana reached under her stomach and buckled	218
the saddle tightly.	221

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 5: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

“They had no other options but to have Icecap destroyed,” said	12
Art sadly. “They said he was suffering too much, and that his broken	25
leg would never get completely better. So I left, and I traveled here to	38
work for your father. I felt very sad about Icecap, so sad in fact, that I	54
decided never to have anything to do with steeplechasing again.”	64
“That was, until you saw Plum jump yesterday,” nodded Diana.	74
“That’s right,” said Art. “When I saw Plum make that incredible	85
jump, I knew that she was a natural steeplechaser too. It’s an amazing	98
gift she has.”	101
Art taught Diana everything he knew about training a famous	111
steeplechase horse. He made small hurdles out of branches and Plum	122
practiced jumping over them. Plum got stronger and better. Art made	133
the obstacles higher and higher. Diana always rode Plum and she was	145
amazed at how easily and flawlessly the little horse jumped.	155
The time came when Plum would attempt to jump a fence three	167
feet high. Art told Diana that the filly was almost ready to learn to	181
jump across a wide distance. He explained that in the steeplechase	192
race, the horses have to jump across very wide ponds.	202

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 6: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

	Word Totals:
Later that afternoon, Art coaxed Plum into the van and headed	11
towards home. When Plum was safely backed in her stall in the	23
stable, Diana fed her a hefty dinner of dried oats and hay.	35
“A big dinner for an exhausted little champion,” said Diana	46
softly. Plum gave her a gentle nuzzle.	52
Diana left the stable and headed to her bedroom, proudly	62
placing the Gold Cup Plum had won on the shelf above her bed. It	76
had been an exciting day, and Diana was too tired to write an entry in	91
her diary. She fell asleep the minute her head caressed the pillow.	103
The following morning Diana came downstairs late. She heard	112
her mother, father, and Art talking in quiet voices in the kitchen. A	125
man she had never seen before was talking with them. Diana stopped	137
at the doorway and listened attentively.	143
“You mean it’s completely empty?” Mr. Rush was saying.	152
“There’s nothing left inside?”	156
“That’s exactly right,” answered the man. “All you’ve got left in	167
that well outside is a little puddle of mud at the bottom. You used up	182
all the available water there, and unfortunately sometimes they	191
suddenly run dry, without warning.”	196
“What alternatives do we have?” asked Mrs. Rush. “We depend	206
on that water to survive.”	211

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 7: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

“You know, I was just thinking,” said Art. “Once, a little over a	14
year ago, we saved Plum’s life. We nursed her to health when she was	27
small and weak. Now, by helping us receive the money to drill a new	41
well, she is saving the families. She’s an incredible horse, a mighty	53
good horse.”	55
Weeks went by and life on the Rushes’ farm continued. The	66
new well was drilled, there was plenty of water, the animals were fed,	79
and the potato plants got watered. The farm was saved, and	90
everything was fine, just as it always had been. Only one important	102
thing was missing, and that was Diana and Plum together.	112
Diana stopped writing in her diary. Almost all the pages in it	124
had been filled with stories about adventures with Plum. She had	135
written about the day Plum was born and about the day Plum first	148
went outside. She had written about Plum’s first jump and about her	160
triumph at the county fair. Somehow Diana couldn’t write in her diary	172
now that Plum was gone.	177
Several months later, Diana returned home after an	185
uneventful day at school and found her parents and Art sitting in the	198
kitchen. They were reading the newspaper.	204

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 8: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

“Why, that little filly will outrun those other feeble horses by	12
thirty lengths. She’ll win easily, and it will be another ribbon and tro-	25
phy for Plum!”	26
“I hope so,” said Diana. “I hope she demonstrates to everyone	37
what a wonderful champion she is.”	43
The next day, Mr. and Mrs. Rush, Diana, and Art all gathered	55
around the radio. They turned it on and listened attentively to the	67
announcer’s voice.	69
“Everyone is anxiously waiting for the start of the Grand	79
National,” he said. “In all of England, this is the biggest	90
steeplechasing day of the year. The stands are packed with people,	101
and even the beloved Queen has come to watch the race.”	112
“Imagine that,” said Diana, shaking with enthusiasm. “Our little	121
Plum is running in front of the Queen of England.”	131
“Here come the horses now,” said the announcer. “The	140
majority of the people have picked the bay filly, Plum, to be the	153
winner of today’s race. Plum may have pretty tough competition,	163
very tough competition, in fact. The strong gray horse, Run-of-Luck,	173
appears to be awfully good. Then there’s always the powerful Rough	184
Knight. He’s an extremely fast finisher. It’s going to be an exciting	196
and well run race, that’s for certain.	203

Fluency Builders Series - Book 7, Chapter 9: Fluency Assessment

Student's Name _____ Date: _____ Readability: Grade Level 6.5-7.0

Word Totals:

Diana moved slowly away from Plum. "Come here, Plum," she	10
called. "Come to me."	14
Plum looked attentively at Diana and whinnied softly. Then,	23
with a tremendous effort, she took a few labored steps toward Diana.	35
Diana gradually backed up more and more, until she was outside of	47
the stable. Plum was determined to follow her. Mr. and Mrs. Rush,	59
Art, and the veterinarian all smiled in unison.	67
"Plum's going to be all right," said the veterinarian. "She won't	78
be a champion jumper again, but in a few weeks she'll be walking	91
normally."	92
Diana took Plum on walks around the farm every day. Her leg	104
became strong again. By the following year, Diana was even able to	116
ride Plum. Together, they rode across the fields and meadows and	127
enjoyed the beautiful countryside. Both of them were happier than	137
ever.	138
It was in the spring of her fourth year that Plum gave birth to a	153
beautiful little filly that had a shiny black mane, just like her mother.	166
Diana and Art watched Plum carefully taking care of her baby.	177
They both sensed that this new foal would bring them much happiness	189
and much joy, just as her incredible mother had.	198

1. *According to the map, if Eddie and Sarah were at the airport closest to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which airport were they at?*

- a. Newark International Airport
- b. John F. Kennedy International Airport
- c. La Guardia Airport
- d. An airport in Massachusetts

See Map (pg 23)

2. *The author describes Sarah and Eddie as “terrified.” This means they were*

- a. scared.
- b. excited.
- c. lost.
- d. in a hurry.

Read Chapter 2 (pg 5)

3. *Spider is most likely*

- a. the man who runs the museum bookstore.
- b. Albert’s friend.
- c. Sarah and Eddie’s teacher.
- d. a ghost.

Read Chapter 4 (pg 14)

4. *How did Albert and Spider get the bracelet out of the glass case?*

- a. With a flashlight
- b. With Mrs. Crown’s help
- c. With a hammer
- d. With a key

Read Chapter 4 (pg 13)

5. *The inscription on Queen Kim’s bracelet is most likely written in*

- a. Ancient English.
- b. German.
- c. Ancient Egyptian.
- d. Italian.

6. *What is the most likely reason Albert and Spider stole Queen Kim’s bracelet?*

- a. They wanted to find the Queen’s jewels.
- b. They wanted to sell the bracelet.
- c. They wanted to give the bracelet to a museum in Mexico.
- d. They were going to return the bracelet to the pyramid.

7. *In the next week, Mrs. Crown, the head of the museum, probably*

- a. fired Albert.
- b. hired Dr. Fine to guard the bracelet.
- c. went to the pyramid to look for Queen Kim’s diamonds.
- d. closed the museum.

8. *Sarah says, “there is something ‘peculiar’ about Albert.” Peculiar means*

- a. common.
- b. strange.
- c. scary.
- d. loud.

Read Chapter 2 (pg 8)

9. *What kind of story is this?*

- a. A fairy tale
- b. A newspaper article
- c. A poem
- d. A mystery story

10. *What is the title of the third chapter in the book?*

- a. Queen Kim’s Bracelet
- b. Sarah’s Plan
- c. The Fallen Mummy
- d. The Bracelet Mystery

See Table of Contents or Chapter 3 (pg 9)

11. *Where did Eddie and Sarah hide?*

- a. Behind a curtain
- b. In the mummy case
- c. In the meeting room
- d. In the bookstore

Read Chapter 3 (pg 12)

12. *Which of the following words from the story is a compound word?*

- a. Soundproof
- b. Hurried
- c. Meeting
- d. Seize

Read Chapter 4 (pg 15)

13. *What happened first?*

- a. Albert and Spider were caught at the airport.
- b. Dr. Fine arrives at the museum.
- c. Mrs. Crown visits the museum.
- d. Eddie and Sarah find the guard on the floor.

Read Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5

14. *The setting for this story is in*

- a. a zoo.
- b. a school.
- c. Eddie and Sarah's house.
- d. a museum.

Read Chapter 1 (pg 1)

15. *Which of the following statements is an opinion, not a fact?*

- a. The inscription on the bracelet read "Happy Birthday, Queen Kim."
- b. The bracelet was stolen by two men.
- c. Eddie and Sarah helped catch the crooks.
- d. Mrs. Crown saying, "Albert is not the kind of person who would steal the bracelet."

16. *Eddie says, "There doesn't seem to be a thing we can do to 'prevent' it." Prevent means*

- a. make sure it does not happen.
- b. assist.
- c. support.
- d. hurry and make it happen.

Read Chapter 3 (pg 10)

17. *According to the author, while the guide was talking about each painting of the sea, Eddie and Sarah were thinking about*

- a. their next field trip.
- b. how old the paintings were.
- c. the mystery of the bracelet.
- d. the tall man wearing the brown hat.

Read Chapter 1 (pg 2)

18. *Based on what you have read, what is the likely exhibit going on at the museum?*

- a. Early American history
- b. Animals of Africa
- c. An exhibit about pyramids
- d. An exhibit about the age of the dinosaurs

19. *Think about what you read. Chapter 6 in the book might be titled*

- a. The Airplane.
- b. Back to the Museum.
- c. Dr. Fine's Adventure.
- d. Albert and Spider Go Home.

20. *Which of the following statements is an opinion about the bracelet, not a fact?*

- a. The bracelet in the glass case once belonged to Queen Kim.
- b. The bracelet was found in a pyramid.
- c. They think it tells where Queen Kim's jewels are hidden.
- d. Sarah is Eddie's sister.

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See Map Question (pg 23)

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Read Chapter 1 (pg 2)

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- c. Sarah and Eddie's teacher.
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20. *Which of the following words from the story is a compound word?*

- a. Hurried
- b. Meeting
- c. Soundproof
- d. Seize

Read Chapter 4 (pg 15)

1. ***Bobby says, “Dizzy is as gentle as a kitten.” What does he mean?***

- a. Dizzy likes to play with other kittens.
- b. Dizzy would not harm anyone.
- c. Dizzy is soft and furry like a kitten.
- d. Dizzy has many friends that are kittens.

Read Chapter 5 (pg 19)

2. ***What did Bobby bring back from the past?***

- a. A sabertooth tiger
- b. Pictures of dinosaur tracks
- c. A dinosaur egg
- d. A white rock

Read Chapter 3 (pg 11)

3. ***Based on what we know about Dizzy, he is most likely what kind of dinosaur?***

- a. A plant eater
- b. A meat eater
- c. A seafood eater
- d. An insect eater

4. ***In what section of the library would you most likely find this story?***

- a. Reference
- b. Fiction
- c. Nonfiction
- d. Biography

5. ***Which of the following words from the story is a compound word?***

- a. Curious
- b. Condition
- c. Vehicle
- d. Backfired

Read Chapter 1 (pg 1)

6. ***Why do you think Bobby named the dinosaur Dizzy?***

- a. Because he only walked in circles.
- b. He had a name tag with Dizzy on it.
- c. Bobby once had a dog named Dizzy.
- d. The drive back in time made them dizzy.

Read Chapter 3

7. ***At first, what was one reason the Bensons let Bobby keep Dizzy?***

- a. They thought Bobby would run away.
- b. Bobby offered to sell Dizzy to make some extra money.
- c. The time-travel car was broken.
- d. Dizzy talked the Bensons into letting him stay.

Read Chapter 4 (pg 13)

8. ***Within a month, how big had the dinosaur grown?***

- a. To the size of a house
- b. To the size of a car
- c. To the size of an airplane
- d. To the size of a horse

Read Chapter 3 (pg 12)

9. ***Look at the picture on page 6. What are Bobby and his dad doing?***

- a. Sitting
- b. Standing
- c. Hunched down
- d. Laying down

Read Chapter 2 (pgs 6-7)

10. ***Which statement from the story best shows that Bobby is feeling better about his decision to send Dizzy home?***

- a. “No wonder you like this billboard,” said Bobby. “There’s a dinosaur on it.”
- b. “Hold on tight,” said Bobby, reaching inside the car.
- c. “I sent him back to the past,” said Bobby.
- d. “I know he’s happy now,” says Bobby.

Read Chapter 6 (pg 23)

11. *What is the most likely reason the man with the tall hat sold his car?*

- a. It did not drive well.
- b. He was tired of taking adventures.
- c. He knew Bobby's father needed a car.
- d. The car was too strange to drive.

Read Chapter 1

12. *"What is it you want?" asked Bobby suspiciously. Suspiciously means*

- a. distrustfully.
- b. trusting.
- c. slowly.
- d. with a loud voice.

Read Chapter 4 (pg 14)

13. *What is the most likely reason Bobby sent Dizzy home?*

- a. His parents made him.
- b. The pet inspector was going to put Dizzy in a zoo.
- c. He felt bad that Dizzy had no other dinosaur friends.
- d. Dizzy ate all of Mr. Baker's flowers.

Read Chapter 6 (pgs 22-23)

14. *In the next week, Bobby probably*

- a. feels sad that Dizzy is not around.
- b. goes back in time and gets another dinosaur.
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- d. allows Dizzy to perform on TV and at the circus.

15. *According to the map, which is a town in Colorado?*

- a. Rte. 40
- b. Red Fleet Reservoir
- c. Dinosaur
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See Map (pg 24)

16. *Why does the author describe the way the strange car looks?*

- a. To make the reader think the car is like other cars on the road.
- b. To show how strange the car looks to Bobby and his father.
- c. To make the reader like the car.
- d. To show the reader how strange the man driving the car looks.

Read Chapter 1 (pg 2)

17. *Which is the title of the second chapter in the book?*

- a. The Strange Car
- b. The White Rock
- c. Creatures of the Past
- d. Found Out of the Past

See Table of Contents or Chapter 2 (pg 5)

18. *Who came to tell Bobby that Dizzy was in trouble?*

- a. Bobby's dad
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- d. The man in the tall hat

Read Chapter 5 (pg 17)

19. *At the end of the story, where did Dizzy go?*

- a. Back to the past
- b. To the zoo
- c. To live in the cave
- d. The dinosaur candy factor

Read Chapter 6 (pgs 22-23)

20. *What do you think will probably happen after Dizzy goes home?*

- a. The Bensons sell the time-travel car.
- b. People offering money to the Bensons leave them alone.
- c. Harold J. Butterspoon comes back and offers Bobby more money to fly Dizzy around.
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- c. To show how strange the car looks to Bobby and his father.
- d. To make the reader like the car.

Read Chapter 1 (pg 2)

1. **What was Big Red's plan for Rebecca and Ben?**
- To take them both back to Spider Landing
 - To share the gold treasure with them
 - To maroon them on the island
 - To let Chaves take them home in the long boat once the gold was found

Read Chapter 5

2. **Based on the map, which island is closest to Spanish Main?**
- Puerto Rico
 - Jamaica
 - Leeward Island
 - Windward Island

See map

3. **Why do you think the pirate changed the treasure map?**
- He wanted the treasure for himself.
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4. **According to the table of contents, which Chapter discusses the chores Ben and Rebecca do on board the Sea Witch?**

- Chapter 2
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See Table of Contents

5. **"Big Red has made up his mind, he's abandoned the Sea Witch. Abandoned means**
- deserted
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- Ben and Rebecca were playing hide and seek.
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7. **"Oh, no," said Ben. "The ship has sailed with us aboard. We may be in for a long voyage." Which word is not the same as voyage?**

- night
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Read Chapter 1

8. **Why did the Sea Witch not sink after the battle with the Skelton Queen?**
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9. **The author doesn't exactly say, but what do you think will probably happen to Chavez?**
- He will probably return to Eagle Island to rescue Big Red.
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10. **Based on this story, what do you think will happen later? Ben and Rebecca**
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11. *Which statement from the story best shows Chavez's concern for Ben and Rebecca?*

- a. "I am off, my ship is about to set sail."
- b. "Then we can plan to get you off this ship."
- c. "I don't like being a pirate."
- d. "I do wish I'd stayed a school boy."

Read Chapter 4

12. *According to the passage, where was the gold hidden?*

- a. Spider Landing
- b. Near Davy Jones' Locker
- c. On board the Skelton Queen
- d. On the west end of an island

Read Chapter 2

13. *Toward the end of the story, the word drowsy means*

- a. sleepy
- b. angry
- c. hungry
- d. fuming

Read Chapter 8

14. *At the end of the story Ben and Rebecca were happy because*

- a. after their adventure, they were going home.
- b. they had found the lost treasure.
- c. Chavez had offered to give them Betsy for all their help.
- d. they had solved the mystery of the treasure map.

Read Chapter 6

15. *Which of the following statements from the story best shows that Rebecca disagreed with Big Red about the treasure?*

- a. "That gold actually belongs to other people."
- b. "Big Red, can Ben and I go too?"
- c. "I think this map has been changed," said Rebecca, and I think the person who changed it is here now."
- d. "It's plain to me that someone besides you has had this map."

16. *Think about what you have read. Chapter 9 in the book might be titled*

- a. Return of the Skelton Queen
- b. Ben and Rebecca Find a New Map
- c. The Return to Spider Landing
- d. The Adventures of Dogface

17. *Who changed the 'X' on Big Red's treasure map?*

- a. Ben and Rebecca
- b. Crocodile Bill
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Read Chapter 6

18. *Their conversations always ended in a pitiful silence. Pitiful means*

- a. brilliant
- b. hopeless
- c. hopeful
- d. noble

19. *"Well I hadn't forgotten them," said Dogface as he scowled at Ben and Rebecca. Scowled means*

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20. *What is the most likely reason that Chavez helped Ben and Rebecca?*

- a. He was friends with their parents
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- c. Stone buildings
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Read Chapter 6

2. *Authors write for many reasons. What do you think is the purpose of this story?*

- a. To teach kids about space travel.
- b. To let us know about the problems with rock rats.
- c. To introduce the reader to Czarina Happy,
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3. *What was one reason Maria-Luisa and Jim went to the Space Center?*

- a. To fly on a rocket with Dr. Sharma
- b. To travel to the planet of Saturn
- c. To hunt for rock rats
- d. To save a scientist and the scientist's assistant

Read Chapter 1

4. *Which of the statements below is an opinion?*

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- b. "Did you travel a great distance?"
- c. "It could be a month; it could be tomorrow."
- d. "It's near Cannonball Dam."

Read Chapter 5

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- a. Neptune
- b. Jupiter
- c. Saturn
- d. Uranus

See Map

6. *Think back to when we first meet Czarina Happy why is her name ironic?*

- a. Because Czarina is a funny name.
- b. Because she is not happy at all.
- c. Because it is not a real name.
- d. Because she had never meet Dr. Lee.

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7. *The author describes Maria- Luisa as "peering closely at the picture." What does peering mean?*

- a. staring
- b. smiling
- c. frowning
- d. standing

8. *The author does not say but how would you describe Czarina feelings after she meets the man with the destroyed house?*

- a. Disturbed that she can not stop the rock rats.
- b. Upset the man built his house near Cannonball Dam.
- c. Pleased that her castle is made of diamonds.
- d. Nervous because Cannonball Dam is about to burst.

Read Chapter 6

9. *Who do Maria-Luisa and Jim meet first on Zoon?*

- a. The two-headed monster
- b. The diamond sweeper-man
- c. The rocks rat
- d. Czarina Happy

Read Chapter 3 & 4

10. *Looking at the Table of Contents which chapter will you find information on what would happen if the rock rats ate through the Dam?*

- a. Chapter 2
- b. Chapter 3
- c. Chapter 4
- d. Chapter 5

See Table of Contents

11. *Look back at the email message Maria-Luisa and Jim sent, what was the email address the message was sent to?*

- a. Addresses
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- c. Director of the Space Center
- d. Dr. Lee's research team on the planet Zoon

See email Chapter 1

12. *What is least likely to happen to Maria-Luisa and Jim when they arrived back on Earth?*

- a. Dr. Sharma celebrates their rescue efforts.
- b. Maria-Luisa and Jim's parents are relieved they have home safely.
- c. Maria-Luisa and Jim are sent back to Zoon to work in the diamond mines.
- d. Maria-Luisa and Jim miss their friends back on the planet Zoon.

13. *How would Maria-Luisa and Jim's parents likely feel after receiving the kids' letter?*

- a. Tired and sleepy
- b. Worried and sad
- c. Happy and surprised
- d. Foolish and cheerful

14. *What is the diet of choice for rock rats?*

- a. Rocks
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Read Chapter 7

15. *The two head creature quarrels about it, but what is Dr. Lee's assistant's name?*

- a. Moose
- b. Jim
- c. Zoon
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Read Chapter 8

16. *Why do Maria-Luisa and Jim sneak on to the Starlight?*

- a. They had forgotten their tickets at home.
- b. Dr. Sharma would not let them onboard only because they were children.
- c. It was the only way to save Dr. Lee.
- d. The other rockets were guarded by men in blue suits.

Read Chapter 2

17. *Why does the author include descriptions such as a forest of purple trees, a river full of silver water and red clouds?*

- a. To show how tired Maria-Luisa and Jim are when they land on Zoon.
- b. To help the reader imagine what the planet of Zoon looks like.
- c. To show how dangerous the planet of Zoon could be.
- d. To help the reader imagine the ride on the Starlight.

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- a. petite
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Read Chapter 7

1. *Where did the secret passage behind the fireplace lead to?*

- a. The old fountain
- b. The stone cottage where Carlos lived
- c. A room full of Rudolfo family portraits
- d. The library with the ghost books

Read Chapter 8

2. *Looking at the Map of Spain, which city is the furthest away from Savilla?*

- a. Cartagena
- b. Bilbao
- c. Madrid
- d. Cadiz

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3. *The author probably called this story “The Legend of Rudolfo” instead of “The Jungemann Vacation” because*

- a. the story emphasizes all Spanish legends not vacations.
- b. the word “vacation” would give away too much of the story’s plot.
- c. the story is primarily about a legend and not the Jungemanns vacation.
- d. the story is about a real ghost.

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- a. “Maybe we should go into the village and ask Archie Fox to help us.”
- b. “Don’t worry little brother. Everything is going to be all right.”
- c. As they looked down the long hall, they saw door after door after door.
- d. Callie took a deep breath. She pushed open the first door on the right.

Read Chapter 7

5. *In chapter 3, Mrs. Jungemann says the fountain and statue are very intriguing. What is an other word for intriguing?*

- a. Enormous
- b. Old
- c. Boring
- d. Interesting

6. *Who rents the Casa Rudolfo to the Jungemanns?*

- a. Mr. Fox
- b. Juliana
- c. Carlos
- d. The travel agent in New York

Read Chapter 1

7. *After reading the entire book which character was most frightened?*

- a. Callie
- b. Mom
- c. Carlos
- d. Matt

8. *Which country shares a boarder with Spain?*

- a. Portugal
- b. Poland
- c. Italy
- d. Switzerland

See Map

9. *Based on what we know about the Mr. Fox, what is mostly likely to happen in the next week?*

- a. He returns Casa Rudolfo to Carlos and his family.
- b. He spends time and money cleaning up the Casa Rudolfo.
- c. He tries to rent the Casa Rudolfo to other vacationers.
- d. He departs Spain and moves to New York City.

10. *“It must some kind of superstition the people have.” Superstition means all the following except?*

- a. Myth
- b. False notion
- c. Fallacy
- d. Truth

Read Chapter 2

11. *“How do you do,” said the man with a sinister grin.” Sinister means*

- a. Creepy
- b. Massive
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12. *Think back to the end of the story, how were the two people sitting with Mr. Fox feeling before the Jungemanns arrived.*

- a. Excited
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13. *What do you think will probably happen to the legend of Rudolfo?*

- a. Legends usually only last a week.
- b. The legend will continue until Mr. Fox moves into the mansion.
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14. *Which of the statements below is an opinion?*

- a. “I am Callie Jungemann. This is my bother Matt.”
- b. “Thanks for warning us.”
- c. Matt noticed a woman carrying a straw basket. It was filled with fruits and vegetables.
- d. “I’m certain that this is just a superstition the village people have.”

Read Chapter 2

15. *What was Mrs. Jungemanns’ plan for her vacation?*

- a. To solve the mystery of Rudolfo
- b. To travel the lands of Spain
- c. To show her children the beautiful Spanish countryside
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Read Chapter 1

16. *What was the first strange thing that happened to Callie, Matt and Mom?*

- a. The eyes in the portrait were moving
- b. Callie and Matt found the secret passage
- c. The suit of armor was missing
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17. *What two weather events caused the Rudolfo’s grape vines to be destroyed?*

- a. Rain and drought
- b. Drought and tornados
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18. *Looking through the Table of Content, which chapter covers the Jungemanns walk through the dark forest?*

- a. Chapter 2
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- He returns Casa Rudolfo to Carlos and his family.
- He spends time and money cleaning up the Casa Rudolfo.
- He departs Spain and moves to New York City.

18. *Who rents the Casa Rudolfo to the Jungemanns?*

- Carlos
- Juliana
- Mr. Fox
- The travel agent in New York

Read Chapter 1

19. *In chapter 3, Mrs. Jungemann says the fountain and statue are very intriguing. What is another word for intriguing?*

- Boring
- Enormous
- Interesting
- Old

20. *What was Mrs. Jungemanns’ plan for her vacation?*

- To solve the mystery of Rudolfo
- To get some writing done
- To travel the lands of Spain
- To show her children the beautiful Spanish countryside

Read Chapter 1

1. *Which statement best describes the way Tom and Laura felt at the end of the story?*

- a. Meek and arrogant
- b. Tired and proud
- c. Tired and bigheaded
- d. Exhausted and overconfident

2. *Which states and/or territories share a border with the Pacific Ocean?*

- a. Idaho Territory, Utah Territory and Colorado
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See Map

3. *What were the ingredients for Dr. Horsefeld's Spring Water Cure?*

- a. Spring water and orange drink
- b. Hungry Rabbit Candy Bars, spring water and swamp root
- c. Beans, spring water, orange drink and swamp root
- d. Spring water, swamp root and pepper tree bark

Read Chapter 4

4. *What actually made the people of Las Vegas ill?*

- a. Dr. Horsefeld's Spring Water Cure
- b. The extreme wind
- c. The townspeople had eaten rotten food
- d. Orange drink and milk

Read Chapter 6

5. *What is the most likely event to happen in the next month?*

- a. Tom and Laura head back to Las Vegas to open a doctor's office.
- b. Tom and Laura head back to Cripple Creek to begin their shipping business.
- c. Tom and Laura decide to stay in Julian, California to mine for gold.
- d. Tom and Laura sell their shipping business to Snake Snaxon.

6. *What is the most likely reason Snake Snaxon got the nickname "sneaky"?*

- a. He had a reputation for kindness.
- b. He had a reputation as a straight shooter.
- c. He had a reputation of unruliness.
- d. He had a reputation for deviousness.

7. *A hot air balloon has many parts, which part is the gondola?*

- a. The basket
- b. The balloon
- c. The ropes
- d. The fire pit

8. *The author states, "the wagon shuddered and rattled off down the road. An antonym is a word with the opposite meaning. What is an antonym for shuddered?"*

- a. tremble
- b. quiver
- c. stabilize
- d. wobble

9. *Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words. Which is an example of alliteration?*

- a. The balloon disappeared behind a hill, crashing into the desert.
- b. Dr. Horsefeld's Spring Water Cure
- c. Sneaky Snake Snaxon
- d. Hungry Rabbit Candy Bars Worth Their Weight in Gold

10. *How do you think Snake Snaxon and Speedy Sim felt as they watched Tom, Laura and Mr. Andrews fly over them?*

- a. sneaky and speedy
- b. honor and meekness
- c. mad and humbled
- d. arrogant and conceited

11. **Why did Mr. Andrews decide to hold a wagon race to California?**

- To allow Snake Snaxon a chance to help out the people of Las Vegas
- To help Mr. Greenwood sell more candy rabbits
- To allow Tom and Laura a chance to visit Las Vegas
- To see which wagon team could successfully complete the journey

12. **Looking through the Table of Contents, which chapters cover Tom and Laura's time in Las Vegas?**

- Chapters 2, 3 and 4
- Chapter 3, 4 and 5
- Chapters 4, 5 and 6
- Chapters 5, 6 and 7

13. **Looking at the Map of the Western U.S.A., which states and/or territories did Tom and Laura most likely pass through?**

- Nevada, California and the Arizona Territory
- Washington Territory, Oregon and California
- Utah Territory, Nevada and Oregon
- Idaho Territory, Utah Territory and Colorado

See Map

14. **What strange event brought down Mr. Greenwood's hot air balloon?**

- Speedy Sim and Sneaky Snake shoot his balloon down
- A flock of vultures attacked the huge rabbit on the side on the balloon
- Mr. Greenwood was too close to the ground and struck a tree
- Mr. Greenwood ran out of wood for the fire

Read Chapter 7

15. **How did Laura and Tom contact Mr. Andrews when they arrived in Julian, California?**

- They sent an email
- The sent a telegram
- The used the telephone at the Lonesome Cowboy eatery
- The mailed a letter

Read Chapter 9

16. **What statements suggest that Dr. Horsefeld was not a real doctor?**

- "Yes, sir." He said at one point, "those two wagon robbers got themselves a wagon full a good health."
- "I'm Dr. Harold Humphrey Horsefeld, a world-famous doctor of medicine." "I am the bottler of a wonderful cure for whatever you have."
- "Oh yes, yes," said Dr. Horsefeld stammering, his face turning bright red. "Indeed, it was Turner's Fever."
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Read chapter 5

17. **In chapter 3, what is the most likely reason Tom and Laura slept in the wagon?**

- The Apache had suggested they do so
- They had forgotten their sleeping bags
- Laura was afraid of mountain lions
- The rattle snake experience had scared them both

Read Chapter 3

18. **Why were Tom and Laura traveling to Julian, California?**

- To mine for gold in the mountains
- To deliver one gold pan
- To search for Pat Greenwood's balloon
- To visit their relatives

Read Chapter 1

19. **Dr. Horsefeld turned to the moaning, groaning people of Las Vegas and spoke with conceit. Conceit means**

- humbleness
- meekness
- arrogance
- modesty

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- enormous
- gargantuan
- colossal
- minuscule

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1. *What is the name of the body of water separating England from France?*

- a. South Irish Sea
- b. Atlantic Ocean
- c. Irish Sea
- d. English Channel

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2. *How do you think Mr. and Mrs. Rush, Art and Diana felt when Plum fell in the big race?*

- a. They were extremely worried about Plum's well-being?
- b. They were upset that Mr. Clover had entered Plum in such a hard race
- c. They were excited because they knew Plum would be coming home
- d. They were worried that Mr. Clover would be back to demand a refund on his 500 pounds

3. *In chapter 7 the author states, as Plum is being loaded into the trailer she looks around desperately. What is another word for desperately?*

- a. urgently
- b. peacefully
- c. unruffled
- d. calmly

4. *A synonym is a word with the same meaning. Plum often gave Diana's hand a gentle nudge. What is an synonym for gentle?*

- a. kind
- b. strong
- c. forceful
- d. rough

5. *Based on what we know about the Rush's and Art, what is mostly likely to happen in the next year?*

- a. Plum's foal will be trained for steeplechase and sold to Mr. Clover for 500 pounds
- b. The well which was drilled with the money from Plum's sale will run dry
- c. The Rush's and Art continue to enjoy the farm and their two favorite horses
- d. The entire family including Plum and her new foal move to America

6. *What statement best describes Diana's feelings when she decides to sell Plum?*

- a. She loves Plum but she knows her family needs the money
- b. She loves Plum and that is why she sends her to a wonderful new stable
- c. She is very upset that she is being forced to sell Plum for only 500 pounds
- d. She understands Art's dream to train a champion steeplechaser

7. *Looking at the Table of Contents, which two chapters discuss Diana and Plum's birthdays?*

- a. Chapters 1 and 4
- b. Chapters 2 and 4
- c. Chapters 1 and 3
- d. Chapters 3 and 4

8. *What was the name of the only horse to beat Plum in a race?*

- a. Rough Knight
- b. Icecap
- c. Fast-filly
- d. Run-of-Luck

Read Chapter 8

9. *During the course of the story what two birthday gifts did Diana receive?*

- a. Saddle and a horse training class
- b. Tickets to the steeplechase and a filly
- c. A horse wagon and saddle
- d. A saddle and diary

Read Chapter 2 and 4

10. *While teaching Plum to jump, Art slowly moved the logs from ____ feet to ____ feet.*

- a. five, fifteen
- b. seven, twelve
- c. two, six
- d. four, ten

Read Chapter 5

11. *Which action from the story best shows the selflessness of Diana?*
- When she approaches Plum for the first time with the saddle
 - When Diana is wishing for a saddle and bridle for her birthday
 - When Diana continues to follow Plum's rise to fame
 - When Diana decides to sell Plum to save the farm

12. *“Mr. and Mrs. Rush, Art, and Diana all left the kitchen and walked out to the pasture.” The author could have replaced pasture with which word?*
- barn
 - meadow
 - pond
 - fence

13. *In chapter 5, Art makes the obstacles higher and higher. An antonym is a word with the opposite meaning. What is an antonym for obstacles?*
- obstructions
 - impediment
 - trails
 - barriers

Read Chapter 2

14. *What do you think will probably happen to Plum's new foal?*
- The new foal will be purchased by Mr. Clover and live at his stables
 - The new foal will be trained by Art and become a steeplechase champion like her mother
 - The new foal will help with chores around the farm
 - The new foal will become Diana's new best friend

15. *Looking at the map of Cornwall, which city is about 30 miles for Barnstable?*
- Bodmin
 - Bude
 - St. Ives
 - Devon

See Map

16. *During which part of the big race was Plum injured?*
- The beginning of the race
 - After the first jump
 - During the cool down
 - In the final stretch

Read chapter 9

17. *What was the initial problem with Plum?*
- She was a runt and her mother rejected her
 - She had a broken leg and was weak
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Read Chapter 1

18. *Which race did Plum not win?*
- Blue Ribbon at Cottage Field
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 - Hunt Cup at Gladness
 - The Grand National

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19. *Diana writes in her diary, “Plum is without a doubt the prettiest horse that was ever born. She is tremendous.”*

Tremendous means all the following except

- marvelous
- incredible
- mundane
- remarkable

20. *What term best describes Mr. Fred Clover*
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