



Reader 1: _____ Date: _____

Reader 2: _____

Reader 3: _____

Words to Preview

Point & Say

1 **solar system** – the sun, planets, and other objects that move around the sun.

*Earth is a planet in our **solar system**.*

billions

2 **scientists** – people who study the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world.

*Those **scientists** know a lot about the solar system.*

sunspots

3 **eclipse** – an event in space when the light from one object is blocked by another.

*The moon blocked the light from the sun to create an **eclipse**.*

thousands

4 **partial** – not complete.

*A **partial** eclipse does not cover the whole sun.*

Note: Hyphenated words count as one word.

The Sun

READER 1

The sun is a star at the center of our solar system. Solar means “having to do	17
with the sun.” Earth and all the planets in our solar system orbit around the	32
sun. That means that Earth travels around the sun. The sun is closer to Earth	47
than other stars. This is why the sun looks like a round yellow ball. Other stars	63
look much smaller because they are not as close.	72

READER 2

Just like other stars, the sun gives off light and heat. That is why people,	87
plants, and animals are able to live on Earth.	96

Scientists use special cameras to take pictures of the sun. These pictures	108
show that the sun is a mass of burning gas. The pictures also show that the	124
gas swirls around as it burns. Pictures of the sun show dark patches called	138
sunspots. Sunspots form where the gas is cooler than the rest of the sun.	152
Sunspots are still very hot, though. Sunspots are often seen in groups. The	165
groups can stretch sixty thousand miles or more from one end to another.	178



READER 3

Sometimes the moon passes between Earth and the sun. When this happens, the moon blocks the light from the sun. This is called a solar eclipse. Each solar eclipse can only be seen from certain places on Earth. These are the places that are in the shadow cast by the moon.	189 203 216 229
Two or three solar eclipses happen every year. Most of the time, the moon does not block all of the sun's light. This is called a partial eclipse. Once every year or two, the moon blocks the whole sun. This is called a total eclipse.	243 257 272 275
Like all stars, our sun has a life cycle. It still has another five billion years to shine strongly. After about five billion years, the sun will age into a red giant. Next, it will cool off to become a white dwarf. Billions of years later, the white dwarf will be cool. At that time, the sun will turn into a cold, dark body called a black dwarf.	291 306 321 338 343

Calculation Boxes		Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
Number of Words at Bracket				
Subtract: Number of Errors	–		–72	–178
Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)				
Accuracy Percentage	%		%	%



Mark It!

1 c o m p e t e

2 a m a z e

3 c a m p s i t e

4 a m u s e

5 c u p c a k e

6 d i v i d e

7 e n v e l o p e

8 v o l u m e

9 s u n s h i n e

10 m e d i c a t e

11 p a r a d e

12 p o l i t e

Read It!

1 compete

2 envelope

3 polite

4 volume

5 medicate

6 cupcake

7 amuse

8 amaze

amuse

amaze

divide

parade

envelope

sunshine

campsite

divide

medicate

sunshine

campsite

cupcake

polite

compete

parade

volume



Which Syllable Is Which?

Write each syllable in the correct column. The vowel letters that spell schwa are circled.

CHALLENGING

1 tad•pole

2 skate

3 fire•m@n

4 mi•grate

Closed

Open

VCE

tad

pole

MORE CHALLENGING

5 o•zone

6 style

7 r@•fuse

8 ath•lete

Closed

Open

VCE

MOST CHALLENGING

9 an•t@•lope

10 ep•i•sode

11 quake

12 hom•@•phone

Closed

Open

VCE



CHALLENGING

- 1 safe to erase the last name (6)
- 2 will explode and make smoke (5)
- 3 a good pancake at lunchtime (5)
- 4 too lazy to use the secret handshake (7)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 can locate the wide wishbone inside (6)
- 6 reptile sits upon a jade stone in the cave (9)
- 7 is impolite to chase Pete into the concrete maze (9)
- 8 gaze at the base of the Japanese lamp by my bedside (11)

CHALLENGING

- 1 Is it insane to refuse a milkshake and a cupcake? (10)
- 2 Visit the website to translate that phrase into Spanish. (9)
- 3 Dave forgave Jane when she was late for the episode. (10)
- 4 Kate, open the wide white envelope beside the tadpole dish. (10)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 If I calculate the total for you, will you make me a kale salad? (14)
- 6 Did you type a note to make up for the broken stoneware pancake pan? (14)
- 7 You must locate the capital of every state in the United States by the time the flame is out. (19)
- 8 I smile widely when I think back to the sunshine and the amazing landscape by the Ambrose Hotel. (18)



Match It!

Draw a line to connect the word parts in the first column with the VCE spellings in the second column that will spell a real word. Write the whole word on the line.

1. wh ide **slide** _____
 mis*t ape _____
 gr ite _____
 sl' ake _____

2. th one _____
 lo*c eme _____
 ph ope _____
 sl ate _____

3. gr ake _____
 str ute _____
 qu ade _____
 com*p ide _____

4. web*s ide _____
 fl eme _____
 in*s ite _____
 ex*tr ame _____

5. cup*c ale _____
 ex*h ete _____
 on*l ake _____
 com*p ine _____

6. mi*gr ume _____
 in*v ake _____
 vol* ite _____
 pan*c ate _____

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Create as many new real words as you can with the following vowel-consonant-e endings.

- 1 ade _____
- _____
- 2 one _____
- _____