



Reader 1: _____ Date: _____

Reader 2: _____

Reader 3: _____

Words to Preview

Point & Say

- 1 **comets** – frozen balls of ice, dust, and gases that orbit the sun.
*Many of the **comets** in space cannot be seen from Earth.*
- 2 **core** – middle.
*The **core** of a comet is made of dust and gas.*
- 3 **Jupiter** – the largest planet in our solar system.
*The planet **Jupiter** has four large moons and many smaller moons.*
- 4 **Halley's Comet** – (Halley rhymes with valley) the most famous comet; it appears about every 76 years.
***Halley's Comet** was last seen in 1986.*

Edmond
Halley
scientist

Note: Hyphenated words count as one word.

Comets

READER 1

We can see comets in the night sky. Some people call comets dirty snowballs. That is because they are made of ice, dust, and gases. You cannot throw these dirty snowballs. Comets are much too big to throw. They are huge objects in space. The core of a comet can be the size of the planet Jupiter.

13
26
38
54
57

Comets orbit the sun. They follow a path shaped like an egg. Comets travel millions of miles into the outer parts of our solar system. Some comets come so close to Earth that we can see them.

71
85
94

READER 2

Many comets have what look like long, bright tails. The tails are formed as a comet nears the sun. The core of a comet is frozen. The sun's heat turns some of the frozen core into gas. The gas and dust form a comet's tail. The tail can be millions of miles long.

108
124
139
147



Each time a comet orbits the sun, it loses some of the gases and dust from its tail. Most comets break up and vanish after they pass by the sun a few hundred times. That is because they lose so much gas and dust that they no longer exist.

READER 3

For many years, people did not understand comets. They did not show up in regular patterns like the sun, moon, and stars. Some people even thought that comets brought bad luck.

In 1705, a scientist found out something about comets. He proved that comets orbit the sun. This helped people understand more about comets.

The man who made the discovery was Edmond Halley. He studied comets. The most famous comet is named after him. It is called Halley's Comet. This comet was around long before Halley was born. We have very old records that tell about people seeing this well-known comet. Some of the records are more than 2,000 years old!

We can only see Halley's Comet when it comes close enough to Earth. That happens about every 76 years. It will be close to Earth again in 2061. During that time, we may learn even more about this special comet.

Calculation Boxes		Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
		Number of Words at Bracket		
		Subtract: Number of Words at Subhead	-94	-196
Number of Words at Bracket		Equals: Number of Words Attempted		
Subtract: Number of Errors	-	Subtract: Number of Errors	-	-
Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)		Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)		
Accuracy Percentage	%	Accuracy Percentage	%	%



Mark It!

1 detail

7 unbraided

2 coastal

8 toasty

3 crayfish

9 unsightly

4 highway

10 display

5 rainbow

11 complain

6 speechless

12 agreed

Read It!

1 detail

display

toasty

2 unsightly

agreed

crayfish

3 unbraided

speechless

highway

4 coastal

complain

rainbow

5 display

crayfish

coastal

6 agreed

toasty

unbraided

7 rainbow

detail

speechless

8 highway

unsightly

complain



Word Sort

Circle the correct number of syllables, and write the long vowel spellings in the appropriate columns for all long vowels. Some words may have more than one long vowel phoneme, and not all of the long vowel spellings will be vowel teams. The vowel letters that spell schwa are circled.

CHALLENGING

1 fright

How many syllables?

1 2 3

/ā/

/ē/

/ī/

/ō/

igh

2 below

1 2 3

3 complain

1 2 3

4 frisbee

1 2 3

MORE CHALLENGING

5 oatmeal

How many syllables?

1 2 3

/ā/

/ē/

/ī/

/ō/

6 grownup

1 2 3

7 daisy

1 2 3

8 detail

1 2 3

MOST CHALLENGING

9 trainload

How many syllables?

1 2 3

/ā/

/ē/

/ī/

/ō/

10 throwaway

1 2 3

11 prepay

1 2 3

12 explaining

1 2 3



CHALLENGING

- 1 drink hot cocoa near the whaleboat (6)
- 2 train began the delay on the highway (7)
- 3 sprint to the rainbow near the oak tree (8)
- 4 plenty of baseball bats and gear to play with (9)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 put on a yellow peacoat or my new raincoat (9)
- 6 made a career out of patching king-size bedsheets (8)
- 7 obtain and clean the queen's silky green night dress (9)
- 8 roaming in a jeep to find a toad in the shallow pond (12)

CHALLENGING

- 1 There are fifteen throwaway canteens in the cabin. (8)
- 2 Colleen felt a slight scratch in her throat at bedtime. (10)
- 3 I will shine the brightest flashlight so we can see the leak. (12)
- 4 If we sweep the streets, we will help keep our state clean. (12)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 Their goal is to remain upbeat, despite the rain and hail, while they travel. (14)
- 6 Steve will reclaim the expensive oval ring from the bottom of the deep creek bed. (15)
- 7 Jay was speechless after seeing the play with the fair and faithful Jeep salesman. (14)
- 8 The moat beside the palace will keep the inhabitants safe from the sneaky coachmen. (14)



WORDS

1. Read each word.
2. Underline words that contain the same vowel phoneme as the word **bite**.
3. Draw a box around the words that contain the *long e* phoneme.
4. Circle all the vowel teams that spell *long a*.

complain

between

frightful

hungry

cocoa

repay

snowdrift

repeated

oatmeal

sight

paintbrush

peanut

playful

fifteen

approach

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

- 1 Find the word with two vowel teams. _____
- 2 Find the word that explains how you might feel before lunch.

- 3 Find 2 words that are things you can eat.

- 4 Find the word that means "to walk up to." _____