



Reader 1: _____ Date: _____

Reader 2: _____

Reader 3: _____

Words to Preview

Point & Say

- 1 **characteristics** – features that identify a person or thing.
*One of the **characteristics** that birds and fish share is that they both lay eggs.*
- 2 **mollusks** – animals with soft bodies but no backbone that often live in shells; most live in the ocean.
*Snails, clams, and octopuses are all **mollusks** although they do not all live in shells.*
- 3 **cartilage** – a strong, elastic tissue that connects bones in humans and animals.
*The top of your outer ear is made out of **cartilage**.*

diamond
poisonous

Note: Hyphenated words count as one word.

Stingrays

READER 1

Stingrays are interesting animals. They belong to a family of fish called rays. 13
 Most rays live in the salt water of the oceans, but some live in the fresh 29
 water of rivers. 32

Rays and sharks are in the same group of fish. They have some of the 47
 same characteristics. Like sharks, stingrays do not have scales as most fish 59
 do. A stingray's skin looks smooth, but it is not. It has little points that face 75
 backward. If you rub a stingray back to front, the skin feels like sandpaper. 89
 If you rub it front to back, the skin feels smooth and wet. 102

READER 2

Like sharks, stingrays do not have bones. They have a skeleton made 114
 of cartilage, which can bend much more easily than bone. This allows 126
 stingrays to move faster and make sharper turns. 134



A stingray looks a lot like a kite or a plate with a tail. Some stingrays are 151
 shaped like diamonds, but others are round. A stingray's eyes are on the 164
 top, and the mouth, nose, and gills are on the bottom. 175

READER 3

The tail of a stingray may be long or short. Either way, it always has a 191
 stinger. The stinger is sharp and poisonous. When a stingray is stepped on, 204
 its tail flips up and stings. The sting hurts a lot, but it probably will not kill. 221
 Sometimes the stinger comes off. When that happens, a new stinger grows 233
 back. Stingrays only use their stinger to stay safe, not to get food. 246

Stingrays eat worms and some kinds of shellfish. They use their teeth to 259
 break the shells of clams and other mollusks. 267

Stingrays hide while they rest. They dig into the bottom of the sea and hide 282
 in the sand. Stingrays often have gray, black, or white spots. Their color 295
 helps them hide in the sand. 301

People sometimes step on stingrays that are hiding. To be safe, pull your 314
 feet through the sand when you walk on the ocean floor. You will make 328
 waves, and the rays will know you are there. They will swim away instead 342
 of hurting you. 345

Calculation Boxes

	Reader 1		Reader 2	Reader 3
		Number of Words at Bracket		
		Subtract: Number of Words at Subhead	-102	-175
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 explore

7 carrot

2 adore

8 sportsmanship

3 airplane

9 fairly

4 cardboard

10 trapdoor

5 indoor

11 ordinary

6 scoreboard

12 courtside

Read It!

1 explore

ordinary

carrot

2 scoreboard

adore

indoor

3 cardboard

sportsmanship

courtside

4 fairly

airplane

trapdoor

5 ordinary

indoor

cardboard

6 courtside

explore

adore

7 carrot

scoreboard

airplane

8 trapdoor

fairly

sportsmanship



Which Syllable Is Which?

Write each syllable in the correct column. The schwa spellings are circled.

CHALLENGING

1 skate•board

2 or•gan

3 north•east

4 be•fore

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled
		skate		board

MORE CHALLENGING

5 bore•dom

6 a•corn

7 up•roar

8 sea•shore

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled

MOST CHALLENGING

9 car•ni•vore

10 court•side

11 fore•cast

12 re•store

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled



CHALLENGING

- 1 left a floral vest on my back porch (8)
- 2 will even the score before the clock runs out (9)
- 3 cannot repair the trapdoor to the basement (7)
- 4 did not tip the doorman at the Morgan Hotel (9)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 soar like a condor over the distant cornfields (8)
- 6 was aware that I ate an artichoke beforehand (8)
- 7 feel remorse for eating all of the cheesy popcorn (9)
- 8 can score courtside tickets before the game starts (8)

CHALLENGING

- 1 Karen is the primary hairstylist at the salon. (8)
- 2 I am lactose-free, so I have to ignore all dairy. (10)
- 3 Please do not compare me to the kid next door. (10)
- 4 Grant wants to explore the seafloor with his yellow snorkel. (10)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 I was stuck at the airport in Arizona for a day before my flight started for New York. (18)
- 6 Marcus and Arnold are forbidden from eating the assortment of tarts at the store. (14)
- 7 We slept in the military barracks for an extra night, so I had to bring two pairs of pajamas. (19)
- 8 The forecast predicts a rainstorm and then a snowstorm, and I predict boredom if I cannot go to the park. (20)



SENTENCES

1. Read each sentence.
2. In Sentence 1, underline all of the spellings of /ār/ as in **air**.
3. In Sentence 2, draw a **box** around the spellings of /or/ as in **fork**.
4. In Sentence 3, **circle** the words that contain both the /ār/ and /or/ sounds.

- 1 While driving through Arizona, I saw a scarecrow wearing a fairy dress.
- 2 Try to ignore the courtside uproar from the Hornets fans.
- 3 It is ordinary to wait a short time for your bags in the airport.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Using your knowledge of r-controlled vowel spellings, come up with three words that contain each r-controlled vowel phoneme listed below. To make the challenge more difficult, use a different spelling of the r-controlled vowel phoneme in each word. Do not use words from the sentences above.

/ar/	<u>artist</u>	_____	_____
	beginning	middle	end
/or/	_____	_____	_____
	beginning	middle	end