



Reader 1: _____ Date: _____

Reader 2: _____

Reader 3: _____

Words to Preview

Point & Say

- 1 **tentacles** – long, thin, flexible body parts that stick out around an animal’s head or mouth and that are used mainly for feeling or grasping.
*All of the **tentacles** on the octopus were moving in different directions.*
- 2 **suction cups** – small cup-shaped objects that can create a vacuum in order to hold something to a surface.
*We had to use **suction cups** to hang our holiday decorations in the windows.*
- 3 **sensors** – things that detect sense, such as taste, smell, or touch.
***Sensors** in our hands allow us to know whether something is hot or cold.*
- 4 **detach** – to remove or separate.
*Once we got to the campground, we had to **detach** the trailer from the truck.*

climb
mollusk

Note: Hyphenated words count as one word.

Octopus

READER 1

An octopus lives in the ocean, but it is not a fish. An octopus has no scales 17
 or bones. It is also not a sea mammal. It is a cold-blooded animal. It is a 34
 kind of mollusk. There are more than 150 types of octopuses. 45

The word *octopus* means “eight feet.” An octopus has eight arms, which 57
 are called tentacles. The arms have small suction cups. The suction cups 69
 help the octopus open shells, climb, and hold things. Taste sensors in the 82
 suction cups help the octopus know what it is touching. 92



READER 2

An octopus spends time hunting for small animals. It searches the sea floor for shellfish such as clams, shrimp, and crabs. After it poisons an animal, the meat gets soft. The octopus eats the meat and throws away the shells. The shells collect in a pile called an "octopus garden." This garden marks the location of the octopus's home.

An octopus often crawls, but it swims to move fast. It can move almost as fast as a rabbit. For a short time, octopuses can swim more than 15 miles per hour.

READER 3

An octopus has many ways to stay safe. It spends a lot of time hiding in caves under the water. An octopus may also change color to hide. It can change its skin to any color to blend in with the background. It can also make a black cloud of ink so an enemy does not see it get away.

To protect itself, an octopus can also detach its own arm. The arm keeps moving and confuses an enemy. The enemy thinks the octopus is still there, so the octopus has time to get away. Later, the octopus grows a new arm.

Some octopuses are small, but the giant octopus is very big. A giant octopus can grow to be over 16 feet tall. That's taller than two people combined! The giant octopus does not hurt people. It is a shy animal. It swims away if it sees people or boats. People see many kinds of ocean animals. Not many people are lucky enough to see a giant octopus.

Calculation Boxes		Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
			-92	-183
Number of Words at Bracket				
Subtract: Number of Errors	-		-	-
Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)				
Accuracy Percentage	%		%	%



Mark It!

1 t h ir t y

2 p e r s o n

3 h u r t f u l

4 e a r t h l y

5 n o c t u r n a l

6 h a m b u r g e r

7 w h i r l i n g

8 s u r v i v e

9 l e m u r

10 m i s h e a r d

11 c h u r c h e s

12 s q u i r m y

Read It!

1 person

2 nocturnal

3 survive

4 hurtful

5 whirling

6 misheard

7 lemur

8 earthly

whirling

earthly

churches

lemur

survive

thirty

hamburger

squirmy

squirmy

misheard

thirty

hamburger

person

churches

nocturnal

hurtful



Which Syllable Is Which?

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

CHALLENGING

- 1 cur•r^oent
- 2 lead•er•ship
- 3 dir•ect
- 4 chap•ter

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled
rent				cur

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 thir•teen
- 6 ba•ker•ies
- 7 Thurs•day
- 8 yo•gurt

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled

MOST CHALLENGING

- 9 u•ser
- 10 sur•vi•v^ol
- 11 r^o•hear•s^ol
- 12 No•vem•ber

Closed	Open	VCE	Vowel Team	R-Controlled



CHALLENGING

- 1 enter the small kitchen (4)
- 2 discover a new continent (4)
- 3 form a partnership for the project (6)
- 4 perch on a branch with the snowbird (7)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 the shortest show currently on TV at night (8)
 - 6 stay for the winter in western or northern Turkey (9)
 - 7 needs the carpenter's hammer to finish the task (8)
 - 8 held a firsthand report of the nurses helping during a fire (11)
-

CHALLENGING

- 1 Can you confirm that you saw a squirrel surfing perfectly? (10)
- 2 The satellite is not working, so Kirk must take it to the repair store. (14)
- 3 Albert chose to have a bowling party for his birthday in October. (12)
- 4 Have you heard the blackbird singing and chirping outside your window? (11)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 Kirk did not understand how Carl could study during rehearsal on Saturday. (12)
 - 6 You were clever to order a hamburger and a milkshake after Fern said she was going to pay. (18)
 - 7 When my throat hurts, my mother takes the thermometer out of the cabinet to see if I am sick. (19)
 - 8 It is much safer to stay away from the turnips that grow under the porch and just eat a pearly white one from the store. (25)
-



Match It!

Draw a line to connect the syllables that will spell a real word. Write the whole word on the line.

1. af turn return
 ev day _____
 re ter _____
 birth er _____

2. bor haps _____
 mod nip _____
 tur der _____
 per ern _____

3. fur urb _____
 sub gurt _____
 cur nish _____
 yo rent _____

4. sur ther _____
 squir vive _____
 far form _____
 per rel _____

5. shel sert _____
 whirl ber _____
 num ter _____
 des wind _____

6. sear ter _____
 purs teen _____
 let es _____
 thir ching _____

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 above.

1. /or/ _____

2. /er/ _____