

1A

On Sunday I went to the park. I took my son. He had so much fun. The park was big. There were lots of things to do. He went on the swings first. He flew high in the air. I told him not to go so high. He told me birds fly higher than him. Then he went on the slide. It was the little one. I went with him. He said I looked silly. I thought so too. He was afraid of the big slide. It was as high as a mountain. I went on it to show him it was OK. He still didn't want to go on it. There was a pond at the park. We fed the ducks there. All the ducks were quacking. They sounded like a traffic jam. Then I sat on a bench. He played in the sand. It was a great day. My son can't wait to go again.

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Word Count: 157
Flesch Kincaid: 1.0
Spache: 1.96

Rdg. Level 1.0	Word Count 157
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Name: _____ Date: _____

WCPM: _____ Errors/Min: _____ % Accuracy: _____

Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

2A

This weekend we went to the zoo. It was awesome. Our son went with us. His sister came too. The zoo was in the city. It took a long time to drive there. My son and his sister complained a lot. My wife said they sounded like broken records. When we got there my kids were excited. They wanted to see the seals first. They loved the seals. They put on a show. The seals could balance balls on their noses. We clapped so hard our hands turned red. They looked like they had sun burn. Next we went to see the lions. They were just lying around. My son called them lazy bones. My wife wanted to see the monkeys. She says my son and I remind her of them. The monkeys were cool. They were swinging on ropes like the kids do at recess. Then we got ice cream. It tasted so good I could have eaten ten more. Our trip to the zoo was super.

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Word Count : 168
Flesch Kincaid: 2.4
Spache: 2.45

Name:

Reading Level	Word Count 168
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Date: _____

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Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

3A

Family trips can be fun, but some are not. Last month our family went to the beach, but it was not a fun trip. The trip took ten hours in the car. Those ten hours felt like ten days. It was plain torture. When we arrived the house looked like it hadn't been lived in for several years. The paint on the house was peeling off in little yellow flakes. In fact, it looked like the house was painted in sticky notes. The stairs to the front door shook when you stepped on them, like walking on a boat in a storm. My son had to share a room with his little sister, which was awful. The weather was the worst part of the trip. Every day during the entire week was overcast. The skies looked like the gray of our garage floor. It rained day and night, and so we had to stay inside. We did walk down to the beach a couple of times. One day it was so windy I felt like I was a kite being blown around the beach. The sand whipped through the air and stung our faces like tiny bees. We had fun a few times. My son and I went for a walk on the beach, and he found a hermit crab on the jetty. That was really cool. Next year when we are going to the beach we will be hoping for better weather.

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Word Count: 243
Flesch Kincaid:
Spache: 3.36

Reading Level	Word Count 242
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3.6

Name: _____ Date: _____

WCPM: _____ Errors/Min: _____ % Accuracy: _____

Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

4A

Family outings are very important to my family. We go lots of places together. Last weekend we went to a museum in the city. It was an art museum, but it had a lot of other things in it, too. The museum itself was a beautiful building. Stone arches covered the steps to get inside. It felt like walking through a tunnel. The front door was huge. It was so big an elephant could have fit through it. It was an exciting walk just to get in. We saw a medieval exhibit at the museum. Our kids studied medieval times in school, so they knew a lot about it. The first room was filled with suits of armor. There were all types, not only the kind I had seen before. My wife said it was like a department store for knights. My favorite suit was one like from the books I had read. It was silver and shiny and would cover your whole body. It made me think of a haunted house and how people sometimes hide in armor and spy on you. It was kind of creepy. Then we went into a room of paintings from that time period. They were nice. The museum was very quiet when we were there. It reminded me of the library. There were lots more rooms in the exhibit. We went to almost all of them. The armor one was my favorite though.

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Word Count: 240

Flesch Kincaid:

Dale-Chall: 4

Reading Level	Word Count 240
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4.5

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

5A

Last week, my family went to the county fair. My brother is a volunteer fireman, so he was working at the fair. My children and I went to meet him. I am very glad we did; it was a great night. When we arrived the fair was very crowded, and finding my brother was like finding a needle in a haystack. We finally found him because we heard the fire truck siren blaring and knew it was him. Showing off the fire truck is his favorite pastime; that truck is his pride and joy.

There was a feeling of excitement at the fair. Everyone was happy and having fun, just like how the children feel on their birthdays. First, my children went on a Ferris wheel that was over a hundred feet high. They said they could see the whole town when they were at the top. I was truly nervous when they stopped at the top because the car they were in swayed back and forth like a flag whipping in the wind. Shutting my eyes and pretending they were on the ground helped calm me down, but it felt like forever until they started down again. I was relieved when the ride was over, but, of course, they wanted to go again.

After that we each got something to eat. My son got bright blue cotton candy, blue like a lollipop, not like the sky. I don't know how he could eat it. It was so sweet it tasted like sugar straight from the sugar bowl, and it made his tongue turn blue. My daughter got funnel cake covered in sugar. She got so much powdered sugar on her face that she looked like a mime. I thought it was funny, but she didn't.

We rode on several more rides and looked at lots of interesting stuff before we left. It really was a fantastic night.

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Word Count: 319
 Flesch-Kincaid:
 Dale-Chall 5-6

Reading Level	Word Count 319
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5.1

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Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

6A

Have you ever been to an amusement park? Over Labor Day, our family went to the largest one in our state. We rode many rides and saw some fantastic shows. The greatest parts were the roller coasters. My children's mission was to go on every coaster at least once, and they accomplished it. They even went on several twice.

The recently constructed Shredder was the first they tried. It is the tallest, largest, and most daunting coaster I have ever seen. Despite my better judgment, I agreed to accompany them on the ride. We didn't have to wait in line too long to experience The Shredder. Once on board, a large metal bar held my body in place, and two pads surrounded either side of my head. It was intimidating to stand there and look up, knowing the ride was about to begin. My heart was beating like drums at a rock concert, and as we slowly climbed up the coaster, it felt like the volume of my heartbeat was being turned up louder and louder. Suddenly, the climb was over, and we began to plunge. It felt as if we were free falling to the ground. I was afraid that the safety bar would release. But to my relief, it didn't. Upon reaching the bottom, we started to whip around bends and fly upside down like we were a balloon losing air. My head was knocked back and forth between the pads like a pinball. Up and down we went, round and round, upside down and back again.

It seemed like the ride would never stop, and then all of a sudden it was over. I was ready to take a break after this adventure, but after my children regained their composure, they were ready for more.

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Word Count: 298

Dale Chall: 5-6

Flesch Kincaid: 6.4

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

7A

Our family has always loved the water. My father, in particular, should probably have been born a fish. Recently, he took us on a fishing trip in the Atlantic Ocean. My children, 8 and 10, are both good swimmers, so he decided it was time to introduce them to the joys of big sea fishing.

The drive to the coast only took two hours, but the children were so excited that it really seemed interminable to them. I bet we heard “Are we there yet?” 100 times! My dad’s excitement grew as we neared the coast as well. The instant we arrived at the hotel, he headed straight for the docks.

After carefully comparing prices and sizes, he selected a vessel to charter, and we were off. Grayish blue and calm, the waters seemed to be inviting us for an adventure. Our captain was both efficient and an excellent teacher. He involved the children in equipment preparation; they helped him organize rods, reels, lines and bait. They also learned about the importance of staying buckled in while their poles were in the water and saw illustrations of the big fish they might catch. By the time we left the dock, the children were as excited as their grandfather to get out to sea.

We sat down, buckled up, and took off. After about 10 minutes, the captain cut the engines, and we cast our lines into the sea. It was a beautiful morning and quite pleasant waiting for our bait to tempt some aquatic creature. My dad regaled us with stories of the past and the big fish that always seemed to get away. His stories were no doubt exaggerated, but we all enjoyed listening to them. My children got to

see a new side of their grandfather. I enjoyed watching the three of them interact.

With a few nibbles here and there and even a few catches, the morning passed quickly. We may not have caught the whopper, but it was great nevertheless. My father, my children, and I have decided to make this an annual trip. We are all anxiously awaiting next year already.

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Word Count: 356
Dale-Chall: 7-8
Flesch-Kincaid: 7.0

Name: _____

Reading Level

Word Count 356

_____ Date: _____

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Flu Rating (4-16): _____ Comp (1-6): _____

8A

As recent immigrants to the United States, my family and I decided to take a trip to see the Statue of Liberty. This symbol of freedom and strength was something we had read about for many years. We wanted to experience it firsthand. Waiting for the ferry to take us to Liberty Island was a wonderful opportunity for “people watching.” We were not alone in our interest to see this landmark. All types of people from all corners of the world seemed to be crushed together on the dock.

The trip to the island was both exhilarating and fascinating. The smells of sea and city blended together in the wind, which seemed to blow a feeling of history and vitality. The statue herself was an awesome sight to behold. Standing at her feet, I found it difficult to comprehend the masses of people who had stood there before me.

We had hoped to walk up to the statue’s crown. However, this was not to be. It was once possible to climb the stairs or take an elevator to the top of the statue. However, recent renovations coupled with security concerns now prohibit going beyond the statue’s base. Instead, our family stood outside at the bottom of Lady Liberty, looking up. We marveled at how high the top of the statue appeared from below. We also spent some time on the grounds observing the magnificent skyline of New York City. It took our breath away.

Visiting this symbol of freedom was an experience I will never forget. It is easy to see why the Statue of Liberty is one of the most important symbols of freedom and democracy in the world.

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Word Count: 287
Dale Chall: 7-8
Flesch-Kincaid: 8.4

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