The Next-Generation Assessments: What's New? What's Not?

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The Story of the Two Brothers

by Jane Scherer

Two large mountains face each other across Pago Pago (PANG-go PANG-go) Harbor on the island of Tutuila (too-too-EE-la) in American Samoa. They are known as the Two Brothers: Matafao (mah-tah-FAH-oo) and Pioa (pee-OH-ah), the Rainmaker. The story of how they came to be is told and retold to children throughout the islands. It contains an important message.

Long ago, a man had two sons. He loved both children dearly, as fathers will. One he called Matafao; the other, Pioa. As small boys, they fought constantly. As they grew to manhood, their fights became ever fiercer and more frequent.

Time passed. The father grew gray and old. Tired of listening to his sons fight with each other, he began to despair. He knew the time was drawing near when he would leave them. What would become of his angry children?

The day came when he called Pioa and Matafao to him. This is what he told them, "My heart is heavy inside me. It seems you cannot love each other as brothers should. In fact, you cannot be together without one of you starting a fight. The only solution I can see is to separate you forever. Therefore, from this day forward, you will live apart from each other. Pioa, you shall live in the east," he said. "Matafao, you will live in the west. Perhaps the sea will be wide enough to keep you from fighting when I could not."

And then he added, "Should either of you manage to start a fight, you will be turned into stone on the spot where you stand."

Soon, the old man died.

Although the two brothers could not seem to love each other, they both loved their father. Their grief for him was great. In fact, they found they were unable to eat. Had their sadness continued, they surely would have sickened and died, too.

With the passage of time, grief lessens. So, it was with them. The two brothers found themselves happy again. They decided to host a feast. They would roast a whole pig and many chickens. They would boil taro and bake a cake with so many tiers, it would be fine enough for the finest Samoan wedding.

Matafao and Pioa ate well at their feast. In fact, Matafao may have eaten a little too well. He decided to climb a cliff, and look over his lush green island.

At that moment, high above their heads, a seabird picked up a rock and, raising his great wings, took to the skies. When a wind sprang up, the rock slipped from his claws. Hurling down the cliff, it struck Pioa on the top of his head.

Pioa looked up. Being so quick to anger, he blamed his brother, not the seabird or the wind.

"It is your fault, Matafao!" Pioa screamed. "You threw the rock!" With that, he picked up a stone and threw it at his brother.

At those angry and unjust words, Matafao also got angry and threw some rocks. One knocked off Pioa's top. It fell into the sea with a giant splash, and lies there to this day, a small, rocky island.

As when a volcano erupts, rocks began to fly between the brothers. Only then did they remember their father's warning: Whoever starts another fight will be turned into stone.

Too late, they found their father's words were true. Their lower limbs had hardened and turned to stone.

Matafao realized then that fighting with his brother was wrong. He stopped and begged his brother to stop as well. Pioa's rage was too great and he refused and continued to fight.

"Stop, Brother. I beg you," Matafao pleaded again. When he realized his words were ignored, he fought back.

It was at that moment that Pioa and Matafao became the mountains known as the Two Brothers. Pioa, humbled by his own wrongdoings, stands the smaller of the two. The dark cloud that hovers over his head brings rain to the islands and remains as a reminder to Samoan children to love one another.

Go On

1 **This passage is mainly about**

Ⓐ making friends with others

Ⓑ children helping their parents

Ⓒ learning to get along together

Ⓓ being happy with what you have

2 **How much time does it take for the events in this story to occur?**

Ⓐ a few days

Ⓑ several weeks

Ⓒ several months

Ⓓ many years

3 **Read this sentence from the passage.**

Tired of listening to his sons fight with each other, he began to despair.

In this sentence the word despair means

Ⓐ argue

Ⓑ complain

Ⓒ lose hope

Ⓓ make excuses

4 **What does the father mean when he says, "My heart is heavy inside me"?**

Ⓐ He knows his sons do not love him.

Ⓑ He knows his sons have made him ill.

Ⓒ He is very sad that his sons are still fighting.

Ⓓ He cannot love his sons if they keep fighting.

5 **Which of these events happens right after the two brothers lose their father?**

Ⓐ They move apart.

Ⓑ They plan a big feast.

Ⓒ They are unable to eat.

Ⓓ They try to love one another.

11 **What do you think would have happened if the brothers had been given another chance and had not been turned into stone? Use details and examples from the passage to carefully support your answer. Write your answer on the lines below.**

Directions Read the passage "Smokey Bear." Then answer Numbers 12 through 21.

Smokey Bear
A National Symbol

by Jean Craighead George

The worst fire in the history of Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, raged for weeks in 1950. When the flames were out, when the thunder and crackle of blazing trees had died down, a badly burned bear cub was found clinging to a tree. A weary firefighter snapped his picture, then rescued the hurting and bewildered cub.

The rangers named him Smokey after the familiar poster character Smokey Bear, a cartoon bear in a ranger's hat and blue jeans holding a shovel. He had been created in 1944 by the U.S. Forest Service to publicize a campaign to prevent forest fires. Posters of the cartoon bear read "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!" and were tacked up in every national forest and park as well as in public buildings.

Then the real Smokey came along. The rangers nursed him back to health and sent him to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Photographs of the badly burned cub, his playful recovery, and his life in Washington sent the popularity of the cartoon Smokey Bear skyrocketing.

With all the publicity, the living Smokey Bear became one of the most popular animals at the National Zoo. Thousands of visitors dropped by to see the black bear who limped on one leg and still bore scars from the fire that some careless camper or smoker had started. Smokey's misfortune became the best reason for preventing forest fires. He even made public appearances. Eventually he had his own Smokey Bear fan club. Membership was in the many thousands. Children who signed up to be Junior Forest Rangers received not only a Ranger kit but an official-looking badge and pictures of the real and the cartoon Smokeys.

In May 1975, when he was twenty-five years old (which is equal to seventy in human years), the National Zoo and the Forest Service retired Smokey in an impressive ceremony. At the same time, they introduced Smokey Junior, an orphan of another fire in Lincoln National Forest. Smokey Senior died a year later. His remains were buried at the Smokey Bear Historical Park in Lincoln National Forest, and today his message lives on: "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!"

16 **Read this sentence from the passage.**

Thousands of visitors dropped by to see the black bear who limped on one leg and still bore scars from the fire that some careless camper or smoker had started.

What does the phrase dropped by mean in this sentence?

Ⓐ came

Ⓑ looked

Ⓒ planned

Ⓓ refused

17 **The word careless means**

Ⓐ full of care

Ⓑ without care

Ⓒ in a caring way

Ⓓ with some caring

18 **Which detail supports the idea that the real Smokey Bear was very popular?**

Ⓐ Another orphan bear was rescued from a forest fire.

Ⓑ A firefighter took a photograph of him after the fire.

Ⓒ Smokey Bear had a large fan club while he lived at the zoo.

Ⓓ U.S. Forest Service rangers became famous for helping bears.

19 **What did children receive for becoming Junior Forest Rangers?**

Ⓐ a free ticket to visit Smokey in the National Zoo

Ⓑ a ranger kit along with pictures and cartoons of Smokey

Ⓒ an original poster and an action figure of the first Smokey

Ⓓ an autographed picture of the firefighter who rescued Smokey

Grandma Ruth

Last night I learned that my grandma was named after Babe Ruth, the greatest baseball player of all time. I learned this six hours too late.

Yesterday I wanted to work on throwing a baseball. I needed a baseball, since my brother wouldn't let me borrow his. Unfortunately, I knew right where one was.

I tiptoed into my grandma's bedroom. Sunlight from the late morning sun filtered in through the leaves of the dogwood tree outside the open window. I moved slowly through my favorite room in the house, which belonged to my favorite person in the world, my grandma.

I reached into the back of her closet and pulled out a shoebox full of old baseballs wrapped in tissue paper. I shoved my hand in and grabbed the first one I touched. I threw off the paper and ran out into the yard with our dog, Bowie, who would always play a game of catch with me.

We had a spectacular game of catch. By the end of our session I was throwing straight as an arrow and Bowie was bringing it back as fast as he could. It was perfect.

I went back into my grandma's room and wrapped the ball back up in paper, just like I'd found it. Except now it looked dirty and used, like a good baseball should.

At dinner, though, I heard the story.

"Have I ever told you that I'm named after the greatest baseball player who ever lived?" Grandma asked suddenly.

James and I shook our heads. We leaned forward to listen. It isn't often we hear new stories from her.

My grandmother stood up and walked into her bedroom. She came back with the shoebox in her hands. She sat down and started her story.

"So, your great grandfather was the dentist for the Detroit Tigers back in the 1920s. His favorite player was Ty Cobb, the best player the Tigers have ever had. When Ty found out that your great grandparents were going to have a baby, he brought your great grandfather a big package full of baseballs signed by the best known players of the time. He said, 'Doc, you can have these under one condition: name your daughter Tyrina. After me.' And my father, too excited to say no, agreed.

"When my mother heard about this she told my father to go to Ty Cobb and give him back the baseballs, because she had her own ideas for names. Ty just laughed when he heard this. He said to my father, 'Doc, I'll tell you what: keep the baseballs but name her after my good friend Babe Ruth.'

"My father smiled and said, 'I'll see what I can do. Keep these for me until then.'

"It turned out my mother loved the name Ruth. That's how I got my name and how my father got these: he let Ty Cobb name me after Babe Ruth."

I tried to swallow but couldn't. I hoped that she wasn't going to say what I thought she was going to say.

Then she said it.

"In this shoebox are the ten baseballs Ty Cobb gave my father. They are signed by some of the most famous ballplayers in history, including one that has one single signature on it: Babe Ruth's."

My grandma pulled the ball out, unwrapped it, and held it out for us to see. The ball was scarred almost beyond recognition. It had dog bite marks, dirt scuffs, and fraying seams. Right in the middle was a big signature in black ink that I had somehow overlooked. It was smudged now and faded, but it still clearly said "Babe Ruth." I began to shake inside.

But my grandma just looked at the ball and smiled sweetly. She said softly, "Even though it doesn't look like much, this ball has brought our family a lot of joy in its time. I remember when I was your age, Naomi, I almost rubbed the signature right off from tossing it up and down all the time. You see, I've always felt that a baseball should be used for a lot more than looking. My dad, your great grandfather, used to say the same thing."

She lowered her hand and gently tossed the ball toward Bowie, sleeping by the door. It rolled in a perfectly straight line and came to rest softly between the dog's paws. A perfect throw.

43600

What does Naomi learn about Grandma Ruth? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

43001

Read this part of the text again.

"It turns out my mother loved the name Ruth. That's how I got my name and how my father got these: he let Ty Cobb name me after Babe Ruth."

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Select three sentences that show that Naomi is worried she has done something wrong.

43000

Read the sentences from the passage. Then answer the question.

"My grandma pulled the ball out, unwrapped it, and held it out for us to see. The ball was scarred almost beyond recognition. It had dog bite marks, dirt scuffs, and fraying seams. Right in the middle was a big signature in black ink that had somehow overlooked. It was smudged now and faded, but it still clearly said 'Babe Ruth.' I began to shake inside."

Click on two phrases from the paragraph that help you understand the meaning of scarred.

Some animals, such as this armadillo, have a special trick. They can roll themselves into a ball. Why do they do it? Curl up with this story and see!

Different kinds of animals have different ways of escaping predators. Some flee. Others hide. Some may even fight. But the three banded armadillo has a more unusual way of protecting itself. It curls its armor covered body into a ball, tucking in its ears and legs as it rolls up. Then it pulls in its head and tail, which fit together like the last two pieces of a puzzle. Now the armadillo is a well wrapped package one that predators would have trouble opening.

A red fox also rolls into a ball, but not for protection against enemies. It curls up for protection against the cold. The fox tucks its feet and nose under its big, bushy tail. As the fox snoozes, its tail serves as a built in blanket for a toasty nose and comfy toes.

With its pointy spines, a European hedgehog has protection from most predators. But if a predator flipped a hedgehog over, it could attack the animal's soft belly. So when danger is near, a hedgehog rolls up into a prickly, round pincushion with no soft parts in sight.

If you've ever touched a common pill bug then you know why it's sometimes called a roly poly. When a pill bug feels threatened, it rolls up into a tight little ball. Spaces between the plates on the pill bug's body allow it to bend as it curls up. Can you see why it's sometimes called an "armadillo bug"?

The mother stone centipede above keeps all her eggs in one basket. And her rolled up body is the basket! The centipede stays curled around her eggs to protect them from enemies even going without food until they hatch.

A wheel spider hides in its sand dune burrow during the day. But if a spider wasp comes to attack it, the wheel spider can make a quick getaway. It scrambles out of the burrow, flips onto its side, tucks in its legs, and rolls down the dune as fast as three feet per second!

And that's our roundup of animals that roll up!

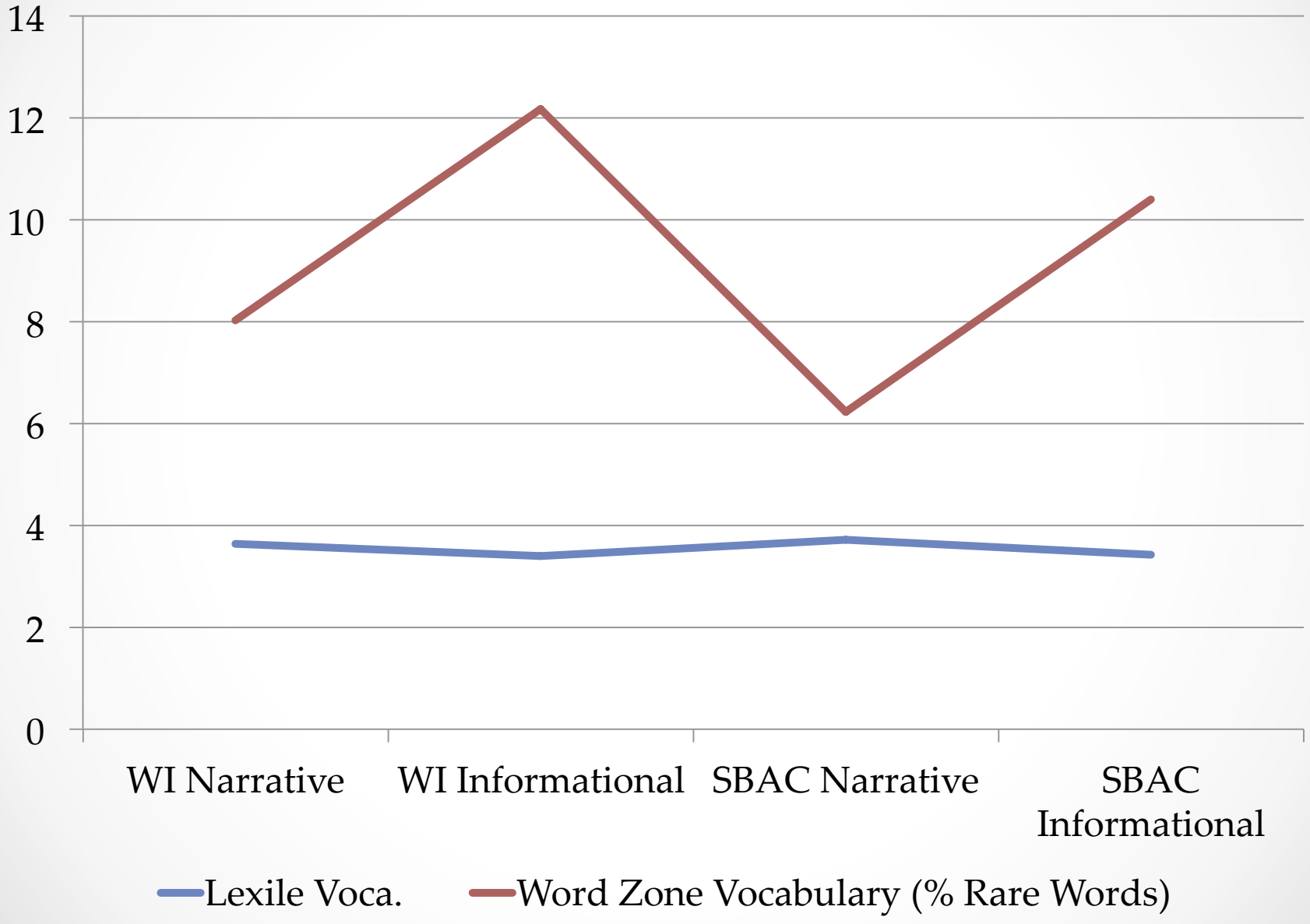
What's The Same?
What's Different?

• • •

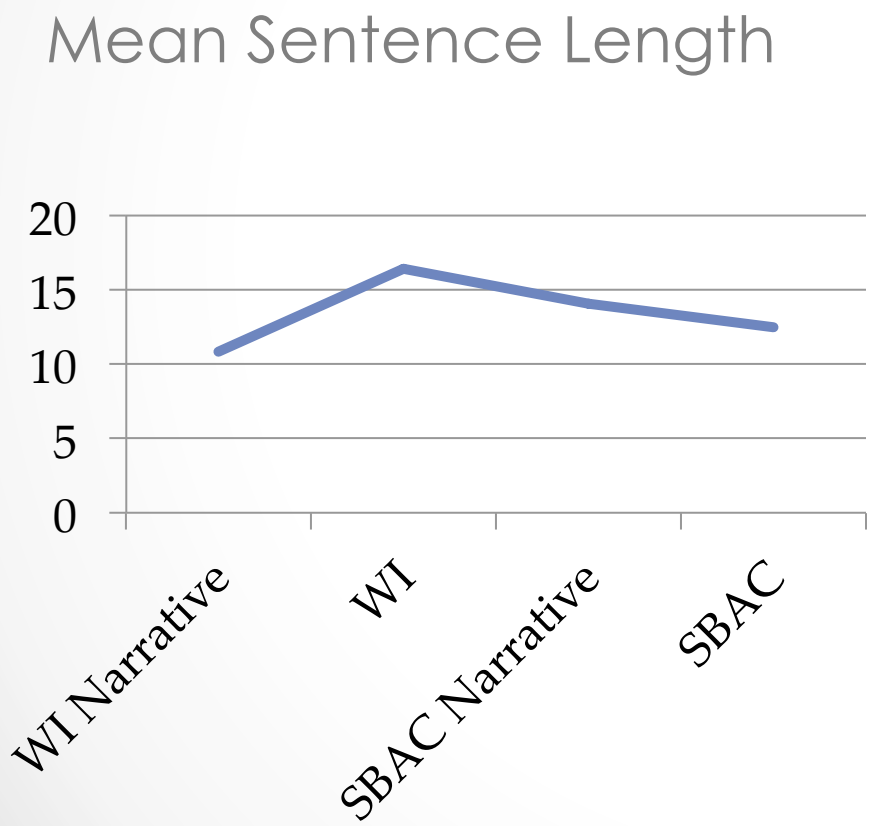
What's the Same?

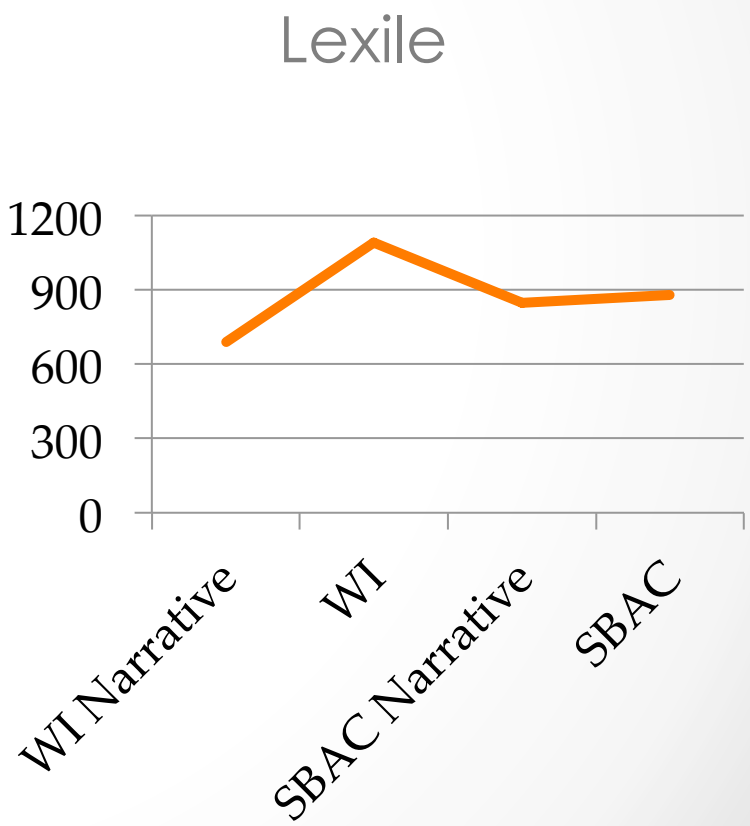
1. Students are reading silently on their own.
2. The texts have similar levels of vocabulary but variations in sentence length mean that Lexiles (which are heavily sentence length-dependent) vary somewhat
3. Length of texts are similar.

Vocabulary Demands

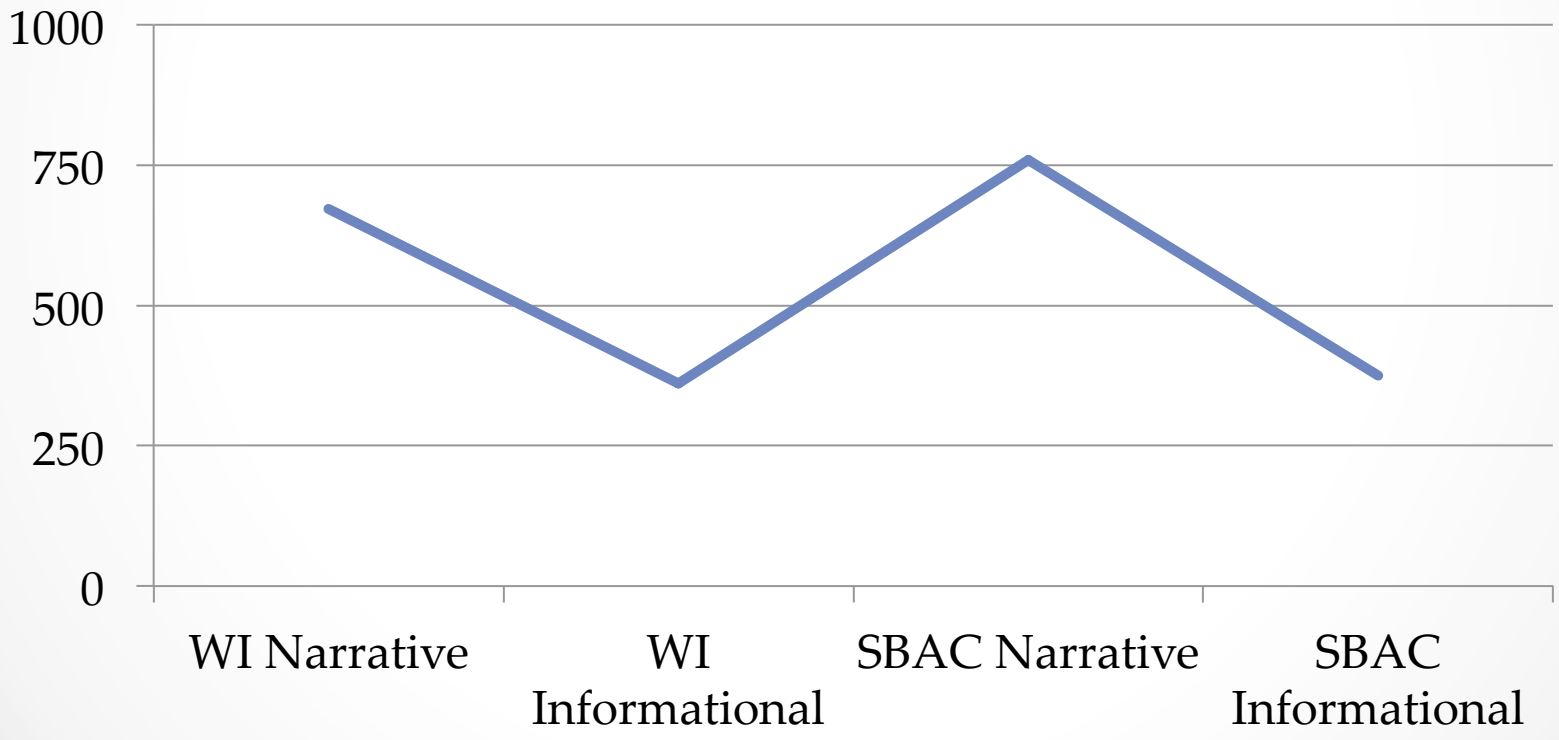


Sentence Demands & Lexiles





Number of Words (i.e., Stamina)



What's different?

1. The computer context
2. The length of time [All of the 105 minutes is not devoted to assessing reading but all of the 105 minutes involves reading]
3. The complexity of the tasks, including:
   - Directions
   - Need to use evidence from text
   - Amount of writing

What can teachers to do prepare?

1 Responsibility

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1

Have students be responsible for reading instructional texts

2 Volume

After one day of school (one penny= 500 words of reading

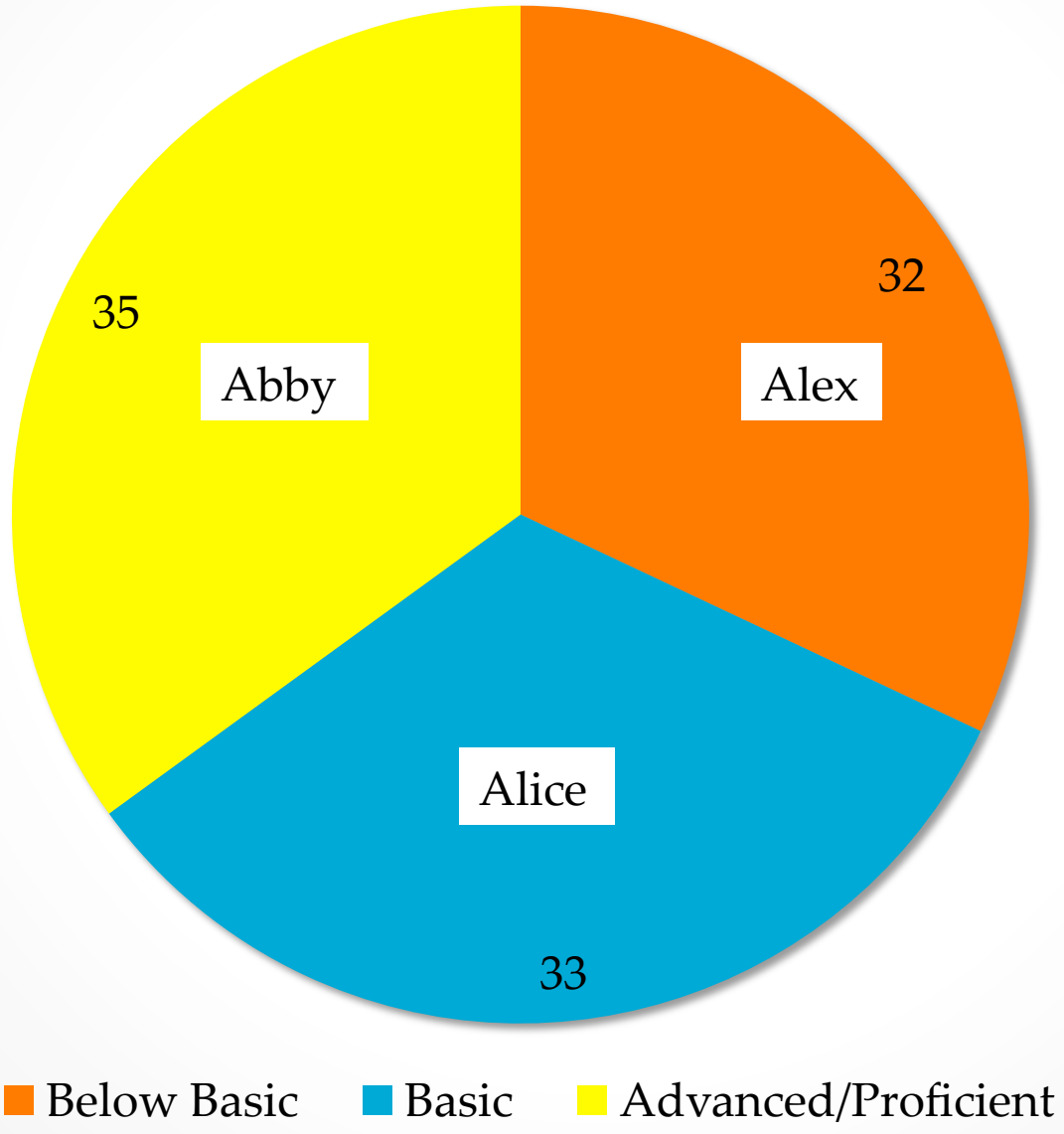
After one week of school

After one month of school

After one year of school

Quarters = 500 new words gained through reading

NAEP 2013 Grade 4 (Reading)



2

Increase Reading Volume

...even 7 minutes more a day makes a huge difference.

3 Stamina

There was once a king of Athens named Aegeus who had fifty nephews but no son of his own. Each nephew was lazy, selfish, and thought he should be the next king of Athens. One summer, Aegeus went to visit the king of Troy. In autumn and then again in winter, Aegeus extended his visit. Troy was paradise compared to Athens since he did not have to listen to his nephews arguing. Also, he had fallen in love with Aethra, the king of Troy's daughter. He married Aethra in secret since he was worried that news of the marriage might cause his nephews to come to Troy and harm his bride. Soon, Aegeus and Aethra had a baby boy who they named Theseus. Aegeus was happy living with his wife and baby in Troy until the fateful day when a ship arrived from Athens with grim news. Athens was under attack. Aegeus knew that his nephews could not keep the city safe. He decided to return but he could not take his family back with him. They would not be safe in Athens. His nephews might be lazy but they were also hateful. Before he left, Aegeus hid his sword beneath a huge stone under a tree. He said to his wife, Only when Theseus lifts the stone himself and finds my sword, can you tell him about me. Then tell him to come to me in Athens. With sadness, he kissed his wife and baby, said farewell, and sailed away.

Years went by and Theseus grew older. On his fifteenth birthday, his mother said, If only your father could see you! My father? said Theseus. She pointed to a huge stone beneath a tree and said, Do you think you can lift that gigantic stone over there? Theseus pulled very hard but the stone did not move. Finally, he said, Why do you want me to lift it? When you can lift it, I will tell you about our father, answered Aethra. After that, Theseus ran long distances and lifted weights day after day. Every year after that, he tried to lift the great stone on his birthday but, every year, the stone did not move. But rather than quitting, Theseus only exercised harder and harder and learned new skills such as wrestling, using a sword, and throwing heavy weights long distances. Finally, on his eighteenth birthday, he lifted the huge stone out of the ground. Underneath the stone lay a beautiful sword. Now tell me about my father, he said to his mother. When Aethra told him, Theseus said, I will leave for Athens today. His grandfather, the king of Troy, warned Theseus of the many dangers he would face on the journey. His grandfather offered to send along an army of the city's strongest soldiers. His mother begged him to accept the offer. I will go alone because I am not afraid, said Theseus. He said good-bye to his grandfather, kissed his mother, and walked out of Athens.

The path took Theseus up a mountain where he was soon in a forest of tall trees. Suddenly, out of the forest came a giant. Before the giant could raise his club, Theseus grabbed his legs and tripped him. Then he grabbed the club and hit the giant over the head. The giant collapsed. Theseus walked off with the giant's club on his shoulder. He was almost at the mountaintop when a wild boar came charging at him. Theseus hit the boar so hard with the giant's club that the boar rolled off the mountain. Theseus headed down the mountain toward the sea. By the sea, there lived an outlaw who offered travelers a place to stay. But, first, he demanded that travelers wash their feet in the sea. While they did this, he took their things and then came up behind them and pushed them into the sea. Instead, Theseus moved quickly and pushed the bandit into the sea. Theseus kept on his journey and followed the road beside the sea. Along the road lived Cercyon, the world's strongest man. If people wanted to walk by his house, Cercyon demanded that they beat him in a wrestling match. No one had ever beat him in a wrestling match. When Cercyon stopped him, Theseus quickly lifted him into the air and threw him on a rock. Theseus had now gotten rid every dangers that had threatened travelers. Not far in the distance, he could see Athens. He quickly walked on.

When Theseus arrived in Athens, he went immediately to the palace where he found the king. The king looked sad and lonely but Theseus did not say who he was. When the king asked Theseus who he was, he answered, I have rid the world of many dangers. I invite you to be my guest because you are a noble hero, said the king. The king had married a woman named Medea. When Medea saw Theseus, she knew that he was the king's son and was jealous of him. While Theseus rested, Medea said to the king, "Your nephews have hired this man to kill you. He is no hero but do not worry since I will handle it." At dinner, Medea slipped poison into Theseus's cup. Theseus had not drunk anything when he got out his sword to cut some meat. When king saw the sword, he knew immediately who Theseus was. My son, Aegeus cried and threw his arms around Theseus. Medea ran away, never to be seen again. When Aegeus announced that Theseus would be the next king, the nephews were furious. When Theseus took a walk the next morning, the nephews attacked him. Theseus defended himself but there were many of them. When he shouted for help, everyone in Athens came running. The Athenians had always disliked the lazy nephews. When the nephews saw the people approaching, they ran away. Years later, Theseus became king. Many say he was the best king ever to rule Athens.

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3

Increase reading stamina

(length of time students spend in a single reading session)

4 Evidence-Based Responses

How will you decide whether to buy a new car in 2014?

(a) If the cost of maintaining my current car exceeds the value of the car,

(b) If I have surplus funds,

(c) If it's a special birthday and I want to treat myself,

(d) If family configuration changes and a bigger car is needed.

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

43600

What does Naomi learn about Grandma Ruth? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

43001

Read this part of the text again.

Question

"It turns out my mother loved the name Ruth. That's how I got my name and how my father got these: he let Ty Cobb name me after Babe Ruth."

I tried to swallow but couldn't. I hoped that she wasn't going to say what I thought she was going to say.

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"In this shoebox are the ten baseballs Ty Cobb gave my father. They are signed by some of the most famous ballplayers in history, including one that has one single signature on it: Babe Ruth's."

My grandma pulled the ball out, unwrapped it, and held it out for us to see. The ball was scarred almost beyond recognition. It had dog bite marks, dirt scuffs, and fraying seams. Right in the middle was a big signature in black ink that I had somehow overlooked. It was smudged now and faded, but it still clearly said "Babe Ruth." I began to shake inside.

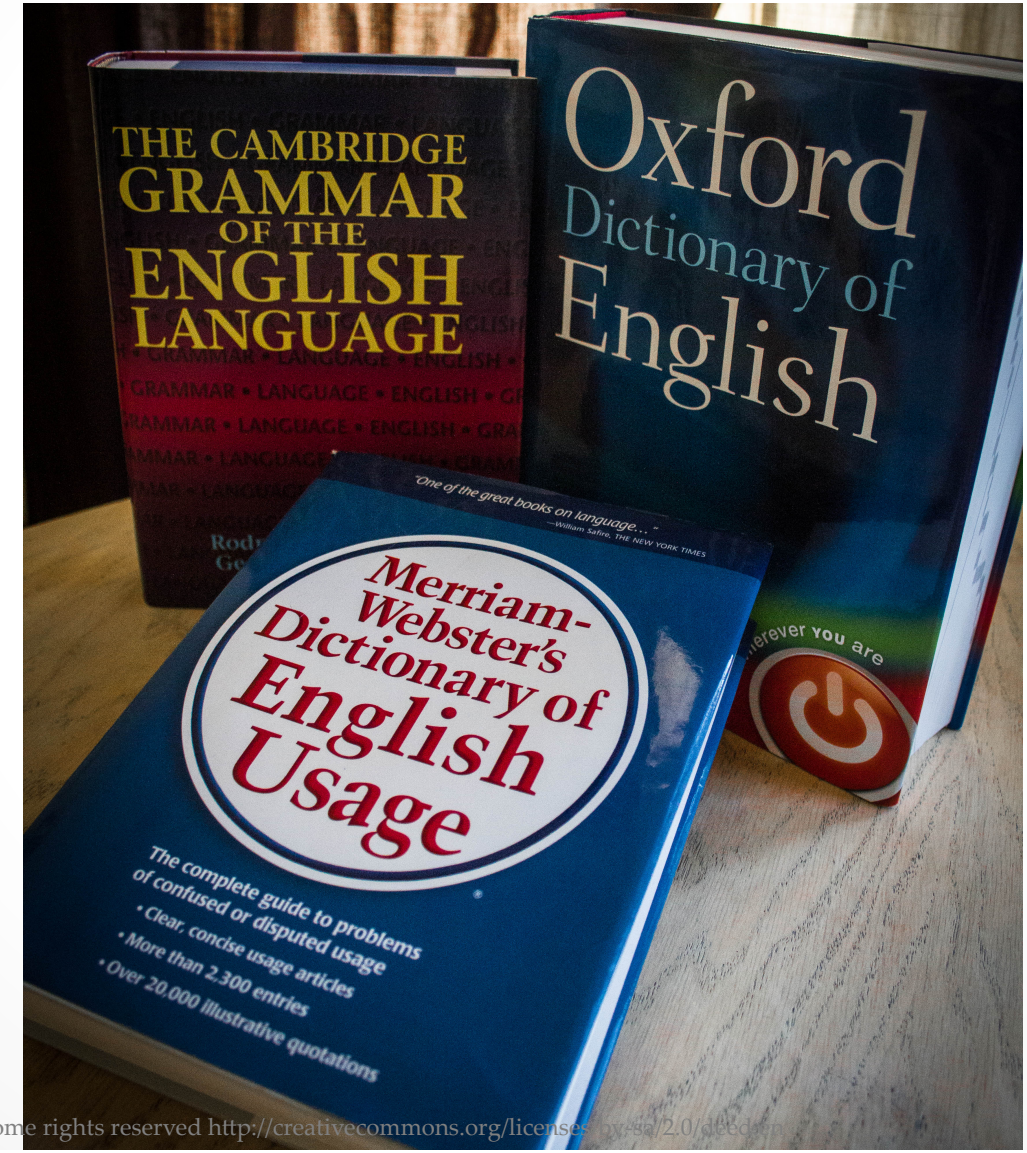
But my grandma just looked at the ball and smiled sweetly. She said softly, "Even though it doesn't look like much, this ball has brought our family a lot of joy in its time. I remember when I was your age, Naomi, I almost rubbed the signature right off from tossing it up and down all the time. You see, I've always felt that a baseball should be used for a lot more than looking. My dad, your great-grandfather, used to say the same thing."

Select three sentences that show that Naomi is worried she has done something wrong.

4

Increase students' use of evidence in responding & remembering from text

5 Vocabulary



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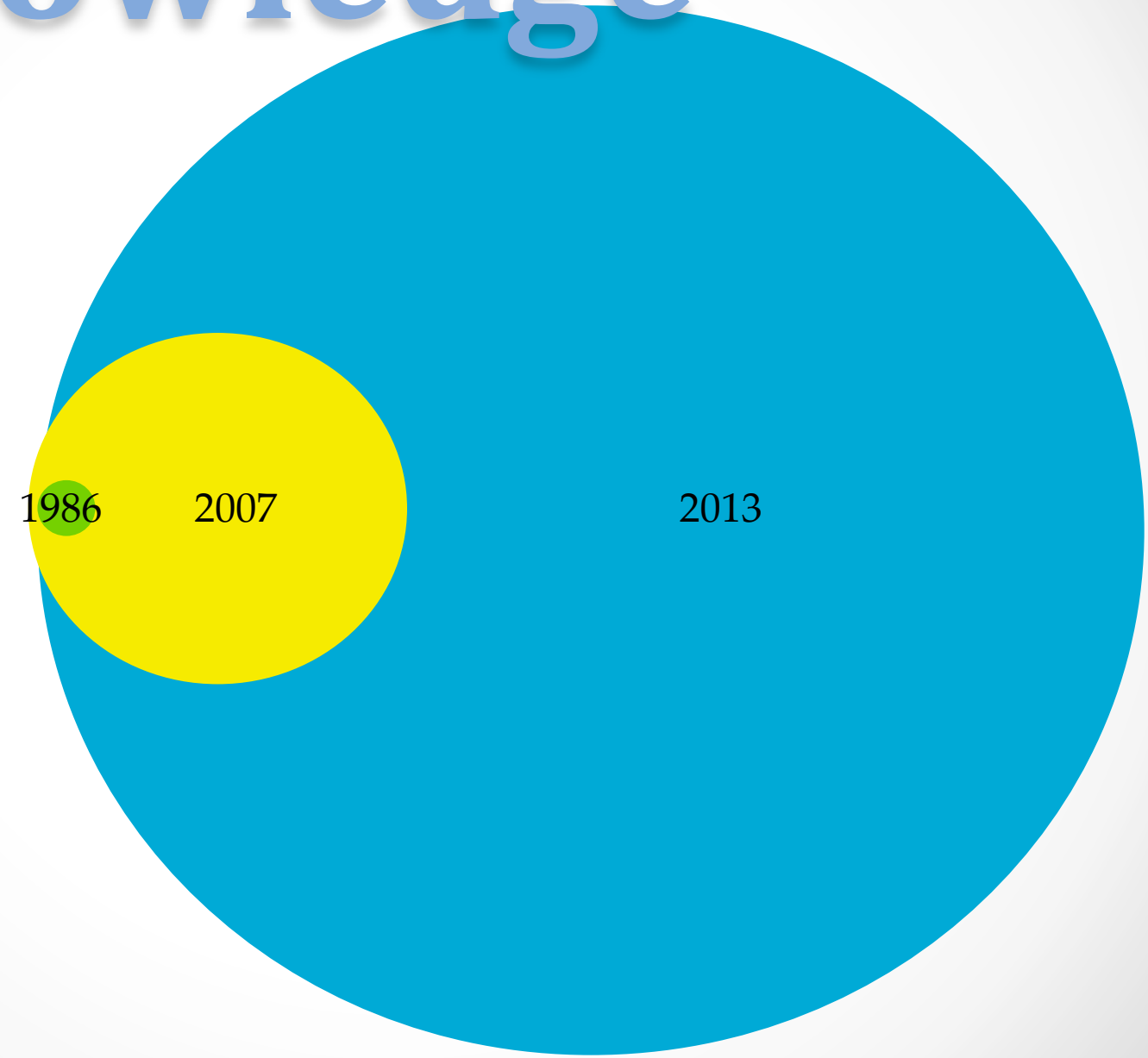
5

Teach students how words work

6 Knowledge



Magazine Articles

volume 5
issue 1

A Birthday Wish: Rachel Beckwith

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In the summer of 2011, Rachel Beckwith had just finished third grade. She was looking forward to riding her bike and playing games like jump rope with her friends. Rachel also liked dancing.

Then she heard someone say that there were children in Africa who did not have clean water to drink. The person was from an organization called charitywater.org, a charity that builds wells for towns in Africa. The wells provide people with clean water. Without wells, people often have to walk many miles to find water, then carry it home in buckets. Often, the water is not clean.

Instead of presents for her ninth birthday, Rachel asked her family and friends to donate $9 for clean water in Africa to charitywater.org. If she could raise $300, 15 people could get clean drinking water.

By the time her birthday came, Rachel had raised $220. That meant that 11 people could get clean water. She told her mom that she would try harder the next year to raise more money for the charity.

A month later, Rachel was critically injured in a car accident. On July 23, 2011, she was taken off life support. She died soon after.

When the news about Rachel's story and her birthday wish spread, people all around the world began to donate money in her name. Some gave $9, some $19, some more. A month later, 30,000 people had given more than $1.2 million. Because of Rachel Beckwith, 60,000 people in more than 100 villages now have clean water to drink.

In her honor, one village put up a sign that reads, "Rachel's great dream, kindness, and vision of a better world will live with and among us forever." Clearly, one person, even a child, can make a difference.

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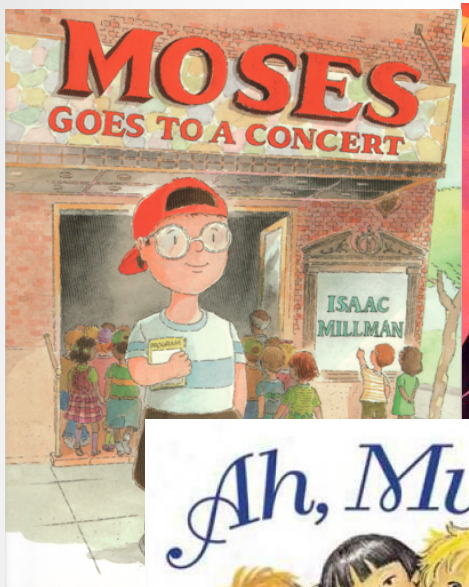
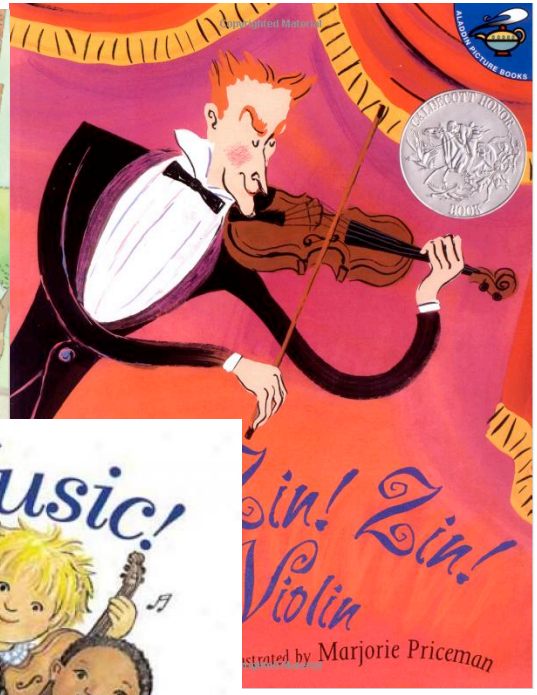
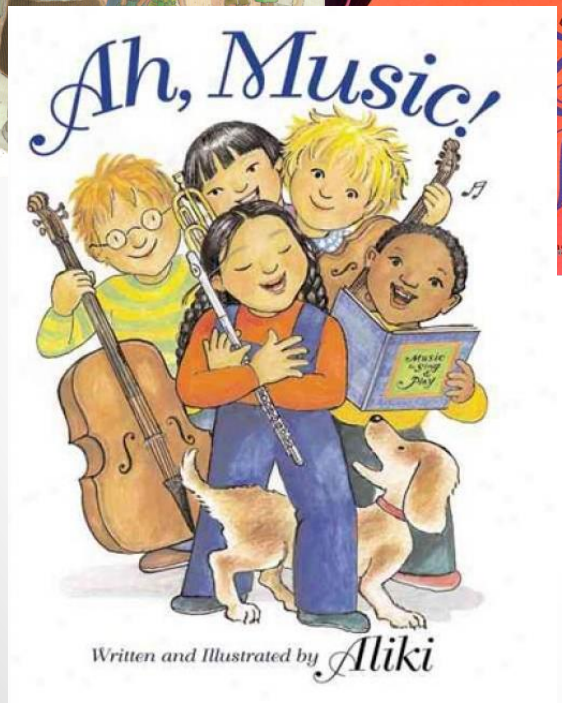
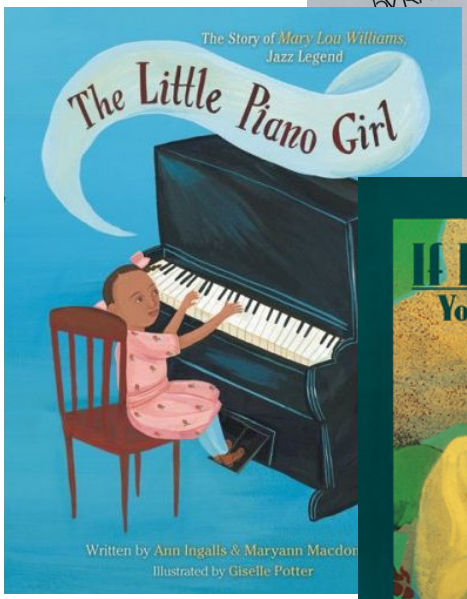
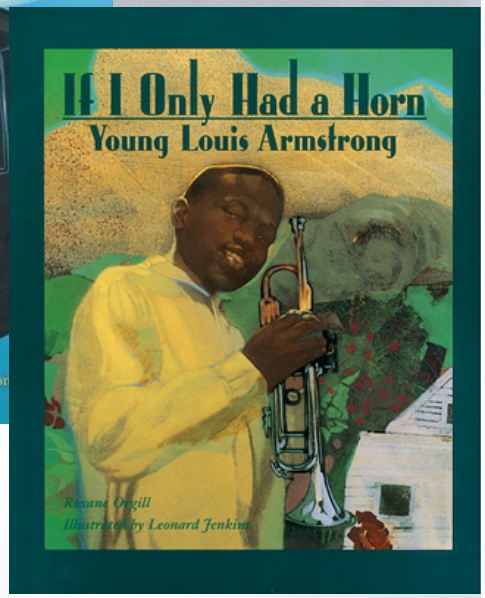
Planful Read-Alouds











6

Develop knowledge

7 Rehearse

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WEB
THE PARTS OF A PERSONAL COMPUTER

7

Have monthly rehearsals

7 Right-Now Actions: New Assessments

1. **Responsibility**
2. **Volume**
3. **Stamina**
4. **Evidence-Base Responses**
5. **Vocabulary**
6. **Knowledge**
7. **Rehearse**

7 RIGHT-NOW ACTIONS: NEW ASSESSMENTS

Open-Access Resources @TextProject.org + Partners

ACTION	RESOURCES
1 Responsibility	• The Forgotten Reading Proficiency: Stamina in Silent Reading
2 Volume	• Scaffolding Complex Texts: Volume of Text Matters • Reading Rules For Becoming Proficient With Complex Texts
3 Stamina	• The Forgotten Reading Proficiency: Stamina in Silent Reading
4 Response	• Talking Points for Kids* • Preparing Students in Writing Responses to Open-Ended Questions
5 Vocabulary	• Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events* • TextProject Word Pictures* • Unique Words Require Unique Instruction
6 Knowledge	• FYI for Kids* • Read-Aloud Favorites* • 1,400 Reading Passages (Readworks.org)* • Lesson Plans on Anchor Pieces of Literature (Readworks.org)*
7 Rehearsal	• Resources for Rehearsals*

*An asterisk indicates materials to use with students. All other materials are intended for use by or with teachers for professional background and learning.

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TextProject

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TextProject aims to bring beginning and struggling readers to high levels of literacy through a variety of strategies and tools, particularly the texts used for reading instruction.

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Common Core State Standards

Text Complexity

Topic of the Month

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Stop the summer slump

"Read to learn" while learning to read — Beginning Reads™

Talking Points for Kids — Increase text-based discussions

FYI for Kids! — A magazine-based reading program

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TextProject Word Pictures™ — Use pictures to teach complex words

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