

The Forgotten Reading Proficiency: Stamina in Silent Reading



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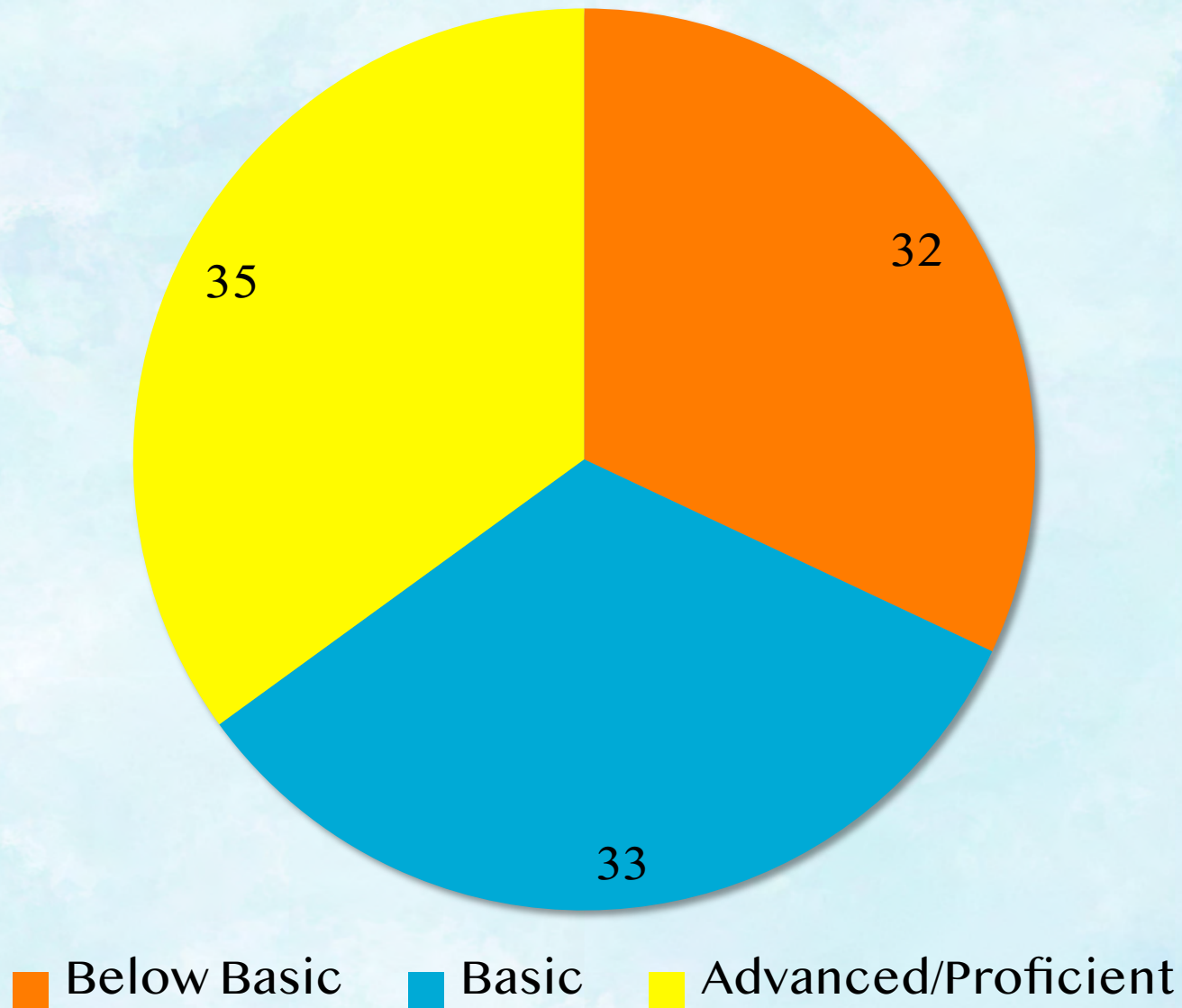




HOW WELL ARE STUDENTS READING?



NAEP 2015 Grade 4 (Reading)



Insight from DIBELS

At our house, the mail carrier isn't the only one who brings us messages. Our computer also brings mail. Our family has an email address. All we have to do is turn on the computer and get on the Internet. Our computer tells us if we have new mail.

Email is much faster than regular letters. If I send a regular letter to my cousin who lives in Japan, it can take weeks to get an answer. If I email to my cousin, she usually emails back the same day. She lives 4,000 miles away and across the Pacific Ocean but our email messages come and go very quickly.

My cousin is nine years old, just like me. We send email to each other almost every day. We tell each other about our schools, our friends, and our soccer teams.

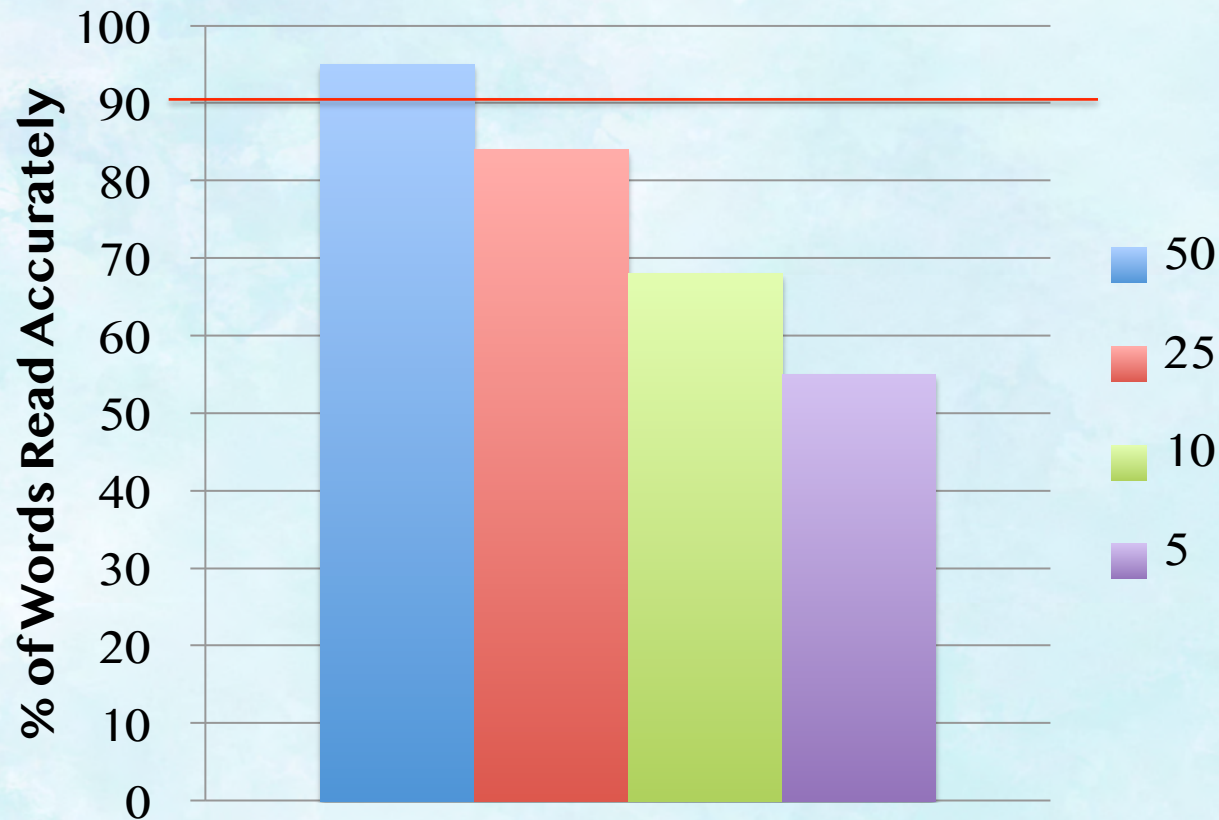
Sometimes we send jokes back and forth. Sometimes we ask questions about what we hear in the news about our countries. Sometimes we play chess with each other using the computer. We think of our moves on separate chess sets and then use email to send our moves back and forth.

My dad and mom send email messages back and forth to Japan as well as to Hawaii, where we have many relatives.

Because our relatives live so far apart it is hard for us to get together. If it weren't for email, we wouldn't be able to stay in touch as easily. With email, we can communicate without having to wait for a letter or buy expensive stamps.

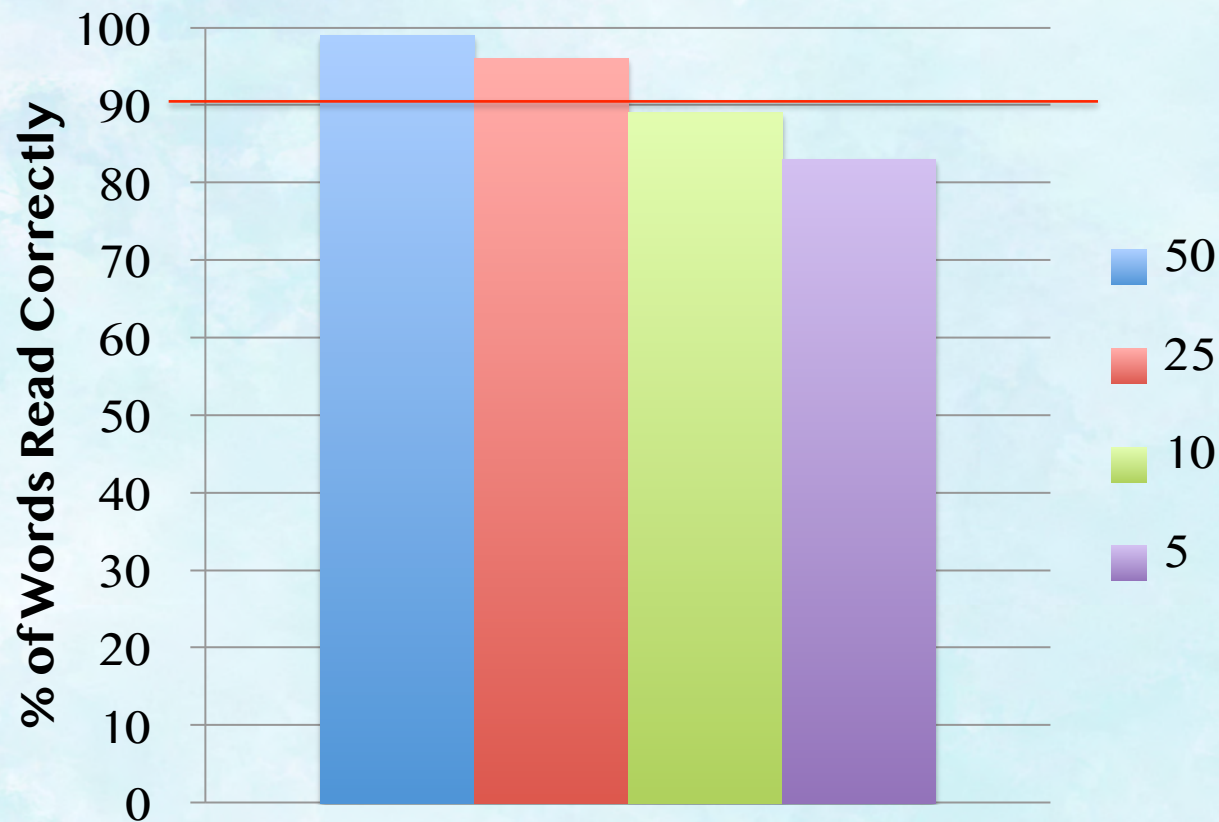
ACCURACY

End of Gr. 1: Accuracy in Oral Reading



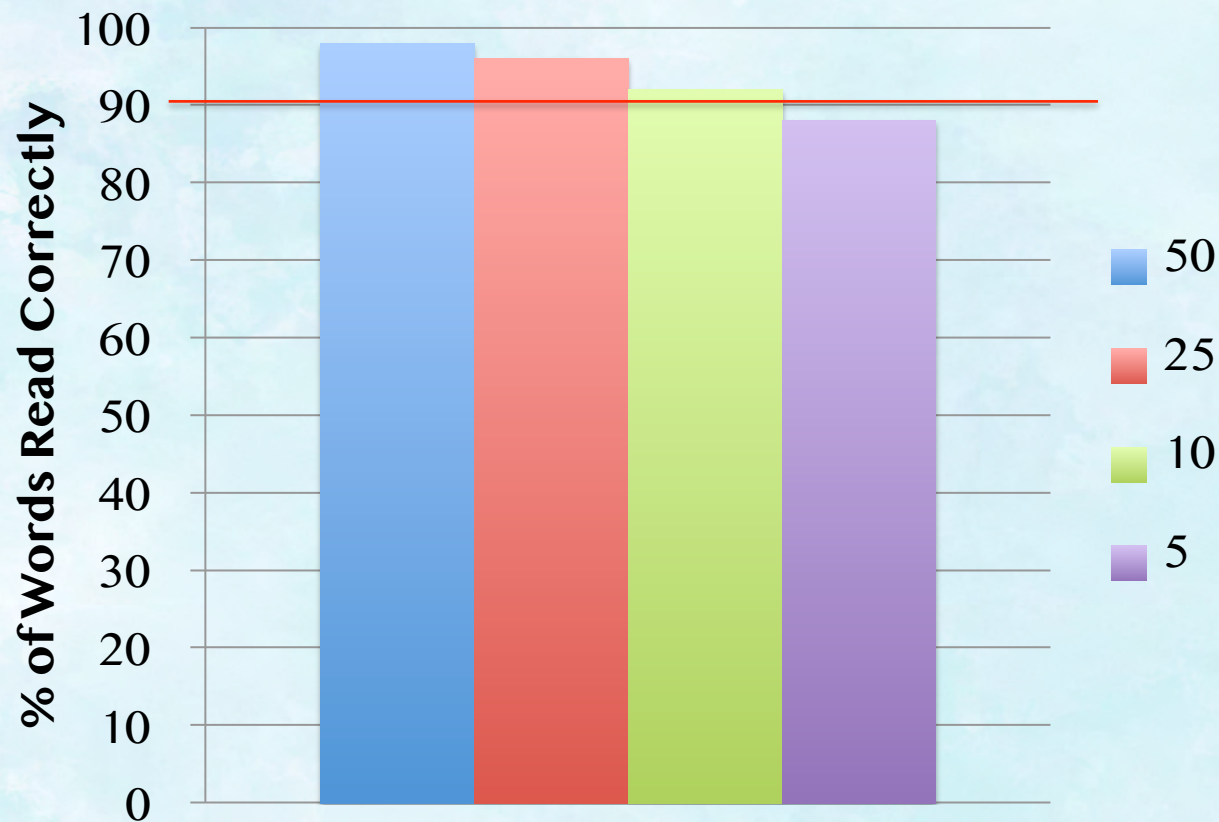
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 2: Accuracy in Oral Reading



Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

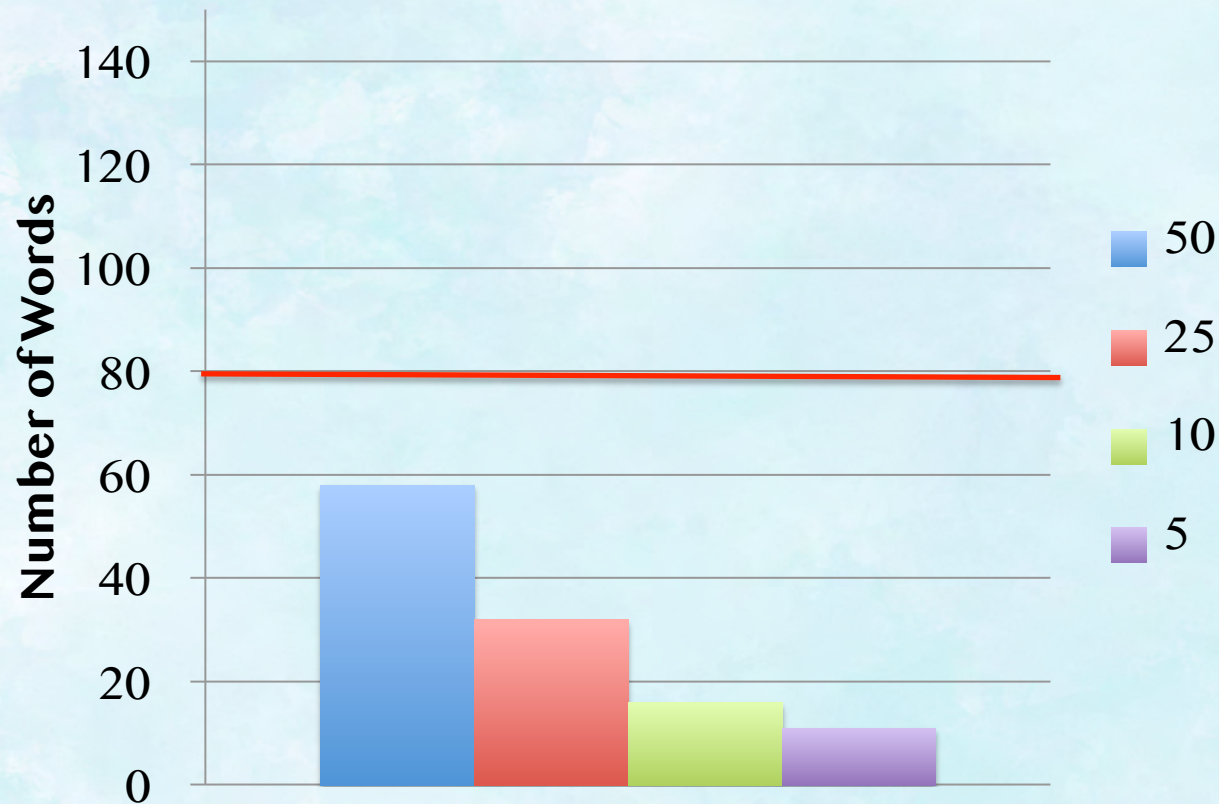
End of Gr. 3: Accuracy in Oral Reading



Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

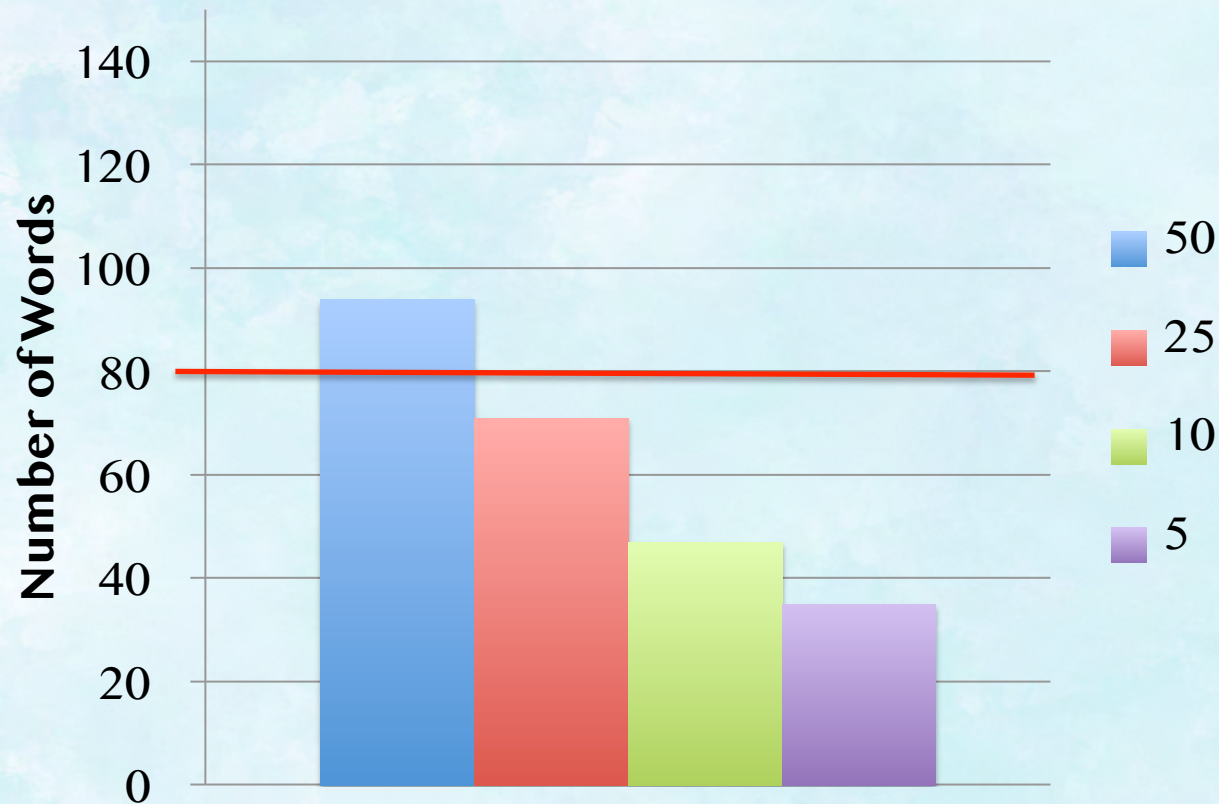
WORDS CORRECT

End of Gr. 1: Words Correct in Oral Reading



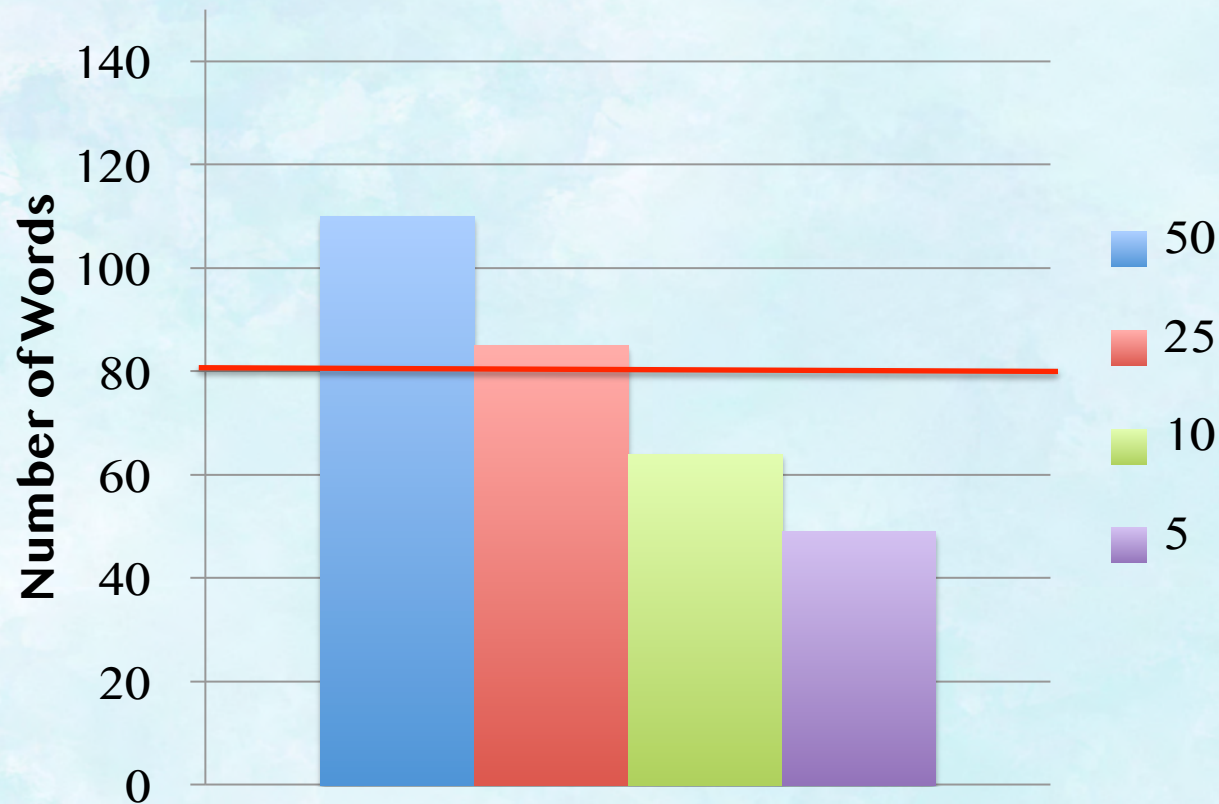
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End of Gr. 2: Words Correct in Oral Reading



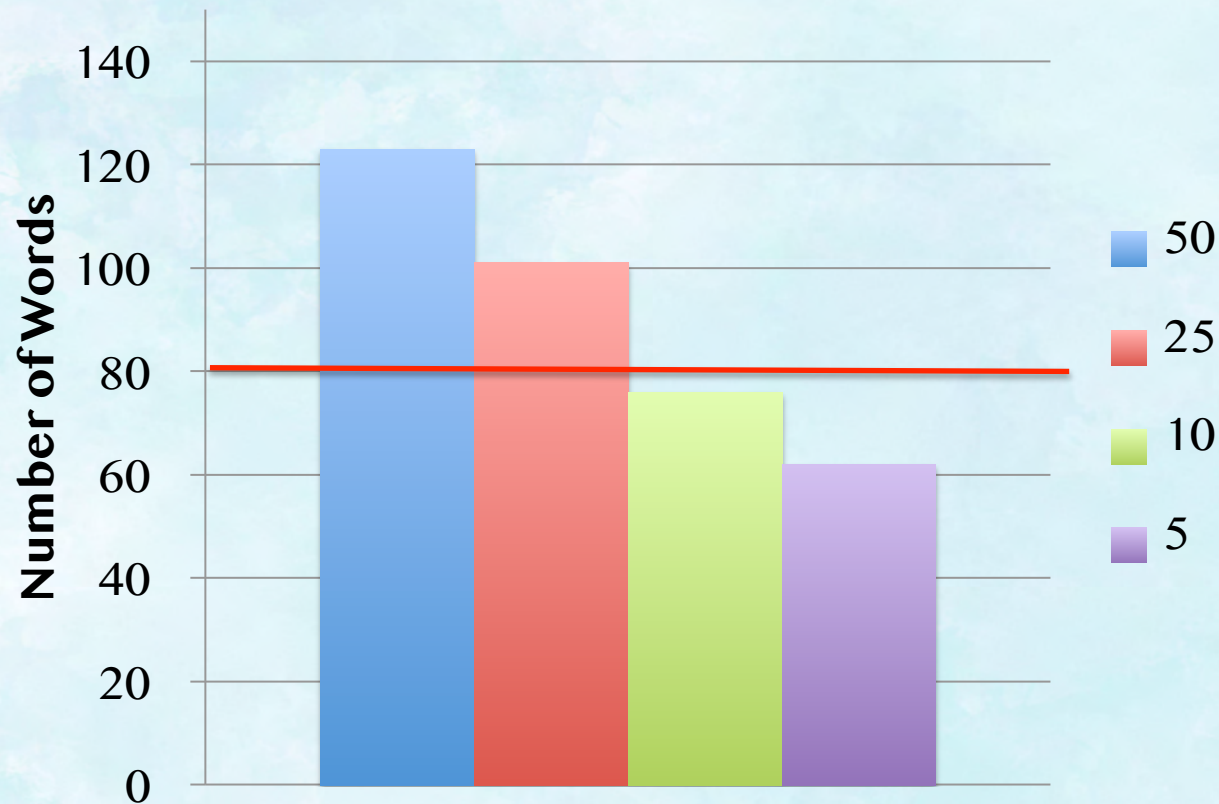
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 3: Words Correct in Oral Reading



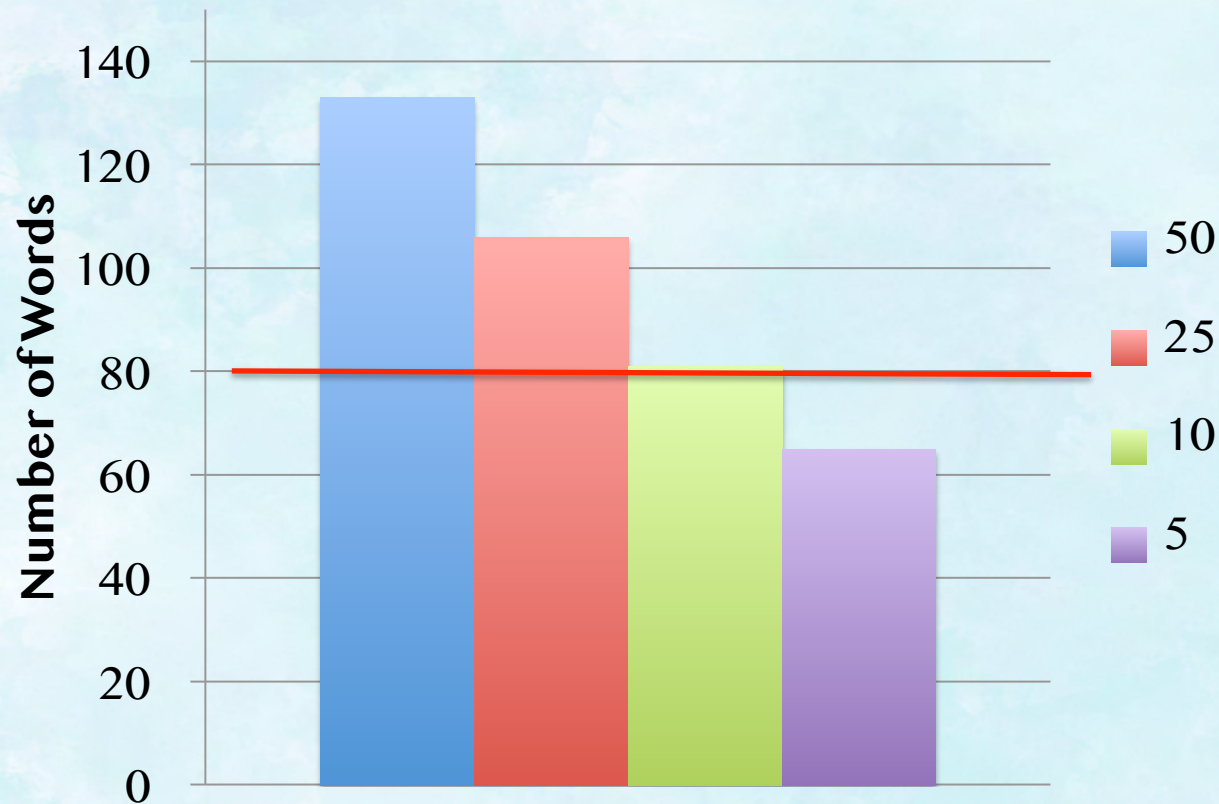
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 4: Words Correct in Oral Reading



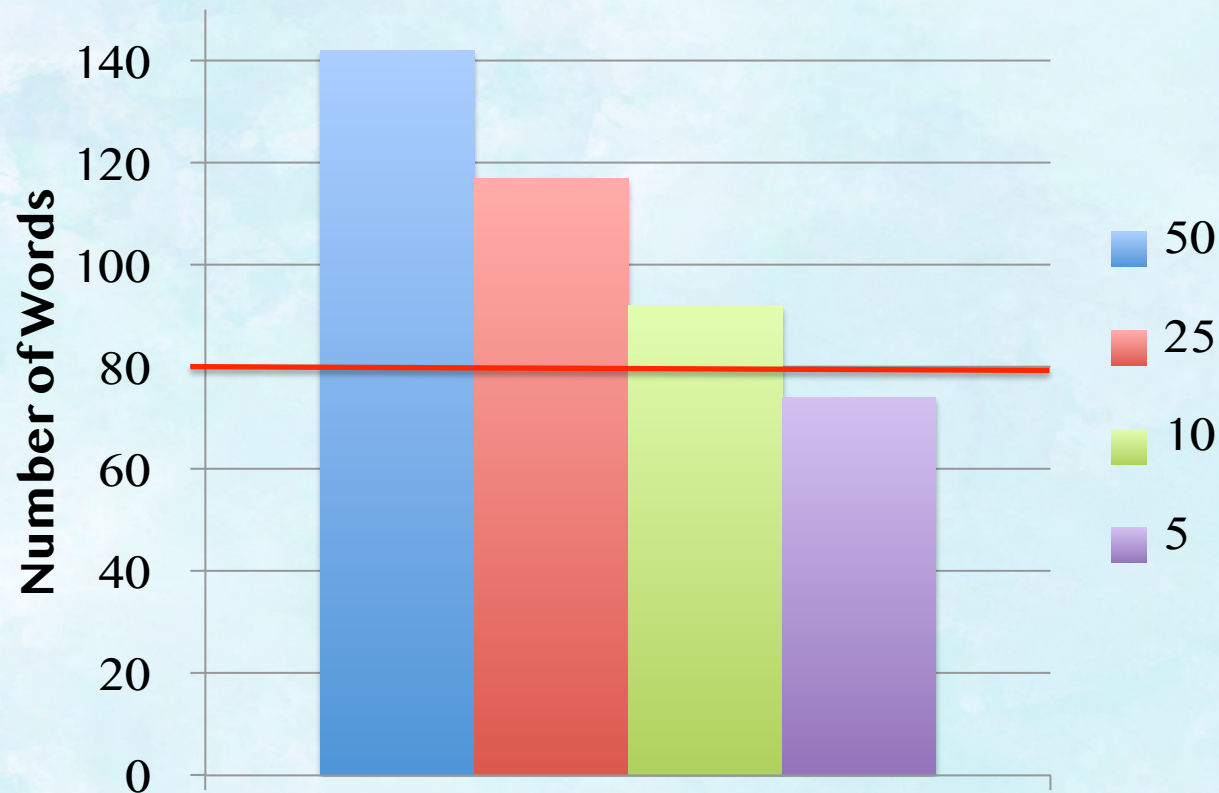
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 5: Words Correct in Oral Reading



Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 6: Words Correct in Oral Reading

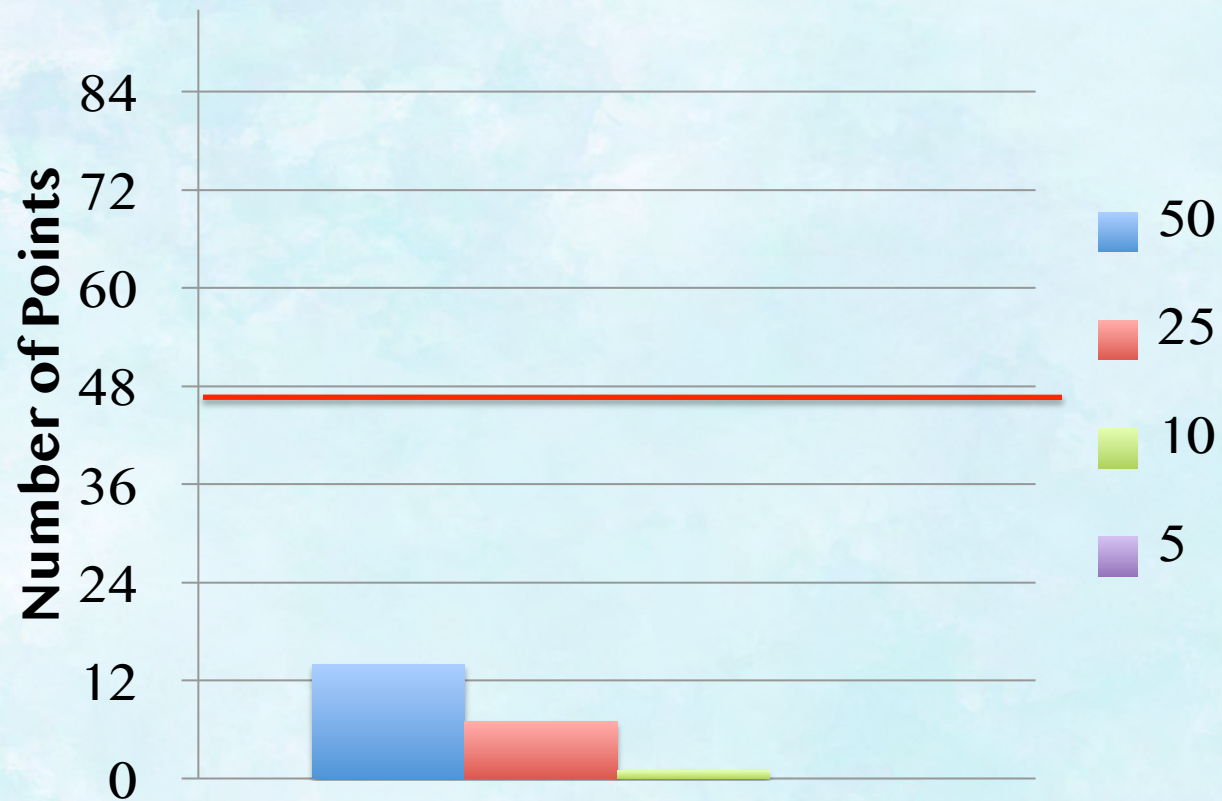


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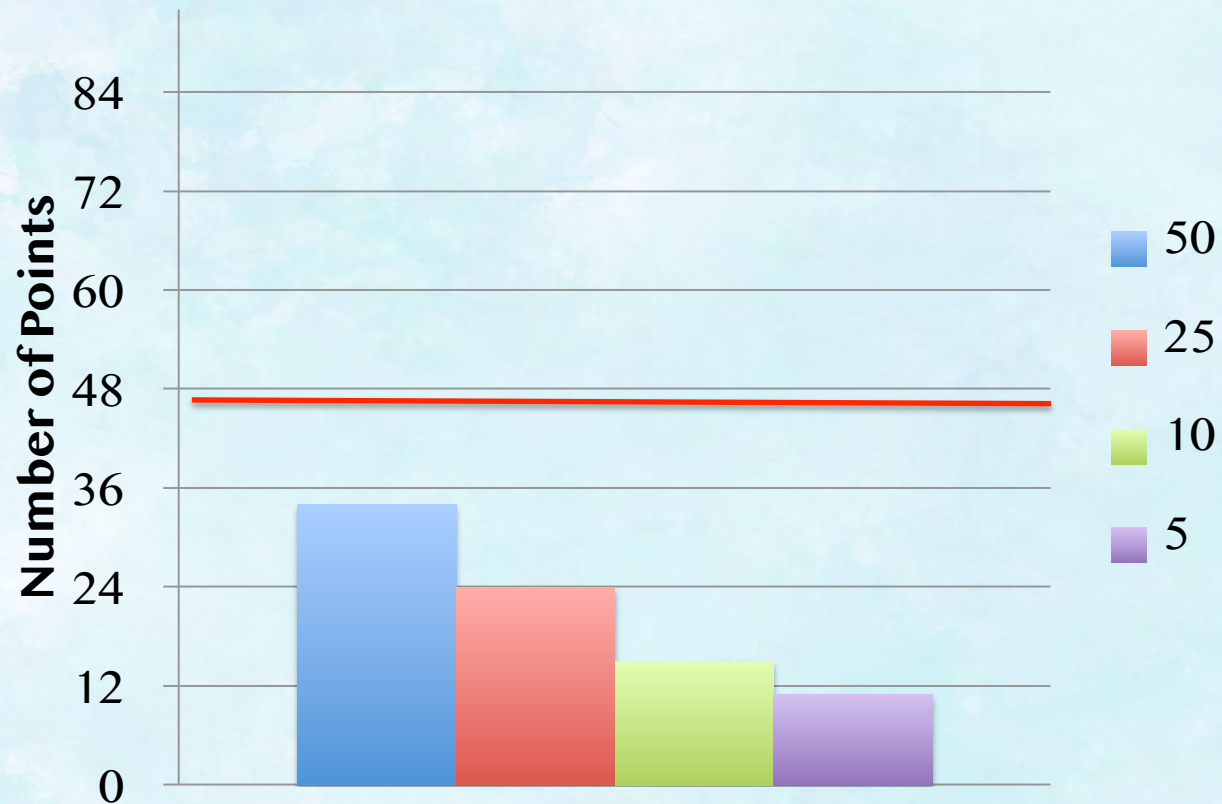
COMPREHENSION

End of Gr. 1: Retell



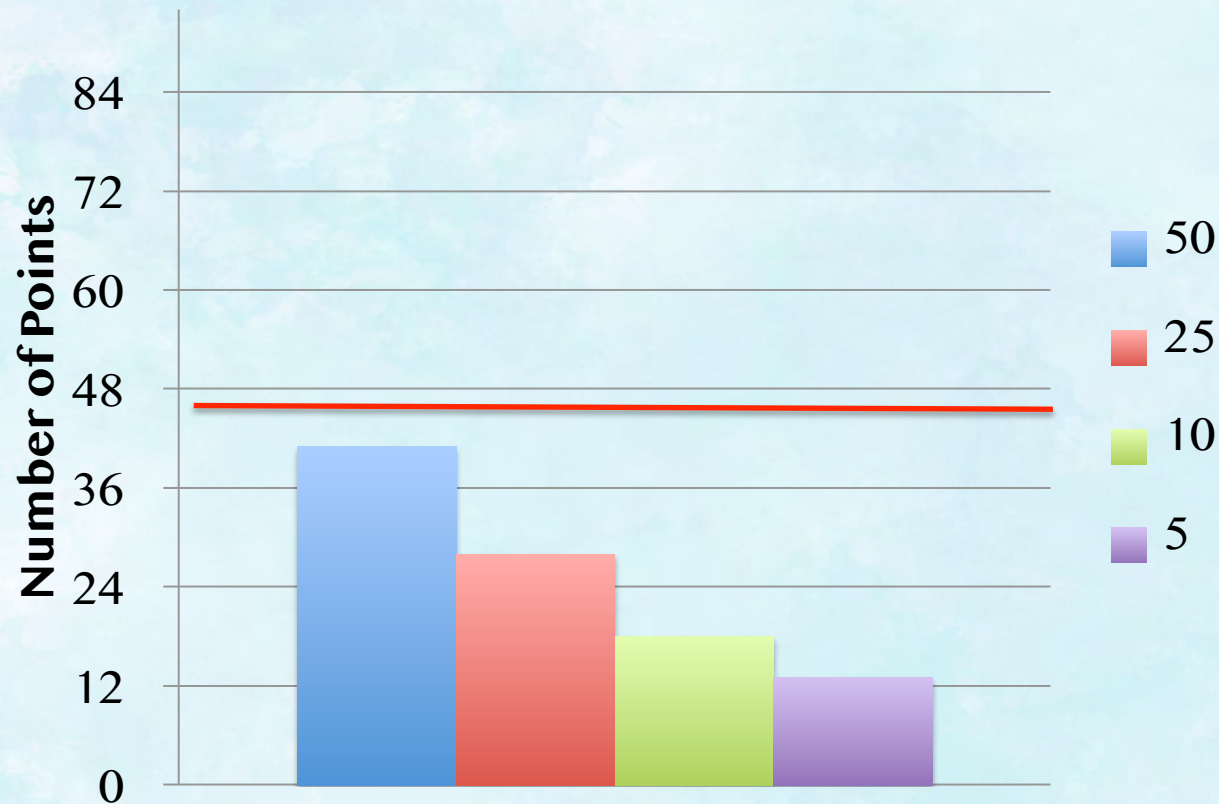
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 2: Retell



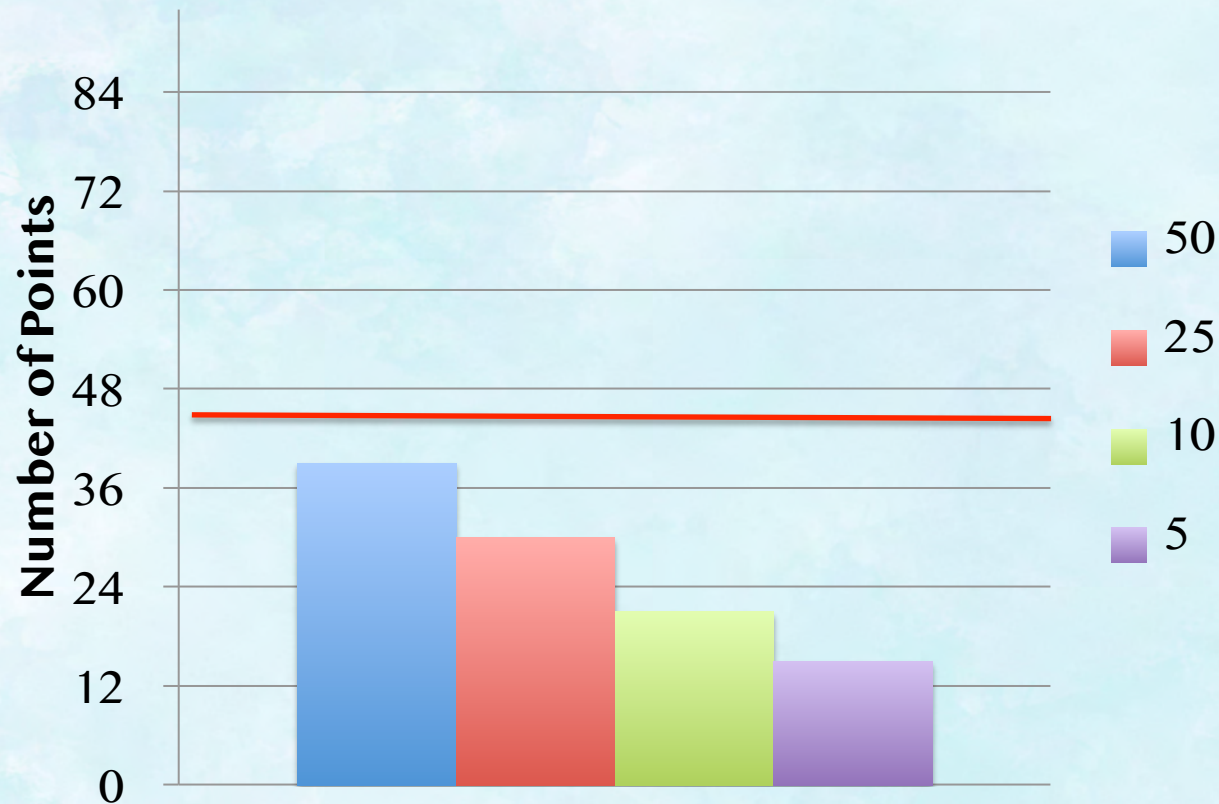
Dewey, E.N., Kaminski, R.A., & Good, R.H. (2014) *DIBELS Next® National Norms 2012-2013* (Technical Report No. 17). Eugene, OR: Dynamic Measurement Group.

End of Gr. 3: Retell



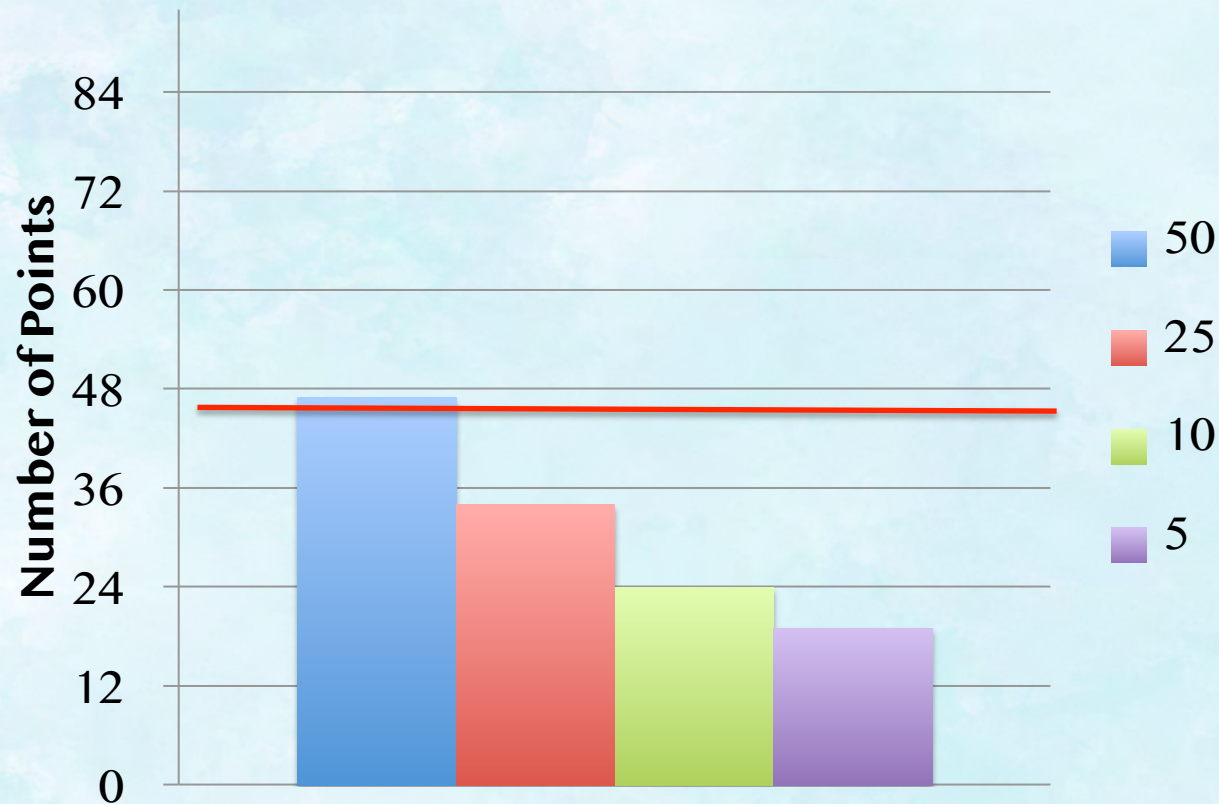
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End of Gr. 4: Retell



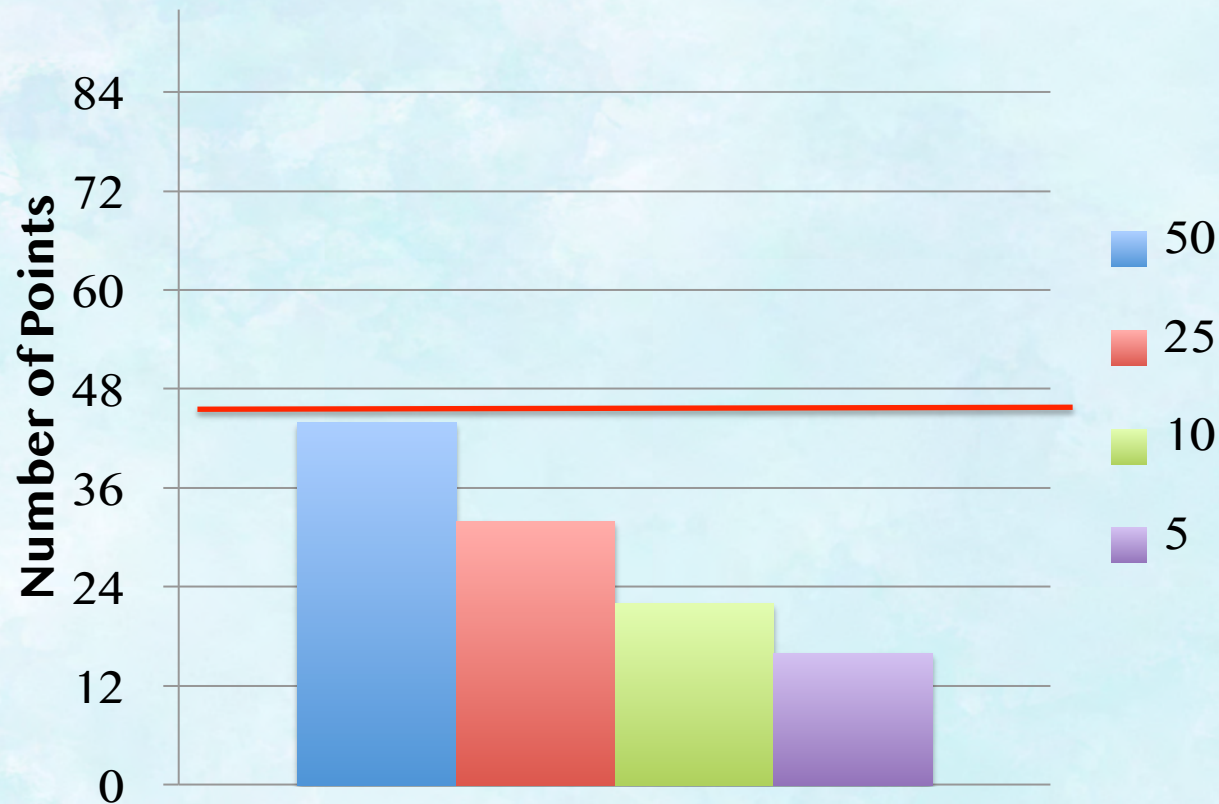
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End of Gr. 5: Retell



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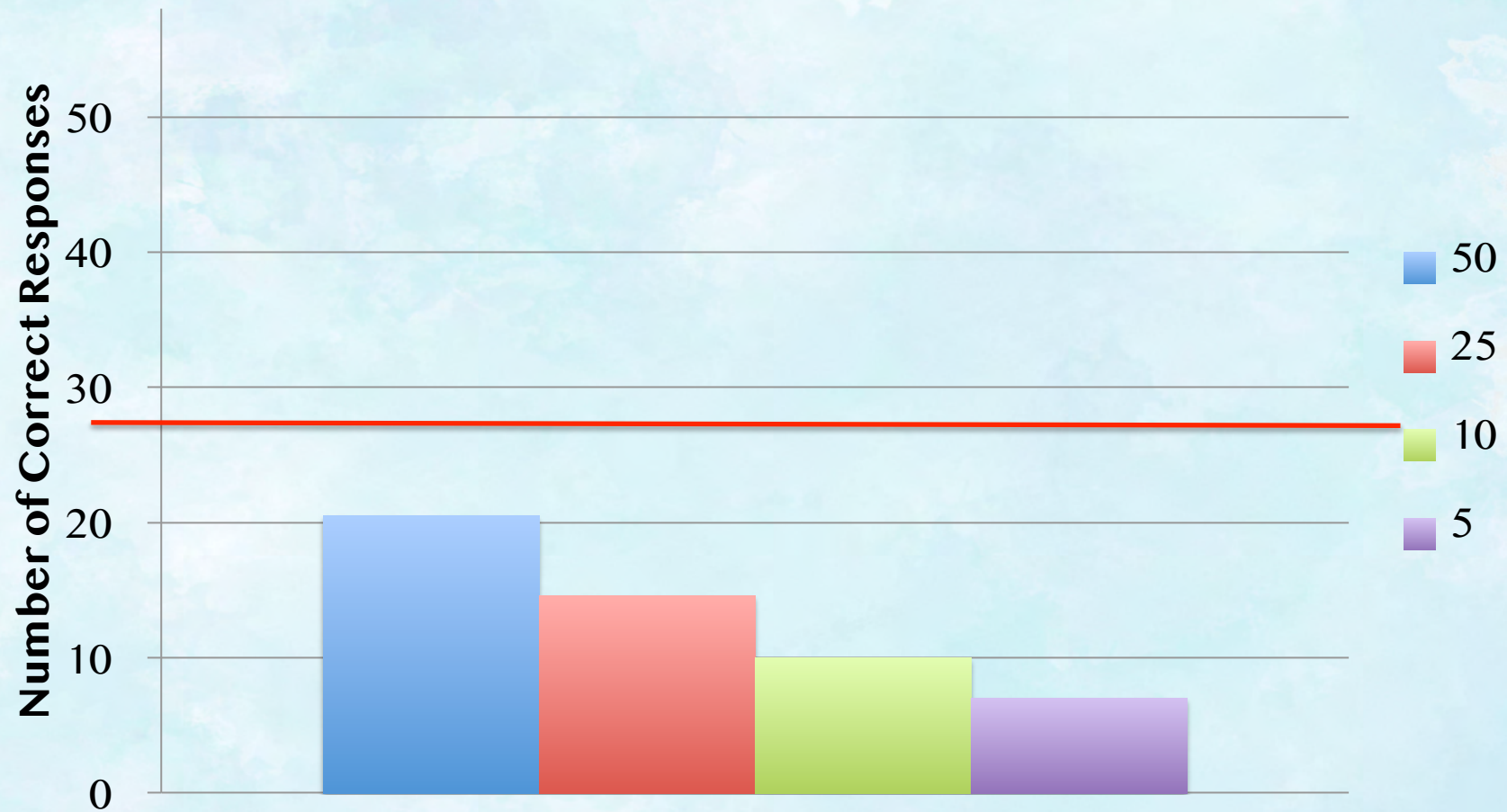
End of Gr. 6: Retell



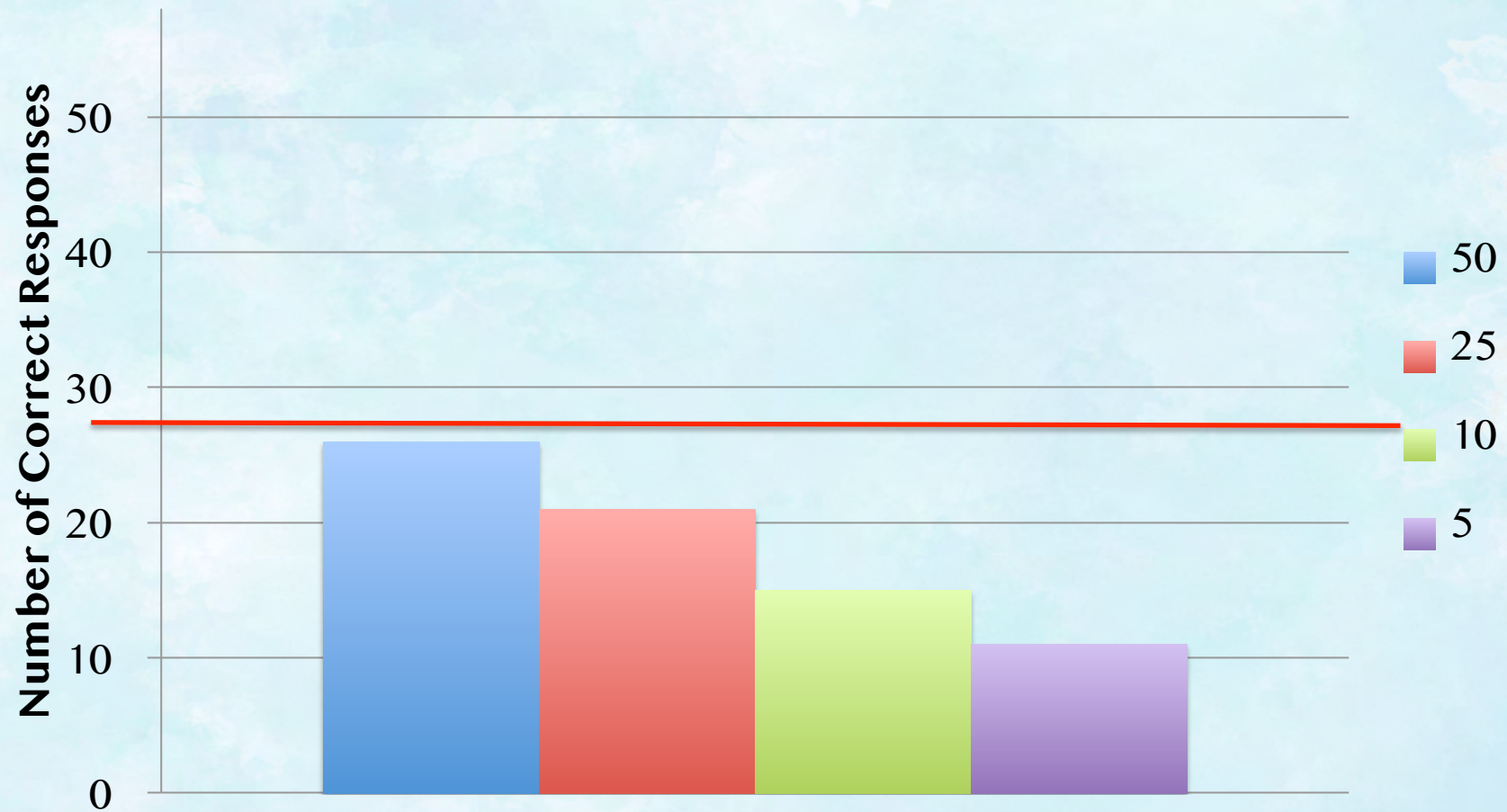
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SILENT READING FLUENCY WITH COMPREHENSION: DAZE

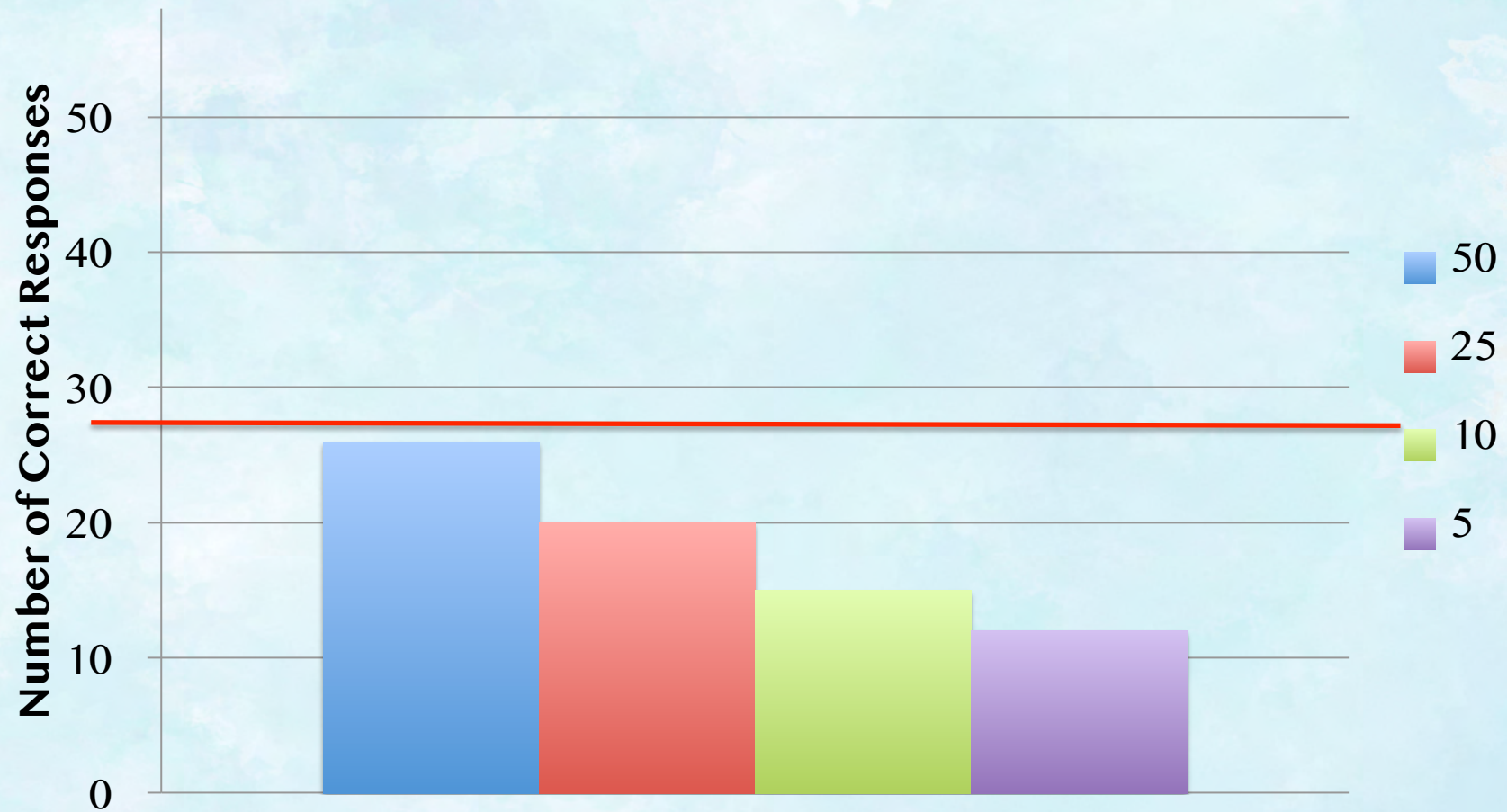
End of Gr. 3: Daze



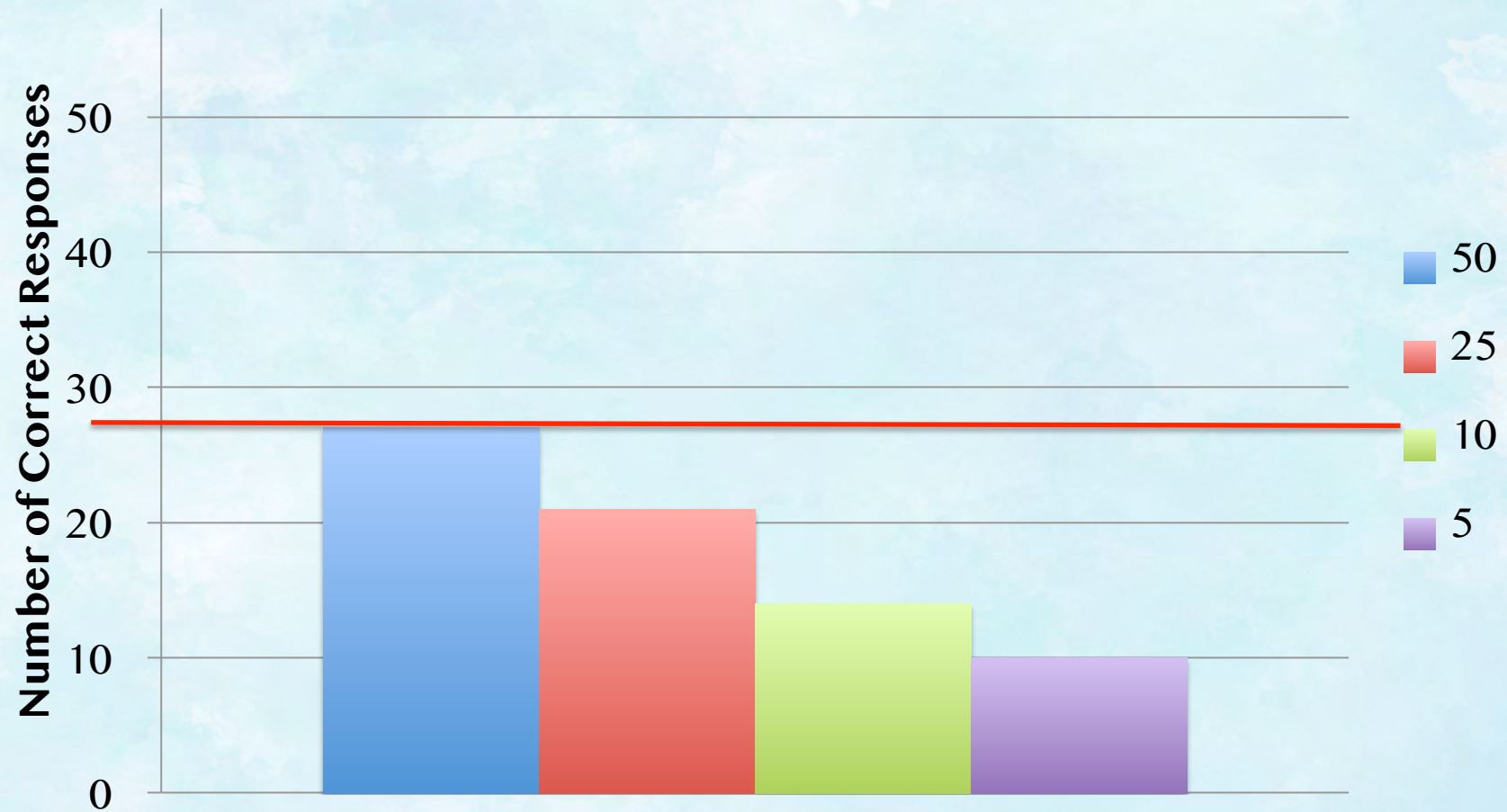
End of Gr. 4: Daze



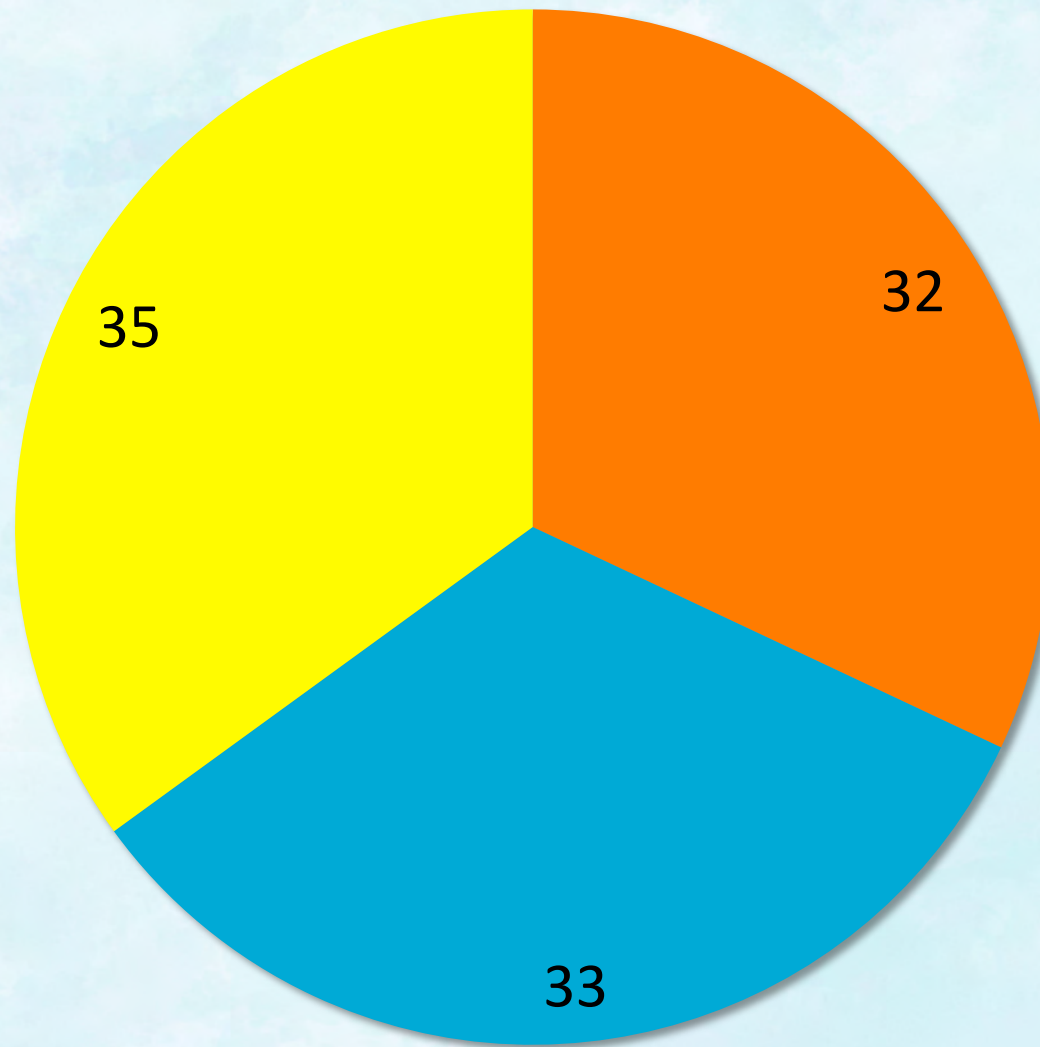
End of Gr. 5: Daze



End of Gr. 6: Daze



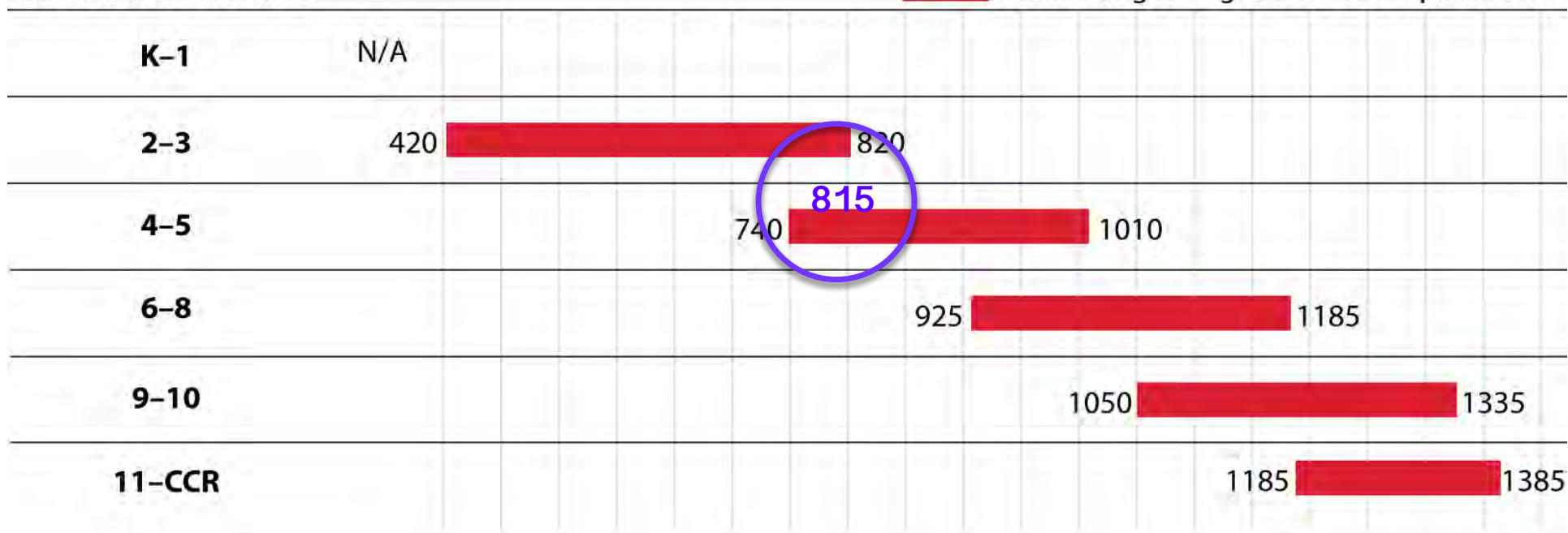
NAEP 2015 Grade 4 (Reading)



■ Below Basic ■ Basic ■ Advanced/Proficient

Text Complexity Grade
Band in the Standards

 Lexile Ranges Aligned to CCR Expectations



Typical Gr. 4 Passage on NAEP: Little Great White

Moms, dads, and kids crowded around the window at Monterey Bay Aquarium. When a small gray-and-white shark swam by, a woman squealed, "There she is!"

Eight-year-old Sammy gazed up at the shark. He saw the rows of perfectly white, perfectly sharp teeth. She's really pretty said Sammy, but a little scary, too.

The shark was a baby great white shark. (Scientists call them white sharks.) They have a terrifying reputation: Sometimes the sharks attack swimmers, probably because the shark mistakes the swimmer for a seal or sea lion. Attacks on humans are rare. But many movies make people think that these sharks are monsters waiting to eat them.

The baby white shark at Monterey Bay Aquarium wasn't much of a monster. At 4 feet 4 inches long and 62 pounds, she was about the same size as a nine-year-old girl. But when full-grown, she could reach 19 feet in length and weigh more than 2 tons-longer and heavier than a minivan.

We are really quite proud of her, said John O'Sullivan of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She is a beautiful, fascinating, majestic swimmer.

Bringing a white shark to the aquarium wasn't easy. For fifty years aquariums have tried to keep white sharks alive, but the sharks would not eat in captivity.

The baby shark had been caught accidentally by a halibut fisherman off the coast of Southern California. Mr. O'Sullivan and his team knew that white sharks were sometimes caught this way. The aquarium had a special floating pen waiting in coastal waters nearby. While the shark lived in the pen, she was fed the same things she would have eaten in the wild—smaller sharks and other fish. The floating pen helped her get used to living in a small space.

After living in the pen for 26 days, the shark was put into a special 3,000-gallon tank and driven north to the aquarium. She was given a quick health check and slipped into the million-gallon Outer Bay Exhibit tank. The next morning, the shark ate salmon for breakfast. The aquarium staff cheered!

The baby shark was fed using a long pole with a loop at the end to hold pieces of fish. You slap the food in front of her, get her excited, and she attacks it, explained Mr. O'Sullivan. When you watch her feed, it is very, very exciting. At one point, she bit the feeding stick and snapped off a piece of it.

The aquarium staff worried that the white shark might attack her tankmates, such as tuna, sea turtles, stingrays, and soupfin sharks. We try to make sure everybody in the tank is happy and has a full tummy, said Mr. O'Sullivan. A few of the little barracuda nip at her tail. It is sort of like a dog chasing a car. It is probably not a smart thing to do!

The aquarium staff didn't know how long they could keep the baby white shark. They planned to set her free if she stopped eating. Even if they could keep her a long time, they planned to set her free when she got bigger.

In just six and a half months, the shark grew two feet in length and more than doubled in weight. Scientists were surprised at how quickly she grew.

As the white shark got bigger, she began hunting her tankmates. She bit and killed two soupfin sharks. The aquarium released her into the ocean on March 31, 2005.

Before letting her go, scientists attached a special pop-up satellite tag to the white shark. A month later the tag automatically popped off the shark, floated to the surface, and sent data to an orbiting satellite.

The tag told scientists that the shark was alive and had swum 200 miles south since her release. This is as close as any shark gets to sending a **postcard**: The water is fine. Wish you were here!

During her stay, the baby shark gave people a more balanced view of white sharks. People fear many animals, such as lions and **grizzly** bears. But over time, people have accepted the idea that these animals have a right to exist. We set up national parks to protect them.

Many scientists think that white sharks are very rare and should also be protected. It is now against the law to fish for white sharks off the shores of places like the United States, Australia, and South Africa.

“Having a live, swimming white shark lets people say, ‘**Wow**, this animal is really neat,’ says Mr. O'Sullivan. He hopes that people will begin to understand this magnificent creature. Then they will help protect it.

Fourth Graders' Performances on 4 Sections of 1,000-word Text

Text Section	Percentage of students engaged in Comprehension- Based Silent Reading
1	89.1
2	60.9
3	60.9
4	48.9

Hiebert, E.H., Trainin, G., & Wilson, K. (July 2011). *Comprehension and reading rates across extended grade-appropriate texts*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, St. Petersburg, FL.

As we travel from our homes, we need a place to sleep at night. If we are visiting friends or family, we may stay at their homes. But many people travel for work or for vacations. There are also people who may have lost their home to fire or floods. These people need a temporary home.

Tents

Imagine you are hiking in a forest. It is starting to get dark. Where do you sleep for the night? Many people chose to spend the night in a tent. Tents are temporary homes that people use when they are **hiking** or camping. The materials used to make tents are light, but strong. This makes it easy for hikers to carry their temporary homes with them.

Tents are also easy and quick to set up and take down. One or two people can set up some tents in less than 30 minutes. Once tents are set up people have a place to rest that will protect them from the weather. When it is time to go, the tents can be easily taken down and packed up.

Campers or hikers are not the only people who use tents. People who travel from place to place in cars or by walking use tents as a temporary home. Soldiers traveling from place to place may not have a place to rest every place they stop at. They can set up tents wherever they happen to be. Until the soldier gets home, the tent is their temporary home.

Hotels and motels

Hotel comes from a word that means a place, such as a museum, with many visitors. Today, hotels are places where people can sleep, bathe, or rest while they are away from home. Many hotels have restaurants where people can eat their meals. Motels are simpler than hotels. Motels only provide rooms for people to sleep in. Hotels can be found in cities. People staying in motels are usually on their way somewhere and just need a place to sleep. Motels are mostly found along highways or freeways.

All hotels have rooms for people to stay in, but not all hotels look the same. Since many people stay at hotels when they are on vacations, many hotels have fun or relaxing things for visitors to do while they are staying there. Some hotels have pools people can swim in or they can go on fun outings. For example, people staying in a hotel near Yellowstone can go horseback riding to see the hard to reach areas of Yellowstone.

Hotels can be found in many places, some in strange places. There are hotels that are underwater. There are hotels located in the arctic regions that are made out of blocks of ice. There are also hotels that are built in trees, like tree houses. Staying at these hotels is exciting and fun. Not only do you have a place to sleep at night, but you also have an interesting place to explore something new.

Mobile homes

Many **freeways** were built after World War II and people traveled on them for work and vacations. Plane travel was not common for many people, so driving was the best way for people to get from place to place. As people drove around the US, they needed temporary homes.

Mobile homes first started out as trailers attached to cars. The trailers were like small bedrooms. They had a bed the people can sleep on, and a place to sit and eat. The trailer part could be easily **detached** and **re-attached**. People could use just the car if they wanted to.

Today there are different kinds of mobile homes. Some mobile homes are still trailers that can be attached to cars and driven away. Other mobile homes look like very large vans with rooms. Many of these mobile homes are large enough to have a few bedrooms, and bathrooms. The inside of these mobile homes look like the inside of a small house or apartment.

A third kind of mobile home is too large to be attached to a car and driven away. These mobile homes are made in factories and driven on the back of very large trucks to where people want to live. Most of these mobile homes are not move again. These mobile homes were first used as temporary homes for people waiting for their permanent homes to be built or become available. But some people live in mobile homes as their permanent homes.

Berthing and Dormitories

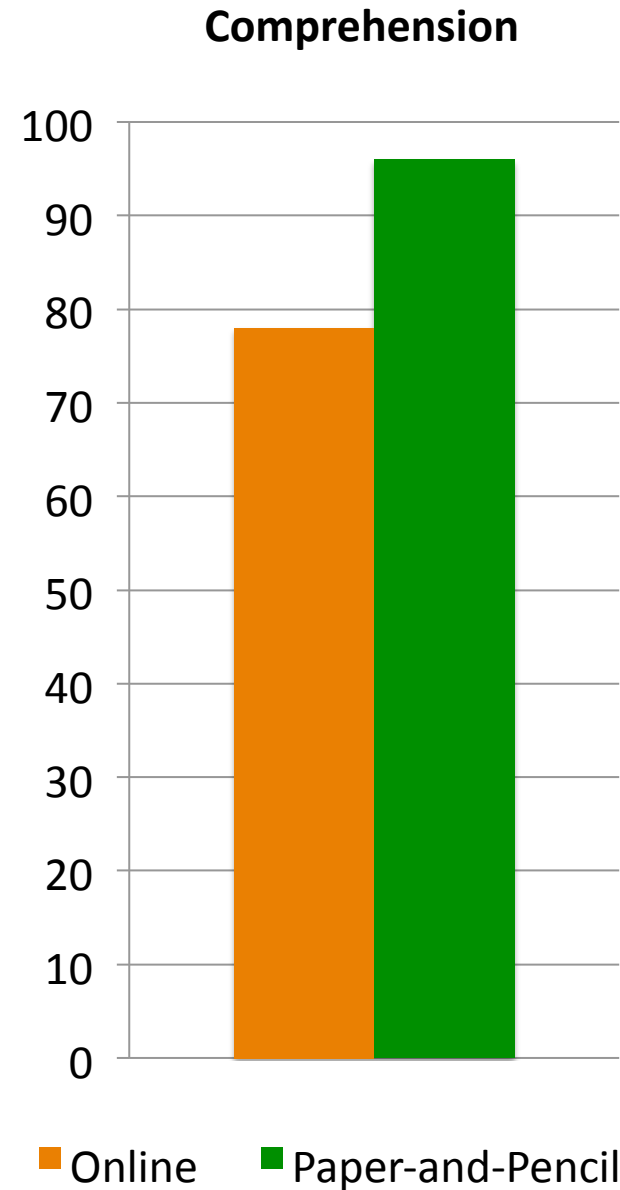
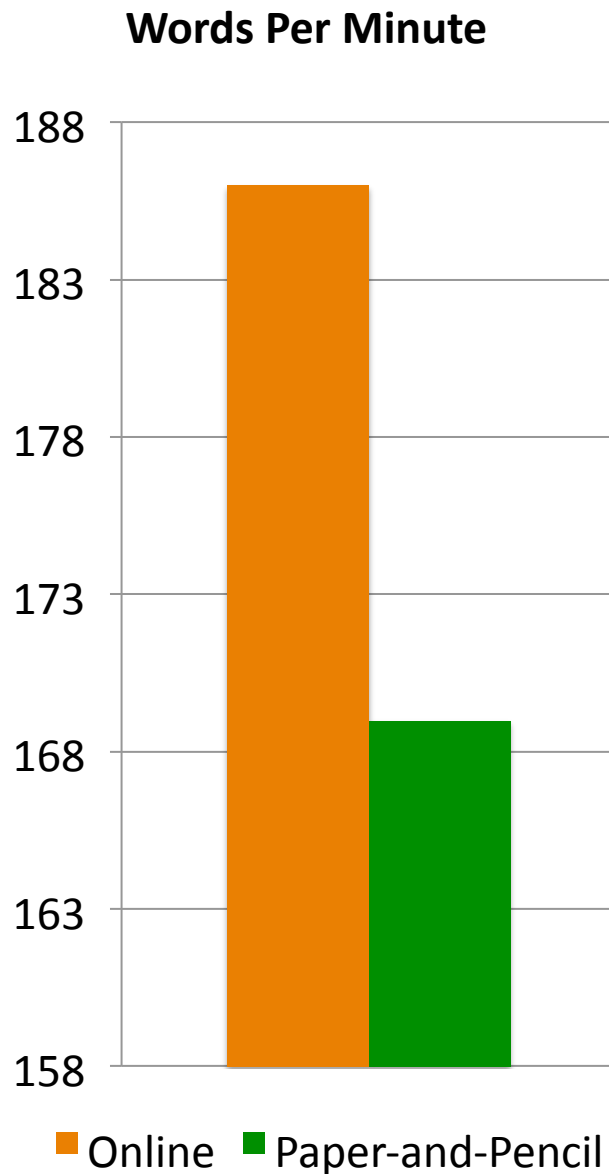
Sailors and students also need temporary homes while they are away from home.

When sailors are on their ships they sleep in an area of the ship called the berthing. On small ships, the berthing can be used for many things. But on a large ship, like a US Navy ship, then the berthing is only used as a place to sleep or rest. About 100 sailors can share a berthing, but each sailor has his or her own bunk bed. Large US Navy ship may have several berthing areas all over the ship. While sailors are at sea, the berthing is their temporary home.

Students who go away for school live in temporary homes called dormitories. Many colleges and boarding schools have dormitories for students who chose to live on the . Some dormitories look like apartments with bedrooms, a living room, bathroom and a kitchen. But most dormitories are bedrooms that 1-4 students live in. Dormitories may also have common areas where students gather to study or talk with their friends.

Temporary home are also for people whose homes were destroyed. Natural disasters, such as floods, or earthquakes, can destroy people's homes. Where do people go when their homes have been destroyed? There are many agencies that can help by finding a safe place for people to stay. Some churches or schools will let people stay there if there has been a natural disaster. People can live there until they find another place to live.

Moderate-Low Comprehenders: Silent Reading Tasks



Hiebert, E.H., Daniel, M., Martin, L.A., & Henderson, S. (July 2015). Silent reading rate and comprehension of proficient and less proficient readers with texts of varying complexity. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal.

HOW WELL ARE STUDENTS READING? SUMMARY



WHAT ARE SOLUTIONS?

Time, Text, & Tasks

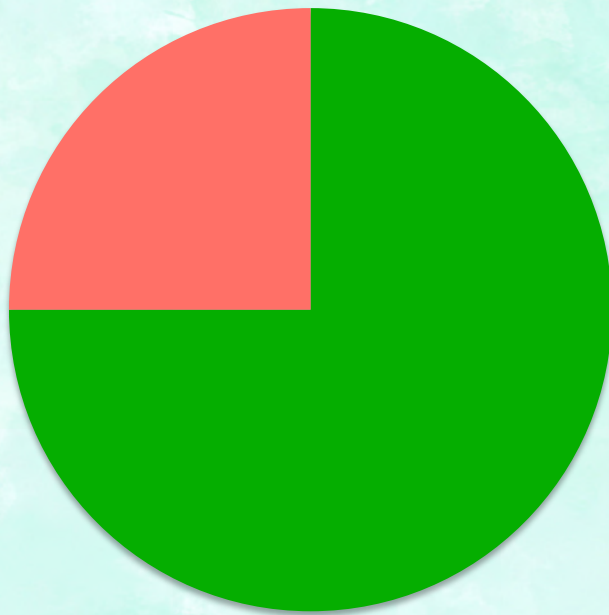




TIME MATTERS

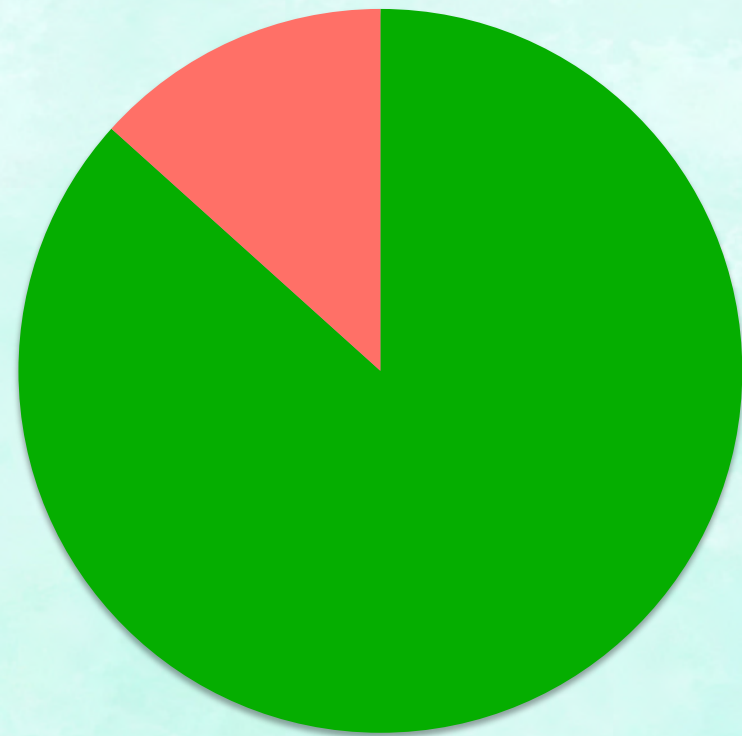
Time Spent in Reading Instruction & “Eyes on Text”

Reading Instruction (1970s to late 1980s)



■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading

Reading Instruction (late 1990s -)



■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading

Changes in Recommendations for Teachers



1965: 235 pages

1st half of Gr. 3:

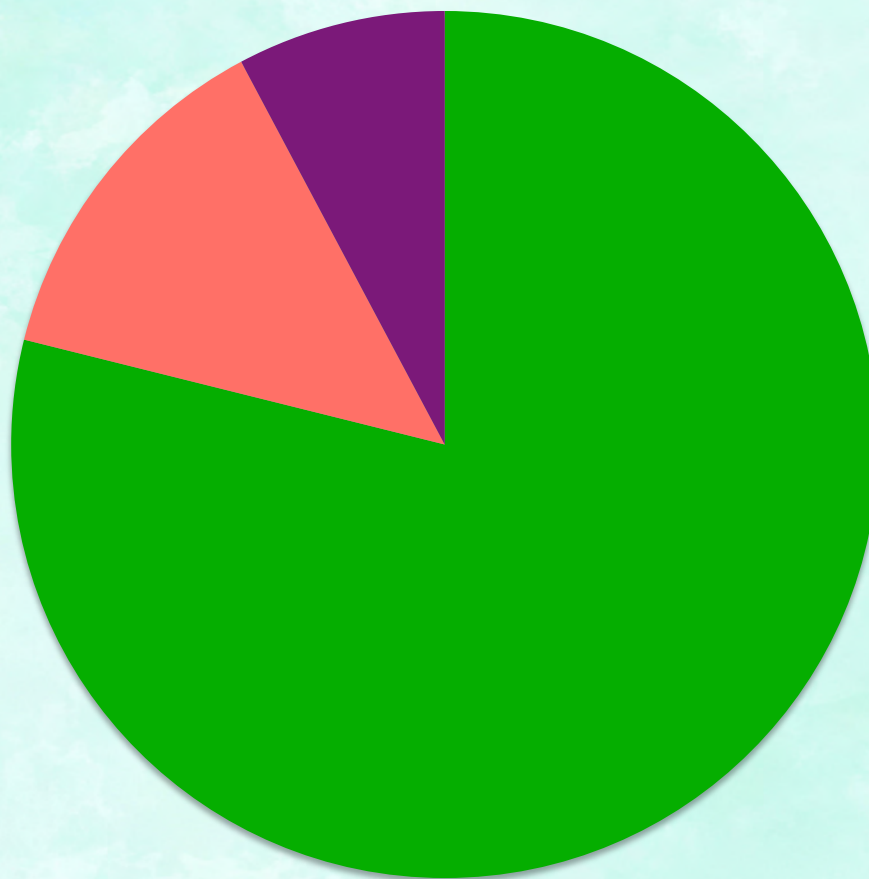
2014: 2,271 pages



Toolkit

7 Minutes of Additional Reading

Reading Instruction
(w/ 7 additional minutes)



■ Instruction ■ Time Spent reading ■ Additional 7 minutes

Have Students set Goals

Goal: Increase amount of reading each trimester of the school year.

Step 1: Get baseline data:

- Establish length of time spent reading
- Establish length of typical reading event

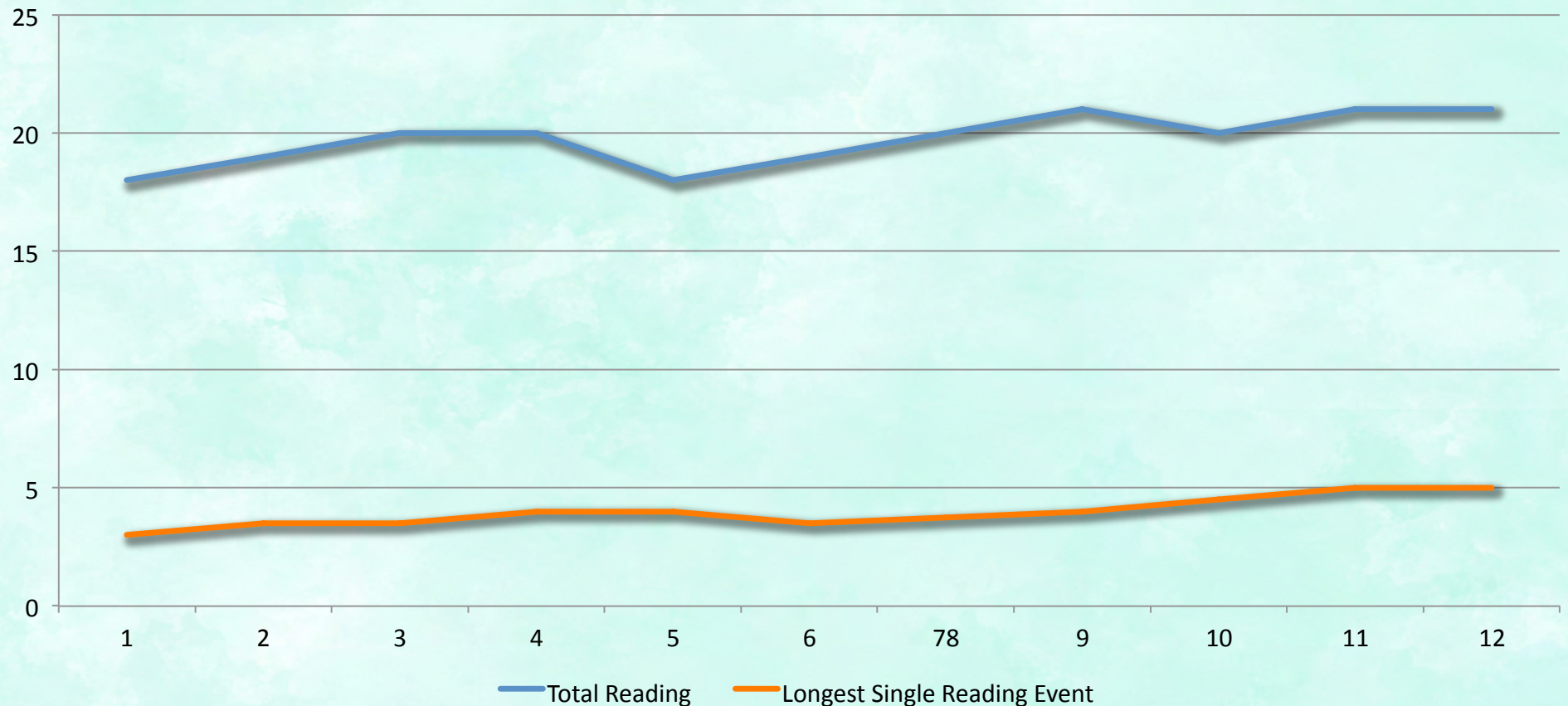
Step 2: Set the goal (students in charge in Grades 3+; students guided in Grades 2-)

Example: Goal for trimester: 22 min.

Daily, with at least one event for 5 min.

Step 3: *Always* keep a record of what you've learned from reading

Illustration of Student Goal Setting:



Record of what I learned from reading:

- Fibonacci patterns (I read *Blockhead; Patterns of Nature*):
- Musicians (*John's Secret Dreams; Lives of the Musicians*): Some people like John Lennon use music to deal with hard things in their lives. Often, musicians need to make many sacrifices to do what they do.

Text Matters

CHAPTER 1

He began his new life standing up, surrounded by cold darkness and stale, dusty air.

Metal ground against metal; a lurching shudder shook the floor beneath him. He fell down at the sudden movement and shuffled backward on his hands and feet, drops of sweat beading on his forehead despite the cool air. His back struck a hard metal wall; he slid along it until he hit the corner of the room. Sinking to the floor, he pulled his legs up tight against his body, hoping his eyes would soon adjust to the darkness. With another jolt, the room jerked upward like an old lift in a mine shaft.

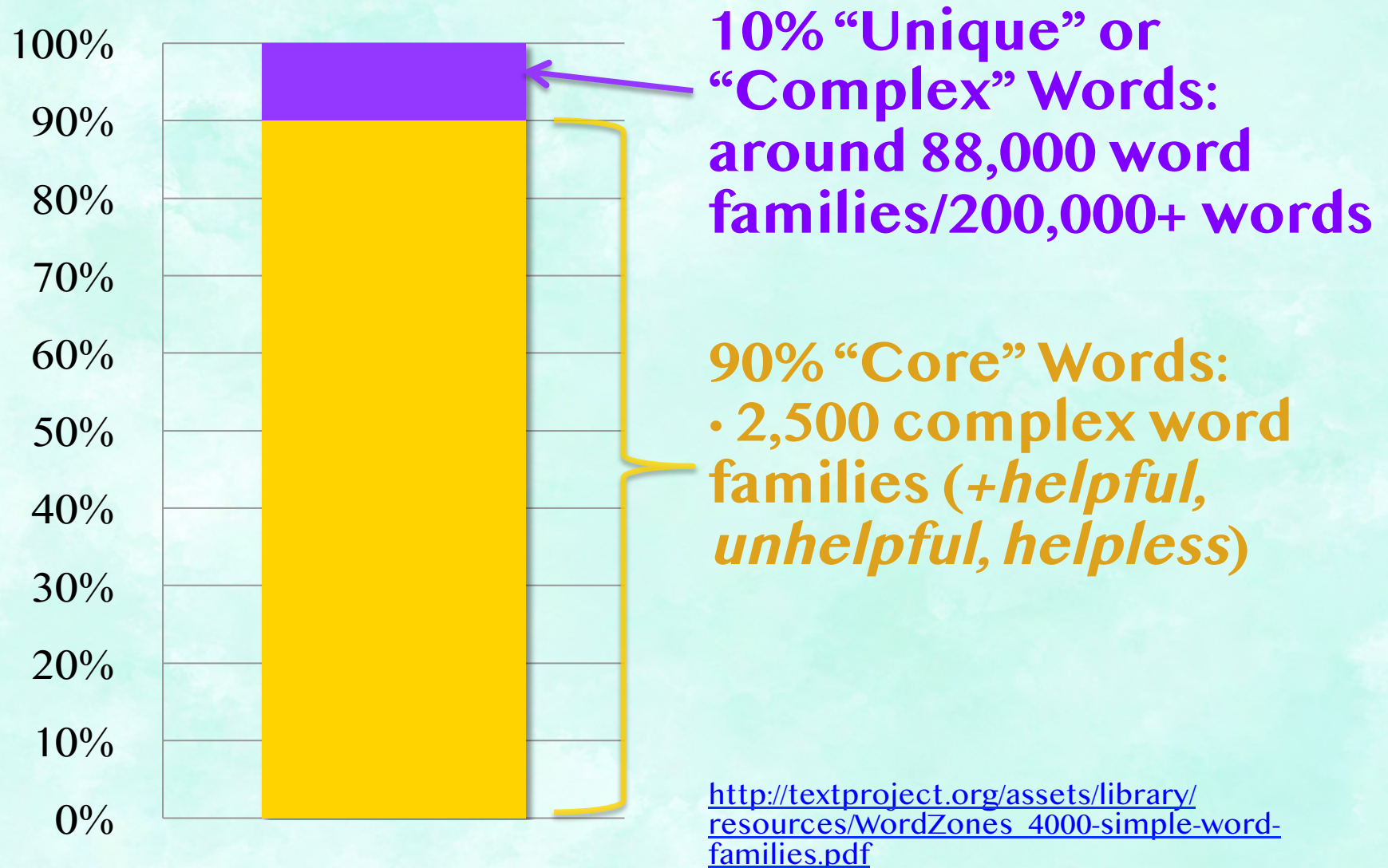
Harsh sounds of chains and pulleys, like the workings of an ancient steel factory, echoed through the room, bouncing off the walls with a hollow, tinny whine. The lightless elevator swayed back and forth as it ascended, turning the boy's stomach sour with nausea; a smell like burnt oil invaded his senses, making him feel worse. He wanted to cry; tears came; he could only sit there, alone, waiting.

My name is Thomas, he thought.

That . . . that was the only thing.

He didn't understand.

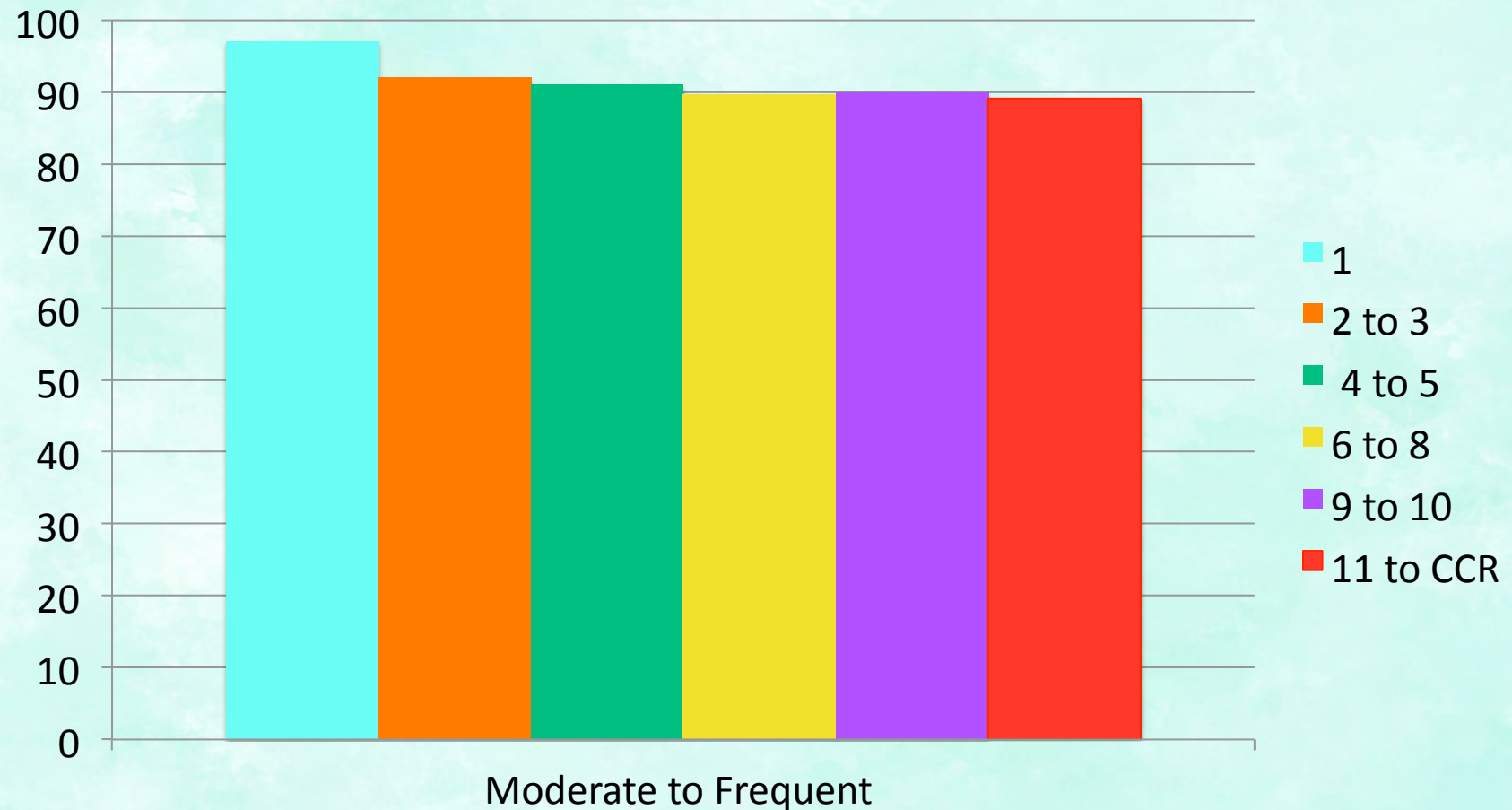
The distribution of words in written English



Examples of the Words in the Core Vocabulary

	words
1st 100	the, by, no, through, must
101-300	long, great, put, last, family
301-1,000	power, north, story, strong, answer
1,001-1,500	valley, imagine, motion, nearby, importance
1,501-2,000	character, responsible, design, presence, trail
2001-2,500	mixture, discovery, civilization, attitude, assume

Evidence for the presence of the 2,500 word families in texts





Kites: Dancers in the Wind

FYI from textproject.org

volume 3
issue 15



You're on a beach, and the wind is blowing off the ocean. Your kite floats and swirls, dancing in the wind.

Kites were invented in China more than 2,000 years ago. They were first used by the Chinese military, but about 1,000 years ago, people started flying kites for fun. Since then, kites have been used for celebrations, in competitions, and

for science. In addition, kite festivals show off the many shapes and colors of kites. These festivals are held in Japan, Pakistan, and many other countries.

The first kites were made of silk. After paper was invented, around the year 100 AD, people used it to make kites. Today, most kites are made of paper or cloth, with sticks to hold them in shape and string to hold onto them. However, there are also kites for skiing or for moving a buggy on a beach.

In ancient times, kites carried lines across rivers. These lines helped build bridges. In the 1880s, kites

were first used to take photographs. In the early 1900s, the United States Weather Bureau used kites to help with weather prediction. The kites measured winds and temperatures.

The word kite is from an Old English word that means "a kind of hawk." Kites were probably given this name because of the way they look when they fly.

To fly a kite, find a large open area, such as a park or a beach. Make sure there are no trees or power lines the kite can get caught on. Then hold the kite's string up and run. The kite will lift when it catches the wind. Guide your kite by pulling the string. Make sure you look around when you're running so you don't run into anything.

As you watch the kite, notice how it moves. If the wind is just right, your kite will dance, too, swirling as the wind takes it high up into the sky.



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Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



A lot of sports that people play use balls. In basketball, players try to get a ball through a hoop. In baseball, players use a bat to hit a ball. In football, players throw a ball to get it close to the goal.

There are other words with “ball” that describe things that are round. But they are not balls with which you play a game. Meatballs are not used in any sport. But

they are great with spaghetti.

Eyeballs help in playing sports. But there isn’t a sport called eyeball where teams throw and catch eyeballs. You wouldn’t want to be in a game that uses fireballs. If you would ever see a fireball, you should get as far away as fast as you can. Then call 911 right away. You should also watch out if a cannonball is going to be fired. It is round but you don’t want to play with a cannonball. You especially do not want to catch a cannonball!

There are some words, though, that have ball in them but it has nothing to do with round. Ballpoint pens make

writing a lot easier. It’s easy to see how the “point” got into ballpoint pen. But why the ball? That part is in the name because of the tip of a pen is round. There are also rooms that are called ballrooms. People hold balls in ballrooms but they aren’t the round kind.

Other words with ball have nothing to do with round. In these words, the “ball” part of the word is not even said the same as ball in baseball or meatball. Ballerina is not ball with “erina.” Ballerinas are dancers and the word has nothing to do with ball. A ballot is used by people to vote but it is not round. You don’t even say “ball” when you say the word ballot.

Whenever you see ball as part of a word, look carefully. Usually, the word has something to do with games and sports. But remember eyeballs, fireballs, and cannonballs. These balls may be round but they aren’t used in sports! Ballerina and ballot show that some words with “ball” have nothing to do with being round.



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Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



A lot of sports that people play use balls. In basketball, players try to get a ball through a **hoop**. In baseball, players use a bat to hit a ball. In football, players throw a ball to get it close to the goal.

There are other words with “ball” that describe things that are round. But they are not balls with which you play a game. Meatballs are not used in any sport. But

they are great with **spaghetti**.

Eyeballs help in playing sports. But there isn’t a sport called eyeball where teams throw and catch eyeballs. You wouldn’t want to be in a game that uses fireballs. If you would ever see a fireball, you should get as far away as fast as you can. Then call 911 right away. You should also watch out if a cannonball is going to be fired. It is round but you don’t want to play with a cannonball. You especially do not want to catch a cannonball!

There are some words, though, that have ball in them but it has nothing to do with round. Ballpoint pens make

writing a lot easier. It’s easy to see how the “point” got into ballpoint pen. But why the ball? That part is in the name because of the tip of a pen is round. There are also rooms that are called ballrooms. People hold balls in ballrooms but they aren’t the round kind.

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Whenever you see ball as part of a word, look carefully. Usually, the word has something to do with games and sports. But remember eyeballs, fireballs, and **cannonballs**. These balls may be round but they aren’t used in sports! Ballerina and ballot show that some words with “ball” have nothing to do with being round.



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A Birthday Wish: Rachel Beckwith

volume 5
issue 1



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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Readworks.org

Animals from Different Places

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

[Articles](#) [Book of Knowledge](#)

[Frogs Have Special Skin](#)

[Keeping Beers Out](#)

[A Shell is Great for Protection](#)

[Meet a Baby Panda](#)

[A Baby Polar Bear Grows Up](#)

[What Lives in the Desert?](#)

A Shell is Great for Protection

By ReadWorks (87 words)



All turtles have shells. Most turtles have hard shells.

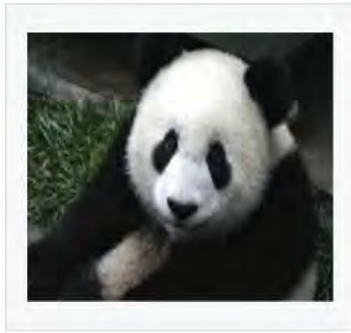
Hard shells protect turtles. A predator cannot bite the hard shell. Some turtles can pull their legs inside their shells. They can pull in their heads and tails too.

Shells come in many different shapes. Some shells are tall and round. Other shells are flat.

Sometimes cartoons show turtles leaving their shells. But... that cannot really happen! A turtle cannot leave its shell. The shell is attached to the turtle. It is a permanent part of its body.

Meet a Baby Panda

By ReadWorks (103 words)



In the United States, pandas live in zoos. Some baby pandas are born in the zoo.

At first, a baby panda does not look like its mother. It does not have much hair at all. Its eyes are closed. The baby drinks its mother's milk. The mother holds the baby in her paws.

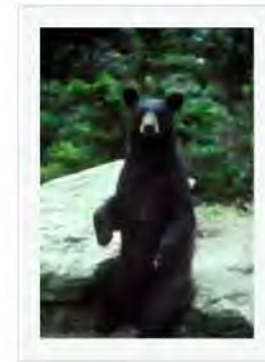
The baby grows quickly. Now it looks like its mother. Soon the little panda starts to eat bamboo. Bamboo is a kind of plant.

Then the panda spends less time with its mother. It likes to be on its own. It will climb trees. It will sit on their branches.



Keeping Bears Out

By ReadWorks (98 words)



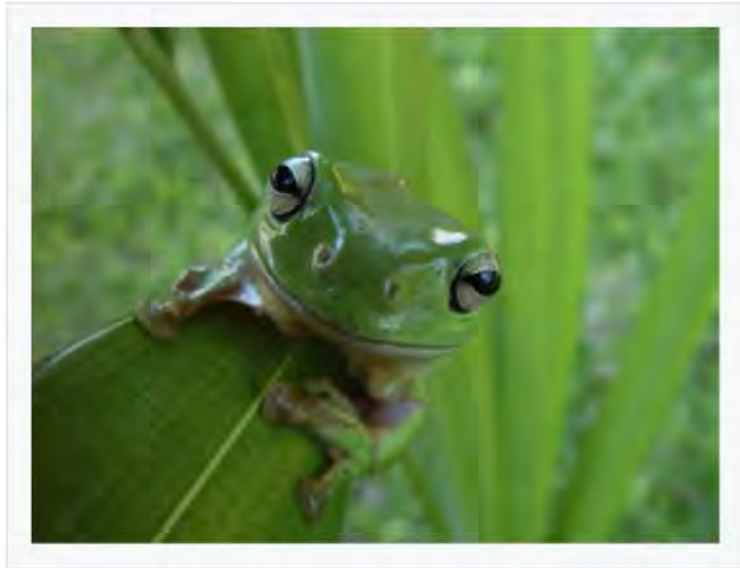
Wild bears live in many U.S. national parks. People visit the parks. People bring food when they camp out.

Hungry bears smell the food. They want to eat the food. Bears look for leftover food in trash cans. Bears look for food at people's campsites. That is a problem for people.

Park workers are trying to solve this problem. Workers have put out special garbage cans. The bears cannot break into the cans. Workers tell park visitors to use special boxes for their food. The boxes are metal. People must lock them. Bears cannot get into the boxes.

Frogs Have Special Skin

By ReadWorks (84 words)



Leon Brooks

Have you ever seen a frog in a pond? You can often spot one there. Most frogs live near water. They need to keep their skin wet.

A frog's skin is special. It makes a slimy coating that helps the frog stay wet. A frog drinks through its skin. It also breathes through its skin. A frog can do that only when its skin is wet.

Frogs also breathe using lungs. What else do frogs use lungs for? Frogs make noise. Ribbit!

What Lives in the Desert?

By Rachelle Kreisman (152 words)



A desert is a dry place with little rain. How little? A desert gets less than ten inches of rain each year. Some deserts are hot. A few can be cold. A desert is a habitat. A habitat is a place where animals and plants live.

Hot deserts are home to many kinds of living things. Animals living there include owls, snakes, lizards, and coyotes. Another hot desert animal is the kangaroo rat. It sleeps underground during the day, when the weather is hot. The kangaroo rat comes out at night, when it is cooler. Kangaroo rats get the water they need from food. They eat mostly seeds.

Some plants live in the hot desert. Only a few kinds of trees and bushes can survive there. One of the most common desert plants is the cactus. The cactus collects and stores water in its stem. Sharp spines protect most cacti from animals.



Clouds and Rain

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Earth & Space Science

1st Articles range from 220L to 790L Informational



Animals from Different Places

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Sports, Health & Safety, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

1st Articles range from 300L to 540L Informational



Jobs and Careers

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Geography & Societies, Sports, Health & Safety, School & Family Life, Arts & Culture, Technology & Engineering

2nd Articles range from 270L to 650L Informational



Health and Body

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Sports, Health & Safety, School & Family Life, Life Science

2nd Articles range from 480L to 710L Informational



Animal Senses, Safety, and Homes

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Geography & Societies, Life Science

2nd Articles range from 500L to 630L Informational

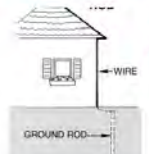


Exploring Continents

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

World History, Geography & Societies, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

2nd Articles range from 530L to 710L Informational



Inventions

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

Winter Season, Technology & Engineering

1st Articles range from 250L to 570L Informational



Amphibians and Reptiles

ARTICLE-A-DAY SET

U.S. History, Geography & Societies, Life Science, Earth & Space Science

2nd Articles range from 430L to 760L Informational

**120 curated sets
(6 unique texts per set)
for Grades K-2**

“Leveled” sets of same content texts

He was trained as an acrobat and for tightrope walking, and came to this country with a troupe of pantomimists [or people who act through body movements].

While here he visited Niagara Falls, and the idea at once struck him that, if he dared to cross those terrible waters on a rope, his fortune would be made.

Lexile: 1150
Sentence length: 20.9
Average Vocabulary Frequency: 3.70

He was trained as an acrobat and for tightrope walking. He came to this country with a troupe of pantomimists [or people who act through body movements].

When he visited Niagara Falls, an idea struck him at once. If he dared to cross those terrible waters on a rope, his fortune would be made.

Lexile: 870
Sentence length: 14.4
Average Vocabulary Frequency: 3.67

“Leveled” sets of same content texts

He was trained as an acrobat and for tightrope walking. He came to this country with a troupe of pantomimists [or people who act through body movements].

When he visited Niagara Falls, an idea struck him at once. If he dared to cross those terrible waters on a rope, his fortune would be made.

Lexile: 870
Sentence length: 14.4
Average Vocabulary Frequency: 3.67

He was trained as an acrobat and for tightrope walking. He came to this country with a troupe of pantomimists. They are people who act through body movements.

When he visited Niagara Falls, an idea struck him at once. What if he dared to cross those terrible waters on a rope? He knew his fortune would be made.

Lexile: 520
Sentence length: 8.69
Average Vocabulary Frequency: 3.66

Endangered koalas affected by forest clearing in Queensland

By Joshua Robertson, The Guardian (adapted by Newsela staff)
08.23.16

Grade Level 7
Word Count 682



A koala feeds on eucalyptus leaves in its new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo, May 20, 2015, in Singapore. Photo: AP/Wong Maye-E

In Queensland, Australia, the laws over cutting down trees were made less strict. As a result, new maps show that about 325 square miles of important koala forests have been destroyed. Two years ago, the koala, Australia's national icon, was listed as endangered.

The koala's homeland made up about 14 percent of all land cleared between 2013 and 2015. This is alarming, according to the conservationist groups the World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation.

Conservationist Groups Are Shocked

Deborah Tabart runs the Australian Koala Foundation. She said that the loss of that much land was "shocking given the recent statement that koalas are functionally extinct in various parts of Queensland."

Tabart asked how this could have been allowed when the koala was listed as endangered by the government in 2012. She thinks the federal government should have voted on the land clearing, instead of being passed quickly by the state government in Queensland.

World Wildlife Fund scientist Martin Taylor said they need to stop destroying the koala's home. Otherwise, there is no hope of saving Queensland's koalas.

Bill To Be Discussed By Parliament

A Queensland government bill will be discussed by parliament very soon. The bill would restore the controls on land clearing that were undone by the former Liberal National government. The Liberal National Party is the right-wing party in Queensland.

The government argues that land clearing reforms have been very important. They stopped pollution from running off into the Great Barrier Reef. The change convinced the international organization UNESCO to keep the natural wonder off its "in danger" list last year.

The proposed reforms have provoked strong opposition from the rural lobby AgForce. However, AgForce is not a political party, but a group in Queensland that attempts to persuade officials to make and vote for laws that benefit farmers. Other political parties oppose the bill as well. They include the Liberal National Party and two representatives from the smaller Katter Party. They are expected to vote against the bill.

Peter Wellington is an independent member of parliament, meaning he does not belong to any major Australian political party. His vote might decide whether the bill passes or not. Wellington was supposed to meet Greenpeace representatives before the parliamentary meeting began to accept a petition in favor of restoring controls against clearing. Almost 24,000 Queenslanders have signed the petition.

Earlier, about 200 people rallied outside parliament in favor of the laws.

Landowners Should Be Held Accountable

The Queensland law society has condemned part of the bill. The bill would not require landowners to provide proof that they did not unlawfully clear land. The current Queensland state government thinks this lets landowners off too lightly.

Last week, the government's environment department stopped clearing on a north Queensland property. They wanted to study how the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act has affected the Great Barrier Reef. The act was passed to protect the country's plants and animals.

One Queensland senator, Ian MacDonald, raised concerns about the federal government. He does not want it interfering in permits already granted by the state government.

Koala Homeland Being Cleared For Cattle Pasture

The mapping of the clearing of koala homeland is the result of joint work by the World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation. They compared state government surveys showing land use with the Australian Koala Foundation's koala population maps. The maps show that 91 percent of clearing was for cattle pasture.

About 180 square miles were cleared between 2014 and 2015, which is up from the 140 square miles cleared the year before.

The single largest amount of clearing took place in western Queensland. At 45 square miles, it was nearly double the amount cleared in the next-highest local government area.

There was also significant clearing of koala homeland in other rural areas. Almost all of the areas lie west of the Great Dividing Range, Australia's largest mountain range.

Clearing forests in Queensland has more than tripled since 2010. Between 2009 and 2010, 300 square miles were cleared. Between 2014 and 2015, 1,140 square miles of forests were cut down.

MAX

1200L

1030L

870L

600L



WRITE



QUIZ

Many forests where koalas live are being cut down

By Joshua Robertson, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff
08.23.16

Grade Level **3**
Word Count **299**



A koala feeds on eucalyptus leaves in its new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo, May 20, 2015, in Singapore. Photo: AP/Wong Maye-E

In Queensland, Australia, the government loosened some of its rules about cutting down trees. Many of the cleared forests were home to koalas. The koala has almost died out in Queensland.

Martin Taylor is a scientist. He said the koala's home forests need to be protected. If not, the nation's koalas cannot be saved.

Laws To Stop Cutting Down Trees

The Queensland parliament might pass a law to stop cutting down forests. Then it will not be so easy for people to chop down trees. In Australia, parliament makes the laws.

The government wants to stop too many people from cutting down trees. The forests help to protect the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is home to some of the world's most beautiful fish. Many people visit the reef. The government wants them to keep visiting.

Some people do not want the law to pass. They work for farmers who want the land for cattle. They will vote against it.

Many people in Queensland do want the new law. Almost 24,000 Queensland citizens signed a letter. The letter says the new law is needed. About 200 people stood outside parliament. They wanted to show support for the law.

Some people think the rules are not strong enough. Landowners will not have to show proof that they did not cut down forests. Some people think this lets them get away with it.

Lots Of Koala Homeland Is Gone

Many forests were cut down in the country. Almost all were west of the Great Dividing Range. The Great Dividing Range is Australia's largest mountain.

The World Wildlife Fund and the Australian Koala Foundation are working together to save the koala. They showed how much koala homeland has been lost. Much more land is being cleared now than just five years ago.

MAX

1200L

1030L

870L

600L



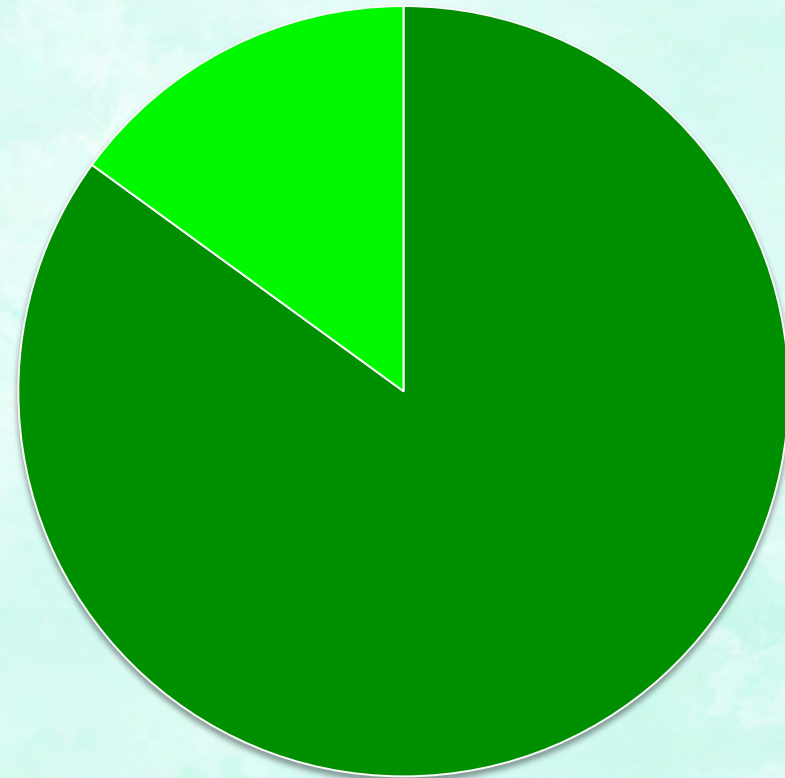
WRITE



QUIZ

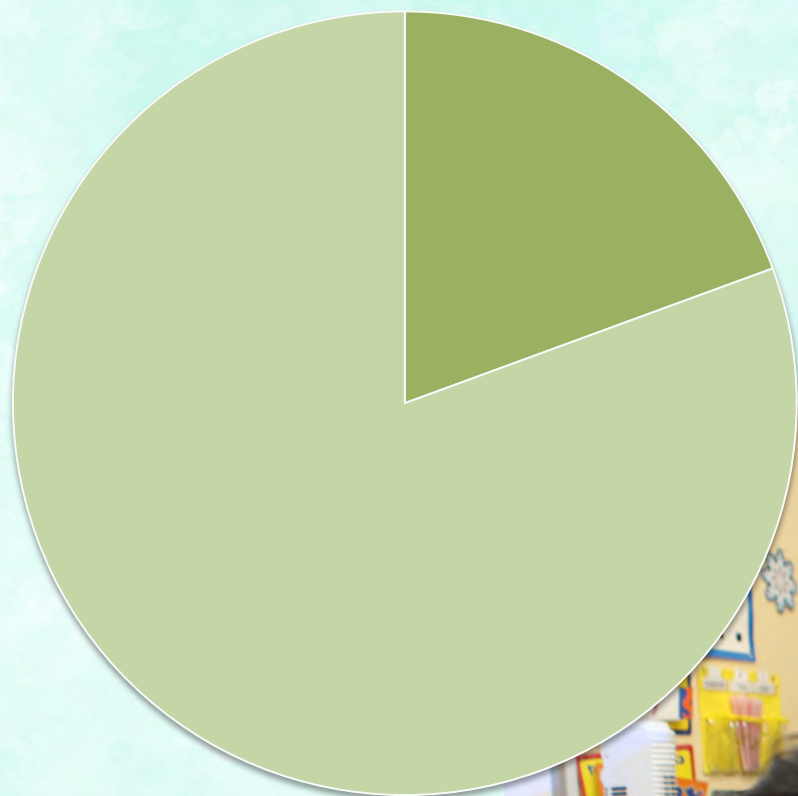
A photograph of a golfer in mid-swing on a golf course. The golfer is wearing a dark blue polo shirt, bright green trousers, a dark blue cap, and white golf shoes. They are captured in the follow-through phase of a swing, with the golf club extended behind them. The background features a wooden fence and lush green trees. The text "TASK MATTERS" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters with a black outline.

TASK MATTERS



■ Other activities ■ Reading

Swanson, Wanzek, McCulley, Stillman-Spisask, Vaughn, Simmons, Fogarty, & Hairrell, 2015.



■ Silent Reading

■ Listening, Following Along to Oral Reading





Toolkit

Talking
Points

For
Teachers

Conversations about New Words in New Texts

Why?

- Develop the understanding that every complex text has new, challenging vocabulary. Vocabulary instruction gives students the means for figuring out new words in text, not instruction in every single word that might appear in new texts.

When?

- Talks about the vocabulary of new texts need to occur across a school year (with extra doses prior to assessment periods).

How?

- Take a portion of the text (25 or 50 words is enough). Use a highlighter to mark the words in the 1,000-2,000 most-frequent words (list on textproject.org)
- Mark the words that are potentially challenging with a different colored highlighter. (List of 4,000 simple word families at: <http://textproject.org/classroom-materials/lists-and-forms/lists/word-zones-for-5-586-most-frequent-words/>)

--An example of a snippet of text for a board/projection is the following, which comes from a sample assessment for Grade 7

[http://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grade-7-reading-informational-text-\(Amelia-Earhart-2\)](http://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grade-7-reading-informational-text-(Amelia-Earhart-2))

When 10-year old Amelia Mary Earhart saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed. “It was a thing of rusty wire and wood and looked not at all interesting,” she said. It wasn’t until Earhart attended a stunt flying exhibition, almost a decade later, that she became seriously interested in aviation.

Text Chunking

- With middle graders about to read Chapter 8 of *Black Ships before Troy*, a purpose-setting question before reading the first 350 words might be: “Greeks turn to *cunning* to win the war. Read to identify evidence in the text that demonstrates what the Greeks meant by *cunning*.”
- After reading: “Find evidence in the text that tells how the Greeks used cunning.”

Celebrating Independence



The Canadian people celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 1.

Canada Day

On July 4th, the people of the United States celebrate their independence with parades and fireworks. On July 1st, the people of Canada²⁵ celebrate their own independence with parades and fireworks. On this day, called Canada Day, Canadians celebrate the day their national government was established.

Like the⁵⁰ United States, Canada began as a group of British colonies. Unlike the United States, however, Canada did not have a war to gain its independence⁷⁵ from Great Britain.

Instead, on July 1, 1867, the British North America Act gave the Canadian colonies the right to form their own national government.¹⁰⁰ Canada was the first country to gain its independence from Great Britain in this way. Since then, more than 50 other former colonies¹³⁴ have gained their independence from Great Britain in a similar way.



Celebrating Independence

Mexican Independence Day

Mexico's national celebration marks the beginning of its war for independence. During the night of September 15, 1810, Father Hidalgo rang the ²⁵ church bell in the village of Dolores. When the people of Dolores gathered in the plaza, Father Hidalgo made a speech that encouraged the people ⁵⁰ to fight for their independence. The speech ended with these words: "Mexicans, long live Mexico!" This call began Mexico's war of independence against Spain. The ⁷⁵ war lasted until 1821.

To celebrate their independence, Mexicans gather in plazas on the night of September 15th to hear the cry, "Mexicans, long live ¹⁰⁰ Mexico!" In Mexico City, the Mexican president gives this cry and rings the bell that Father Hidalgo rang in Dolores. People then spend the next day celebrating their independence with parades and fireworks. ¹³³

In Mexico City, the people celebrate their independence with fireworks.

Celebrating Independence



The people of the Philippine Islands celebrate their independence by raising their flag.

Independence Day in the Philippines

In the summer of 1898, the Spanish, who had ruled the Philippine Islands for hundreds of years, were defeated in²⁵ a war. The country that had won the war—the United States—then took over governing the Philippines.

For almost 50 years, the United States⁵⁰ guided the government of the Philippines. However, on July 4, 1946, the Philippine Islands became an independent nation.

Although the Philippine Islands gained its independence⁷⁵ from the United States on July 4th, the people of the Philippines decided to celebrate their independence on June 12th. That is because the national¹⁰⁰ flag of the Philippine Islands was first flown on June 12, 1898. This is the day that the people of the Philippines mark as the day when their country's independence really began.¹³²



Celebrating Independence

Freedom Day

In most countries, the national holiday celebrates the country's independence from the rule of another nation. Until recently, South Africa had a national²⁵ holiday of this kind. This holiday recognized South Africa's independence from Great Britain, which it gained in 1961.

The independence from Great Britain, however, did⁵⁰ not mean that all South Africans were free. The laws of South Africa favored white people. Black people had few rights, could live only in⁷⁵ certain places, and could not vote in national elections. Finally, on April 27, 1994, South Africa held its first national election in which all people¹⁰⁰ could vote.

South Africans now celebrate April 27th as their national holiday, not the day their country became independent of Great Britain. Freedom Day celebrates the day all South Africans gained their rights.¹³³

On Freedom Day, people in South Africa celebrate their independence with parades and dances.

Celebrating Independence



The French people celebrate their independence on Bastille Day with fireworks and parades.

Bastille Day

By 1789, many French citizens had become unhappy with their monarch, Louis XVI. France had been a monarchy, or a government ruled by²⁵ a king, for several hundred years. However, the people wanted to replace their monarchy with a government that would be fair to all citizens.

King⁵⁰ Louis XVI had put citizens who disagreed with him into a prison called the Bastille. For many French citizens, the Bastille was a symbol of⁷⁵ what was wrong with France.

On July 14, 1789, an angry mob stormed the Bastille and freed its prisoners. Soon after, the people overthrew the¹⁰⁰ monarchy and established a form of government called a republic. The republic gave French citizens their rights. Today, the French celebrate July 14th, Bastille Day, as the day their republic was born.¹³²

WHAT ARE SOLUTIONS?

Time, Text, & Tasks

Summary





TextProject



Strategies, tools, and texts to bring beginning readers and struggling readers to high levels of literacy

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