

# Skills-Based Reading

READING LEVEL 4-5

REM 952

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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# INTRODUCTION

The stories and activities in this book are designed to capture student interest as they build valuable word, comprehension, thinking, writing, and research skills. The selections range from 3.8 to 4.9 on the Fry Readability Scale.\*

Each story features vocabulary words to be introduced prior to reading. In addition to enhancing comprehension, they can be used for additional dictionary or writing practice.

The questions following each selection are labeled according to the primary skills they target. Consequently, you may choose to cover stories in sequence or according to their targeted skills.

The sections entitled "For Further Study/Writing Practice" provide research and writing activities for students desiring an extra challenge. At your discretion, students may write several sentences, paragraphs, or an entire page covering the suggested topic.

\* Readability scales are useful as long as one realizes their limitations. Results are guidelines only. Depending on the scales used, their results can differ from each other by several grade levels. Since readability scales measure word and sentence length, both valid readability factors, we at Remedia do use them. Using such scales also helps us provide vocabulary-controlled materials in order to meet the special education needs of many of our valued clients. At the same time, we realize that they are not designed to measure very other factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. We are also aware of the variance in standards and expectations set for each grade level. What is third grade level material in one school may be fourth grade level in another. At Remedia we strive to take all these factors into consideration as we develop and revise materials. We leave the rest in your capable hands. Regarding readability, you — and your students — will be the final judge.

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**WORD LIST****You've Got a Point There**

reeds  
cyl • in • der  
feath • er

re • fill  
hol • low  
e • ven • tu • al • ly

Ballpoint pens are very popular. They were invented by a man named Biro. They have a ball at the end of a tiny tube. The ink in the tube rolls around the ball when you write.



The very first pens were probably pieces of bone. These pens simply made marks on a wax tablet. Then about 300 B.C., the Greeks and the Egyptians made ink pens from hollow reeds filled with thick ink.

More than 200 years later, it was discovered that goose feathers made great pens. In fact, the word *pen* comes from the Latin word for feather - *penna*. The tip of the plucked feather was split. When dipped into ink, this split filled with ink. As a person wrote, the ink flowed out onto the paper.

Eventually a metal point was added to the writing tip. This point was called a *nib*. A nib held ink better than a feather. It also did not wear out as often.

In 1884, an American named Lewis Waterman invented the fountain pen. This pen was a round cylinder. An eyedropper was used to fill and refill the pen.

During World War II, a special kind of pen was needed. It had to work in all kinds of weather and all kinds of places. Pilots needed to use it while flying. Biro's ballpoint pen was perfect for pilots.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## You've Got a Point There

### SEQUENCE

Number the following events in the order they happened:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Biro invented the ballpoint pen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Greeks and Egyptians made pens from hollow reeds filled with ink.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lewis Waterman invented the fountain pen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Someone discovered that goose feathers made great pens.

### GETTING THE FACTS

Write I before the statement if it is true. Write E before it if it is false.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ The ballpoint pen was invented during World War I.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In 1884 an American invented the fountain pen.

### WORD ANALYSIS / VOCABULARY

Complete this sentence with the correct word.

3. The English word *pen* comes from the Latin word *penna*, which means \_\_\_\_\_ .

### GETTING THE FACTS

Answer this question.

4. The first pens were probably made out of what? \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter that best states the main idea of this story.

5. A. Pilots used ballpoint pens during World War II.
- B. People used many different ways to write until the ballpoint pen was invented.
- C. Ballpoint pens are very popular.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**GETTING THE FACTS**

Write one reason the "nib" was better than the feather for writing.

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ANALOGIES**

Complete the following statement:

7. *Waterman* is to *fountain pen* as *Biro* is to \_\_\_\_\_ .

**CAUSE AND EFFECT**

8. What type of weather would cause a fountain pen not to work well outdoors?

\_\_\_\_\_

For Further Study/Writing Practice:

Pens will not work without ink. Look up *ink* in the encyclopedia and write several sentences about who invented it and when they did.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WORD LIST**

vac • cine

re • search

par • a • lyzed

dread • ful

po • li • o

mus • cles

**Jonas E. Salk Defeats Polio**

The children were lined up in the school cafeteria. Only this time, they weren't in line for lunch. They were going to get shots! Some of them would get a shot with a vaccine. Others would get a harmless liquid. Only the people in charge knew who was getting what. It was 1954. The children were part of a test. It was going to try to prove that polio could be stopped. Polio was a dreadful disease of the muscles. It almost always left the person paralyzed.

The test was a success. People all over the world were glad. The news that a polio vaccine had been found spread quickly. The name of Dr. Jonas E. Salk spread throughout the world, too. He had led the search for the vaccine.

Salk was a quiet young doctor. He became one of the most famous scientists of his time. He was born in New York City in 1914. As a young boy, he read a lot and studied hard. He became interested in science. He decided to go into medical research. Dr. Salk started working on an anti-polio vaccine. He spent almost every waking hour in his laboratory.

For his work in helping to stop polio, Dr. Salk was given many awards. He took no money from the sale of the vaccine. He liked to tell people of one poet's words: "The reward of a thing well done is the opportunity to do more."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Jonas E. Salk Defeats Polio

### DICTIONARY SKILLS

Look up *anti* in the dictionary. Then choose the correct definition of *anti-polio vaccine*.

- A. Something that helped people get polio
- B. Something that kept people from getting polio

### CAUSE AND EFFECT / GETTING THE FACTS

2. What effect did polio have on those who got this disease? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CLASSIFYING INFORMATION / GETTING THE FACTS

3. Children who were part of the test for the polio vaccine were divided into two groups. What were the groups? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### EVALUATING INFORMATION

4. Do you think the polio test was a good one? \_\_\_\_\_

Write a sentence telling why or why not. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### MAKING INFERENCES

5. Dr. Salk took no money from the sale of his vaccine. Use two or three describing words to tell what kind of person he was.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTEXT CLUES / VOCABULARY**

Write two or three synonyms for *dreadful*. (You can tell what *dreadful* means by the words around it.)

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FACT / OPINION**

Write F on the line if it is a fact. Write O before the sentence if it is an opinion.

- 7. Dr. Salk was the best doctor who ever lived. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Polio paralyzed people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Dr. Salk received many awards for his work. \_\_\_\_\_

For Further Study/Writing Practice:

*President Franklin Roosevelt (F.D.R.)* was a famous American who had polio. Read about him in the encyclopedia. Write several sentences about his struggle with the disease.

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