

The Sunset Contest

Name _____ Date _____

Read these words first: Dustin · skate · contest · Fulton · sunset · after · trained · kickflip · simple · landed

Heart words: one · the · a · was · to · were · of · he · because · by · wanted · wild

1 Dustin had a plan. The skate contest at Fulton Park was at sunset, and he wanted to win it. For six weeks, he went to the park after class and trained his best trick, a kickflip.

2 The trick was not simple. At the start, Dustin landed it one time in ten. He felt upset, but he did not quit. He made a list of problems and fixed them one by one: his feet, his speed, his timing.

3 On contest day, the wind was strong and the stands were packed. Dustin's hands were damp. When it was his turn, he kicked off, rode up the ramp and jumped.

4 He landed it! The fans went wild. Dustin did not win. He came in third. But he grinned on the way home, because the trick that had seemed impossible was his at last.



The Sunset Contest: questions

☐ I read it.

☐ I read it again.

☐ I read it to someone.

What was Dustin's goal?

Dustin's goal was ...

How did Dustin get better at the trick?

Dustin got better by ...

Why do you think Dustin's hands were damp?

I think his hands were damp because ...

Did Dustin win? What place did he get?

Dustin came in ...

Why did Dustin grin all the way home?

Dustin grinned because ...

The Sunset Contest: answer key

Question	Answer
What was Dustin's goal?	To win the skate contest at sunset.
How did Dustin get better at the trick?	He trained after class for six weeks and fixed his problems one by one.
Why do you think Dustin's hands were damp?	He was nervous before his turn.
Did Dustin win? What place did he get?	No. He came in third.
Why did Dustin grin all the way home?	He landed the trick that had seemed impossible.

About this reading: for older students still building decoding: 140 words, longer words built from patterns taught through second grade (closed and open syllables, silent e, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, -tion, -le, endings). Heart words: one, the, a, was, to, were, of, he, because, by, wanted, wild.

The Robot That Would Not Move

Name _____ Date _____

Read these words first: robotics · final · robot · compact · silent · motor · began · panic · opened · panel

Heart words: the · a · to · their · one · of · she · would · move · ahead · was

1 Lena's robotics team had one final task: get their robot to pick up a block and drop it in a bin. The robot was compact and silent, with a motor in each wheel.

2 On the day of the final match, the robot began to spin and spin. It would not move ahead. The fans went silent.

3 Lena did not panic. She opened the panel and spotted a wire that was unplugged.

4 She fixed it with one twist. The robot zipped ahead, picked up the block and dropped it in the bin. The team did not win the match, but the panel gave Lena's team a prize for problem solving.



The Robot That Would Not Move: questions

☐ I read it.

☐ I read it again.

☐ I read it to
someone.

What was the robot's task?

The robot had to ...

What went wrong in the final match?

In the final match, ...

What did Lena spot?

Lena spotted ...

Why do you think the panel gave the team a prize?

I think they got a prize because ...

Did the team win the match?

The team ...

The Robot That Would Not Move: answer key

Question	Answer
What was the robot's task?	Pick up a block and drop it in a bin.
What went wrong in the final match?	The robot spun and spun and would not move ahead.
What did Lena spot?	A wire that was unplugged.
Why do you think the panel gave the team a prize?	Lena stayed calm and fixed the problem.
Did the team win the match?	No, but they won a prize for problem solving.

About this reading: for older students still building decoding: 109 words, longer words built from patterns taught through second grade (closed and open syllables, silent e, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, -tion, -le, endings). Heart words: the, a, to, their, one, of, she, would, move, ahead, was.

Pepper Comes Out

Name _____ Date _____

Read these words first: animal · shelter · named · Pepper · corner · kennel · afraid · needed · adopted · under

Heart words: the · a · of · to · was · would · come · could · said · one · cold · she · he · so · worker · new · her · by · out · shy · wanted

1 Nate wanted a dog for years. At the animal shelter, he met a shy black mutt named Pepper. Pepper hid in the corner of her kennel and would not come out.

2 A worker at the shelter said Pepper was afraid of new things and needed time.

3 Nate adopted Pepper. For the first week, she stayed under his bed. Nate did not rush her. He sat by the bed each evening and sang to her, so she could get used to him.

4 One evening, Nate felt a cold nose on his hand. Pepper had come out! She rested her chin on his leg and wagged her tail. It was the best evening of the year.



Pepper Comes Out: questions

☐ I read it.

☐ I read it again.

☐ I read it to someone.

Where did Nate meet Pepper?

Nate met Pepper ...

What did the worker say about Pepper?

The worker said ...

Why did Nate sing to Pepper by the bed?

Nate sang to her so ...

How do you know Pepper trusts Nate at the end?

I know because ...

What word tells how Pepper acted at the shelter?

The word is ...

Pepper Comes Out: answer key

Question	Answer
Where did Nate meet Pepper?	At the animal shelter.
What did the worker say about Pepper?	She was afraid of new things and needed time.
Why did Nate sing to Pepper by the bed?	So she could get used to him.
How do you know Pepper trusts Nate at the end?	She came out, rested her chin on his leg and wagged her tail.
What word tells how Pepper acted at the shelter?	Shy.

About this reading: for older students still building decoding: 114 words, longer words built from patterns taught through second grade (closed and open syllables, silent e, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, -tion, -le, endings). Heart words: the, a, of, to, was, would, come, could, said, one, cold, she, he, so, worker, new, her, by, out, shy, wanted.