Art was in the hospital. The nurse had just told him that he had been in a very bad crash. Art didn’t remember the crash. He had a hard time thinking. His arm was in pain.

A doctor came into the room. The nurse said, “He’s awake now.”

The doctor walked up to Art’s bed. “How do you feel?” she asked.

“I don’t know,” Art said. It was hard to think. “There’s a pain in my right arm. Why is it in a cast?”

“Our arm is broken,” the doctor said.

“That’s the arm I throw with,” Art said. “Is it bad? Will I be able to pitch soon?”
The doctor looked down. Then she stood up. “We should talk about this later,” she said. “Right now, you should get some sleep.”

“Tell me,” Art said. “Will my arm be okay?”

The doctor rubbed her chin. “I’m afraid not,” she said. “Your arm was broken in three spots. I don’t think you’ll ever be able to pitch again.”

“No,” Art said. “No, no.” He began to sob. Art wanted to curl up into a little ball and hide. He wanted to be somewhere else. He wanted to believe that he was having a bad dream.

But Art’s arm was in pain, and he kept hearing the words the doctor had said. “I don’t think you’ll ever be able to pitch again.”

The doctor sat next to him on the bed. “I know that I can’t say anything that will help,” the doctor said. “But you must be brave. You feel as if your life is over, but it has just begun. I know.”

Art looked up at the doctor. The doctor seemed to float in the tears that were coming from Art’s eyes. He turned from the doctor.

Art had been in the hospital for nearly two weeks. A lot of kids had come to visit him, but he didn’t see any of them. He told the doctor that he didn’t want to see anybody but his mom and dad.

Patty came to the hospital one day, but Art didn’t see her. He didn’t want her to see him with his broken arm. He didn’t want her to see him when he was in bed—all strapped up like a
baby. Two of the other kids who were in the car with Art were in the hospital, but Art didn’t want to see them.

On the day Art was to leave the hospital, the nurse asked if he would stop in and see his friends. “No,” he said. “I want to go home.” He wanted to be home. He wanted to be alone.

So he went home. His mom and dad came to the hospital to get him. His mom had been crying. His dad tried to be happy and tell jokes. But Art didn’t say much. He sat in the car and watched the road as his dad drove home.

Art didn’t go to school the next week. He sat. He didn’t eat much or sleep much. He just sat. He sat on the stairs. He sat in a chair. He even went down and sat near the pond for a while. But that made him sad. He felt like skipping stones across the pond, but then he remembered that he would never throw well again. So he went back to the stairs and sat.

His arm was still in a cast, and it itched. But he couldn’t scratch it. He tried to slap it, but it still itched. He scratched the outside of the cast, but that didn’t help. He wanted to get rid of that cast.

Art wanted to go away from his home and his school. But he didn’t know where to go. Two more weeks passed. Then it was time for the cast to come off. Art sat in the doctor’s office and watched the doctor saw the cast. As the doctor sawed, Art said to himself, “I hope she doesn’t saw my arm.”

The cast came off in two parts. Art’s arm felt funny. And it looked funny. It was thin. Art tried to bend it. It didn’t bend. He tried again. It bent an inch or two.
The doctor said, "Take it easy. We'll start giving that arm some work in a few days, but don't try to bend it too much."

Art looked at his arm and said to himself, "So that's the arm that struck out three Reds in one inning. I can't even bend the arm."
Write the answers to these questions:

1. What had happened to Art’s arm?

2. What did the doctor tell Art that made him start to sob?

3. Whom did Art see when he was in the hospital?

4. Name some people Art would not see when he was in the hospital.

5. After Art went home from the hospital, what did he do for the next week?

6. How did Art’s arm feel?

7. How did the doctor get the cast off Art’s arm?

The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.

- closer
- hardest
- jogged
- leaving
- speaker

Match the words and complete them.

- falling
- voice
- league
- should
- nurse
- lea
- se
- v
- ing
- ld

Write the 3rd sentence of Story 11.
Part 1
Write these words without endings.
1. nearly
2. speaker
3. leaving
4. winner
5. falling
6. mixed
7. skipped
8. smallest

Part 2
Match the words and complete them.

itched
flying
contest
noses
feared
con
ea
ing
itch
es

Part 3
Write the two words that make up each word.
1. handshake = __________________ + __________________
2. basketball = __________________ + __________________
3. somewhere = __________________ + __________________
4. spotlight = __________________ + __________________

Suffixes, compound words, word completion
**Things Take a Bad Turn**

Art was standing on the pitcher's mound. His hands felt cold. The fans were yelling and booing because he had dropped the ball. The catcher yelled to him, "Come on, Art. Just zip it right in here." He pounded his fist into his mitt.

Art stared at that mitt. He stared and stared. "Look at that mitt," he told himself. Now he was thinking the right way again. He said, "I'm going to zip that ball right into the mitt." He leaned back and shot the ball at the catcher's mitt. The batter didn't have time to start his swing. The catcher was on his seat.

"Strike one," the umpire called.

The fans began to say, "Did you see that?" Then the fans fell silent as Art reared back for his next pitch. "Zip—pow."

Down went the catcher again.

"Strike two."

"Wow!" the fans yelled. Then they waited for Art's next pitch.

Again Art heaved the ball so hard that the batter did not have time to swing. "Strike three. You're out."

The fans clapped and cheered.

Art struck out the next batter with three pitches.

The last batter took a swing at Art's fast ball, but he missed it by a foot.

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**A Note to the Parent**

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read _______________ Number of errors _______________

We read the story _______________ times.

(Parent's/Listener's) signature _________________________

Date _________________________
Art Feels Sorry for Himself

The cast had been taken from Art’s arm. And Art went back to school for the first time. Everybody tried to be friends. At least fifty kids told Art that they were sorry. But Art didn’t say much. He just nodded and walked away. He went to his botany class and sat down.

Patty was sitting in front of him. She turned around and held up a big red rose. “Here’s one that I raised,” she said. “What do you think of it?”

Art said, “It’s pretty. It’s very pretty.”

She smiled and turned back. Art didn’t like the way she acted. Why didn’t she say, “I’m sorry, Art”?

Patty didn’t even seem to care. Art would never pitch again, and she didn’t even care. After class, he walked up to her in the hall. He didn’t know what he would say to her, but he wanted...
to talk. He wanted to hear her say that she was sorry. Art said, "I had my cast taken off."
"I see that," she said.
Art said, "The doctor said that I'll never pitch again."
She stared at him. Then she asked, "Do you believe that?"
"Yes," Art said. "She's a doctor. She should know."
Patty said, "Do you want to believe that you'll never pitch again?"
Art said, "No. I want to pitch."

Patty said, "Tell yourself that you can pitch, and you will pitch."
"No," Art said. "I don't think so. I can hardly bend my arm."
Patty said, "Maybe you don't want to bend your arm. Maybe you want to feel sorry for yourself."
Art felt his cheeks getting red. "I don't feel sorry for myself," he said, and walked away from her.
But Art did feel sorry for himself. He kept thinking about what a shame it was that he would never pitch again. He kept thinking about what a shame it was that his arm had been broken. And he liked to hear people say, "I'm sorry, Art." It was a lot better than being lonely.

Art didn't talk to Patty for a month. He moped around school, and he moped around the farm. He went to the doctor's office three times a week. The doctor had him do exercises for his arm. Now Art could bend his arm almost all the way. But his arm was weak. It was so weak that he couldn't bend it when he held a heavy steel ball. The doctor told him that he should
exercise his arm at home every day, but Art didn’t feel like exercising. So his arm didn’t get very strong.

A year passed, and his arm was still not strong. Some of the kids in school still talked about how good Art had been at pitching, but they didn’t talk about him very much. And he didn’t talk to them very much. He went to class and worked pretty hard, but not too hard. He helped his dad, and he did a fair job, but not a good job. And he still felt sorry for himself.

Then one day something happened. He was walking near the pond when he saw Patty riding a horse on the dirt road that went past the pond.

“Hi, Art,” Patty called. She rode her horse next to him, stopped, and slid down from the horse.

She said, “What are you doing, skipping stones?”

“No,” Art said. “I don’t skip stones any more.”

“Why not?” she asked.

“My arm,” Art said. He felt himself getting mad. “I can’t throw any more.”

“Let’s see you try,” she said.

“No,” he said. “I can’t do it. At one time, I could skip a stone all the way across the pond. But that was when I had a good arm.”

“Let’s see how you do now,” she said.

“No,” Art said. “And I don’t want to talk about it any more.”
Lesson 12

1. Write 1, 2, or 3 in front of each sentence to show when these things happened in the story. Then write the sentences in the blanks.
   
   _____ Everybody tried to be friends with Art.
   _____ Patty asked Art to try skipping stones.
   _____ Patty told Art that he should tell himself that he could pitch again.

   1. __________________________

   2. __________________________

   3. __________________________

   Write the answers to these questions:

   1. How many kids told Art that they were sorry? __________________________

   2. How did Art feel about people saying they were sorry? __________________________

   3. How strong was Art’s arm after a year passed? __________________________

   4. One day Art was near the pond when he saw Patty. What was Patty doing? __________________________

   The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.

   broken
   driver
   hardly
   winner
   strapped
Part 1
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

Art didn’t talk to Patty for a month. He moped around school, and he moped around the farm. He went to the doctor’s office three times a week. The doctor had him do exercises for his arm.

Now Art could bend his arm almost all the way. But his arm was weak. It was so weak that he couldn’t bend it when he held a heavy steel ball. The doctor told him that he should exercise his arm at home every day, but Art didn’t feel like exercising. So his arm didn’t get very strong.

1. Art moped around school and around the farm. What does mope mean?

2. What did the doctor tell Art that he should do?

3. Why didn’t Art’s arm get very strong?

Part 2
Write these words with ed endings.

1. sail
2. clap
3. lean
4. pass
5. scratch

Part 3
Write these words with ing endings.

1. yell
2. think
3. sit
4. dream
5. drive

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He’ll Never Pitch Again

Art was in the hospital. The nurse had just told him that he had been in a very bad crash. Art didn’t remember the crash.

He had a hard time thinking. His arm was in pain.

A doctor came into the room. The nurse said, “He’s awake now.”

The doctor walked up to Art’s bed. “How do you feel?” she asked.

“I don’t know,” Art said. It was hard to think. “There’s a pain in my right arm. Why is it in a cast?”

“Your arm is broken,” the doctor said.

“That’s the arm I throw with,” Art said. “Is it bad? Will I be able to pitch soon?”

The doctor looked down. Then she stood up. “We should talk about this later,” she said. “Right now, you should get some sleep.”

“Tell me,” Art said. “Will my arm be okay?”

The doctor rubbed her chin. “I’m afraid not,” she said.

“You arm was broken in three spots. I don’t think you’ll ever be able to pitch again.”

“No,” Art said. “No, no.” He began to sob. Art wanted to curl up into a little ball and hide. He wanted to be somewhere else. He wanted to believe that he was having a bad dream.
Patty Challenges Art

Patty was making Art mad. She was trying to get him to skip stones, but he didn’t want to. He felt ashamed of himself.

Patty picked up a stone and smiled at him. She said, “If you’re so bad at skipping stones, I’ll bet I could beat you in a contest.” She looked out over the pond. She pressed her lips. Then she tossed the stone. “Plunk,” it went, and it sank. It didn’t skip one time.

Art smiled. He said, “That was pretty bad.”

She said, “I’ll do better with this next stone.” She picked up the stone, pressed her lips, and gave it a big toss. “Plunk.”

Art laughed. Then he said, “You’re not throwing the right way. You’ve got to get your arm down low so that you can skim the stone across the water.”

She picked up another stone and held her arm to her side. “Like this?” she asked.
Patty Challenges Art

Patty was making Art mad. She was trying to get him to skip stones, but he didn’t want to. He felt ashamed of himself.

Patty picked up a stone and smiled at him. She said, “If you’re so bad at skipping stones, I’ll bet I could beat you in a contest.” She looked out over the pond. She pressed her lips. Then she tossed the stone. “Plunk,” it went, and it sank. It didn’t skip one time.

Art smiled. He said, “That was pretty bad.”

She said, “I’ll do better with this next stone.” She picked up the stone, pressed her lips, and gave it a big toss. “Plunk.”

Art laughed. Then he said, “You’re not throwing the right way. You’ve got to get your arm down low so that you can skim the stone across the water.”

She picked up another stone and held her arm to her side. “Like this?” she asked.
“Sort of,” Art said.

She made a face and tossed the stone. It skipped once.

“There,” she said. “Let’s see you beat that.”

Art laughed. “That wouldn’t be very hard to beat.” He picked up a stone. He leaned to the side. His arm felt stiff and funny when he went to whip it back. He tried to swing fast, but his arm seemed to move very slowly.

The stone skipped three times. It went farther than Patty’s stone. But the stone went less than a third of the way across the pond. Art was thinking to himself, “At one time I could skip a stone all the way across the pond.”

Patty said, “That wasn’t bad, but I’ll bet I can beat it.” She picked up a flat stone, bent to the side, and let it fly. It went almost as far as Art’s stone.

Art picked up a stone. “I’ll make this one zip,” he said. He bent to the side and let it fly. It went over a third of the way across the pond.

“That was good,” Patty said. “Do you still think that you’ll never pitch again?”

Art sat down on the shore of the pond. He didn’t say anything for some time. Then he said, “At one time, I could skip a stone to the other side of the pond. Now I can’t skip it anywhere near the other side.”

Patty said, “But this is the first time you’ve thrown since you broke your arm. I’ll bet you that within a month you’ll be throwing a lot better. But you’ll have to work at it every day.”
Art said, “I once read that a bird with a broken wing never
flies as high again.”

Patty said, “Stop that. You’re not a bird. And you don’t have
a broken wing. They fixed your arm. You just have to start
being brave.”

Art glared at her. “What do you mean? What makes you
think I’m not brave?”

She grabbed his hand and gave it a squeeze. Then she said,
“You don’t like being you. You like being a pitcher. You like
being a show-off. You like feeling sorry for yourself. But you
don’t like being Art Garner.”

“That’s not right,” Art said. “I like being me.”

[2]

Patty said, “Then stop being ashamed of yourself. Stop
feeling sorry for yourself. Start working with yourself. You can
be a pitcher if you want to. Maybe you won’t be as good as you
were. Maybe you’ll have to work very hard. But if you set
yourself to do it, you can do it.”

For the next five days, Art kept thinking about what Patty
had said. On the fifth day, he said to himself, “She’s right. If I
want to be a pitcher, I’m going to tell myself that I can do it.
And then I will do it. I’ll work until I do it.”

On the next day, Art began to work. He began to exercise his
arm. He began skipping stones on the pond again. At first he
didn’t try to throw them very hard, but each day he heaved a
little harder.

[2]
1. Write the words.
   
   every + body = ___________________
   hand + shake = ___________________
   cheer + leader = ___________________
   some + where = ___________________
   steam + ship = ___________________

2. Write the name of the person each sentence tells about.
   Patty Art
   
   1. This person didn't want to skip stones.
   2. This person felt ashamed.
   3. This person wanted to have a stone-skipping contest.
   4. The first time this person tried to skip a stone, it didn't skip one time.
   5. This person said, "You just have to start being brave."
   6. This person had liked being a show-off.
   7. This person began to work, exercise, and skip stones.

3. Match the words and complete them.
   
   heavy           •
   exercise        •
   friends         •
   again           •
   once            •
   nds
   ag
   ce
   vy
   ex

4. Write the 3rd sentence of Story 13.
Part 1
Write the words.
out + side = ____________________________
any + where = __________________________
your + self = ____________________________
cheer + leader = ________________________

Part 2
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

Art said, "I once read that a bird with a broken wing never flies as high again."
Patty said, "Stop that. You're not a bird, and you don't have a broken wing. They fixed your arm. You just have to start being brave."
Art glared at her. "What do you mean? What makes you think I'm not brave?"

1. What did Art say about a bird with a broken wing? ____________________________________________

2. Art thinks that he is a bird with a broken wing. What does he mean by that? ____________________________

3. What did Patty tell Art that he should do? ____________________________________________

4. Art glared at Patty. What does glare mean? ____________________________________________

Part 3
Write these words without endings.
1. watched ____________________________ 5. skipped ____________________________
2. nodded ____________________________ 6. feeling ____________________________
3. taken ____________________________ 7. broken ____________________________
4. making ____________________________ 8. harder ____________________________

Making deductions, suffixes, compound words
Art Feels Sorry for Himself

The cast had been taken from Art's arm. And Art went back to school for the first time. Everybody tried to be friends. At least fifty kids told Art that they were sorry. But Art didn't say much. He just nodded and walked away. He went to his botany class and sat down.

Patty was sitting in front of him. She turned around and held up a big red rose. "Here's one that I raised," she said. "What do you think of it?"

Art said, "It's pretty. It's very pretty."

She smiled and turned back. Art didn't like the way she acted. Why didn't she say, "I'm sorry, Art"?

Patty didn't even seem to care. Art would never pitch again, and she didn't even care. After class, he walked up to her in the hall. He didn't know what he would say to her, but he wanted to talk. He wanted to hear her say that she was sorry. Art said, "I had my cast taken off."

"I see that," she said.

Art said, "The doctor said that I'll never pitch again."

She stared at him. Then she asked, "Do you believe that?"

"Yes," Art said. "She's a doctor. She should know."
Lesson 14

1
tch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>catch</td>
<td>pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itch</td>
<td>hatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match</td>
<td>catcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2
nearly brains hardly
floated call heaved

3
glared slowly watch quit curve
tested timing foot umpire halfway
tried cried signaled gripped there's
facts locker inning fly try league
throwing swing coach once player
flashing smartest guy blow
The Smartest Pitcher

Art became better, but it seemed very slow to him. After working for two months, Art could hardly throw a stone halfway across the pond. After six months, he could throw a stone a little more than halfway across the pond. After almost a year, he could make a stone skip pretty far—but not nearly as far as he had before he’d broken his arm.

Art went out for baseball the next spring. The first time he was on the pitcher’s mound, the boys on the team yelled, “Come on, Art. Set that catcher on his seat.”

Art heaved the ball just as hard as he could, but the catcher didn’t go down. Art didn’t have the same fast ball that he had before. The catcher didn’t drop his mitt and blow on his hand after catching one of Art’s fast balls.

Art wanted to quit the team after that first day. But when he was in the locker room, the coach came up to him. The coach sat down next to him and said, “Art, let’s look at the facts. You don’t have that flashing fast ball that you had before. But you can still become a good pitcher. You can make the ball curve. You can make the ball hop.”

The coach said, “Before, you didn’t have to make it curve or hop. You could just lay back and throw your fast ball. But now you’re going to have to think. Before you broke your arm, you would win games with your arm. Now you’re going to have to win games with your brains. Remember that—your brains.”
In the first game Art’s brain was tested. The test came in the first inning.

Art struck out the first batter with a fast ball. He started to think, “Maybe my fast ball has come back.” So when the next batter stepped up to the plate, Art reared back and let fly with another fast ball.

“Crack.” The batter hit the ball hard. It was a three-base hit.

Now Art was afraid. A player was on third base. There was one out. And Art didn’t have a flashing fast ball that would strike out the other batters.

The catcher jogged out and said to Art, “Just make the old brain work, Art. You can strike this next guy out. Just throw the kind of pitch he’s not looking for. Watch me. I’ll give you some signals.”

So Art watched the catcher. The catcher signaled for a slow curve. “No,” Art said to himself. “He’ll hit it out of the park.” Then Art began to think, “Maybe he won’t. Maybe he’s looking for a very fast ball. Maybe a curve will throw his timing off and make him miss the ball.”

So Art leaned back. He whipped his arm back just the way he did when he was throwing a fast ball. Then he let the ball go. But he didn’t throw it fast. He floated it. The batter swung and missed the ball by a foot.

The batter gripped the bat and glared at Art. Art smiled at the catcher. That seemed to make the batter madder than ever. The catcher signaled for a ball outside the plate. Art heaved the ball.
The batter started to swing before he saw that the ball was pitched outside. He missed. Now the catcher called for a fast ball. Art heaved it as hard as he could. “Strike three,” the umpire called.

Art struck out the next batter. In that game Art struck out 8 more batters, and Art’s team was the winner.

And that’s how Art got started years ago. Today he is a big league player. He’s not as good as he would have been if he hadn’t broken his arm. He’s not the best in the league. But he is one of the best. He’s happy because he’s doing something he likes to do. And he’s smart. He may not have the fastest fast ball in the big leagues. But they say he’s the smartest pitcher in the game.

And there’s one more thing. Art’s biggest fan is his wife, Patty.
1. Read the sentence and answer the questions.
In the first game, Art’s brains were tested.

1. Whose brains were tested? ____________________________
2. When were they tested? ____________________________
3. What happened in the first game?

2. Write the answers to these questions:
1. When Art went out for baseball, what did the boys on the team tell him to do?

2. What were some of the things that the coach told Art that Art could still do well?

3. The coach told Art that now he was going to have to win games by using something. What was he going to have to use?

4. What did the catcher tell Art?

5. What is Art doing today?

6. Who is Art’s wife and biggest fan?

3. The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.

   smartest ____________________________
   moped ____________________________
   nearly ____________________________
   rubbed ____________________________
   timing ____________________________

4. Write the word further. Make a box around ur. ____________________________

Write the word halfway. Make a line over half. ____________________________
Part 1
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

Now Art was afraid. A player was on third base. There was one out. And Art didn’t have a flashing fast ball that would strike out the other batters.

The catcher jogged out and said to Art, “Just make the old brain work, Art. You can strike this next guy out. Just throw the kind of pitch he’s not looking for. Watch me. I’ll give you some signals.”

So Art watched the catcher. The catcher signaled for a slow curve. “No,” Art said to himself. “He’ll hit it out of the park.” Then Art began to think, “Maybe he won’t. Maybe he’s looking for a very fast ball. Maybe a curve will throw his timing off and make him miss the ball.”

1. Art didn’t have his flashing fast ball. What is a flashing fast ball?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What did the catcher tell Art? ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. What kind of pitch did the catcher signal for?

4. Why could that kind of pitch trick the batter?

________________________________________________________________________

Part 2
Write the words. Items 1 and 3 are done for you.

1. I + will = I’ll

2. he + will =

3. did + not = didn’t

4. would + not =

5. is + not =

Conclusions, contractions
Part 3

Patty Challenges Art

Patty was making Art mad. She was trying to get him to skip stones, but he didn’t want to. He felt ashamed of himself.

Patty picked up a stone and smiled at him. She said, “If you’re so bad at skipping stones, I’ll bet I could beat you in a contest.” She looked out over the pond. She pressed her lips. Then she tossed the stone. “Plunk,” it went, and it sank. It didn’t skip one time.

Art smiled. He said, “That was pretty bad.” She said, “I’ll do better with this next stone.” She picked up the stone, pressed her lips, and gave it a big toss. “Plunk.” Art laughed. Then he said, “You’re not throwing the right way. You’ve got to get your arm down low so that you can skim the stone across the water.” She picked up another stone and held her arm to her side.

“Like this?” she asked.

“Sort of,” Art said. She made a face and tossed the stone. It skipped once.

“There,” she said. “Let’s see you beat that.” Art laughed. “That wouldn’t be very hard to beat.” He picked up a stone. He leaned to the side. His arm felt stiff and funny when he went to whip it back.

A Note to the Parent

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read ___________ Number of errors ___________

We read the story ___________ times.

(Parent’s/Listener’s) signature ________________________________

Date ________________________________

Reading fluency

28 Lesson 14
1

A   B   C
ir   girl   first
ur   fern   turn
er   hurt   thirst
       jerk   her

2

tch

A   B
match   itch
pitcher   catcher
catch   latch

3

flash   chin   also   right   reached   wallet

4

quite   escaped   president   watch   pay   driver
pockets   private   fare   moment   officer
blinked   duds   instant   twenty   hotel   wig
matter   hundred   bridal   taking   talking   security
glared   guy   faking   throw   bribe   woman
couldn’t   once   friend   without   somewhere
A Ride to the Docks

The con man and the president had escaped from the hotel. They were in a cab. The con man had gotten rid of his wig and his bridal dress. He was thinking, “The president is very odd. I must leave and hide somewhere.”

The president said to the cab driver, “Take us to the docks. We are going to take a trip on a ship because we want to leave this town.”

So the cab went to the docks. Then the driver said, “That will be six dollars.”

The president turned to the con man. “Private,” he said, “pay the driver.”

The con man said, “I don’t have any cash. But you have two hundred dollars.”

The president said, “Yes, yes. So I do.”

Then he reached into his pockets. “I can’t seem to find my cash,” he said after a moment. The president was faking. He said, “Stay here. I’ll be back in a flash with the cash.”

The president left the cab and walked up to a woman who looked very rich. The president said, “Where is your pass?”

The woman looked at the president and blinked. “What pass? I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

The president said, “I’m a security officer. You can’t be in this part of the docks unless you have a pass. Show me your pass, or I’ll have to lock you up.”
“But I don’t have a pass,” the woman said. “Nobody told me about a pass.”

“You had better come along with me, then,” the president said, and he grabbed the woman by the arm. He began to lead the woman to the cab.

The woman said, “Wait a moment, officer. Can’t I pay you for a pass? If I were to give you some money, couldn’t you take care of the matter for me?”

The president asked, “Are you trying to bribe a security officer?”

“No, no,” the woman said. “I would never think of doing that. I just had the idea that you might be able to get a pass for me.”

The president rubbed his chin. Then he said, “All right. Give me twenty dollars, and I’ll give you a pass. But you must remember that the pass is just good for today. If I ever see you in this spot again without a pass, I’ll throw you in jail.”

The woman said, “I’ll never be here without a pass. I was here to meet a friend who was—”

“Just give me the twenty bucks,” the president said.

“Yes, sir,” the woman said. She got her wallet and handed the president twenty dollars.

The president stuck the money in his pocket. Then he took out a pen. “Give me your hand,” he said to the woman.

The woman held out her hand, and the president made a big X on the back of the woman’s hand. “There,” the president said. “Just show that X to any cop who tries to stop you.”
“Oh, thank you very much,” the woman said.
The president went back to the cab. He asked the driver,
“How much was the fare?”
“Six dollars,” the cab driver said.
“Here you are, driver,” the president said. He handed the cab
driver ten dollars. Then he said, “Keep it all.”
“Thank you,” the driver said.
“That’s quite all right,” the president said. He smiled.

Then the president turned to the con man and said, “Private,
do you plan to sit in that cab all day? There is no spot in my
army for those who sit around.”
The con man started to say, “But I was just waiting—”
“Hush up,” the president said. “Get out of the cab this
instant.”
The con man got out of the cab. He was thinking to himself,
“I must find a way to get away from this guy.”
The president said, “Before we leave on our trip, we must get
some fine duds. Who would think of going on a trip without
fine duds?”
1. Write the answers to these questions:
   1. Where did the president tell the cab driver to take them?
   2. The president went up to a woman. What did he ask her?
   3. What did the president tell the woman that he was?
   4. What did the president tell the woman he would do if she didn’t have a pass?
   5. How was the woman trying to bribe the president?
   6. How much did the president tell the woman that the pass would cost?
   7. How did the president show that the woman had a pass?
   8. How much money did the president give the cab driver?

2. The words in the first column have endings. Write the same words without endings in the second column.
   filed
   gripped
   player
   cleanly
   moping

3. Write the word catch. Make a line under tech. Write the word coach. Make a box around oa.
Part 1
Write these words with **er** endings.
1. speak
2. pitch
3. fast
4. bat

Part 2
Write these words with **ing** endings.
1. talk
2. start
3. stop
4. think

Part 3
Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.

The president was standing next to the cab. He said to the con man, “Get out of that cab this instant.”

The con man got out of the cab. He was thinking to himself, “I must find a way to get away from this guy.”

The president said, “Before we leave on our trip, we must find some fine duds. Who would think of going on a trip without fine duds?”

1. The president told the con man to get out of the cab this instant. What does **this instant** mean?

2. What does the con man want to do?

3. What are **fine duds**?

Part 4
Write these words without endings.
1. driver
2. faking
3. taken
4. escaped
5. smiled
6. grabbed

Suffixes, conclusions

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Part 5

The Smartest Pitcher

Art became better, but it seemed very slow to him. After working for two months, Art could hardly throw a stone halfway across the pond. After six months, he could throw a stone a little more than halfway across the pond. After almost a year, he could make a stone skip pretty far—but not nearly as far as he had before he'd broken his arm.

Art went out for baseball the next spring. The first time he was on the pitcher's mound, the boys on the team yelled, "Come on, Art. Set that catcher on his seat."

Art heaved the ball just as hard as he could, but the catcher didn't go down. Art didn't have the same fast ball that he had before. The catcher didn't drop his mitt and blow on his hand after catching one of Art's fast balls.

Art wanted to quit the team after that first day. But when he was in the locker room, the coach came up to him. The coach sat down next to him and said, "Art, let's look at the facts. You don't have that flashing fast ball that you had before. But you can still become a good pitcher."

A Note to the Parent

Listen to the student read the passage. Count the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors.

Number of words read ___________ Number of errors ___________

We read the story ___________ times.

(Parent's/Listener's) signature ____________________________________

Date ________________________________