Read Grade 5 Text With Fluency

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

The Piano Tuner's Helper

Zainab's aunt, Farida, tuned pianos for a living. For one week in July, Zainab rode along in her aunt's blue van as an assistant. Her main job was to carry the tool bag and read the customer notes aloud.

The first stop was a tall, narrow house on Elm Court. Mr. Lindqvist, a retired music teacher, met them at the door. He was ninety-one and spoke slowly, but his eyes were bright.

"The A above middle C is flat," he announced. "I can hear it. My ears are old, not broken."

Aunt Farida laughed. "Let's find out." She handed Zainab the tablet with the notes. "Read me the history, please."

Zainab read the first entry. "March 2019. Piano tuned to standard pitch. Bass strings replaced. Customer requests a slightly brighter sound in the upper octaves."

She stopped at "octaves." Was it "oc-TAVES" or "OC-tivs"? She looked at her aunt.

"OC-tivs," Aunt Farida said. "An octave is the distance from one note to the next note with the same name, like C to the next C."

Zainab kept reading. The next entry was harder. "September 2022. The A string vibrated at 437 hertz instead of the standard 440 hertz, so it sounded slightly flat. Pins tightened; string adjusted."

She slowed down without being told. The numbers were close together, and she wanted to read them exactly. A difference of three hertz was the whole problem, so the three had to be clear.

Aunt Farida pressed the A key and held a small electronic tuner near the strings. A needle on the screen leaned left of the center line.

"Four thirty-eight," she read. "Mr. Lindqvist, you were right. It's flat again."

"Of course I was right," he said, but he looked pleased.

While her aunt worked, turning each tuning pin a tiny bit with a lever, Zainab read the last part of the note. "Customer prefers a light touch. Do not over-tighten pins, especially in humid weather, when the wood swells."

At first she read "wood swells" as "wood smells." She paused. Why would the smell of wood matter to tuning? She looked again. "Swells," she corrected herself. "The wood gets bigger when the air is damp. So the pins get tight."

"Exactly," Aunt Farida said. "Good catch."

Twenty minutes later, the needle sat right on the center line. Aunt Farida stepped back. "Mr. Lindqvist, would you like to test it?"

The old teacher sat down, rested his fingers on the keys, and played a slow, gentle melody. Then he played it again, faster and brighter, the notes rising like a flock of birds.

"Now it sings," he said quietly.

In the van, Zainab typed a new entry into the notes. Before saving it, she read it aloud, slowly and clearly, the way she had learned to read the others. "July 2026. A string returned to 440 hertz. Customer satisfied. Customer was right."

1. Mr. Lindqvist says, 'My ears are old, not broken.' Which pair of words should a reader stress to show the contrast?

My … broken My … are ears … not old … broken

2. Why was it useful that Aunt Farida explained what an octave is, not just how to say it?
   Zainab would need to tune the octaves by herself.
   Mr. Lindqvist had asked to hear a definition.
   Knowing the meaning lets Zainab read the note with understanding.
   The word appears in every entry of the notes.

3. Why did Zainab slow down for the September 2022 entry?
   It had a word she could not pronounce.
   Her aunt told her to read it slowly.
   It was the oldest entry in the notes.
   Its close numbers were the key to the problem.

4. Which reading of 'Do not over-tighten pins, especially in humid weather, when the wood swells' groups the words best?
   Do not over- / tighten pins especially in / humid weather when the / wood swells.
   Do / not over-tighten pins especially in humid / weather when / the wood swells.
   Do not over-tighten pins, / especially in humid weather, / when the wood swells.
   Do not over-tighten / pins especially / in humid / weather when the wood swells.

5. What made Zainab realize she had misread 'swells'?
   Her aunt stopped her and gave her the word.
   The word was underlined in the notes.
   Mr. Lindqvist laughed when she read it.
   The smell of wood had nothing to do with tuning.

6. Which words from the text help explain what humid means?
   a slightly brighter sound a light touch a tiny bit with a lever when the air is damp

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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