

Name: _____

Walking on Air: The Art of the High Wire

High-wire walking is an exciting circus act. It means walking along a thin wire stretched high above the ground. Performers move carefully, using their arms to keep balance. They always watch each step, because even a small mistake could be dangerous.

To learn this skill, people must practice for many hours. It takes strong feet, a steady head, and lots of focus. Even though it seems almost impossible, high-wire artists work together in groups to help each other. They never give up, even if they feel nervous or scared.

The high wire is both thrilling and risky. Watching someone walk on a wire far above the ground is an amazing sight. It shows how brave and determined people can be.



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Walking on Air: The Art of the High Wire

High-wire walking is an exciting circus act. It (8)

means walking along a thin wire stretched high (16)

above the ground. Performers move carefully, using (23)

their arms to keep balance. They always watch each (32)

step, because even a small mistake could be (40)

dangerous. (41)

To learn this skill, people must practice for many (50)

hours. It takes strong feet, a steady head, and (59)

lots of focus. Even though it seems almost (67)

impossible, high-wire artists work together in (73)

groups to help each other. They never give up, (82)

even if they feel nervous or scared. (89)

The high wire is both thrilling and risky. (97)

Watching someone walk on a wire far above the (106)

ground is an amazing sight. It shows how brave and (116)

determined people can be. (120)

Comprehension Questions:

Literal Question:

What is high-wire walking?

Answer:

Walking along a thin wire high above the ground.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Inferential Question:

Why do you think practice is important for high-wire artists?

Answer:

It helps them stay safe and balanced.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Vocabulary Question:

What does 'thrilling' mean in this passage?

Answer:

It means exciting or amazing.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Notes:

Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL P Grade Level: 3 Word Count: 120

Total Words Read: _____

Errors: _____

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) _____

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: _____ / 3 correct

How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. **Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.**
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- **Stop the student when one minute has passed.** Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the **Scoring Guide**. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
^ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric	1	2	3	4
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Level Norms (WCPM) *							
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

Fluency Builder: Walking on Air: The Art of the High Wire

Passage Details

Grade Level: 3

Reading Level: F&P GRL P

Word Count: 120

High-Frequency Words

above, always, almost, both, together

Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

- Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

- Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:
"Describe how you would feel walking on a high wire."
"What would you do to prepare for a circus performance?"

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)