

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Super Squirrels: Clever Climbers of the Trees

Squirrels are small animals that live near trees. You might see a group of them running along branches high above the ground. Squirrels have strong back feet that help them jump far from tree to tree. Their bushy tails almost always help them balance as they climb and run.

Squirrels eat many kinds of food. They like nuts, seeds, and sometimes fruit. If they find enough food, they might hide some under leaves or in the ground to eat later. Squirrels are clever and can figure out ways to get food, even if it is hard to reach.

These busy animals are fun to watch. If you see one in your yard or a city park, take a moment to notice how fast and smart it is.



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Super Squirrels: Clever Climbers of the Trees

Squirrels are small animals that live near trees. (8)

You might see a group of them running along (17)

branches high above the ground. Squirrels have (24)

strong back feet that help them jump far from tree (34)

to tree. Their bushy tails almost always help them (43)

balance as they climb and run. (49)

Squirrels eat many kinds of food. They like nuts, (58)

seeds, and sometimes fruit. If they find enough (66)

food, they might hide some under leaves or in the (76)

ground to eat later. Squirrels are clever and can (85)

figure out ways to get food, even if it is hard to (97)

reach. (98)

These busy animals are fun to watch. If you see (108)

one in your yard or a city park, take a moment to (120)

notice how fast and smart it is. (127)

### Comprehension Questions:

#### Literal Question:

What do squirrels like to eat?

#### Answer:

Nuts, seeds, and sometimes fruit.

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

#### Inferential Question:

Why do you think squirrels hide food for later?

#### Answer:

So they have something to eat when food is hard to find.

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

#### Vocabulary Question:

What does 'almost' mean in the passage?

#### Answer:

Nearly or very close to.

#### Student Answer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct \_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

### Notes:

### Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL N    Grade Level: 3    Word Count: 127

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
<b>Expression and Volume</b>	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
<b>Phrasing</b>	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
<b>Smoothness</b>	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
<b>Pace</b>	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
<b>First</b>	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	<b>Fourth</b>	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
<b>Second</b>	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	<b>Fifth</b>	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
<b>Third</b>	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	<b>Sixth</b>	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

\* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

## Fluency Builder: Super Squirrels: Clever Climbers of the Trees

### Passage Details

Grade Level: 3

Reading Level: F&P GRL N

Word Count: 127

### High-Frequency Words

above, almost, along, under, enough

### 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 a time you saw a squirrel. What did it do?"  
"Why do you think squirrels are good at climbing trees?"

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!)