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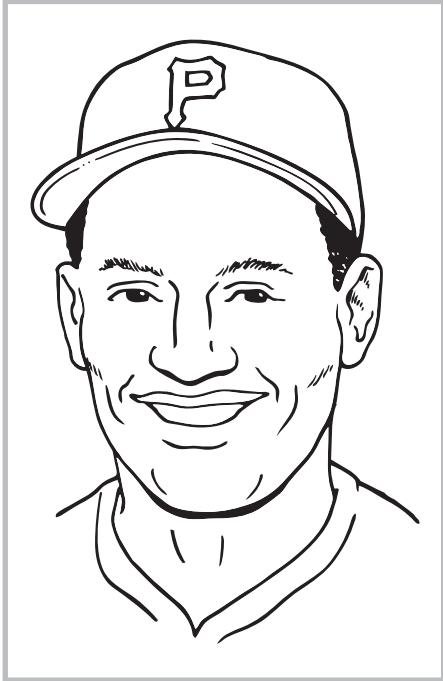
# Paired Reading Passages

Grade 4



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# A Baseball Great



A scout asked Roberto Clemente to join a baseball team. Why did the scout ask Roberto to join the team? The scout had not seen Roberto hitting a ball with a bat. Roberto did not have a ball or a bat. The scout had seen Roberto hitting empty tomato cans. Roberto was hitting the cans with a stick. The scout was impressed by how far Roberto could hit the cans.

Roberto was born on August 18, 1934. He was born in Puerto Rico. Growing up, Roberto could not afford real baseball equipment. He did not have the money. Instead, Roberto made his own equipment. He wrapped an old coffee sack around his hand. That was his glove. He tied a wad of rags together. That was his ball. He carved a stick from a tree. That was his bat. Sometimes Roberto would be so busy playing baseball that he would forget to eat.

Roberto went from the scout's team to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates. One time, Roberto complained about a sore foot before a game. During the game, Roberto scored by running all the way from first base to home plate on a pop-up single. What did Roberto say about scoring? He said, "My foot was sore. I ran all the way home so I could rest it on the bench."

# The Vertical Race

Max lived in an apartment building with an elevator. If Max and his mother needed to go up or down, Max's mother would use the elevator, but Max wouldn't. Instead, Max would wait for the doors to close. Then he would race the elevator!

Max would run up or down the stairs as fast as he could. He would try to get up to his apartment floor or down to the lobby before his mother got there.

One time, a neighbor saw Max racing up the stairs. The neighbor was a track coach. The neighbor said, "Max, you are fast! If your mother says it is okay, you can run in the 'Go Vertical Chicago' race with me." Max knew that when something is vertical, it goes straight up and down. Max didn't know how a race could be vertical, but he said he'd run.

What was the "Go Vertical Chicago" race? It was a race to the top of the Sears Tower! It was up 2,109 steps! Max finished, but he did not win. Max said, "I liked feeling like I was running straight up so much that I'm going to race again next year. I'm going to try and beat this year's winning time. I'm going to try and climb all those steps in less than 13 minutes and 42 seconds!"



# Show What You Know

Answer the questions on “A Baseball Great” and “The Vertical Race.”  
You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

- You could tell that Roberto really liked to play baseball because**
  - he scored on a pop-up single.
  - he was born in Puerto Rico in 1934.
  - he could hit empty cans far with a stick.
  - he would forget to eat when he was playing.
- What time will Max try for next year out of the scores below in the “Go Vertical Chicago” race?**
  - 13 minutes and 41 seconds
  - 13 minutes and 42 seconds
  - 41 minutes and 13 seconds
  - 42 minutes and 13 seconds
- What do Roberto and Max have in common?**
  - They both grew up in an apartment building in Puerto Rico.
  - They both raced home, trying to get there before their mothers.
  - They both could not afford proper equipment so they made their own.
  - They both were asked to do something because of what another person saw them doing.
- If Roberto had run the ‘Go Vertical Chicago’ race, most likely, he would have**
  - stopped and rested on a bench.
  - practiced on any stairs he could find.
  - only practiced on the Sears Tower stairs.
  - wanted to go slower than the winning time.
- The story about the vertical race is fiction. It is made up, but it has real life facts in it about the ‘Go Vertical Chicago Race’. What answer is least likely to be a real life fact?**
  - The race is up 2,109 steps.
  - The race takes place in the Sears Tower.
  - The race started when the elevator doors closed.
  - The winning race time was once 13 minutes, 42 seconds.

# Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Fill in the chart about Roberto's equipment.

Equipment	Made from	How made
ball		
bat		
glove		

7. List in order what happens in the story. Use the numbers 1 to 5. Put 1 by what happened first. Put 5 by what happened last.

\_\_\_\_\_ Max decides to race again next year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Neighbor asks Max to run in race.

\_\_\_\_\_ Max races the elevator.

\_\_\_\_\_ Max runs up 2,109 stairs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Neighbor sees Max running up stairs.

Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "A Baseball Great" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. "The Vertical Race" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Think about how Roberto and Max practiced for baseball and the race. Write one paragraph telling how you can practice for a sport on your own.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# The Walking City

It wasn't fair. People had to pay the same fare. Everyone in Montgomery, Alabama, had to pay the same price to ride the bus, but everyone was not treated the same. People of color had to sit in the back of the bus. They could not sit in the front. Only white people could sit in the front. Black people had to crowd in the back.

One day, in 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus when a white man wanted to sit in her row. Rosa was arrested. People were upset. Rosa was a hardworking seamstress. She paid the same fare as the white man. Why should she have to give up her seat?

People started a boycott. A boycott is when people join together. They refuse to buy, sell, deal with someone, or use something. So many people boycotted the buses that Montgomery began to be called "The Walking City." For over a year, people walked. They walked great distances. They walked in all kinds of weather.

The bus companies said they would never give in. They would not treat everyone the same. But as the boycott went on, the bus companies had to do something. They were losing money. They needed more riders. The bus companies agreed to treat everyone the same so the boycott would end.



# Making Strong from Weak



Long ago, a man had three sons. The three sons were constantly fighting, trying to see which one was the strongest. Tired of the constant fighting, the man decided to teach his sons a lesson.

First, the man went out and collected some sticks and laid them out on the floor. The sticks were not big or strong. They were thin and weak, but there were a lot of them. Then the man called his sons over and said, “You think you are strong, but these sticks are stronger than you.”

When the man’s three sons heard this, they doubled over with laughter. “Father,” they said, “we are big and our backs are broad. How can you say those thin, tiny

sticks are stronger than us? Why, we could snap each stick in two with just our smallest fingers!”

As his sons laughed uproariously, the man quietly gathered up the sticks. He made them into one, thick bundle. He said, “You could break each individual stick with your smallest fingers, but what can you do when all the sticks are bound together into one bundle?”

The sons tried with all their might to break the bundle in two, but they could not. “You see,” said the father, “Strength does not come in fighting each other. It comes in sticking together.”

# Show What You Know

Answer the questions on “The Walking City” and “Making Strong from Weak.”  
You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

- 1. For how long did people boycott the buses in Montgomery?**
  - (A) for over a day
  - (B) for over a week
  - (C) for over a month
  - (D) for over a year
- 2. What were the sticks like that the man collected?**
  - (A) big and thick
  - (B) thin and weak
  - (C) strong and tiny
  - (D) small and broad
- 3. What do both stories have in common?**
  - (A) They both are about treating people the same.
  - (B) They both are about sticks and making bundles.
  - (C) They both are about strong people and boycotts.
  - (D) They both are about joining or sticking together.
- 4. What answer is not a reason why the bus companies had to pay attention to the boycott?**
  - (A) Many people joined the boycott.
  - (B) People were constantly fighting.
  - (C) Fewer people were paying bus fares.
  - (D) The boycott went on for a long time.
- 5. The father wanted his sons to learn**
  - (A) that they could be stronger.
  - (B) that they could be boycotted.
  - (C) that they could be snapped in two.
  - (D) that they could be treated the same.



# Show What You Know (cont.)

## 6. Fill in the boxes.

1. What led to the boycott?

2. What started the boycott?

3. What happened during the boycott?

4. How did the boycott end?

## 7. List in order what happens in the story. Use the numbers 1 to 6. Put 1 by what happened first. Put 6 by what happened last.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Man makes sticks into bundle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Man collects sticks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Man's sons could not break bundle of sticks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Man's sons laughed uproariously.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Man's sons are constantly fighting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Man said that the sticks were stronger than his sons.

**Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.**

8. "The Walking City" \_\_\_\_\_

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9. "Making Strong from Weak" \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Write one paragraph telling how the people who walked in Montgomery were like the sticks in the story "Making Strong from Weak."

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# Answer Key

## Unit 1

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. what: birds at the airport; where: airport in Florida; when: early morning and night; why: damage to birds and planes; how: Jet hired to clear runways
7. 4,2,1,5,3

## Unit 2

1. D
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. ball: wad of rags, tied together; bat: stick, carved from tree; glove: old coffee sack, wrapped around hand
7. 5,3,1,4,2

## Unit 3

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. A: 2; B: 3; C: 1
7. 3,2,5,1,4

## Unit 4

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. in Italy, white marble, floors of alternating arches and columns, 193 feet (59 m) tall, 17-foot (5 m) lean, built on soft soil

7. Entry 1: June 16; Venice; no; canals, 400 bridges; Entry 2: June 18; Rome; yes; Colosseum

## Unit 5

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. zookeeper: a bear is out of its cage; zoo visitor: zoo has a bear named Ralph Ned, or Ralph Ned has a bear
7. 1: Tiger escapes from zoo; 3: Grandpa scratches tiger; 5: Grandpa pushes tiger into cage.

## Unit 6

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. 1—always chosen last for teams; 2—starts skiing; 4—leg amputated; 6—wins races all over the world
7. ring—emerald, jade cup; bracelet—pearl, silver box; necklace—diamond, gold chest; fishhook—bone, wooden box

## Unit 7

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. Wookie—mix of walrus and other animal vocalizations; landspeeder—roar of a freeway in the city of

Los Angeles was recorded through a vacuum-cleaner pipe; lightsaber—blend of sounds of old 20th century TV and old 35mm movie projector

7. 5,3,6,1,4,2

## Unit 8

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. 1: People paid the same fare. People of color not treated the same. Black people had to sit in the back of the bus. 2: In 1955, Rosa Parks would not give up her seat for a white man. 3: People walked great distances for over a year in all kinds of weather. 4: Bus companies agreed to treat everyone the same because they were losing so much money.
7. 5,2,6,4,1,3

## Unit 9

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. A
6. 6,3,1,4,2,5
7. where: the Alaskan wilderness; when: when she was little; what: racing in the Iditarod; why: a terrible blizzard blew up with a fierce wind; how: more alive than she had ever felt before in her life