

Cover to Cover 1

Reading Comprehension and Fluency

Richard R. Day and Junko Yamanaka

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Contents

	Reading Text	Reading Skill	Vocabulary
Unit 1 Marriage page 1	1 To Marry or Not to Marry?	Finding Main Ideas in Paragraphs	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 1 page 10	2 The Couple That likes Weddings	Scanning	Antonyms
	The Withered Arm	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 2 Sleep page 15	1 Getting Enough Sleep	Identifying Meaning from Context	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 2 page 24	2 The Experts Are Wrong!	Skimming for the Main Idea	Word Formation
	The President's Murderer	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 3 The Supernatural page 29	1 An Extra Sense?	Finding Main Ideas in Paragraphs	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 3 page 38	2 Unlucky for Some?	Predicting the Topic	Prefixes
	The Phantom of the Opera	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 4 Online page 43	1 Not All Fun and Games?	Recognizing Points of View	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 4 page 52	2 The Internet: How Secure Is It?	Ignoring Unknown Words	Phrasal Verbs
	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 5 Culture page 57	1 Learning in America	Recognizing Reference Words	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 5 page 66	2 A Team Player	Skimming for the Main Idea	Compound Nouns
	Pocahontas	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 6 Age page 71	1 The Secret to a Long Life	Identifying Meaning from Context	Vocabulary in Context
Extensive Reading 6 page 80	2 A Cure for Aging?	Recognizing Signal Words	Antonyms
	Christmas in Prague	Reading Faster and More Fluently	

	Reading Text	Reading Skill	Vocabulary
Unit 7 Survivors page 85	1 Survival After Eight Days at Sea 2 An Unlikely Friendship	Finding Main Ideas in Paragraphs Predicting the Topic	Vocabulary in Context Word Formation
Extensive Reading 7 page 94	The Wizard of Oz	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 8 Looking Good page 99	1 The Thin Line Between Beauty and Health 2 Just Ask!	Recognizing Points of View Scanning	Vocabulary in Context Idioms
Extensive Reading 8 page 108	The Elephant Man	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 9 Personality page 113	1 Understanding Ourselves 2 Happy People	Recognizing Reference Words Skimming for the Main Idea	Vocabulary in Context Word Formation
Extensive Reading 9 page 122	Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 10 Animals page 127	1 The Camel Library 2 A Living Legend?	Identifying Meaning from Context Predicting the Topic	Vocabulary in Context Suffixes
Extensive Reading 10 page 136	The Coldest Place on Earth	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 11 Challenges page 141	1 A Lesson Learned 2 An Amazing Athlete	Recognizing Points of View Ignoring Unknown Words	Vocabulary in Context Phrasal Verbs
Extensive Reading 11 page 150	A Little Princess	Reading Faster and More Fluently	
Unit 12 Space page 155	1 UFOs: Are They Out There? 2 A Ticket to Outer Space	Finding Main Ideas in Paragraphs Recognizing Signal Words	Vocabulary in Context Word Formation
Extensive Reading 12 page 164	Under the Moon	Reading Faster and More Fluently	

Introduction

Cover to Cover 1 is the first in a three-level reading series that helps students become skilled, strategic readers who enjoy reading in English. *Cover to Cover* combines **intensive reading** with **extensive reading**, so your students will learn the strategies necessary for academic work and become fluent, confident readers.

What is intensive reading?

Intensive reading focuses on building language awareness and comprehension. It often involves relatively challenging texts and students encountering some unfamiliar language. Parts 1 and 2 of each unit in *Cover to Cover* focus on intensive reading and provide students with strategies for dealing with these kinds of texts.

What is extensive reading?

Extensive reading focuses on fluency development and reading for pleasure. Two key principles are (1) students should read as much as possible, and (2) texts should be easy and well within students' linguistic competence. Easy texts mean that students are able to read more and faster, and this kind of practice helps students in many ways: improved reading skills, improved writing skills, increased vocabulary knowledge, and increased motivation. The Extensive Reading section at the end of each unit in *Cover to Cover* provides students with an opportunity to experience this approach.

What is in a unit?

Part 1 and **Part 2** of each unit develop reading strategies such as predicting the topic, skimming for the main idea, scanning, and recognizing points of view. Part 1 focuses mainly on comprehension strategies; Part 2 focuses on developing both fluency and comprehension through activities such as timed reading. The reading passages come from a variety of genres including magazine articles, newspaper articles, and web sites.

The **Extensive Reading** section enables students to read for enjoyment and pleasure and continue their fluency development. The reading passages are extracts from the Oxford Bookworms Library collection of graded readers. *Cover to Cover 1* features extracts from stage 1 Bookworms, including popular classics such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The Bookworms extracts are longer than the Part 1 and 2 reading texts, and the language is also graded at a lower level. This enables students to read faster and maintain comprehension. We hope that reading the Bookworms extracts will also motivate students to become enthusiastic, independent readers who read books from cover to cover.