**Passage Text**

**Smart Reading 4.1**

**Unit 1 Amazing Sharks**

Are sharks scary? Maybe. But they are really cool.

Sharks are very old animals. Sharks are older than the dinosaurs.

Sharks are all different sizes. The whale shark is the biggest. It is 15 meters long. The dwarf lantern shark is the smallest. It can fit in your hand.

Sharks do not have bones. They have cartilage. Cartilage is like bone, but it can bend. Humans have cartilage too. It is inside our ears and noses.

Sniff, sniff. Sharks have amazing noses. They can smell one drop of blood in a swimming pool.

But do not worry. Sharks eat fish, not people!

**Unit 2 Animal Friends**

People have best friends, and animals do too. The pistol shrimp and the goby fish are best friends. They live together in burrows and help each other. But why?

The goby cannot dig burrows. But the shrimp can. So the shrimp digs their burrow.

The shrimp cannot see. But the goby can. The goby watches the shrimp and keeps it safe from other animals. when the shrimp digs, the goby guards the burrow.

These friends share food too. The goby eats first. Then the shrimp eats the leftovers.

Goby fish and pistol shrimp are different. But being different makes them perfect friends.

**Unit 3 A Surprise**

On Saturdays, my brother and I go to the rest home. Some old people live in rest homes. Sometimes they get bored. So we bring board games and books in our backpacks.

We play and read all afternoon with the grandmas and grandpas. We have so much fun with them. But last week, we did not bring games and books. We brought a surprise.

The grandmas and grandpas were happy to see us. But they were also sad. No games? No books?

I put down my backpack and opened it. The surprise jumped out, and everyone laughed. A puppy! We played with the puppy all day.

**Unit 4 Helping Out**

What can you do for your neighborhood? There are many ways to help out.

Pick up garbage in your neighborhood. Pick up bottles on the street. Pick up cans in the park. Then put them in a recycle bin.

Do you have old toys? Clean the toys. Put them in a box. Then take them to the hospital. Sick kids will love the toys.

Do you like animals? Go to the animal shelter. Clean the cages. Feed the animals or take them for a walk.

You can do many things for your neighborhood. You can start with small things. How will you help out today?

**Unit 5 Leading the Orchestra**

Orchestras are amazing. Musicians play together to make beautiful music. Orchestras are big. Some have more than 100 musicians. But who is the leader?

The conductor leads the orchestra. He does not play an instrument. But he has a very important job.

The conductor is like a coach. He chooses the music. He leads rehearsals. He decides when to play fast, slow, loud, or soft.

How does the conductor do this? He makes big motions with his hands. He holds a baton in his right hand. The baton helps the musicians see him better. Now, are you ready? Let’s play!

**Unit 6 A Big Hit**

What do your friends sing on your birthday? It is an easy song, and everyone can sing it. The song is “Happy Birthday to You.”

Two American sisters wrote the song in 1893. One sister was a kindergarten teacher. The sisters wrote easy music for her students.

The song was a little different back then. The melody and rhythm were the same. But the words were different. The song was about wishing each other a good morning!

When did the song become a birthday song? Nobody knows for sure. But we do know something. The sisters wrote a big hit.

**Unit 7 Deep Roots**

Trees touch the sky and dig deep in the ground. They have beautiful leaves and strong trunks. But usually we cannot see or touch the most important part - their roots.

No roots mean no tree. The roots help the tree grow tall. And they get water from the ground.

The trunk moves the water to the branches. And the branches move the water to the leaves.

Then the leaves use water, air, and sunlight to make food. The food helps the whole tree grow strong and tall. But it all starts at the roots.

**Unit 8 Desert Cactuses**

Not many plants can live in the hot, dry desert. But cactuses can.

There are almost 2,000 types of cactuses. They are tall, short, fat, or thin. Cactuses can be many colors, and they grow flowers.

Cactuses have roots, stems, and spines. They all help cactuses keep water inside. So cactuses can live and grow in the desert.

Cactus roots are long, and some roots grow deep. The roots collect water in the ground. Cactuses can keep water in their stems for a long time.

Spines keep the cactus safe from animals. And they help keep water inside the cactus.

Cactuses are amazing plants, aren’t they?

**Unit 9 LeBron James**

LeBron James is a famous basketball player. He is a great athlete and leader. He has a strong body and mind.

James started playing basketball in the fifth grade. His family was poor, but he worked hard. Luckily, special teachers and coaches helped James.

Today, James is rich and famous. But he remembers his school and those special people.

James believes learning is important. So he started an elementary school for young children. The I PROMISE School (IPS) is in his hometown. The school is important to James.

James is an athlete with a strong body and mind. But he has a big heart too.

**Unit 10 Try Again**

On Sundays, we play badminton. Dad watches nearby. I hit the birdie. My sister hits the birdie. And then… oh, no! She wins a point.

I try again. We play all afternoon. My sister wins all three games.

“Not fair!” I shout to Dad. “I can’t win!” Dad stands and says, “Let’s try one more time.”

Dad plays on my team. We run and jump. Then we fall and laugh. It is so fun. but my sister wins again! We laugh some more.

“We did not win. But we had fun,” Dad says. He is right. Playing is more fun than winning.

**Unit 11 Colorful Corals**

Look at these beautiful corals. Corals come in all colors and shapes. And they can be hard or soft.

Corals live in all oceans in the world. They usually like warm, clear water. Some corals live alone. But many live in groups. The groups are coral reefs.

Coral reefs are like villages. Many animals live in and around them. The Great Barrier Reef is the biggest reef in the world.

Corals live on the ocean floor. They do not move. Corals look like colorful plants. But they are not plants. Do you know what they are? They are animals!

**Unit 12 The Food Chain**

All living things eat food. Food gives them energy to live and grow. The energy goes from one living thing to another. How? By following food chains.

All food chains start with plants. Plants do not eat like you and me. They get food and energy from the sun. Here is an example of a food chain. Let’s follow it.

This food chain starts with grass. A grasshopper eats grass. Next, a frog eats the grasshopper. Then, a snake eats the frog. And finally, a hawk eats the snake.

There are many food chains in nature. And they are all connected in nature’s food web.

**Unit 13 Stone Soup**

A woman walked home from the market. She saw two hungry boys with a stone. They asked the woman for some vegetables.

“I have some. But why?” she said.

“We want to make stone soup,” (record two times) they said.

“Stone soup? What’s that?”

“It’s the most delicious soup in the world! But we need vegetables.”

“Come with me,” said the woman.

They went to her home. She opened her basket and said, “Let’s make stone soup!”

The boys put the stone in the pot. The woman put in vegetables and herbs.

“Mmm. Stone soup is delicious,” she said.

“Yes, it is,” (record two times) said the happy boys.

**Unit 14 Meals around the World**

Meals are different around the world. But everyone loves to eat. How many times did you eat today?

In Korea, people eat three meals a day.

This is a meal in Korea. There is rice, soup, and vegetables. They eat this for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

In the Czech Republic, people eat three meals a day. And they eat two snacks.

This is lunch in the Czech Republic. It is meat and vegetable stew.

In Argentina, people eat four meals a day. They eat breakfast, lunch, an afternoon meal, and dinner.

This is an afternoon meal in Argentina. There are pastries and coffee.

**Unit 15 Speed Away**

My uncle is a pilot. He flies jets. I love watching my uncle fly in the sky. His jet is fast.

My uncle says it can fly at 2,400 kilometers per hour. But how fast is that? Let’s think about it.

My dad rides a motorcycle. He rides it at 60 kilometers per hour. So the jet is 40 times faster than my dad’s motorcycle.

I have a bike. I can ride it at 20 kilometers per hour. So the jet is 120 times faster than my bike.

Wow, the jet is fast. I want to fly like my uncle. *Zoom!*

**Unit 16 First Flight**

Orville and Wilbur Wright were inventors. The brothers were from the United States. They built and flew the first airplane. They did it a long time ago, in 1903.

The brothers had many jobs. They started their own newspaper. They built and fixed bicycles. Then they built gliders. Gliders are like airplanes, but they do not have engines.

Their first airplane flight was 12 seconds long. The brothers flew 35 meters. It was a short flight. But it was the most important flight in history.

Some people did not believe the Wright brothers. So they traveled the world to show people their airplane. What amazing inventors!