**Passage Text**

**Smart Reading 4.3**

**Unit 1 A Cave Kiss**

My class is in front of a cave. Everyone looks excited. But I am a little scared. Ms. Carol smiles at me and says, “Don’t worry, Ben. You will be fine.”

“Let’s get ready, everyone! Wear a helmet first! It will protect your head,” Ms. Carol says. “You are all wearing sneakers, right? The cave floors will be slippery and bumpy. Let’s put on our jackets too. It will be cold inside the cave.”

“Ben, are you ready?” asks Ms. Carol. I am still scared, but I say, “Yes.” I slowly walk

inside. It feels nice and cool. *Drip, drip.* “Ahh! Something fell on my head!” I yell.

“Ben! That is a cave kiss. The cave likes you!” says Ms. Carol. We all laugh together.

**Unit 2 At the Beach**

Going to the beach is fun. But it can also be a little dangerous. Follow these three simple beach rules. They will keep you safe and happy!

Rule 1: Protect Your Skin

Always wear sunscreen. Put sunscreen on your face, arms, legs, and back. Also, wear a

hat. A hat blocks the sun from your face.

Rule 2: Stay Cool

Bring lots of water. Drinking enough water is very important. And rest in the shade every 45 minutes. These two things will keep your body cool.

Rule 3: Stay Safe

Stretch before you go into the water. And wear a life vest. It will help you float in the water. Also, stay near a lifeguard. The lifeguard will watch you and keep you safe!

**Unit 3 Bobby the Blowfish**

*Puuuufffff!*

Clara: Whoa! What happened, Bobby?

Bobby: Sorry! I got scared. I thought you were a tiger shark.

Clara: Are you OK now?

Bobby: Yes, I’m OK. When I get scared, I blow up like a balloon.

Clara: Don’t worry, you are safe with me. Let’s swim.

Bobby: Phew, thanks. Tiger sharks are scary. They eat puffer fish like me.

Clara: Wait, are you a blowfish or a puffer fish?

Bobby: Blowfish and puffer fish are the same. We just have two names.

Clara: I see. But why “puffer fish”?

Bobby: Because we puff up for protection. I can look big and strong.

Clara: Cool! How do you do it?

Bobby: I fill my stomach with water or air. Look! I am big.

*Puff, puff, puff.*

Bobby: Clara, what are you doing?

Clara: I want to be big too.

**Unit 4 Hiding Animals**

Some animals can make themselves disappear like magic. They hide themselves from their predators. And they hide to hunt other animals.

Flatfish are good hiders. They lie flat on the ocean floor. And they change colors to match the ocean floor. So their predators cannot find them.

Flatfish have two eyes. They are on the upper side of their head. The fish can look and wait for smaller fish.

Gray treefrogs are good hiders too. Their skin is bumpy like tree branches and bark. They change colors to match the trees and leaves. They can change to green, brown, or gray! This is how they hide from predators. Then they wait for little insects.

Some animals are good magicians, aren’t they?

**Unit 5 How Tomatoes Grow**

Do you know how tomatoes grow? Let’s find out together.

A tomato begins as a seed. The small, brown seed needs soil and water.

A few days later, a root comes out of the bottom. It grows down into the ground.

After a few weeks, a small stem comes out of the top. It has two tiny seed leaves.

The seedling grows taller. And it grows more small leaves.

The stem grows stronger and thicker. Adult leaves appear.

The seedling grows into a big tomato plant. It has a lot of leaves.

Flowers bloom. They look like little yellow stars.

The flowers turn into small tomatoes.

A few months after planting, you can eat the tomatoes. They are delicious and healthy.

**Unit 6 Fruit or Vegetable?**

Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?

All fruits have a few things in common. First, they have seeds inside. Second, they grow from flowers on a plant or a tree. Apples, watermelons, and mangoes are examples of fruits. Tomatoes have seeds and grow from flowers on a plant. So scientists think tomatoes are fruits.

However, cooks think that tomatoes are vegetables. Cooks organize fruits and vegetables by flavor. Fruits are usually sweet, but tomatoes are not. Tomatoes are a main ingredient in pizza, tomato soup, and spaghetti. Can you imagine apple soup, watermelon pizza, or mango spaghetti?

So, is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable? Well, it can be both!

**Unit 7 The Mystery of Stonehenge**

Today was the first day of school. Mr. Brown asked the class, “What did you do for summer vacation?” Everyone took a turn talking about their vacation.

It was my turn. “This summer I visited Stonehenge. It’s a special park in the UK.”

Billy asked, “Why is it special?”

I was happy to tell the class more about it. “Stonehenge is a circle of huge stones. Humans built it 4,000 years ago! The stones were from far away. No one knows how humans moved them.”

The class was surprised. Kelly asked, “Why did humans build it?” Mr. Brown said, “It’s a mystery. Would you like to find out more?”

Everyone shouted, “Yes!”

“Good! We’ll learn about Stonehenge in history class this year.”

**Unit 8 Machu Picchu**

There is an amazing place on top of the mountains of Peru. It is the ancient city of Machu Picchu.

People did not know about Machu Picchu until 1911. That is when an American historian, Hiram Bingham III, discovered it. It was a big surprise around the world.

The Incas built Machu Picchu in the 15th century. But, somehow, they left the city and disappeared. People still do not know why they left.

Peru always had many earthquakes, but Machu Picchu’s walls did not fall. The Incas built the walls with big stones. They had to carry the stones to the top of the mountain. But no one knows how the Incas did it.

Machu Picchu is still a big mystery.

**Unit 9 Sit, Hop, Dance!**

Every country has a traditional dance. These dances are very old. They show a country’s culture and history. People can see traditional dances at special events.

Saman is a dance from Indonesia. Dancers sit side by side. The leader sits in the middle and sings. There is no other music. The dancers clap their hands. They move their heads. They move their bodies together.

Hopak is a dance from the Ukraine. Hopak means to hop. Dancers jump up and down. The dancers also squat and kick their legs. They dance to very fast music. This dance began as a celebration. It was a way to show happiness.

What about your country? Is there a traditional dance?

**Unit 10 The Ugliest Feet**

Whose feet are these? They are the feet of Kang Sue Jin. She is a famous ballerina. People are surprised when they see her feet. How did her feet get so ugly?

Sue Jin practiced hard every day when she was learning ballet. At night, there were no lights at school. So she even practiced under the moonlight.

After many years, Sue Jin became a very good ballerina. She joined the Stuttgart Ballet when she was 19 years old. She was the first Asian ballerina. She was also the youngest. She continued her hard work. She later became a prima ballerina. She was a star!

Sue Jin’s feet look ugly. But they show how hard she practiced. They also show how much she loves dancing.

**Unit 11 Hands Can Talk**

People talk with words. But they also talk with their hands. Do you see people moving their hands while talking? They are using hand gestures. But be careful. Hand gestures mean different things in different places.

Pointing is OK in some countries. But it is very rude in others. People in China, Japan, and Indonesia do not like pointing.

People in Canada and the US like the thumbs-up. This gesture means someone did a great job. But it is very rude in Egypt and Russia.

Some people cross their fingers for good luck. But people in Vietnam do not. This gesture is very rude in Vietnam.

So what do your hands say? Think about it when you travel!

**Unit 12 Siestas**

Most people do not take a nap in the afternoon. They usually have to work or study instead. However, in Spain and Mexico, people take a nap every afternoon. This midday nap is called a “siesta.”

The weather is warm in Spain and Mexico. The temperature is hottest between 2 pm and 5 pm. The hot temperature after lunch makes people feel tired. So they take a siesta.

During a siesta, many shops close. Children come home from school, but they do not play outside. They usually stay indoors. Everyone must be quiet during a siesta. At 5 pm, the shops open again. Now, children can go outside and play.

Do you feel sleepy in the afternoon? Maybe you would like to have a siesta too!

**Unit 13 The Midas Touch**

A long time ago, there lived a very rich king. His name was Midas. Midas loved gold.

One day, a fairy came to him. She said, “You can have one wish.” “I want to turn everything I touch into gold,” said Midas.

So the fairy gave the king his wish. Midas touched a chair, and it turned into gold. He touched a table, and it turned into gold. “I’ll touch everything in the palace!” Midas shouted. He was so happy.

Then he hugged his daughter. His daughter turned into gold. Midas was very sad. He loved his daughter very much. He cried and begged the fairy.

“Take away my wish! Take away my gold! I want my daughter back!” His daughter was much more important than gold.

**Unit 14 Gold**

Gold is a special metal. It is not only soft but heavy and strong too. It is also very valuable and useful.

Long ago, people traveled far to find gold. Gold was used for money at that time. They used it to buy things like food and clothes. People also decorated temples and castles with gold. An example is the Golden Temple in India.

Today, gold is still valuable and useful. People use it to make beautiful things like rings, necklaces, and watches. And they use it for Olympic medals, money, art, and much more. Also, dentists use it to repair people’s teeth.

Gold is a strong metal. But it is soft and beautiful too. That is what makes gold very special.

**Unit 15 The Egg Experiment**

What kind of drinks do you like? Juice, soda, or water? Do you know what these drinks do to your teeth? Let’s do an experiment to find out!

You will need three white eggs, three glasses, grape juice, cola, and water.

Step 1 Pour each drink into a glass.

Step 2 Put an egg carefully into each glass.

Step 3 After two days, take out the eggs.

Grape juice and cola changed the egg color. But water did not. Both eggs and teeth are made from calcium. So the same can happen to your teeth!

Do you want to keep your teeth healthy and clean? Brush your teeth after you drink something. But remember that water is always better than juice or soda.

**Unit 16 A Tornado in a Bottle**

Tornadoes are powerful storms. They can happen anywhere. They can even happen in your classroom. Let’s make one!

You need a few things to make a tornado. You need a plastic bottle, water, and dish soap.

First, open the plastic bottle. Fill it with water. But do not fill it to the top. Leave some

space at the top.

Next, add a few drops of dish soap to the water.

After that, put the cap on the bottle. And close it tight.

Finally, hold the bottle carefully. Move it in circles for ten seconds.

Now, put the bottle down. Look, it is a tornado in a bottle! Turn the bottle upside down. Move it again, faster or slower. Does the tornado get bigger or smaller?