

## Reading passages for grades one through three

### Passage One      [Second Grade \(middle to the end of the year\)](#)

#### **The Mountain Maze Adventure [ FK (2.7) (LVA) ]**

Sheik Omar was a hale explorer who loved snowy mountains. One day, he rode his sleigh up to Mount Vale. His gait was strong, and he carried a bale of supplies, a lei from Hawaii, and a small chaise to rest on.

At the top, a quake shook the ground. His sleigh hit a rock with a loud scrape. Omar had to pare down his gear to make it lighter. He saw a stage made of ice and a freight sled nearby. It was hard to lift because of the weight of the boxes, but he found a map inside one of the crates. The map showed a gold vein hidden deep in the mountain.

A local heir had once said a strange phrase: "Only those who deign to enter the maze will reign over its treasure." Omar decided to try. He walked through the maze, twisting and turning. He had to waive his fear and keep going.

At last, he reached the center. A glowing light shone through a veil. Omar had found the treasure! He smiled, proud of his brave journey.

### Passage Two      [Third Grade: Middle to the end of the year](#)

#### **The Puppy at Pier 7 [ (FK 3.7) (LVE) ]**

Jenny and her cousin Jean were walking near Pier 7 when they heard a loud peal of laughter. It came from their friend Debbie, who was playing with a tiny puppy wearing a poppy-colored bow.

"This little guy is so fussy!" Debbie said, trying to smooth the crease in the puppy's blanket. Jenny peeked into the basket and smiled. "He's cute, even if he's a bit wild."

Nearby, a frieze of sea animals decorated the wall. The scene looked like something from a storybook. But the sky turned bleak as clouds rolled in. "We better go," said Jean. "There's a storm coming."

As they walked home, they passed a tier of flowerpots and a patch of peat moss. Jenny's mien was calm, but Jean looked worried. "I hope the puppy doesn't get scared during the storm."

At home, Gene—Jenny's older brother—was reading about a siege in history class. "A lien is like a hold on something," he explained, pointing to a word in his book.

Jenny wasn't sure what that meant, but she was more focused on the puppy. She wrapped him in a warm towel and gave him a treat. "He's safe now," she said with a smile.

**Passage Three      First Grade** **The Prize at Spire Hill [ (FK 1.7) LVI ]**

Maya and her friend Leo were part of a brave tribe that loved to explore. One sunny morning, they set off on a hike to Spire Hill, a tall mountain known for its hidden prize.

The path was full of grime and bugs, and Maya had to swipe away a mite crawling on her arm. "Yuck!" she said with a slight shiver. Leo smiled and handed her a sprig of chive to smell. "This helps," he said.

They had to strive and thrive through the tough climb. Maya's thigh ached, but she didn't give up. "We're almost there," Leo said. "Just a little while longer!"

At the top, they saw a mime performing near a stone spire. He gave them a riddle and said, "Solve this and win the prize." Maya used her wile to figure it out. "It's 'splice,' like to join two things!" she shouted.

The mime smiled and handed them a golden box. Inside was a map to a secret garden in Lyme Valley. "This is amazing!" Maya said.

On their flight home, they saw someone trying to bribe the mime for the prize. But the mime shook his head. "Only those who earn it may have it."

Maya and Leo smiled. They had worked hard, and now they had a story to tell forever.

**Passage Four** **The Mystery of the Smoky Flume [ (FK 2.4) (LVO-LVU) ]      Second Grade**

One day, a curious bloke named Theo swore he saw smoke rising from the old flume near Dune Valley. He grabbed his cloak and flute, then called his friend Nora to help him explore.

"This isn't just a chore," Theo said. "I think there's ore hidden in the rocks!" Nora threw on her boots and joined him. As they walked, they passed a chute filled with colorful plumes of steam. The hue of the mist changed from blue to gold.

Suddenly, a feud broke out between two hikers nearby. "I found the clew first!" one shouted. "No, I did!" yelled the other. Theo and Nora stayed out of it. They weren't prudes, but they didn't like drama.

They reached the flume and peeked into a crack. Inside, they saw roe swimming in a warm stream. "This place is alive!" Nora said. "Even the flue from the old cabin still works."

Just then, Theo had a stroke of luck. He spotted a shiny rock and picked it up. "It's ore!" he said, gloating a little. Nora gave him a look. "Don't gloat. We're a team."

They climbed to the top for a better view. From there, they saw the whole valley glowing in the sunset. A mew from a nearby bird echoed through the air.

"I'm glad we came," Nora said. "Even if we caught the flu tomorrow, this was worth it."