

CDE Sample Fluency Passage

American Black Bears

0 Black bears live in North America. The black bear's fur can be jet
13 black, brown, or a rusty cinnamon color. Most black bears have brown
25 noses and big ears. Some even have a white patch of fur on their
40 chests. Black bears grow to be around five to six feet tall when standing
54 on their hind legs. Black bears can weigh anywhere between 100 and
66 400 pounds. They have sharp, curved claws to help them climb trees.

77 Black bears are omnivorous so they eat plants and meat. Their
88 diet consists of berries, roots, fish, meat, insects, grass, and other
99 plants. Bears are very attracted to our garbage, food for pets or other
112 livestock, bee hives, and fruit trees. It is important to keep these items
125 protected with bear-proof equipment. Black bears spend all summer
135 eating to store up to 30 pounds of fat for their winter nap.
148

157 Black bears are now considered to be efficient hibernators.
168 American black bears slow their metabolism down in the winter to
177 remain dormant for months without eating, drinking, urinating or
185 defecating. During hibernation, the black bear's body temperature
196 remains around 95°F which allows them to remain somewhat alert and
200 aware of their surroundings.

Total Words Read _____

- Errors _____

= WCPM _____

How to Score and Calculate WCPM

When listening to a student read aloud, the teacher or partner will draw a line under each word read incorrectly on their own copy of the text.

- If the student skips a line, the line is crossed out and the number of words on that line is subtracted from the total number of words read.
- If the student self corrects, you will write the letter “SC” above the word and not count it as a word read incorrectly.
- At the end of the timed reading, circle the last word read.

Example:

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13 black, brown, or a rusty cinnamon color. Most black bears have brown
25 noses and big ears. Some even have a white patch of fur on their chests.
40 Black bears grow to be around five to six feet tall when standing on
54 their hind legs. Black bears can weigh anywhere between 100 and 400
66 ~~pounds. They have sharp, curved claws to help them climb trees.~~
77 Black bears are omnivorous so they eat plants and meat. Their
88 diet consists of berries, roots, fish, meat, insects, grass, and other
99 plants. Bears are very attracted to our ^{SC}garbage, food for pets or other
112 livestock, bee hives, and fruit trees. It is important to keep these items
125

For this example, the student read 125 total words. Then we subtract the errors and words from the skipped line. The total words read minus errors is the total words correct per minute (WCPM).

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Total Words Read} \quad 125 \\ - \text{Errors} \quad 14 \\ \hline = \text{WCPM} \quad 111 \end{array}$$