



READING SUCCESS

Second Edition

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Pieter Koster

with MP3 CD

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Smart Tablets



Anton was not the smartest boy in school. He always got the lowest **score** on tests.

Sometimes the other children in the class **teased** him. “Here comes **dumb** Anton,” they would say. They laughed at Anton and teased him when he couldn’t answer a question in class.

Anton wished that he could be smarter. One day he decided to try to become smarter. He stopped watching television and playing sports. He started reading more books. When there was a test at school, he thought that he might get a better score, but he was **disappointed** when he still had the lowest score in the class. He wanted to be as smart as Jake. Jake always got the highest score in the class. Jake was smart, but he was not very nice to the other children. He teased Anton almost every day.

One day Jake came up to Anton. “Hey, Anton!” he said. “I can help you become smarter. You just need some of these **tablets**. They’re called smart tablets. I’ll sell them to you. They’re only one dollar each; and if you take one every day, you will soon be a lot smarter.”

Anton thought about this. He wanted to be smarter, so he bought some tablets from Jake. They were expensive, and he had to give Jake his lunch money every day.

A few days later, they took a test at school, and Anton got the lowest score again. He went to Jake and complained. Jake told him that it took some time for the tablets to work. Anton bought some more tablets, but he still got the lowest score on the next test.

He found Jake and complained. “These tablets are no good!” he said. “I think you’re **tricking** me!”

“Ah,” said Jake. “They’re **starting to work** already!”

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds **300 words**



² **score** the number given on a test to show how well one has done

³ **tease** to joke with someone in a mean way

⁴ **dumb** foolish; not intelligent

¹⁰ **disappointed** feeling sad or unhappy about a result or attempt

¹⁵ **tablet** a pill, usually of medicine

²⁷ **trick** to fool; to make someone think that one thing is really something different

²⁸ **start to work** to become effective

Vocabulary Review

■ Match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. already • | • a. a small solid piece of medicine |
| 2. dumb • | • b. not smart |
| 3. tablet • | • c. sooner than expected |

Reading Comprehension

■ Choose the best answer.

- How did Anton feel when he saw his score on the test?

a. Disappointed	b. Excited
c. Exhausted	d. Pleased
- How would you describe Jake's personality?

a. Generous	b. Nice
c. Lazy	d. Mean
- Why did Jake think Anton was smarter?

a. Anton could answer hard questions.	b. Anton tricked Jake.
c. Anton knew he is being fooled.	d. Anton got the best test score.
- What does a person do if he "teases" others?

a. Beats them up	b. Gives them a hand
c. Makes fun of them	d. Sends them away

Summary

■ Fill in each blank with the correct word.

complained

smart

tablets

told

trick

Anton and Jake were in the same class at school. Jake was very 1_____, but Anton was not. Jake decided to 2_____ Anton. He sold Anton some "smart 3_____" for one dollar each. But Anton still got low scores on his tests, and 4_____ to Jake. Anton said Jake was tricking him. Jake 5_____ him that the tablets were working.

Fishing



From Scott's diary

Jeff called yesterday and suggested that we go fishing today. He came to my house after breakfast this morning. He had his fishing **gear** with him. I got my **rod** and reel and fishing basket, and we took the bus down to the **wharf**. Jeff had some **bait**, and soon our lines were in the water.

I like fishing with Jeff. He's the same age as I am, and we are interested in the same things, like movies and music. While we are fishing, we usually talk about movies we have seen or heard about, and about the latest pop music. Sometimes we disagree about a movie or a video clip, but mostly we agree.

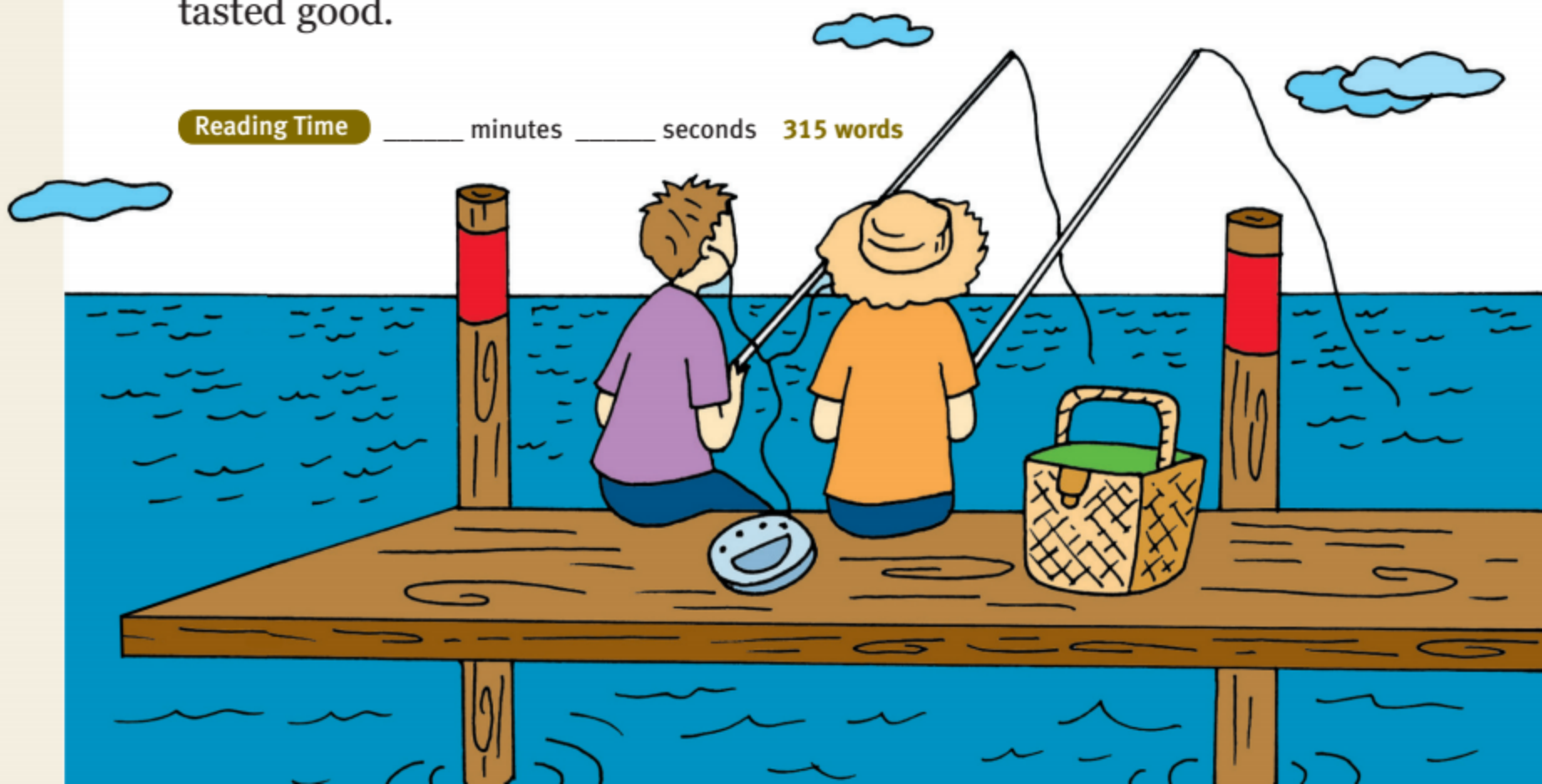
Today we talked about different people at school, whether we liked them or not. I was surprised to discover that Jeff liked Cindy because I **have a crush on** her, too. Cindy is very pretty and smart.

Jeff asked me which girl was my favorite. I didn't want to answer, so I pretended that I had a fish on my line, and started **reeling it in**. Suddenly, there was a **jerk** on the line, and there really was a fish on my hook! It was quite a big fish. When I finally got it up onto the wharf, Jeff was so excited that he forgot to ask me about girls again.

We kept on fishing, but we didn't catch any more fish. Jeff had his CD player with him, and we each used one ear phone to listen to it. Jeff brought a new CD, so we listened to it. We both liked it.

After one more hour of fishing, Jeff said he was bored. I said I was too, so we **packed up** and went home. We gave the fish to my mom, and she invited Jeff to stay for lunch and help us eat it. It tasted good.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 315 words



³ **gear** equipment

³ **rod** a fishing pole; a stick used for fishing

⁴ **wharf** a long wooden area going into the sea used to park boats

⁵ **bait** food used to attract animals and fish

¹³ **have a crush on** to be romantically attracted to

¹⁵ **reel in** to pull a fish closer to you by winding a spool

¹⁶ **jerk** a sudden pull; a sudden movement

²⁴ **pack up** to put things away at the end of a trip or vacation

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word or phrase to put in the blank.

- Can you _____ a good place to visit this weekend?
a. agree b. catch c. forget d. suggest
- He _____ his wife about the best restaurant in town.
a. disagreed with b. packed up c. reeled in d. listened to
- When I was young, I liked to _____ that I could fly.
a. hear b. discover c. pack d. pretend

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

- How did Scott feel about the fishing trip in the end?
a. It was busy. b. It was good.
c. It was sad. d. It was terrible.
- What topic did Scott avoid talking about?
a. Girls b. Homework c. Movies d. Music
- How long were the boys fishing?
a. One hour b. All morning c. All day d. A weekend
- If you “have a crush on” someone, it means you _____ that person.
a. secretly like b. make trouble with
c. push down d. want to fight

Summary

Fill in each blank with the correct word.

caught

discovered

fishing

listened

suggested

Jeff invited Scott to go fishing. While the two boys were 1_____, they discussed movies and music and 2_____ to a CD. They talked about girls too, and Scott 3_____ that Jeff liked the same girl that he did. Scott 4_____ one fish, and his mother 5_____ Jeff stay for lunch.