

Oral Reading

Orange Story 6: Making the Journey

I am aboard the passenger car ready to start this afternoon's adventure. The conductor announces to everybody that the train is about to begin on our journey. He also said the journey will contain some danger, but there was no reason to fear for our safety.

The weather on our journey will not be good. The creeks and streams in the forest are flooded because of an eighty inch snowstorm last season in the mountains. Automobiles are stranded on the highways, and traffic is a mess. Our train is the only way the holiday visitors will be able to complete their trips beyond the valley.

The conductor tells everyone to get as comfortable as possible. The conductor invites the passengers next to the windows to raise their blinds and glance out. He says he will arrange to have pillows and blankets brought to them to make the trip more pleasant, and he would not disapprove if anyone wanted to sleep.

The conductor says the train will continue the moment all the baggage is placed on board the train. The conductor is waiting for a message to prepare to leave the station and will blow the whistle when we are finally ready to start. He says there are twenty pieces of luggage left, and we will leave in sixty minutes.

I begin to notice the other people sitting on the bench in front of me. One fellow stands up to stretch his arms and legs and starts to walk on the carpet. Another fellow starts talking in a low whisper to the woman next to him.

I decide to introduce myself to the man and the woman. I discover the woman is a doctor who works in a hospital, and I learn the man is her cousin. The man, who is a fisherman, is going to visit his daughter who is on a fourteen day vacation on an island in the ocean.

Another woman is holding a small package. The woman suddenly leans toward me and asks if I can imagine what is inside the package. She hands me a pencil and several pieces of paper that I can clip together. I will receive a reward if I can manage to guess before we arrive tomorrow.

I can hardly believe my ears. I think this contest is a wonderful idea, and I do not think it will be impossible to guess. I understand what to do, and I promise to try my best to receive the reward. Nobody will stop me from winning, even if I have to stay awake all night.

The woman lets me hold the package. The package has little weight and does not rattle when I shake it. The package is made of cardboard.

The woman clears her throat and begins to give me plenty of clues. She says I can't eat it and I can't plug it into the wall. I decide to forget about it being a sandwich or a television.

The woman says it is a tool used to capture beauty. It needs a flash to work in the darkness. A parent has to carefully guide and teach a child how to use it. Good film makes all the difference in how to use this treasure. You press a button with your finger to make it work.

I don't have to guess anymore. I don't need anymore clues or examples. I know what it is. It is a camera. The woman says I am right and I win the prize. I win a free dinner for myself and my family at a sidewalk cafe on any day on the calendar. She will send the gift to my parents' home address.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Pretest Score: _____ / 616
Number Correct
Age: _____ Date: _____ Posttest Score: _____ / 616
Number Correct