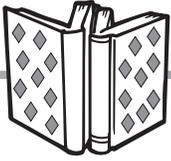


# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
Practice Reading Passage: Presidents' Day .....	7
Practice Comprehension Questions .....	8
<b>Standards Correlation</b> .....	9
<b>Reading Levels Chart</b> .....	13
<b>Science Passages</b>	
The Salty Truth .....	14
The Breeds and Traits of Dogs .....	18
Hop Along or Fly High .....	22
Now Hear This! .....	26
George Eastman Invents the Kodak Moment .....	30
<b>Geography Passages</b>	
Mine Fires That Keep Burning .....	34
Cold and Hot Deserts .....	38
Mighty Meteors .....	42
The Life Cycle of a Pond .....	46
Eerie Earthquakes .....	50
<b>History Passages</b>	
Pacific Northwest Native Americans .....	54
The U.S. Constitution .....	58
The Bill of Rights .....	62
Oral Lee Brown Opens the Door .....	66
Condoleezza Rice, Former U.S. Secretary of State .....	70
<b>Language Arts Passages</b>	
Guinea Pigs (Journal Entries) .....	74
Dr. Seuss Loved Green Eggs and Ham (Biography) .....	78
Delicious Discoveries (Magazine Article) .....	82
Beyond Belief (Web Site) .....	86
The Miracle on the Hudson (Newspaper Article) .....	90
<b>Answer Sheets</b> .....	94
<b>Answer Key</b> .....	96



## Oral Lee Brown Opens the Door

Oral Lee Brown is an African American woman. She was born in the early 1940s. She lived in the South. Her family was poor. Brown went to school and worked hard. She became a real estate agent, which means that she helped people to sell homes. She helped them to buy homes, too. Brown moved to California. One day in 1987, she was in a store. A young girl asked her for 25 cents. She needed it to buy bread. Brown wondered why the child was not in school. She could not stop thinking about her.

Brown was not rich, but she wanted to help the child. She went to a school to look for her. It was in East Oakland. The students there were poor. Just one out of four children there finished high school. Brown was led to a first-grade class. She did not find the girl. But she told the whole class that she would pay for them to go to college! At that time, she did not have the funds to make it happen. But she knew that she could work hard. She would save her money. She would keep her promise.

Brown made friends with each student. She listened to them. She gave advice. If they needed it, she gave them food and clothes. Their lives were hard. Sometimes she cried with them.

Each year, Brown saved \$10,000 of her own money. She struggled to do it. Then she started the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. People gave cash to help. Nineteen of the twenty-three children finished high school. One became a firefighter. Another died. The rest went to college. Most were the first in their families to get a college degree.

Then, in 2001, Brown made the same promise to three more classes! Those students were in the first, fifth, and ninth grades. She did it again in 2005 and 2009. Now the Oral Lee Brown Foundation adopts a new group every four years.

Not every child will **succeed**. But Brown has given each one the chance. She tells them, “I have opened the door for you. You’re either going to go through it or sit and look at the door. You must choose to make your life better.” The good news is that most of the students walk through the door.



**Oral Lee Brown**



## Oral Lee Brown Opens the Door

Oral Lee Brown is an African American woman born in the early 1940s. She lived in the South. Her family was very poor. She went to school and worked hard. She grew up to be a real estate agent. That means that she helped people to buy and sell their homes. Brown moved to California. One day in 1987, she was in a store. A young girl asked her for a quarter. She needed it to have enough money to buy bread. Brown wondered why the child wasn't in school. She could not stop thinking about the little girl.

Although Brown was not rich, she longed to help the child. She went to an elementary school to look for her. It was in East Oakland, California. The students there were very poor. In this school, just one out of four children completed high school. Brown was led to a first-grade classroom. She did not find the girl. But she told the whole first-grade class that she would pay for them to go to college! At that time, she did not have the money to keep her promise. But she was not worried. She knew that if she kept working hard and saving her money, she could do it.

Brown found that just making the promise was not enough. She made friends with each student. She listened to their problems and gave advice. If they needed help, she gave them food and clothes. Their lives were so hard that sometimes she cried with them.

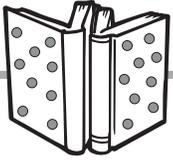
Each year, Brown put away \$10,000 of her own money. She struggled to save it. Then she started the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. People gave money to help. Nineteen of the twenty-three children finished high school. One became a firefighter, and another died. Seventeen went to college. Most of them were the first in their families to earn a college degree.

Then, in 2001, Brown made the same promise to three more classes! Those students were in the first, fifth, and ninth grades. She did it again in 2005 and 2009. Now, every four years, the Oral Lee Brown Foundation adopts a new group.

Not every student will **succeed**. But Brown has given each one the chance. She tells them, "Look, I have opened the door for you. You're either going to go through it or sit and look at the door. You must choose to make your life better." The good news is that most of the students walk through the door.



**Oral Lee Brown**



## Oral Lee Brown Opens the Door

Oral Lee Brown is an African American woman born in the early 1940s. She lived in poverty in the South. She went to school, worked hard, and became a real estate agent. This means that she helped people to buy and sell their homes. Brown moved to California. One day in 1987, she was in a store when a little girl asked her for a quarter in order to buy a loaf of bread. Brown wondered why the child wasn't in school. She kept thinking about her.

Brown was not wealthy, but she wanted to help the child. She went to an elementary school in East Oakland, California, to look for her. The students there were very poor. In this school, just one out of four children finished high school. Brown was led to a first-grade classroom, but she did not find the girl. Instead, she told the first-grade class that she would pay for each of them to attend college! At that time, she did not have the money to make it happen. Yet she was not worried. She knew that by working hard and saving her money, she would keep her promise.

Brown soon found that just making the promise was not enough. She made friends with each student. She listened to their problems and gave advice. If they needed help, she gave them food and clothing. Their lives were so difficult that sometimes she cried with them.

Each year, Brown struggled to put away \$10,000 of her own money. Then she started the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. People gave money to help her. Nineteen of the twenty-three children finished high school. One became a firefighter, and another one died. Seventeen students went to college. Most were the first in their families to earn a college degree.

Then, in 2001, Brown made the same promise to three more classes! Those students were in the first, fifth, and ninth grades. She did it again in 2005 and 2009. Now, every four years, the Oral Lee Brown Foundation adopts a new group.

Although not every student will **succeed**, Brown has given each one the opportunity. She tells them, "Look, I have opened the door for you. You're either going to go through it or sit and look at the door. You must choose to make your life better." The good news is that most of the students walk through the door.



**Oral Lee Brown**



## Oral Lee Brown Opens the Door

**Directions: Darken the best answer choice.**

1. In her job as a real estate agent, Oral Lee Brown helps people to
  - (A) learn how to drive.
  - (B) buy or sell homes.
  - (C) go to college.
  - (D) find good jobs.

---

2. The word **succeed** means to
  - (A) graduate.
  - (B) agree.
  - (C) fail.
  - (D) do well.

---

3. Oral Lee Brown made the promise for the second time in
  - (A) 1987.
  - (B) 2001.
  - (C) 2005.
  - (D) 2009.

---

4. It is clear that Oral Lee Brown wants students to
  - (A) give money to good causes.
  - (B) have better health care.
  - (C) get college degrees.
  - (D) start their own businesses.

---

5. Which statement is true?
  - (A) People give money to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation.
  - (B) Brown has lived in the same state all of her life.
  - (C) Brown had the money to keep her promise to the students on the day she made it.
  - (D) Brown found the little girl she wanted to find.

---

6. Four of the students in the original East Oakland first-grade class
  - (A) became firefighters.
  - (B) died during their high school years.
  - (C) did not finish high school.
  - (D) finished high school but didn't go to college.