

## Oral Reading Test

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- ▶ I was relaxing on my bed with the air conditioner blowing when the power went out. My bedroom suddenly went dark, and the whirring of the air conditioner stopped as it powered down. It was a hot day in the middle of August—just about the worst possible day to lose power. We lived on the tenth floor of a New York City apartment, so the temperature was going to be unbearable in a few minutes.

My mom came into my bedroom and said we should go out for a walk until the power came back on. At that moment, I couldn't have agreed with her more. I quickly put on my shoes and headed straight to the elevator. My mom gave me a strange look, and that's when I realized my mistake. Of course the elevators wouldn't be working if the power was out! I sighed and followed my mom to the stairs. As we made our way down the ten flights, more and more people entered the stairwell and walked down with us.

When we finally exited the building, I was shocked to see how many people were outside already. The whole city must have lost power! People were pouring out of the buildings at a rapid rate. Cars were parked in the middle of the street, and their drivers were standing outside talking to each other.

My mom and I walked to the park, where it was a little cooler, and after a few hours of waiting around, the power finally come back on. Everyone in the park cheered as the lights from the surrounding buildings lit up again. I couldn't wait to get back home and turn on the air conditioner as high as it could go.