

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ Today was the big day. It wasn't a particularly sunny or warm day; technically, it was almost perfect. The man chirpily delivering the weather forecast on the news described it as a day "when you might want to keep your umbrella handy, thanks to unsettled conditions that could deliver a sprinkle or two before sundown." Umbrella in hand, she marched down the street; she was confident that, while things might not go exactly as planned, she was at least prepared for Mother Nature.

As she side-stepped an empty coffee cup, propelled down the street by a cool September breeze, she mused that to everyone else around her, this was an ordinary day. The world and its people were moving along steadily; they didn't seem to notice any change. They looked as though their ambitions, their dilemmas, and their dreams were as important today as they had been the day before.

It amazed her that her excitement could go almost unnoticed by everyone she passed, while emotions were bubbling up in her like the fizz from an agitated bottle of soda pop. But she couldn't contain the grin that wouldn't vanish from her face, or the nervous giggle that escaped her—causing the fellow walking in front of her to turn around and give her a quizzical look.

Her destination was around the corner, the lion statues on the stairs not intimidating but protective today. She soared up the stairs, pausing for a moment at the top before reaching for the heavy iron door. A small breeze lifted the back of her hair, which she took as a good omen. The last of the nervous energy carried her through the doors to the information desk. She took a breath and cleared her throat.

"Hi, I'm here to start my internship with the head librarian, Rachel Smith. Is she available?"