

1 Gliding in Thin Air

Imagine this! You stand underneath a huge kite that has a big metal frame. The frame has a metal bar. Grasping the bar, you jog with a rapid pace down a gentle slope. As you run, the brisk wind lifts the kite up. And you rise up with it as well! Up, up, up!

You stretch your legs until your body is prone, or flat. You shift the frame from side to side, **changing** the kite's direction. It is such a rush to glide like a jet plane.

Not bad? Well, that is hang **gliding**! Hang **gliding** is fun and **exciting**!

Word Count: 101



Glossary Links

imagine
prone



How do you change directions in a hang glider?



Use with Teaching Guide, page 290.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 90

SAM Keyword: DD 12.1

1 Scrubbing Jake

I went **jogging** with my dog, Jake. Jake spotted a pond. I had no chance of **stopping** him. In went Jake in a flash!

Swimming is one thing Jake cannot resist. But, man, did that pond make him smell bad!

When I got home, my friend Brandon was at my place.

"Yikes, that dog smells bad!"

"No **kidding!**" I said. I asked him to help give Jake a bath.

Jake does not like baths one bit. Brandon discovered what it is like to give Jake a bath. Brandon and I spent ten minutes **dragging** Jake into the tub. **Getting** him to stay in the tub was harder still! But Brandon and I did not plan on **quitting**.

At last, Jake decided he had no chance of **winning**. He let us finish the job. But Jake got back at us! That bath got Brandon and me just as wet as Jake!

Word Count: 150



Glossary Links
in a flash
resist



Why does Jake need a bath?



Use with **Teaching Guide**, page 294.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 92

SAM Keyword: DD 12.2

1 Visited by Ms. Rush

Ellen Rush is running for president. She visited us in class. She spoke about things like taxes, jobs, and saving the environment.

Then, Ms. Rush **joked** that her life as a candidate is a little strange. She said it was a big adjustment to have guards at her side when she shops and jogs.

Ms. Rush **smiled** and **waved** at us as she left. I **liked** her because she spent time chatting with kids in our class.

I have not **voted** yet. But in just six months, I will be 18. I think I will cast a vote for Ms. Rush! I hope she wins. I think she will make a fantastic president.

Word Count: 113



Glossary Links
environment
candidate



What might you ask a presidential candidate?
Write two questions.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 290.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 94

SAM Keyword: DD 12.3

1 A Badly Planned Surprise

I was in the middle of making bran pancakes for Mom's birthday. Then, I heard Mom chatting with Dad.

Oh no! Mom was already up! This was supposed to be a big surprise!

I **grabbed** the pancake mix and **crammed** it on a shelf in the fridge.

Then, in a huge panic, I tossed mixing bowls, eggs, bran, and milk inside the wastebasket!

Just then, Mom **stepped** in the kitchen. She was already dressed. She **stopped** and said, "Yum, I smell pancakes. It's not Dad's birthday, is it?"

What? I must have mixed up the date! It looks like the surprise was on me!

Word Count: 104



Glossary Links

supposed
surprise



Have you ever been surprised? Tell about it.



Use with Teaching Guide, page 294.



Resource Links

Decodable Digest: p. 96

SAM Keyword: DD 12.4