

Name Date

Individual Reading Inventory

Level F

Passage 1 *from Where Everything Is Possible*

Lev Sviridov's first glimpse of America was a disappointing one. After a long flight from the Soviet Union, he and his mother had arrived in Montreal at 5 A.M. A family friend had driven them south across the United States' border. Lev, who was 10, had fallen asleep in the car, and when he awoke, they were in Vermont.

Lev's mother had told him the United States was a lively country, but the early spring scene outside the window showed the opposite. "There was dirt, dirty snow, empty streets, cold weather, and tiny houses," says Sviridov. "It reminded me of a poor countryside in Ukraine, and I asked my mother in complete desperation: 'This is America?'"

Soon, Lev would be amazed by his first look at New York City, and his attitude about America would begin to change. But before he could learn to truly love this strange new country, he would have to meet the challenge that all immigrants face: how to adapt and thrive in an unfamiliar culture.

Before coming to America, Lev and his mother had lived in the Soviet Union. Life in this communist nation was radically different from life in the United States. A totalitarian government controlled nearly every aspect of daily life, from where people lived to how they could express themselves.

Lev's mother, Alexandra Sviridov, a screenwriter and film director, raised her son in an environment that gave him as much freedom as possible. She opposed the Soviet ideas of government, and taught her son to do the same.

Name Date

Individual Reading Inventory

Level F Teacher Page

Passage 1 from Where Everything Is Possible

Directions

You are going to read part of an article about a young man and his mother who immigrated to the United States. Read the passage to find out about their experience. Then I will ask you some questions about the passage.

Questions

Correct	Incorrect
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1. How did Lev Sviridov and his mother travel to the United States?

(Example: They flew to Montreal and then traveled south to the U.S. border by car.)

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2. Why was Lev disappointed when he got his first glimpse of America?

(Example: It looked much like the poor, dirty country they had left behind.)

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3. What made Lev begin to change his view of America?

(Example: He was amazed by his first look at New York City.)

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4. The passage says that life in the Soviet Union was *radically* different from life in the United States.

What does the word *radically* mean in this context?

(Examples: completely; fundamentally; in a complete or basic way)

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5. According to this passage, how was the Soviet government different from the government in America?

(Examples: It was a totalitarian government; it controlled nearly every aspect of life; it did not allow any freedom to its citizens.)

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Passage 1 Comprehension	
# Correct	% Score
5	

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Individual Reading Inventory

Level F

Passage 2 from Roadside America

In the summer of 1921, newspapers all across the United States told the story of four friends who took a vacation together. One reason for the heavy press coverage was the identity of the men. Henry Ford had built an automobile called the Model T, and sold millions of them. Harvey Firestone had made a fortune selling automobile tires. Thomas Edison had invented the electric light bulb—and scores of other important devices. And Warren G. Harding was the president of the United States.

Another fact that made this vacation newsworthy was that it didn't involve high-class hotels, luxury steamships, or exotic destinations. The four men had set out on a new kind of American vacation. They had packed tents, food, and cooking gear into their cars and headed for the wilderness to “rough it.” Some called this new automobile adventure “gypsying.” Others called it “auto camping.” But whatever it was called, it kicked off a love affair with automobile travel that would change America forever.

Spurred in part by the widely publicized adventures of Ford, Edison, Firestone, and Harding, auto camping quickly caught on. Just like Ford's inexpensive Model T, auto camping was enjoyed not just by the wealthy but by everyday workers and their families. Compared to a week on a luxury steamship or in a four-star hotel, auto camping cost little.

What's more, it offered a freedom that other vacations couldn't. Auto campers traveled wherever the road took them. They could turn a farmer's field, a river's edge, or an isolated lake into their own vacation spot. But as the pastime became more popular, this freedom caused a problem—and helped create a new roadside industry.

Name Date

Individual Reading Inventory

Level F Teacher Page

Passage 2 from Roadside America

Directions

You are going to read part of an essay about a time in American history when important changes took place. Read the passage to find out what happened. Then I will ask you some questions about the passage.

Questions

Correct	Incorrect
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1. **What was so new about the vacation trip taken by Ford, Edison, Firestone, and Harding, in 1921?**
(Examples: They went auto camping; they traveled by car to the wilderness to "rough it.")

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2. **What was the main reason this vacation got so much news coverage?**
(Examples: The four men who took the vacation were all very famous; it did not involve any kind of luxury or an exotic destination.)

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3. **The passage says that this vacation did not involve an *exotic* destination. What does *exotic* mean?**
(Example: unusual or strange; foreign; faraway)

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4. **According to this passage, how was auto camping similar to Ford's Model T?**
(Examples: It was enjoyed by the wealthy and by everyday workers; it was enjoyed by and affordable for everyone; it was inexpensive.)

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5. **What kind of freedom did auto camping offer that other vacations could not?**
(Examples: Auto campers could travel anywhere the road went; they could turn any place into their own vacation spot.)

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Passage 2 Comprehension	
# Correct	% Score
5	

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