

Practice Texts — Public Domain

Choose one passage for a 30–45 s read-aloud. Each source is public domain.

(30–45 s ≈ 60–110 words)

Text A

Title: Sonnet 18

Author: William Shakespeare

Source (URL): [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Sonnet_18_\(Shakespeare\)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Sonnet_18_(Shakespeare))

Excerpt: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines, And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines, By chance, or nature's changing course
untrimm'd;

Text B

Title: The North Wind and the Sun

Author: Aesop (*public domain English translations, e.g., V. S. Vernon Jones, 1912*)

Source (URL): [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/%C3%86sop%27s_Fables_\(V._S._Vernon-Jones\)/The_North_Wind_and_the_Sun](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/%C3%86sop%27s_Fables_(V._S._Vernon-Jones)/The_North_Wind_and_the_Sun)

Excerpt: A dispute arose between the North Wind and the Sun, each claiming that he was stronger than the other. At last they agreed to try their powers upon a traveller, to see which could soonest strip him of his cloak. The North Wind had the first try; and, gathering up all his force for the attack, he came whirling furiously down upon the man, and caught up his cloak as though he would wrest it from him by one single effort: but the harder he blew, the more closely the man wrapped it round himself.

Text C

Title: Pride and Prejudice — Chapter 1 (1813)

Author: Jane Austen

Source (URL): [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Pride_and_Prejudice_\(1813\)/Volume_1/Chapter_1](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Pride_and_Prejudice_(1813)/Volume_1/Chapter_1)

Excerpt: It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.