

A Symbol of Hope

February 2009 is a month Australians will always remember. During that month, fires 13
 raced across parts of Australia. Thousands of homes were burned and many people 26
 died. This left Australians feeling sad and upset. But they found hope in a strange 40
 place—in the story of a saved koala. While walking through a burned forest, 54
 firefighter David Tree spotted a limping little koala. Mr. Tree called to her in a 68
 gentle voice. He got some bottled water to give the poor animal. As she gulped 84
 down the water, she even put her burned paw in the firefighter’s hand. Koalas 98
 normally like to be alone and they normally get all the water they need from eating 114
 leaves. After the fire, this koala was desperate for any help. She was taken to a 129
 wildlife shelter. There she was named Sam and met another burned koala named 144
 Bob. The lady who took care of the burned animals said, “They keep putting their 159
 arms around each other and giving each other hugs. They really have made friends 173
 and it is quite beautiful to see after all this.” Since koalas move slowly, they can’t run 189
 from fires. Sam and Bob were very lucky to survive. When Mr. Tree found Sam, he 205
 used a cell phone to video the rescue. Afterward, the video was posted on the 220
 Internet and people all over the world watched it. Seeing the sweet story of the 235
 rescue has helped people remember that goodness can come even after such a 248
 horrible loss. 253

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

PARENT TIPS

Researchers have shown that reading drastically improves when students are asked to read out loud. If you hear your child make a reading error, do not jump in immediately to correct it. Let him or her read to the end of the sentence or the end of the paragraph. If readers are listening to themselves read, they will be able to hear what they said aloud did not make sense. Most students will automatically reread and self-correct their error.

--Week-by-Week Homework for Building Reading Comprehension and Fluency: Grade 1

1. Sam the Koala let David Tree help her because she _____.
 - thought he was funny.
 - was burned and thirsty.
 - likes bottled water best.
2. Sam and Bob were both _____.
 - climbing
 - fast
 - burned
3. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - Good things can come out of hard times.
 - Fire fighters give bottled water to animals.
 - Koalas should be careful around fire.
4. How is this passage the same as the other passages you've read about koalas? How is it different?

