



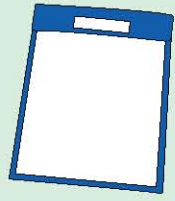
Phrase Spotting

An activity for 2 people

Materials



Courage on the Rails Text Card



Clear-Vu Paper Savers



Dry-Erase Markers



Get Ready

- **Figurative language** can be used to describe how characters think and feel.
- Readers look for these figurative words and phrases as they read to help them understand the story.

Play

1. On their Paper Saver, each player writes a figurative word or phrase from the text that describes how Jamal feels about the roller coaster.
2. Then the players trade Paper Savers.
3. Each player reads what their partner wrote and writes what they think the word or phrase says about how Jamaal felt at that point in the story.
4. Players discuss their answers.

Write a paragraph about a time you were scared of something, but ended up feeling better about it after it was over.

Skill Practice



Answer the questions below about *Courage on the Rails*.

1. What does Jamal think about roller coasters?

2. Why do you think Jamal is willing to go on a roller coaster this time?

3. What do you think Jamal would say to Rhett as they leave the park?

Courage on the Rails



Jamal neared the front of the roller coaster line. He felt as if the entire Pacific Ocean were crashing in his stomach. Why would anyone want to speed around a track inside that strange vehicle?

Jamal had always refused roller coaster rides in the past, but today had to be different. He wasn't going to admit his fear to his friends.

"You ready?" Rhett asked.

"Sure," Jamal said, hiding the worry in his voice as he pushed his trembling palms into his pockets.



Buckled Up



Blastoff!

When it was their turn, they climbed into their seats. Jamal quickly buckled his seat belt as his friends screamed out, "This is going to be awesome!"

Suddenly, a voice boomed over the loudspeaker:

"Three, two, one, blastoff!"

And with that, the roller coaster jolted forward like a rocket.



This Is Fun!

At first, Jamal only felt his stomach doing loopy-loops. But then, after speeding down the first steep hill, he felt both courage and excitement flow over him all at once.

"Yeahhh!" Jamal cheered as they zipped back to the landing pad. "Let's do that again!"



Let's Ride Again!

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Expressive Expressions

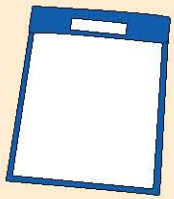
An activity for 2 people



Materials



Courage on the Rails Text Card



Clear-Vu Paper Savers



Dry-Erase Markers



Get Ready

- **Figurative language** can be used to describe how characters think and feel.
- Readers look for these figurative words and phrases as they read to help them understand the story.

Play

1. On the Paper Saver, each player writes a figurative phrase from the text that describes how Jamal feels about the rollercoaster.
2. Then the players trade Paper Savers.
3. Each player reads what their partner wrote and writes what they think the figurative phrase says about how Jamaal felt at that point in the story.
4. Players discuss their answers.

Write a paragraph in which you use figurative language to describe a time you were scared to do something.

Skill Practice



Answer the questions below about *Courage on the Rails*.

1. Why is Jamal afraid of riding roller coasters?

2. Why do you think Jamal is willing to go on a roller coaster this time?

3. What causes Jamal to change his mind after the ride is over?

Courage on the Rails



Standing in line for the roller coaster, Jamal felt as if the entire Pacific Ocean were crashing in his stomach. Why would anyone want to speed around a track inside a destructible plastic car?



Jamal had always refused roller coaster rides in the past, but today had to be different. There was no way he was going to admit his fear to his friends.



“You ready?” Rhett asked.

“Sure,” Jamal replied. He tried to hide the uncertainty in his voice while he pushed his trembling palms into his pockets.

When it was their turn, Jamal and his friends climbed into the coaster’s green seats. Jamal quickly buckled his seat belt as his friends screamed, “This is going to be awesome!”

“There’s no backing out now,” Jamal thought. “Just hold on tight...”

As Jamal thought these words, a voice boomed over the loudspeaker:

“Three, two, one, blastoff!”

And with that, the rollercoaster jolted forward like a rocket.



As they hurtled along the track, Jamal felt his stomach doing loopy-loops. Yet, upon rounding the first corner and dipping down the steepest hill, Jamal suddenly felt different. Both courage and excitement flew over him all at once.

“Yeahhh!” Jamal cheered as they zipped back to the landing pad. “Let’s do that again!”

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Finding Figuratives

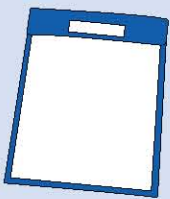
An activity for 2 people



Materials



Courage on the Rails Text Card



Clear-Vu Paper Savers



Dry-Erase Markers



Get Ready

- **Figurative language** helps describe how characters think, feel, and act.
- Readers look for these figurative words and phrases as they read to help them understand the story.

Play

1. On their Paper Saver, each player should write the specific figurative language from the text that describes how Jamal feels about the roller coaster.
2. Players will trade Paper Savers. Players read what their partner wrote and write what they think Jamal is feeling, based on the figurative language.
3. Players discuss their answers.

Write a paragraph in which you use figurative language to describe a time you hated doing something but discovered it wasn't that bad after all.

Skill Practice



Answer the questions below about *Courage on the Rails*.

1. What does Jamal compare his feelings about riding roller coasters to before the ride? What does that mean?

2. Why is Jamal willing to go on a roller coaster this time?

3. How does Jamal feels when the ride is over? Why do you think he feels this way?

Courage on the Rails



As Jamal stood in line for the roller coaster, he felt as if the entire Pacific Ocean were crashing in his stomach like a colossal tsunami. Why would anyone want to speed around a track inside a destructible plastic car?

Jamal had always refused to ride roller coasters on family vacations, but today just had to be different. There was no way he was going to admit his fear to his friends—no way ever!

“You ready?” Rhett asked, nudging Jamal in the ribs.

“Sure,” Jamal replied, trying to conceal the hesitation in his voice. He pushed his palms into his pockets to shroud their uncontrollable seismic activity.

Jamal descended into the green plastic bucket seat and promptly buckled his seat belt. At the same time, Rhett, Margo, Leah, and Chen climbed into the adjacent cars while screaming in unison, “This is going to be awesome!”

“There’s no backing out now,” Jamal thought.
“Just hold on tight...”

As Jamal thought these words, a prerecorded voice began counting down over the loudspeaker:

“Three, two, one, blastoff!”

And with that, the roller coaster rocketed forward like it had jet engines attached to its caboose.



Jamal felt his stomach doing loopy-loops as they glided at light speed over the tracks, but as they rounded the corner and dipped down the first steep hill, Jamal suddenly felt both courage and excitement flow over him all at once.

“Yeahhh!” Jamal shouted as they zipped around the last bend and back to the landing pad. “Let’s do that again, RIGHT NOW!”