

## Fluency Practice – Unit 8 ( Away We Grow! L.1-5)

<p><b>Garden in the Sky</b>                  Max and Jackie liked gardens.                  “My dad’s job is in a skyscraper,” said Max.                  “It has a big garden.” “A garden in a skyscraper?”                  Jackie asked. “How can that be?”                  “I will ask my dad to take us,” said Max.                  One morning, Max’s dad did take the kids.                  They rode the train. The train raced down the tracks.                  Dad, Max and Jackie were downtown fast. They                  walked to a tall skyscraper. It seemed to be made                  of dark glass. “This is the place,” said Max.                  Jackie looked way up. “Wow!” she said.                  On the sidewalk, there were big planters.                  They were filled with plants. “Is this the garden?”                  asked Jackie. “No way,” said Max.                  The three walked inside. A man with a badge said,                  “Good day.” By the man’s desk were plants.                  “That is not the garden,” said Max.                  Jackie thought it looked like one.                  The three stepped on the elevator.                  The elevator took them way up.                  It stopped, and they walked out.                  “My desk is back there,” said Max’s dad.                  All around were plants and flowers.                  Jackie thought one flower was wax.                  But it was real.                  “This is a nice garden! said Jackie.                  “This is not it yet,” said Max. “Just wait!”                  Max’s dad set stuff on his desk.                  “Time to go up,” he said.                  Soon the three were back on the elevator.                  They were going up. The three walked out on the                  skyscraper roof. Jackie was shocked. All she could                  see was sky and plants. Jackie and Max walked                  around the rooftop garden. Plants filled the                  space. “Wow! This is one big garden!” Jackie said.</p>	4 9 18 28 34 44 52 62 70 80 89 96 103 112 118 128 136 143 149 155 161 167 175 181 187 191 198 207 214 220 228 238 246 255 262 271
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*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*

271 Words

# Fluency Practice – Unit 8 (Away We Grow! L.11-15)

## A Farm Visit

Miss Dock drove the bus to a farm. The class looked out the windows. They saw meadows, barns, and silos. Some of the meadows had wire fences.

Some had low stone walls.

“Those stone walls have big rocks,” said Joan.

The kids were from the city. Some had not seen a farm. “Is that an ox?” asked Donnie. Miss Dock smiled. “Nope, it looks a bit like an ox.

But it is just a big cow.”

“Ick! It is eating grass,” said Joan.

Miss Dock lowered down the bus. “We eat grass, too,” she said. “No way!” said Joan. The cow was mooing now. Miss Dock drove the bus over a bumpy road.

“What did you eat for breakfast?” Miss Dock asked.

“A little box of Rice Puffs,” Joan said. “A bowl of oatmeal,” said Donnie. “You both had grass, then,” said Miss Dock. The bus was going slowly down the road. The road had big holes.

Miss Dock had to dodge them.

“Rice I grass?” asked Joan.

“Oatmeal is not green,” said Donnie.

“How can oats be grass?”

Miss Dock parked the bus at the farmer’s house.

She looked at the farmer’s lawn.

“I will show you,” said Miss Dock.

Miss Dock and the kids got out of the bus.

She picked a piece of very tall grass from the lawn.

“Look,” said Miss Dock. “This blade of grass has seeds on top.” Miss Dock dropped seeds in her hand.

“Rice is a grass,” said Miss Dock.

“Seeds from it make food.

And seeds from oat grass make food, too.” “Donnie, you know what that means,” Joan said.

“Yes,” smiled Donnie. “Moo!”

“Moo!” joined in Joan.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

280 Words

# Fluency Practice – Unit 8 (Away We Grow! L.16-20)

## Mr. Plant Expert

Kids and adults filled the hall. They came to see Mr. Plant Expert. They came to have fun.

“Hi! I am Mr. Plant Expert. Ask me about plants and gardens. Maybe you can stump me!”

“Mr. Expert,” said a pupil. “I heard about a truck farm. Do huge trucks grow there? Are buses and cars grown there, too?”

“No,” smiled Mr. Expert. “Veggies grow on truck farms. The veggies are cucumbers, beans, and so on.” “Farmers pack veggies in boxes.

Trucks take the veggies to stores.

That is why the farms are called truck farms.”

“Is this true?” asked a boy. “Do plants get fuel from the sun? How can a horse reach that far?”

“Plants do get fuel from the sun,” explained

Mr. Expert. “But plants do not use hoses. Sunshine provides plants with fuel and energy.” “Bugs eat plants,” said a man. “But do plants eat bugs?”

“A few do,” said Mr. Expert.

“They are good to take to picnics. “My mom said you have a green thumb. Can I see it?” asked a cute kid.

Mr. Expert chuckled. “I am a good gardener,”

explained Mr. Expert. “That is what a green thumb means. But my thumbs are not really green.” “There

is a brick plant in town,” said a boy. “Can bricks grow on plants?” “No,” said Mr. Expert. “Plant can mean

factory,” said Mr. Expert.

“A factory makes things. A brick plant makes bricks.”

“Do plants like music? What tunes do they like?”

asked a girl. “Plant experts like music,”

said Mr. Expert. “I like rock tunes.”

Mr. Plant Expert looked at the clock.

“Thanks kids! Thanks adults!

I must run to pluck some weeds.

See you next time!”

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

286 Words

# Fluency Practice – Unit 8 (Away We Grow! L.21-25)

## Weeds or Flowers

Lots of kids help in the garden. Some pick weeds.  
 Can you? It can be hard on your knees and hands!  
 Can you tell a good plant from a weed? At times, it is  
 easy. At times, it is hard. At times, even adults make  
 mistakes. See the plant on this page. It might be in your  
 garden. It is a tulip. It has a pretty flower. It is not a  
 weed. See this plant. It is pretty, too. It is purple  
 loosestrife. It grows on sides of roads. It is a weed.  
 Why? Purple loosestrife spreads quickly over a field.  
 Soon it takes all the space. Good plants die.  
 So purple loosestrife is a weed. You know this plant.  
 It is a dandelion. In spring, fields of dandelions  
 look very pretty. But then the yellow flower changes.  
 Dandelion flowers turn to puffballs.  
 Winds blow them away. Ugly leaves are left.  
 The puffballs are seeds. They make even more weeds!  
 This plant is sweet clover. Farmers like it to feed cows.  
 And the clover makes farmland better.  
 But in your yard, clover is a weed.  
 It stops the remaining plants from growing.  
 Gardeners and most kids like sunflowers.  
 Bright sunflowers might make you smile.  
 You would not call it a weed. Some farmers plant  
 sunflowers. They sell sunflower seeds.  
 And some farmers call sunflowers weeds.  
 Why? The golden flower can wreck cornfields.  
 Ideas about weeds change.  
 At one time, goldenrod was just a weed. Doctors  
 thought it made humans sneeze. It did not. Now  
 gardeners plant goldenrod. It is pretty. Butterflies like  
 these bright flowers. It is good to fight weeds and make  
 a garden pretty. And it is good to help your mom and  
 dad.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

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