

Name _____

Date: _____

Reading Lessons

Instruction: Get familiar with the poem and the reading passage below. (Source: Nelson's West Indian Readers, p.138 and 11-13). Review unfamiliar words.

THE VOWELS

We are very little creatures,
All of different voice and features;
One of us in *glass* is set,
One of us you'll find in *jet*.
T'other' you may see in *tin*,
And the fourth a *box* within.
If the fifth you should pursue,
It can never fly from *you*.

■ Jonathan Swift

Passage: FIRE AND WATER

Fire is used in many ways. Without fire rice and plantains cannot be cooked, tea cannot be made, and bread cannot be baked. In cold countries fire is used to make people warm in winter. Many useful things are made of iron and copper, and beautiful ornaments are made of gold and silver. These things are made by smiths, who all use fire. Blacksmiths use it to make iron red-hot. The metal is then soft, and by hammering it they can make many things from it.

Railway trains are drawn by engines which are driven by steam. To make steam, water must be heated by. We get fire by burning wood or charcoal. To make these burn we use matches. A match is a small piece of wood with a brown or red head, which catches fire and burns when it is rubbed. Some matches are made in the West Indies, but most come from other countries as the names on the boxes show. We need water even more

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Date: _____

Reading Lessons

than fire. We need it for drinking, for cooking, for bathing, and for washing our clothes. Without water rice cannot be boiled, bread cannot be made, nor can we keep ourselves clean.

The farmers and planters also need it for their crops. Water falls on the earth as rain. In the southern West Indies most rain falls in the months from June to December. This is our rainy or wet season. Much of the water which falls as rain runs into streams or creeks and river. Some of it is collected in tanks or vats. Some of it runs through the ground into well or springs.

People bathe and wash their clothes in rivers, streams, and tanks, and use water from them and from wells for these purposes. In some towns and other places we get our water from pipes through taps. It comes from the water-works, where it is stored and from which it may be pumped.