

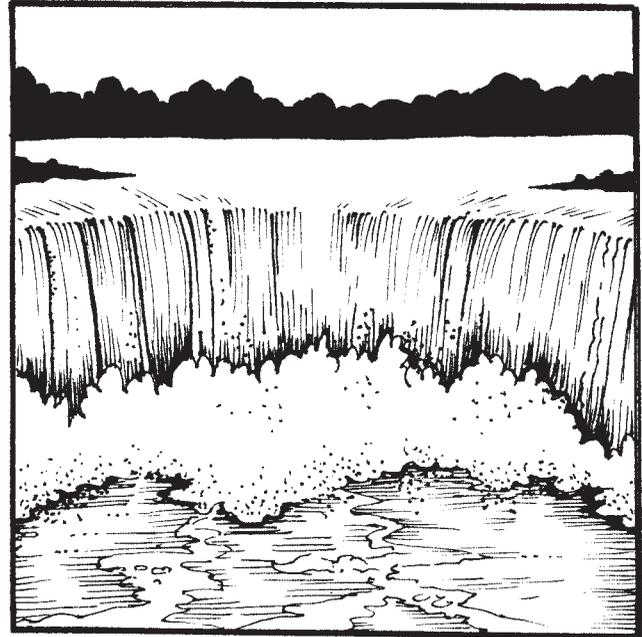


# Wet and Wild Fall



## Building Vocabulary

You are going to read about some amazing waterfall adventures. Before you read, you will find it helpful to know and practice some of the words from the story. The first word is *waterfall*. It is a **compound word**. The two words that make it up are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When *water* flowing from a river reaches a cliff, it *falls* over it. One of the most famous waterfalls in the world is Niagara Falls in New York.



Here are some of the other words you will find in the story. Practice reading them several times.

Niagara Falls	stunt	New York	gallons	United States
cannon	brink	rapids	miracle	Horseshoe Falls
Canada	oak	wonders	daredevils	schoolteacher
adventure	barrel	July	Michigan	forbidding

Match each word with its definition. Use a dictionary for help.

- |                      |       |                        |
|----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| <b>a. forbidding</b> | _____ | an unexplainable event |
| <b>b. stunt</b>      | _____ | the very edge          |
| <b>c. daredevil</b>  | _____ | not allowing           |
| <b>d. miracle</b>    | _____ | a risky act            |
| <b>e. brink</b>      | _____ | one who takes risks    |

What kind of *stunt* might a *daredevil* perform using an *oak barrel* and a *waterfall*?

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**Building Speed**

Imagine you come to school one day and when your teacher begins to talk, she pauses for a second or two after every word:

“Good morning class. Today we are going to learn about the states and their capitals. Then in math, we will begin working on multiplication.”

Can you imagine how long the day would seem if she continued to talk so slowly? You would have a very hard time paying attention. Your mind would begin to wander, and you would start to think about other things and not even hear or remember what your teacher said.

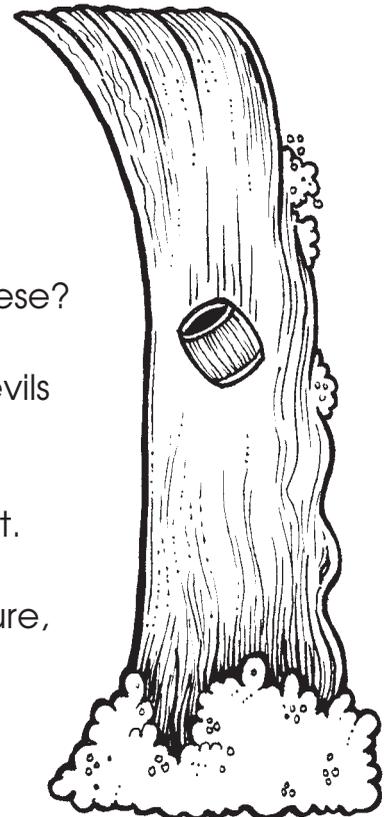
Your mind reacts the same way when you read too slowly. It starts to lose interest in what you are reading, and soon you find you cannot remember something you just read! Building your reading speed will not only help you read faster, but will help you stay more focused on what you read. Being more focused will help you better remember what you read.

You can become a faster reader by training your eyes to see or to scan more than one word at a time. Practice doing this as you read about some waterfall adventures. Try to read each line of the story at once rather than each individual word.

Niagara Falls  
in New York  
is one of  
the world’s wonders.  
The falls sit  
on the border between  
the United States and Canada,  
and there are  
separate falls  
in each country.  
The U.S. Niagara Falls  
is 180 feet tall.  
The Canadian Falls,  
also called Horseshoe Falls,  
is 170 feet tall.  
Each minute  
about 35 million  
gallons of water

thunder over the tops  
of these waterfalls.

Can you imagine  
that anyone would want  
to go over the top  
of huge waterfalls like these?  
Over the years,  
there have been daredevils  
who took the risk  
and some who went  
over the falls by accident.  
Not everyone lived  
to tell about the adventure,  
but some survived  
the wet and wild fall.





The first person  
to go over Horseshoe Falls  
in a barrel  
was Annie Taylor,  
a schoolteacher from Michigan.  
Miss Taylor had a lot  
of bills to pay, and she hoped  
her trip over the falls  
would make her  
a lot of money.  
On October 24, 1901,  
she climbed into an oak barrel  
and went over Horseshoe Falls.  
Everyone was amazed  
that she lived.  
She had a small cut  
on her head  
and was very frightened  
when she climbed  
out of the barrel.  
But otherwise, she was fine.  
When asked if she would ever  
perform such a stunt again,  
Miss Taylor said  
she would rather stand  
in front of a loaded cannon  
than make another trip  
over the falls.  
Miss Taylor never did earn  
any money for her stunt.

Over the years,  
as more people  
were hurt or killed  
from trying to go over the falls,  
the United States and Canada  
passed laws forbidding such stunts.  
But accidents do happen,

and one accident  
led to what some call  
the “miracle at the falls.”

On July 9, 1960,  
seven-year-old Roger Woodward  
and his sister, Deane,  
fell out of a boat  
that had become caught  
in the rapids above Horseshoe Falls.  
Deane was able to swim  
close enough to the edge  
for tourists to grab her hands  
and pull her out.  
She was only 15 feet  
from the brink of the falls.  
Roger was not so lucky.  
The little boy  
was swept over the top  
of the 170-foot waterfall.

Passengers in the tour boats  
at the base of the falls  
could not believe their eyes  
when they saw Roger  
pop up out of the water.  
They threw him a life preserver  
and pulled him  
onto the deck of the boat.  
Roger had only a few scratches.  
He went over  
the huge waterfall  
wearing only a life jacket.  
He managed to avoid hitting  
all the huge rocks  
at the base of the falls.  
It really was a miracle  
that Roger survived  
his wet and wild fall.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



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Think about how your eyes moved when you read the story this way. Were you able to read the entire line at once? Did it help knowing the meanings of the words used in the story? What did you find most helped you read and understand this story?

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After reading the story the first time, what do you most remember about it?

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Now read the story again on page 16 in the form that it would take in a book. See if you can still scan more than one word at a time when you read.



**Thinking About the Story**

1. Miss Taylor went over the falls to make money to pay her bills. What other reasons might people have for attempting such a dangerous stunt?

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2. Miss Taylor and Roger Woodward both survived their trips over the falls.

How were their trips different? \_\_\_\_\_

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How were they similar? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. It is now illegal to try to go over Niagara Falls. If someone wants to take a chance and perform a dangerous stunt, do you think there should be laws to prevent them? Why or why not? Write your answer on another sheet of paper.

**Reading the Story**

Niagara Falls in New York is one of the world's wonders. The falls sit on the border between the United States and Canada, and there are separate falls in each country. The U.S. Niagara Falls is about 180 feet tall. The Canadian Falls, also called Horseshoe Falls, is about 170 feet tall. Each minute about 35 million gallons of water thunder over the tops of these waterfalls.



Can you imagine that anyone would want to go over the top of huge waterfalls like these? Over the years, there have been daredevils who took the risk and some who went over the falls by accident. Not everyone lived to tell about the adventure, but some survived the wet and wild fall.

The first person to go over Horseshoe Falls in a barrel was Annie Taylor, a schoolteacher from Michigan. Miss Taylor had a lot of bills to pay, and she hoped her trip over the falls would make her a lot of money. On October 24, 1901, she climbed into an oak barrel and went over Horseshoe Falls. Everyone was amazed that she lived. She had a small cut on her head and was very frightened when she climbed out of the barrel. But otherwise, she was fine. When asked if she would ever perform such a stunt again, Miss Taylor said she would rather stand in front of a loaded cannon than make another trip over the falls. Miss Taylor never did earn any money for her stunt.

Over the years, as more people were hurt or killed from trying to go over the falls, the United States and Canada passed laws forbidding such stunts. But accidents do happen, and one accident led to what some call the "miracle at the falls."

On July 9, 1960, seven-year-old Roger Woodward and his sister, Deane, fell out of a boat that had become caught in the rapids above Horseshoe Falls. Deane was able to swim close enough to the edge for tourists to grab her hands and pull her out. She was only 15 feet from the brink of the falls. Roger was not so lucky. The little boy was swept over the top of the 170-foot waterfall.

Passengers in the tour boats at the base of the falls could not believe their eyes when they saw Roger pop up out of the water. They threw him a life preserver and pulled him onto the deck of the boat. Roger had only a few scratches. He went over the huge waterfall wearing only a life jacket. He managed to avoid hitting all the huge rocks at the base of the falls. It really was a miracle that Roger survived his wet and wild fall.

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water, fall; a. not allowing; b. a risky act; c. one who takes risks; d. an unexplainable event; e. the very edge

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1. Answers will vary. 2. Possible answers include: Their trips were different because Miss Taylor was in an oak barrel while Roger was in a life jacket. Miss Taylor's trip was planned, but Roger's trip was an accident. Their trips were similar because both survived and only suffered minor injuries.