

Knowing only the 500 most frequent, a student could read only the words shown here.

Could it be an \_\_\_\_\_? The year before, \_\_\_\_\_ had seen one for the first time when his mother took him to a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. He had \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ that was \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_. Now \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ was right here in \_\_\_\_\_, and about to \_\_\_\_\_ over his house. Not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a thing, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_ of the house to its \_\_\_\_\_. From there he had a good \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ place. And in the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ever \_\_\_\_\_, he saw the \_\_\_\_\_.

Knowing the 1,000 most frequent words, a student could read only the words shown here.

Could it be an \_\_\_\_\_? The year before, \_\_\_\_\_ had seen one for the first time when his mother took him to a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. He had watched, \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ gave a \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ that was \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground. Now maybe an \_\_\_\_\_ was right here in \_\_\_\_\_, and about to \_\_\_\_\_ over his house. Not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a thing, \_\_\_\_\_ opened the window and \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_ of the house to its \_\_\_\_\_. From there he had a good view of the \_\_\_\_\_ River, \_\_\_\_\_ past the \_\_\_\_\_ place. And in the sky, coming ever \_\_\_\_\_, he saw the \_\_\_\_\_.

Knowing the 2,000 most frequent, a student could read only the words shown here.

Could it be an airplane? The year before, Charles had seen one for the first time when his mother took him to a flying \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Virginia. He had watched, \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ gave a \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ oranges on the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ that was \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground. Now maybe an airplane was right here in \_\_\_\_\_, and about to fly over his house. Not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a thing, Charles opened the window and climbed up the \_\_\_\_\_ roof of the house to its \_\_\_\_\_. From there he had a good view of the \_\_\_\_\_ River, \_\_\_\_\_ past the \_\_\_\_\_ place. And in the sky, coming ever closer, he saw the plane.

Knowing the 4,000 most frequent, a student could read all the words shown here except those in grey.

Could it be an airplane? The year before, Charles had seen one for the first time when his mother took him to a flying exhibition in Fort Myer, Virginia. He had watched, enthralled, as the pilot gave a bombing demonstration by dropping oranges on the outline of a battleship that was traced on the ground. Now maybe an airplane was right here in Minnesota, and about to fly over his house. Not wanting to miss a thing, Charles opened the window and climbed up the sloping roof of the house to its peak. From there he had a good view of the Mississippi River, flowing languidly past the Lindbergh place. And in the sky, coming ever closer, he saw the plane (Giblin, 1997, p. 3).