

Express The Leap Answer Key

1. He was nervous and his knees were shaking.
2. They were cheering loudly, urging him to jump.
3. He felt happy and laughed once he was in the water.

Teacher Notes / Guide

- **Purpose:** Expression practice strengthens **prosody**, helping students sound natural and engaging as they read. This activity supports comprehension, since reading with tone requires understanding the text's meaning.
- **Implementation Tips:**
 - Model reading the paragraph twice: once in a flat voice, and once with expression. Have students notice the difference.
 - Encourage students to adjust their **pitch** (high/low), **tone** (serious/excited), and **emotion** (nervous, joyful) to fit Jason's experience.
 - Ask them: "How should your voice sound when Jason is scared? How should it change when he jumps?"
- **Differentiation:**
 - Provide sentence-by-sentence practice for struggling readers.
 - Challenge advanced readers to add gestures, facial expressions, or dramatization while reading.
- **Extension Idea:** Have students choose a partner and perform the paragraph aloud, one reading "flat" and one with full expression. Then switch roles and reflect on which version was more enjoyable to listen to.