

Name _____



Inference Countdown

Directions: You will read the **same passage three times** with increasing time limits: 15 seconds, 30 seconds, and 60 seconds. After each round, mark the **last word you reached** and record how many **words you read accurately**. Then, answer the **comprehension or inference question** that follows, using only what you read or can logically guess. The goal is not to get every answer right but to practice **fluency, prediction, and inferential thinking** under time pressure.

“The Case of the Disappearing Necklace”

Nancy gripped her flashlight tightly as she stepped into the old theater. The wooden floor creaked beneath her shoes, and a faint draft brushed against her face. Earlier that evening, Mrs. Waverly had begged her to help. Her priceless emerald necklace had vanished during rehearsal. “It couldn’t have just walked away!” Mrs. Waverly had exclaimed, pacing the stage in panic.

Nancy crouched near the front row, her sharp eyes scanning the dusty seats. Something glimmered faintly beneath the fourth chair. She leaned closer, but before she could reach for it, a door slammed shut behind her. The sound echoed through the empty building like a thunderclap. “Who’s there?” she called out. Silence. Then a shadow flickered across the back wall, quick as a whisper. Nancy’s heart raced. She was close to finding the truth, but someone clearly didn’t want her to.

Round 1 (15 sec) - Words read: _____

Round 2 (30 sec) - Words read: _____

Round 3 (60 sec) - Words read: _____

1. What is happening at the beginning of the story?

2. Why is Nancy at the old theater?

3. What might the shadow at the end suggest?
