

LEVEL

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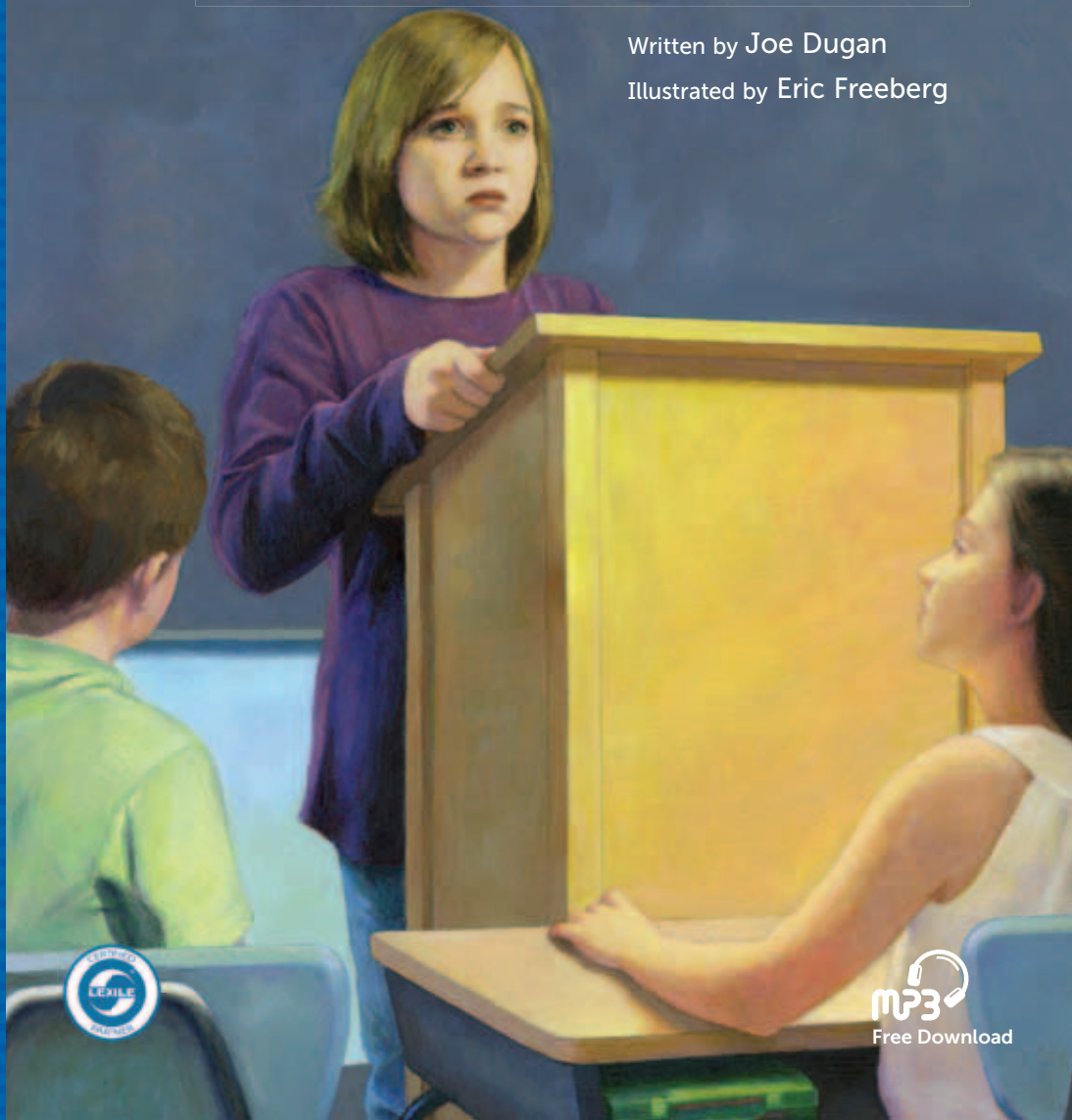
Intermediate

Compass
Readers

The Spelling Bee

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A Big Announcement

Sally Jones played with her yellow pencil. She daydreamed as her teacher talked about American history.

Sally liked history, but she was **distracted** today. It was a Friday in early October, and the weather outside was sunny and cool.

Sally was excited for the weekend to begin.

The minute hand on the big white clock wound its way to the number twelve. It was almost three o'clock.

The bell finally rang. The fifth graders at Jefferson Elementary immediately began packing their bags.

“Not so fast,” said Ms. Charlton. “Before you leave, I have a special **announcement**.”

Sally was nervous because special announcements usually meant extra homework. She really wanted to relax this weekend.



Reading

- How to use prior knowledge & imagery to help us understand what we read.

Writing

- } Social Studies
- } Revolutionary War



“Boys and girls,” said Ms. Charlton, “we are going to have a spelling bee next Friday. There will be a winner from this class. The student will go on to compete against other students from all of the fifth-grade and sixth-grade classes at Jefferson Elementary.”

“A spelling bee,” thought Sally, and then she **sighed**. She was a hard worker, but she definitely was not the smartest student in her class. She **glanced** at Annika, who was smiling. Annika was probably thinking about the big **trophy** she would soon win because she won everything.

Sally never won anything.



Practice, Practice, Practice

On the way home from school, Sally walked with her friend Jun. Jun moved from South Korea to the United States two years earlier. Sally taught him some English phrases and showed him where to get the best hamburgers. He helped her with her math homework and taught her how to use **chopsticks**.

“I really want to win the spelling bee,” Sally told Jun. “But I don’t think I can do it. I get nervous in competitions, and I’m not the best speller! Ms. Charlton circled three or four spelling mistakes in my last story.”

“All you need to do is practice,” Jun said. “When I first came to the United States, I didn’t know any English at all. But I made flashcards and studied every night. Now listen to me! I speak pretty well, right?”

“That’s true,” said Sally.

“We have one week until the competition. You have a chance,” Jun said, “but you’ll have to work hard.”

