John Chapman was born in 1774 and grew up in Massachusetts. He became a farmer and learned how to grow different kinds of crops and trees. John especially liked to grow and eat apples. Many people were moving west at that time. They were heading for Ohio and Pennsylvania. John knew that apples were a good food for settlers to have. Apple trees were strong and easy to grow. Apples could be eaten raw and they could be cooked in many ways. They could also be dried for later use. So in 1797, John decided to go west. He wanted to plant apple trees for people who would build their new homes there.

John first gathered bags of apple seeds. He got many of his seeds from farmers who squeezed apples to make a drink called cider. Then, in the spring, he left for the western frontier. He planted seeds as he went along. Also, he gave them to people who knew how valuable apple trees were.

John walked many miles in all kinds of weather. He had to cross dangerous rivers and find his way through strange forests. Often he was hungry, cold, and wet. Sometimes he had to hide from unfriendly Indians. His clothes became ragged and torn. He used a sack for a shirt, and he cut out holes for the arms. He wore no shoes. But he never gave up. He guarded his precious seeds and carefully planted them where they had the best chance of growing into strong trees.

John's fame spread. He was nicknamed Johnny Appleseed. New settlers welcomed him and gratefully accepted a gift of apple seeds. Many legends grew up about Johnny Appleseed that were not always true. However, one thing is true. Thanks to Johnny Appleseed, apple trees now grow in parts of America where they once never did.

(308 words)

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Rate: 308 X 60/____ seconds = ______ WPM
COMPREHENSION:

Johnny Appleseed - Level Four - Narrative

1. What was John Chapman's main goal?
   Implicit: to plant apple trees across the country.

2. Why did John choose apples to plant instead of some other fruit?
   Implicit: the trees were easy to grow; the fruit could be used in a lot of ways; he especially liked apples.

3. Where did John get most of his seeds?
   Explicit: from farmers or from people who made cider.

4. Why would John be able to get so many seeds from cider makers?
   Implicit: cider is a drink and you don't drink seeds; apples have a lot of seeds and you don't use seeds in cider.

5. How do we know that John cared about planting apple trees?
   Implicit: he suffered hardships; he guarded the apple seeds carefully.

6. How did John get to the many places he visited?
   Explicit: he walked.

7. Name one hardship John suffered.
   Explicit: being hungry, cold, wet, lost, in danger from unfriendly Indians.

8. Why should we thank Johnny Appleseed?
   Explicit: apple trees now grow in parts of America where they once never did.

Number Correct Explicit: _____
Number Correct Implicit: _____
Total _____

Independent: 8 correct
Instructional: 6-7 correct
Frustration: 0-5 correct