

### August Days

The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color. Often at night there is lightning, but it quivers all alone. There is no thunder, no relieving rain. These are strange and breathless days, the dog days, when people are led to do things they are sure to be sorry for after.

. . . All wheels must have a hub. A Ferris wheel has one, as the sun is the hub of the wheeling calendar. Fixed points they are, and best left undisturbed, for without them, nothing holds together. But sometimes people find this out too late.

## August Days

pauses

balmy

curiously

glaring

smear

quivers

relieving

undisturbed

## The Sun Queen

Some people call Dr. Maria Telkes “the Sun Queen.” She invented ways to use the sun for energy. Her inventions helped people use fewer nonrenewable resources. Telkes designed solar, or sun-powered, ovens. She also invented a solar-powered system to turn ocean water into drinking water.

In 1948, Telkes designed the heating system for the Dover House in Dover, Massachusetts. On the south wall of this house, solar collectors gathered heat from the sun. This heat was used to warm the rooms of the house.

Telkes worked with solar energy for fifty years. She designed new systems that provided both heat and electricity for homes. Today people can use solar energy to heat and cool their houses and to generate electricity.



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DAR Levels 0-9/10

Strategies: Teacher AND Student Identification of Difficult Words

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1st Passage Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Passage Level: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Passage Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Passage Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Did previewing the words on the list improve the student's accuracy in oral reading? Y or N
Explain:

Was the student able to predict which words would be difficult? Y or N
Explain:

Did one of these strategies result in more difficult words being read correctly by the student? Y or N
If Y, which strategy? Teacher Identification or Student Identification
Explain:

Table with 2 columns: 'During this activity, the student seemed:' and 'Additional Comments:'. The first column contains a list of checkboxes for student engagement levels: 'Actively engaged', 'Somewhat engaged', 'Passively cooperative', 'Not interested', and 'Other: \_\_\_\_\_'.