BRAILLE READING PASSAGES: WORKSHOP 13
Dot 45 Contractions

Skiing

A favorite winter sport for cold-weather enthusiasts is skiing. For those who love the fresh powder and glistening sun, skiing is like a winter wonderland. In a word, it's magical! When the first snow starts and the air begins to cool, these winter athletes head over to the local ski hill.

Skiers need to wear the proper gear. A ski jacket, hat, gloves, and snow pants protect these skiers from the snow. Those who wear a helmet are less likely to sustain serious injuries if they fall upon the snow and ice, so cautious skiers wear a helmet and goggles. A word to the wise for those whose feet tend to get cold … wear thick socks! Finally, those who apply a sunscreen whose SPF has a rating of at least 50 will prevent sunburn upon the face.

Once the ski gear is buckled and zipped, skiers sit upon a ski lift and watch others glide downhill. When the lift stops, it's time for these skiers to begin.

Whether a skier is a beginner or more skilled, skiing is a sport for all to enjoy. The bunny hill is the place to start for those whose skills are new. This hill is very small and not too dangerous. Don't let the words "bunny hill" fool you though, these slopes are a challenge to those skiers whose expertise is limited.

Once skiers have perfected the bunny hill, it is time to ski upon a green circle slope. These hills are usually very wide and best for those who are still beginners. These slopes, whose trails are shorter, have fewer obstacles.

A blue square slope is for those skiers whose skills are intermediate. These trails are numerous at ski areas. And, for those who are feeling extra risky or have practiced a lot, the black diamond trail is the next challenge. Word on the street is that some daredevil skiers go down a black diamond as a newcomer. This is not advised since these skiers who are not prepared may fall upon the trail and end up with injuries.

A word of warning for those who are just starting -- trees can be dangerous. Tree-covered slopes are best for those skilled skiers whose idea of fun is to glide amidst the trees. Those that enjoy trees are fans of jumps too. Skiers like to compare whose jump is the highest or whose skis go the farthest.

Those who want to take a break can warm up in the lodge. The lodge is often upon the top of the hill and overlooks the skiers. These tired skiers sit upon comfy chairs and relax in front of a roaring fire. A cup of hot chocolate hits the spot. Just say the word, and marshmallows and whipped cream are a special treat for those who want something sweet.

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