

Level **F**

Reading–Thinking Skills

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ISBN 0-8454-1063-6

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CONTINENTAL PRESS
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Read the stories on the even-numbered pages from 24–31. Then answer the questions that follow on the odd-numbered pages.

Use the ideas and words from the stories or your own words in your answers.

* * * * *

Every day after school, Felipe shines shoes. His stand is located just around the corner from Central Avenue, a busy street. Felipe has been at this spot for a year, and he knows nearly everyone who passes by.

One afternoon a tall stranger ducked around the corner and looked sharply up and down Central Avenue. Felipe's stand caught his eye, and he hurried over to it. He dropped into the seat and muttered, "Shine 'em, kid." Then the big man slumped down and tugged his hat over his eyes as if he were asleep.

Felipe slowly rubbed polish into the dusty shoes. Although Felipe hadn't recognized the man at first, he thought his face was familiar. Suddenly, Felipe remembered where he had seen it. Last evening a television news flash had warned of a jail break by a prisoner who was nicknamed Slippery Sam. Felipe realized his customer was the escaped convict!

Felipe swallowed nervously, but he kept on working with his head down. As he

polished the shoes, he noticed that it was almost four o'clock. Officer Diamond would be coming down Central Avenue any moment now. Quickly, the young shoeshine boy decided on a plan.

"Would you put your feet together, please?" Felipe casually requested. "I want to check the shine." Then he bent lower over the pair of shoes.

Felipe glanced over his shoulder. Across the street, Officer Diamond waved to him. "Hi, Officer Diamond!" Felipe yelled, and motioned for him to come over.

At this, the stranger whipped out a gun and leaped to his feet. He turned to run, but staggered and fell helplessly on his face. The gun flew across the sidewalk.

Within seconds, Officer Diamond had handcuffed Slippery Sam. "How did you ever manage to knock him down, Felipe?" the officer wondered.

"I didn't," Felipe laughed. "I just tied his shoelaces together!"

* * * * *

1. Why would you think that Felipe probably had a watch? _____

2. How could you tell that the convict didn't want to be recognized? _____

3. What makes you think that the officer kept a regular schedule? _____

4. What would lead you to think that Felipe risked his life without realizing it? _____

5. Why could you think Felipe didn't want the convict to realize he had been recognized? _____

6. Why could you think the officer didn't see the start of the attempted escape? _____
