

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to help you understand the text.

## Is Nuclear Energy Safe?

12 Atoms are the tiny things that make up everything in the universe.  
12 At the center of an atom is the nucleus. The energy that holds the  
26 nucleus together is called nuclear energy. Scientists have discovered  
35 how to use that energy as power in our everyday lives. This energy is  
49 cheap and clean. But there are dangers as well.

### 58 **Going Nuclear**

60 In the 1930s, physicists learned how to use the energy inside atoms.  
72 They split the atom. This released a huge amount of energy. This was  
85 exciting to many people. We get much of our power from oil and coal.  
99 But people knew that oil and coal would not last forever. Nuclear  
111 energy was much easier to come by. It was a great discovery!

123 Nuclear power plants have many benefits. They do not release  
133 harmful chemicals into the air. The waste that is produced is in solid  
146 form. This makes it easier to control. Also, there is a very small  
159 amount of waste compared to other ways of making energy.

169 Nuclear power plants last much longer than coal plants. They can  
180 sometimes last sixty years. Plus, nuclear power plants use only a tiny  
192 amount of fuel to make energy. That means we could make nuclear  
204 energy for many generations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Problems with Waste

Sadly, there are serious problems with nuclear power. The first problem is the waste that is produced. It is true, the waste is very small. Yet it is highly toxic. Physicians have discovered it can cause severe illness. It has to be contained. Sometimes though, the waste leaks out. It can get into drinking water. The waste can cause cancer in humans.

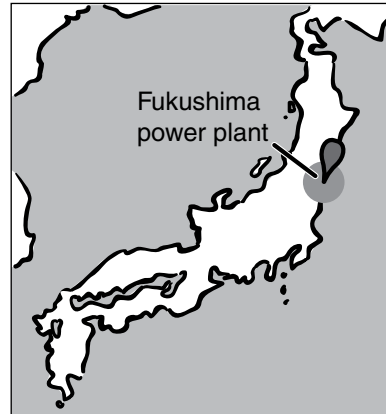
### Japan Earthquake Disaster

It is true that accidents are rare. However, they can be very bad if they happen. In 2011, there was a large earthquake in Japan. As a result, one of the nuclear power plants was destroyed. The event is too recent to know all the effects it might have. Still, scientists believe that when the disaster is finally chronicled, it will prove to be one of the worst nuclear disasters ever.

Thousands of people had to be moved away from the plant. Waste leaked into the ocean. The cleanup will be long. It will take decades and it will be very costly.

### Being Careful

There is no doubt that nuclear energy can be very good. It can give us energy. It can be safe and cheap. But it can also be dangerous. If we must use it, then we must use it carefully.



Five days after the earthquake, the U.S. government advised Americans within 50 miles of the plant to leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. According to paragraph 2, what is one way that nuclear energy is better than energy from coal and oil?**

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**2. According to paragraphs 3 and 4, what is one of the benefits of nuclear power?**

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**3. List two problems with nuclear energy that the author names in the text.**

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**4. What is the author's point of view on nuclear energy?**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	