## Carl's New Kittens

Carl was just a little boy of four. His family lived on an enormous 14
farm and they had new kittens to play with every year in the spring. This year, 30
Carl kept telling his mother over and over again about the new kittens. He 44
was very excited about them and said to his mother, "Come and see the new 59
kittens!" Every morning he went outside to play with them. 69
One morning, Carl's mother could not find him and so she went to look 83
for him. She looked all over the house and she looked in the barn, but Carl 99 was not there. Was Carl playing with the new kittens? She decided to look in 114 the garden and all over the yard.

She finally saw him behind the chicken coop. He was sitting in the dirt, 135 playing with the new kittens, a very fluffy mix of black and white fur. She was 151 very surprised! This was not an ordinary litter of kittens! They were baby skunks! 165

The mother skunk was at the edge of the woods watching its babies, but 179 it did not seem to be very worried about them. "Will the mother skunk run 194 over to protect its babies?" Carl's mother said to herself. "What should I do?" 208

She stood very still because she knew that if she was noisy or if she got 224 too close, the mother skunk would make an awful smell! 234

The skunk kittens soon got tired of playing with Carl and walked over to 248 join their mother in the woods. Carl's mother was very glad! 259

Carl walked over to his mother and asked, "Did you see my new 272 kittens?"

His mother laughed and said, "Yes, I saw your new kittens!"
When Carl was growing up, his mother told the story about the new 297 kittens over and over again!

Number of words read correctly:


