

## Determining Theme

Lexile: 790L  
Word Count: 500

# The New Phone

One day, John saw a commercial for the U Talk 300 Smartphone. At that moment, he knew he had to have it. The U Talk 300 had apps, games, and Internet connection – everything John wanted. However, it was a new phone, so it was expensive. John couldn't afford it right away. To earn money, he worked for his uncle for several months. Once he had saved up enough, he went right to the cell phone store.

As he walked into his local Cell Phone City, John received a pleasant surprise.

"It's your lucky day, young man!" said the store manager. "We just put the U Talk 300 on sale this week."

John flashed a big smile. He quickly grabbed the phone off the shelf. He handed his money to the cashier and completed his purchase. Now he felt like he was on top of the world.

"I finally have it!" he cheered. "The U Talk 300 Smartphone is all mine!"

At school the next day, John couldn't wait to show everyone all of the fun apps and amazing features.

"Look what I got yesterday, Malik!" John bragged, holding his U Talk 300 up for him to see.

"Cool! That's a pretty decent phone," Malik responded, sounding slightly unimpressed.

"Decent?" John asked, confused. "What do you mean?"

"Well, there's nothing wrong with the U Talk 300," Malik explained, "but it's kind of old already. Most stores have put it on sale. If you want to see a really cool phone, check out mine," Malik insisted while handing John his sparkling new device.

"Wow! What is this?" John questioned.

"It's the new Fire Phone 1000 that came out last week," Malik said with a satisfied grin. "The Fire Phone 1000 has the fastest processor, a 20-megapixel camera, a 7-inch screen, and amazing audio quality. It's pretty much the best phone ever made."

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John stared in amazement at Malik's phone. Then he looked at his U Talk 300 and sighed.

"There's no way I can afford a Fire Phone after I spent all that money on the U Talk 300," John said with a look of disappointment on his face.

After seeing Malik's Fire Phone, John was no longer happy with his U Talk 300. At lunch, John felt the cell phone vibrate in his pocket. He looked down and thought about answering it, but decided to let it ring. He was too ashamed to pull it out of his pocket. Before seeing Malik's Fire Phone, John had planned to show everyone all the games and apps at recess, but he kept his phone in his pocket because he was too embarrassed to show it to anyone.

Sadly, as John saw more and more students with Fire Phones around school, he began using his U Talk 300 less and less. Even though the U Talk 300 had all the features that John wanted, he couldn't stop comparing it to everyone else's phone. Eventually, John just kept the phone powered off in his backpack.

**Name:**

**Theme**  
**Homework**

What is the theme of the passage?

1. Text:

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2. List O' Topics:

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3. Sentence about what the author believes:

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4. Revised sentence:

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**\*\*Don't forget to complete the RACES response on the back side using your theme in #4\*\***

