**Grade 10 Fall Oral Reading Passage**

**Swiss Build Longest Tunnel**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On June 1, Switzerland inaugurated the 35.4-mile Gotthard Railway Tunnel. It is a major engineering achievement deep under snow-capped peaks. The construction was carried out over 17 years at a cost of $12 billion.

Many tunnels crisscross the Swiss Alps, and Gotthard Pass already has two. The first, also for trains, was built in 1882. But the Gotthard Base Tunnel is a record-setter. It eclipses Japan's 53.8-kilometer Seikan Tunnel as the world's longest. It bores deeper than any other tunnel, running about 1.4 miles underground at its maximum depth.

The thoroughfare aims to cut travel times, ease roadway traffic and draw cargo from pollution-spewing trucks that travel between Europe's north and south. The tunnel will open for commercial service in December. The two-way tunnel will take up to 260 freight trains and 65 passenger trains per day.

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