

FLUENCY INSTRUCTION

What is Fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read orally with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.

Fluency Research

Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read has this to say about fluency instruction:

"Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means.

To read with expression, readers must be able to divide the text into meaningful chunks. These chunks include phrases and clauses. Readers must know to pause appropriately within and at the ends of sentences and when to change emphasis and tone.

A large scale study by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found that 44% of a representative sample of the nation's fourth graders were low in fluency. Students who scored lower on measures of fluency also scored lower on measures of comprehension.

Students who read and reread passages orally as they receive guidance and/or feedback become better readers. Repeated oral reading improves the reading ability of all students throughout the elementary school years. It also helps struggling readers at higher grade levels. A total of five readings is sufficient for most students.

Direct instruction is especially important for readers who are struggling. Readers who have not yet attained fluency are not likely to make effective and efficient use of silent, independent reading time.

According to one published norm, students should be reading approximately 60 words per minute correctly by the end of first grade, 90-100 words per minute correctly by the end of second grade, and approximately 114 words per minute correctly by the end of third grade."

Fluency Websites		
Printable Readers Theatre Scripts	www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm www.lisablau.com/freescrpts.html	
Printable Poems	http://www.poetry4kids.com/poems	

FLUENCY ACTIVITIES

The following research based activities are recommended in *Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read* to increase reading fluency:

Student-Adult Reading

"In student-adult reading, the student reads one-on-one with an adult. The adult reads the text first, providing the students with a model of fluent reading. Then the student reads the same passage to the adult with the adult providing assistance and encouragement. The student rereads the passage until the reading is quite fluent. This should take approximately three to four rereadings."

Choral Reading

"In choral, or unison reading, students read along as a group with you. Choose a book that is at the students' independent reading level (students can read 95% or more of the words accurately). Patterned or predictable books are particularly useful for choral reading because their repetitious style invites students to join in. Begin by reading the book aloud as you model fluent reading. Then reread the book and invite students to join in as they recognize the words you are reading. Continue rereading the book, encouraging students to read along as they are able. Students should read the book to you three to five times total (though not necessarily on the same day). At this time, students should be able to read the text independently."

Tape-Assisted Reading

In tape assisted reading, students read along in their books as they hear a fluent reader read the book on an audiotape. The book should be at the students' independent reading level. Students follow along with the tape, pointing to each word their books. Next, the students should try to read along with the tape. Reading along with the tape should continue until the student is able to read the book independently, without the support of the tape.

Partner Reading

In partner reading a fluent and less fluent reader are paired together. The more fluent reader reads a paragraph or page aloud. Then the less fluent reader reads the same text. The less fluent reader rereads the passage until he or she can read it fluently. In another form of partner reading, children who are at the same level are paired to reread a story that they have received instruction on during a teacher-guided part of the lesson.

Readers' Theatre

In readers' theatre, students rehearse and perform a play for peers or others. They read from scripts that have rich dialogue. Readers' theatre provides readers with a legitimate reason to reread the text and to practice fluency.

SPEED READ CARD SPEED READ CARD Name _____ Date ___/___ Name _____ Date ___/__/__ Title 1st Reading Time: ____ Seconds 1st Reading Time: ____ Seconds 2nd Reading Time: _____ Seconds 2nd Reading Time: _____ Seconds 3rd Reading Time: _____ Seconds 3rd Reading Time: _____ Seconds SPEED READ CARD SPEED READ CARD Name _____ Date ___/___ Name _____ Date ___/__/__ Title _____ Title _____ 1st Reading Time: ____ Seconds 1st Reading Time: Seconds 2nd Reading Time: ____ Seconds 2nd Reading Time: _____ Seconds 3rd Reading Time: ____ Seconds 3rd Reading Time: _____ Seconds SPEED READ CARD SPEED READ CARD Name _____ Date ___/___ Name _____ Date ___/__/__ Title _____ Title _____

1st Reading Time: ____ Seconds

2nd Reading Time: _____ Seconds

3rd Reading Time: ____ Seconds

1st Reading Time: ____ Seconds

2nd Reading Time: ____ Seconds

3rd Reading Time: ____ Seconds

Eleanor Roosevelt - The First Lady of the World

A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Reader #1	Reader #4
Reader #2	Reader #5
Reader #3	Reader #6

Reader #3: Good morning and welcome to our presentation of, "Eleanor

Roosevelt - The First Lady of the World."

Reader #5: Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the most remarkable women of our

time. She had more political influence than any other woman in

American history.

Reader #1: Eleanor Roosevelt was an amazing woman full of compassion for

the disadvantaged people of the world and a desire to keep on

learning new things every day of her life.

Reader #4: She spoke out for women's rights, the rights of Native Americans,

the homeless, and minorities. She used the money she earned

making speeches to help the poor.

Reader #6: As Eleanor Roosevelt spoke out, she implored people by saying,

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right."

Reader #3: Let's learn more about Eleanor Roosevelt by starting at the very

beginning...

Reader #5: Eleanor Roosevelt was born on October 11, 1884. Her parents

were Anna and Elliot Roosevelt. Her uncle Theodore was the

twenty-sixth president of the United States.

Reader #1: Eleanor's father adored his daughter and called her, "Little Nell."

Eleanor's mother however, was cold and distant.

Reader #2: When Eleanor was just eight years old, her mother died. Two

years later, her father died as well. Eleanor missed her father

tremendously. She grew up as a lonely young girl in her

grandmother's house.

Reader #4: When Eleanor reached the age of fifteen, her grandmother decided

to send her to a prestigious boarding school in England.

Reader #6: Eleanor flourished at the school. It was there that she learned the

importance of helping others.

Reader #2: Eleanor returned to the United States in 1902. She was eighteen

years old. Her grandmother thought that Eleanor should attend

many fancy parties and balls.

Reader #3: But Eleanor dreaded these fancy parties, for she was painfully shy.

One day while riding on a train, Eleanor met the man who would

become her husband.

Reader #5: His name was Franklin Roosevelt. He was a distant cousin to

Eleanor. Franklin enjoyed talking to Eleanor and listening to her hopes of making the world a better place. She desperately wanted

to help the poor and disadvantaged people.

Reader #6: Eleanor married Franklin Roosevelt on St. Patrick's Day, 1905.

Within the next ten years, Eleanor and Franklin had six children – one daughter and five sons. Tragically, one son died as an infant.

helped to nurse her husband. She also went to political meetings in

his place and reported back to him on all of the details that she

In 1921, Franklin Roosevelt was stricken with polio. Eleanor

had learned.

Reader #1:

Reader #2: Franklin wanted to go into politics. He admired Eleanor's uncle

Theodore and wanted to try and make a difference in the world.

He was elected governor of New York in 1928 and 1930.

Reader #4: Franklin campaigned hard with Eleanor at his side and was

elected president of the United States in 1932. He was reelected president in 1936, 1940, and 1944. He was the only president ever

elected to serve more than two terms.

Reader #5: During the 1930's, the United States was in the throes of the Great

Depression. Banks and factories were shut down and millions of Americans lost their jobs. Eleanor traveled across the country and

wrote about her travels in her daily newspaper column. She

brought new hope to the people of the United States.

Reader #6: In 1936, while her husband was running for his second term,

Eleanor wrote a book about her life entitled, <u>This is My Story</u>. The book became an instant best seller and more and more people came to recognize the remarkable gifts that Eleanor Roosevelt

shared with the nation.

Reader #3: In 1941, the United States entered World War II. Eleanor

Roosevelt traveled around the world visiting American soldiers. She copied down the names and addresses of the young soldiers she met overseas and wrote letters to their families when she

returned home.

Reader #2: On April 12, 1945, just months before the war ended, Franklin

Roosevelt died. Eleanor was alone in the world after having been

married to Franklin for forty years.

Reader #4: Some people thought Eleanor would retire after Franklin's death,

but that did not happen.

Reader #2: In the autumn of 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt received a phone call

from President Harry Truman. He asked Eleanor to become a delegate for the United States at the very first meeting of the

United Nations.

Reader #1: Eleanor Roosevelt listened while leaders from all around the world

talked about how to ensure world peace. Eleanor Roosevelt often

said, "If we are to live together, we have to talk."

Reader #5: Eleanor Roosevelt helped campaign for John F. Kennedy when he

sought to become president in 1960. She was seventy-six years old and still believed that one person could make a difference in the

world.

Reader #3: Shortly after her seventy-eighth birthday, Eleanor Roosevelt died.

Her funeral was attended by scores of world leaders who came to

pay tribute to this most remarkable woman.

Reader #6: The world mourned the passing of the most important and loved

woman of our time. A woman who...

Reader #1: "Would rather light a candle than curse the darkness...

All: And her glow has warmed the world."

Reader #2: The end.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

A Reader's Theatre Script Adapted by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1 Narrator #2 Narrator #3
Papa Bear Mama Bear Baby Bear Goldilocks

Narrator #1: Once upon a time a family of bears lived in a little house in the

forest. Every morning Mama Bear made some delicious porridge

for their breakfast.

Baby Bear: Oh dear! This porridge is too hot for me to eat.

Papa Bear: Very well then. Let's go on a walk and when we return your

porridge will be just right, Baby Bear.

Narrator #2: While the Bear family strolled in the forest, a little girl named

Goldilocks arrived at their house and knocked on the door. Of

course no one answered, so the little girl walked right in.

Narrator #3: Goldilocks saw the three bowls of porridge and took a bite from

Papa Bear's big bowl.

Goldilocks: Ouch! This porridge is much too hot.

Narrator #2: Next, Goldilocks tried Mama Bear's porridge.

Goldilocks: Yuck! This porridge is too cold. I will try the porridge in this tiny

bowl. Oh yummy! This porridge is just right!

Narrator #1: And Goldilocks at every bite of Baby Bear's porridge.

Narrator #2: Goldilocks decided to take a look around the Bear's house. She

went into their cozy living room where she saw three chairs. Papa Bear's chair was very big. Mama Bear's chair was medium size.

Baby Bear's chair was very small.

Narrator #3: Goldilocks sat in Papa Bear's chair.

Goldilocks: This chair is much too hard.

Narrator #1: Next, Goldilocks tried Mama Bear's chair, but it was much too

soft. So Goldilocks tried Baby Bear's chair.

Goldilocks: Ah! This little chair is just right for me!

Narrator #2: CRASH!!! Baby Bear's little chair was much too small for

Goldilocks and it broke into many little pieces.

Goldilocks: I think I'll go upstairs and have a look around.

Narrator #3: So Goldilocks went upstairs and she saw three beds. Goldilocks

tried Papa Bear's great big bed. It was much too hard.

Narrator #1: Goldilocks tried Mama Bear's bed, but it was much too soft.

Narrator #2: Goldilocks tried Baby Bear's bed. It was just right. Soon

Goldilocks fell fast asleep.

Narrator #3: Very soon, the bears returned from their walk.

Papa Bear: Someone has been eating my porridge!

Mama Bear: Someone has been eating my porridge!

Baby Bear: Someone has been eating my porridge and ate it all up!

Narrator #1: The bears went into the living room.

Papa Bear: Someone has been sitting in my chair!

Mama Bear: Someone has been sitting in my chair!

Baby Bear: Someone has been sitting in my chair and broke it!

Narrator #2: The bears went upstairs.

Papa Bear: Someone has been sleeping in my bed!

Mama Bear: Someone has been sleeping in my bed!

Baby Bear: Someone has been sleeping in my bed and there she is!

Narrator #3: Goldilocks woke up. When she saw the bears staring at her, she

jumped up and ran out of the house. She ran all the way home

and she never returned to the forest again.

Narrator #1: And as for the three bears...

Papa Bear: We still eat porridge every morning.

Mama Bear: And we still take a walk to let our porridge cool.

Baby Bear: But now we always lock our door before we go!

Helen Keller - A Remarkable Woman

A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Reader #1 Reader #2 Reader #3
Reader #4 Annie Sullivan Polly Thomson

Reader #1: Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on June 27, 1880.

Reader #2: When Helen was a year old she had a very high fever. She was

very sick.

Reader #3: The illness left Helen blind and deaf. She could not see. She could

not hear.

Reader #2: Helen Keller lived in a dark and silent world.

Reader #3: Helen could not hear other people speak, so she could not talk.

Reader #2: Helen touched things to find out about the world around her.

Reader #4: Helen could not let others know what she wanted or how she felt.

She would cry and scream in her silent, dark world.

Reader #3: Helen's parents took Helen to many doctors. No one could help

them. One day they learned of a special teacher.

Reader #1: Helen's teacher was Annie Sullivan. She came to teach Helen

when Helen was seven years old.

Annie Sullivan: I had to find a way to reach Helen. I needed to hind a way to help

Helen communicate.

Reader #3: Annie taught Helen a special alphabet.

Annie Sullivan: I would give Helen a doll. Then I would spell the word into

Helen's hand.

Reader #2: At first Helen did not understand.

Annie Sullivan: Then one day we passed by a water pump. I put Helen's hand in

the water. I spelled the word "water" into Helen's hand over and

over again.

Reader #2: At last Helen understood what Annie was trying to teach her!

Annie: Helen learned very fast. She learned words for "mother", "father"

and "teacher".

Reader #4: In later years Helen Keller wrote, "the day I learned the word

"water" was the day I discovered light, hope, and joy."

Annie: I taught Helen thousands of words. I taught her to read by feeling

a series of raised dots on a page.

Reader #2: This system of reading is called Braille. Helen learned to read very

fast.

Reader #3: Helen Keller became famous around the world. Everyone called

her "the wonder girl".

Annie: When Helen was ten years old, she decided that she wanted to

learn how to speak.

Reader #1: Helen could not hear any speech sounds. She could not hear the

sounds that she was making.

Reader #2: Helen did learn to speak, but she could not always speak clearly.

Reader #4: When Helen Keller was twenty years old, she went to college.

Annie: I sat next to Helen and spelled everything that was said in each

class into Helen's hand.

Reader #3: Helen was an excellent student. She studied many long, long

hours.

Annie: While Helen was in college, she wrote her autobiography entitled,

The Story of My Life. Once Helen wrote, "Knowledge is

happiness."

Reader #2: Helen Keller graduated from college in 1904. By then she was

even more famous. People wanted to meet this remarkable

woman.

Annie: Helen and I traveled around the world. Helen lectured before

large audiences. She told people about her life.

Reader #3: Helen Keller wrote many books and magazine articles about her

life.

Reader #4: She worked hard to help other blind people. She worked for the

American Federation for the Blind for many years.

Reader #1: In 1936, Annie Sullivan died. She had been Helen's teacher for

more than fifty years.

Reader #2: Polly Thomson, Annie's secretary, became Helen's constant

companion.

Polly Thomson: During World War II, Helen visited injured soldiers in the

hospital.

Reader #4: Helen tried to help soldiers who had lost their sight. She gave

them hope.

Reader #1: Helen Keller wrote that helping the wounded soldiers was the

"crowning experience" of her life.

Polly: Helen Keller met many important people. She met kings, queens,

and Presidents.

Reader #3: Helen Keller won many special awards. In 1964 President Lyndon

Johnson gave Helen the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Polly: Helen Keller died on June 1, 1968. She was eighty-eight years old.

She had lived a full and rich life.

Reader #1: Helen Keller could not see or hear. She did not let this stop her.

She wrote many books and she even learned to ride a bicycle!

Reader #3: Helen Keller loved to read. She enjoyed learning. She also

enjoyed swimming.

Reader #4: Helen Keller brought love and hope to millions of handicapped

people around the world.

Reader #1: This remarkable woman was admired and loved throughout the

world.

All: The end.

Jack and the Beanstalk

An English Folktale

A Reader's Theatre Script Adapted by Lisa Blau

Reader #1 Reader #2 Reader #3 Jack

Mother Giant Little Man Giant's Wife

Reader #1: Once upon a time long, long ago there lived a young boy named

Jack.

Reader #2: Jack lived in a small cottage with his mother. They were very

poor.

Reader #3: One day Jack's mother said to him...

Mother: Oh, Jack. Whatever will we do? We haven't any money for food.

You will have to go to town and sell our cow. It is the only way

that we'll be able to eat.

Jack: Very well, mother.

Reader #1: So, Jack took the cow and walked toward the town.

Reader #2: He hadn't gone far when he met a strange little man.

Little Man: Say...young lad...where are you going with that cow?

Jack: I'm going to town to sell the cow so we can buy some food.

Little Man: Ah...but the town is so very far away...I will gladly buy the cow

from you.

Jack: What price will you pay me for my cow?

Little Man: I have no coins, but I have something far better than money. If

you give me your cow, I shall give you some magic beans!

Jack: Well, I don't know if I should. My mother told me to go to town

and sell the cow.

Little Man: But, lad! Think how proud your mother will be when she learns

that you have some magic beans!

Jack: Very well then. Here is the cow. Please let me have your magic

beans.

Reader #3: So, the deal was made. Jack walked home with his sack of magic

beans. His mother would be so proud of him for making such a

good deal.

Mother: Well, Jack. Did you get a good price for our cow?

Jack: Yes, I did. I got this sack of magic beans!

Mother: What? You foolish, foolish boy! How could you have done such a

thing? Now we have no food to eat, whatever will we do?

Reader #1: Jack's mother sent him to bed without any supper and she threw

the bag of magic seeds out the window.

Reader #2: In the morning when Jack awoke there was a huge beanstalk

growing outside his window.

Jack: Wow! Look at this beanstalk! Why it seems to touch the clouds!

Reader #1: Jack decided to climb up the beanstalk.

Reader #2: He climbed and climbed and climbed.

Reader #1: At last he reached the top. He was in a magical land.

Reader #2: Jack found a large, beautiful castle. He knocked on the door. A

woman opened the huge door.

Giant's Wife: Who are you? What do you want, boy?

Jack: I'm Jack. I've just climbed up the beanstalk. I'm very hungry.

Could you spare some food for me, kind woman?

Giant's Wife: Very well, come in...but be careful. My husband is a mean and

grumpy giant. He will not be happy to see you.

Reader #3: Jack went into the kitchen and the Giant's wife fed him a good

meal.

Reader #2: All at once the floor began to shake and a loud voice roared...

Giant: FE-FI-FO-FUM! I smell the blood of an Englishman! Be he alive

or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread!

Giant's Wife: Oh, heavens! The giant has returned! Quick, hide here in the

cupboard.

Reader #2: Jack hid in the cupboard and watched what the giant did next.

Giant: Wife! Wife! Bring me some food, my gold, my magic hen, and

golden harp! Hurry, hurry! Do as I say.

Reader #1: The giant ate and ate and ate. He counted his many bags of gold.

Reader #2: Then the giant roared at the magic hen...

Giant: Lay me ten golden eggs at once!

Reader #1: And the magic hen did as the giant had ordered.

Giant: Play magic harp, play!

Reader #2: The Magic Harp began to play the sweetest music that Jack had

ever heard.

Reader #1: Soon the giant fell asleep. His loud snores shook the castle.

Reader #2: Jack saw his chance to run away.

Reader #1: But before he left, Jack grabbed the giant's sack of gold, his hen,

and the magic harp.

Reader #2: But as Jack picked up the magic hen, the hen cried out and woke

the giant up.

Reader #1: Jack ran as fast as he could out of the castle and across the clouds

to the beanstalk.

Reader #2: The giant ran after Jack. His great steps shook the ground.

Reader #1: Jack scurried down the beanstalk. The giant was not far behind

him.

Reader #2: When Jack reached the ground he grabbed an axe and began to

chop down the beanstalk.

Reader #3: Hack! Hack! The axe flew across the beanstalk. At last

the beanstalk fell to the ground and the mean and grumpy giant

crashed down with it.

Reader #1: That was the end of the magic beanstalk and the mean and

grumpy giant. But it does not mean the end of our tale.

Reader #2: Oh no! Our tale has the happiest of endings, for Jack and his

mother now had all the money they needed.

Reader #3: They also had a hen that laid golden eggs...

Reader #1: And a harp to play the world's sweetest music...

Reader #2: And they lived happily ever after.

All: The end.

Rumplestiltskin

A Reader's Theatre Script Adapted by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1 Miller
Narrator #2 King
Narrator #3 Daughter

Narrator #4 Rumplestiltskin

Narrator #1: Once upon a time there was a man who owned a mill. All day long

he worked at the big stone wheel, grinding wheat into flour for

baking bread.

Narrator #4: The miller was poor as a church mouse and dreamed of a brilliant

future for his beautiful daughter.

Narrator #3: One morning the king's carriage passed by the village in a grand

procession. The miller began to boast and brag about his daughter

and said...

Miller: My daughter is not only beautiful and intelligent, why she can spin

straw into gold!

Narrator #2: Now the king was very, very fond of gold, so he ordered his

carriage to stop and said...

King: Straw into gold? Why if what you say is true, I will marry your

daughter and make her my queen.

Narrator #1: Now the foolish miller continued to tell his tale and the very next

day he took his daughter to the king's castle. As soon as they

arrived, the king said...

King: Here is a room full of straw and a spinning wheel. You must spin

this straw into gold by morning or I shall have your head.

Narrator #3: And with that, he locked the door behind him and left the miller's

daughter all alone.

Narrator #4: Of course this beautiful girl had no idea how to spin straw into

gold. She looked at the room full of straw and began to cry.

Narrator #2: Just then the door opened and a strange little man hopped into the

room.

Rumplestiltskin: Why are you crying my dear?

Daughter: I must spin this straw into gold.

Rumplestiltskin: Why, that's easy as pie.

Daughter: Do not tease me. I cannot spin straw into gold. It is impossible.

Rumplestiltskin: Impossible for you...but not for me! What will you give me if I

spin the straw into gold for you?

Daughter: I shall give you my necklace if you promise to help me.

Narrator #4: The little man took the necklace and sat at the spinning wheel. In

no time at all the room was filled with gold.

Narrator #1: The next morning, when the king opened the door, he was

overjoyed. But he was also greedy. He filled an even larger room with straw and demanded that the miller's daughter spin the straw

into gold.

Narrator #2: Once again she began to cry and once again the strange little man

appeared and offered to spin the straw into gold...for a price, of

course.

Daughter: I shall give you my ring if you promise to help me.

Narrator #3: The little man took the ring and began to spin the straw into gold.

When the king opened the door the next morning, he gasped in

delight.

Narrator #4: He put the miller's daughter into a huge room filled with straw

and demanded that she spin the straw into gold.

Narrator #1: Once again she began to cry and once again the strange little man

appeared and offered to spin the straw into gold...for a price, of

course.

Daughter: I have nothing left to give you. I already gave you my necklace

and my ring.

Rumplestiltskin: Then promise me your firstborn child.

Daughter: I could never promise such a thing.

Rumplestiltskin: Very well, it is your choice. I will not help you.

Narrator #4: Now what choice did the miller's daughter have? She agreed to

give the strange little man her firstborn child.

Narrator #2: So the strange little man spun the straw into gold and when the

king opened the door the next morning he was overjoyed. He

married the miller's daughter in a joyous celebration.

Narrator #3: Time passed and the new queen forgot all about her promise to the

strange little man.

Narrator #4: When she gave birth to a beautiful child, the strange little man

appeared and said...

Rumplestiltskin: A promise is a promise. I have come for the child.

Daughter: Please do not take my child. I shall give you any treasure in the

kingdom.

Rumplestiltskin: A promise is a promise. You must give me the child.

Narrator #3: The queen began to sob. She cried so hard, the little man felt sorry

for her and said...

Rumplestiltskin: I will give you three days. If you can guess my name in that time,

you can keep your child.

Narrator #1: The queen thought and thought. She could not sleep. When the

little man returned on the third day he said...

Rumplestiltskin: Well, my queen? What is my name?

Daughter: Is it Michael? Is it Matthew? Could it be Devin?

Rumplestiltskin: Ha! Ha! You will never guess my name!

Daughter: Could it be Golden-nose? Could it be Dumpling Bottom?

Rumplestiltskin: No! No! No! I shall give you one more day to guess my name.

Narrator #2: Now the queen thought and thought. She held her beautiful baby

and began to cry. Just then the king walked in and said...

King: Why my darling, why are you weeping so?

Daughter: Oh, I suppose it's a change in the weather, my dear.

Narrator #4: The gueen could not bear to tell her husband the real reason for

her tears. The king did not like to see his wife so sad and miserable so he decided to tell her a story to cheer her up.

King: This morning as I rode through the forest I saw a strange little

man dancing about and singing a funny little tune. He sang...

Rumplestiltskin: My name is Rumplestiltskin, That's my name, Yes, that's my

name. And no one shall ever win my game!

Narrator #3: The queen was overjoyed with her husband's words and when the

strange little man appeared the next day she said...

Daughter: Is your name Kevin? Is your name Adam? Is your name Twinkle

Toes?

Rumplestiltskin: Ha! Ha! Ha! No! No! No!

Daughter: Then is your name Rumplestiltskin?

Rumplestiltskin: How did you know? It's impossible!

Daughter: Why nothing is impossible little man.

Narrator #1: And with that the little man grew so angry, he stomped his feet as

hard as he could. He sank right into the floor and disappeared

and was never seen again.

All: And the king and queen lived happily ever after.

The Ant and the Grasshopper



An Old Fable by Aesop



A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Reader #1	Reader #2	Reader #3
Reader #4	Ant	Grasshopper

Reader #4: On a beautiful summer day a grasshopper sat and sang a sweet

song.

Reader #2: The grasshopper saw an ant working hard carrying grain to his

house.

Grasshopper: Look at that silly ant. All day long he works hard and never

enjoys the sunshine.

Reader #3: The grasshopper laughed at the ant

and then he continued his song. He basked in the warm sun all summer long without a care in the world.

Reader #1: As summer turned to autumn the grasshopper continued to sing

his song and enjoy the sunshine. The ant, on the other hand,

continued to gather food and store it in his house.

Reader #4: When winter came the cold winds

blew hard and the snow covered the meadow with a thick blanket of white.

Reader #2: The grasshopper tried to find food, but of course he found nothing.

Reader #1: It didn't take long for the grasshopper to knock upon the ant's

door and beg...

Grasshopper: Please help me! I have nothing to eat! I shall starve without your

help.

Ant: My dear Mr. Grasshopper, all summer long I worked hard

carrying food to my home while you played in the sunshine. I will

not share my food with someone who is so lazv.

Grasshopper: I was busy singing my song. I was making beautiful music. What

should I do now?

Reader #3: The ant thought for a moment and then said...

Ant: I suggest you dance.

Reader #1: And the moral of this fable is...

Ant: You must do the work before you take the time to play.

All: The End.

The Bremen Town Musicians



A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Reader #1 Reader #2 Reader #3 Reader #4 Donkey Dog Cat

Rooster

Reader #2: Once upon a time a donkey worked long and hard for his master. As

the years went by the donkey grew old and weak.

Reader #4: One day the donkey heard his master say that he was going to get rid of

him. When the donkey heard this he said...

Donkey: I will run away to the town of Bremen. I have a strong voice. I will

become a fine singer.

Reader #1: So the donkey left the farm and headed down the road to Bremen.

Reader #3: By and by the donkey met an old dog.

Donkey: Good morning, Dog! How are you this fine day?

Dog: I am old and weak. My master wants to get rid of me. I don't know

what to do.

Donkey: Why not come with me to the town of Bremen? Together we can be

fine musicians.

Reader #2: So the dog and the donkey headed down the road.

Reader #4: By and by they met a cat.

Dog: Hello, Cat! How are you this fine day?

Cat: I am old and weak. My master wants to get rid of me. I don't know

what to do.

Donkey: Why not come with us to the town of Bremen? Together we can be fine

musicians.

Reader #3: So the cat, the dog, and the donkey headed down the road.

Reader #1: By and by they net a rooster.

Cat: Hello, Rooster! How are you this fine day?

Rooster: I am old and weak. My master wants to get rid of me. I don't know

what to do.

Donkey: Why not come with us to the town of Bremen? Together we can be fine

musicians.

Reader #3: So the rooster, the cat, the dog, and the donkey headed down the road.

Reader #1: The animals walked all day but they did not reach the town of Bremen.

Donkey: Come, my friends. Let's rest under this big tree for the night.

Reader #2: The rooster flew up into the tree to get a look around. Suddenly he

called out...

Rooster: We are in luck my friends! I see a light. Perhaps there is a house for

us to sleep in.

Reader #4: The animals followed the rooster to the light. There they found a little

house. The donkey peeked in the window.

Reader #1: The donkey saw a band of robbers inside the little hose. The robbers

were so busy counting their money that they did not see the donkey.

Donkey: My friends we must think of a way to frighten those robbers away.

Reader #3: It wasn't long before the animals had hatched a good plan.

Reader #2: The donkey stood on his hind legs. The dog climbed on the donkey's

shoulders. The cat climbed onto the dog's back. The rooster perched

on top of the cat.

Reader #4: And then the animals call out...

Donkey: Hee haw! Hee haw!

Dog: Woof! Woof! Woof!

Cat: Meow! Meow! Meow!

Rooster: Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Reader #3: The noise scared the robbers. The robbers dashed out of the little

house and ran away.

Reader #1: The robbers did not take their gold. They did not take their food.

They just ran away as fast as they could.

Donkey: What good luck, my friends! Now we have a cozy house, tasty food,

and all the gold we'll ever need.

Reader #3: The animals never went to the town of Bremen. They lived happily

ever after in the tiny house in the woods.

All: The End.

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

A Fable A Reader's Theatre Script Adapted by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1 Narrator #2 Narrator #3

City Mouse Country Mouse

Narrator #1: One day the city mouse went to visit her cousin who lived in the

country.

Narrator #2: The country mouse was very happy to see her cousin. She set out a

few crumbs of bread and a tiny piece of cheese.

Narrator #3: Then the country mouse said...

Country Mouse: Welcome, cousin! Come and eat some of my tasty food.

City Mouse: This is not what I would call tasty food. Why, in the city I eat

cakes, pies, and fancy goodies all day long.

Narrator #1: The city mouse told the country mouse.

Narrator #2: Then the city mouse said...

City Mouse: Why don't you come to the city with me and see what you have

been missing.

Narrator #3: So the country mouse followed her cousin back to the city.

Narrator #1: The two mice climbed on top of a table piled high with all kinds of

fancy foods.

Narrator #2: There were cakes, pies, and cookies.

Country Mouse: Oh, my! How I have wasted my time in the country. I like the

city. This is great!

Narrator #3: The country mouse told her cousin.

Narrator #1: Just then the doors to the dining room opened and a huge cat ran

right toward the two little mice.

City Mouse: Hurry! Run! Run! It's the cat!

Narrator #2: The city mouse called out to her cousin.

Narrator #1: The two mice ran to the nearest hiding place.

Narrator #2: As soon as the cat went away the country mouse said...

Country Mouse: Good-bye, cousin. You're welcome to your city life. It is not for

me. I will be happy with my simple country life. Your life may be

fancy, but it's just not safe.

Narrator #3: And so the country mouse ran all the way home and never again

returned to the city.

All: And today's fable has this moral:

Country Mouse: A simple life lived in peace is better than a life of luxury lived in

fear.

The Lion and the Mouse

A Fable by Aesop

A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1	Narrator #2	Narrator #3
T •	3.7	

Lion Mouse

Narrator #2 Long, long ago a lion was sound asleep. A little mouse was

scampering through the tall grass on his way home.

Narrator #3 The little mouse ran past the lion but alas, as he ran he fell

and he let out a very loud...

Mouse SQUEAK!.

Narrator #2 The lion woke up from his nap and roared...

Lion Who is this who spoils my slumber? I do not like to be

awakened in this way.

Narrator #3 The lion looked down and saw the little mouse.

Lion Well, well! I have found myself an afternoon snack!

Mouse Oh please, mighty lion. Do not eat me. Perhaps someday I

can pay you back. Please let me go.

Lion Ha! How could someone so tiny help a brave and mighty lion

like me? Be off with you then.

Mouse Thank you, mighty lion. And remember my words to be

true...Someday I may be able to help you.

Narrator #1 Not long after the mouse was set free by the lion, he heard a

terrible noise that echoed through the forest.

Mouse That sounds like the lion. He may need my help.

Narrator #2 The mouse ran off and found the lion, caught in the hunters'

ropes.

Mouse Oh, mighty lion. Do not roar and make such noise. The

hunters will come for you. Let me help you.

Lion How can you help me, you are so very small and I am so very

big and strong?

Narrator #1 The little mouse did not answer. He was too busy chewing

through the ropes with his tiny, sharp teeth.

Narrator #3 Soon the lion was free. Before he ran away to hide from the

hunters he stopped and said...

Lion Little mouse you have kept your word. You helped me when

I needed you the most. You have proven to be a good and

loyal friend.

Narrator #1 And from that day forth the lion and mouse were always the

very best of friends.

The Magic Porridge Pot

An Old Folktale Adapted by Lisa Blau

Storyteller #1 Storyteller #2 Storyteller #3

Mother Daughter Son

Villager #1 Villager #2

Storyteller #1: Once upon a time there lived a mother and her two young

children.

Storyteller #2: The family was <u>very</u> poor. They lived in a tiny cottage at the edge

of a small village.

Storyteller #3: Though they were poor, they were always happy for the mother

loved her children dearly.

Storyteller #1: The family was never hungry. High on the kitchen shelf sat a very

special cooking pot.

Storyteller #3: Whenever anyone was hungry, mother simply placed the pot upon

the stove and said...

Mother: Boil, little pot, boil.

Storyteller #3: And within minutes, the tiny pot would be filled with a hot,

delicious porridge.

Storyteller #2: The son would always say...

Son: Mmmm! Ahhhh! Ohhhh! Mother's porridge is the best in all the

land! And to think our magic pot cooks on demand!

Storyteller #3: And the daughter would always say...

Daughter: Yes! It is yummy! It is <u>so</u> very tasty in my tummy!

Storyteller #1: When the family had its fill of porridge, mother would simply

say...

Mother: Please stop, Magic Pot.

Storyteller #2: And the Magic Pot stopped just as quickly as it had begun.

Storyteller #1: And so it was at each meal. Mother would take the pot down from

the shelf, place it upon the stove and say the magic words...

All: Boil, little pot, boil.

Storyteller #3: And in minutes the pot would be filled with a hot, delicious

porridge.

Storyteller #1: Then the son would say...

Son: Oh, mother! Once again you have made us a fine meal!

Storyteller #3: And the daughter would say...

Daughter: So rich, so creamy...mother's porridge is truly dreamy!

Storyteller #2: When at last everyone had their fill of porridge the mother would

say...

Mother: Please stop, Magic Pot.

Storyteller #1: Now one day the mother said to her children...

Mother: Children, dear children. I must go to the village today. I ask only

one thing...do not touch the cooking pot. I shall be home soon.

Storyteller #1: The son said...

Son: Dear mother, fear not! I will not touch your cooking pot!

Storyteller #2: Then the daughter said...

Daughter: Oh mother of mine, please believe me...I will let your cooking pot

be.

Storyteller #3: So mother walked towards the village leaving her children alone

with the magic pot.

Storyteller #2: After a short while the son said...

Son: Sister, dear sister...I am so very hungry. What shall we do?

Daughter: Brother, dear brother...I am hungry too. I do not know what we

should do.

Storyteller #3: The daughter replied.

Storyteller #1: Then the son said...

Son: Like it or not, we must touch mother's cooking pot.

Storyteller #2: So the children placed the magic cooking pot upon the stove and

the daughter said...

Daughter: Boil, little pot, boil.

Storyteller #3: Soon the children filled their bowls with rich, creamy porridge.

When the first bowl was empty, the children helped themselves to

second helpings.

Son: Sister, dear sister...I am filled to the top. Tell me, how do you

make the magic pot stop?

Daughter: Ah, that's easy. We just say, "That is all, magic pot."

Storyteller #2: But the magic pot did not stop.

Son: Quick! Do something fast! The magic pot must stop, it's boiling

over the top!

Storyteller #3: The son cried out to his sister. So the daughter tried all kinds of

words...

Daughter: Stop! Please stop! Little Pot that will do! No more, I say! Please

stop! Stop! STOP!!!

Storyteller #1: The daughter did not know the magic words, so the little pot kept

making more and more and more porridge.

Storyteller #2: The porridge spilled out of the pot, into the tiny house and down

the lane towards the village.

Villager #1: What is this, I say? A stream of porridge is spreading across our

village today!

Villager #2: Grab your bowls and spoons! We must eat up all the porridge and

we must do it soon!

Storyteller #3: The villagers cried out. Then the villagers said...

Villager #1: Does anyone know how to make that pot stop?

Villager #2: Help us please! We do not wish to have our village covered with

porridge...oh please!

Storyteller #3: Just then the mother stepped out onto the street.

Storyteller #1: When she saw the porridge spreading across the village she said...

Mother: Oh dear, it's just as I feared...my daughter and son are the

naughty ones. They have touched the magic pot. Now it is I who

must make it stop.

Storyteller #2: So the mother said...

Mother: Please stop, Magic Pot.

Villager #2: Oh, thank you, kind woman. You have saved the day! We feared

that all of the porridge would carry us away!

Storyteller #3: The people of the village filled their pots, bowls, and stomachs with

the rich, creamy porridge. Everyone was very happy indeed.

Mother: When I returned home I scolded my daughter and son. I hope that

a lesson was learned on that bright, sunny day...

Son: If it is not yours, do not touch it...for you may not like what

happens...not one little bit.

Daughter: I learned a lesson on that sunny day...when mother gives

orders...I must obey!

Storyteller #2: And from that day to this the children obeyed their dear old mom

and never again went near the magic pot.

Mother: My sweet darling children learned their lesson well...now it's time

for us to go...for I hear the dinner bell!

All: Good-bye. Good-bye. Farewell. There's nothing more of our

story to tell!

The Stonecutter

A Folktale from Japan

A Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1 Narrator #2 Narrator #3

Narrator #4 Narrator #5 Stonecutter

Narrator #1: Once upon a time there was a Stonecutter.

Narrator #2: Every day the Stonecutter cut stones from the mountain and put

them in his cart.

Narrator #3: The Stonecutter worked hard all day with his chisel and his

hammer.

Narrator #4: All day, every day, the Stonecutter worked. He cut the stones and

he put them in his cart.

Narrator #1: One day the hot sun beat down upon the Stonecutter.

Stonecutter: How I wish I could be strong and powerful like the Sun.

Narrator #1: Said the Stonecutter.

Narrator #5: Now it just so happened that a mountain spirit lived nearby.

Narrator #2: When the mountain spirit heard the Stonecutter's wish, he decided

to grant him the wish.

Narrator #3: The Stonecutter became the Sun!

Stonecutter: Look at me! I am the Sun! I am powerful! I am strong! I am the

most powerful thing in the world!

Narrator #4: Just then a Cloud floated in front of the Stonecutter.

Stonecutter: With that Cloud in front of me, I cannot shine brightly. The Cloud

is more powerful than the Sun. How I wish I were a Cloud!

Narrator #2: And as before, the wish was granted and the Stonecutter became a

Cloud.

Stonecutter: It is fun to be a Cloud. I can rain upon the mountains and gardens.

I am very powerful.

Narrator #3: Just then a strong Wind blew and pushed the Cloud across the sky.

Stonecutter: The Wind is so strong. It is stronger than a Cloud. How I wish I

could be the Wind!

Narrator #1: And as before, the wish was granted and the Stonecutter became

the Wind!

Stonecutter: It is grand being the Wind, for I am so strong and powerful!

Narrator #2: Then the Wind bumped into the Mountain.

Stonecutter: Aha! The Mountain is stronger than the Wind! I wish to be a

Mountain!

Narrator #3: And just like that, the Stonecutter became a Mountain!

Stonecutter: Look at me! I am a strong and powerful Mountain!

Narrator #4: Just then, the Stonecutter felt something. He looked down and saw

a man with a chisel and a hammer. The man was cutting the stones

from the Mountain and placing them in his cart.

Stonecutter: Who dares to cut away at this Mountain? I see now that the

Stonecutter is stronger than any Mountain. How I wish that I

could be a mighty Stonecutter!

Narrator #5: His wish was granted.

Narrator #2: The Stonecutter cut stones from the mountain and put them in his

cart.

Narrator #4: He worked hard all day with his hammer and his chisel and he

said...

Stonecutter: I am a mighty Stonecutter. I am strong and powerful!

Narrator: And then the Stonecutter never made another wish.

The Three Wishes

An Old Folktale

Adapted for Reader's Theatre Script by Lisa Blau

Narrator #1 Narrator #2 Narrator #3

Fairy Woodcutter Wife

Narrator #1: Once upon a time a poor woodcutter

headed into the forest to chop down a few trees and sell the wood in the

nearby town.

Narrator #2: Just as the woodcutter was about to

cut down an old oak tree, he heard a

voice...

Fairy: Please, kind woodcutter. Do not cut

down this tree.

Narrator #3: The woodcutter said...

Woodcutter: And why not? I need the wood to

sell in the town so that I have money

to buy food.

Fairy: I cannot tell you why, but I promise if

you do as I ask, good luck will be yours.

Woodcutter: Very well. I will not cut down this

tree.

Narrator #2: Then the fairy said...

Fairy: Dear woodcutter, you have a good

and kind heart. I will grant your next

three wishes.

Narrator #1: The fairy flew into the forest. The

woodcutter headed home to tell his

wife of their good fortune.

Woodcutter: Wife! I have a fine story to tell you.

Narrator #2: The woodcutter's wife was very

happy when she heard about the

three wishes.

Wife: What a wonderful thing it is to have

three wishes! Let's not be hasty. Let's wait until morning before we

make a single wish.

Woodcutter: A wise idea. That way we will be

able to think more clearly. But for now I'm as hungry as a bear. When's

supper?

Wife: Supper will be ready in one hour.

Woodcutter: One hour! But I'm starving! I wish

I had a big sausage right now.

Narrator #3: Now, no sooner had the woodcutter

said the words when a sausage

appeared on the table.

Wife: You fool! Look what you've done!

You've wasted one wish! How could

you be so foolish?

Narrator #2: The woodcutter's wife scolded her husband.

Narrator #1: Now the woodcutter was not pleased

by his wife's nagging, so he said...

Woodcutter: I wish that this sausage was stuck

on your nose.

Narrator #3: And the sausage stuck to his wife's nose!

You fool! Look what you have done!

Do something!

Wife:

Narrator #1: The woodcutter tried and tried to

remove the sausage, but it was no use. It was stuck there for good.

Narrator #2: Then the woodcutter said...

Woodcutter: There's only one thing to do. I wish

the sausage was back on the plate.

Narrator #3: The sausage landed back on the

plate. The woodcutter and his wife

sat down and ate the sausage.

Wife: And that's the story of the three

wishes.

INSTANT WORDS FLUENCY CHARTS

DIRECTIONS

Make copies of the following Instant Words
Fluency Charts and Instant
Words Progress Charts on cardstock. Laminate the 24
Instant Words Fluency Charts and cut the cards apart. Punch a hole in the top left corner and affix a ring to keep the charts together in numerical order. Make a set for each of your students.

Have students practice reading down Group #1 until they can read down the list (orally) in 30 seconds or less. Once a student can successfully read all the words on the list in 30 seconds or less, he/she can check off Group #1 on his/her *Instant Words Progress Chart* and move on to Group #2.

See the chart below to determine which group your students should be able to read through successfully by the end of the school year.

Grade	Group #
1	4
2	8
3	12
4	24

Based on Fry's Instant Word Lists

INSTANT WORDS PROGRESS CHART

Name

- □ **Group** #1
- □ Group #2
- □ Group #3
- □ Group #4
- □ Group #5
- □ Group #6
- □ Group #7
- □ Group #8
- □ Group #9
- □ Group #10
- □ Group #11
- □ Group #12
- □ Group #13
- □ Group #14
- □ Group #15
- □ Group #16
- □ Group #17
- □ Group #18
- □ Group #19
- □ Group #20
- □ Group #21
- □ Group #22
- □ Group #23
- □ Group #24

INSTANT WORDS PROGRESS CHART

Name

- □ **Group** #1
- □ Group #2
- □ Group #3
- □ **Group** #4
- □ Group #5
- □ **Group** #6
- □ Group #7
- □ Group #8
- □ **Group** #9
- □ Group #10
- □ **Group** #11
- □ Group #12
- □ **Group** #13
- □ **Group** #14
- □ Group #15
- □ Group #16
- □ **Group** #17
- □ Group #18
- □ Group #19
- □ Group #20
- □ Group #21
- □ Group #22
- □ Group #23
- □ Group #24

the a is you to and we that in not for at with it on can will are of this your as but be

have

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #2

he Ι they one good me about had if some up her do when SO my very all would any been out there from day

go see then us no him by was come get or two man little has them how like our what know make which much

his

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #4

who an their she new said did boy three down work put were before just long here other old take cat again give after many

saw home soon stand box upon first came girl house find because made could book look mother run school people night into say think

back

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #6

big where am ball morning live four last color away red friend pretty eat want year white got play found left men bring wish black

may let use these right present tell next please leave hand more why better under while should never each best another seem tree name

dear

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #8

ran five read over such way too shall own most sure thing only near than open kind must high far both end also until call

ask small yellow show goes clean buy thank sleep letter jump help fly don't fast cold today does face green every brown coat six

gave

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #10

hat car write try myself longer those hold full carry eight sing warm sit dog ride hot grow cut seven woman funny yes ate stop

off sister happy once didn't set round dress fall wash start always anything around close walk money turn might hard along bed fine sat

hope

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #12

fire ten order part early fat third same love hear yesterday eyes door clothes though o'clock second water town took pair now keep head food

told Miss father children land interest government feet garden done country different bad across yard winter table story sometimes I'm tried horse something brought shoes

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #14

time yet true above still meet since number state matter line remember large few bit cover window even city together sun life street party suit

word almost thought send receive pay nothing need mean late half fight enough feel during gone hundred week between change being care answer course against

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #16

wear Mr. side poor lost outside wind Mrs. learn held front built family began air young ago world airplane without kill ready stay won't paper

hour glad follow company believe begin mind pass reach month point rest sent talk went bank ship business whole short certain fair reason summer

fill

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #18

grade brother remain milk several war able charge either less train cost evening note past room flew office cow visit wait teacher spring picture bird

egg ground afternoon feed boat plan question fish return sir fell hill wood add ice chair watch alone low arm dinner hair service class quite

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #20

spell beautiful sick became cry finish catch floor stick great guess bridge church lady tomorrow snow whom women among road farm cousin bread wrong age

become body chance act die real speak already doctor step itself nine baby minute ring wrote happen appear heart swim felt fourth I'11 kept well

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #22

herself idea drop river smile son bat fact sort king dark themselves whose study fear move stood himself strong knew often toward wonder twenty important

demand however figure case increase enjoy rather sound eleven music human court force plant suppose law husband moment person result continue price serve national wife

INSTANT WORDS GROUP #24

aunt system lie cause marry possible supply thousand pen condition perhaps produce twelve rode uncle labor public consider thus least power mark president voice whether