

Dear Families,

We are very excited about starting fluency as part of the reading homework! Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly while using expression. Fluency is important because it allows students to focus on making meaning rather than devoting time and energy to sounding out words. Fluency can be developed and improved by modeling fluent reading and by engaging students in repeated oral reading.

Each week, we will be sending home a short story for your child to practice.

1. Read the short story to your child to demonstrate what a fluent reader sounds like. They will get a kick out of this!
2. Read the short story together with your child. (Read it at a normal pace. Do not slow down to let your child "keep up" with you. Reading should match our normal speech rate. It should reflect the way we talk. For example: We... don't... talk... like... this... so... we... don't... want... to... read... like...this... either!)
3. Listen as your child reads the short story to you 3-4 times for one minute each time and mark a number after each read (1,2,3,4). Remind your child to practice expression & volume, phrasing, pace, and smoothness. These are all elements of fluency. By June, grade level is 60 words, correct per minute.
4. On the last read, please have your child read the entire text and answer the comprehension questions. Students need to write their answers in complete sentences.

Always try to keep the reading session positive and by giving praise. This reading time is part of the 20 minutes required each night but please also have your child read a book of their choice or use Raz-Kids. We want our students to have a love of reading while developing the skill set they need to become successful readers. Thank you in advance for all of the time you spend reading with your child! Thanks for joining us in this journey toward becoming better, more fluent readers!

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team

