

Blending The Elements of Fluency (Ahoy, Fluency!) Practice Activities

Ahoy, Matey!

Opening Scene

Captain Erhardt: Arrgh! An untamed sea, where midnight waves rip like blackened claws, and sailors quake in frightful dreams. The brotherhood of pirates will raise its gnarled fist, and sail right onward! Ahoy!

Volume and Rate

Captain Erhardt: A fresh pirate' s come aboard, with his swagger and secrets. Sly matey, we are watching ye every move.

Phrasing and Expression

Captain Erhardt: Shiver me timbers, and listen ye closely! His parrot is squawkin' about where his treasure map' s hid. We' ll wait 'til that scurvy-filled scoundrel is snorin' ,The map will be ours! Then he' s walkin' the plank!

Accuracy

Captain Erhardt: Arrgh! A pirate' s private property is just the clothes on his back.

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about pirates. Think about what you' ve learned about fluency.

While You Read:

Ask a friend or family member to listen to you read the passage, "Ahoy, Matey!" As you read, record your voice with a tape recorder, computer, iPad, etc.

When you have finished reading, play back your recording. Listen to your voice. How was your reading fluency?

Practice reading the passage a few more times. Remember to keep an eye out for the different aspects important to Fluency:

Accuracy

Try to match the words that you say with the words on the text.

Ask yourself, "Does what I am reading sound right, look right, and make sense?"

Expression

Be expressive. Show enthusiasm. Give the characters you read about a voice.

Phrasing

Group words into phrases.

Rate

Adjust your rate to a conversational pace.

Volume

Project your voice and think about what you sound like to others.

Read, record, and compare your reading voice one more time. Did your fluency improve?

After You Read:

Now it's time to try Thinking Aloud. Reread the passage one more time with your friend or family member. After you finish reading, ask your partner if:

You read with strong fluency?

There are any portions of the text needing additional practice?

You need to concentrate on any specific fluency elements as you read?

Ask yourself if:

There were any words you didn't know how to say?

There were any words that you didn't know the definition of?

You were the actor playing the part of the pirate, what would you consider in order to bring the part to life?