

Phrasing (Smooth) Practice Activities

Readers' Theatre: Good Night, Lucy

Characters: Lucy is four years old, Henry is ten.

Setting: Henry and Lucy's house. Henry's been assigned to put Lucy to bed for the first time.

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Henry: Mom's come down with the flu, dad's working late, and I'm supposed to put you to bed tonight.

Lucy: You? You won't do it right.

Henry: Well, what does Mom do first?

Lucy: She gives me a bowl of candy for my bedtime snack.

Henry: No, she doesn't.

Lucy: She also lets me sleep in my gorilla Halloween costume.

Henry: Here are your pajamas.

Lucy: Mom reads me a bazillion books, and sometimes it's morning before she's done.

Henry: Forget the bazillion. I'm reading one.

Lucy: Mom also sets up a stack of mattresses like a mountain, so I can be the princess who slept on the pea. She uses a gumball instead of a pea because peas are terrible. Okay?

Henry: Definitely not okay.

Lucy: And every night, she dresses up in a fancy gown and uses a real microphone, and she sings lullabies with my name in each one of them.

Henry: Your lullaby is "I've Been Working On the Railroad."

Lucy: Could you sing that Lucy's been working on the railroad instead?

Henry: Argh! Here's a cup of water in case you get thirsty.

Lucy: Mom chills the glass, and gives me ice, a curly straw and a slice of lemon.

Henry: It's the cup or nothing. Are we finished?

Lucy: (sniff) Can you at least give me a hug?

Henry: Here's a hug.

Lucy: Can you say I'm your favorite sister?

Henry: You're my only sister, so yeah, I can say that.

Lucy: 'Night, Henry.

Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know little sisters or brothers. Think about the idea from the video: reading with proper phrasing.

While You Read:

Ask a friend or family member to join you in reading the "Readers' Theatre" passage, "Good Night, Lucy." As you read, record your voices with a tape recorder, computer, iPad, etc.

When you have finished reading, play back your recording. Listen to the phrasing of your voice. Did you sound smooth?

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

Commas

Punctuation marks that signal when to pause.

Prepositions

Words that signal a relationship between two things, usually a location and time. This is known as a "Prepositional Phrase."

Clauses

There are all types of clauses, but each must have a subject (what the sentence is about) and a predicate (what the subject of the sentence is doing). As you read, group the subject and predicate together.

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

After You Read:

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

- You read with proper phrasing technique?
- There are any portions of the text needing additional practice?
- You need to consider any other key 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?
- Concentrating on commas, prepositions, and clauses helped you to read more fluently

Fluency means the ability to read, speak, and write smoothly and easily. To improve your **Fluency Skills** practice reading by concentrating on the following areas:

- Accuracy
- Rate
- Expression
- Phrasing
- Volume

Fluency is an important part of being a good reader, because fluent readers are better able to comprehend what they're reading. Are you fluent?