

Your **LUCKY** Reader Now

Grades 2-3

December 2003

Fluent Readers Get It!

Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and with good expression. In a nutshell, it means reading smoothly.

Fluency was one of the five critical skills identified in the No Child Left Behind Act, which set federal standards for elementary and middle school education.



Why is it so important? Because by building fluency your child improves comprehension skills as he becomes able to automatically read and understand texts.

By grade 2, he should be reading aloud with expression and comprehending about 90 words per minute. By grade 3, he should be reading about 110 words per minute.

Here are some steps to achieving fluency:

- **Recognizing that words can have multiple meanings.** For instance, based on the context of what he reads, he should be able to tell if *right* means correct or a direction.
- **Understanding spelling patterns.** Fluent readers immediately recognize common letter groups, such as "ight," and know that *right* can become *might* by changing the first letter. This understanding helps your child to move beyond letter-by-letter decoding so he can read words at a glance.
- **Building a strong vocabulary.** Help your child improve his store of words by exposing him to language in many ways: share news stories, exchange e-mail messages, and talk with him every day.
- **Practicing.** This means reading often. Choosing books that interest your child and are on his reading level will motivate him to read on his own.

Did You Know?

In Poland, families enjoy storytelling around the tree on Christmas Eve. Make this part of your family's own holiday celebration.

Ask an Expert

How can I help my child be a fluent reader?

Give your child lots of practice reading aloud. The goal is for her to be able to read without hesitation or backtracking, to have good inflection, and to show that she understands what she's just read by being able to explain it in her own words. Be a patient listener, and gently help her over the rough spots.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander has taught at various levels from kindergarten to elementary school to college. Now at Scholastic, she develops materials that help kids learn to read and help teachers teach reading.

Have a question about reading? Find advice at www.scholastic.com/read.

Get Your Lucky Reader
Now Every Month

at www.scholastic.com/read



Be part of our community of readers — kids, teachers, and parents — who will read for 2004 seconds starting at 12 noon on December 5.

Daily Reading Fun



This holiday, give the gift of reading! Let your child be in charge of selecting a book for each family member. Help her choose titles by checking bestseller lists together, encourage her to ask relatives about their favorite titles, and look up recommendations on our booklists at www.scholastic.com/read.

Beyond Books

Create a year-end family newsletter with your



child. Help him write a brief summary of what your family did this year — trips, special occasions you celebrated, new siblings, etc. Let him add illustrations and make copies of the newsletter to send out with your holiday greetings.

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Party On!

Help your child become a book lover by turning reading into a celebration — throw a Book Party where she can share what she's read with others.

Here's some party tips to get started:



- Invite four to eight parent-child pairs (eight to sixteen people). Try to include kids who are within one grade of each other.
- Have refreshments and give out goodie bags with bookmarks, colored pencils, or a journal to inspire reading and writing.
- Ask guests to bring a book they've recently read (parents' picks should be on their child's reading level).
- Encourage others to ask questions.
- Each person can take a turn talking about her book and reading a favorite passage aloud.

Turn the party into a monthly event with different parents hosting the group each time!

Multiple Meanings

Many words have more than one meaning. You understand what they mean by seeing how they're used in a sentence. Think of multiple-meaning words you know like "seal," which can mean to close something or a mammal that lives in the sea.

See how well you know multiple meaning words. Choose one word from each list that fits both sentences.

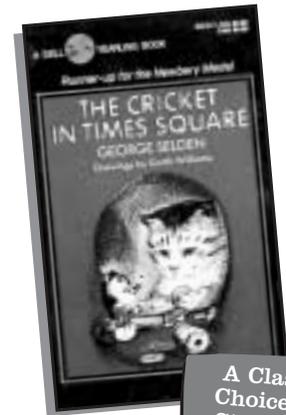
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. I have a free ____ after math.
A sentence ends with a ____.
A) time
B) minute
C) period
D) comma | 4. Don't touch that ____ knife!
Teacher said I was ____ for answering the question correctly.
A) dangerous
B) shiny
C) sharp
D) cold | 7. He was so ____ he couldn't afford a movie ticket.
The game ____ when I dropped it.
A) fell
B) broke
C) stopped
D) sad |
| 2. ____ whatever you want from the menu.
James put all the books in alphabetical ____.
A) ask
B) write
C) category
D) order | 5. He ____ the baseball out of the park.
Have you heard the band's #1 ____ song?
A) hit
B) slug
C) rock
D) whams | 8. She used a ____ to measure the room.
King George III was the ____ of England during the America Revolution.
A) monarch
B) president
C) principal
D) ruler |
| 3. Dad's car has a flat ____.
You ____ me out with all this homework!
A) exhaust
B) tire
C) help
D) voice | 6. My sister wore a gown to the ____.
Don't throw the ____ too hard!
A) dance
B) shoe
C) prom
D) ball | |

Answers:
1) C 2) D 3) B 4) C
5) A 6) D 7) B 8) D

Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your *Lucky December Book Club* flyer.

The Cricket in Times Square
by George Selden



A Classic Choice for Storytime

Who it is for: Young animal lovers everywhere

Why we chose it: Its engaging story and slightly sophisticated language make it a good choice to read aloud to an independent reader.

Parents say: "I like how the book shows that even the smallest creatures can help others if they try."

Kids weigh in: "Chester shows you that you should never give up, even when you're sad."

More classic read-alouds:

- *A Giraffe and a Half* by Shel Silverstein
- *Magic Tales* by Edward Eager
- *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren
- *Stanley's Christmas Adventure* by Jeff Brown

About Your Lucky Reader Now

Your *Lucky Reader Now* is produced by the Family Channel editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading.

Go to: www.scholastic.com/read.