



Fluency Prompts: Coaching Readers on the Run

As you listen to a child read, you have the opportunity to offer relevant, personalized guidance. You can suggest strategies to help her smooth out her reading and support her understanding of what is being read. The following prompts are geared to individuals but may be used in a variety of contexts, including the whole class or a small group. Think of these prompts as just the right idea to use at just the right moment in order to enhance a reader's fluency.

1. A reader is not attending to “text signals” such as punctuation or print variations (boldface, capitals, italics):

- What does your voice do when you see a period? Question mark? Exclamation mark?
- Make your voice go down when you see a period, then stop.
- Make your voice go up when you see a question mark, then stop.
- Read with excitement when you see an exclamation mark.
- Take a breath when you see a comma.
- Show me what your voice does when you see bold print.
- Show me what your voice does when you see words all in capital letters in the middle of sentences.
- Show me what your voice does when you see italicized text.

2. Reading is slow, halting, or inappropriately expressive:

- Read that part [indicate a phrase or sentence] again quickly.
- Read this part [indicate a phrase or short sentence] without taking a breath.
- Listen to me read, then echo the way I did it.
- Read to me pointing to each word, then take away your finger and read again. Which sounds smoother?

3. A reader has trouble understanding what he has read:

- Read it to help me feel the story.
- Read it to help me learn.
- Let me hear the character talking.
- Read like the author intended.

4. A reader seems to be unaware of her disfluency:

- How does your reading sound?
- Is your reading rough or smooth?
- Does the way you're reading help tell the story?
- Does your reading sound interesting?
- Will your reading make someone want to listen to see what comes next?

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