



acadience® reading k-6

Oral Reading Fluency

Student Materials

Level 1 | Progress Monitoring

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A Busy Saturday

► The morning light filled the room. Mel jumped out of bed and put on her clothes. She had a busy Saturday planned. She could not wait to get started.

First, Mel and her mom made Mel's favorite food. Her mom cut a banana in half. Then Mel spread peanut butter on both sides. She brought the two pieces together and ate her banana sandwich outside in the sun.

Soon Mel's big brother came out with some chalk. They drew a line on the driveway. After putting on helmets, they skated along the line. Mel went very slowly. She was just learning to skate. Her brother helped her skate in a straight line and not fall down.

Now it was time for art. Mel went to the art box. Her mom often filled it with fun things. Mel got an idea when she saw some socks. She made a dog puppet and a bird puppet out of the socks. Then she wrote a play about them. She asked her brother and mom to come watch. They liked the show and clapped when it ended.

That night, Mel helped her mom make dinner. Then she read a book until it was time for bed. When Mel turned out the light, she thought about all the fun things she had done.

Tap Dance

► If you hear a song you like, you might tap your foot to the beat. Tapping the feet is a fun way to move to the music. It is no surprise that foot tapping turned into a dance. It is called tap dance. Tap dance has people use their feet to make sounds. The many sounds the feet make come together to form a kind of song. This makes it fun to watch and listen to tap.

Tap dancers wear special shoes with metal plates on the bottom. The plates are called taps. When the taps hit the floor they make noise. Dancers move their feet around to make different noises. The moves are called steps. Each step has a different name. Some common steps are the brush, stomp, and shuffle. When dancers first learn how to tap, they start slow. When they get better, their feet will move faster. They may also learn very hard steps. These take a long time to master.

Tap dance has been around for many years. Like many kinds of dance, it has changed over time. One great tap dance team called Slap and Happy added turns and even acrobatics. People became excited to watch tap. Soon, tap appeared on TV and in movies. Thanks to the many shows that use tap, this kind of dance is still enjoyed to this day.

The Yellow Snake

▶ Jane was so happy. Her class was going on a field trip to Reptile Gardens. There would be lots of snakes, lizards, and turtles. Some people do not like these kinds of animals, but Jane liked them best of all.

The first thing Jane and her class saw when they got to Reptile Gardens was a room filled with snakes. They were all different sizes and colors. Jane thought they were very pretty. She saw a worker holding a big snake. It was bright yellow. Jane had never seen a yellow snake before. The worker saw her watching and smiled at her.

“Would you like to see what the snake feels like?” she asked. Jane said yes and touched it gently. It was dry, smooth and cool. Jane grinned. This was great!

Next the class went to a room that was full of giant turtles. Jane watched them as they swam in the water. They were a lot bigger than the snakes. She liked to watch the turtles, and wanted to touch one. Her teacher said that was not a good idea.

All too soon it was time to go home. Jane was glad the Reptile Gardens were close by. She knew she would come back again to see the big yellow snake.

A Pancake Breakfast

► On a school day, the morning can be very busy. Most people eat breakfast foods that do not take much time to make. They might have cereal and milk or fruit with wheat toast. On the weekend, people are not in a rush. They can eat foods that take longer to fix. You might like to try cooking pancakes when you have the time.

To make pancakes, first you make the batter. Some people use a mix that they buy from the store. They add eggs and milk. Other people do not use a mix. They put flour, salt, and sugar in a bowl. Then they add the eggs and milk. All these things together make the batter. Stir the batter just a little bit. Too much stirring will make the pancakes heavy.

Next, heat a big flat pan, and pour some batter into the pan. Bubbles pop up, which make the pancakes get big. The bubbles are filled with air. The air makes the pancakes light and fluffy.

Soon, the pancakes turn brown around the sides. It is time to turn them over. They cook for a few more minutes. Then the cook puts all the pancakes on a plate.

Now it is time to add something on top. Some people like syrup. Others like fruits, such as strawberries. There are lots of things you can put on pancakes. Adding the topping is the last step. Now you can eat your tasty pancakes.

Picking Apples

► The apple farm was having a picking party. Ren and her family had come to enjoy the fun. Ren could see a hayride and a man painting faces. There was even a woman juggling five apples above her head.

Ren wanted to pick apples first. She ran to the nearest tree. Smiling, Ren pulled off a big red apple. She opened her mouth wide. Crunch! As she took a bite, sweet juice ran down her chin. Ren quickly ate the apple. Now it was time to get to work. Ren filled her basket so she would have lots of apples to eat at home.

After picking red apples, Ren went to a tree that had green apples. These apples were not very sweet, but they made tasty pies and cakes. Ren got another basket. She picked as many apples as she could. When she tried to lift the basket, Ren could not pick it up. It was too heavy. Ren's mother smiled and asked her to get a wagon. Together, they put both of their baskets on the wagon and pulled it to their car.

The important work was done. Now Ren was ready to have fun. She went to get her face painted. Ren looked at all the pictures. Then she saw the one she wanted. When the man was done painting, Ren had a big red apple on her cheek.

The Puppet Show

► Our class took a trip to the public library to see a puppet show. Students from other schools were there, too. The puppet show was in a special part of the library where there were books and chairs just for children. A lady read the story while the puppets performed the story. Our class had so much fun! We asked our teacher if we could make a puppet show of our own and she said yes.

When we got back to school we talked about ideas for a show. We raised our hands to share ideas. We each waited our turn while our teacher wrote the ideas on the white board. We talked about all of the ideas. Then we voted for the best one. The class voted to make the show about a trip to the library.

Our class made puppets out of socks and paper bags. Some of the puppets looked very silly. Mine had brown hair and red lips. Everyone had a job to do. Some children planned what the puppets would say. Other children made a stage out of a big box. We practiced the show over and over. Then we did our puppet show for the children in preschool. They loved it.

Puzzles

► Do you like to solve puzzles? They can be a lot of fun. There are many kinds of puzzles. For many people, the puzzle they like best is a jigsaw puzzle. In a jigsaw puzzle, you make a picture out of many small pieces.

The first jigsaw puzzle was made by a map maker. First he made a map of the world. Then he cut around each nation. People had to try to put the pieces in the right place. Schools used this kind of puzzle to teach students where each nation of the world was located. It made learning about the world fun.

Next, a new kind of saw let puzzle makers cut puzzles into many small pieces. The pieces were often cut into odd shapes. Many more jigsaw puzzles were made. Then, they began to put fun pictures on them. People wanted to see what the picture would look like when it was done.

Today, you can buy many kinds of jigsaw puzzles. The hard ones have lots of tiny pieces. Some have pictures on both sides. Some are shaped like ships or castles. Some even have clues hidden in the picture. Then you get to solve a picture puzzle and a mystery.

A Night at Grandma's House

► The car drove out the farm gate. Jon waved goodbye to his dad. Then he smiled at his grandma. He had been waiting all week to come spend the night with her. They always had so much fun together.

First, Jon and his grandma fed the animals. He threw corn to the chickens and feed cubes to the cows. Then he gave hay and water to the goats.

"This animal is hungry now," said Jon, pointing to himself.

Grandma made macaroni and cheese for dinner. After eating, Jon went to the orange room to play. It had been his father's room long ago. Jon got out some small cars and made a road of blocks to drive them on.

Grandma soon told Jon it was time for bed. He went to get his pajamas and bear out of his bag. Surprised, Jon found that he had left his bear at home. He wondered how he would be able to sleep.

Grandma thought for a minute. Then she opened the closet and pulled out a white box. Jon saw a brown bear with a flat nose inside. Grandma explained that Jon's father had slept with the bear when he was young. The nose was flat because Jon's father had used it as a pillow.

Jon held the bear close. Now he could go to sleep.

Go to Sleep

► What do you do before you go to bed at night? You may read, play, or listen to a story. Then your mouth opens wide and you take in a big breath. You are yawning. That means it is time to go to sleep.

Sleep is a time when the body gets to rest. You are not playing or working. Most children sleep nine to twelve hours each night. The long resting time lets your body build up energy. Then you can work and play the next day.

When you sleep, your body changes. The beat of your heart slows. You do not breathe as fast. These changes help your body rest and relax so it can grow. During this time your body also works to fix places that are hurt or sick.

Sleep helps your mind, too. It lets your brain rest. The next day you are able to remember things more easily. Sleep can also help your brain solve problems.

As you can see, sleep is very important. It helps keep your body and mind healthy. The next time you yawn or feel tired, remember that your body may be telling you it needs to go to sleep.

Shape Art

► It was time for art. The teacher told the children that spring had come. He asked them to draw a picture of something that showed the season.

Jed put his hands in his lap. He did not think he knew how to draw. The teacher asked Jed what was wrong.

“I am not good at drawing,” Jed said.

“Think of everything you see as a group of shapes,” said the teacher. “A house has a square wall and a triangle roof. Just draw the shapes.”

Jed looked out the window. He saw a tree that was just starting to grow new leaves. He looked at the tree to find shapes.

First, Jed drew a long brown rectangle for the trunk. He drew more thin rectangles at the top of the trunk to make branches.

Which shape could Jed use to make the leaves? He looked out the window again. Jed drew some green ovals on the branches.

Jed had placed the tree in the middle of the paper. He thought it looked funny. So Jed made a line under the trunk to show the ground. Now the tree needed roots. He drew long thin triangles at the bottom of the trunk.

Something was still missing from Jed’s picture. He looked out the window and saw a red bird. Now Jed knew just what his tree needed. He drew a red bird with ovals for the head and body. Triangles made the bill and wings. Jed titled his picture, “Spring tree.”

Watch Them Change and Grow

► “I see one,” said Grandfather. “Put the net in the water and scoop him up before he gets away!”

Jill waited for the tadpole to swim close to the bank so that she could reach him. Quickly, she leaned over and caught the little creature in her net. She stared at it and watched it wriggle.

“He will grow and change into a fine frog,” her grandfather said.

“I want to keep him and see him change,” she said.

Grandfather told Jill that she could keep him. “But, when he grows into a frog, we’ll have to bring him back to the creek.”

Jill and her grandfather made a home with a fish tank. They put rocks at the bottom. Water plants added food and color. Next, they filled the tank with a little bit of water. Jill watched her tadpole change over the next few weeks. First, he grew back legs, then he grew front legs. His tail became smaller and smaller each day. Jill charted his growth.

One day it was clear that her pet had become a frog. It was time for him to go back to the creek. Jill and her grandfather took him back and set him free. The frog jumped away happily.

Jill grinned from ear to ear. “That’s a fine frog,” she said.

“Well, would you look at this?” said Grandfather.

“A caterpillar!” Jill replied. “Can I keep him? I want to see him change and grow!”

Clams

► A clam is an animal that lives in the sea. A clam has two hard shells that cover a soft white body. A muscle holds the two shells together so they can open like a door. It helps open and close the clam shell. The clam opens the shell to eat. It closes the shell to be safe.

You may have never seen a clam. That is because they live buried in the sand of the ocean floor. Clams hide in the sand for safety. They have one foot, which they use to dig a hole in the sand. It is not like your foot. It is all one piece and does not have toes. The foot digs a hole by moving back and forth. The clam digs about two inches into the sand. Clams often stay in this hole their whole life.

To eat, clams push two tubes through the sand. One tube pulls in water and food. The other pushes out waste.

Sea otters eat clams if they can find them. They swim down to the ocean floor and dig in the sand for clams. Then the otter swims back up to the surface. Finally, the otter uses a rock to crack open the hard shell.

Most clams grow to be one to three inches long. Some grow to more than five feet long. These giant clams weigh up to 500 pounds. An otter would have a hard time eating a clam that big!

The Talking Stone

► The teacher gathered the students into a circle. He held up a white stone in his hand.

“This is a talking stone,” he told his students. “It helps us take turns so everyone has a chance to talk and a chance to listen. If we all speak at once, no one can hear. We can use the stone to help us. If you have the stone, it is your time to talk. If you do not have the stone, it is your time to listen. This way we can share, and everyone can hear.”

Then the teacher asked the students to share something special they had done that day.

Jen raised her hand quickly. She wanted to share something that no one else would share. She wanted to talk about feeding the lizard. When the teacher passed the stone to another child, Jen put her hand down. It was her turn to listen.

The stone moved slowly. One girl talked about drawing pictures in art. Another boy talked about counting seeds in math. No one talked about the lizard.

Soon Tom held the stone. He sat beside Jen. Tom pointed to the lizard and told how he helped feed it. Then he passed the stone to Jen.

Jen took the stone. She could not think of anything special to say. Jen looked at the stone. Then she knew what to say.

“I liked passing the talking stone,” Jen said. “It helped me remember all the fun things we did today.”

The Kite Contest

► It was kite day at the local park. Everyone Jim knew had a kite to fly. Jim had made the kite he would use. It was shaped like a triangle. He had painted an eagle on it. He knew that an eagle was a bird that flew very high. He hoped that his kite would fly high, too.

When Jim and his dad got to the park, Jim lifted his kite up. He felt the tug on the line and let the string out. The wind pulled the kite higher and higher. Before long, most of the string was gone. Jim saw that the end was not tied to the tube.

He tried to grab the string before the kite got away. Suddenly, a gust of wind yanked the string right out of his hand. The kite was flying away! Jim chased after it, trying to grab the loose string.

When the kite sailed over a tree, the string got caught on one of the branches. Happily, Jim saw that the kite kept bobbing in the wind. He would be able to save his kite after all.

A man walked over to Jim. “We’ve never had a tree fly a kite,” he said. “You get the prize for finding a special way to fly a kite.” The man gave Jim a prize!

Jim’s dad reached up and grabbed the string. The kite came loose. Jim tied the string to the tube. He didn’t want to lose his kite again.

Dad's Surprise

► It was a great day for a sailboat ride. Meg put on her life vest and climbed into the boat. Dad pulled on a rope to lift the sail. The wind filled the cloth and pushed the boat away from the dock. Meg leaned over the side of the boat to feel the water. A wave splashed on her face. Meg laughed as she wiped the water out of her eyes.

Meg loved sailing with her dad. Each Saturday, they would sail to a spot on the other side of the lake. Dad would bring ham sandwiches for lunch. They would eat them as they sat on the sand. If it was a hot day, Meg and Dad went for a swim.

The boat had not gotten to the other side of the lake yet, but Dad let down the sail. The boat stopped. "I have a surprise for you," Dad said. He got out a fishing rod and tossed the line into the water. He gave the rod to Meg and she smiled. She had never been fishing. Soon, she felt a big tug.

"I caught something!" Meg yelled. She pulled a big fish onto the boat. Dad gave her a high five.

Then Dad raised the sail again and the boat began to glide across the water. Soon they arrived at the shore. Dad made a small fire to cook the fish. They had fish for lunch. It was a great picnic.

Kinds of Hats

► A hat sits on top of the head. There are many kinds of hats. Some hats have special jobs, and some hats are just for fun.

A hard hat keeps the head safe. It is made out of plastic. House builders wear this kind of hat. Things that fall cannot hurt their heads. Firefighters also use a hard hat. Their hats have a wide brim on the back to keep fire and heat away. You also wear a hard hat when you ride a bike. That hat is called a helmet.

Many workers wear hats that show the job they do. Some of these hats are made of cloth. Police officers wear a flat hat that is the same color as their uniform. Chefs wear tall white hats when they cook.

People use different hats to match the weather. Wool hats fit closely over the head. They keep the head and ears warm in the winter. Sun hats and baseball caps have a wide brim or bill. These hats shade the face and eyes from the sun in the summer.

Hats don't always have a job. Some are just for fun. Birthday party hats are made of paper. They have bright colors and cute pictures.

Next time you walk in the neighborhood, go on a hat hunt. You will be surprised at how many different hats you can find.

My Mom Is an Artist

► My mom makes things out of clay. She is an artist. Sometimes she has shows. In a show the clay objects she makes are put on display so many people can see them.

Clay comes in big blocks. My mom cuts off a lump of it. Then she folds it and rolls it to get it warm. Warm clay is easier to mold into shapes. Soon, the clay forms a soft ball.

Then Mom decides what to make. She can make lots of different things, but most often she will make a bowl. She places the clay ball on a wheel. The wheel goes round and round. Mom uses her hands to shape the clay into a bowl as the wheel spins.

When Mom is happy with the bowl, she lets it dry for several days. As the clay dries, it becomes hard. Next, Mom brushes a special paint on the bowl. The colors are light blue and mint green. Then Mom puts the bowl into a big oven that gets really hot. After the oven cools, Mom takes out the bowl. The paint colors are now bright blue and green.

Sometimes Mom lets me make things with clay. One time I made an elephant with big ears and a long trunk. I showed it to my teacher. She liked it a lot and put it on display in our class. Mom says this was my first show. She says I am an artist now, too.

A Train Under the City

► The subway is a kind of train. It travels under the ground. The subway makes it fast and easy to get places in a big city.

It is easy to find the subway. In cities with a subway, there are lots of stops along the streets. The stops have big signs with stairs that take you down to the train tracks where the subway runs. To ride the subway you need a ticket. After you walk down the stairs you will see a ticket counter. There are also machines that sell tickets. The tickets are not expensive. When you have a ticket you can head toward the tracks and wait for the train.

When the train gets to your stop the doors will swoosh open. People will step off the train first. Now it is your turn to board the train. If there is a seat you can sit down. If not, you can stand. When the train gets to your stop, you get off and walk up the stairs back to the street.

The subway is very important. It helps people get around the city. It also means there is less traffic on the streets because people drive less. The subway is a great way to travel.

The School Bus

► Many children ride the bus to school every day. Without the school bus, it would be hard for some students to get to school at all. Other students may have difficulty getting to school on time. The bus gets students to school on time every day. The bus even picks children up near their house. After school, the bus takes them back home. It is easy to use the bus.

In addition to being easy to use, the school bus is also safe. In fact, school buses are one of the safest ways to travel. In most places, buses have warning lights. The lights tell other cars to stop when the bus is stopped. Boys and girls can then get off the bus and cross the road safely.

There is another reason to use the school bus. Riding the bus can be good for the Earth. Most large school buses can hold forty to sixty children. That's a lot more than a car. When children take the bus instead of going to school in a car, it uses less gas. It also makes less pollution.

It is easy to spot a school bus. They are painted bright yellow. If you see a school bus, think of the many good reasons to ride one.

Star Pitcher

► My big sister is on the high school softball team. She is the pitcher. She tries to throw the ball so that the batter cannot hit it. My sister is a very good pitcher. In one game, she threw the ball so well that the other team could not get even one hit. After that game, she got her picture in the newspaper. The headline said “Star pitcher throws no-hitter.” I liked that headline. It called my sister a star.

My parents and I go to as many of my sister’s games as we can. We sit with all the other fans. Some of the fans go to my sister’s school. Other fans just like to watch softball. All the fans clap when my sister throws the ball past the batter. If the batter misses the ball three times, she is out. When that happens, the fans cheer.

Being a star pitcher takes a lot of practice. Sometimes my sister takes me to practice with her. I sit very quietly and watch her work on her pitching. She also runs and works out to stay in shape. My sister says that being in shape is an important part of softball. She says it also keeps you healthy. Sometimes we go for short runs together so I can be in shape, too.

I like watching my sister play softball. Even when her team doesn’t win, I know my sister is a star.
