



Reading Counts

Fall into Fluency

Angela Roth

Program Assistant & Geneseo Tutor

"Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension."

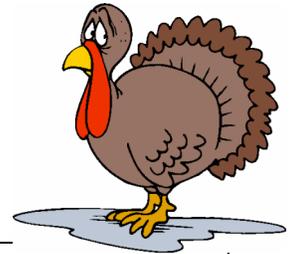
(Reading Links, 2002, p.9)

Struggling readers who have difficulty with reading fluently spend much of their cognitive energy decoding words and text. Frequently pausing to decode words is not only disruptive but makes reading long and laborious. This detracts from the student's focus and ability to construct meaning when reading. Although fluency does not guarantee reading comprehension it does free up the reader's time and energy, which then allows the reader to spend more time on inferring, questioning, visualizing, creating connections, and sampling for comprehension.

Fluency can be broken down into *three* main components:

- *Accuracy* – The reader's ability to read words in a text correctly. Also known as automaticity, referring to one's instant word recognition.
- *Rate* – The speed a reader reads at.
- *Prosody* – Reading with expression, stress, intonation, and appropriate pauses.

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Teacher-Tutor Communication

Theresa LeBlanc

Dansville Tutor

Your America Reads/Counts teacher will be one of your most important resources for ideas, inspiration, and intellect when it comes to teaching. It is important to open up communication before you start regularly visiting your classroom. In addition, it is essential to maintain a relationship with your teacher during your tutoring and afterwards. Remember, America Reads teachers can even recommend you for student teaching if they like you enough.

One of the first things a new America Reads tutor should do before tutoring starts is to call the teacher. Hearing their voice on the line and connecting in this personal way really helps relieve some of the "first-day jitters" you may experience. If you cannot reach your America Reads teacher by phone, try emailing them. Sometimes email is easiest because both you and your teacher can read and answer these on your own schedule.

Checking the school's website is also another great idea. With technology becoming so important within education, many principals demand that their teachers create and maintain a website for their classroom. Tutors can see some pictures of the classroom, check out some homework assignments, and get a general feel of the school environment.

In addition, it might be a good idea to send an email of your general observations and thoughts after every week. Teachers are very busy and many times they might not be able to take time out of their instruction to talk to you about a problem you may be having, or give you more information about a student you may be working with.

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Fall into Fluency, *continued from page 1*

Four Steps to Increase Fluency and Tutoring Activities:

1. Model Fluency –
 - *Read Alouds* – When a fluent reader reads out loud and discusses their metacognitive processes.
2. Use Guided Oral Reading Instruction –
 - *Choral/Paired Reading* – Can be done either in small groups or in pairs. Guided by a proficient reader, everyone reads orally together. The Leader's volume increases (if readers are struggling) and decreases (when readers are reading well) based on the needs of the readers.
 - *Echo Reading* – A proficient reader leads by reading out loud portions of the text (by sentence, paragraph, page, ect). The tutored then rereads or echoes what was read while emulating the proficient reader's pace, intonation, and vocabulary knowledge.
3. Practice and Perform –
 - *Buddy Reading* - Repeatedly reading a text and practicing reading it fluently in order to perform or present the text to another emerging reader such as younger children.
 - *Creating Books on Tape* – Again repetition and practicing a text in order to master the text and perform. By creating books on tape you are not only increasing the reader's fluency but these can be donated to listening centers, libraries, or younger-aged classrooms.
4. Word Study –
 - *Flashcards* – Select a set number of flashcards with sightword vocabulary to be practiced and reviewed. As students master sightwords replace them with new and additional vocabulary.
 - *Sightword Bingo* - Create a game of bingo or other various games to practice sightwords.

For More Information Check Out:
www.busyteacherscafe.com/units/fluency.htm



Photo: Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

The Stinky Cheese Men:

Check Out This Great Author and Illustrator Team! **Angela Roth**

Program Assistant & Geneseo Tutor

Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith are known for their silly stories, integration of literature into math and science, and awesome illustrations. Although they specialize in modern and broken fairytales and fantasies they also write books of other genres. Their great sense of humor and passion for details is enjoyed by all ages. The book *The Stinky Cheese Man and Fairy Other Stupid Tales* published in 1992 was a Caldecott Honor Book in 1993, recipient of the 1994 Rhode Island Children's Book Award, and in 1997 received Georgia's Children's Choice Award as well as Wisconsin's Golden Archer Award. *Math Curse* () was named an American Library Association Notable Book in 1996, a Blue Ribbon Book from the Bulletin of the Center for the Center for Children's Books in 1995, a Publisher's Weekly Best Children's Book in 1995, and received the Maine's Student Book Award, The Texas Bluebonnet Award, and the New Hampshire's Great Stone Face Book Award in 1997.

Jon Scieszka is responsible for the writing. He enjoys writing books that make children laugh and has two children of his own. On September 8th, 1954 he was born in Flint, Michigan. Currently he resides in Brooklyn. After graduating from the Culver Military Academy he attended Albion College and then received his Masters in Fine Arts in 1980 from Columbia University. Like his father Jon became a teacher but then took time off to write books for children.

Lane Smith is the illustrator. He uses mostly oil paintings for his illustrations and focuses on using a lot of texture. Many people consider his illustrations to be a bit on the unusual side maybe that is why so many people think they are so fun and captivating. While working at Disneyland he attended and graduated from the California Art Center College of Design where he studied illustration. Lane was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on August 25, 1959. Also now residing in New York City, the author and illustrator duo met through their wives who were friends.

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Math for a Thanksgiving Feast

Angela Roth

Program Assistant & Geneseo Tutor

Have students create a shopping list for their own Thanksgiving Feast! Given a budget, allow students to choose what and how much food and treats they want at their feast by shopping using store flyers and coupons.

Skills:

- Money Skills
- Multiplication
- Subtraction
- Adding
- Estimating
- Determining what is reasonable



Materials:

- Store Sale Flyers and Coupons
 - Calculator
 - Paper and Pencils
 - Play Money
1. As a class have students brainstorm what they would like to eat on Thanksgiving.
 2. Have students brainstorm who they would invite individually (up to say 20 people).

3. Give each student play money based on the number of people they have invited. (I use \$20/person)
4. Encourage students to shop around for best prices using a variety of store sale flyers.
5. Have students then create a shopping list showing their work and taking into account the number of people invited (e.g.: you need 3 cakes for 15 people, if each cake serves 5).
6. Finally, have students discuss their findings. Compare who got the best deals. What was the most popular item? Who spent the least? Who was the closest to their budget?

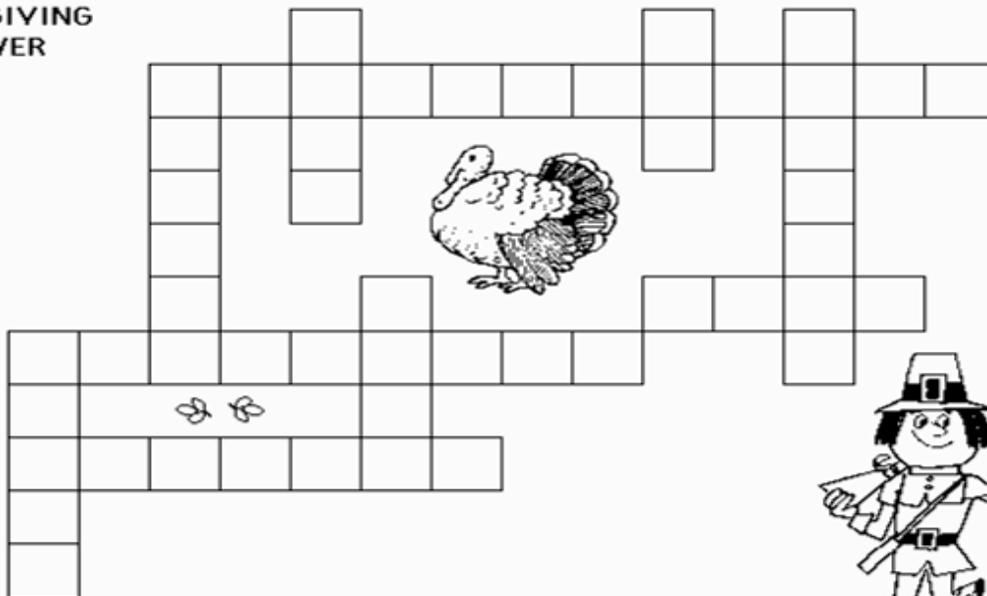


Thanksgiving Crossword

2

Fit all the words into this puzzle below

THANKSGIVING
MAYFLOWER
PILGRIM
TURKEY
INDIANS
MAIZE
CORN
SAIL
FALL
PIE

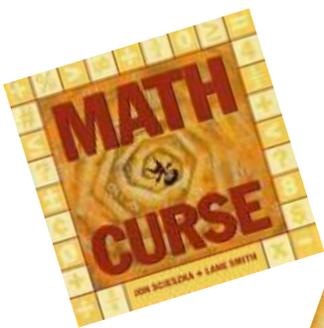


The Stinky Cheese Men, *continued from page 2*

Books by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

- **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (1989)**
 - The pair's first book. Told by the wolf's point of view, this story takes a twist on the classic story of the three little pigs.
- **The Stinky Cheese Man (1992)**
 - Caldecott Honor Book in 1993, this book is a collection of silly stories based on classic fairytales. Also a great book to talk about the parts of a book as it wittedly incorporates these as well.
- **Math Curse (1995)**
 - A great way to integrate literacy into subject areas and also discuss everyday uses. The young girl explores how everything she does in her day is somehow related to math, excellent conversation starter!
- **Time Warp Trio Series (1991-1999)**
 - A series about three boys who travel through time with the help of a story book. Modern Fantasy.
- **Squids will be Squids (1998)**
 - A collection of humorous fables with a fresh explanation of morals.
- **Science Verse (2004)**
 - A collection of poems, modeled after the patterns of famous poets. These poems express a young boy's perception of how science is evident in everything. A sequel to *Math Curse*.
- **Seen Art? (2005)**
 - All this one boy wants is to find his friend, Art. He goes to the Modern Museum of Art (MOMA) and asks several people if they have seen Art. Instead of directing him to his friends people take him on an exploration of various interpretation of art from around the world.

Check out Jon Scieszka's Website, Guys Read at:
<http://www.guysread.com>



Communication, *continued from page 1*

It is generally a good idea for tutors to give teachers a copy of their weekly school schedule. This is especially useful if the telephone is going to be your primary source of communication. Both you and your teacher can work out a time to talk that is best for both of your schedules.

Teachers have a lot of things on their plate, therefore giving them a schedule or reminder of when you will be in their classroom so they can post it on the bulletin board or keep it on their desk is also a great idea. It is also courteous to remind them of certain days you will be taking off (such as Fall and Spring Break) that is different from school hours.

Don't forget about thank you notes for your teacher and any students you tutor at the end of the semester!



Sudoku Puzzles

Angela Roth

Program Assistant & Geneseo Tutor

Sudoku puzzles are fun and encourage knowledge of patterns and critical thinking. I like to keep some mind teasers and puzzles in my tutoring bag for when we have a couple of extra minutes! For more games, puzzles, and brain teasers check out:

- <http://www.dailysudoku.co.uk/>
- <http://www.eduplace.com/math/brain/>
- <http://www.brainbashers.com/>

Directions:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 2x2 box contains the digits 1 through 4.

2			1
1	4	3	
	1	2	4
4			3

Sudoku provided by Soduku.com.au