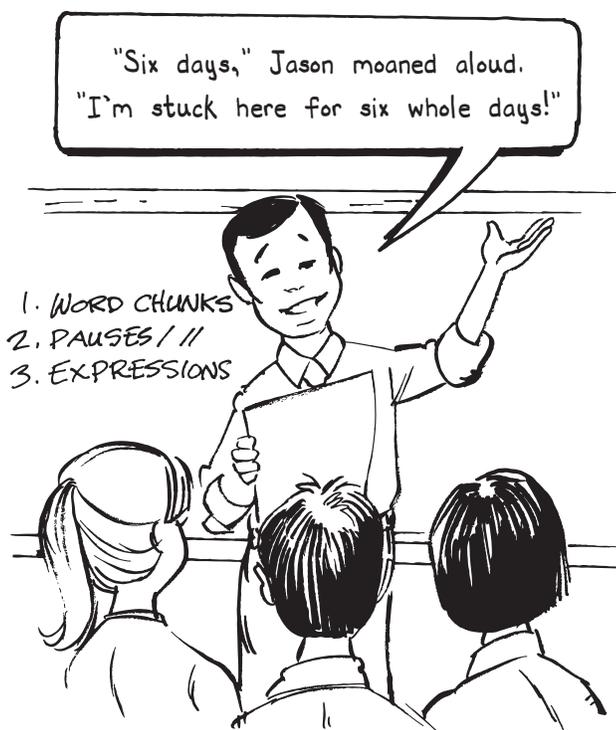


Phrased Reading

Encourage Fluency Through Phrased Reading

Besides being able to decode automatically, fluent readers chunk or parse text into syntactically appropriate units, mainly phrases (Rasinski, 2003). A dysfluent reader has great difficulty parsing or chunking text so that it makes sense. Practicing reading in phrases helps students learn to break text into meaningful parts. Phrased reading should take place several times per week for about ten minutes per day.

1. Provide students with copies of the **Phrased Reading passages (pages 75-84)**, utilizing the appropriate reading level.
2. Read aloud the segmented passage with appropriate phrasing and intonation. Ask students if they can figure out what the markers indicate. Then discuss why phrasing is important in the fluent reading process.
 - a. The single slash indicates a slight pause.
 - b. The double slash after the period indicates a more prolonged pause.
3. As a class, rehearse a passage in unison. Remind students that the phrase markers identify chunks of text that should be smoothly read together.



4. Provide students with time to read segmented passages with partners.
5. Allow students to rehearse segmented passages independently.
6. Meet with students individually to hear independent readings of segmented passages. Note students' expression, pauses, and phrasing. Assist those who seem to struggle.
7. Provide students with an unsegmented passage. If using the Phrased Reading passages provided, you may choose to white out the slash marks.

Phrased Reading

Digging for Fossils

Fossils are the remains of animals or plants/ that lived long ago.// Some may be/ as much as 600 million years old!// A fossil is any trace/ of a living thing.// That might include/ footprints, droppings, burrows, leaf impressions,/ or root tunnels.// It can include/ shells, eggshells, skin impressions,/ or bones.// Not all living things become fossils.// Most of the animals/ that lived millions of years ago/ are gone forever.// Animal parts that became fossils/ were usually hard.// Shells, teeth, and bones/ are the most common.// Conditions had to be just right for softer material,/ like skin,/ to remain.// Sometimes insects were trapped/ in sticky tree sap.// The sap hardened.// The tiny insect was preserved.// In dry places,/ an animal could become a mummy.// If the animal was buried quickly,/ its skin could dry out.// Mummies are rare.//

A fossil may have formed/ when an animal died in water.// The animal may have drowned.// A flood may have washed/ its body out to sea.// Slowly, sand or mud/ covered the remains.// Over time,/ more layers of mud covered the body/ until it was deeply buried.// The flesh rotted away,/ but the bones and teeth remained.// Minerals in the water/ seeped into the bones.// The minerals replaced/ the remains with rock.//

Probably/ thousands of fossils are still buried.// They cannot be discovered/ until they are exposed.// For example,/ over millions of years/ an old seabed might be forced upward.// Slowly,/ wind and rain wear away the rock.// At last/ the fossil is exposed.// Sometimes/ workers find a fossil/ when they dig out a site/ for a new building.//

Once found,/ a fossil has to be handled carefully.// First,/ scientists make a drawing/ or map of the site.// They may take photographs/ of the fossil in place.// Good records offer clues/ about the fossil/ when it is studied in the laboratory.// When scientists are ready to dig,/ they spray the exposed parts of the fossil/ with a special glue.// This hardens the parts/ that may have cracked or weakened.// Then,/ they dig with larger tools,/ such as hammers and chisels.// They use small scrapers and brushes/ close to the bone.// Often,/ they dig up the fossil/ with plenty of rock around it.// The scientists mix up a big batch of plaster.// They cover the fossil and rock/ with plaster and strips of strong fabric.// Once the covering is dry,/ a scientist labels the fossil/ with a date and location.// Each fossil is carefully placed in a crate/ with lots of padding.// In the laboratory,/ other scientists prepare the fossils to be studied.//

