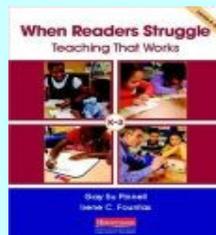


## Focus on Fluency

We all have students who don't read fluently. Have you ever considered that fluency difficulty might be linked to a bad habit? According to Fountas and Pinnell, many readers have developed "deeply ingrained habits of reading slowly without expression." The only way to "break" these bad habits is with explicit fluency instruction. Fluency is not just reading fast, as many of our students think.

There are six dimensions of fluency:

- Pausing
- Phrasing
- Intonation
- Stress
- Rate
- Integration



"With leveled text and powerful teaching, there is no reason for the struggling group to sound different from the high-progress group."

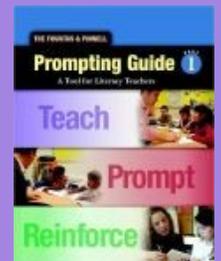
Ask your reading specialist to borrow a copy of *When Readers Struggle: Teaching That Works*, by Fountas and Pinnell, and check out chapter 16 to learn more about fluency.

"Take your finger out and use your eyes"

This prompt, along with many others, can be found in the Fountas and Pinnell *Prompting Guide 1: A Tool for Literacy Teachers*.

Research shows that many readers use their finger to point to words much longer than needed. In fact, when readers reach Level C text, they should begin to remove their finger and let their eyes take over the process of pointing.

As teachers, we must use explicit language to TEACH, PROMPT, and REINFORCE to support our students in their fluency development. This guide provides phrases to use with students to keep your teaching specific and consistent.



## There's an app for that...

Quick Voice is a free app to record your students reading. By listening to a recording of themselves, students can hear how they really sound when they read. This will also help you gather data to drive your fluency instruction.



## Readers Theater

Readers Theatre is a performance of a written script requiring repeated and assisted reading that is focused on delivering meaning to an audience. Since there are no acting, props, costumes, or scenery in Readers Theatre, readers must use their voices to carry the meaning. What an excellent tool for fluency instruction!

The links below provide hundreds of Readers Theater scripts:

<http://www.thebestclass.org/rtscripts.html>

<http://www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm>

<http://www.havefunteaching.com/activities/reading-activities/readers-theater/>



## Celebrate Earth Day!

Looking for a cute story to read on Earth Day? Why not have your students perform one? A Readers Theater script of *The Earth Day Hen and Friends* by Carol Montgomery is available at [www.havefunteaching.com](http://www.havefunteaching.com).

