



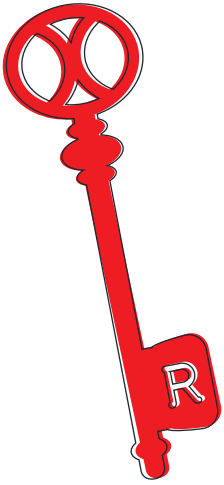
Practice and Read Again

Keys to
Fluency

**Ruby
Reader**

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Practice and Read Again



Keys for the Teacher

Repeated practice gives students the experience of reading with ease. In essence, reading with ease is the finished product of combining comprehension, accuracy and vocabulary in a fluent form. Practicing by rereading out loud gives students a chance to rehearse with text. Children can hear and monitor their progress. Just as a piano player practices a song repeatedly until it sounds just right, fluent readers do the same.

Keys for the Children

Good readers practice by rereading again and again until it sounds just right.

Lesson

Begin by sharing with students this “definition” of fluent reading. Invite students to help pretend to pour, stir and frost while reading...

“Reading can be like baking a cake. First we add the pictures; then we pour in the words we know. That’s not quite enough, so we drop in some words we don’t know. Then we stir and stir and stir some more until we understand it all. Time to bake the cake. But something is missing . . . the frosting. We cover the cake with frosting to make it look pretty and taste just a little bit better. Frosting is like fluency; it covers what we read to make it sound pretty. Fluency makes reading just a little bit better.”

Share that becoming a fluent reader takes practice, practice, and more practice. Ask students if they have ever seen a baby learning to walk. Discuss how it can take time, effort and practice to learn something new. One fun activity to further illustrate this concept is to use a tongue twister.

“Red rubber reading rabbit runs.”

Read it very slowly, word by word, at first. Comment that it doesn’t sound quite right. Then read again very fast with obvious mistakes. Share that it still doesn’t sound right. Tell the children that you think you need some more practice. Continue to model until you get it just right. Then you can point out how practice really helped. Of course, the children will be laughing and participating along side you. Enjoy.

Notes...

1

Label and model fluent reading often. Children must understand what it sounds like so they know their target. It can also be helpful to read a sentence in a non-fluent manner. Ask the children if they can tell you what to do to read the sentence fluently. Practice, practice, practice. Then practice right in front of them. Have students give a thumbs-up when your reading sounds fluent.

2

Reading with ease comes naturally to some students while others continue to struggle. For the strugglers, reading one book fluently is an accomplishment that deserves a celebration. That one success can give them confidence to keep going and put in the hard work needed to move forward.

