



Division Decisions

Objective

The student will read with proper phrasing, intonation, and expression in chunked text.

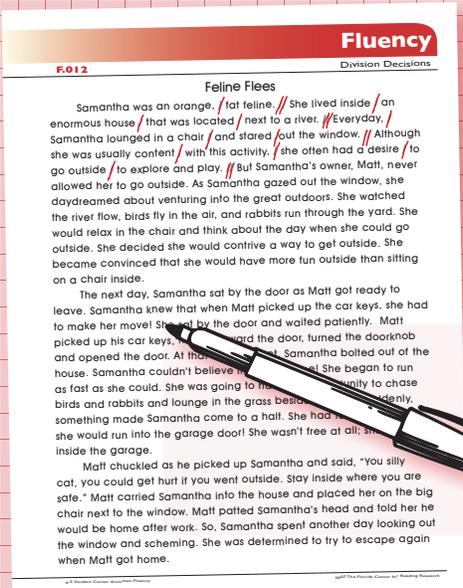
Materials

- ▶ Passage
Make two copies and laminate. Note: Several sentences have slashes to help students get started.
- ▶ Vis-à-Vis® markers

Activity

Students divide text into meaningful parts and then read it fluently.

1. Rank students by reading ability from highest performing to lowest performing. Split the class in half and pair the top ranked high-performing student with the top ranked low-performing student. Continue pairing in that order.
2. Provide each student with a copy of the text.
3. Working together, students determine text chunks and indicate using slash marks. Put single slashes (/) to denote short pauses and double slashes (//) to denote end of sentence.
4. Student one (higher performing student) reads the text with proper intonation and expression while pausing briefly between chunks (or phrases) as denoted by slash marks.
5. Student two (lower performing student) listens and checks for designated phrasing. Repeats the reading using proper intonation, expression, and phrasing.
6. Reverse roles and repeat activity.
7. Peer evaluation



Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Erase slash marks and read fluently.
- ▶ Use other passages and highlight every other phrase in the text and then read fluently.
- ▶ Use other passages according to instructional-independent reading level range.
- ▶ Repeat using a timer.

Feline Flees

Samantha was an orange, / fat feline. // She lived inside / an enormous house / that was located / next to a river. // Everyday, / Samantha lounged on a chair / and stared /out the window. // Although she was usually content / with this activity, / she often had a desire / to go outside / to explore and play. // But Samantha’s owner, Matt, never allowed her to go outside. As Samantha gazed out the window, she daydreamed about venturing into the great outdoors. She watched the river flow, birds fly in the air, and rabbits run through the yard. She would relax on the chair and think about the day when she could go outside. She decided she would contrive a way to get outside. She became convinced that she would have more fun outside than sitting on a chair inside.

The next day, Samantha sat by the door as Matt got ready to leave. Samantha knew that when Matt picked up the car keys, she had to make her move! She sat by the door and waited patiently. Matt picked up his car keys, moved toward the door, turned the doorknob and opened the door. At that same instant, Samantha bolted out of the house. Samantha couldn’t believe it; she was free! She began to run as fast as she could. She was going to have the opportunity to chase birds and rabbits and lounge in the grass beside the river. Suddenly, something made Samantha come to a halt. She had to stop or else she would run into the garage door! She wasn’t free at all; she was still inside the garage.

Matt chuckled as he picked up Samantha and said, “You silly cat, you could get hurt if you went outside. Stay inside where you are safe.” Matt carried Samantha into the house and placed her on the big chair next to the window. Matt patted Samantha’s head and told her he would be home after work. So, Samantha spent another day looking out the window and scheming. She was determined to try to escape again when Matt got home.