



## Fluency Classroom Activity

# Timed Reading Passages

## Overview

Fluent readers do not just recognize words quickly; they read smoothly and with understanding. This activity helps students build fluency by reading short passages aloud, tracking words per minute (WPM), and rereading to improve speed, accuracy, and expression.

**Focus:** Rereading for accuracy, automaticity, and expression

**Grade Range:** K-2

**Goal:** Build fluency by reading short, decodable passages aloud with repeated practice.

## Materials Needed

- Printed reading passage pages for students
- Printed reading passage tracking pages for the teacher
- Stopwatch or timer
- Pencils or highlighters
- Optional: fluency progress tracker

## Instructions

1. **Model the Process:** Choose a sample passage and read it aloud to demonstrate smooth phrasing and expression.
2. **Timed Reading:** Have the student read the passage aloud for 1 minute. Count the number of words read correctly. Stop at 1 minute and mark the last word read. Note any skipped or misread words.
3. **Reread and Reflect:** Encourage the student to reread the same passage. Discuss what felt easier and where improvements were made.
4. **Track Progress:** Record results using the tracker: WPM and errors. Use repeated readings over time to build confidence.

## Tips for Differentiation

- Select passages at the student's instructional level.
- Use simpler passages with more decodable patterns for early readers.
- Encourage repeated readings over several days to boost confidence and mastery.
- Practice timed reading with other texts on the students' reading level.

## Wrap-Up Questions

- What did you notice about your second reading?
- Which part felt smoother?
- How does it feel to read something more than once?

## Additional Fluency Resources

Select passages at the student's instructional level.

- [University of Florida Literacy Institute: Grade K Decodable Passages](#)
- [University of Florida Literacy Institute: Grade 1 Decodable Passages](#)
- [University of Florida Literacy Institute: Grade 2 Decodable Passages](#)
- [University of Florida Literacy Institute: Supplemental Reading Passages](#)
- [University of Oregon: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills \(DIBLES\)](#)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 1: The Red Hat

(Word Count: 56)

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| I have a red hat.                       | 5  |
| I wear it to the park.                  | 11 |
| I run and jump with my dog.             | 18 |
| My hat falls off when I spin.           | 25 |
| Dad picks it up and puts it on my head. | 35 |
| We play tag and go on the slide.        | 43 |
| I love my red hat.                      | 48 |
| It is a fun day at the park.            | 56 |

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passage 2: The Big Box

(Word Count: 56)

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Mom has a big box.                 | 5  |
| I help her open it.                | 10 |
| In the box is a toy.               | 16 |
| It can hop, spin, and beep.        | 22 |
| I say, "Wow!"                      | 25 |
| I show it to my sister.            | 31 |
| She claps and laughs.              | 35 |
| We take turns with the toy.        | 41 |
| I play with it all day.            | 47 |
| I love my new toy from the big box | 56 |

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 3: At the Pond

(Word Count: 64)

|                                                                |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| We went to the pond on a warm day. I saw ducks swim and        | 14 |
| frogs hop. I fed the ducks some bread. One duck came           | 25 |
| close and took a bite from my hand. It made a soft sound       | 38 |
| and wagged its tail. I saw a fish jump, too. It was fun to see | 53 |
| so many pond animals. I want to go back again soon.            | 64 |

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 4: Rainy Day Fun

(Word Count: 63)

|                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| It was raining, so we stayed inside. I built a fort with a  | 13 |
| sheet and chairs. My cat came inside the fort and sat on my | 26 |
| lap. We read books and had snacks in the cozy space.        | 37 |
| Then I made a puzzle and drew a picture of the rain. Rainy  | 50 |
| days can be quiet and fun when you have things to do        | 62 |
| indoors.                                                    | 63 |

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passage 5: Lost and Found

(Word Count: 66)

I lost my red ball at the park. I looked under the bench and  
by the slide. It was not there. I checked the swings and the  
grass. I felt sad and wanted to go home. Then I saw it by  
the tree. I ran to get it and hugged it close. I was glad to  
have it back. Now I keep it in my bag.

14

27

41

56

66

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passage 6: The Bug Hunt

(Word Count: 67)

|                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| My class went on a bug hunt outside. We had jars, nets,    | 12 |
| and notebooks. I found a bug with red wings that flew fast | 24 |
| in the air. Sam saw a green beetle under a log. We wrote   | 37 |
| down what we found and drew pictures. At the end, we let   | 49 |
| the bugs go. We saw six bugs that day. I want to go on     | 63 |
| another bug hunt soon!                                     | 67 |

**Round 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Round 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words read

\_\_\_\_\_ errors

**Notes/Reflections:**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WPM Fluency Progress Tracker

Use this chart to track how many words you read correctly in 1 minute. Read the passage and use a color to graph how many words you read correctly in the 1st column. Read the passage again and graph how many words you read correctly in the 2nd column. Repeat with each passage read.

|         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 100     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 95      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 90      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 85      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 80      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 75      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 70      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 65      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 60      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 55      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 50      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 45      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 40      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 35      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 30      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 25      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 20      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 15      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 10      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 5       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Attempt | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd |
| Date    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

# **Passage 1:**

## **The Red Hat**

**I have a red hat.**

**I wear it to the park.**

**I run and jump with my dog.**

**My hat falls off when I spin.**

**Dad picks it up and puts it on my head.**

**We play tag and go on the slide.**

**I love my red hat.**

**It is a fun day at the park.**

## **Passage 2: The Big Box**

**Mom has a big box.**

**I help her open it.**

**In the box is a toy.**

**It can hop, spin, and beep.**

**I say, “Wow!”**

**I show it to my sister.**

**She claps and laughs.**

**We take turns with the toy.**

**I play with it all day.**

**I love my new toy from the big box.**

## **Passage 3: At the Pond**

**We went to the pond on a warm day. I saw ducks swim and frogs hop. I fed the ducks some bread. One duck came close and took a bite from my hand. It made a soft sound and wagged its tail. I saw a fish jump, too. It was fun to see so many pond animals. I want to go back again soon.**

## **Passage 4: Rainy Day Fun**

**It was raining, so we stayed inside. I built a fort with a sheet and chairs. My cat came inside the fort and sat on my lap. We read books and had snacks in the cozy space. Then I made a puzzle and drew a picture of the rain. Rainy days can be quiet and fun when you have things to do indoors.**

## **Passage 5: Lost and Found**

**I lost my red ball at the park. I looked under the bench and by the slide. It was not there. I checked the swings and the grass. I felt sad and wanted to go home. Then I saw it by the tree. I ran to get it and hugged it close. I was glad to have it back. Now I keep it in my bag.**

## Passage 6: The Bug Hunt

**My class went on a bug hunt outside. We had jars, nets, and notebooks. I found a bug with red wings that flew fast in the air. Sam saw a green beetle under a log. We wrote down what we found and drew pictures. At the end, we let the bugs go. We saw six bugs that day. I want to go on another bug hunt soon!**