

READING FLUENCY

Reading fluency is a very important part of your child's educational learning process. In order for your child to be able to understand what he/she reads, your child needs to be able to read fluently (at a quick pace). Reading quickly in itself will not make your child a better reader, but if your child reads too slowly, all understanding is lost because the child is spending all of his/her time trying to call out the words.



Students entering third grade should be able to read at least 77 words per minute to be considered "on grade level" when they begin third grade. The following two passages are



examples of what your child will be expected to read in third grade. Please let your child practice reading these passages several times each, and then time your child for one minute to see how many words he/she can read correctly in one minute.

The Wink

10 The big day was here. Rosa was in the school
19 orchestra and tonight was the winter concert. It was
30 the first time she would play the piano in front of
32 an audience.

42 Rosa was worried all day in school. When she got
52 home she had butterflies in her stomach. She was still
61 scared when she left for the concert. Rosa went
70 backstage and peeked out from behind the curtain and
80 watched her friend Sam play his horn. Sam never made
90 a mistake. He looked fine. Then Rosa saw her parents
101 in the third row. Her father caught her eye and winked.

110 Suddenly, Rosa knew she could do it. She would
120 pretend she was playing for just her mom and dad.
130 Rosa stepped onto the stage. She played her song well.

139 When it was over, Rosa grinned. She winked at
149 her parents and ran off the stage. Rosa's stage fright
was over. 151

1. What is the story mostly about?
2. Why do you think the author chose "The Wink" for the name of this story?

Snakes of Many Colors

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You might think snakes do not need protection, but they do. Many animals find that snakes make a good meal.

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Snakes often use colors to protect themselves from these hungry animals. Some snakes, like the mangrove snake, have bright colors, to show that they are poisonous.

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Other snakes only pretend to be poisonous. The Pueblan milk snake has bands of bright red, black, and white. Animals think the snake is poisonous, but it is not.

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Snakes use their colors to hide from animals, too.

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For example, the bright green cat snake lives high in a tree in the rainforest. It hunts at night. The snake stays twined around a branch during the day. It looks just like a vine, fooling animals that might want to make it their dinner.

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These snakes need their colorful scales to stay safe.

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After all, it is a dangerous world, even for a snake. **149**

1. How do snakes protect themselves from hungry animals?

2. How does the Pueblan milk snake fool other animals?

Thunderclouds

9 Forces that form a thundercloud can build over a
21 long time. We do not know they are working until a large
30 dark cloud forms overhead. The forces that build these
clouds are hot and cold air.

36 Warm air rises into the clouds. The air keeps
45 moving up, spilling over the top of clouds. Water vapor,
55 or little drops of water, is in the air.

64 As the air rises, it causes the water vapor to cool and
76 form bigger drops of water and even small pieces of ice.
87 The clouds grow higher as more air travels to the top.

98 Inside is a roller coaster of air. The air goes up fast,
110 then it gets very cold and falls down fast. When the
121 water drops get too heavy, they fall from the clouds as
132 rain. The pieces of ice sometimes fall as hail.

141 These forces have just created one of nature's
149 wonderful shows, a thunderstorm. **153**

1. What is the passage mostly about?
2. What happens when water drops get too heavy?

READING COMPREHENSION



Along with reading fluency, students need to understand what they read. In third grade, students are expected to achieve mastery of all Reading skills by scoring a 70% or higher for each skill. An **EXTREMELY** important tool that you can encourage your child to use is to go back into the story after it has been read and underline where your child finds the answer. By asking him/her to do this, you can ensure that your child is actually reading the story.

The following stories are examples of what your child will see next year in third grade. Have your child read each story, underline where they found the answers, and answer each question.

Fishing Fun

"Beep! Beep! Beep!" roared the alarm clock. Juanita turned the alarm off and looked at the clock. She closed her eyes and wondered why she had to wake up at 4:00 A.M. to go fishing. "Juanita! Wake up!"

Juanita rolled out of bed quickly and got dressed. As she and Uncle Jack walked out the door, Juanita's mom handed her two bags. "One is for breakfast, the other is for lunch," she said and kissed her on the cheek.

In the truck Juanita asked Uncle Jack a million questions. "What kind of fish will we catch? When will we be at the lake? What will we use to catch the fish?" Because it was Juanita's first fishing trip, Uncle Jack calmly answered each question.

Finally, they arrived at Lake West Point and put on their lifejackets. As they got in the boat, Uncle Jack gave Juanita her first fishing job—untying the boat from the dock. She put one foot up on the edge of the boat. Plop! Into the water went one of the bags. "Oh no! Our lunch is gone!" Juanita cried.

But she soon forgot about the lost lunch. Uncle Jack found the perfect fishing spot. He showed Juanita how to bait the hook and throw the line into the water. Faster than you can say "catfish," Uncle Jack caught a fish. "You will get your turn," said Uncle Jack.

A strong wind began to blow. "Uncle Jack, do you think it is going to..." Juanita's question was interrupted by a tug on her line. She had caught a fish! She could not wait to compare her fish to Uncle Jack's fish.

Imagine her surprise when her hard work only brought up plants from the lake!

"Fishing is fun," Uncle Jack said with a wink of his eye.

Before Juanita could answer, the sky opened and hard rain fell.

"So, Uncle Jack," Juanita asked, "is fishing always this much fun?" Uncle Jack laughed as he handed Juanita a raincoat.

- 1) Which statement is probably true about how people all over the world catch fish?
 - a) They use the same type of fishing bait as Juanita.
 - b) They stop fishing when it starts to rain.
 - c) They get up at the same time to catch fish.
 - d) They use some type of pole or tool to catch fish.

- 2) What is the meaning of the prefix in the underlined word?

untying the boat from the dock

- a) opposite of
- b) again
- c) after
- d) for

- 3) What did Juanita's mom do that showed she cared for her daughter?
- a) She gave her food for breakfast and lunch.
 - b) She reminded her to wear a lifejacket.
 - c) She made sure she had a raincoat.
 - d) She gave her a fishing pole to use.

How Animals Talk

All living things send messages. People talk face-to-face, write letters, and make phone calls. They also use "body talk," like smiling to say, "I am pleased," or shivering to say, "I am cold."

Animals send messages to each other too. They make sounds, leave smells, and act in special ways. By doing these things animals warn of danger, set rules for leadership, and tell other animals they have found food. For example, when a male deer rubs against trees to leave his smell, he tells other deer to stay out of his space. White-tailed deer flick their tails up in the air as if to say, "Run!" so other deer can escape danger. Swallowtail caterpillars give off a stinky smell to keep enemies away. Young owls peck at the adults to ask for food. Bull elk crash their antlers together to see who is boss.

Even underwater living things send messages. Manatees touch whiskers, chirp, and squeak to say hello. Messages, sent by people or animals, help living things survive, grow, and talk with each other.

- 4) Why does a swallowtail caterpillar give off a stinky smell?
- a) to ask for food
 - b) to leave his scent
 - c) to keep enemies away
 - d) to see who is boss
- 5) Which three words from the passage name things animals do to send messages?
- a) peck, squeak, rub
 - b) danger, smell, touch
 - c) owls, caterpillars, elk
 - d) smiling, whiskers, warn
- 6) What kind of passage is *How Animals Talk*?
- a) fiction
 - b) poetry
 - c) drama
 - d) nonfiction
- 7) What might a manatee do to escape danger?
- a) flick its tail in the air
 - b) touch whiskers with its enemy
 - c) make a chirping sound
 - d) rub its smell against a tree

- 8) How does the message a white tailed deer sends help the other deer survive?
- It helps them make new friends.
 - It tells them where to find food.
 - It tells them to stay out of its space.
 - It warns them to run from danger.
- 9) Which homework assignment might the passage help you with?
- List five ways animals escape danger.
 - List five animals and tell where they live.
 - List four ways animals send messages to each other.
 - List four sounds people make when they send messages.
- 10) Which is a way that real animals talk?
- by writing stories
 - by sending e-mails
 - by drawing pictures
 - by using their bodies

State Fair Food Menu

Susan and Thomas were spending the day at the State Fair. Around 12:30 p.m., they began to get hungry. They decided to have some lunch. Below is the menu from the fair where they were going to get something to eat.

State Fair Food Menu

Sandwiches**		Side Orders	
Hot Dog	\$1.25	French Fries	\$1.00
Hamburger	\$2.25	Fresh Fruit	\$1.00
Corndog	\$1.50	Baked Beans	\$.75
Grilled Cheese	\$2.00	Coleslaw	\$.50
Drinks		Desserts	
Lemonade	\$1.00	Ice Cream	\$1.50
Iced Tea	\$1.00	Cookie	\$.50
Juice	\$1.50	Granola Bar	\$.75
Bottled Water	\$1.50	Cotton Candy	\$1.50

**All sandwiches come with slices of pickles, onions, and tomatoes.

- 11) Which of these can Susan buy at the fair?
- potato chips
 - fresh fruit
 - soup
 - pizza

- 12) What do the marks ** after the heading *Sandwiches* mean?
- a) The sandwiches are: Hot Dog, Hamburger, Corndog, and Grilled Cheese
 - b) All sandwiches come with slices of pickles, onions, and tomatoes.
 - c) All sandwiches come with French Fries, a drink, and a dessert.
 - d) The sandwiches range in price from \$1.25 to \$2.25.
- 13) Which sentence tells you why Susan and Thomas would want to read the menu?
- a) Below is the menu from the fair.
 - b) Around 12:30 p.m., they began to get hungry.
 - c) Susan and Thomas were spending the day at the fair.
 - d) All sandwiches come with slices of pickles, onions, and tomatoes.
- 14) What can you conclude after reading the *State Fair Food Menu*?
- a) Susan and Thomas are best friends.
 - b) Susan and Thomas like the food at the fair.
 - c) Susan and Thomas had to be home before 9:00 p.m.
 - d) Susan and Thomas arrived at the fair before 12:30 p.m.
- 15) Thomas bought four items. It is very hot outside. What item should Thomas eat FIRST?
- a) french fries
 - b) ice cream
 - c) hot dog
 - d) ice tea
- 16) Which item from the menu includes tomatoes?
- a) coleslaw
 - b) granola bar
 - c) hamburger
 - d) juice

MATH

Third grade math standards require that your child be able to problem solve and come up with answers to varying types of questions. Your child **MUST** know the multiplication



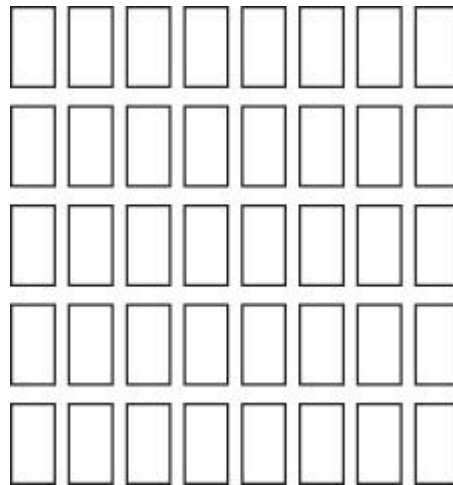
Math problems are now presented in word problem form. The following Math problems are examples of what your child will be required to do next year.

- 1) The third-grade students sold 292 candy bars. The equation shown can be used to find the number of candy bars, x , sold by the fourth-grade students.

$$X + 15 = 292$$

How many total candy bars did the third and fourth grade students sell?

- a. 277 b. 307 c. 569 d. 599
- 2) Amy lined up the cards shown for a memory game.



Which equation correctly shows 2 ways to find the total number of cards Amy lined up for the memory game?

- a. $5 \times 8 = (5 + 4) \times (5 + 4)$ b.. $5 \times 8 = (5 \times 4) \times (5 \times 4)$
b. $5 \times 8 = (5 + 4) + (5 + 4)$ d. $5 \times 8 = (5 \times 4) + (5 \times 4)$
- 3) Armando separated the figure shown into equal parts.



Which expression represents the shaded part of the figure?

- a. $1/8 + 1/8$
b. $2/8 + 2/8$
c. $1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8$
d. $2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8 + 2/8$

- 4) Your mother gave you \$3.00 to spend for a healthy snack of fruit. Show one combination of fruit that you can buy with the \$3.00. You can use a fruit more than once. Use the recording chart below.

Fruit	How many?	Price

TOTAL: _____

- 5) Kimberly told Karen that she has about 70 gumballs. Karen has 68 gumballs. Knowing that Kimberly rounded her total, is it possible that Karen has more gumballs than Kimberly? Justify your thinking using words, pictures and numbers.

- 6) There is a tree with three branches. On each branch there are seven nests. In each nest there are four eggs. How many eggs are there in all? Draw a picture if you need to.

Complete the following patterns:

7) 24, 30, 36, _____

8) 18, 23, _____, 33

9) 93, 85, 77, _____

10) 54, 50, _____, 42

11) Explain what is wrong with the following: $4,000 + 800 + 4 = 484$

- 12) Thomas had to run 25 miles during a race. He ran 17 miles yesterday. How many miles does Thomas still have to run? _____

Did you add or subtract in the above problem? _____ How did you know what to do?

Estimate the sums and differences.

13) 462
 + 388

14) 923
 - 259

15) 211
 + 846

- 16) Heaven saw 53 fish in the pond on Saturday. Mary Alyssa saw 75 fish in a different pond on Saturday. Which number sentence shows how many fish they saw in all?

$$75 - 53 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$53 + 75 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$53 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 75$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} - 75 = 53$$

Explain why your answer is correct.

- 17) Haley went to the grocery store and bought a bag of apples for \$4.75, some popcorn for \$2.83, and a bag of cookies for \$1.73. **About** how much money did Haley spend at the store? (HINT: Round to the nearest dollar). _____

- 18) Mrs. Wilson graded 79 papers on Wednesday, Miss Taylor graded 96 papers on Wednesday, and Mrs. Roach graded 207 papers on Wednesday. How many papers were graded altogether? _____

- 19) Which statement below explains why 4,285 rounds to 4,300.

- A) 4,285 is closer to 4,000 than 5,000.
- B) 4,285 is closer to 4,000 than 4,500
- C) 4,285 is closer to 5,000 than 4,300
- D) 4,285 is closer to \$4,300 than 4,200

- 20) Which statement below explains what you would do to solve the following word problem.

Timothy has to travel 415 miles on his vacation trip. He has already traveled 325 miles. How many more miles does Timothy still need to travel?

- A) Timothy has to travel 415 miles and he has traveled 325 miles so you would add the numbers.
B) Timothy has to travel 415 miles and he has traveled 325. He still has some miles to travel so you would subtract the miles that he has already traveled to find out what he has left to travel.
C) Timothy has to travel 415 miles so you would divide 415 miles by the 325 miles that he has already traveled.
D) None of the above statements are correct.

Find the missing sum.

21) $7 + \underline{\quad} = 23$

22) $9 + \underline{\quad} = 24$

23) $\underline{\quad} + 6 = 16$

24) $\underline{\quad} + 13 = 48$

- 25) Sophie spent 43 minutes playing with her friend, Betsy. Afterwards, she spent 59 minutes playing with her friend, Carla. Choose the following number sentence that shows how to estimate the total number of minutes Sophie spent playing with her friends.

- A) $50 + 50$ B) $50 + 60$ C) $40 + 50$ D) $40 + 60$

- 26) Brad had 63 baseball cards. He gave 27 of his baseball cards to his friend, Sam. Choose the following number sentence that shows how to estimate the number of baseball cards Brad had left.

- A) $60 + 30$ B) $60 - 30$ C) $70 + 20$ D) $70 - 20$

- 27) On vacation, Thomas drove 48 miles on Monday, 62 miles on Tuesday, and 93 miles on Wednesday. Choose the following number sentence that shows how to estimate the total number of miles Thomas drove.

- A) $50 + 60 + 90$ B) $40 + 70 + 90$ C) $50 + 70 + 90$ D) $40 + 70 + 100$

- 28) How many tens are in 100? (Write it out if you need to.) _____

29) $2 + (4 + 8) = ?$

- A) $(2 + 4) + 8$ B) $(6 + 4) + 8$ C) $2 + (6 + 8)$ D) $(2 + 2) + 8$

- 30) Which expression is NOT the same as 3×4 ?

- A) $3 + 3 + 3 + 3$ B) 4×3 C) $4 + 4 + 4$ D) $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3$

MATH FACT FLUENCY

Math fluency refers to how quickly your child can do his/her math facts. It is important for your child to know addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts quickly because all areas of Math are developed from these basic computation skills. In order for your child to be successful with Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Estimation, etc. your child needs to be fluent in these basic Math facts. It is very easy to create your own flash cards or they may be purchased at a very inexpensive price at such stores as The Dollar Tree or Dollar General. The following pages are samples of timed math fact assessments that your child will be required to do in 3rd grade. At the end of 3rd grade, your child should be able to correctly answer 70 addition facts, 65 subtraction facts, and 65 multiplication facts in 3 minutes.

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