

## Activity 1: Fluency Check

- Have your child read for one minute while following along with the passage marking incorrect words read.
- At the one minute mark have your child stop reading.
- Compute the words per minute read minus the mistakes and mark the total on a chart.

## Activity 2: Reader's Theatre

One of our focuses in 3rd grade reading instruction is to improve your child's reading fluency. Reading fluency is an essential component to building strong comprehension skills. A fluent reader not only accurately decodes words, but does so effortlessly, smoothly, and gracefully. Fluency also incorporates the tone of voice with which one shares a story. All of these components directly relates to the ability to comprehend a story. Readers Theater is a research based approached to improving children's overall reading fluency.

Directions:

- Practice reading the scripts with your child throughout the week.
- Have your child reread their parts several times, so they become familiar with the text and they are able to read it effortlessly with expression.
- Monday: Have your child read the entire script to you.
- Tuesday: Have your child just practice one of the character lines to the story. Watch how they say their lines (happily, sad, bored, tired, excitedly, etc.). Also, be sure they know how to say all of the words correctly.
- Wednesday: Have your child read each of their lines **two or three times** with lots of expression.
- Thursday: Practice reading the entire story with your child again. Make sure they read your lines with lots of expression. Keep practicing with them until they are confident with the script.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count: 159

### Silkworms

Some insects are seen as pests, but not silkworm caterpillars. Farmers have been raising silkworms for thousands of years. The silk that comes from silkworms can be used to make cloth that is both strong and beautiful.

Farmers feed silkworms leaves from special trees, which they eat day and night after they hatch. The hungry silkworms spend almost a month eating the leaves and growing. As they grow, they shed their skin four times.

Next, the silkworms stop eating and hang upside down. The silkworms use their spit to make tiny threads of silk. They wrap the silk threads around their bodies, over and over, until they are completely covered in silk.

To gather the silk, a farmer carefully pulls the silk threads apart. A single silk thread can be up to one mile long.

The threads are used to make silk cloth, which is light and soft. Silk is cool to wear in summer yet warm in winter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count: 171

### The Shopping Cart Mystery

The kids were up to their hips in water, cleaning up the trash that clogged the river. Most of the garbage was stuff they expected—cans, plastic bags, tires—but they also found something they couldn't explain: shopping carts.

"Here's another one," Stuart yelled.

"There seem to be more on the left-hand side," Tara shouted. There weren't any grocery stores for miles, and they couldn't imagine why anyone would push a cart so far just to dump it in the river. "We should follow the shopping carts and see where they're coming from."

As they went upstream, they found even more, until they saw a giant pile of carts towering to the top of the riverbank. The kids peeked over the bank into the large parking lot of a thrift store. Just then, a gust of wind began to blow a cart, faster and faster, toward the riverbank.

# The Gingerbread Man

## Characters

Farmer                      Cow  
Gingerbread Man      Fox

**Farmer:** I'll make a snack,  
crunchy and sweet.  
A gingerbread man  
is just the treat!  
Yummy! It smells  
like my treat is done.  
Open the oven  
for a snack full of fun!

## Gingerbread

**Man:** I feel as alive as I can be.  
When the door opens,  
I'll run free!

**Farmer:** Gingerbread Man!  
You come back!  
I want to have you for a snack.

## Gingerbread

**Man:** Oh, no! I won't come back.  
I won't come back  
to be your snack.  
You can run as fast as you can.  
You can't catch  
this Gingerbread Man!

Gingerbread

Man: I'll hop onto your tail  
and take a ride.  
I must get to the other side.

Fox: We're not at the other side yet.  
Get on my back  
so you don't get wet.

Gingerbread

Man: I'll get on your back  
to have a dry ride.  
I must get to the other side.

Fox: We're not at the other side yet.  
Get on my head  
so you don't get wet.

Gingerbread

Man: I'll get on your head  
to have a dry ride.  
I must get to the other side.

Fox: We're not at the other side yet.  
Get on my nose  
so you don't get wet.

Gingerbread

Man: I'll get on your nose  
to have a dry ride.  
I must get to the other side.

Fox: Snap! Now, you're out of sight.  
I snapped you up in one big bite!  
Yum-Yum!

The End

# The Little Red Hen

## Characters

Little Red Hen     Cat  
Dog                     Duck

Little Red Hen: Look!  
I found some wheat seeds.  
Who will help me  
plant these seeds?

Dog: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
wading in the waterhole.

Cat: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
wading in the waterhole.

Duck: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
wading in the waterhole.

Little Red Hen: Then I will plant  
the wheat seeds myself!

Dog, Cat,  
and Duck: That Little Red Hen works hard!

Little Red Hen: Come look!  
The wheat is growing!  
Who will help me tend the wheat?

**Dog:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
teasing turtles.

**Cat:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
teasing turtles.

**Duck:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
teasing turtles.

**Little Red Hen:** Then I will tend the wheat myself!

**Dog, Cat,  
and Duck:** That Little Red Hen works hard!

**Little Red Hen:** Come look!  
It's time to harvest the wheat!  
Who will help me harvest the wheat?

**Dog:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
sneaking up on snails.

**Cat:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
sneaking up on snails.

**Duck:** Not I.  
I'm too busy  
sneaking up on snails.

**Little Red Hen:** Then I will harvest the wheat myself!

**Dog, Cat,  
and Duck:** That Little Red Hen works hard!

Little Red Hen: Come look!  
It's time to make flour!  
Who will help me make wheat flour?

Dog: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
chasing caterpillars.

Cat: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
chasing caterpillars.

Duck: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
chasing caterpillars.

Little Red Hen: Then I will make the flour myself!

Dog, Cat,  
and Duck: That Little Red Hen works hard!

Little Red Hen: Come look!  
It's time to bake bread!  
Who will help me bake bread?

Dog: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
making mudpies.

Cat: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
making mudpies.

Duck: Not I.  
I'm too busy  
making mudpies.

Red Hen: Then I will bake the bread myself!

Cat: Mmmm!  
Do you smell that bread baking?

Duck: Come!  
Let's find that bread!

Red Hen: Who will help me  
eat this tasty bread?

Dog, Cat,  
and Duck: We will!  
We're not too busy  
to help eat bread!

Red Hen: Oh, no, you won't!  
I planted the wheat seeds.  
I grew the wheat.  
I harvested the wheat.  
I made the flour.  
I baked the bread,  
all by myself!  
Now, I will eat  
the bread myself!  
Yum-Yum!

The End