

# Fluency

## What is Fluency?

Fluency is used to describe when a reader is reading with accuracy, expression, and with an appropriate pace or rate.

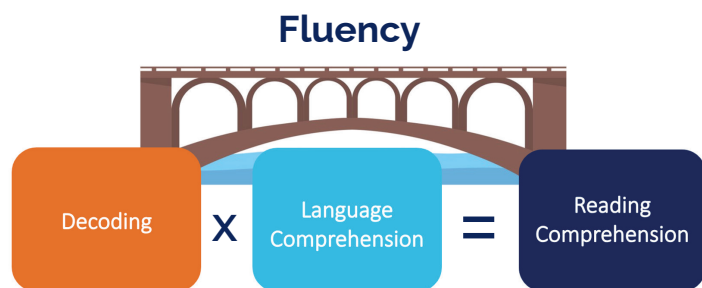
### A fluent reader:

- Correctly and automatically reads the words on the page.
- Uses expression while reading, for example, they change their voice to express the character's emotions or express that a question is being asked.
- Reads at an appropriate pace or rate. They do not read too fast or too slow, pause when they see a comma, and stop at the end of a sentence.

Each of the three characteristics work together to create fluent reading.

## Why Does Fluency Matter for Grades 4-8?

When a reader reads fluently with accuracy, expression, and appropriate pace they can focus on the meaning of the text. Research has shown that better reading fluency is linked to better reading comprehension (Stevens, Walker, & Vaughn, 2016). Fluency serves as the bridge between recognizing words and understanding text.



Adapted from Gough, P. and Tunmer, W. (1986)



**If your child needs support with fluency, here are some ways you can practice with them at home.**



**Partner Reading:** Choose an article or passage that is interesting to your child. Take turns reading the article. As you read, model use of appropriate pace, expression, and accuracy. Discuss the text with your child to help them make connections to what they already know and develop a better understanding of the text.



**Audio books:** Listen to audiobooks together and have your child follow along reading silently. Parents or family members can have them re-read a particularly interesting or funny section after listening, in order to practice using appropriate expression.



**Echo Reading:** Read a line or sentence from a book, magazine, or newspaper etc. modeling fluent reading. Then have your child read the same line, trying to model your expression, pace, and accuracy. If they make a mistake, provide support by correcting errors and offering encouragement.