

# STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

Fluency Fuel Branded | One-Page Classroom Handout | [fluencyfuel.org](https://fluencyfuel.org)

## PHONICS & DECODING

- Sound-spelling mapping with Elkonin boxes (CVC to vowel teams).
- Blend by analogy using known word families (-at: bat, flat, splat).
- Multisensory letter formation: trace, sky-write, tap the sounds.
- Daily decodable text using only taught sounds and words.
- Word chains: change one sound at a time (sat > sit > sip).
- Dictation: students write the sounds they hear, then check.

*Quick Tip: 10-15 min of explicit phonics daily beats one long weekly lesson.*

## FLUENCY

- Model with expression, then echo read sentence by sentence.
- Repeated reading 3-4x; chart words correct per minute (WCPM).
- Paired or choral reading to build prosody and lower anxiety.
- Phrase-cued text so readers chunk words into meaning units.
- Readers theater or poetry for authentic repeated practice.
- Set a rate goal with the student and graph weekly growth.

*Quick Tip: Use text students decode at 90-95% accuracy for fluency work.*

## VOCABULARY

- Teach 3-5 high-utility words per read-aloud with kid-friendly definitions.
- Build morphology webs around roots (struct, port, dict).
- Semantic maps before and during reading to grow connections.
- Grow word consciousness: notice, collect, and play with words.
- Post a rotating word wall; require target words in writing.
- Use examples and non-examples to sharpen word meaning.

*Quick Tip: Students need 12-14 meaningful exposures before a word sticks.*

## COMPREHENSION

- Predict - Read - Confirm with evidence from the text.
- Reciprocal teaching: Predictor, Questioner, Clarifier, Summarizer.
- Visualize and sketch to surface gaps in understanding.
- Text-based questions: literal, then inferential, then evaluative.
- Teach text structure: story map, compare/contrast, cause/effect.
- Close with a 3-minute turn-and-talk or one-sentence summary.

*Quick Tip: A 3-minute turn-and-talk deepens meaning more than a worksheet.*

## 6-STEP IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

- 1 Assess each student's level in the four areas.
- 2 Introduce one or two strategies per week.
- 3 Model with a familiar text before independent practice.
- 4 Scaffold practice with feedback, then release support.
- 5 Monitor progress weekly; adjust grouping or intensity.
- 6 Celebrate small wins to build confidence.