Fly to the Rescue

Fluency: Read with Accuracy, Appropriate Rate, Phrasing, and Expression.

Practice

If you choose to use this fluency passage, print this page. First read the selection silently and then out loud. Then practice reading the selection to a partner. Focus on reading accurately, with appropriate rate and phrasing, and with expression. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Can I read all of the words?
- What is the mood of the selection?
- How can I show expression?
- When should I change my rate?
- When should I pause or stop?

After you and your partner have read the passage aloud, talk about the choices you made. Discuss any changes that you think you could make in your reading and then read the passage again.

Fly to the Rescue

A Native American Tale

There was a time when the world was new, and many fish lived in the rippling rivers. A thirsty moose heard about the pure, tantalizing water in the river and came to drink. He drank so much that it seemed the river would soon vanish. In fear of losing their homes, the animals living in and near the river trembled. They wanted to drive the moose away; however, even the big, burly bear felt intimidated by the moose’s incredible size.

Finally, a lowly fly volunteered to help. The other animals jeered at him. How could a tiny fly frighten a magnificent moose? The fly waited for the moose to appear, and he flew into action. The fly bit the moose’s leg sharply. The moose stamped his foot, but the fly just bit him again.

Every time the moose stamped his foot, the ground sank lower and the water rushed in to refill it. The fly bit the moose all over his body, sending him into quite a frenzy! The moose dashed about, shook his head, stamped his feet, and snorted loudly, but the fly’s bites continued unceasingly. At last the moose charged off, never to return. The fly was proud of his achievement and he boasted to the animals that had doubted him, “Even the very small can stand up for their rights.”