

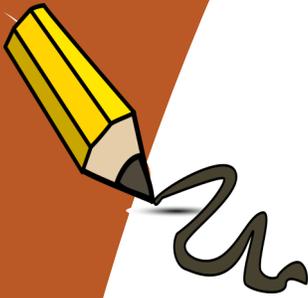


November 2020



# Tutor Tips

A monthly publication of the Moore County  
Literacy Council



Dear Tutors, volunteers,  
and lovers of literacy,

Did I take your picture? No?? Look out! We've been taking pictures of our students with their tutors to hang on our lobby tree. **We don't want to "leaf" anybody out!** If you are tutoring in another place, please snap a pic of the two of you and email it to me!

As we enter the season of thanks, let me say that the literacy council is **so thankful for you** and your dedication! Because of you we are continuing to serve people in the community who need our help, perhaps now more than ever. Our research is ongoing to find creative ways to serve our students. Throughout October, we continued to hear from students we had not seen since February or early March; we added an English Conversation class with great feedback that has encouraged us to implement it on a more regular basis; we held a Zoom training for several tutors who are willing to tutor virtually for awhile; we paired a few students with tutors (for virtual and in-person lessons!) and we even had a couple of tutors take on TWO students! Thank you for your willingness to stretch and grow with us as we embrace new opportunities in the Adult Literacy program!

A few reminders: If you have any curriculum books you are not using, please return them to the center! We are in the process of taking inventory and putting together a "wish list" to replace missing volumes. Also, please help your student write a paragraph using the monthly writing prompt and submit it to me for publication! I would very much like to praise our students' by printing their hard work!

As always, you are welcome to stop by or call anytime!

~Until next month, Susan

Writing prompt for  
November.....

## My Favorite Food!



November's  
Homophones:  
Foul & Fowl  
Tail & Tale



After consideration, the  
Seven Lakes site at St.  
Mary Magdalene has post-  
poned re-opening until un-  
til January. A new date  
coming soon!



**“Start where  
you are. Use  
what you have.  
Do what you  
can.”**  
~ Arthur Ashe

The MCLC office  
will be **CLOSED**  
for Thanksgiving  
November 25,  
26 & 27!

We will re-open  
Monday, Novem-  
ber 30 @  
9:00am!



Congrats **Nancy Farina** for  
completing two ProLiteracy  
on-line courses: Before,  
During and After: Reading  
Comprehension, & Un-  
leashing Potential through  
Multi-Intelligent Literacy In-  
struction Online courses—

Want to brush up with an on-line re-  
freshers or learn more? Call me!



**Attention Harris Teeter shoppers!**

Have you linked your VIC card to the Moore  
County Literacy Council? It's the easiest way  
to make a monthly contribution that will  
help support free literacy programs in our  
community!

November is National Family Literacy month!



Do you work with a student who has  
small children? Let me know! On be-  
half of *Growing Moore Readers*, I  
have a goodie bag for them!!



## Ask Susan...

My student's reading is not improving, but we read every lesson! Help!

When we read, we are aware that our eyes are physically moving across words. We may even be aware that we have pictured the scene in our minds. When we stop, somehow we know what the paragraph or essay was about. But there is so much going on inside the brain that we could easily spend the next week analyzing and discussing every cognitive process involved during reading. Alas, we won't. But I will share with you a few basics.

There are four main components of reading: Alphabets, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension. These components - or "cogs" -all move simultaneously to turn the reading wheel. When one of these little cogs lags, or skips, or needs oil, the overall effect is diminished. In other words, a deficiency in one of these components can greatly affect one's overall reading skills, that is why a solid focus on only one of these components will not produce a more effective reader. If you have ever read an essay a dozen times and still didn't fully grasp what, exactly, it meant, you know all too well that just because you have good vocabulary does not mean you will comprehend, and just because you comprehend does not mean you will read with the fluency beyond a second grader reading Shakespeare.

**Alphabets** involves phonemic awareness. Simply put: it's knowing the sounds of letters. For example, ca-t, ca-p. ca-st- the sounds of the last letters give the words an identity (a cat is NOT the same as a cap!) For many ESL learners, learning how to move the tongue to properly mimic these sounds may be necessary. Think about a toddler trying to say a new word. They have to manipulate their mouths to re-create a sound, which in turn becomes something they identify by that sound, such as a ca-t. "Mommy fed the ca-t, not my ca-p."

**Vocabulary** is like a bag of assorted candies rather than that one big bag of Tootsie Rolls. To increase vocabulary, though, new words must be introduced regularly and practiced often. Two or three new words (with definitions!) each week is plenty, but then use those words in reading selections, write about them, include them in conversation- and not just one week, but every week! This is the part when *repeat- repeat-repeat* is NOT repetitive!

**Fluency** is perhaps the most misunderstood of the Big Four: **Reading so fast that you miss the big idea is not fluency!** Reading with fluidity, raising the voice when an exclamation point appears or pausing at a comma (intonation), and identifying a word immediately so it is read smoothly (instead of chopping up a word as it is sounded out) **is** fluency!

And last but not least, **comprehension**. As readers increase their vocabulary, maintain a train of thought by not stopping and stumbling over mispronounced words (and therefore misunderstood definitions), comprehension will improve. Teach your student to stop after two or three sentences to measure their comprehension. As their reading skills improve, they may be able to read an entire paragraph before stopping for a comprehension break! Remember: Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither are good readers!