## Fluency Practice – Unit 1

### Getting Started L.1-5

**See**

- See the !
- See the .
- See the .
- See the .
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- See the .
- See the .

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

19 WORDS
Fluency Practice – Unit 1 (Getting Started L.1-5)

### Up

Is the **sun** up.

The **sun** is up.

Is the **boy** up?

See the **clock**?

See the **clock**!

The **boy** is up!

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wpm wpm wpm wpm wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

25 WORDS
I Have

- I have cereal.
- I have eggs.
- I have juice.
- I have toast.
- I have jam.


________  _______  _______  _______  _______  
wpm        wpm        wpm        wpm        wpm        

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
## Fluency Practice – Unit 1

### There Is

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<tr>
<td>book</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>bus</td>
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</table>

26 WORDS

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
I Can See

I can see the bus.

I can the bus driver on the bus.

I can see the boy on the bus.

I can see the boys on the bus.

I can see the girls on the bus.

I can see the school.


______     ______      ______     ______   ______

wpm         wpm          wpm          wpm      wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Sam, Sam, Sam
I am Sam.
I am Sam.
I am Sam.
Sam?
Sam, Sam, Sam.
I am Sam.

________    _______    _______    _______    _______
 wpm        wpm        wpm        wpm        wpm
Matt and Sam

Matt
Matt sat.
Matt sat on Sam.
Sam
Sam sat.
Sam sat on a mat.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
On the Mat
Tam
Tam on a mat
Sam
Sam on a mat
Matt
Matt on a mat
I am on a mat.
Sam sat on Tam. Matt sat on Sam.
I sat on Matt. Tam sat.
Tam sat on Matt.
Tam sat. Sam sat. Matt sat.
I sat on a mat.

_________      _______       _______        _______       _______ 

wpm       wpm        wpm        wpm        wpm

52 Words
Dad Sat

Tad, Tam, and Dad sat.

Tad sat.

Tam sat.

Dad sat.

Dad sat on the mat.

Tad, Tam, and Dad sat.

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WPM  | WPM   | WPM  | WPM    | WPM  

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
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**Ants**

Nat and Nan sat.

Nat and Nan stand.

Nat and Nan stand and stand.

Ants see Nat and Nan.

Nat and Nan sat.

Nan and Nat see ants!

*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Sit!
Sid, Sis, and Tim sit.
Did Matt sit?
See Matt stand.
Sid and Sis sit.
Did Tim sit?
See Tim stand.
Did Sid sit? Did Sis sit?
Sid did it! Sid sits.

---

______  ______  ______  ______  ______
wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
A Hint

Sid hid a hat.

“I had a hat,” said Tim.

Dad had a hint.

“Hand him a hat,” said Dad.

“A hat!” said Tim.

“Sid hid it!” said Dad.
Mints
Tim had a tin can.
The tin can had mints in it.
Tim had a mint.
Tim hid it in a hand. Did Sid see it?
“Sit, Sid,” said Tim. Sit sat.
Sid had a mint!
Tim had a mint.
Tim hid it in a hand. Did Tam see it?
“Stand, Tam,” said Tim. Tam did stand.
Tam and Sid had a mint.
Pat’s Map

Pat’s map sits on a mat.

Pat taps the mat.

Sam stamps on Pat’s map.

Sam taps Pat’s map.

Sam hits Pat’s map.

Sam nips Pat’s map.

---

-----|-------|------|--------|------
      |       |      |        |      
29 wpm | 29 wpm | 29 wpm | 29 wpm | 29 wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

29 Words
Fluency Practice – Unit 1  (Back To School L.11-15)

Lin and Hal

Lin has a plan.

Hal can land on sand.

Lin sits on a hill.

Hal sits on plants.

Lin and Hal stand still.

3
7
12
17
21
26


wpm    wpm    wpm    wpm    wpm

Julie Ramirez Aug. 2010
A Spot

Mom has a pot.
Mom has a hot pot.
The hot pot tips!
Mom has a spot.
Dad has a mop.
Dad mops a spot.
Mom pats a spot.

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Bob at Bat

Bob is at bat.
Bob stamps a bit.
Bob taps a bat.
Bob can stand and nod.
Bob bats. Bam!
Bob has a hit!
Bob pants and pants.

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31 WORDS

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
At the Mall

Dad sits in a mall.
Dad has a list.
Look at the ball.
Is it a small ball?
Dad is calm.
“I can call mom,” Dad said.
Dad did call.
Mom is at the mall.
“It is a small ball,” said Mom.

______  ______  ______  ______  ______
wpm     wpm     wpm     wpm     wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
A Picnic

What can Dad pick?
Dad can pick snacks.
Nick can pick maps.
Kim sits in the back.
Dad and Nick stand up.
Kim skips in the sand.
Kim has the picnic sack.
Kim has milk and snacks.
Dad, Nick, and Kim have a picnic.
# Fluency Practice – Unit 2 (Where Animals Live L.1-5)

## Rick and Rob

<table>
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<td>Rick sits and prints.</td>
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<td>Rob licks Rick. Rick can’t print.</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick sits and picks a trick.</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob licks Rick. Rick can’t pick a trick.</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>There was a rock.</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Rick did not look.</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>Rick sprints and trips on the rock.</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Rob sprints and licks Rick.</td>
<td>46</td>
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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

46 Words
A Bobcat

Look! A bobcat is on a cliff.

It sits on a flat rock.

Can it look at the fat rabbit?

It can look at the fat rabbit.

A bobcat sniffs a rabbit.

A bobcat can look fast.

Look! A bobcat can stand stiff.

A bobcat sprints fast.
Rag Bits

Mom had a big bag.
The bag had a tag.
“Grab the bag and look,” said Mom.
Nan had a plan.
Nan got the bag.
Mom was a big fan.
Nan had a rag gift.
Mom got a pig gift.


wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

42 Words
Jack’s Job

Jack’s job had a badge.
The bridge had a traffic jam.
Jack had to act fast.
Jan had a flat on the bridge.
Traffic did not pass Jan.
It had to stop.
Bridge traffic had to pass.
Jack got the bridge traffic to pass.
### Plum Pond

The sun was up at Plum Pond.

“I spot black ducks,” said Jill.

“Plus a gull,” said Gramps.

“Look on the stumps,” said Gramps.

It’s a slug.

A big bug sat in the mud.

“Did it get stuck?” said Jill.

Plum Pond is fun!

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46 Words

*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Buzz and Zip

Zack is in a hat of fuzz.
Zack is in lots of fuzz.
Zack is in back of Liz.
Zack asks lots of stuff.
“Can I buzz?” “Can I zip?”
Zack asks.
“What can buzz and zip?”
asks Liz.
Zack the bug can!
Max and Sam
Max and Sam fix stuff.
Max and Sam fix a box.
Max can rub a sax.
Can Sam rub a sax?
Max and Sam fix a fox.
Next, Max can list stuff.
Can Sam help Max?
Sam can if he sits down.

_______  ______  ______  ______  ______  
wpm     wpm     wpm     wpm     wpm     wpm
A Red Fox

A red fox has a den.

Its den is down in grass.

If the sun is down, a red fox hunts.

A red fox can hunt down a rabbit.

A red fox can smell hens.

At sun-up, a red fox rests.

It sits down.
The Glass

Mom filled a glass.
As Mom rested a bug smelled the glass.
What was in it?
The bug visited its nest.
Bugs buzzed in a glass.
Bugs buzzed back to the nest.
Mom sat up and lifted the glass.
“I cannot sip!” said Mom.
Ted’s List

Ted printed his list.  6
Ted read his list.  10
Then, Ted got bread and milk.  16
Then, Dad read.  19
Dad got jam instead of apricots.  25
Dad and Ted then headed back.  31
Dad fixed eggs.  34
Then, Dad spread jam on the bread.  41
“I dreamt of jam and bread!”  47


________  _______  _______  _______  _______
wpm      wpm      wpm      wpm      wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

47 Words
Trish’s Ship

Trish fishes.
Trish picks up shells.
Can Trish spot a ship?
Is it stashed in the shed?
It is! A ship is stashed in the shed.
Trish has a plan. Trish gets Mom.
Trish brushes sand off the ship.
Trish called the ship “The Shellfish.”
Trish’s ship splashes in the sun.
Beth Gets a Snack

Beth is a thin bug.
Can Beth have a snack?
Is fabric a snack?
Beth can get fabric.
This is Seth.
Seth gets a bath.
Seth has a bedspread.
That bedspread has thick threads.
Beth is thrilled.
Seth’s bedspread is a snack.
Beth is not thin.
Thick thread is in Beth!


_______  ______  ______  ______  ______
wpm      wpm      wpm      wpm      wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Mitch On a Ranch

This is Mitch.

Mitch is on a ranch.

Mitch helps Dad hitch up the truck.

Mitch checks on the chicks.

This chick just hatched.

Dad’s truck is stuck in a ditch.

Mitch fetches Patch.

Patch catches on and helps.

The truck is not in the ditch.

Dad pats Patch. Mitch gets Patch a snack.

---


________  ______  ______        ______  ______

wpm    wpm    wpm          wpm    wpm    wpm

J. Ramirez, Aug. 2010

58 Words
At A Port

A ship heads north to shore.
A ship blasts its horn.
It is in a port.
This box is in a truck.
This box is lifted out.
The tucks head out to stores.
This is a forklift.
It gets more out of the ship.
The ship sets back out.
It heads for the next port.
Sport’s Camp

Mitch is at sports camp.
Mitch is not the best. Mitch sits on the bench.
Beth can run fast and catch.
On the bench, Mitch claps for Beth.
Trish can bunt. A bunt is a short hit.
On the bench, Mitch claps for Trish.
Chad can pitch. He can pitch fast.
Mitch stands and claps for Chad.
Then Mitch gets to bat. Mitch picks a thin bat.
Beth, Trish, and Chad sit on the bench.
The pitch to Mitch is fast. Smash! Mitch hits it!
Beth, Trish, and Chad stand and clap.
Next, Mitch gets to pitch.
Beth, Trish, and Chad clap.
Mitch jumps for a catch!
Beth, Trish, and Chad jump and clap.
“It was fun on the bench,” said Mitch.
“It is more fun to hit, pitch, and catch!”

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
In A Jar

Gramps sent a little card to Carl and Barb.

Carl and Barb read the card:

Dig at a red mark in the garden.

Hugs, Gramps

Bob spotted a little red mark.

Carl started to dig in dark mud.

Carl dug until he hit a jar.

That little card had sports cards!


——— ——— ——— ——— ———
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A Lamb on a Limb

Is that Sam’s stuffed lamb?  10
Let’s get Sam’s lamb off the limb!  17
Can a thumb get Sam’s lamb off the limb?  25
Can crumbs get Sam’s lamb off the limb?  33
Thumbs and crumbs did not get Sam’s lamb.  40
Sam’s lamb is still on a lamb.  49
Dad can get Sam’s lamb off the limb.  56

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

57 Words
Wes Gets Wet

Gwen scrubs Dad’s truck.
Wes trots to help.
Gwen tells Wes to sit next to the wall.
Will Wes get wet there?
Wes sits and sits.
The wind grabs a twig.
Wes jumps and runs.
Wes is swift.
The twig went. Wes is wet, and Gwen
is wet!

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
The Whiz
This is the Whiz.
When the Whiz starts, it chugs up and up.
Wham! The Whiz whips left.
Wham! The Whiz whips back.
The Whiz whips up a big hill.
Then it whips past a bridge.
Wham! When the Whiz stops, it stops fast.
Bird Shirts

The girls had gifts for Amber.
Her first gift was a shirt.
The shirt had a bird on it.
Amber’s next gift was a shirt.
It had a bigger bird on it!
Amber’s third gift was a skirt.
Amber’s last gift was a shirt.
Was there a bird on it?
As a matter of fact, there was!

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wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

59 Words
Burns Farm
There is a big picnic at Burns Farm.
When will the picnic start? Cars start to park at ten.
Burns Farm has a barn. Twin girls enter the barn.
At first, the barn is dark. It is hard to see.
The girls walk on dirt. Which chick just hatched?
There is a cart on the farm.
Kids will get a turn on it.
The cart passes a big herd.
The cat passes under a limb.
Then it passes a windmill.
The farm has tents and stands.
Stands sell jars of jam.
Stands sell farm shirts and hats.
In tents, kids get dinner.
Kids have hamburgers and corn.
Kids pet lambs.
Kids can help lambs have a snack.
The farm picnic has to end.
Kids wish it did not.
The cars have left.
The sun sets on Burns Farm
The Children Get a Rabbit

Dad and the children plan a trip.
They will travel in a truck.
They see an animal with a banana.
They see big pandas.
This is Seth.
They see a soft rabbit.
“Dad, can I adopt him?” asks Ellen.
Dad and Ellen get melons.
The rabbit has a carrot.
The children travel back with Dad.
They had a fun trip!

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65 Words
# Fluency Practice – Unit 3
(I Am Responsible L.11-15)

## Pump and Pedal

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<td>Pump fast at the signal, Pat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedal to get ahead.</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>A big hill is not a problem.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just pump and pedal.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pump past a garden.</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedal next to the dog kennel.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedal under the metal bridge.</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pump fast in the tunnel.</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pump in Fossil Park.</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedal! Pedal! Pedal!</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pump to a fast finish.</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Win a medal, Pat!</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
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J. Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Fluency Practice – Unit 3 (I Am Responsible L.11-15)

Big Bing

It is spring. But Big Bing is still resting.

Bing must get up.

Will a long ring get Bing up?

A long ring will not do it.

A song will do it.

Singing will not get Bing up.

Will banging do it?

Banging will not do it.

Hitting a big gong will.

Hitting a big gong did it. Big Bing is up!

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--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
_____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____

wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm  wpm

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

63 Words
Quick Quin

Quin sat on her porch.

She rested on a quilt.

Quin was hot on her porch.

She squirted lemon in her drink.

Max was squirming on Quin.

“Quit squirming, Max,” she said.

Max did not quit squirming.

He hit her drink. Quin was quick.

She got her glass.

Did the liquid get on the quilt?

Not a drop got on the quilt!

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
**King Frank**

King Frank rested. He rested in the garden.
Sir Quint hushed the men.
“King Frank must rest.”
Sir Quint hushed the kids.
“King Frank is resting.”
Then a problem happened. Bang! Bang! Bang! Clank!
“What is that banging and clanking?”
Sir Quint said, “That must stop this second!”
Bang! Bang! Bang! Clank!
Sir Quint ran to the men.
“Quit banging!” said Sir Quint.
But the men did not bang.
Bang! Bang! Bang! Clank! Sir Quint ran to the kids.
“Quit clanking!” said Sir Quint.
But the kids did not clank.
Sir Quint did a bit of quick thinking.
Sir Quint ran to the garden. Bang! Bang! Bang! Clank!
King Frank had a ball. Bang! Bang! Bang!
King Frank had a long shot! Clank! He missed his shot.
Sir Quint grinned.
King Frank was not resting.

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*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Seven Pals

Six pals met at ten.
All were best pals.
“A big van!” said Val.
All six pals spotted it.
Men were walking on the van’s ramp.
“Let’s visit that van,” said Vick.
A kid was at the van.
The pals had never met him.
“I am Kevin,” he said.
All six pals talked.
Kevin talked.
At ten, there were six best pals.
At eleven, there were seven!
Twinkle, Twinkle

Mom sang “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

The yard was dark.

Stars did twinkle far up.

Ann spotted a twinkle.

This was not far up! What a puzzle!

“Look, a little star!” yelled Ann.

“It’s in the middle of the yard.”

“That is a bug,” Tom chuckled.

“I can catch it in a bottle.”

“Let’s not catch it,” said Ann.

“Let it sparkle in the yard.”

And it did.
April’s Bake Shop
Down the block is a shop.
It’s April’s Bake Shop.
April bakes bread.
She sets it on a plate.
She takes her plate out.
She sets it on a table.
April makes a paper label.
She prints “Bread for Sale.”
There is her table. There is her plate.
What happened to her bread?
Birds sit on top of her shop.
Birds ate her bread!

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Tab
Did the back gate shut?
Jane looked at the handle. The gate did not shut.
Jane’s kitten, Tab, left the yard. Did Tab run fast?
Yes, Tab ran down Apple Lane quick.
Jane had to chase her kitten. “Stop, Tab!” She yelled.
Kate set down her bottles. “I will help,” she said.
Tab ran past men with rakes.
The men helped and yelled, “Stop, Tab!”
Jason had seven bundles of paper.
“I can help!” he yelled. Little Tab ran and ran.
This game of chase was fun.
Val was in her van.
“I will help,” she yelled. “Stop, Tab.”
Kate and Jason yelled and helped.
Val and the men yelled and helped. Tab made a quick turn.
“This is a puzzle,” said Jane. “I cannot see Tab.”
Barb spotted the chase a little later.
She chuckled and checked on Tab.
“Tab is back,” said Barb.
“Tab is safe under the table.”
A Mess

The park is a mess!

It is time to pick up.

What kind of trash did we find?

Well, we see a bike tire.

This wide bag is mine.

I filled it with paper.

This is a smashed kite.

“This is a plastic pipe.”

We picked up a lot.

We made a big junk pile.

We can ride bikes in the park.

Hikers can walk on a path.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

70 Words
Grace and Vince
Grace shopped at Civic Center Mall.
Her cell rang. Vince called.
“Do you have a pencil?” Vince asked.
Grace smiled. “I do.”
“Can you make a shopping list?
Ice, rice, spice?” asked Vince.
“And citrus drinks and cider?” Vince asked.
“Can you get them all?”
“I can’t,” Grace grinned.
“You do not have cash?” asked Vince.
Grace’s pencil fell.
“I do not have the hands!”

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
68 Words
Ginger and Gem like this ride.
It is called Space Danger.
Ginger and Gem go up the giant ride.
This stage of the ride is gentle.
Then Ginger and Gem stop.
This is the second stage.
The last stage is a large drop.
Ginger and Gem fall.
Go! Go! Go!
They like this part best!
Ginger and Gem like space Danger.
They will go back.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

68 Words
Riding in Gem Park
Gem Park is a large park.
It has a nice bike path.
The path is flat at first. And it is cement.
The cement path lasts a mile. It runs past Pine River.
After the bridge, the path changes.
It is not as flat. The path is uphill.
And it is gravel and cinders.
The hill is gentle at first. The ride is not bad.
Then the ride is hard. Tires slip on the cinders.
If riders get tired, they rest.
They do not have to race.
The path is on a giant cliff.
A fence makes it safe.
At the hilltop, it’s quiet.
You see much in the distance.
At the top, the path turns.
It starts down the hill.
Riders check bike brakes. They will glide down fast.
The path twists and turns.
It passes the concert shell.
The path ends at the giant rock.
What a fun and wild ride!
Fluency Practice – Unit 4  (Our Neighborhood At Work  L.11-15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frozen</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chad felt sad and alone.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He wished winter was over.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Mom go out?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Mom have a hose?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad looked in his yard.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A big spot was open.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mom filled the open spot.</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It froze hard. It froze so fast!</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The entire yard had frozen.</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mom had made an ice rink.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mom and Dad skated in the yard.</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I hope winter lasts!” said Chad.</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</table>

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
# Muse the Mule

- Muse is a cute mule.
- Muse had a forest home.
- Muse liked the forest.
- But Muse liked music the most.
- Hugo cut branches and traded them.
- Muse had to lug the branches on his back.
- Muse did not like branches on his back.
- Muse did not budge.
- At last, Hugo played music or Muse.
- Muse did not like big branches on his back.
- But Muse liked Hugo’s music.

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</tbody>
</table>
A Better Mule
This is Dr. Hugo. And this is Rose a pupil.
They make robots.
They made a robot mule. What for?
A live mule is cute.
Will it do what humans tell it?
“Go!” Nope! A live mule will not go!
It is stubborn.
This is Dr. Hugo’s mule. It is not cute.
Is this robot mule stubborn?
Will it do what humans tell it?
We will have a test.
Rose will talk to the robot mule.
“Go! Go!” There is a problem. The mule will not go.
Dr. Hugo is checking the fuel. Is fuel the problem?
Fuel is not the problem. Is it a fuse?
Rose opens the unit.
A fuse is not the problem.
Is this robot unit broken?
Dr. Hugo and Rose check it.
The robot unit is not broken.
“A live mule is stubborn.”
“A robot mule is also stubborn.”
A Zebra

We made a recent visit to a ranch.
We visited these horses.
These horses have a big secret.
A zebra runs with them.
But which is the zebra?
These horses will not tell.
We looked and looked all over.
But we did not even get a hint.
So has the zebra left?
Or is he just well hidden?
For the time being, we cannot tell.
Can you spot a zebra?
Summer Heat

It will be a hot two weeks.
Jean and Dean feel the heat.
“Time for the beach you two?” asked Mom.
“Yes!” yell Jean and Dean
Cars fill the streets.
They drive east to the beach.
Jean and Dean reach the beach.
The two kids see and smell the sea.
Jean sticks her two feet in the sea.
Dean feels the breeze.
“Mom, the beach is neat,” Jean calls.
“I agree,” adds Dean.

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</table>
**Green River**

These kids will take a trip.
It will be down Green River.
Lee leads rafting trips. She has a team.
Her team keeps kids safe.
Each kid needs a life jacket.
Kids even need helmets.
The kids and team have three rafts.
The kids sit on raft seats. At first the trip is not fast.
Kids see fish in the clean river.
Kids paddle past big rocks and green trees.
The sun shines on Green River.
Lee looks up. She spots an eagle. The kids see it.
Then the river is between steep cliffs.
The rafts go faster. The kids paddle hard and deep.
The river splashes faces.
The rafts go faster.
Green River has little, white bubbles.
Rocks seem to pop up.
At last, the river is not so fast.
Each kid takes a deep breath.
The trip is over. But it was so exciting!

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*158 Words*

*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
# Fluency Practice – Unit 5

(What’s the Weather  L.6-10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Party for Puppies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nellie and Billy have fun parties.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They invite Nellie’s babies and teddies.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelly gets a table. Billy sets the table.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every puppy helps.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nellie makes funny party hats.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy tapes ribbons on every hat.</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nellie has garden treats.</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy places a treat on every plate.</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every puppy helps.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nellie gets more yummy treats.</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“No more help, please!” yells Nellie.</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The party is over. Happy puppies help clean up.</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Thanks for the help,” Billy mutters.</td>
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77 Words
A Fancy Jacket

Nancy’s fancy jacket was thin.  
She could feel the winter chill.  
Nancy wished she could run.  
But the sidewalk was icy. She could fall.  
Mom looked at Nancy.  
She could tell Nancy was freezing.  
Mom hugged Nancy.  
“That fancy jacket is thin,” Mom said.  
Nancy’s teeth chattered.  
“Mom, the beach is neat,” Jean calls.  
“Yes, it is lacy,” said Nancy. It isn’t for winter.  
Mom made hot, spicy tea.  
“I feel better,” said Nancy.  
“Hot, spicy tea is for winter.”

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83 Words
Skating

Some boys and girls skate on ice.  
Some boys and girls skate on cement.  
This girl takes lessons at City Center.  
She skates in fancy circles.  
He boy also ice skates.  
He is fast, but not fancy.  
Since this boy was three, he has skated.  
He skates on cement.  
This girl races on skates.  
At some places, she races on ice.  
At some places, she races on cement.  
All these kids can skate.  
Have you had a chance to skate?

________          ______         ______        ______       ______

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

81 Words
Marcy and Sally
Marcy’s home was next to Sally’s.
Sally was Marcy’s best pal. But Sally had to go.
Her mom got a job in a big city.
There was going to be a block party.
It was for Sally and her mom and dad.
Marcy was sad. She was going to miss Sally.
Kids planned to have gifts for Sally.
Some kids shopped for gifts. Some kids made gifts.
At first, Marcy did not have a gift.
She could not shop for a gift.
Marcy had just ten pennies.
What could Marcy make for Sally?
Marcy had to think. What did Sally like?
Marcy looked at Sally. It helped Marcy think.
Sally liked music. She could sing. Sally could dance.
Marcy looked at Sally some more.
Sally could skate fast. She could skate in circles.
And Sally liked trucks. She liked cement trucks.
Sally liked big vans.
Sally also liked the circus.
Here, Sally was at the circus and smiling.
These ideas helped Marcy plan a gift.
Then Marcy made a gift. She opened a fancy box.
She liked her gift. She hugged Marcy.
A Gray, Rainy Day

“Will you play for us?” asked Kay.

“I will play on a gray, rainy day,” said Jay.

Kay liked to hear Jay play.

Kay had a way to make Jay play.

Kay made a gray painting.

Then Kay fixed the hose to spray.

Kay set up the gray painting.

The hose sprayed.

Kay went back to find Jay.

“It is gray and rainy!” said Kay.

“I will play,” said Jay.

“I like to play when it is rainy and gray.”
**The Opossum at Night**

Opossums do not like the light.  
Daytime is bright.  
An opossum sees better at night.  
When it is night, an opossum wakes.  
She hunts for insects to feed her babies.  
A dog frightens the opossum. The opossum freezes.  
She stays still and plays dead.  
Night is over. It begins to get light.  
The opossum returns to her tree.  
Her babies wait for her. It is time for sleep.  
The opossum stays with her babies.  
They might play later at night.

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*J. Ramirez, Aug. 2010*

83 Words
### Why, Bly?

Bly likes her head in dry sand.  
Her pals don’t understand why. 
“How not lie in the sun?” asks Snake. 
“I get too hot in the sun,” Bly replies. 
“How not climb trees?” asks Chimp. 
“I can’t climb trees,” Bly replies. 
“How not fly in the sky?” asks Eagle. 
“I can’t fly. I am too big,” replies Bly. 
“Is Bly too shy?” asks a child. 
“I am not too shy,” Bly replies. 
“My head feels better in sand,” replies Bly.

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*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Wait for Me

"Wait for me," called Ray.
But the kids were way ahead.
It was like this every day.
Ray kept trying.
But he could not keep up.
This time, the kids stopped on the corner.
But they came right back.
The kids passed Ray.
Ray turned his bike.
"Wait for me," he called.
Why was Ray always far back?
His bike still had training wheels.
That night, Ray was sad.
"Why do you feel bad?" Dad asked.
"I cannot ride fast," said Ray.
"My bike still has training wheels."
"We can fix that," said Dad.
The next day, Dad called Ray.
"Go to the driveway," said Dad.
Ray spotted his bike in the bright sun.
It did not have training wheels!
Ray was glad.
But he was a little afraid.
He might need training wheels.
"Try riding this way," said Dad.
Dad held the bike as Ray pedaled.
Dad ran next to him.
Ray peddled fast.
Dad let the bike go.
Could Ray tell?
Ray was riding alone.
"I am flying. Dad!" he yelled.
That day, the kids raced.
Ray stayed with them.
It was a tie!
Crow and Goat went to their boat.
Crow and Goat hoped to see their pal Toad.
“Let’s go fast, not slow!” said Goat.
“We will go fast in this boat!” boasted Crow.
“Let the wind blow!” bellowed Goat.
“Here we go!” yelled Crow.
But the wind did not blow, and their boat did not go.
Their boat did not go fast or slow.
“This boat only floats,” mumbled Crow.
Goat groaned.
“The boat has no sail!” yelled Toad.
“I think we must row,” moaned Goat.
Rescue that Cat!
A cat mews in a tree.
Will you rescue that cat?
The cat continues to mew. I will rescue the cat.
You will rescue the cat?
No I will rescue the cat.
Few like the cat as much as I do.
Let’s not argue. We all value the cat.
You can rescue the cat. Yes, let’s not argue.
Few value the cat like you.
You can rescue the cat.
Do not argue. We all value the cat.
She will rescue the cat. The cat mews.
Eat at Joan’s
My name is Joan. I own this shop.
The shop is on the coast.
My shop is a drive-in.
Cars drive in and out.
Drivers get a meal at a value price.
I make a few yummy dishes.
I make my own veggie roast.
I make my own meatloaf.
The sun went down slowly.
I looked at the sea.
A loan boat sailed on the waves.
A gentle wind was blowing.
The sailboat was not far away.
Lots of boats have passed this way.
But few have stopped.
Why did this boat sail closer?
But I could not look.
Lots of cars were in line.
They filled the road.
I had to stay at the window.
I had to hand down dinners.
I had to do it fast.
Still I could see the boat.
It was sailing to the coast. Then it stopped.
A rowboat left the boat.
Men rowed it to the coast.
The men talked to me.
“We need fuel,” they said. I was confused.
Sailboats do not need fuel.
Wind makes sailboats go.
But then I got it.
Fuel means stuff to eat.
The men were hungry!
“Boat or not,” I said.
“You must wait in line.” And they did.
A Cool Balloon

At first, the balloon just drooped.

But it pumped up fast.

Soon it was filled and ready.

Riders climbed in the basket.

A man set the balloon loose.

The balloon floated higher and higher.

It passed over roofs.

“Cool!” said the rider.

The ride was smooth.

The balloon drifted for miles.

Riders could see for miles, too.

The riders spotted a goose flying below.
A True Bird

Sue spotted a bird. What kind was it?

She did not have one clue.

The bird had one blue wing.

It had one ruby, red wing.

Birds don’t have wings like that! And birds fly.

This one just jumped a bit.

“Is this a true bird?” asked Sue.

Sue spotted Ruth in the yard. Ruth had a stick.

Ruth had glued a paper bird on the stick.

It was not a true bird.

“I see the truth!” yelled Sue.

“It’s hard to fool you, Sue,” Ruth said.
### Ants: The True Story

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<tr>
<th>(North, South, East, West) L.6-10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ants fool humans.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humans think we just dig nests.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They think we dig like bugs.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But that is not the truth.</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We use tools to dig.</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We use drills and spades.</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>And ants do not walk down.</td>
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<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We zoom down in nests.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a fast, smooth ride.</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down below we have rooms.</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rooms have walls.</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My room is painted blue.</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humans think we store food.</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well, we truly do.</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But not the way humans think.</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This room is for food.</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We keep this room cool.</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Then food stays fresh.</td>
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<td>What do ants eat?</td>
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<td>Humans do not have a clue!</td>
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<td>Ants eat the best food.</td>
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<td>Do ants like sweets?</td>
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<td>We do, but we eat healthy food,</td>
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<td>After we eat, we clean up.</td>
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<td>Ants must do their duty. I use a</td>
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<td>broom.</td>
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<td>In the evening, ants rest. Some</td>
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<td>hear music.</td>
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<td>Two ants play a tuba duet.</td>
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<td>Some ants read. Some read papers.</td>
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<td>I am reading a story.</td>
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<td>Ants get exercise, too.</td>
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<td>We swim in a pool under a glass</td>
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<td>roof.</td>
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<td>Some ants dance in tutus.</td>
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<td>I can float on my back. I can see</td>
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<td>the moon.</td>
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<td>So this is the real story.</td>
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<td>It is all true.</td>
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*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
# A New Tune

Drew played his flute.

He played in his room every day.

Drew played a new tune.

The new tune was very hard.

He did not play it very well.

Drew played and played the tune. He blew and blew.

Drew had to get it right. Drew’s fingers hurt!

But he still played his flute. He played every day in June.

It was a very hot summer day.

Flags flew high. It was time for Drew to play.

Drew had his flute.

Drew played the new tune.

He played the tune very well.

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*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
A Good Ride

A bug jumped on a leaf in a brook.
“Now I will take a ride,” she said.
The bug had a foot in the brook.
She looked ahead.
The brook was now a quick stream.
“This is a good ride,” said the bug. She stood up.
The stream took a sharp turn.
Now it was a fast river. The leaf shook.
Look at the high falls.
“I am afraid,” the bug called.
Now she shook and shook.
He bug rode down the falls!
“I took a good ride!” she said.
Mom’s Book
Mom looked at a book.
Mom smiled.
“I like it,” said Mom. “The truth is I made it.”
“When I was a girl,” said Mom.
“I was on a trip.
This book tells what I did.”
“I went camping,” said Mom.
I was with my mom and dad.
We took a van.”
Mom showed Luke a page.
“I drew a map,” said Mom.
It showed the way.”
“The trip was in June,” said Mom. “I said that it was hot. But it was cool at night.”
“We had a new tent,” said Mom. “It was dark blue. I drew that, too.”
“Yes,” Mom grinned. “I made bad stew!”
“I threw in too much salt. Three big spoons,”
Mom said. Her grin grew bigger.
“Yes,” said Mom. “There is the proof.”
A snapshot was glued to a page.
Just then Dad walked in. He had a new book.
“This is for you, Luke,” said Dad.
This book had blank pages.
“You can fill those on a trip this June,”
said Mom.
“Yes,” said Mom.
“You can make a book, too.”
It is all true.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

217 Words
# A Clown In Town

Rain showers are good for flowers, but not for the Brown family. The Browns were tired of being inside. “How can we see clowns?” asked Howie.

“Is the circus in town?” asked Dad.

“Yes! There are clowns at the circus in town,” said Mom.

The Browns ran down the stairs and rode the bus to town.

It was hot and crowded, but the Browns did not care.

Chowder the Clown did tricks.

He made a cat bark and a dog meow.

The Browns took the bus out of town.

On the way home, Howie said, “Wow! Clowns are much better than rain showers.”

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116 Words

*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Max the Grouch
Pat hugged her hound, Max. But Max was a grouch! What will make Max happy?
Maybe Max needs a new doghouse,” said Mom.
But Max was still a grouch. “How about a pound of dog bones?” asked Dad.
Dad set a large bone on the ground.
Max split the bone out of his mouth.
He made a loud sound!
Max was still a grouch.
“How about a long walk?” asked Pat.
She and Max walked around the park.
Now Max was a tired grouch.
Pat went to feed Max.
“Look, Mom!” Pat whispered.
“Max found a mouse pail.”
Max was finally happy.
**King Knox and His Knight**

King Knox told the knight to do things.

“I want you to tie knots” ordered King Knox.

“I don’t now how,” replied the knight.

“I want you to sharpen this knife,” ordered King Knox. “I don’t know how,” replied his Knight. “I want you to knit socks,” ordered King Knox. “I don’t know how,” replied his knight. King Knox was getting mad.

“You don’t know how to do much. What do you know?”

The Knight got down on his knee.

“I know I don’t want to be a knight,” he replied.

The knight packed a knapsack and went away. The knight was now happy.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

109 Words
Foul Ball!
Jay looked down at the baseball field. It was so green. “Wow!” said Jay to Gramps.
Lots of fans sat around Jay. The crowd was huge.
The fans all came to see the Owls.
The owls were the town’s team. The Owl’s played at Brown Park. Jay was thrilled.
It was hard to get Owls tickets.
But Gramps had found a way.
“I like these seats,” said Jay.
We could catch a foul ball.”
“Maybe,” said Gramps.
Gramps had seen lots of Owls games.
But Gramps never got a foul ball.
Jay knew that.
Soon the game started. The crowd was loud.
Fans shouted, “Go, Owls, go!”
The best hitter was up.
The pitch was fast. Pow!
He knocked the ball way up!
It was a high foul ball. The ball flew in the stands close to Jay and Gramps!
But the ball did not reach them. Instead, it hit a cement step. It made a loud sound as it bounced. The foul ball bounced by Jay’s knee.
Now was his chance.
Jay knelt and got the foul ball!
Gramps felt proud.
“How about that catch!” shouted Gramps.
Jay looked at the ball. Jay looked at Gramps.
Jay held the round ball for a second. Then he gave it to Gramps.
“This ball is for you, Gramps,” said Jay.
Gramps frowned a bit. Then he smiled and gave it back. “No thanks, Jay,” said Gramps.
Gramps felt even prouder of Jay.

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Paul’s Sauce
Paul likes to cook. He makes sauce.
Because he likes it, he makes a lot.
Paul starts at dawn. He makes sauce all day.
He yawns at night. But he still makes sauce.
Paul uses sauce a lot. He mixes it with noodles and meat. That is fine.
But Paul mixes sauce with cereal and raw beets.
That tastes awful!
Paul mixes his sauce with straw for the cows.
Paul’s cats get saucers of sauce. The cat has sauce on it’s paws!
Paul makes jars and jars of sauce. I saw them in his basement and in his laundry.
Paul, stop making sauce!

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105 Words
Mr. Daw Thought

Mr. Daw was so tired. He brought heavy loads of cheese into his shop all day.

Mr. Daw could not rest. He was going into a concert hall. His daughter had bought tickets.

Mr. Daw liked music, but he was tired. He fought to stay awake as he sat into his seat. Mr. Daw started to doze. His daughter sneezed into a cloth. He awoke.

“Don’t get caught sleeping!” he thought.

Mr. Daw started to tap his foot. “Tapping ought to keep me awake,” he thought.

The concert ended with applause. “I am clapping for the music,” he thought. “And because I stayed awake!”

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109 Words

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
At Dawn
I bought a book about birds. I looked for birds
shown in my book.
I could not find one bird.
It was the bunting.
Dawn is a good time to spot birds.
My dad taught me that dawn is when birds wake up.
I visited the woods every day before dawn.
I brought my bird book.
I looked for a bunting.
I hid in the woods.
I crawled in tall grass.
I fought awful bugs!
But I didn’t spot a bunting.
In the fall, the buntings had to fly away.
I had to spot a bunting before then!
It was the last day of August.
I hid in deep grass.
I thought birds could not see me.
I spotted a hawk.
The hawk flew in a low circle.
Was it because of me?
No, it was looking for food. Small birds squawked
and cawed.
They saw the hawk.
They did not wish to be caught. I saw a yellow finch
and a blackbird.
But I did not see a bunting.
Soon it was time to go. I felt sad because I hadn’t
spotted a bunting. I paused and looked at the hood
of my auto. There sat a bright blue bunting! I was in
shock. I saw it at last!
I was happy as I drove home.
But at home, I saw a second bunting on my lawn!
Then I saw a third bunting on my awning.
I was ready for fall.
**Roy and Royal**

Roy dug in the soil. His dog, Royal, joined him.  
Roy enjoyed gardening. Royal enjoyed digging.  
Roy dropped seeds in the soil.  
He planted green beans.  
Royal planted a bone.  
Roy used a hose. He kept the soil moist.  
Roy waited for the seeds to grow.  
Roy felt joy. Green points stuck out of the soil.  
His green beans were growing.  
The green beans grew. Rabbits tried to destroy them. But Roy spoiled the rabbits’ snack.  
He chased them away. Roy picked his beans. Royal dug up his bone. That night, the boy enjoyed a good dinner. Royal enjoyed his bone.
Little Wren’s Surprise

A wren family had a home in an oak tree.

One day they found a strange thing on the ground.

“What is it?” asked Dad. He tried wriggling under it, but it was too big. “Can you write with it?” asked Mom.

Mom rubbed the side, but it didn’t make a mark.

“Let’s wrap it up,” said Little Wren.

But the paper had a big wrinkle.

It did not fit.

A girl came into the yard.

“Here’s that missing wrench!” she yelled.

“Now we can fix my bike.”

“We were wrong,” said Little Wren.

“It is a tool to fix things!”
The Phantom Frog

In the spring, Phillip and Ralph take a hike in the woods
Phillip finds leaves like elephant ears. Ralph takes photographs of birds in the trees. Then Phillip and Ralph hear “Peep, peep, peep.” Ralph whispers,
“It is not a bird.” Phillip asks Ralph, “What can it be?” The boys hear, “Peep, peep, peep.”
“I think it’s a phantom,” whispers Phillip.
“Don’t be silly,” scolds Ralph. “Phantoms are phony.” Ralph looks closely at a leaf. He tells Phillip,
“I can take a photo of this frog.”
“Peep, peep, peep,” calls the frog.
Ralph shouts, “I found the phantom.
It’s a little green tree frog!”


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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Fluency Practice – Unit 7 (I Think I Can L.11-15)

A Hike
The rain stopped. The hikers looked at the trail. Was it all mud? Did the rain spoil it? “The trail looks fine,” said Joyce. She was the leader. Joyce looked at her wrist. “And we have time.” Joyce smiled at the hikers. “We can hike, boys and girls,” she said in a happy voice. Joyce used her cell phone to call camp. “I have made a choice. We will keep hiking,” she said. The sun was shining now. And there was a rainbow! Kids took photos of it. They enjoyed the hike. The kids saw a lighthouse. By the lighthouse, waves hit big, big, rocks. The waves made a loud noise. At night, the lighthouse helped ships. It helped ships avoid big rocks. “Those rocks could wreck a ship!” said Phil. “They have,” said Joyce. Joyce said more, “A ship filled with gold coins hit the rocks. It was destroyed. The sailors were safe.” “A sailor wrote about the wreck,” said Joyce. “Lots of gold coins were sunk.” Joyce pointed to the beach. “Waves still bring gold coins to the beach.” Phil looked at the sandy soil. He saw a shiny, bright thing. Was it a gold coin? Phil ran to the shiny thing. It did look like gold! Phil took a close look. It was just an old candy wrapper. It was made of gold foil. Joyce smiled. So did Phil.

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
**Earnest’s Search**

Earnest liked to swim. He learned to swim under the water. He liked to search for things in the earth.

Earnest searched deep in the water. He heard there might be gold. Earnest searched, but he did not find any gold. He swam in the water along the earth.

Earnest yearned to find any item of value.

Earnest searched and searched in the water.

Did he find any gold? Did he find any coins from ago? He saw a seashell stuck in the earth.

What is that inside?

It is a pearl! Earnest did not find gold.

Earnest found a pearl!

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110 Words

*Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010*
Dudley the Donkey

I am Dudley the Donkey. I am a jockey.
I have a red and white shirt.
I will race Tracey the turkey.
She is a jockey, too.
She has a green and white shirt.
A big crowd has made the trip to the valley to see the race.
If I am the winner, I will get fame and lots of cash.
Maybe I will even get a key to the city.
The crowd will shout, “Dudley! Dudley!”
The crowd will throw me roses and carrots!
“Dudley, Dudley! Are you going to help me haul this cart of turkeys or not?”

Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010
Casey and Earl

“Come on pokey!” called Earl.
Casey heard Earl.
“You walk to slowly,” Earl called.
Casey did not walk slowly.
He liked to stop and look.
He liked to learn things as he walked.
When Casey walked, he thought a lot, too. Now he was looking at a sports store.
He was thinking about what he saw.
Casey saw hockey sticks. He also saw volleyballs. Was there a game that could use both? “Casey, come on.
We have to get home,” called Earl.
“It is still early,” Casey yelled back.
Casey and Earl were going home.
Mom was going to be late. So Earl had to start dinner soon. Now Casey was thinking about the sandwich store. Did it have turkey and cheese? “Come on pokey,” yelled Earl.
Earl was standing by the alley. He was searching his pockets.
Casey still looked around. Next to the sidewalk, there was a patch of earth.
He saw a gold thing there. It was a key.
Casey picked it up. It was Earl’s key to the house! Casey looked at Earl. He knew what Earl was searching for. Earl must have just dropped the key.
Casey ran to Earl! “It is a good thing I am pokey,” he said.
“Why?” asked Earl. Casey showed Earl the key.
Earl smiled. “It was a good thing this time,” said Earl. Casey gave Earl the key. Then he started to run. “Come on pokey,” yelled Casey. “We have to get home.”

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

247 Words
Garden in the Sky
Max and Jackie liked gardens. “My dad’s job is in a skyscraper,” said Max. “It has a big garden.” “A garden in a skyscraper?” Jackie asked. “How can that be?”
“I will ask my dad to take us,” said Max.
One morning, Max’s dad did take the kids. They rode the train. The train raced down the tracks. Dad, Max and Jackie were downtown fast. They walked to a tall skyscraper. It seemed to be made of dark glass. “This is the place,” said Max. Jackie looked way up. “Wow!” she said.
On the sidewalk, there were big planters. They were filled with plants. “Is this the garden?” asked Jackie. “No way,” said Max.
The three walked inside. A man with a badge said, “Good day.” By the man’s desk were plants. “That is not the garden,” said Max.
Jackie thought it looked like one. The three stepped on the elevator. The elevator took them way up. It stopped, and they walked out. “My desk is back there,” said Max’s dad.
All around were plants and flowers. Jackie thought one flower was wax. But it was real.
“This is a nice garden! said Jackie. “This is not it yet,” said Max. “Just wait!”
Max’s dad set stuff on his desk. “Time to go up,” he said.
Soon the three were back on the elevator. They were going up. The three walked out on the skyscraper roof. Jackie was shocked. All she could see was sky and plants. Jackie and Max walked around the rooftop garden. Plants filled the space. “Wow! This is one big garden!” Jackie said.
Fluency Practice – Unit 8 (Away We Grow! L.6-10)

Picking Flowers
Six kids hiked behind Ranger Liz down the trail. The kids liked Ranger Liz. The kids followed Ranger up high ridges and over wide bridges. They followed her into a field of flowers. The kids really liked the flowers. Some flowers reached the trail’s edge. Some looked like bright spikes. “I wish I could take some flowers home,” said Rick. “They would be nice for my mom.” “Read this,” said Mike.

Rick read, “Please do not pick the flowers.” Rick looked around the field. It was filled with flowers. “There are miles of flowers,” said Rick. “Why can’t we pick some? A yellow and black bee buzzed by.

The bee sniffed at a flower. Rick and the kids jumped back. Then Rick saw a black and yellow finch. The bird sniffed at a flower, too.

“See the bees and the birds,” said Ranger Liz. “They need the flowers. And the flowers need them.”

Rick was still thinking about his mom. “But why Can’t we pick flowers?” he asked.

Ranger Liz smiled.
“Well,” said Ranger Liz. “You’re mom might like a mix of flowers. You might pick six or seven.”

“That’s right,” said Rick.
“What about your five pals?” asked Liz.
“Would they like a mix, too?”
“Yes!” shouted the kids.

“That’s a lot of flowers,” said Liz. “And hundreds of kids hike here each week.

What if all those kids picked flowers?”

Rick was thinking. “There would be no flowers left,” he said. “And that would be bad for the bees and birds.”

“That’s right,” said Ranger Liz. “So what do you Say now, Rick?”

“Please do not pick the flowers,” smiled Rick.

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Julie Ramírez, Aug. 2010

275 Words
A Farm Visit
Miss Dock drove the bus to a farm. The class looked out the windows. They saw meadows, barns, and silos. Some of the meadows had wire fences. Some had low stone walls.
“That stone walls have big rocks,” said Joan. The kids were from the city. Some had not seen a farm. “Is that an ox?” asked Donnie. Miss Dock smiled. “Nope, it looks a bit like an ox. But it is just a big cow.” “Ick! It is eating grass,” said Joan. Miss Dock lowed down the bus. “We eat grass, too,” she said. “No way!” said Joan. The cow was mooing now. Miss Dock drove the bus over a bumpy road. “What did you eat for breakfast?” Miss Dock asked. “A little box of Rice Puffs,” Joan said. “A bowl of oatmeal,” said Donnie. “You both had grass, then,” said Miss Dock. The bus was going slowly down the road. The road had big holes.
Miss Dock had to dodge them. “Rice I grass?” asked Joan. “Oatmeal is not green,” said Donnie. “How can oats be grass?” Miss Dock parked the bus at the farmer’s house. She looked at the farmer’s lawn. “I will show you,” said Miss Dock. Miss Dock and the kids got out of the bus. She picked a piece of very tall grass from the lawn. “Look,” said Miss Dock. “This blade of grass has seeds on top.” Miss Dock dropped seeds in her hand. “Rice is a grass,” said Miss Dock. “Seeds from it make food. And seeds from oat grass make food, too.” “Donnie, you know what that means,” Joan said. “Yes,” smiled Donnie. “Moo!” “Moo!” joined in Joan.

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Julie Ramirez, Aug. 2010

280 Words
Mr. Plant Expert
Kids and adults filled the hall. They came to see Mr. Plant Expert. They came to have fun.
“Hi! I am Mr. Plant Expert. Ask me about plants and gardens. Maybe you can stump me!”
“Mr. Expert,” said a pupil. “I heard about a truck farm. Do huge trucks grow there? Are buses and cars grown there, too?”
“No,” smiled Mr. Expert. “Veggies grow on truck farms. The veggies are cucumbers, beans, and so on.” “Farmers pack veggies in boxes.
Trucks take the veggies to stores.
That is why the farms are called truck farms.”
“Is this true?” asked a boy. “Do plants get fuel from the sun? How can a horse reach that far?”
“A few do,” said Mr. Expert.
“They are good to take to picnics. “My mom said you have a green thumb. Can I see it?” asked a cute kid.
Mr. Expert chuckled. “I am a good gardener,” explained Mr. Expert.” “That is what a green thumb means. But my thumbs are not really green.” “There is a brick plant in town,” said a boy. “Can bricks grow on plants?” “No,” said Mr. Expert. “Plant can mean factory,” said Mr. Expert.
“A factory makes things. A brick plant makes bricks.”
Mr. Plant Expert looked at the clock.
“Thanks kids! Thanks adults! I must run to pluck some weeds.
See you next time!”

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Julie Ramírez, Aug. 2010

286 Words
Weeds or Flowers
Lots of kids help in the garden. Some pick weeds.
Can you? It can be hard on your knees and hands!
Can you tell a good plant from a weed? At times, it is
easy. At times, it is hard. At times, even adults make
mistakes. See the plant on this page. It might be in your
garden. It is a tulip. It has a pretty flower. It is not a
weed. See this plant. It is pretty, too. It is purple
loosestrife. It grows on sides of roads. It is a weed.
Why? Purple loosestrife spreads quickly over a field.
Soon it takes all the space. Good plants die.
So purple loosestrife is a weed. You know this plant.
It is a dandelion. In spring, fields of dandelions
look very pretty. But then the yellow flower changes.
Dandelion flowers turn to puffballs.
Winds blow them away. Ugly leaves are left.
The puffballs are seeds. They make even more weeds!
This plant is sweet clover. Farmers like it to feed cows.
And the clover makes farmland better.
But in your yard, clover is a weed.
It stops the remaining plants from growing.
Gardeners and most kids like sunflowers.
Bright sunflowers might make you smile.
You would not call it a weed. Some farmers plant
sunflowers. They sell sunflower seeds.
And some farmers call sunflowers weeds.
Why? The golden flower can wreck cornfields.
Ideas about weeds change.
At one time, goldenrod was just a weed. Doctors
thought it made humans sneeze. It did not. Now
gardeners plant goldenrod. It is pretty. Butterflies like
these bright flowers. It is good to fight weeds and make
a garden pretty. And it is good to help your mom and
dad.

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Julie Ramírez, Aug. 2010
A Family House

Dean, Mom and the baby sat on a grassy hill. A tractor dug below. The tractor dug a deep hole. The tractor piled dirt on the field’s edge. “That hole will be the basement,” explained Mom. “And trucks will haul that dirt away.” Dean was happy. This hole was the start of a new house. It was his family’s new house! He felt lucky. A week later, Dean and Mom came back. The hole now had cement walls. On top, it had four steel beams. “Steel beams will hold up the house,” said Mom. Three weeks later, Dean was back. A team of four carpenters hammered. The frame went up quickly. Dad also came to check the house. Dad pointed, “You will sleep in a bedroom there.” Dean liked seeing the team. He learned a lot. Dean took a deep breath. He liked smelling fresh wood. Several teams were in the house. Men put in pipes. Some pipes were for water. Some were for gas. Gas will heat the house. Electric wires were added. Wires were put in walls. It takes a lot of know how to get the wires right. A crew laid bricks. The bricks were red. The crew put each brick in by hand. It took skill and time. Weeks passed. Walls were plastered. Lights and switches were added. Painters came. Soon the house was almost ready. Four trees were planted. Carpenters put a deck on the back of the house. “We will eat there at times,” said Mom. Finally, after weeks and weeks, the house was ready. A big van brought beds, dressers, desks, and tables. The family of four stood on the grassy hill. They looked at the new house below. “We are so lucky,” Dean said.
Gramp’s Pals
Clare visited Gramps. His house is old. And Gramps is older than his house. He stayed there with Sweeney, his dog. Mom and Dad were concerned. Gramps spent much time alone. They visited him every week. They still were afraid he felt lonely. “Are you lonely, Gramps?” Clare asked. Gramps smiled. “Not much. I’m not really alone,” he said. Clare brushed Sweeney’s back. “You just have Sweeney,” she said. Gramps smiled. “Come for a stroll in the yard,” he said. In the yard, Gramps said, “Sweeney and I are not alone. Several pals call this place home.” Gramps pointed to a nest. “See the blue birds in the tree,” said Gramps. Every day he waved to them. And they flap a wing at me.” Clare grinned.
Gramps walked in his garden. “These bright flowers are part of my home. So are the butterflies and bees that flutter around.” “This is where gray rabbits hide,” Gramps said. “They nibble my plants. They can since they call this yard home. Next Gramps stopped by a small pond in his yard. “This is where green frogs greet me every morning,” he said. Gramps sat on a swing. He pointed at the house. “See where the roof ends,” he said. “See those twin black bumps.” Clare spotted them. “Those are bats. I let them stay for free,” said Gramps.
Houses
Sunshine filled the yard. Josh rested on his shady porch. It was hot for the third day in May. At the next house, Ruth checked her mail. “My nephew sent a postcard,” she called. “He is in his house at the beach.” “His house is on the beach!” Josh thought. “I wish I had a house on the beach.”

But he did not say that. In early June, Josh painted a bench. “My nephew wrote me,” Ruth said. “He is in his house at the ranch.” “Wow,” thought Josh. Ruth’s nephew has two houses! How did he pay for both?”

But he did not say that. In late June, Josh cleaned his car. “I heard from my nephew,” Ruth said. “He is in his house at the river.” Now Josh thought, “Ruth’s nephew must be rich. He has three houses.” But Josh did not say that. It was later that summer. Josh was making lunch for a bunch of pals. He heard a phone ring in Ruth’s house. Later, Ruth said, “I got a call from nephew. He is in his house in the woods. He is searching for birds. Josh was shocked. “Four houses!” he thought. “How can Ruth’s nephew own four houses?”

But Josh did not say that. In August, Josh brushed his dog’s fur. “My nephew sent a photo,” said Ruth. “He is in his house in the far north.”

“That is his fifth house!” thought Josh. “Ruth’s nephew must be very, very rich.” But Josh did not say that. In September, Josh’s phone rang. “Josh, this is Ruth,” said a voice. “I am calling from my nephew’s house in the street.” Josh looked out the window. “I see the truth,” he thought. “Ruth’s nephew has just one house. It has wheels!”
A Summer Home

Last summer, Dad was thrilled. He had a large new awning! It was green and white. It could shade the backyard porch. It was not hard to open the awning. Dad just hit a button. A little motor turned on, and the awning rolled out. Early one day, I was on the porch. The awning was rolled up. I heard a bird. I looked up. A bird was perched on the rolled-up awning. It had started to make a nest there. I called Dad. The bird flew away. In a hurry, Dad grabbed a short ladder. He climbed up it. He looked at the nest. “So far, this is just twigs,” Dad said. He brushed them away. “The bird will learn not to make a nest there.” I was surprised. Dad could tell. “Do not be concerned,” he said. “This will not hurt the bird. It will learn.” At first, the bird did not learn. Each day it perched on the awning. Each day, it started to make a nest. Each day, Dad brushed the twigs away. After the third day, the bird stopped. It must have made a nest far away. “See,” said Dad. “The bird is smart. It searched for a better place.” The next Sunday, we visited a farm. On Thursday, we came back. On the porch, Dad heard a bird. He grabbed hid ladder. “A nest with eggs!” he whispered. I was concerned. Would Dad brush the nest away? He did not. “Now this nest is a home,” he said. At summer, Dad did not stop the motor. And he did not open the awning. New birds were born and grew. Later in the summer Dad placed tin over the rolled-up awning. Birds cannot make a nest there. We can use the awning. Dad learned!
The Every Kid Club
Brave Tony

On a hot night, Tony liked his window and blinds open. Then he could feel cool breezes. He could see the moon. Lately, a bright light changed things. It filled Tony’s room. He had to shut his blinds. The light came from the next house. The house was Mr. Bloom’s. He was new on the block. He did not talk much. He just stood and looked at plants. Now Tony was not thinking about Mr. Bloom. Tony was reading a good book. It was about a brave man. The man took a chance. He climbed the highest peak on earth. The man was brave, but not foolish. He made good plans. The book was true. The man was real. Tony liked true books. He liked them better than made-up books. Soon Tony flipped his lamp switch. He had to go to sleep. It was hot. He had to open his blinds and window. When he did, Tony’s room was bright. It seemed like his lamp was still on. Tony shook his head. It was too bright! Tony knew what he had to do. He had to talk to Mr. Bloom soon. But Tony felt afraid. Tony thought about how the brave man climbed the peak. That man made a good plan. Tony would, too. The next afternoon, Tony went to Mr. Bloom. Tony carried the book with him. It helped him act bravely. “Hi, Tony,” said Mr. Bloom. “Hi Mr. Bloom,” said Tony. Then Tony followed his plan. He told Mr. Bloom about the light. Tony told him in a nice way. Mr. Bloom smiled and said, “Tony, you are right. I will turn down the light.” Mr. Bloom saw Tony’s book. “I like that brave climber,” he said. He and Tony talked and talked. Brave Tony made a gook pal.
Camping Out

Plans for a Camp Out
The girls waited all week. On Saturday, they would camp out. They would sleep on the ground in a tent. “I hope I will not be afraid,” said Brook. “I have never camped before.” “We will be right in town,” said Audrey. “And we will be next to my house. My mom and dad will be around,” Audrey added. “You will enjoy camping out.” At last, it was Saturday night. Audrey’s dad made dinner. He grilled corn in foil. He also made sweet and sour chicken. At nine, there were no clouds in the dark sky. The girls saw the round moon and a thousand stars. Audrey’s mom and dad said goodnight. The girls crawled in the tent. “Are you afraid, Brook?” asked Audrey. Brook thought about it. She was surprised. She did not feel afraid. “Wow,” said Brook. “I feel fine now.” Brook quickly fell asleep. Audrey did not. She felt afraid! “Being afraid is stupid,” she thought. “I am right by my house.” Audrey heard a sound. Was it a growl? There was more noise. Was an animal prowling around? Brook just slept. Audrey felt very afraid. What could she do? Call her mom? Run to the house? “I must stay,” she frowned. Then Audrey heard a loud howl! She jumped. Her hand felt the cold, moist soil. There might be bugs in the ground! Audrey slid down in her sleeping bag. She felt so afraid. She did not even have the power to talk. Audrey was awake for a long, long time. She thought she heard a mouse. She thought she heard a shout. And Brook just slept. The sun woke Brook up. “I slept well,” she said. Audrey did not say a thing. She was sound asleep at last.
Andy Lee
Andy Lee the Timid
Andy Lee was a timid man. He was also an artist and made stained glass windows. His glass made rainbows dance in rooms. One day, Andy made a window pane for an inn. He took the window pane to an inn that was far away. Timid Andy walked and walked. Andy came to the town where the inn was. Down the street ran a maid. “Turn back!” she cried. “Do not go! A chair is knocking. Drapes are swaying. It’s dark and awful in that inn!” “Stay with me,” whispered timid Andy. Andy and the maid came to a gate. Out ran a cook waving a spoon. “Turn back!” cried the cook. “A chair is knocking. Drapes are swaying. A tablecloth is floating. It’s dark and scary in there!” “Stay with me,” whispered timid Andy.

Andy, the maid, and the cook stood at the entrance. Out ran an innkeeper. “Turn back!” she cried. “A chair is knocking. Drapes are swaying. A tablecloth is floating, and a hat is tipping. It’s dark and scary in here!” “But what about the window?” asked Andy. “I am a timid man, but this is my best window ever. I will still put in my window.” Timid Andy walked in. It was dark and scary. A chair was knocking, drapes were swaying, a tablecloth was floating, and a hat was tipping. Andy felt a breeze. He found a broken window. He put in the new window. It fit perfectly. Andy turned around. The chair was not knocking, and the drapes were not swaying. The tablecloth was not floating. The hat was not tipping. It was not dark and scary in there. Rainbows danced in the room. Andy was an artist. His glass made rainbows dance in rooms. It also made him brave.
How Rabbit Caught the Tiger
One winter’s eve, a mighty and hungry tiger trapped a tiny rabbit. “Do not eat me!” cried the rabbit. “I am too small to make a meal. If you let me go, I will show you how you can catch all the fish you can eat.” The tiger was greedy. His hunger was bigger than his brain. “Show me now, or I will eat you little rabbit!” he roared. Then he let the rabbit go. The rabbit led the tiger down to a river. The rabbit told the tiger, “Put your tail in the water.” “Now wait all night. Fish will grab your tail. Soon your tail will grow heavy. Then you can take it out and eat all the fish!” “I’ll stay close by,” whispered the rabbit. “I will let you know when you have caught plenty of fish.” The rabbit climbed up the riverbank and sat down across the tiger. The tiger put his tail into the river. He waited and waited. It grew cold and dark. “Is your tail getting heavy?” called the rabbit. “Yes!” replied the tiger. “I must be catching lots of fish! Do you think I ought to take my tail out now?” “No!” cried the rabbit. “If you wait until morning, you will have more fish to eat!” The greedy tiger waited longer. It grew colder and colder. His tail grew heavier. Finally the sun came up. The tiger’s tail felt quite heavy. “It is time!” called the tiger. “I am getting my fish out now!” The tiger tugged and tugged, but his tail did not come out. It was frozen in solid ice! “I’m going to get you, little rabbit!” roared the tiger. But he could not budge at all. The rabbit giggled and scampered away. He had tricked a mighty tiger!