

Listen to Your Student Read Aloud

By Mick Rosenblum

An important aspect of my teaching approach is listening to my students read aloud. Whether the subject matter is English, History, or Mathematics, I need to know whether or not the student possesses adequate reading skills. Naturally, you might assume that the school systems have already identified those students who have reading deficiencies. Unfortunately, however, students tend to receive less than adequate reading fluency training and monitoring in the classroom. Further compounding problem is the fact that teachers are not likely to insist that students read with any vocal emphasis or inflection. The result has been generations of students who read poorly (and in a flat monotone), have limited reading comprehension skills, and have staggeringly limited vocabularies.

Therefore, I implore you, the parent, to listen to your student read aloud at home. When you hear him or her stumble over easily recognizable words and read in the flat, monotonous manner that schools have condoned for decades, you should suspect that your student is deficient in both reading and comprehension. The good news is, if we identify the deficiency in time, we can usually fix it. Feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss your student's reading skills.