



Quick Tips

Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.

New FCAT Cut Scores

Statement By: Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson Regarding his FCAT 2.0 and Algebra I EOC achievement level cut score recommendations to the State Board of Education

"FCAT 2.0 and the Algebra I End of Course assessment, based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, are designed to test Florida's students on more rigorous material. The standards I am recommending today reflect this, raising the bar for Florida's children from 3rd through 10th grade and ensuring that our students are on the path to graduating college and career ready. For the first time in Florida's history, our graduation requirements are aligned with college readiness and our standards are consistent across grade levels. Parents, teachers, and administrators will now be able to identify those children who need additional help earlier so that they can graduate college ready."

<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/>

Strategies to Try at Home

Predict to Make Sense

When the reader comes to something she doesn't know and she is unable to identify the unknown word through a very brief sounding out attempt, ask her to skip the word and go on. If she is uncomfortable skipping words entirely, try covering the unknown word up with your (or the reader's) finger. Then ask the reader to predict a substitute word that would make sense.

You can narrow the possible predictions by focusing the reader on the beginning sound of the unknown word. For example, the sentence might say "The giant fell into the ocean and drowned!" and the reader does not know the word "ocean". There may be enough context in the first part of the sentence for her to predict a meaningful substitution (if not, you would encourage the reader to read the rest of the sentence to gain more meaning from context to help predict the unknown word.

Ask her what would make sense there or what would make sense that starts with the letter O. The reader may use picture cues, previous context, sound-symbol relationships (phonics), her background knowledge, syntax (his intuitive sense of how language should sound) and previous experiences - all of the linguistic knowledge he possesses - to predict something that will make sense at the sentence level and at the whole text level.

Florida Sunshine State Young Reader's Award 2011-2012

Pemba's Song: a Ghost Story Hegamin, Tonya & Nelson, Marilyn Scholastic Press, ©2008

Upset at having to leave her friends and move from her Brooklyn neighborhood to an old house in the small town of Colchester, Connecticut, Pemba starts to experience visions of a slave girl named Phyllis. Why is Phyllis appearing to Pemba and what is it she wants? Will Pemba be able to help Phyllis and come to terms with her new life?

