The Last Word

Suspicious Activity?

*Jana Brayton Gaffney, Oshkosh, WI*  
*Fall 2001*

Two of us teach Reading Recovery children in my building. During a Roaming Around the Known session, I was working with Ben who was a serious student by nature. On one of the pages of a published book, I had used white tape to alter a word in the text. When Ben noticed the tape, a puzzled but agitated look came across his face as he asked, “All right … What are you guys trying to cover up here?”

Lodging a Complaint?

*Ann Schultz, Jackson, MS*  
*Spring 2004*

Chase, my little always-on-the-go Reading Recovery student, went up to the principal of our school one day and told her, “You have to give Ms. Schultz a day off.” When the principal wanted to know why, he said, “She’s working me too hard!”

Sign of the Times

*Elaine Anderson, Blairstown, NJ*  
*Fall 2005*

One of my students was reading *Goodnight Peter* (Wright Group, Level 11). The text on the page he was reading was, “Dad, I’m still not sleepy. Can I have some cocoa?” When he came to cocoa, he stopped and appealed to me. I prompted him to use meaning and the first letter to solve the word. After a few seconds of serious thought, an animated expression came over his face. “Oh, I know! It’s *cappuccino*!”

Environmentally Aware

*Kathleen Schmidt, Waterloo IA*  
*Spring 2007*

I was administering the C.A.P. portion of an exit test to a first-round student. I read page 4 of *No Shoes* that says, “When I got to the river, I sat down. The water was green.” Reece turned to me with a horrified look and said, “Toxic waste! She better not go in there!”

Causing Headaches

*Catherine Dart, Dunstable, MA*  
*Spring 2008*

In Reading Recovery, we know it can be difficult to determine exactly where the child’s attention is focused. This became especially clear to me as I listened to Chase read *Dad’s Headache* (Level 10) by Joy Cowley. In this story, three children make multiple attempts to cure Dad’s headache but do not succeed. When Chase reached the middle of the book, he turned to me and exclaimed, “Of course Dad has a headache; he’s got a staple in his ear!”

Right Answer

*Janet Entwisle, Lawrenceville, NJ*  
*Spring 2009*

While administering the Hearing and Recording Sounds and Words assessment, I had a child who was somewhat confused as to what exactly I was asking him to do. As I was trying the various prompts, I asked, “How would you start to write it?” He looked at me with that kind of look on his face that implies ‘dumb question’ and replied, “With a pen.”

Our readers say The Last Word column in The *Journal of Reading Recovery* is one of their favorite things to read. We need more of your great Reading Recovery stories. So take a minute to share one of your favorite moments with all our readers.

Just send a quick email to Communications Manager Vicki Fox: vfox@readingrecovery.org