

You Know You're a Reading Recovery Teacher If...

Maureen Hurlow, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, Lubbock, Texas
The Running Record, Spring 1999

You know you're a Reading Recovery teacher if...

- ...you mentally analyze a child's literacy behavior in the shower.
- ...you have already thought of sound boxes and analogies for holiday stories.
- ...you don't have time to go to the store and can only hope that someone else "understands the task" of buying milk.
- ...you own a collection of masking cards.
- ...when asked what day it is you respond, "Today is lesson #__ week #__ with __ written vocabulary."
- ...you wonder about the possibility of a personal secretary being assigned to each Reading Recovery teacher.
- ...instead of asking the waiter at a restaurant for more to drink, you point to your glass and prompt, "What would look right in here?"
- ...you befriend small children with 'Spot folders.'
- ...you've worked to have your spouse, 'make sense and look right.'
- ...you have nightmares all summer consisting of the small voices of children who didn't have time to finish their programs.

Shall We Dance?

Pat Cassel, Reading Recovery Teacher, Bothell, Washington
Journal of Reading Recovery, Spring 2002

We're choreographing a dance, you and I,
Partners learning together.
Some days we dance a ballet, all grace and fluid motion.
Some days we swing, energy and innovation our companions on the floor.
Most days we strike a balance—a little polka, a little waltz.
But I do remember a day you faltered, a day our dance took on a samba feel.
For every step forward you took two steps back.

On reflection, the fault was mine.
Just because I'd done this dance before with other partners
I thought I knew the steps and tried to lead.
Though you were the one stumbling,
I was the one stepping on toes.
For only by following your lead, of course,
Can I know which steps are still unlearned
And which are almost there.

I watch with pride your growing repertoire of moves.
It won't be long before you dance without a partner,
A lovely, confident solo,
The spotlight yours alone.

What I Can Do

Debbie Sweatman, Reading Recovery Teacher, Gallatin, Missouri
The Running Record, Fall 2000

I **can** be trained to learn new skills...

I **can't** be an expert in one year.

I **can** guide students to be independent learners...

I **can't** do it for them.

I **can** take a running record...

I **can't** do it neatly.

I **can** write the letters *msv* very small...

I **can't** analyze errors well (yet).

I **can** "follow the child,"

I **can't** always "find him."

I **can** learn from my colleagues,

I **can't** learn all the answers alone.

I **can** fill out lesson plans, attendance sheets, scan forms, observation summaries, discontinuation forms, and questionnaires...

I **can't** increase the hours in a day.

I **can** enjoy my job each day...

I **can't** reach enough children.

I **can't** change the world...

But, I **can** make a difference,

One child at a time.

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