The Last Word

A Real Cut-Up

Melinda Bryan
Reading Recovery Teacher
Hendersonville, NC

Nearing the end of her Reading Recovery program, Mari had gained a lot of self-confidence. One day, after I had expertly cut the sentence apart, she cocked her eyebrow and with a smirk said, “Is that the best you can do?”

Lessons Learned

Cori Smout
Reading Recovery Teacher
American Fork, UT

My student had been in trouble a few times for bullying. She had spent much time with our assistant principal hearing about the downside to being mean to others. One day, I was introducing the book, The Hungry Giant. I explained that this book is about a giant who isn’t very nice to others and wants everyone to do what he wants or he’ll hit them with his bommyknocker. I concluded, “Let’s see what happens to the hungry giant.” My student shook her head and said, “No one is going to want to play with him!” A lesson learned!

All About Attitude

Phylis Williams
Reading Recovery Teacher
Fairfax County, VA

My training year was enriched by my little friend, Samantha, all the way through. But I particularly remember her can-do attitude when I gave her the Writing Vocabulary portion of the Observation Survey in her first week of first grade. As we started, she labored hard, tongue tucked in the corner of her mouth, producing her long name with its three a’s interspersed with three similarly constructed letters of m, n, h. When she finished, she relaxed for a moment until I said, “Now write down all the words you know.” She thought for a minute, and then in a carefree manner began to produce multiple strings of letters and said, “Now I’m writing down all the words I don’t know!”

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.

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