The Last Word

Separation Anxiety

Nancy Castellano
Reading Recovery Teacher
Center Moriches, NY

I told Matthew, one of my first-round students, that it was his last day working with me in Reading Recovery. When I told him it was his last day he got up out of his chair and he proceeded to lay down on the floor. I said, “Matthew, what are you doing?” He replied, “I am gluing myself to the floor because I don’t want to leave you.”

Next, he went into the hallway and told two teachers walking by that it was the worst day of his life! They asked why and Matthew said, “Because I finished Reading Recovery and I can’t be with Mrs. Castellano any more.” I have been a Reading Recovery teacher for 19 years, and the words that Matthew said reminded me why I love it so much!!

Feeling the Power

Linda Fugate
Reading Recovery Teacher Leader
Ozark, MO

I had an experienced teacher provide a behind-the-glass lesson for my training class, as we were talking about students getting ready for discontinuation. Right in the middle of the running record book, the child stopped and looked at the teacher. “It’s true,” he said. “When you start to read, your whole life really does change!”

Hearing Problem?

Barbara Martin
Elementary Reading Specialist
Fort Atkinson, WI

I have a wonderful Reading Recovery student. He is constantly having little “ah-ha” moments. I was transitioning him from sound boxes to letter boxes in writing. He was writing the word rain and I put the i in the box after the a. After completing the word, I told him to check it and he said, “Hey! Why are you the only one that can hear the i?”

Smokin’!

Rita Vonada
Reading Recovery Teacher Leader
Lincoln, KS

We were walking back to the first-grade classroom. My student looked up at me and said, “I was really smokin’ today!” He was right about that. His lesson had been terrific.

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