Angela Surber has been sending stories for The Last Word for many years — so many great stories that we’ve only been able to share a few. Here are some other gems the Reading Recovery/CIM Interventionist in Guyton, Georgia, has sent along. Thanks, Angela!

Pay Attention!
Zac is a sweet boy who is always willing to do as asked. We were early in his lesson series and he’d just finished reading the first book of the day’s lesson. I praised his good reading and asked him to choose another book to read. Zac chose a book, opened it to the first page and stopped. As I made a note on my record sheets about the first book, I asked him to go ahead and start reading. Again, silence. Since the first word was “Here,” I thought maybe he didn’t know the word when it was the first word in the story and not in the middle or end of a sentence as he’d read before, so I gave him the word. More silence. Again, I told him the word and asked him to read. Then, just as sweetly and innocently as he could, he said matter-of-factly, “I know the word. I’m just waiting for you to pay attention.” I assured him that sometimes I had to write down the good things he was doing and I was always paying attention!

Back in the Day
Today I was reading Red Socks and Yellow Socks by Joy Cowley (first published 1987) with Laurie. When we got to the page that reads “They hung them on the line. Red socks and yellow socks.” she paused and said, “That’s because back when this book was written, they didn’t have washer and dryers.”

Different Meanings
Today I told Landon that we were going to meet a new family after he put his story away. As he put his envelope in his bag he asked, “What time are they coming? Am I going to still be here?” I then had to explain that I meant a new family in a book, not someone coming to the school to see us. Our new book was The Photo Book by Beverly Randell (Rigby PM Collection).

Sounds Good to Me
C.A.P. Test #10 “What’s wrong with this?”
(Lines are reversed)
Tiffany: “I don’t know. (pause) You read it awesome, like smooth and really neat.”

Fully Charged!
As Ethan was reading a familiar book, his reading got slower and slower. I commented that it sounded like his battery was dying. I then modeled a sentence to show him how his reading needed to sound. His response: “That sounds fully charged!”

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 vfox@readingrecovery.org.