

Decoding Strategies

*A Quick-Reference Guide
For Parents & Guided Reading*



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What is included?

DECODING STRATEGIES QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

(print on legal size paper)

Use #1 Parent Reference

Many parents have told me they want to help their child learn to read but they aren't sure how. I decided to give this guide to my parents at Back-to-School-Night. I will briefly explain it and demonstrate some of the hand motions I also use. For example, flipping my hand from palm up to palm down for "flip the sound." This is by no means a complete list but I hope it is a helpful tool that parents will refer to.

Use #2 Guided Reading

Laminate a copy for reference at your guided reading table. Pointing to the strategy as you teach it anchor your student's learning. After they have all been taught, have it available for support but ask the student to decide which strategy to try.

Use #3 Partner Reading

Laminate copies for students to refer to while partner reading. Students can be taught to coach their friend to try a strategy rather than giving them the word.

Parent Letter

This is a copy of a parent letter you could send home to accompany the Decoding Strategies Quick-Reference Guide.

what is included?

ICONS (print on legal size paper)

I use CAFE so I add these matching icons to my CAFE board. You could also use them as you make your anchor charts.

FLIP THE SOUNDS POSTER (VOWELS, C & G)

(print on legal size paper)

I laminated these and post them in my reading area with the rest of my phonics cards. In first grade, we review the letter sounds the first few weeks. I make a point that some letters can make 2 sounds and teach the "flip the sound" strategy", referring often to this poster. It only takes a minute to run through all these sounds with your class but do it OFTEN so the students really have these down. I am always shocked when I tutor 3rd graders who still can not accurately tell me the correct vowel sound!

FLIP THE SOUNDS POSTER (OO, OW, -Y, -ED)

(print on letter size paper)

This poster is also laminated and posted in my reading area as we progress to these more advanced sounds. As with all anchor charts, if you refer to them often, your students will use them as a tool and they don't become wallpaper.

Decoding Strategies

flip the sound

a  

e  

i  

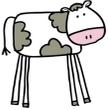
o  

u  

c  

g  

oo  

ow  

_y  

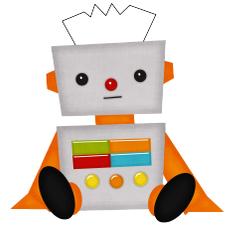
cross check



Did the word you said
look right?
sound right?
make sense?

rhyming robot

proud

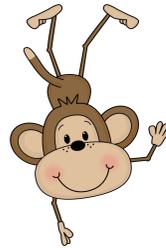


reminds me of loud
and cloud.

chunky monkey

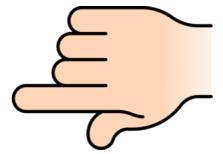
Look for chunks you
know.

be-ing
yes-ter-day



cover the ending

wanted



Cover the -ed to
focus on the base
word want. Then add
the -ed back.

use the pictures

"Oh, that word must
be castle since I see
one in the picture."



skip the word



Read the rest of
the sentence, then
come back and try
again.

Sometimes there are
clues in the sentence
that can help you
figure it out.

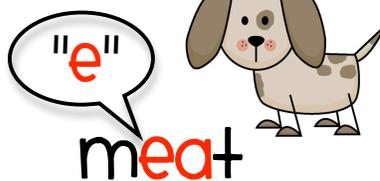
3 sounds of -ed

/t/  baked

/d/  waved

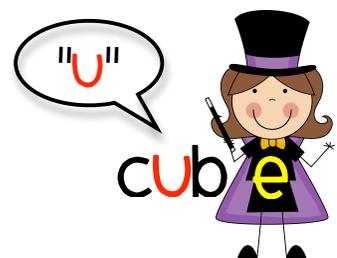
/id/  haunted

when two vowels go walking ...



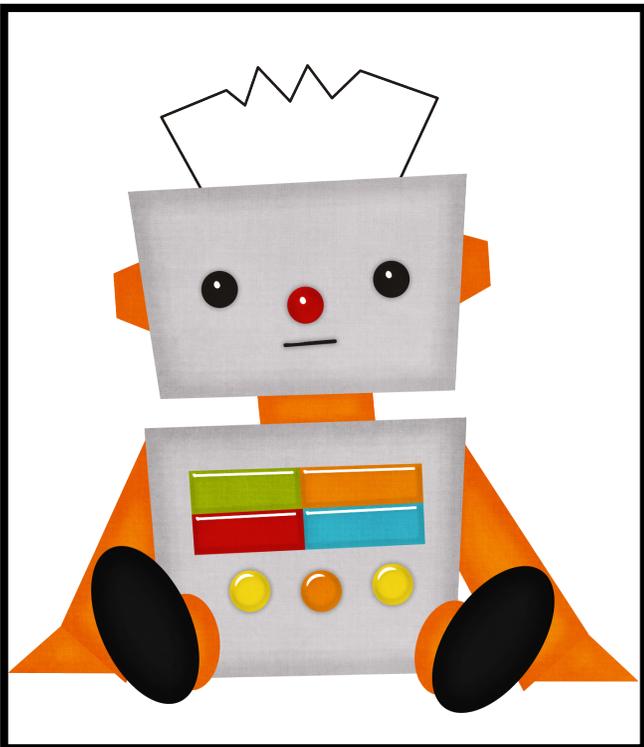
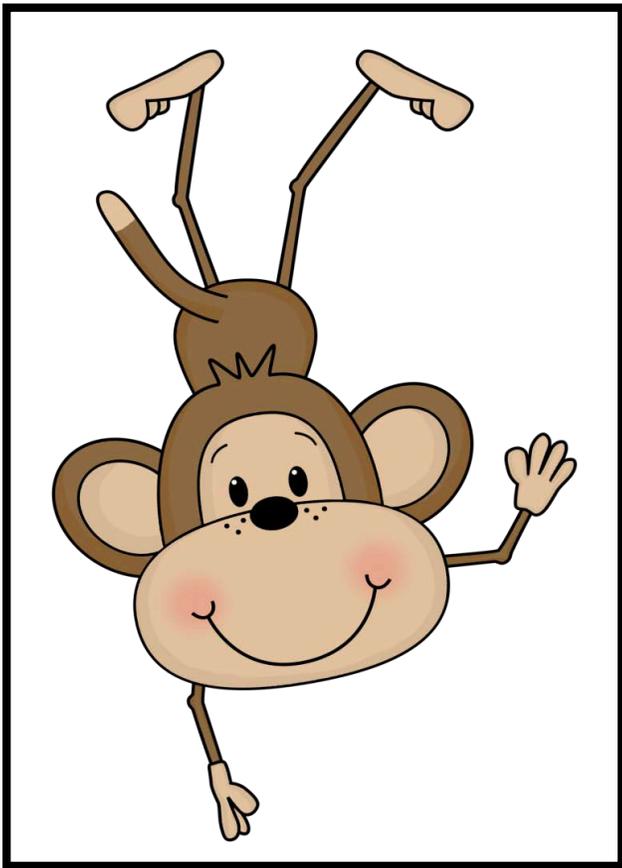
...the first one
does the talking.

magic e



She makes the vowel
say its name but she
stays silent.

Matching icons for your CAFE board or anchor charts.



Dear Parent or Guardian,

When you listen to your child read, what do you say when they struggle? Do you reply with, "sound it out?" Although stretching the sounds of each letter is a valid strategy, it is by no means the only one. I've included a reminder sheet of some of the other strategies we use at school for your student's reference while reading at home.

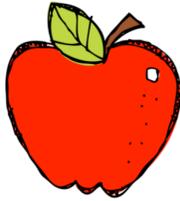
I'd also like to caution you against immediately correcting mistakes. The goal is to get the students to monitor their own reading. When your child misreads a word, wait silently until the end of the sentence. Give them the chance to say, "Wait, that doesn't make sense. I should reread." If they do not self-correct, ask them if it made sense or, if they did substitute a word that made sense, to go back and reread. Often children can correctly identify the incorrect word. Do not tell them the word but suggest a strategy instead. As the year progresses, ask THEM to decide which strategy to try. Yes, this will make your reading session longer but remember the Chinese proverb:

"Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime"—Author unknown

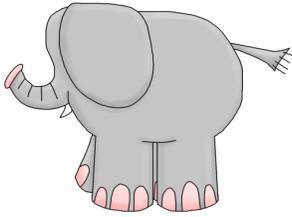
Sincerely,

flip the sounds

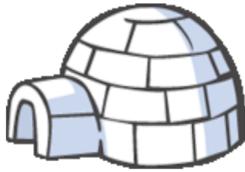
a



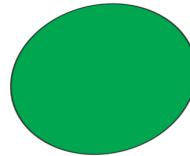
e



i



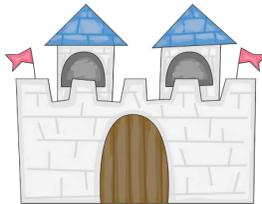
o



u



c



g



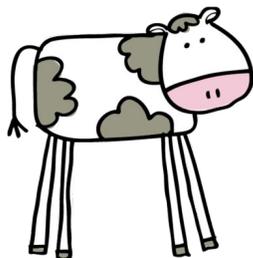
flip the sounds



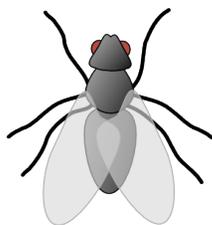
oo



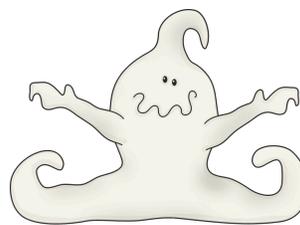
ow



-y



-ed



t

d

id

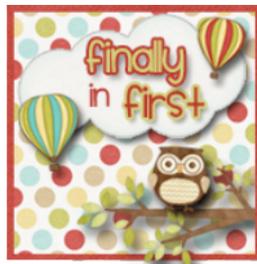
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Jennifer Bates

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