

## A Good Idea...



This month's good idea comes from my friend in Germany, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Tim Verboomen. He proves that necessity is often times the mother (or father, to be politically correct here!) of invention! Tim writes...

I have a new idea that I used yesterday that I'd love to share. It's a way to get distracted readers to attend to the text during guided reading. It worked great!

A group of boys teamed together to do a re-reading of *The Three Little Javelinas*. The boys in question were the least likely 4 students in the room to do reading of any kind! I decided to sit by them— sort of coach style to jumpstart them, and they did reasonably well, that is until the moment I walked away. When I came back they had collapsed into giggles and play, so I told them I had a new game for them that no one else knew yet. (Actually, not even I knew yet!)

Then I explained the rules of "The Name Game." It's a "popcorn" style reading game where I told them that one person reads for a while. While reading, the reader does something really sneaky! He substitutes a name from someone in the group where a word should be. The person whose name is substituted has to instantly pick up reading with the word that should have been read instead of his name.

Then, because they were boys, I added the point system. If a person takes longer than a second for easy words or a few seconds for tough words they lose a point. If someone gets 3 points behind, they have lost that game and a new one begins. (Cheryl's note: Don't use points if your kids aren't fluent in their reading!)

Three of the boys were "on" immediately and the third had to lose 2 points

before he realized he actually had to follow along while other people read. But, by then they were having a blast reading the story, following along, and trying to throw each other off by putting in the names as creatively as possible. One boy read, "I 'll huff and I 'll Pu...atrick" --and Patrick kicked in with "Puff and I 'll blow...". It was great! I 'm adding this to my repertoire!

Thanks to Tim for sharing this! I think it's a great idea to add to our repertoires, too!

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