



Skill: Sound like a storyteller

During Reading

Learn the Strategy

Reading tip: **Scoop**

- 1. Yellow light: warm-up:** Help your child pause and do a practice read through. Figure out any words.
- 2. Scoop phrases:** With your child, practice scooping their finger under the words to mentally make phrases. Remember—don't sound like a robot!
- 3. Greenlight: GO:** Invite your child to put it all together. Read the sentence as smoothly and "scooped" as possible.

With this tip, you'll coach your child to sound more like a storyteller by showing them how to "scoop" together a few words to make a phrase. This helps your child avoid the "robot voice" and move from choppy word-by-word reading to the more fluent, reading-in-phrases reading.

Ask your child

- Yellow light! Let's pause/slow down and figure out the words.
- Great job solving those words. Now, let's scoop.
- Can you read those words in a phrase?
- Did that scooping sound like talking?
- Can you try putting it all together?
- Awesome job reading like a storyteller. Remember to push your eyes ahead while you scoop to see what's coming!

Interact & Play

Play "Save the Robot!" Take turns being the robot that gets "saved" and turned into a human.

- First, whoever is the "robot" reads aloud a sentence (or page) in their best robot (choppy, word-by-word) voice.
- Then their partner looks for the magic button on the robot. Is it on their back? On the bottom of their shoe? When they push the button, the robot turns in to a human.
- As a new human, the robot can't wait to read the sentence in their new human (smooth) voice.
- Switch roles and play again with a new page.

Tips & tricks

- Use an eraser from a pencil to draw scoop lines below phrases in books (you don't ruin the book and you can actually SEE the scoop).
- With young children, focus more on the "yellow-light" warm up while they are still trying to solve the words and not scooping them together too fast.

Practice in the Real World

One of the things that makes our voice "sound like us" is the way we phrase things. Invite your child to try to talk like you. You may be surprised how you sound to them!

Then take turns trying to talk like another adult you both know. If you want, you could both try to talk like someone famous. Your child may really enjoy doing celebrity impressions!

My thoughts and questions 

