

Alternative for Oral Reading part of Phonics Blitz lessons:

3 students have a turn reading aloud for one minute to the entire class at the beginning of each lesson.

- There is no paired reading.
- As each student reads, the rest of the class act as Checkers recording the Reader's errors, using a different colored pencil for each reader. (*Even students who do not read aloud are practicing reading as they follow along and find errors.*)
- The teacher takes the Reader's book and marks the Reader's errors in the Reader's book.
- The teacher asks students to help the Reader find any mistakes the Reader made. If there is a dispute, the teacher makes the decision about who is correct. (*This is why it is important for the teacher to mark the errors for each of the 3 readers.*)
- When each Reader finishes reading, the whole class calculates the Reader's WCPM and Accuracy Percentage using the work sheet in their own books.
- Only the Readers fill in their Accuracy and WCPM Charts. (*This means that not all students will fill in the Accuracy and WCPM chart every day. Students only fill in the chart on the day they read.*)

Some teachers prefer this alternative to having the students read in pairs. They feel it is easier to manage the oral reading with this process and that it is more likely that all students' errors are caught. They also like hearing each student read at least once a week.

Other teachers prefer paired reading because each student gets to read aloud and chart their scores each day. These teachers hear students read individually by listening to the Warm-Up Reader and then paying special attention to one or two students as they read in pairs.

Idea for Paired Reading

During paired reading, some teachers act as the partner for two students each day so they can hear them read. In this case, the teacher and the student who is Checker in the pair both record the Reader's errors.

Teachers work with two different students each day, so that they eventually read with each student several times during the course of Phonics Blitz lessons.