

## Independent Strategies

By Jill Marie Warner

When I get stuck on a word in a book,  
There are lots of things to do.  
I can do them all, please, by myself.  
I don't need help from you.

I can look at the picture to get a hint,  
Or think what the story's about.  
I can 'get my mouth ready' to say the first letter,  
A kind of 'sounding out'.  
I can chop the word into smaller parts,  
Like *on* and *ing* and *ly*.  
Or I can find smaller words in compound words-  
Like raincoat and bumblebee.  
I can think of a word that makes sense in that place,  
Guess or say "blank" and read on  
Until the sentence has reached its end,  
Then go back and try these on:  
    Does it make sense?  
    Can we say it that way?  
    Does it look right to me?  
Chances are the right word will pop out like the sun  
In my own mind, can't you see?

If I've thought of and tried out most of these things,  
And I still don't know what to do,  
Then I may turn around and ask  
For some help to get me through.

Using these strategies at home

John let his pet frog go.  
It \*\*\*\*\* across the grass.

What is the first sound?

It h\*\*\*\*\* across the grass.

What would make sense?

It hopping across the grass.

Does that sound right?

It hopped across the grass.

## Open vs Closed questions

Closed questions only require a *yes* or *no* answer. Try changing your questions, to make them as open ended as possible.

Closed questions	Try these instead...
Do you like this book? Do you like this character? It's a good story isn't it? Do you like this kind of story?	What do you like about this book? What do you think of this character? Why do you think this is a good story? Which words tell you what the character is like? What do you think will happen next? What would you do? What can you tell me about...? I wonder why...?