

Literacy Case Study: Running Record/Retelling

(Confession: I chose to present my work in this format after checking out Ben Johnson's case study. Truthfully, this kind of thing is a bit of a challenge for me. I lifted his format, but the work is my own.)

Running Record

Text: Dry by Augusten Burroughs (pg. 9-10.5)

Total Words: 600 (approx.)

Grade Level: 16th (Fry Readability Graph)

Beginning Sound Repetition (b/√): 2

Fabergé, quizzical

Phrase Repetition (R→): 0

Self Correction (SC): 2

illuminate→illuminated, *goosey* →Gucci

Error in Pronunciation (E-p): 3

Jung (as in Carl), Fabergé, nuance

Substitution (wrong/word):

Omission (-): 2

Somehow, a

Total Errors: 5

Total Self Corrections: 4

Error Rate: ?

Accuracy Rate: 99% (Easy enough for independent reading)

Self Correction Rate: ?

Reading Rate: 175wpm

Retelling

So in your own words, what did you just read?

Alicia: He's a drunk guy who has to go to work the next day and feign like he's fine. He chews breath mints and sprays himself with cologne, and, yeah, that's about it. Um. Oh, yeah. He's sarcastic. Oh, and a woman at work is pissed. She can tell.

Did you like this piece?

It was pretty funny.

Analysis

I was not surprised by Alicia's ability to read this piece well and to accurately interpret its tone. She's a sophisticated reader with a strong vocabulary.

I picked *Dry* because like her mother, I believe that Alicia should broaden her reading horizons. Because of her mixture of empathy on the one hand and misanthropy on the other, I thought she might respond to Burroughs and to other caustic, witty topical writers like David Sedaris. Alicia is a social critic – she skewers her classmates, calling them “sheep” and “lemmings” – and I wanted her to check out some masterful social satire.