When Memories Fade: Understanding Memory Loss

As people grow older, some may have trouble remembering things. This is called memory loss.

Memory loss is common among older adults, but for some, it can become a big challenge. Diseases like dementia or Alzheimer's can cause a person to forget names, places, or even how to do things they once knew well.

Memory loss can make daily life hard. People with serious memory loss might not be able to bring back memories from long ago. Sometimes they cannot remember where they put objects, or what they did minutes ago.

This can feel confusing and scary, both for the person and those who care about them. Being patient and kind helps everyone feel less alone.



Student Name:

Date:

When Memories Fade: Understanding Memory Loss		Comprehension Ques	stions:
As people grow older, some may have trouble	(8)	Literal Question: What is one disease tha	at can cause
remembering things. This is called memory loss.	(15)	memory loss? Answer:	
Memory loss is common among older adults, but fo	or (24)	Alzheimer's	
some, it can become a big challenge. Diseases like	e (33)	Student Answer:	
dementia or Alzheimer's can cause a person to	(41)		
forget names, places, or even how to do things	(50)	Correct	Incorrect
they once knew well.	(54)		
Mamary lass can make daily life hard. Boonle with	(/2)	Inferential Question: How might memory loss	change a
Memory loss can make daily life hard. People with	(63)	person's daily life?	
serious memory loss might not be able to bring	(72)	Answer: They may need more he	eln from
back memories from long ago. Sometimes they car	nnot (80)	others.	
remember where they put objects, or what they di	id (89)	Student Answer:	
minutes ago.	(91)		
This can feel confusing and scary, both for the	(100)	Correct	Incorrect
person and those who care about them. Being	(108)	Vocabulary Question: What does 'among' me	an in the
patient and kind helps everyone feel less alone.	(116)	passage?	diffine
	>,\rangle	Answer: 'Among' means in or wit	th a group of
		things.	
Scoring Guide		Student Answer:	
Text Level: F&P GRL V Grade Level: 5 Word Cou	u nt : 114		
	ni. 116	Compat	lu a a vva a h
Total Words Read:		Correct	incorrect
Errors:		Notes:	
WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM)			
WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade lev	/el	. 4	()
Prosody: 1 2 3 4			

_____/ 3 correct

Comprehension: _

How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- Stop the student when one minute has passed. Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the Scoring Guide. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
∧ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric		2	3	4
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Leve	el Norms (WC	PM) *	ノ				
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 – 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 – 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

^{*} Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

Fluency Builder: When Memories Fade: Understanding Memory Loss

Passage Details

Grade Level: 5

Reading Level: F&P GRL V

Word Count: 116

High-Frequency Words

able, among, person, bring, minutes

Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

• Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

• Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:

"How would you help someone with memory loss?"

"Why might memory loss feel scary or confusing?"

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)