When you read a story aloud, you’ll want to sound your very best. Here are three skills to focus on when you read.

**Reading Accurately**
Be sure you read and pronounce words correctly.

**Comfortable Speed**
Try to read at a speed that’s easy to listen to and understand. Don’t read too fast or too slow.

**Expression**
Try not to read in a robotic, monotone voice. Vary the pitch, volume, and tone of your voice.

---

**How Did You Do?**

Have your listener give you a score. He or she should rate each item on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 = Keep working on it. 3 = Not bad. 5 = You sounded amazing!

_____ **Accuracy.** Most words were read and pronounced properly.

_____ **Speed.** Words were read at a reasonable speed.

_____ **Expression.** Pitch, volume, and tone sounded appropriate.
Have you ever heard of the term “Founding Fathers”? You may have wondered just who these men were and what they did to earn this title. Not everyone agrees on who should be given this title, but generally speaking, our Founding Fathers were the statesmen who worked to secure our independence from Great Britain in 1776. Our Founding Fathers founded our nation and designed our country's government that still exists today, over 200 years later.

The Founding Fathers wrote two very important documents from our history. The first was the Declaration of Independence, which declared our independence from Great Britain. The other was the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, which outlined what our new government could and could not do. No document has been more quoted, more discussed, or more imitated.

Some of the more well-known Founding Fathers include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams. The United States of America was founded because these men, along with others, believed that individuals had the right, as the Declaration of Independence states, to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”