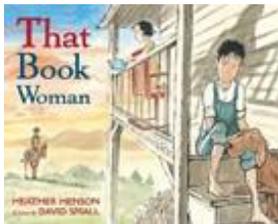


The Pennfield Schools Educational Foundation (PSEF) approved my grant of \$447.73 for the purchase of mentor books for teaching specific reading strategies. With this money, I was able to choose books that help students improve their reading comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary. The first step to teaching reading is to assess what the student already knows and discover what is lacking. This information allows me to teach the student a new strategy and coach them with the goal of improving their reading skills.

*The important question is not how assessment is defined but whether assessment information is used.*  
—Palomba & Banta

The books I acquired through this grant support the fundamental strategies our district supports for teaching reading. A common reading error occurs when a child reads the wrong words and keeps on reading, even though the sentence doesn't make sense. If a reader reads through the words, even when they stop making sense, then they lose valuable comprehension. This reader can benefit from the strategy *Back Up and Reread*. This strategy teaches readers to: recognize when they don't understand the text, stop reading, back up and purposefully reread the text to try to gain meaning. The PSEF allowed me to purchase a book that specifically helps a reader practice *Back Up and Reread*. To witness how this strategy will help them understand the story, read the following passage and see how [That Book Woman](#) by Heather Henson can help a student practice *Back Up and Reread*.



### That Book Woman by Heather Henson

*"My folks and me- we live way up as up can get. So high we hardly sight a soul-'cept hawks a-winging in the sky and critters hid among the trees. My name is Cal, and I am not the first one nor the least one neither. But I am the oldest boy, and I can help Pap with the plowing and I can fetch the sheep when they take a-wander."*

Most of the books I selected can be used with other strategies as well. [That Book Woman](#) was an excellent choice because The Daily Café suggests it be used with these nine strategies.

Possible Strategy Instruction:

- **Comprehension:** Check for understanding
- **Comprehension:** Back up and Reread
- **Comprehension:** Ask questions throughout the reading process
- **Comprehension:** Make and adjust predictions; use text to confirm
- **Comprehension:** Summarize text, include sequence of main events
- **Comprehension:** Recognize literary elements (genre, plot, character, setting, problem/resolution)
- **Accuracy:** Skip the word, then come back
- **Fluency:** Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.)
- **Expand Vocabulary:** Tune in to interesting words and use new vocabulary in my speaking and writing

With the money from the PSEF grant and the help of [The Daily Café website](#), I was able to carefully chose 51 books, just like [That Book Woman](#), that specifically target a reading strategy or strategies. I am grateful every time I pick up a book that fits the reading strategy I am working on and I am confident that it will be a meaningful lesson. I am very grateful to the PSEF for allowing me this advantage. Thank you! Shelley Sidnam

