



CONNECT TO THE CORE
Problematic Sentences ~ Fourth Grade

Slide: Read About It! Model

Take a moment to browse the problematic sentence from the fourth grade passage and instructor model.

Give the participants a moment to browse the lesson.

The problematic sentence identified in the selection is *Tanya listened while Grandma spoke about "going home" to the great land of Virginia that "borned four of the first five presidents of these United States."* This lengthy sentence includes two simple sentences joined by the conjunction, "while," followed by an embedded clause "that borne four of the first five presidents of these United States."

I would preteach this sentence in a small group as not all of my students will need support. I will say, "there are two simple sentences joined by the conjunction 'while,' which makes this a compound sentence. Let's identify the two simple sentences (Tanya listened, Grandma spoke)."

*The purpose of this scaffold is to support comprehension. Even though we have identified an embedded clause in this sentence, including this information in the preteach could overwhelm the students for whom we intend to provide support for **comprehending** challenging sentences. Small group instruction should always remain focused on **Key Skills**—in this case—sentence comprehension.*

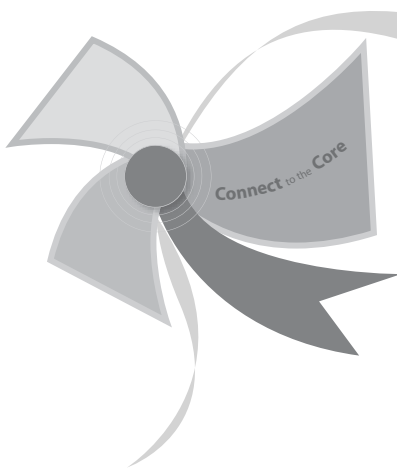
If there are no questions, tell participants that in the next section they will have the opportunity to identify challenging sentence structures in their current theme/unit.



TIPS



RESOURCES



Problematic Sentences

Fourth Grade

Teacher Tips

- **Prepare the text**
Anticipate problematic sentences that may challenge comprehension.
- **Plan lesson delivery**
Who will need support? Everyone or a small group?
When will you provide it? During the lesson or as a preteach?
- **Explain the phrase or sentence**
Provide a student-friendly explanation.
- **Provide scaffolds**
Additional support for students.

READ ABOUT it! Model

The sun rose slowly in the morning sky as Tanya watched all her familiar places vanish behind her. Past her schoolyard and the park. Past row after row of houses and traffic lights.

And still they traveled on and on. They stopped only to switch from one bus to another. Tanya listened while Grandma spoke about "going home" to the great land of Virginia that "borned four of the first five Presidents of these United States."

And still they traveled on and on. Until the bright sunny sky grew cloudy and gray and the highway turned into never-ending dirt roads that seemed to disappear into the fields and trees, down into the "hollers," the valleys below. Tanya could barely keep her eyes open. And still they traveled on and on . . . until finally the bus crawled to a stop.

Grandma shook Tanya gently. "We're here, Tanya honey, wake up." Tanya rubbed her eyes awake. "We're home."

Standing on the last step of the bus, Tanya spied a car, trailing clouds of dust, coming toward them. In the distance were a farmhouse and barn.

"I've been sitting for the past eight . . . nine hours," Grandma told Uncle John, who'd come to get them, "so I think I'll just let these old limbs take me the rest of the way."

Tanya watched Grandma walk slowly but steadily up the familiar roadway.

"Memories die hard," Uncle John whispered to Tanya.

Tanya wasn't certain what her great-uncle meant. She only knew that if Grandma was going to walk, she would walk too. And she raced to the old woman's side.

"Take care, honey," Grandma said. "August weather down here's meant to be eased on through, not run through."

Tanya looked up at Grandma as she stared off into the distance, a faraway look in her eyes. What Tanya saw didn't look like the pictures in her schoolbooks or magazines or the pictures in her head.

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Tanya listened while Grandma spoke about "going home" to the great land of Virginia that "borned four of the first five Presidents of these United States."

- **Problematic Sentence**
Tanya listened while Grandma spoke about "going home" to the great land of Virginia that "borned four of the first five presidents of these United States."
- **Challenge**
Lengthy, compound-complex
- **Who/When**
Small group, preteach
- **Explanation**
This lengthy sentence includes two simple sentences joined by the conjunction, "while." This sentence also included an embedded clause.
- **Scaffold**
There are two simple sentences joined by the conjunction while. Let's identify the two simple sentences (Tanya listened, Grandma spoke).

Problematic Sentence Structures

Lengthy

Passive voice

Double negatives

Auxiliary verbs, verb tense

Prepositions and articles

Ambiguous phrases, word order, and placement