**Comprehension test text, entitles ‘The Impossible’, read by Student A.**

**This is a recreation of how the student ‘understood’ paragraph 1 of the text.**

* The gaps indicate a pause – the longer the gap, the longer the pause
* Red font indicates errors/guessing.

Mara sat l\_l\_\_long\_longing in the warm Christmas sunshine that th\_th\_theee\_th (erm) thee-old

pr\_pr\_\_prove\_proved so lovingly. She slipped her de\_de\_delicious cocktail. Her eyes were dawn away from the pages of her book, first by the cr\_cry of children playing on the hotel’s beach, and then by a stiff\_stiff\_stiffing of the breeze. She tucked her hair back behind her ear and low\_lower\_lowered her book. She turned her head to watch Harry, her husband, playing with her four sons by the pool. The pool was surr\_surr\_surrounded by an oh\_un\_unray? of flowers, small colourful bright bushes and tall palm trees which often, offended a little shade for the sun. Next to the pool was a bar where she noticed some guests who were watching the lazy day pass them by.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Word in text | Student incorrectly read this word as  | Did student know the word’s meaning  | Commentary  | Strategy for improvement  |
| 1 | Maria | Mara | yes | lookalike  | i = /ee/ in Italian origin words, e.g. piano |
| 2 | lounging | longing | yes | lookalike | ou = /ow/ & gi = /j/+ reprogramme guessing habit |
| 3 | Thailand | theold | yes | guess | th = /t/ sometimesai = /igh/ sometimes |
| 4 | provided | proved | yes | lookalike | i\_e = /igh/+ reprogramme guessing habit |
| 5 | sipped | slipped | yes | lookalike | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 6 | drawn | dawn | yes | lookalike | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 7 | stiffening | stiffing | yes | lookalike | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 8 | Henry | Harry | yes | lookalike | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 9 | their | her | yes | prediction  | reprogramme predicting habit  |
| 10 | array | unray | yes | guess  | reprogramme guessing habit |
| 11 | offered | oftenoffended | yes | lookalikes | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 12 | from | for | yes | lookalike | reprogramme guessing habit  |

**Paragraph 2 onwards**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13 | whipped | wiped | yes | Doesn’t know principle of double consonant vs split vowel digraph i\_e, i\_i | i\_e = /igh/+ reprogramme guessing habit |
| 14 | from | of | yes | Automatic guess – saw o and f – doesn’t understand letters must be processed from left to right – sees words as wholes with distinguishing features from which to guess lookalike word  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 15 | fragility | ? | yes | Had no way to unpick this word and no lookalike came to mind | gi = /j/ |
| 16 | that | the | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit |
| 17 | growing | growling | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 18 | they | there | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 19 | fleeing | feeling | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 20 | growling | growing | yes | Lookalike – from experience in previous paragraph | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 21 | nearest | nearby  | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 22 | earth | earthquake | yes | Prediction based on content of text  | reprogramme predicting habit  |
| 23 | fury | flurry | yes | Lookalike  | ur = 2 sounds: /er/ and /yor/+ reprogramme guessing habit |
| 24 | crushing | crashing | yes | Lookalike – not paying attention to individual letters (vowels) | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 25 | engulfing | ? | no | Had no way to unpick this word and no lookalike came to mind  | Teach to decode  |
| 26 | destructive | disruptive | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 27 | murderous | ? | yes | Had no way to unpick this word and no lookalike came to mind  | Teach to decode ur = /er/ & er = /er/ |
| 28 | desperate | dispiriting  | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 29 | surging  | ? | yes | Had no way to unpick this word and no lookalike came to mind  | gi = /j/ |
| 30 | mesmerized  | memorised  | no | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 31 | debris | ? (“oh, that’s how you spell debris is it?”) | yes | Had no way to unpick the word and no lookalike came to mind | Teach to decode = he could have decoded debris (with pronounced s and might have got him there)  |
| 32 | vague | ? | yes | Had no way to unpick the word and no lookalike came to mind | gue = /g/ |
| 33 | clambered | climbed | yes | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 34 | mournful  | moreful | no | Guess – pseudo word  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 35 | wretched | wrenched  | no | Lookalike  | reprogramme guessing habit  |
| 36 | water | waves | yes | Prediction based on initial letter and context of the story/sentence – waves worked just as well  | reprogramme predicting habit  |
|  | 36 errors – misread words |  | 4/36 unknown words |  |  |