



CAMERON- I changed number 45 from pricy to just icy.

1. tab
2. rev
3. din
4. cog
5. rum
6. chap
7. goth
8. then
9. shun
10. bade
11. hone
12. coop
13. rook
14. garb
15. gown
16. bowl
17. vouch
18. shorn
19. brawl
20. taunt
21. slur
22. irk
23. loath

24. pliers
25. bleak
26. slung
27. hoping
28. tilling
29. shall
30. tally
31. hoist
32. annoy
33. moped
34. vexed
35. shied
36. whole
37. whine
38. sly
39. envy
40. myth
41. tinny
42. wily
43. lance
44. cited
45. icy
46. wager
47. gist
48. gypsy
49. eager
50. realm
51. swear

52. fiery
53. grief
54. seize
55. reins

We know that these 55 words are “off the beaten path” kinds of words, but skilled readers must be equipped to decode words they’ve never seen before. When kids can read most of the words we’ve listed, here, they are ready to excel in second grade and beyond. When kids become frustrated with this assessment, it’s an indication that they are not sufficiently navigating our code-based language.

Many smart kids begin to struggle with reading in second and third grades because there are fewer and fewer pictures to help them “guess” words.

If your kids have been taught to:

- Take picture walks to figure out what the story is about before reading so they’ll be better equipped to guess what words say.
- Look at the pictures and ask, “What makes sense?”
- Look at the first letter and take a guess what the word *could* say.
- Skip the word and see if they can “figure it out” using the context clues.
- Look to see if they see little words they know inside the big word. (This is a flawed approach. I see *at* in the word *date*, but that’s no help at all.)

This is just a sampling of how kids are being taught to read. It’s more helpful to teach kids how words work. At Book Bums, that’s precisely what we do. We teach kids to “Make the sounds you see.” We remind them that this is a “No Guess Zone.”

The thing is, when we tell kids to “sound it out” without explicitly teaching all the ways to spell the sounds, kids *can’t* sound it out. We have an alphabet that consists of 26 letters. Those letters can represent 40+ sounds, and those sounds can be spelled 80+ ways.

At Book Bums, we can teach almost all of those spellings in about 20 lessons.

Phonics is not the *only* important component for strong reading and writing skills, however, it’s the foundational component. Without the ability to accurately decode words, there is simply no way to gain meaning from text.

Kindergarten students should be equipped to accurately read words 1-9.

First-grade students should be equipped to accurately read words 1-25.

Kids in second grade and up should be equipped to accurately read every word on this list.

If your child is struggling, schedule an assessment with us today.