

Name:

## Fluency and getting the meaning



Now, listen to two different readings of the whole passage below. As you listen, follow along.

You will answer a comprehension question about the reading after hearing both readings.

You will also rate the readers: Who made the passage easier to understand? Why?

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### Restorative Justice

Cedric is sixteen years old. He just finished a ten-month sentence at a juvenile detention center – prison for kids. That sentence was his punishment for bringing a gun to school. Now, Cedric is about to start at a new school. But before he can do that, he has to participate in a restorative justice circle.

Our justice system focuses on three questions: What law was broken? Who broke it? What punishment is right? But restorative justice turns these questions on their heads. This system asks: Who was hurt? What are their needs? Whose job is it to meet those needs? Instead of focusing on punishment, restorative justice focuses on healing.

Cedric and his parents and teachers sat in the restorative justice circle. Everyone had to speak, and everyone had to listen. Cedric said that at first the circle “made me feel like walking out the room.” But he admitted that he committed crimes to provide money for his mother. His mother cried as she talked about her struggles to find a job and to pay her bills.

Cedric’s new teachers promised to support him and hold him accountable. They made a plan to help Cedric be successful. They agreed to meet again in 30 days.

Some people believe that Cedric should be punished. Bringing a gun to school was wrong. Cedric needs to learn from that mistake. But maybe being locked up isn’t the best way to teach that lesson. Restorative justice offers a different way.

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Source: “Oakland Demonstrates Right Way to Use Restorative Justice with Teens,”  
Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, January 3, 2019.

## Fluency and getting the meaning, continued

Answer the following questions:

What is restorative justice?



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Which reader made it easier to understand the passage?

Reader A

Reader B



Turn and talk to your partner.

How did one reader make the passage easier to understand?

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