



Both fish and mammals **breathe oxygen**. Mammals use their lungs to take in oxygen from the air, which is made of oxygen and other gases. Fish use **gills** to take in oxygen from the water. A fish's blood gets oxygen from its gills just like your blood gets it from your lungs. If you look closely at a fish, you can see its gills behind its head. They look like little slits.

You may know that water is made of **hydrogen** and oxygen. However, fish can't "breathe" water. It would take too much energy to separate the oxygen from the hydrogen. Instead, fish breathe oxygen that has been **dissolved** into the water. That is why a fish tank needs to have a bubbler. It brings oxygen from the air into the water. Without a bubbler, the fish would **suffocate**.

Difficult Words to Learn

<u>Word</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>
breathe	brēth	to take in and blow out, in order to stay alive
dissolved	dī-zōlvd'	taken up into a liquid
gills	gĭls	parts of fish that allow them take in oxygen dissolved in water
hydrogen	hĭ'drə-jən	a gas that is found in water
oxygen	ōk'sĭ-jən	a gas that is found in both air and water
suffocate	sŭf'ə-kāt'	to die from lack of oxygen

Choose 3 different ways to practice reading the passage

- Partner Read** – find a partner and read out loud to each other
- Choral Read** – read with a small group at the same time
- CD** – listen to the story on CD; read along with the story as it is read
- Recorded Read** – record yourself reading on a video, CD or tape recorder
- Student-Adult Read** – read with an adult, have them listen to you read and provide feedback

Things to remember when reading:

- Raise and lower your voice to show appropriate emotion
- Read at a comfortable pace
- Change the tone of your voice to emphasize important words
- Pause at commas and periods
- Raise your voice when you see a question mark
- Read exclamations with strong feeling
- Change your voice when reading dialogue as if you were those characters
- Comprehend what is going on in the story



The moving van was almost filled with furniture, boxes, and suitcases. Chandra was sitting on the **curb**, watching the men load another dresser and calling her cat Sampson. His empty cat carrier sat next to her. No one had seen Sampson all morning.

“Oh, honey,” Chandra’s mother **soothed**. “Even if we can’t find him, Sampson will be okay—cats always land on their feet. He’ll be okay, even without us.”

“But I’ll be without him,” Chandra wept.

It was a **melancholy** trip across the country, remembering that beloved pet. In the new house, Chandra roamed around the empty rooms, waiting for the van to arrive. Those echoing rooms felt even emptier without a cat rubbing against her legs.

When the van arrived, a ball of fur came flying out like a **famished** tornado. No one knew how Sampson had survived the cross-country trip alone and unfed, but Chandra knew it was her love for him. They were **reunited** again!

Difficult Words to Learn

<u>Word</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition</u>
curb	kûrb	a line of concrete or stone that forms the border along a street
famished	făm'ısht	extremely hungry
melancholy	měl'ən-köl'ē	sad
soothed	sōōthd	made less upset
reunited	rē'yōō-nī'tid	brought together again

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