

## Independent Strategies

When I get stuck on a word in a book,  
There are lots of things I can do.  
I can do them all, please, by myself;  
I don't need help from you.

I can look at the picture to get a hint.  
Or think of what the story's about.  
I can "get my mouth ready" to say the first letter.  
A kind of "sounding out".

I can chop up the words into smaller parts,  
Like on or ing or ly,  
Or find smaller words in compound words  
Like raincoat and bumblebee.

I can think of a word that makes sense in that place,  
Guess or say "blank" and read on  
Until the sentence has reached its end,  
Then go back and try these on:  
"Does it make sense?"  
"Can we say it that way?"  
"Does it look right to me?"  
Chances are the right word will pop out like the sun  
In my own mind, can't you see?

If I've thought of and tried out most of these things  
And I still do not know what to do,  
Then I may turn around and ask  
For some help to get me through.

~ Jill Marie Warner ~