

Slow-Mo Twisters Answer Key

Likely Tricky Words Students May Identify

- **monkeys, messy, music, Monday** (repeated “m” sounds can blur together)
- **flipped, freely, flowers** (fr/fl blends)
- **spotless, smooth, steps** (st/sm/sh blends in sequence)
- **blueberry, briskly, baked** (bl/br blends)
- **trundled, tunnels, tonight** (multi-syllabic with repeated “t” blend)

Sample Reflection Responses

1. Easiest: “Tiny trains trundled...” – steady rhythm and shorter words.
2. Hardest: “Shiny shoes should stay spotless...” – long string of “s” words stretched out is very challenging.
3. Stretching sounds helped because it slowed down thinking about each sound before reading normally.

Teacher Notes

- **Purpose:** This exercise builds **phonemic awareness, articulation, and pacing** by forcing students to slow down sounds before attempting normal fluency.
- Model at least one example in exaggerated slow motion so students understand stretching sounds.
- Emphasize accuracy over speed in the slow-motion stage.
- Good warm-up before performance reading, poetry, or longer passages.
- Differentiation: Younger readers can clap or tap for each syllable while stretching sounds; older students can note patterns (e.g., blends, clusters) in tricky words.