

Tea Time Fluency Answer Key

Benchmark Data (5th Grade Averages):

- **Silent Reading Rate:** 165–185 WPM
- **Oral Reading Rate:** 120–145 WPM
- **Typical Difference:** Silent reading is 25–40% faster due to internal processing speed and fewer articulation pauses.

Key Vocabulary for Discussion:

- *Chanoyu* - traditional Japanese tea ceremony
- *Matcha* - powdered green tea used in the ceremony
- *Mindfulness* - awareness of the present moment

Fluency Focus Points:

Clear phrasing around commas and semicolons

Expression when reading aloud to match the peaceful tone

Awareness of punctuation-driven pauses for natural flow

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students develop fluency awareness by comparing **silent and oral reading speeds** using an **informational cultural text** that invites mindfulness and calm pacing.

Implementation Tips:

- Model how to mark the last word read when the timer stops.
- After both readings, have students discuss why their silent rate is typically higher.
- Reinforce that oral reading prioritizes **clarity, pacing, and expression** over speed.
- Use this passage to build cross-cultural awareness. Tie it to global studies or social-emotional learning lessons about **focus and patience**.

Extension Activity: Include a mini mindfulness activity before rereading to demonstrate how **calm focus improves fluency**.