The Karate Kid
Act out a play based on the hit movie.
Fluency Tip
Read With Feeling | To read a part well, good actors ask, “What am I feeling?” Is your character happy, sad, or scared? Practice reading the lines below in the correct way.

Angry: “Get up and fight!” Annoyed: “Are we going to do this all day?” Excited: “Mr. Han, this is great!”

Enjoy the play!

Jaden Smith plays Dre and Jackie Chan plays Mr. Han in the hit movie The Karate Kid, now on DVD, Blu-ray™, and Combo Pack.
Scene 1

N1: Dre and his mom have moved from Detroit, Michigan, to Beijing, China. His mom has a new job here.

Dre: Mr. Han?

N1: Mr. Han sits very still, with a pair of chopsticks in his hand.

Dre: My mom and I live in apartment 305. The hot water doesn’t work.

N2: There’s no hot water in their apartment. Dre goes into the basement to find Mr. Han, the maintenance man.

Dre: Mr. Han?

N1: Mr. Han still sits without talking.

Dre: I could always come back, if this is a bad time.

N1: Suddenly, Mr. Han snaps a fly out of the air with his chopsticks.

Dre: OK, I’m going now.

N2: Mr. Han later fixes the hot water.

Scene 2

N1: Soon after, Dre goes to the park. He sees a pretty Chinese girl named Mei Ying. Mei Ying goes to an international school, so she knows how to speak English.

Mei Ying: Classical music.

N2: Dre pulls out his own player and puts on a dance song.

Dre: What’s up? What are you listening to?

Mei Ying: Cheng, mind your own business.

Dre: Dude, come on.

Mei Ying: Don’t talk to this guy.

Dre: I’m Dre. What’s your name?

Mei Ying: Mei Ying. I’m from China.

Dre: I’m from the States. What do you want?

Mei Ying: What’s up with this fight? It’s not cool.

Dre: Come on. This is just for fun.

Mei Ying: Fine, but I don’t want to get hurt.

Dre: OK. Let’s do it.

N2: Cheng starts a fight with Dre.

Cheng: Don’t talk to this guy.

Dre: Dude, come on.

Mei Ying: Cheng, mind your own business.

N1: Dre finally gives up. Mei Ying comes over.

Mei Ying: Are you OK?

Dre: Just leave me alone.
Scene 3

N2: Dre and Mei Ying meet again at school. Dre learns that she is a very good violinist. She is preparing to try out for a special school.

N1: Dre still has problems with Cheng. One day, Cheng and his gang chase him all over the city. Finally, they corner him near his apartment.

Cheng: You’re fast. But not fast enough.

N2: They knock Dre to the ground.

Cheng: Get up and fight!

N1: All of a sudden, Mr. Han appears. He acts like he’s going to attack Cheng’s gang. But really, he gets them to attack him.

N2: Mr. Han cleverly avoids their kicks, and they end up beating each other up. Dre watches from the side.

Dre: Wow, that’s amazing!

Liang: Ow! What just happened?

Cheng: Let’s get out of here.

N1: Cheng and his gang leave. Dre and Mr. Han talk.

Mr. Han: From my father.

Dre: Could you teach me? I need to fight back.

Mr. Han: Yes, but real kung fu is about making peace with your enemies.

N2: Later, Mr. Han and Dre get the gang to agree to leave Dre alone until they meet at a big kung fu tournament.

Scene 4

N1: On the first day of training, Dre wakes up early.

Mom: You’re up early for a Saturday.

Dre: Mr. Han is going to teach me kung fu.

Mom: You know I don’t like you fighting.

Dre: It’s not about fighting, Mom. It’s about making peace with your enemies.

N2: Dre walks through the streets of Beijing and finds Mr. Han’s house. He takes off his jacket and throws it on the ground.

Mr. Han: Pick up your jacket. Hang it up.

N1: Dre puts his jacket on a hook sticking out of a pole.

Mr. Han: Take it down. Do it again.

Dre: Listen, I’m sorry I threw my jacket on the ground.

Mr. Han: Hang it up.

Dre: Are we going to do this all day?

N2: For days, that’s all Dre does for his training. Finally, he gets mad.
**Scene 5**

**N1:** Mr. Han takes Dre on a trip to a mountain temple where kung fu fighters train. They see a kung fu master working with a snake. The huge snake and the woman make the same movements.

**Dre:** Did you see how she was copying the snake?

**Mr. Han:** You did not watch closely enough. The snake was copying the woman.

**Dre:** So she controlled the snake? Can you teach me how to control people?

**Mr. Han:** There’s only one person you need to learn how to control—you yourself.

**Scene 6**

**N2:** Dre runs into Mei Ying at school.

**Dre:** Hey!

**Mei Ying:** Oh, hi. My tryout is tomorrow at five.

**Dre:** That’s what you’ve been practicing for, right?

**N1:** Dre convinces Mei Ying that she needs to relax before her big tryout. They go and play video games. Later, Mei Ying’s cell phone rings.

**Mei Ying:** Hello? Yes, Daddy. I’m sorry.

**N2:** Mei Ying closes her phone. She turns to Dre.

**Mei Ying:** The tryouts have been moved to today. My dad is coming to get me.

**N1:** Mei Ying is late for her tryout, but she still does well and gets into the school.

**Scene 7**

**N2:** Dre continues to train with Mr. Han. He gets better and better. On the day before the tournament, they talk.

**Mr. Han:** Tomorrow there will be lots of noise. You need to focus.

**Dre:** I can’t win, can I?

**Mr. Han:** Win or lose, it doesn’t matter. Fight hard. Earn respect. Then the gang will leave you alone.

**N1:** Mr. Han gives Dre a kung fu uniform.

**Dre:** Mr. Han, this is great! You’re the best friend I’ve ever had.

**Mr. Han:** If you accept this gift, you accept a lifetime journey to real kung fu.

**Scene 8**

**N2:** Dre, Mom, Mei Ying, and Mr. Han arrive at
the tournament.

**Dre:** It would be pretty cool if I won this thing, huh?

**Mr. Han:** It would be cool if you just survived, Dre.

**N1:** Dre makes it to the semifinals. He faces Liang, from Cheng’s gang. Dre brings Liang to the ground with a flying scissor takedown.

**Liang:** Argh!

**N2:** Then Dre delivers a kneeling punch to the face.

**Referee:** Dre gets a point!

**Dre:** Yes!

**N1:** Next, Liang traps Dre’s kicking leg, and hits with an elbow strike above his knee. Then, with illegal moves, Liang delivers sharp punches to Dre’s leg.

**Liang:** There! You’ll never win this tournament now.

**N2:** Because Liang cheated, Dre wins the match. But to win the tournament, Dre must beat Cheng in the finals.

**Dre:** It hurts, it really hurts!

**Mom:** You did so well, Dre.

**Mei Ying:** You would have won if they hadn’t cheated.

**N1:** Dre can barely stand up. If he is unable to fight in the finals, Cheng will be the winner of the tournament.

**N2:** No one thinks Dre can get up and fight again.

**Mr. Han:** Dre, you have proved everything you need to prove.

**Dre:** What, that I can quit when things get hard? Mr. Han, I just have to choose to get back up.

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**Scene 9**

**N1:** Dre goes back out to meet Cheng in the ring.

**Referee:** Ready, fight!

**N2:** Cheng’s first powerful kick sends Dre out of the ring.

**Referee:** Point to Cheng!

**N1:** Dre comes back for more. He knocks down Cheng with a windmill sweep kick.

**Referee:** Point to Dre!

**N2:** Dre gets one more point. Then Cheng grabs Dre’s hurt leg and punches it hard. Dre falls to the ground.

**Referee:** Can you fight?

**N1:** Dre thinks of the kung fu master and the snake. He stands and focuses on Cheng.

**Referee:** Ready, fight!

**Mom:** Come on, Dre! You can do it!

**N2:** Dre avoids every kick that Cheng throws. Dre kicks once, and connects.

**Referee:** Third point to Dre! He’s the winner!

**N1:** Mom, Mei Ying, and the whole crowd cheer. Dre takes the trophy. Holding it, he bows to Mr. Han.

—Adapted by Zoë Kashner
A solution is the way a problem gets fixed. For example, you might have the problem that you are hungry. The solution could be to eat your lunch.

Below are five problems from the play “The Karate Kid.” Draw a line to match each problem to the correct solution on the right. If you need help, look back at the play.

**PROBLEM**

1. There is no hot water in Dre’s new building.

2. Cheng and his gang keep trying to beat up Dre.

3. Dre needs to learn kung fu so he can fight in the tournament.

4. Mei Ying feels a need to relax before her big tryout.

5. During the tournament, Dre’s leg is so hurt, he can barely stand up.

**SOLUTION**

A. Mr. Han and Dre get the gang to leave Dre alone until they meet at a kung fu tournament.

B. Mei Ying and Dre go play video games.

C. Dre talks to Mr. Han, who fixes the hot water.

D. Dre decides to get back up and fight, even though it is difficult.

E. Mr. Han trains Dre in kung fu.