Instructions
You are going to read this story titled Flat Stanley is Sad out loud. This story is about how flat Stanley is tired of being flat (place the reading passage in front of the student, face down). Try to read each word. You can use your finger to keep your place. If you come to a word you don’t know, I’ll tell it to you. You will read for one minute. Be sure to do your best reading. Do you have any questions? (Turn the passage right side up). Put your finger on the first word. Begin.

Flat Stanley is Sad

Stanley waited for a long time before he spoke. “The thing is,” he said, “I’m just not happy any more. I’m tired of being flat. I want to be a regular shape again, like other people. But I’ll have to go on being flat forever. It makes me sick.”

“Oh, Stanley,” Arthur said. He dried his tears on a corner of Stanley’s sheet and could think of nothing more to say.

“Don’t talk about what I just said,” Stanley told him. I don’t want the folks to worry. That would only make it worse.”

“You’re brave,” Arthur said. “You really are.”

He took hold of Stanley’s hand. The two brothers sat together in the darkness, being friends. They were both still sad, but each one felt a little better than he had before.

And then, suddenly, though he was not even trying to think, Arthur had an idea. He jumped up and turned on the light and ran to the big storage box where toys and things were kept. He began to rummage in the box.

Stanley sat up in bed to watch.

Arthur flung aside a football and some lead soldiers and airplane models and lots of wooden blocks, and then he said, “Aha!” He had found what he wanted – an old bicycle pump.

He held it up, and Stanley and he looked at each other.

“Okay,” Stanley said at last. “But take it easy.” He put the end of the long pump hose in his mouth and clamped his lips tightly about it so that no air could escape.

“I’ll go slowly,” Arthur said. “If it hurts or anything, wiggle your hand at me.”

He began to pump. At first nothing happened except that Stanley’s cheeks bulged a bit.

Arthur watched his hand, but there was no wiggle signal, so he pumped on.