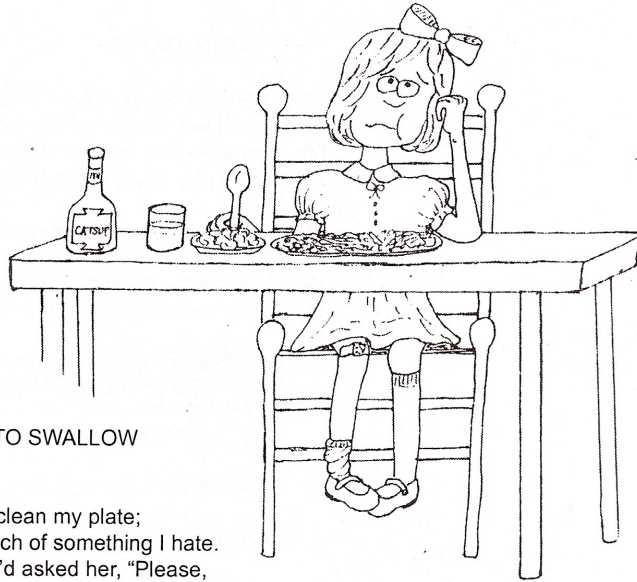


**Using Poems from *The Endless String* by Tom and Tess Hannah for a fluency and vocabulary lesson. Fluency lesson is based upon research by Tim Rasinsky, Ph. D.**



**TOO MUCH TO SWALLOW**

I really can't seem to clean my plate;  
Mom gave me too much of something I hate.  
Before we sat down, I'd asked her, "Please,  
just give me a few of those yucky peas!"

Her eyes looked angry and she replied,  
"Here's a big spoonful, now open wide!"  
The task before me was just colossal.  
(I'll sit here so long, I'll become a fossil!)

My mashed potatoes held a gravy lake,  
but drowning my peas was a huge mistake.  
They swam to the top where Mom could see,  
so I quickly moved on to try Plan B.

I stealthily slipped a pea in my hand  
to feed to the dog, as I had planned.  
But Duke just wasn't an avid pea fan;  
he spit out the slop, and then he ran.

I finally agreed to taste a small pea...  
Was I going to chew for an eternity?  
I'll swallow this mess, but it won't be easy;  
I know when I do, it'll make me queasy.

So give me some time just to get it down,  
and pretend not to see this sad little frown.  
It may take a minute, an hour, or a day,  
but I'll get it down, I will find a way!

*Too Much To Swallow* is another good poem for fluency development. I added an additional step (#3) to investigate the vocabulary within the poem. Follow the steps below:

1. Parent reads poem to child.
2. Parent and child read poem aloud together as a paired reading - child reads in tandem with an accomplished reader.
3. Study and interact with vocabulary (see pg.2).
4. Child practices reading alone to parent.
5. Practice together by dividing the poem into parts for members of the family.
6. Have a performance night. Child can read alone or read divided poem as a group production. Pick a common and consistent time to perform your poems! (Maybe Sunday evenings) Many enjoy taking videos of the performance to watch later.

This poem also includes lots of great vocabulary. Words like colossal and fossil, queasy and easy, pea and eternity are great for building vocabulary.

On the following page is a grid to investigate the vocabulary. Write the word in column 1, write the word's definition in column 2, and draw a picture that represents the word in column 3. I have not included any words on the chart so you can print as many as you need for this poem and others.

Using Poems from *The Endless String* by Tom and Tess Hannah for a fluency and vocabulary lesson. Fluency lesson is based upon research by Tim Rasinsky, Ph. D.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Picture</b>