**WHAT MAKES SENSE?**

**Sometimes when we are reading, we are so focused on decoding (figuring out) the word that we forget to think about whether the word we are saying makes sense. The context (the way the word is being used in the story) is an important clue in helping us read the word:**

**I ate my lunch.**

**A student might read this sentence as “I ate my l-l-oo-nch.” Does that make sense? Is a “loonch” something we would eat? The answer is no, so the word must be something else.**

**A student might see “l-u-n-c-h” and think of a word that begins with “l”. They might read the sentence as “I ate my lion.” Does that make sense? Is a lion something we would eat? The answer is no, so the word must be something else.**

**Just like the letters on the page give you clues as to what the word is, so does the way the word is used in the story.**

**If the word does not make sense, it is probably not the word after all!**