Take a Break
Literacy Skills / Print Knowledge

Materials
1. A big book read aloud

Virginia SOLs
K.5, 1.5, 1.12

Procedure
1. When you need to take a break from reading (e.g. to answer a question), use the opportunity to point out that there are stops built into text.

2. Say to the child, “Let me finish this sentence before I answer that question.” Then point to the period when you get there. “Now I’ve reached the end of the sentence. I know I am at the end because I see a period. Now let’s see if we can find or think about an answer to your question.”

3. This helps children learn one aspect of how print works. Children should learn that there are parts to print, such as sentences, paragraphs, chapters, and that the end of a line or a page is not necessarily the end of a unit of meaning.