Maria Gets Better

Maria is as smart as anyone. She can do most of her school work by herself. She can learn a song by heart really fast. Maria also keeps her backpack clean and her desk organized. Once in a while, she will even help other students in her class with their math.

Reading is Maria’s harder subject. She knows all her letter sounds, but sometimes gets mixed up when reading a word like “read” out loud, which sometimes can sound like the tall grass plant called a ‘reed’, and other times sounds like the color ‘red’. There are many other examples of tough words like that in English.

English is not the first language that Maria learned to speak. Before she came to the United States when she was seven, Maria lived in Mexico with her family. Her Spanish was perfect, but now she had to learn a whole new
language. Maria was nervous coming to a new school, and
sometimes she didn’t understand what her teacher was
saying, but she didn’t give up. She tries hard in class and
does all of her homework.

Maria goes to the library at night to study with her
sister Elena, who is in high school. Little by little, Maria is
learning to read bigger words, understand what they mean,
and is able to handle words like “to”, “too”, and “two”,
even when they all sound the same. She now knows that
each has a different meaning. Maria is proud of herself for
being patient and trying her best.