

Practice... Part 1

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What You're Already Doing:

After we teach a standard, every teacher provides an opportunity for students to practice and apply the standard. Teachers use various materials for this step. Often, the practice is a worksheet that is given to the whole class.

Questions to Consider:

- Are the needs of your class being met with a worksheet?
- Is the worksheet providing differentiation?
- Are ALL of your students able to access the content?

Take It to the Next Level Guided Reading Groups

What?

Guided reading groups are small groups formed to help students learn how to process a variety of increasingly challenging texts with understanding and fluency. The teacher guides the students to become competent readers and gradually promotes independence.

Why?

We hold guided reading groups to meet the needs of individual students and help them become more competent readers. Every student deserves to read texts that challenge them to become better readers. Students learn to push past what they can achieve on their own during independent reading when they get extra support in a guided reading group.

How?

Through assessment, we learn our students' reading levels and this allows us to place students in appropriate groups. We choose a focus based on observations made during mini-lessons, read-alouds, reading conferences, sharing time, from looking at reader's notebooks, formative assessments, and any other interactions related to reading. The students in the group all work on the same focus. The teacher models the concept being taught using the same text for all students in the group. The text should be at their instructional level. It should contain a few challenges that stretch students' understanding.

When?

Hold a guided reading group when other students are reading independently, completing literacy centers, or whenever you can fit it in. Our groups run 2 to 5 times a week for 10-20 minutes. It is best to hold the groups on consecutive days, if possible.

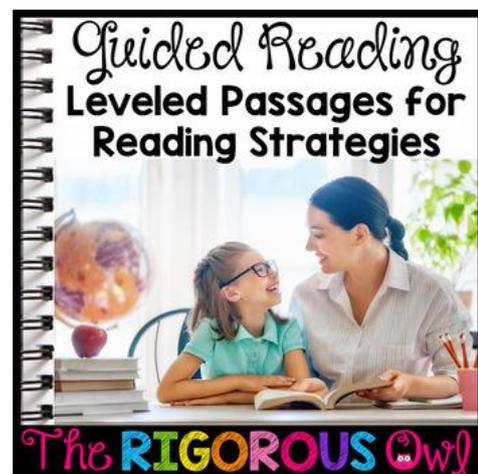
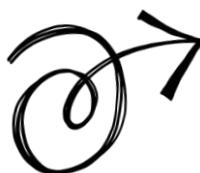
Simple steps to implement:

- Plan for just one guided reading group. It is a practice run for you.
- Keep the lesson very simple. Ask 1 student to whisper read to you as the other students in the group read to themselves.
- Have a quick discussion about what the students read.
- Students who are not in the group are independently reading.
- Continue this routine until you get the hang of running groups... then you can fully implement groups.

Our Goal is to help you take your reading instruction to the next level!

We have a Ready-to-Use Resource to get you started!

These bundles have texts at every level of instruction grades 2-5!



Practice... Part 2

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What You're Already Doing:

After we teach a standard, every teacher provides an opportunity for students to practice and apply the standard. Teachers use various materials for this step. Often, the practice is a worksheet that is given to the whole class.

Questions to Consider:

- Are the needs of your class being met with a worksheet?
- Is the worksheet providing differentiation?
- Are ALL of your students able to access the content?

Take It to the Next Level

Strategy Groups

What?

Strategy groups are formed when the teacher notices a common goal, strategy, or skill that a group of students are struggling with.

Who?

Any student who needs help with reading comprehension. Not all students will be in a Strategy Group.

Why?

We hold Strategy Groups to meet the needs of individual students and help them become more competent readers.

How?

When holding independent reading conferences, the teacher notices a strategy that students need to improve. Then the teacher groups them together and models the strategy. These groups might be formed after our Reading Strategy Guided Reading Groups.

When?

Hold a Strategy Group when other students are reading independently or when you can fit it in. We run a Strategy Group in lieu of a Guided Reading Group whenever we notice the need. Our groups run 2 to 3 times a week for 5-10 minutes.

What to Use:

The teacher models the strategy using any book and the students practice the strategy using their own reading book. Each student can have a different book and that is what we really love about strategy groups...it makes it so easy.

Simple steps to implement:

- Plan for just one strategy
- Keep the lesson very simple. Ask 1 student to whisper read to you as the other students in the group read to themselves.
- Have a quick discussion about what the students read.
- Students who are not in the group are independently reading.
- Continue this routine until you get the hang of running groups... then you can fully implement groups.

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