

Reading

Reading cannot be done on worksheets, or packets as you all now know. Reading is thinking, and immersing oneself in the words to gain meaning. To become more proficient as a reader our students have to read a LOT! At this time I believe it is most important for them to spend their time reading reading reading! The research is very clear:

" We have four decades of research and field-testing of superb, high-quality teaching. We understand that children learn to read by reading. We know that kids need access to books they want to read; time to read;"

Stephanie Harvey and Annie Ward, 2018

"Four decades of research have established that voluminous pleasurable reading is key to literacy development."

-----Stephanie Harvey and Annie Ward, 2018

"Children learn best when they are working with *real, complete texts* and applying all language cueing systems---meaning, visual, structure---to create a rich network of meaning. The more text children have at their disposal, the more meaning support they have and, therefore, the easier it is for them to make sense of that text."

"The best intervention is a good book---one a child can and wants to read.

-----Bridges, 2010

"In a meta-analysis of over 50 studies we have found that reading volume is the single greatest factor in reading achievement."

-Stephen Krashen, Professor Emeritus at the University of Southern California, 2011,2004

I could go on and on, but you can see the research is very clear. Yes, we want students to reflect on their reading to gain comprehension, however, right now I think we need to concentrate on just making sure they have a copious amount of books in their hands to read every single day. More than ever we need to trust that we will get the books back, but truthfully, to me, a lost book is not worth the cost of not reading at all. We have no idea what is available at their homes or that they have anything at all within their readability/interest levels, so during this unprecedented time we have to be okay sending library and classroom library books

home. Here are some websites for you, and parents, to see what books they can have their children reading at home.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/collections/guided-reading-book-lists-for-every-level.html#>

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/leveled-books-you-can-find-at-your-library-with-a-printable-leveled-book-list/>

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/guided-reading-levels.html>

As you also know there are a wealth of books online that you are most likely already using in your reading blocks now...access to those should be passed to parents as well so they have choices if they can not get back to school to pick up books.

I feel a *desperate need* to have children reading right now. If you want some accountability then have them fill out a reading log so you can see what they were able to read and then some comprehension around that can happen once they are back at school during some writing time. Do not make it a competition to see who reads the most....that is *not* what this is about. It is about reading volume for the sake of meaning, and thinking...not about a prize. If there is anything I can do to help facilitate information to parents I am happy to help in any way possible!

--

Warmly,
Denene Holbrook
Literacy Coach

Promising Research About Audio Books

A study from WestEd on the impact of audio books on vocabulary development, comprehension, and reading achievement of second and third graders in San Francisco showed astonishing growth. For 10 weeks, students listened to audio books, **without** following along with the text, three times per week for 20 minutes in school and two more times for 20 minutes at home. The treatment group grew by 58 percent of the annual expected gains in reading achievement. It also outperformed the control group by three times in reading comprehension seven times in vocabulary, and four times in reading motivation. (Flynn, Matlen, Atienza &

Schneider, 2016). Listening to audio books also led to kids reading more. Stunning results, with positive implications for striving (struggling) readers and their motivation to read.

Here are some great resources for reliable sites:

www.storylineonline.net

This resource is from the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. This site provides opportunities for children, parents, and educators to listen to classic children's stories read by professional actors. The collection includes over 30 books by authors such as Patricia Polacco, Tomie DePaola, Mem Fox and Ysaye Barnwell, and read by actors including James Earl Jones, Allison Janney, and Hector Elizondo.

Another good resource is podcasts for kids....it has more than a lifetime's worth of material, but this list from NPR has a lot of really great choices:

www.npr.org/podcasts/2036/kids-family

Free Student Audible Books

https://stories.audible.com/start-listen?mi_cmp=21b6d7d8b2f846dc&mi_ecmp=486622220&mi_sc=t&mi_u=amzn1.account.AGRE5KI5U4LSIOP3KLKU5PEOSFVQ

Additional Reading Resources

Ed Puzzle - FREE

<https://edpuzzle.com/home>

Step by Step Guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibRw6TR9iV8>

This website allows you to choose **educational videos** (think Khan Academy, National Geographic, a TEDTalk, a read-aloud) and then allows you to pause the video they are watching, and you can add in **multiple choice questions** to ensure their understanding and comprehension. There are examples on their websites of how teachers used **Read-Aloud books** and multiple choice pop-ups to check-in on understanding. I personally envision using it for read-alouds - and you could tailor this to be a "guided" reading - tailoring your questions to the levels of your students and sending differentiated versions.

Raz-Kids - FREE

<https://www.raz-kids.com/>

Step by Step instruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=watMI7cxw4o>

Specifically geared towards **K-5 students**, this website allows for students to READ while away from our beautiful stocked libraries. Great to give as supplementary **low-lever/high-interest** reads to keep your readers engaged during their hiatus.

Reading Theory - FREE

<https://readtheory.org/?>

Step by Step instructions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oomZK_hHDA

With this Website, students can read many different types of texts and their **scores and performance** are then shared directly with you. It gauges your **student's levels** and gives them readings **appropriate** to them. It is designed to improve reading **comprehension!**

Flocabulary - 60 Day Free Trial

<https://www.flocabulary.com/>

Created by [NearPod](#), Flocabulary is a K-12 Platform for LA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Videos on many topics use music (like Hip Hop) to get concepts + Vocabulary to stick with our kiddles.

Book Creator - FREE

<https://bookcreator.com/>

Step by Step instructions: <https://vimeo.com/220782126>

Whoa! Use this to create your **teaching documents** by embedding content: **text, images, audio and video**. This is on my To-Do List (perhaps for next year but it's on my radar!)

NewsELA - FREE until June

<https://newsela.com/>

Authentic Language Arts/Social Studies content for your classroom.

Actively Learn - Free until June

<https://www.activelylearn.com/>

A platform where you can access a catalogue of resources for **ELA, Science and Social Studies**. Very authentic texts which can be utilized for **comprehension**, developing opinions etc.

Spelling City- NOT FREE

<https://www.spellingcity.com/>

You can create differentiated word-lists as well as whole-class word-lists! Word-lists are also offered by grade and subject. Provides you with Progress Tracking.

Sum Dog -Currently FREE

<https://pages.sumdog.com/>

Math & Spelling Practice!

Night Zoo Keeper- FREE

<https://www.nightzookeeper.com/>

An online writing tool and a library of interactive lessons! Geared for Grades K - 8.

Biblionasum - NOT FREE

<https://www.biblionasium.com/#tab/content-spring-picks>

A platform that allows teachers to view books that students are reading and by creating challenges for students. You can also track progress. You can review and recommend reads on the site as well. COPPA compliant.

VOOKS- 1 month Free

<https://www.vooks.com/>

Storybooks brought to life

Lalilo

<https://lalilo.com/> - FREE

Phonetics and Comprehension Program.