



READERS' WORKSHOP

Readers' Workshop is a teaching method that focuses on fostering a love for reading by differentiating instruction in order to accommodate the learning needs of all students. There are three main parts to the workshop. The first incorporates a mini-lesson that is usually taught to the entire class 5-10 minutes at the beginning of the period. Next, the students spend approximately 30 minutes reading independently. The last part of the workshop allows students to share their reading with the class, individual students, or in a reading journal, depending upon how I set-up the lesson for the day.

Five Basic Principles for Readers' Workshop:

1. **Time:** Students need time to read independently.
2. **Choice:** Research has shown that children will read more when they have the opportunity to choose the books they want to read.
3. **Response:** It is important that children are given the opportunity to respond to the literature they are reading. This can be accomplished through conferences with the teacher, class discussions, book talks, essays, and our interactive bookmark.
4. **Community:** It is important for students to realize that they are part of a classroom community. Each student is both a learner and a teacher.
5. **Structure:** During Readers' Workshop it is necessary that a great deal of structure exists. Students need to understand the value of silent reading and the importance of sharing and listening during discussions.

The purpose of the workshop is to allow students to become critical thinkers by taking more responsibility for their learning, choosing books and articles that appeal to them and are at their own instructional level, responding to the texts of their choice, and sharing thoughts and ideas within small groups.

During the workshop, my responsibility is to teach mini-lessons based on the Oregon State Standards and my observations of the students' needs, introduce students to a variety of literature (informational texts will come primarily from social studies and science courses), conference with individual students, personalize instruction, and keep records of the progress my students make.

Readers' workshop will take place twice per week in class and students have 30 minutes of nightly reading at home. We will begin reading on this schedule once students have learned a few of the expectations and guidelines of Readers' Workshop.