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# “Selecting Instructional Routines Across the Disciplines to Support Successful Literacy Outcomes”

**Roger Howard,**  
*Adolescent Literacy Specialist*  
ODE Literacy Academy – June 8, 2023



***Participants will  
gain a deeper  
understanding of:***



- 1. The importance of implementing common literacy routines to advance evidence-based practices in ALL content areas**
- 2. Considerations for selection of common routines**
- 3. Examples of successful implementation resulting in dramatic, high-profile secondary school turn-arounds**
- 4. Examples of successful implementation resulting in dramatic, high-profile secondary school turn-arounds**

# ***1. The Importance of Prioritizing Adolescent Literacy Routines***

**“An 18-year-old who doesn’t have the literacy skills for college or a career is effectively sentenced to a lifetime of marginal employment and second-class citizenship.”**

**- Dr. Mel Riddile, 2015**

# Poll: The Average College Freshman...

- Will be expected to read and comprehend **200-600 pages of complex text** per week.
- Should be able to comprehend text written at a minimum **Lexile level of 1300**.
- Should possess a vocabulary lexicon of about **80,000 words**.
- Will be expected to **write 5-7 pages** (1,500-2,000 words) for a typical assignment.



**Are your graduates prepared for college & career as your “finished product?”**

# The Charge of Adolescent Literacy, 4-12

“Our kids **need to learn to read challenging literary and informational texts** from the different disciplines **in sophisticated ways**, and they need to get used to using text for **building extensive stores of knowledge** about their social and natural worlds.”



- Dr. Timothy Shanahan, 2023

# Instructional Shifts Required in ALL Content Areas by Ohio's 6-12 Literacy Standards



1. **Regular practice** with **complex text** and **academic vocabulary**.
2. **Reading, Writing and Discussion** grounded in **evidence from text**.
3. **Building knowledge** through content-rich **informational text**.

# Discussion: What is the most prevalent interaction with texts your students are experiencing in 6-12 classrooms?

A. Students building knowledge through daily engagement with complex text.



B. Teachers “marching through a textbook”

C. The “pedagogy of telling” with little or no text expectations at all



# The Problem with the Pedagogy of Telling

*“The major problem with simply telling kids what they need to know is that **for the rest of their lives, there will be a great many people happy and eager to do precisely that... The unscrupulous politicians, advertisers, salespeople, and religious leaders who see the easily-led as a source of profit.**”*

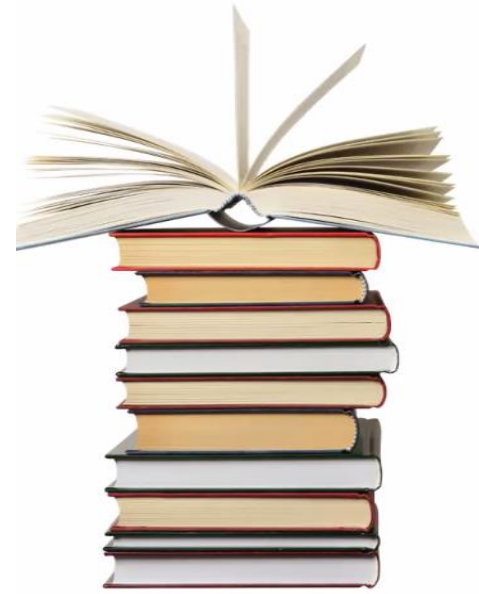


(Beers & Probst, 2016)



# The Importance of Regular Exposure to Complex Text with Scaffolds

No evidence backs up giving children texts to read at their level. In fact, **students learn to read better** when they are given **challenging texts with scaffolding**. - Dr. Timothy Shanahan

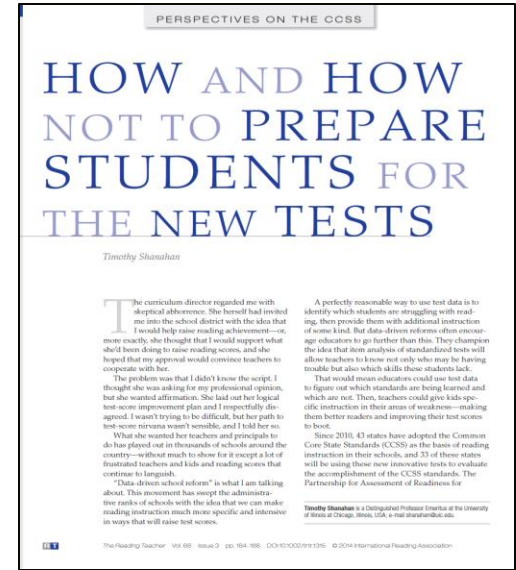


[Teaching Students to Read Complex Text - Shanahan, 2019 ODE Literacy Academy](#)

[The Challenge of Challenging Text \(ascd.org\)](#)

# “Regular Practice” in All Content Areas Builds Skill, Stamina, & Motivation

1. Have students **read extensively** within instruction.
2. Have students read increasing amounts of text **independently**.
3. Make sure the **texts** are **rich in content** and **sufficiently challenging**.
4. Have students **explain their answers** and provide **text evidence** supporting their claims.
5. Engage students in **writing about text**, not just in replying to multiple-choice questions.



(Shanahan, 2014)

[How and How Not to Prepare Students for the New Tests \(lausd.net\)](http://lausd.net)

## ***2. Considerations for Selecting & Implementing Common Literacy Routines***

- 1. Does the routine advance the three instruction shifts required by the 6-12 Literacy Standards?**
- 2. What is the quantity and quality of research supporting the routine?**
- 3. Does the routine advance evidence-based literacy practices?**
- 4. Do selected routines provide a sufficient balance of scaffolds before, during, & after reading?**

# Tier 1 Adolescent Literacy Practices

## Evidence-Based Practices

*must be utilized*

## Across Content Areas

*to support learners in acquiring*

**Knowledge & Skills**  
*for*

**College & Career Readiness.**

1. Explicit **vocabulary** instruction

2. Explicit **comprehension** strategy instruction

3. Extended **discussion** of text

4. **Motivation & engagement** in literacy

5. Explicit **writing** instruction about reading

[\(I.E.S. Practice Guide - Improving Adolescent Literacy, 2008\)](#)  
[\(Carnegie Report, Writing to Read, 2010\)](#) [\(I.E.S. Guide, 2022\)](#)

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# Building Literacy Across All Content Areas

1. Work with a variety of texts

2. Use extended writing to build language and knowledge

3. Talk about text to build language and knowledge

4. Study a small set of high-utility vocabulary words needed to master content

5. Use school-wide protocols to support reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Lesaux, Galloway, Marietta (2016)

# From Strategies To Routines

What makes them routines, versus mere strategies, is that **they get used over and over again** in the classroom so that they **become part of the fabric of classroom culture**. The routines become **the ways in which students go about the process of learning**. Routines are patterns of action that can be **integrated and used in a variety of contexts**. – Thinking Pathways



# Routines Provide Important Scaffolds

## Before Reading

Establishing a purpose and goals for reading

Making predictions

Examining text structure

Building background knowledge

Addressing challenging vocabulary & syntax

## During Reading

Helping students to monitor comprehension, re-read (if needed) & stay focused in the text

Annotating the text

Testing predictions against the text

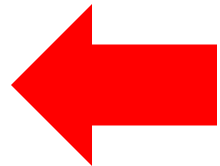
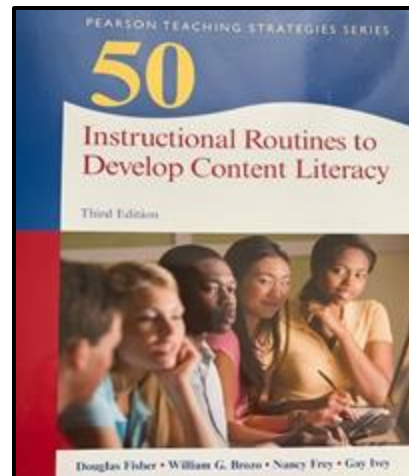
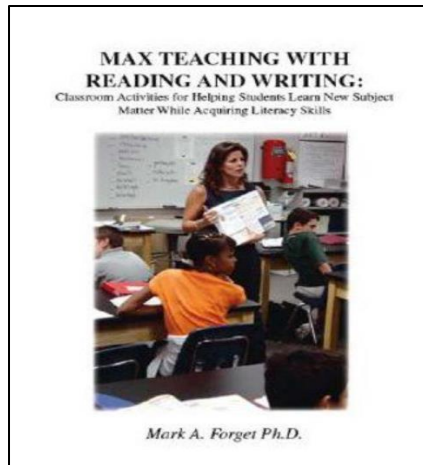
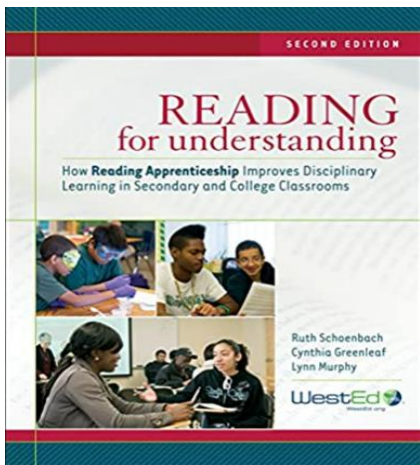
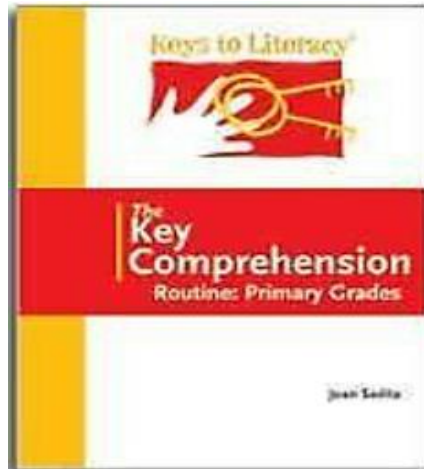
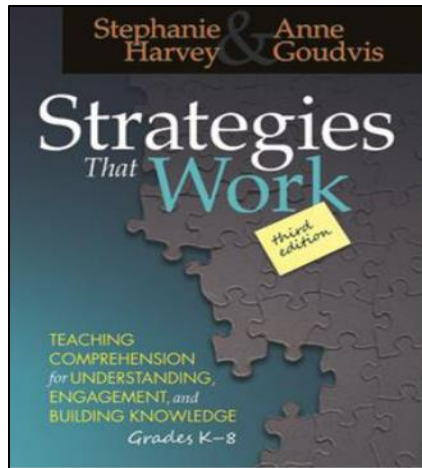
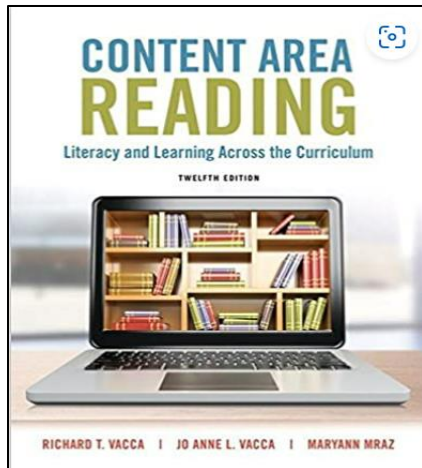
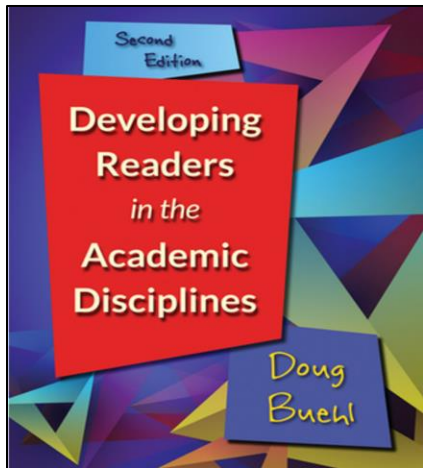
Creating a mental model

## After Reading

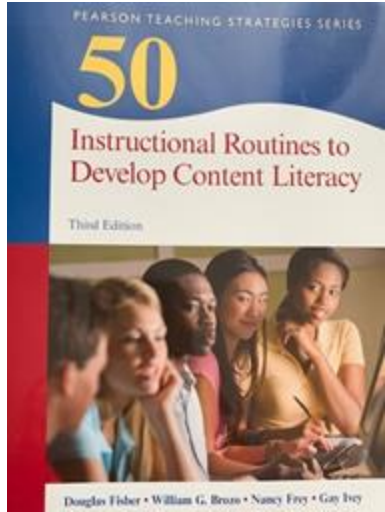
Providing opportunities to summarize, question, reflect, discuss and respond to text

Using textual evidence to formulate and defend stances through discourse and writing





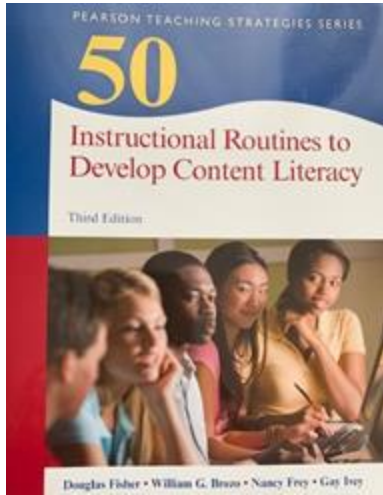
# Recommended Routines **Before** Reading



1. Adjunct Displays
2. Questionnaires/Interviews
3. Opinionnaire
4. Read Alouds
5. Shades of Meaning
6. Vocabulary Cards
7. Word Sorts
8. Shared Reading
9. K-W-L Chart
10. Purposeful Learning
11. Text Impressions
12. Think Alouds
13. Awareness
14. Word Walls

- Establishing goals/purpose - Making predictions – Building background knowledge - Examining text structure – Addressing challenging vocabulary & syntax

# Recommended Routines **During** Reading

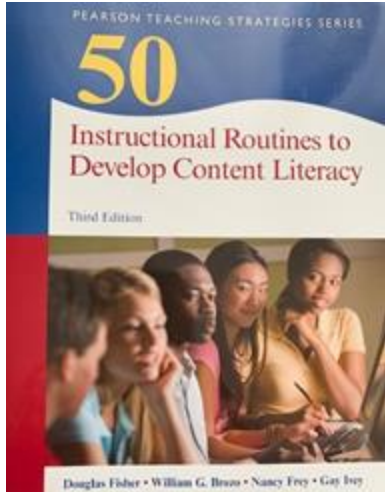


1. Annotation
2. Anticipation Guides
3. Close Reading
4. Conversation Roundtable
5. Directed Reading-Thinking
6. Fishbowl Discussion
7. Generative Reading
8. Jigsaw
9. Modeling Comprehension
10. Read-Write-Pair Share
11. Reciprocal Teaching
12. Split-Page Notetaking
13. Text-Dependent Q's
14. Text Structures
15. Feature Analysis
16. Word Scavenger Hunts

- Helping students to stay focused on the text and monitor their comprehension

- Testing predictions against the text - Creating a mental model

# Recommended Routines **After** Reading



1. Collaborative Conversations
2. Debate
3. Exit Slips
4. Found Poems
5. Independent Reading
6. Language Experience
7. Mnemonics
8. Popcorn Review
9. Question-Answer Relationship
10. Question the Author
11. RAFT Writing
12. Readers' Theater
13. ReQuest
14. Response Writing
15. Socratic Seminar
16. Student Book Talks
17. Take 6
18. Tossed Terms
19. Writing Frames

- Providing opportunities for students to summarize, question, reflect, discuss, & respond to text – Using textual evidence to formulate and defend stances through writing

# Levels of Reading Comprehension

(Vacca, Vacca, & Mraz, 2017)



Reading  
between  
the lines

Reading  
beyond  
the lines

## Applied

Using information to express opinions  
and form new ideas

## Interpretive

Putting together information,  
perceiving relationships, making  
inferences

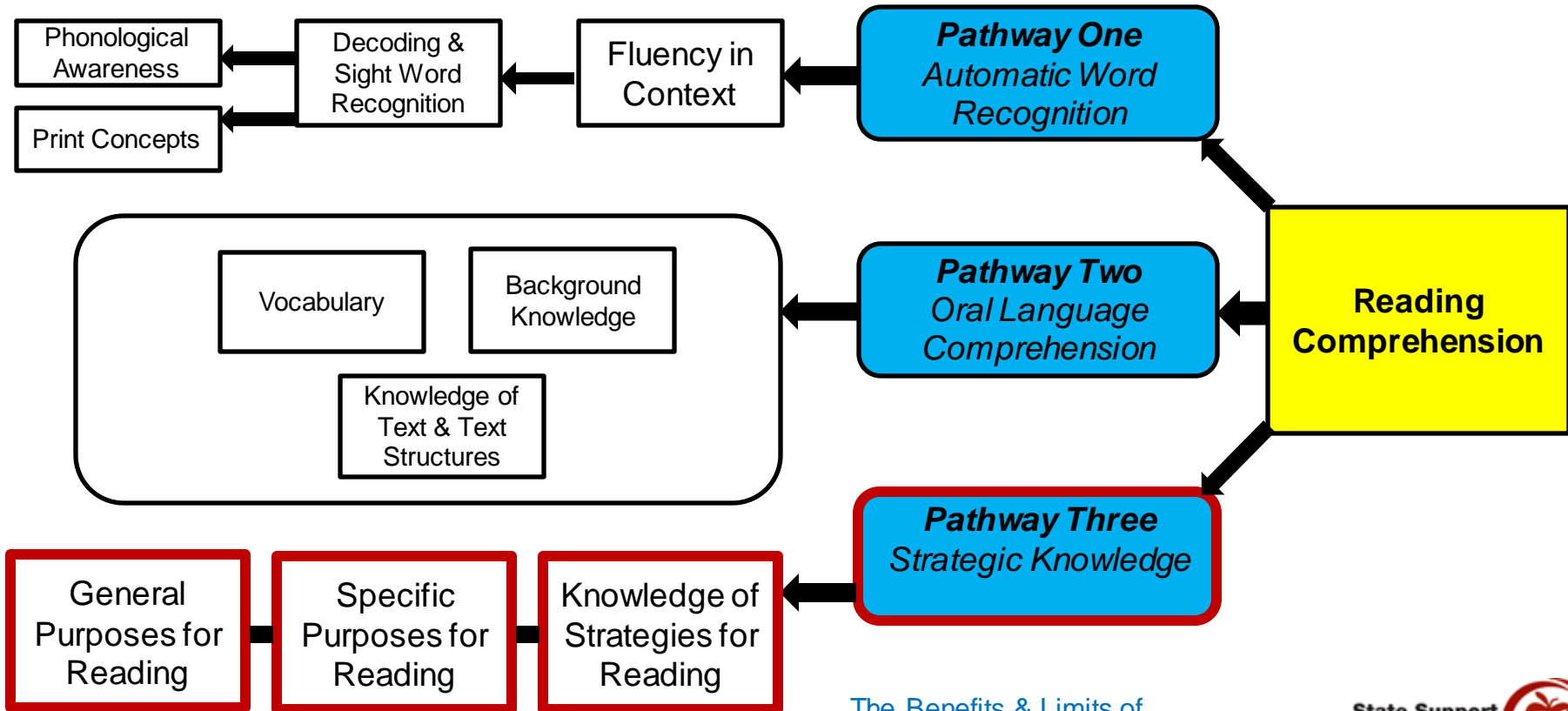
Reading  
the lines

## Literal

Getting information explicitly  
from the text

[Three-Level Guide \(thewebconsole.com\)](http://thewebconsole.com)

# The Cognitive Model of Reading (McKenna & Stahl, 2015)



# Significant Influence = .40 Effect Size

1.57 – Collective Teacher Efficacy	.75 – Teacher Clarity
1.20 – Jigsaw Method	.74 – Reciprocal Teaching
.85 – Organizing/Transforming Conceptual Knowledge	.69 – Meta Cognitive Strategies
.82 – Classroom Discussion	.67 – Vocabulary Programs
.82 – Scaffolding Instruction	.63 – Teaching Students to Summarize
.79 – Deliberate Practice	.60 – Concept Mapping

*Visible Learning* (Hattie, 2009)

*Visible Learning for Literacy* (Fisher, Frey, Hattie, 2016)

# Reciprocal Teaching/Reading Routine

- ✓ Students learn & assume meta-cognitive roles of what good readers do. (Reader, Summarizer, Questioner, Predictor)
- ✓ Students engage in extended discussion of text meaning & interpretation.
- ✓ Social interaction motivates students to engage in literacy practices.
- ✓ **.74 Hattie effect size!**



[Reciprocal Teaching: Definition, Strategies, Examples \(thoughtco.com\)](http://thoughtco.com)

[reciprocalteachingrolebookmarks.pdf \(solutiontree.com\)](http://solutiontree.com)



# ***3. Dramatic Secondary School Turn-Arounds Grounded in Implementation of Common Literacy Routines***

**“Because the challenges that accompany implementing schoolwide literacy initiatives are so great, schools have tried to avoid them, pinning hopes on one magic potion after another.” - Riddile, 2015**

**After the Boston Globe referred to Brockton as a “cesspool,” we asked ourselves, “Is this the best we can be?” - Szachowicz, 2014**

**“Nothing seemed capable of turning around New Dorp High School’s dismal performance - not firing bad teachers, not flashy education technology, not after-school programs... So the principal went all-in on teaching...writing.”  
- Tyre, 2012**

**“Achievement scores were the lowest in the county and among the lowest in the state. Teacher morale was low and turnover was high.”  
- Fisher, Frey, & Williams, 2002**

# Impressive High School Turn-Arounds Grounded in Common Literacy Routines

## J.E.B. Stuart High School

J.E.B. Stuart High School, located outside of Washington, D.C. in the suburban belt-town community of Fairfax County Virginia, is among the smallest side-to-side schools in the state. Two-thirds of the students are second language learners, more than 54 percent are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and the school has an extremely high mobility rate and a high student diversity level. Mel Riddile, school principal, provides an overview of his school's journey from the bottom of the state to the pinnacle of academic success. How did the school move from one of the lowest performing schools within the Fairfax County School District to a school recognized as a Breakthrough High School? The answer, though not simple, is embedded in the school's mission to achieve literacy for all.

Eight years ago, J.E.B. Stuart High School students were clearly identified as some of the lowest performers in the school system on Virginia's Standards of Learning and Science exams. (See Figure 3.4.) Mel Riddile arrived on the scene as the new principal, and he quickly asked the staff, "What do we need to do to improve student achievement?" The staff provided one focus area that has been critical to developing a culture of learning the language opportunities around for students. First, the low attendance had to be turned around. Students were missing an average of 23 days per school year. This ongoing measure has improved to an average of 5 days missed per year according to 2003 school data. Secondly, students seemed that students had to be taught to read well enough to pass common standards required in each of the school's core content classes. In other words, students had to be taught from functional literacy to academic proficiency. The one area of focus provided by Stuart's staff would be the foundation of the school improvement plan.

**Assessment Used in Grade-Original Planning**  
Assessment provided the road map, or the big picture, to plan the journey for literacy improvement. Based on the recommendations of expert educators, Stuart staff chose to administer the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test at all eight grades covering the whole grade at once. This assessment was chosen because it is scored on English language learners and students of poverty, and it is a well-validated assessment for the student population of Stuart. As a first, there was resistance to district officials because they could not see the benefit of testing all eight grade students subjected to enter sixth grade at Stuart. This resistance was overcome, and the test was administered. The scores revealed some disturbing facts about the literacy levels of the program's sixth graders.

As the data were analyzed, 76 percent of the students scored one standard deviation below grade level, and 23 percent of the students scored three years below grade level. Although the test indicated a problem did exist, it did not indicate the cause of the problem. Therefore, additional testing was required. An individual literacy inventory, Buzas and Flye, was given to all students entering the sixth grade program. This follow-up assessment diagnosed specific literacy problems and helped the staff to develop an action plan to address the targeted literacy deficits.

CHAPTER 3 • PUTTING ASSESSMENT IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

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■ Susan Szachowicz

## Transformed by Literacy

THE PRINCIPAL  
TALKS WITH THE  
SCHOOL

J.E.B. Stuart High School  
3300 Stuart Valley Lane  
Falls Church, VA 22044  
Principal  
Dr. Mel Riddile

1,500 students  
High-poverty population  
About 24 percent  
English as a second language  
1.54 percent free and reduced-price meals  
93 percent annual graduation rate  
+32 percent annual improvement score  
+Academically ADAPED Breakthrough High School

When low test scores demanded a better look at the curriculum, literacy became a focus for improvement.

Schoolwide training for teachers and an ongoing implementation model ensured consistency and reinforcement of the skills.

Results criteria in improved scores and national recognition.

It is the best we can do! Teachers and administrators at Brockton (MA) High School asked themselves that question when they saw the dismal results from the 2003 state high-stakes test, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Brockton was then ranked as one of the lowest scoring schools in the state with a 44% failure rate in English language arts (ELA) and a 37% failure rate in math. Students must pass the MCAS in ELA and mathematics to earn a diploma, so the results meant that hundreds of students were at risk of not graduating. Brockton, a large urban high school with more than 5,000 students, faced challenging demographics: 77% of the 500 spoke a language other than English in the home. Most were the first generation to graduate from high school.

Despite the challenges, the teachers agreed to the question was, "No, this isn't the best we can do." And they proved it by 2010, when Brockton's results had improved so much that they received several national recognitions for student achievement, including selection as a National Model School by the International Center for Leadership in Education, two bronze medals on the US News and World Report America's Best High Schools rankings, and a leadership award by Harvard University's Achievement Gap Initiative for closing the gap.

**It Began With a Team**  
The turnaround at Brockton began with a team of educators including myself who formed the steering committee. The committee had members from nearly every discipline in the school and was committed to high standards and no excuses. Analysis of the MCAS data revealed that students were struggling in writing, reading, complex problem-solving, and listening skills and that the struggle was not limited to any one group of students. The data also suggested that students' failure in the state scores was not addressed by existing state preparation programs. Failure among the students was widespread, and we realized that we could not ignore a core. When Brockton was a schoolwide

38 • Principal Leadership • summer 2012 Educators guide available at [www.principals.org/publications/118](http://www.principals.org/publications/118).

FOR YEARS, NOTHING SEEMED CAPABLE of turning around New Dorp High School's dismal performance—no firing bad teachers, no flashy education technology, no after-school programs. So, faced with closure, the school's principal went all-in on a very specific curriculum reform, placing an overwhelming focus on teaching the basics of analytic writing, every day, in virtually every class. What followed was an extraordinary blossoming of student potential, across nearly every subject—one that has made New Dorp a model for educational reform.

## THE WRITING REVOLUTION

BY PEG TYRE

In 2009, as we were in Monte Dennis entered New Dorp, a 700-student public high school on Staten Island, her academic future was cloudy. Monica had struggled to find her early childhood, and had repeated third grade. During her elementary school years, she got more than 100 hours of tutoring, but by fourth grade, she still failed behind her classmates again. In the years that followed, Monica became comfortable with math and learned to read passably well, but never seemed able to express her thoughts in writing. During her freshman year at New Dorp, a 700-student high school on Staten Island, her history teacher asked her to write an essay on Alexander the Great. At a loss, she jotted down her opinion of the

Maccedonian ruler: "I think Alexander the Great was one of the best military leaders. An essay" (literally, that wasn't going to happen), she says, swearing her bluish cut brown hair from her brown eyes. "It was like, well, I just wanted to know. What now?" Monica's mother, Isabella, looked over her daughter's answer. "It's simple sentence, one of which didn't make sense—a with a mistake of year and mention. There's a coherent, well-structured paragraph written beyond her daughter's ability. An essay?" "It just didn't seem like something Monica could do."

For decades, no one at New Dorp seemed to know how to help low performing students like Monica, and unfortunately this troubled population made up most of the school, which

November 2012 | Volume 80 | Number 3  
Reading and Writing in the Content Areas Pages 70-73

## Seven Literacy Strategies That Work

Douglas Fisher, Susan Frey and Douglas Williams

A schoolwide commitment to reading and writing strategies in all content areas has had a positive impact on student achievement at Herbert Hoover High School. By all accounts, Herbert Hoover High School in San Diego, California, was a school in trouble. Achievement scores were the lowest in the county and among the lowest in the state. Teacher morale was low, turnover was high. Crime, poverty, and basic skills were the most frequent topics of conversation on campus. At one point, a consultant suggested that we should not expect more from our 2,200 students. 46 percent of them are English language learners, 100 percent qualify for free and/or reduced lunch, and 96 percent are members of minority groups.

We did expect more, however. Every teacher at our school had been working hard to meet students' needs. We had health clinic, counselors, and a great library—but our students were not achieving. Then, in 1989, we formed a staff development committee of teachers, administrators, and San Diego State University colleagues. Together, we identified seven instructional strategies that would permeate the school at every level. We wanted the strategies to be transparent to the students, and we wanted literacy strategies in content-area instruction to become common-place—across English, science, social studies, art, physical education, music, and shop. After the school's governance committee approved these strategies, we expected every teacher in our school to use them.

Equally important to the commitment from teachers was our commitment to them. The school had seen many reform efforts come and go, and staff members were exhausted from shifting priorities. We needed an unwavering focus. Over the next three years, we worked on a professional development plan that centered on our adopted strategies, and the results seem to support our efforts.

Our state's achievement scores, for example, which we use to measure reading achievement, had increased from an average 5.9 grade-level equivalent to an average 8.2 grade-level equivalent. Although these scores remind us that student achievement at Hoover still has room for growth, we are encouraged that the average student now reads more than two grade levels higher than three years ago. In addition, we met our state accountability targets for the first time in a decade. California's state Performance Index, to encourage improved school performance by setting an accountability target for each school based on the assessment results. In 1999-2000, with a baseline score of 444 and a target of 460, Hoover achieved a score of 466. On another measure of reading scores, the Stanford 9, Hoover's 9th graders exceeded district-growth between 1998 and 2002. The district's scores increased by 3.5 percent. In other words, our students are catching up, and the gap is closing.

## Seven Defensible Strategies

The link between strategy teaching and student learning is the keystone of our professional development plans. Teachers need ongoing professional development that allows for growth in expertise across departments and with years of teaching experience. All staff members need to study each strategy, practice it in their classrooms with peer support, and eventually assume the responsibility for delivering future staff development.

Mel Riddile, Stuart H.S. & Williams H.S. (VA)

'Literacy Edutopia

Susan Szachowicz, Brockton H.S. (MA)

Transformed by Literacy.pdf

Dierdre DeAngelis, New Dorp H.S. (NY)

The Writing Revolution

Douglas Williams, H Hoover H.S. (CA)

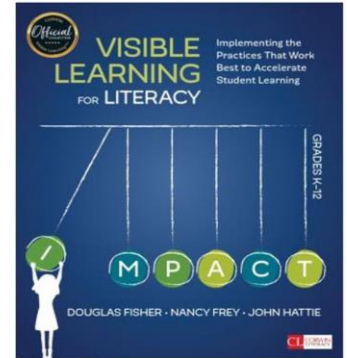
7 Strategies that Work



# “Seven Literacy Strategies That Work”

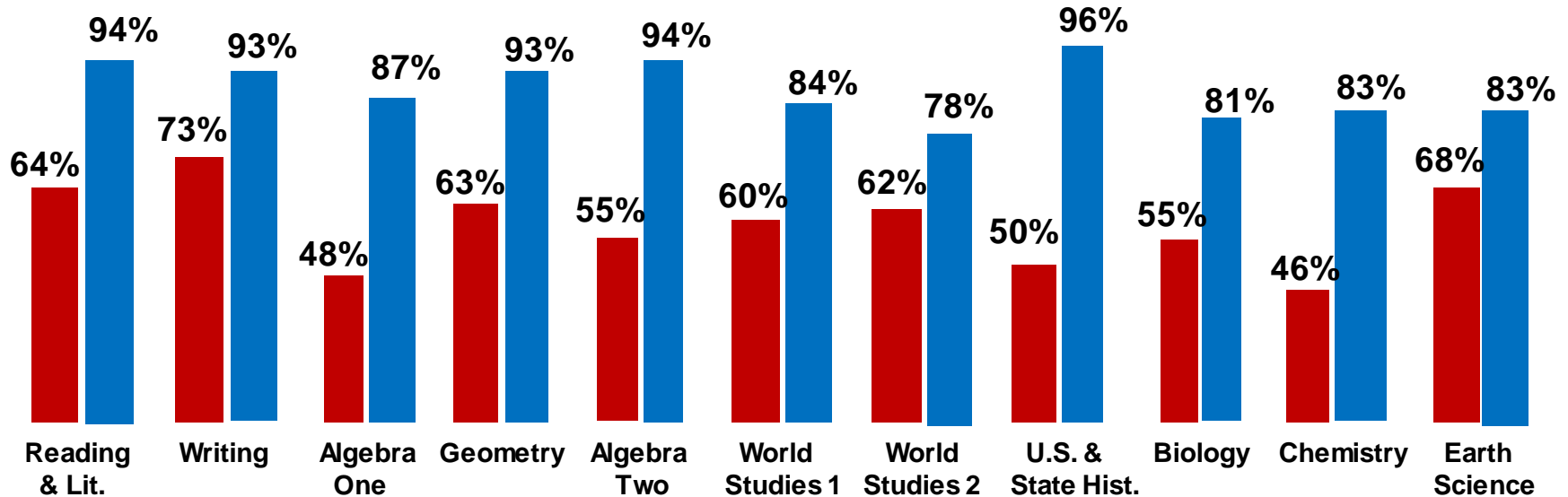
Herbert Hoover High School, San Diego USD (Fisher, Frey, Williams, 2002)

1. **Read-Alouds** (Exposure to reading = **.43**)
2. **K-W-L Charts** (Organizing/transforming knowledge = **.85**)
3. **Graphic Organizers** (Concept mapping = **.60**)
4. **Explicit Vocabulary Instruction** (Vocab. programs = **.67**)
5. **Writing about Reading** (.77 effect size – Carnegie, 2010)
6. **Structured Note-Taking** (Organizing & transforming = **.85** effect size)
7. **Reciprocal Teaching** (= **.74** effect size, Classroom discussion = **.82** e.s.)



Effect sizes from: *Visible Learning for Literacy* – Hattie, Fisher, Frey (2016)

# Improved Passage Rates on State Assessments After 5-Year Implementation of 15 B-D-A Literacy Routines at Stuart H.S., VA.



# Adolescent Literacy is an Example of Second-Order Change

- Departure from the normal way of doing business
- **Challenges existing paradigms**
- Conflicts with prevailing values and norms
- **New knowledge and skills are needed**
- New resources will be necessary
- **Resistance** by those who do not have a broad perspective of the district/school

Students should already know how to read by now!

I don't have the time! I must cover my content!

I am not trained to be a reading teacher!

St. Martin (2021) – Based on Marzano, Waters, McNulty (2005)

(Riddile, 2015)


# Systems-Level Implementation (Riddile, 2018)

- ❑ A **literacy plan** and **professional development plan** to build capacity of **evidence-based practices** for all content-area teachers.
- ❑ A formal, **collaborative process** for selecting literacy routines that advance evidence-based practices ***before, during and after reading***.
- ❑ An **expectation** that teachers in **ALL content areas** will utilize the selected *before, during and after* reading routines with fidelity every day.
- ❑ Access to **instructional coaching** for all teachers in order to provide non-evaluative feedback & support.
- ❑ A **master schedule** that supports literacy development for ALL students  
- Tiers 1, 2, and 3.

[Striving Readers Series: High School-Adolescent Literacy \(Part One\) - YouTube](#)

[Striving Readers Series: High School-Adolescent Literacy \(Part Two\) - YouTube](#)

# Recommended Literacy Action Steps (Irvin, 2018)

1. **Team process** for selecting **common set of literacy strategies** and assign departmental responsibilities for teaching them
2. **Professional learning** requirements/participation for **all teachers**
3. **Departmental responsibility** for content-specific literacy demands
4. Teachers visit demonstration classrooms, engage in **peer coaching**, work with **literacy coach**
5. **All teachers** will teach students the agreed upon strategies
6. **All students** will be able to **explain the schoolwide strategies** 
7. **Students routinely use the strategies**
8. Teachers share and support one another through **team structures**

***Collective Teacher Efficacy = 1.57 Effect Size! (Hattie, 2018)***

**Practices**

**Expectations**

- Collaborative Selection of Routines - High-Quality Professional Learning
- Fidelity of Implementation in all content areas - Instructional / Peer Coaching
- Clarity for Students & Parents - Strong Leadership!

(Riddile, 2018)

(Adapted from  
Riddile, 2019)





# Consider Embedding Routines in a Common Instructional Framework

(Adapted from Riddile, 2019)

Utilization of Instructional Time “Bell-to-Bell”



**“Do Now”**

**Consistent Beginning**

- Students engage in a common routine with no teacher prompting



**“I Do”**

**Teacher Leads**

- Direct instruction and modeling



**“We Do”**

**Students Work**

- Teacher checks for understanding as students collaborate & build skills with text



**“You Do”**

**Strong Finish**

- Formative assessment to inform planning

**Before-Reading Routines**

**During-Reading Routines**

**After-Reading Routines**

# WOLF

1 - 50

Students Work

**Think WE, not me**

Teachers Lead

## Welcome

Greet students at the door

Bellwork

## Own It!

Create urgency

Learning target posted and shared

## Learning

Literacy focus with purposeful reading, writing, and discussion

Instructional strategies

Ongoing checks for understanding with feedback

Vocabulary

**Sustain Student Engagement!**

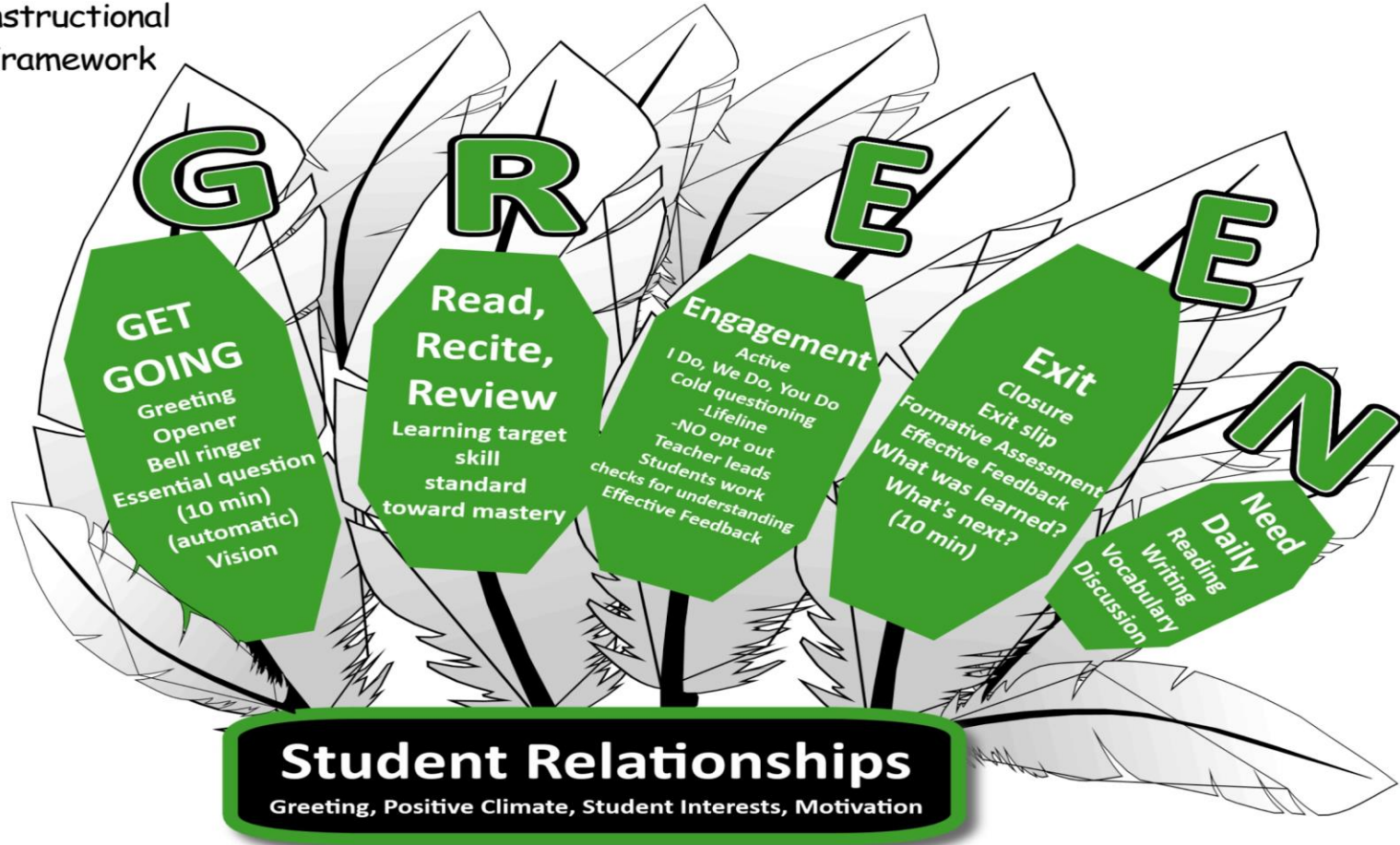
## Finish Strong!

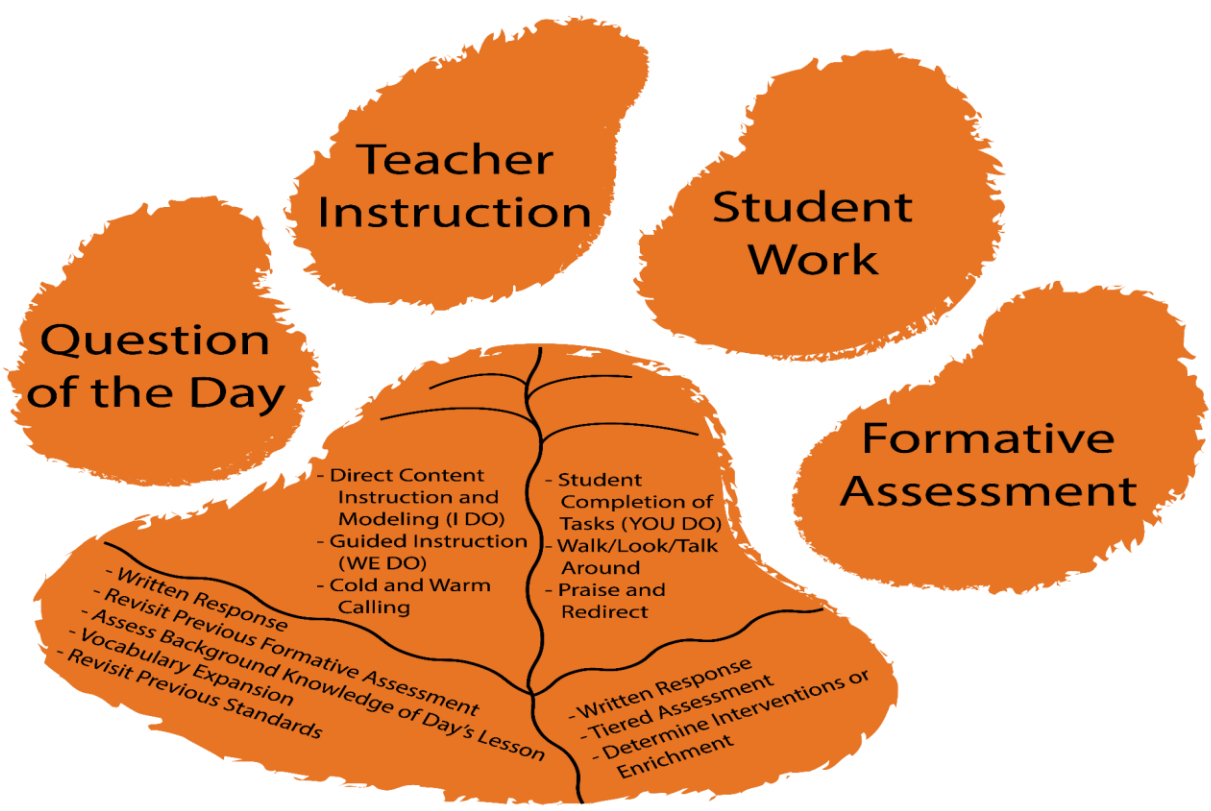
Formative Assessment

Lesson Summary and Reflection

Mastery

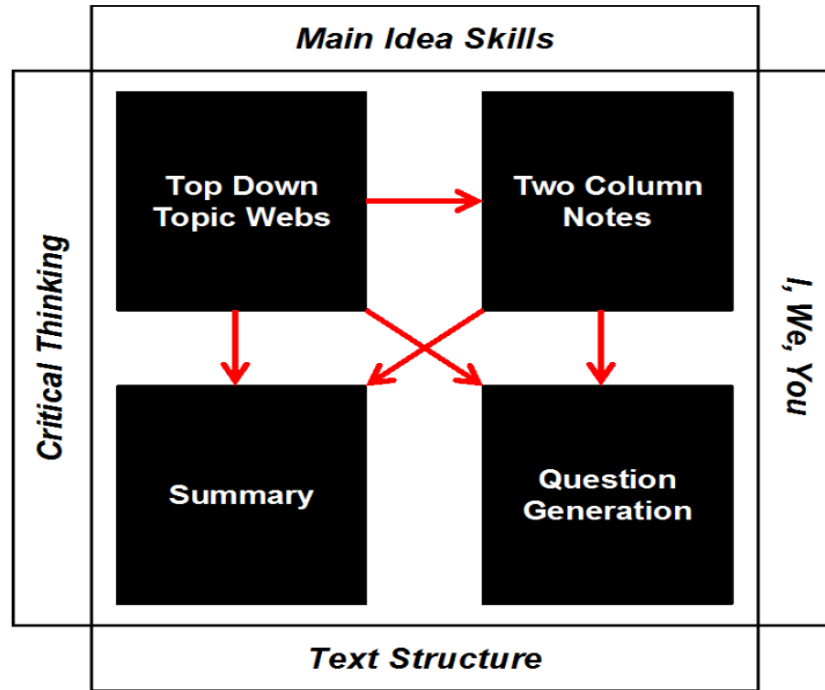
Instructional  
Framework





# Keys to Literacy – Comprehension Routine

(Sedita, 2015)



[Testimonials from New London Schools](#)

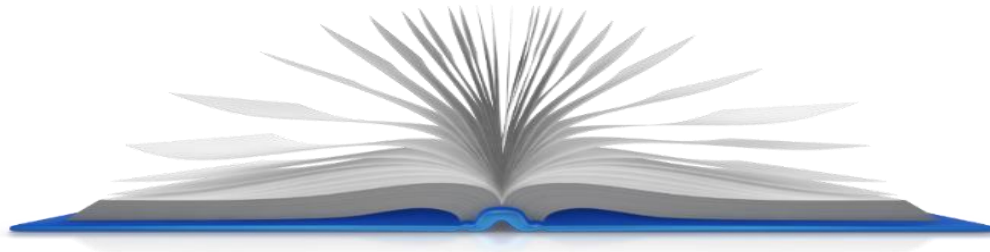
***Participants will  
gain a deeper  
understanding of:***



- 1. The importance of implementing common literacy routines to advance evidence-based practices in ALL content areas**
- 2. Considerations for selection of common routines**
- 3. Examples of successful implementation resulting in dramatic, high-profile secondary school turn-arounds**
- 4. Examples of successful implementation resulting in dramatic, high-profile secondary school turn-arounds**

# Concluding Thought ...

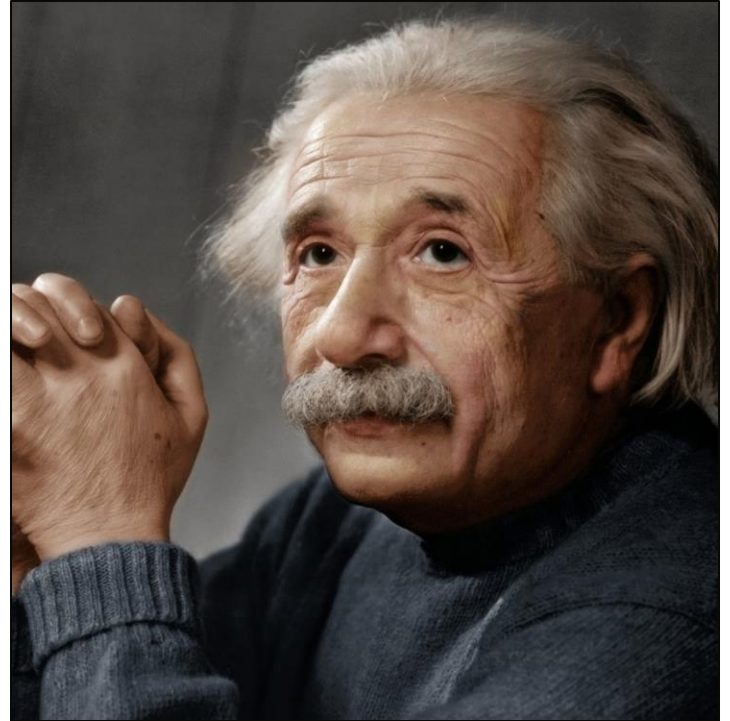
The fact of the matter is **we're not teaching kids to read. We're assuming they can read** and when they can't, we put them in easier books or side-step text altogether. **Complex text is an opportunity to actually improve these kids' possibilities in life.** *(Shanahan, 2019)*



# Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes

*“Insanity is doing the same things over and over but expecting different results.”*

*– Albert Einstein*





# Thank You!!

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