

Guided Reading?

What is Guided Reading

Guided reading is small-group instruction for students who read the same text. The group is homogeneous: the students read at about the same level, demonstrate similar reading behaviors, and share similar instructional needs. The small groups are temporary; they change as you assess your students' growth and needs. --from *Guiding Readers and Writers: Grades 3-6* by Fountas & Pinnell

Within these groups, students are reading books which they can read with 90-94% accuracy and 90% comprehension. The teacher's focused instruction is provided as support to allow students to gain the skills necessary to move on to the next reading level.

Why Use Guided Reading

"...the first step toward fluent reading involves making sure kids have books they can actually read accurately and with comprehension." (*Proven Programs, Profits, and Practice* –Allington) When students are reading books above their instructional level, it causes them to read word by word with little comprehension causing learned dysfluency and reducing motivation. Unfortunately, with most basal anthologies, such as Harcourt Trophies, "between 40 and 60 percent of the elementary students of average achievements levels were working with reading texts considered appropriate given their reading achievement on standardized tests—the rest, almost half of the average students—were using materials considered too difficult. The case was substantially worse for lower-achieving students". (*What Really Matters for Struggling Readers—Allington*)

A Model for a Guided Reading Lesson

The format of a Guided Reading Lesson is as follows (from Fountas & Pinnell):

1) Selecting the Text

- Teacher selects text based on students' reading level and interests.

2) Teacher Introduction of the Text

- Teacher tells title and story summary.
- Picture walk.
- Teacher uses story grammar.
- Teacher introduces 2-3 vocabulary or phonetically challenging words.

3) Reading the Text

- Students read the entire text INDEPENDENTLY. For grades K-2, students use whisper voices. For grades 3-5, students read silently.

4) Discussing and Revisiting the Text

- Emphasis on discussion of text, not interrogations or quizzes.

5) Teaching Processing Strategies

- Instruction based upon students' miscues. Lesson can be generalized to other texts.

6) Extending the Meaning of the Text (Optional)

- Different authors' treatment of the same topic.
- Different books by the same author.
- Different biographies of the same individual.
- Similar concepts across fiction and nonfiction.
- Genre study.

7) Word Work (Optional)

- Quick word solving lesson that is taught in isolation from text.

What are the Other Students Doing While, I'm Teaching Reading Groups?

There are a variety of options. Students could be reading independently or in small Literature Circles / Book Clubs. Or they could be working in center activities related to reading. Whichever you choose, it is a routine that needs to be taught well in the first few weeks of school in order to be successful.

Guided Reading Leveling Systems

Grade Level Equivalencies*	Guided Reading Level	DRA Level
Kindergarten	A - B	A-2
First Grade	A- I	1 - 16
Second Grade	E - N	8 - 30
Third Grade	J - Q	18 - 40
Fourth Grade	M - T	28 - 50
Fifth Grade	Q - W	40 - 60
Sixth Grade	T - Z	50 - 68+

Note- These are recommendations. Based on individual student's needs, instruction may be above or below grade-levels.

Further Resources Finding Leveled Books:

Teacher Book Wizard (<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com>): This free site can help you to level books, as well as finding books at various levels based on genre, student's interests, and subject.

Reading A-Z (<http://www.readinga-z.com>): A subscription website which offers printable books at a variety of reading levels. Books are correlated to both Guided Reading and DRA.

Further Reading on Guided Reading

[Guiding Readers and Writers: Grades 3 – 6](#) by Irene Fountas and Gay Pinnell

[On Solid Ground: Strategies for Teaching Reading](#) by Sharon Taberski

[Reading With Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades](#) by Debbie Miller

[Book Club: A Literature-Based Curriculum](#) by Taffy Raphael, Laura Pardo, and Kathy Highfield

[Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs & Reading Groups](#) by Harvey Daniels