DIGITAL INSTRUCTION: LITERACY SUPPORTS

August 31, 2020

Most of the resources mentioned today can be found here on the RIDE website.
Add the title of your favorite summer read in the chat.
Agenda

● Why Digital Instruction?
● For whom?
● How?
  ● 1) Develop Critical Language Skills
  ● 2) Increase Interest and Motivation
  ● 3) Transform Understanding
  ● 4) Embed Supports to Customize Text.
Providing reading instruction that will enable students to acquire the skills they are missing and advance important meaning-making strategies, which in turn will improve their overall academic success, is necessary to break the cycle of failure many students have experienced.
We have a problem…or two

The Challenge:

In a typical school, at least half of the students have trouble reading, although numbers vary greatly by school, district, and state. In most classrooms and in most schools the majority of students cannot read the textbooks teachers assign, cannot complete their homework without assistance, and do not read for pleasure.

66% of 8th graders were not proficient in reading on the most recent NAEP test.
Why do so many adolescents struggle?

- Knowledge Gap
- Learning Differences
- Lack of Motivation
- Poor Prior Instruction
- Varied Experiences
- Text Complexity

Unfinished Learning
The Matthew Effect

Gap widens as time goes on. The earlier you catch literacy difficulties, the less there is to fix.

Stanovich (1986)
What can we do?

1. Reframe your thinking

Literacy is not the sole responsibility of English teachers; rather, literacy is the language of learning in every curriculum subject and thus must be actively taught by teachers in order to learn the content.

2. Add high-leverage strategies to your toolbox

Build Knowledge through reading and writing about content.

Good News

What is crucial for struggling readers is helpful for all readers.
Does this sound like you? Use your thumbs up if you can relate to any of these items.
What are areas can teachers purposefully address?

- **Vocabulary:** Assist students in growing sufficient vocabulary
- **Knowledge:** Teach your content to develop wide background knowledge
- **Fluency:** Ensure students become fluent readers

The answer: Volume of Reading!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Close Reading</th>
<th>Volume of Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fewer pages</td>
<td>More pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex text</td>
<td>Text at different levels of complexity (should still include complex syntax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All students same text</td>
<td>Student or teacher choice of text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaches students to attend to text and to words</td>
<td>Rapidly builds knowledge &amp; vocab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close Reading</td>
<td>Volume of Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy support</td>
<td>Light support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solely instructional</td>
<td>Instructional, guided or independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposes students to higher-level content</td>
<td>Builds knowledge of words, and the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gives all students access</td>
<td>Builds love of reading. Success is a great motivator.</td>
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</tbody>
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Adapted from Achievethecore.org
Breaking the Cycle

If content is king, how can we make content delivered via text accessible to all of our students?

1) Develop Critical Language Skills
2) Increase Interest and Motivation
3) Transform Understanding
4) Embed Supports to Customize Text
1. Develop Critical Language Skills

Personalized technology platform that provides specially designed digital instruction
2. Increase Motivation and Interest

Students who struggle with reading are often provided less choice than peers at higher levels. Offering learners choices can develop greater independence and engagement.
What is a text set?

- A group of texts organized by:
  - topic ~ theme ~ essential or compelling question
  - Global Warming
  - Your Environment
  - How far should we tamper with our own biology and chemistry?
  - Why do we need rules?
- current, relevant, controversial

Blog by Dan Adiletta [http://exitticket.org/compelling-questions](http://exitticket.org/compelling-questions)
What is a text set?

- Consists of multimodal texts - video, photographs, visual art, and primary source documents; audio recordings such as music, podcasts, and radio broadcasts; and digital texts.

How to get started?

Websites like …
- Discovery Ed
- Newsela
- Readworks
- TweenTribune
- ScienceNewsforStudents

…are great places to get started.

Then, round out your collection with some audio content, video content, and pieces from the arts.
DON’T FORGET ABOUT EAR READING.

Remember the goal is knowledge. We want to be careful not limit access to content and inadvertently create a knowledge gap.
3. Transform Understanding

A key principle of UDL is to provide alternative modalities for expression, not limited to written text, both to level the playing field among learners and to allow the learner to express knowledge, ideas and concepts using the 4Cs.
The 4 Cs

What are 21st century skills? These 4 C's:

- **C**ommunication: Sharing thoughts, questions, ideas & solutions
- **C**ollaboration: Working together to reach a goal. Putting talent, expertise, and smarts to work
- **C**ritical thinking: Looking at problems in a new way and linking learning across subjects & disciplines
- **C**reativity: Trying new approaches to get things done equals innovation & invention
Collaborate Using Padlet

Out of the Dust

Winter 1934 (1-34)

Facts
- Babies could be born at home on the floor.
- Panhandle - Dallas Lubbock & shuck
- Live in Cimarron County.
- There are so many rabbits destroying crops that they are killing them.
- The kids attend school.
- They live in the dust bowl.
- There are people moving west (California) to get out of the dust.

Spring 1934

Facts
- Testing during a dust storm.
- Banks had closed.
- 1/4 of the wheat has been lost because of the drought and soon there won't be enough to plant.
- Billie Jo finds comfort in the piano.
- Animals are “no rain”
- Ma and Daddy are arguing about what to do.
- Ma recommends other crops and a pond. Daddy won’t hear of it.
- Ma has two apple trees planted that are still blossoming despite the drought.
- Daddy was a soldier during WW1.
- Apples aren’t ripe yet, they will be around the time the baby is born.
- There was a dust storm and then lots of rain but it came too fast and too hard. IT washed the soil and wheat away.

Summer 1934 (55-84)

Facts
- Three was a little rain.
- Ma is very pregnant.
- Dionne Quintuplets were born in Canada.

Questions
- Will the rain help?

Response
- Will the rain help? [Your response is needed here.]

Notes:
- The Dust Bowl affected people in the Great Plains region of the United States, particularly during the 1930s. It was caused by a combination of factors, including drought, poor farming practices, and the Great Depression.
- The Dust Bowl led to significant social and economic challenges, including widespread migration and the loss of farm prosperity.
- The kilometre is a unit of length in the metric system, equal to 1000 metres or 0.621371 miles.
Communicate Using Flipgrid
Using Canva to Create

• Make a resume for a relevant character, historical figure, inventor, artist or in a foreign language
• Make a wanted poster
• Make an infographic (parts of a flower, water cycle, impacts of climate change)
• Back-to-school get to know me
• Design a poster that represents the theme or main ideas of a text
Critical Thinking using ThingLink

Which of the 4Cs do you think you could do a better job with? Add to the Chat.
Don’t Layer Strategies – Instead, Integrate Them

- Voice
- Choice
- Motivation and Interest
- Transform Understanding
- Choice Boards
- Playlists
- Create
- Collaborate
- Think Critically
- Communicate
Interactive Playlists
Components (this is not only the title, but a link, too!)

Clear directions

Make the point total > the point total of the DOK 1/2

Fake News Playlist using a Text Set

Industrialization Playlist 5Es

All activities based on DOK levels. Skills and Concepts (DOK 1 and 2); Strategic Thinking (DOK 3), and Extended Strategic Thinking (DOK 4).
Choice Boards

Keep it simple at the beginning
Components (this is not only the title, but a hint, too!)

Clear directions

9 activities based on DOK levels

Sample Choice Board: Growth Mindset

3x3 Grid

Collection of work

Videos
4. Embed Supports to Customize Text

There are different ways for students to engage and interact using technology, offering more opportunities to overcome reading challenges.
**Text adjustments:**
The ability to adjust the way text is presented on the screen can make a huge difference for some struggling readers. It’s simple to change the font size and style to find something more readable. Helvetica, Courier, Arial, Verdana and Open Dyslexia have shown promise.

**Text to Speech options:**
Text-to-speech (TTS) can open a wide range of challenging texts to readers and can motivate students to read and learn more. Most laptops come with this option or Read & Write by TextHelp works on any platform. Microsoft and Kindle offer Immersive Readers that allow text adjustment and TTS.

**Text Simplification:**
Text simplification tools substitute longer more complex terms with more frequently-used and shorter words. Platforms like NEWSELA, and Discovery Ed have these options built in. When you are using your own text, try rewordify.com or textcompactor.com.
Suites offer a plethora of options
Play in the Sandbox…Your Students …and You!
Digital Supports Can Break the Cycle of Failure

In chatbox, name one tool, strategy or technique you will try this year.
How do I Know this Works?

Below Benchmark in Fall (multiple measures) | Below Benchmark in Winter (multiple measures) | Below Benchmark in Spring (single measure) | Publisher Suggested Gain in a Year Gain

40% | 22% | 8% | 7 pts

12pts
Challenge:
Making content knowledge accessible to those who struggle

Solution:
1) Develop Critical Language Skills
2) Increase Interest and Motivation
3) Transform Understanding
4) Embed Supports to Customize Text

Results:
How do I Know this Works?
Below Benchmark in Fall 40%
Below Benchmark in Spring 8%
Publisher Suggest 1 Year Gain 7 pts
12pts
WHAT IS CRUCIAL FOR STRUGGLING READERS IS HELPFUL FOR ALL READERS.
<table>
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<th>Additional resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Digital Literacy: Going Deeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transform Understanding</td>
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<td>Increase Interest and Motivation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Text Customization</td>
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<td>Develop Literacy Skills</td>
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<td>Tech Tools and Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Overview</td>
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Additional RIDE Webinars to Support Re-Entry

- **Introduction to Teaching Reading Online**

- On Tuesday, September 1st at 10am, RIDE will be hosting Dr. Holly Lane of the University of Florida Literacy Institute, who will be providing a tour of the [UFLI Virtual Teaching Resource Hub](#). Dr. Lane will describe the tools and resources they created to assist teachers as they explore new ways to teach foundational reading skills using technology. She will share demonstration videos and provide access to free, downloadable tools for reading instruction and intervention with children in the elementary grades. The materials are designed to be used with videoconferencing platforms for distance education and with interactive whiteboards in the classroom. Please register [here](#), and contact [Kari.Kurto@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Kari.Kurto@ride.ri.gov) with any questions.
ELA/Literacy Content Specific Considerations for Unfinished Learning & Best Practices, is a one-hour session on attending to unfinished learning by immersing students in grade-level content at the onset of the school year. Best practices for accomplishing this goal will be highlighted, including a focus on supports for students in K-3.

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6575586818166899471
Thank you!

augustd@barringtonschools.org