

British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association
of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Create Imagine Explore
Play Wonder

Building Knowledge and Nudging Thinking in the Primary Grades

Adrienne Gear

1

Adrienne Gear

- **TEACHER** - in the Vancouver School District for over 25 years (now living in Kelowna)
- **PRESENTER** - of workshops locally and internationally
- **AUTHOR** - of eight professional books for teachers (Kindergarten - Grade 8)
- **READER** - I LOVE books!

2

ADRIENNE GEAR "POWER" SERIES

Reading Power

Nonfiction Reading Power

POWERFUL UNDERSTANDING

Writing Power

Nonfiction Writing Power

POWERFUL POETRY

POWERFUL WRITING STRUCTURES

POWERFUL READERS

Pembroke Publishers

3

Powerful Thinking

Engaging Readers, Building Knowledge, and Nudging Learning in Elementary Classrooms

Coming Early Spring 2024!

ADRIENNE GEAR

Powerful Thinking

Engaging Readers, Building Knowledge, and Nudging Learning in Elementary Classrooms

Coming Early Spring 2024!

Pembroke Publishers

4

Connect Reading Power - Niveau K1

Stratégies de lecture de textes courants

Powerful Understanding

FAIRE DES LIENS

Resources on my Website

• <https://www.readingpowergear.com/store/category=Resources>

5

Webinar Series

POWERFUL POETRY with Adrienne Gear

Webinar Series

Adrienne Gear's PRIMARY LITERACY ANCHORS

Webinar Series

READING POWER with Adrienne Gear

On Demand Webinars <https://webinars.adriennegear.com/>

6



GearPicks Pack
Book Subscription Service
United Library Services

GEARPICKS PACK RETURNS FOR YEAR 4

BC TEACHER AND LITERACY EXPERT
ADRIENNE GEAR
IS BACK IN COLLABORATION WITH
UNITED LIBRARY SERVICES
FOR ANOTHER SEASON OF THEIR POPULAR
READING POWER PICTURE BOOK SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
EXCLUSIVE TO TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS



gpp@uls.com

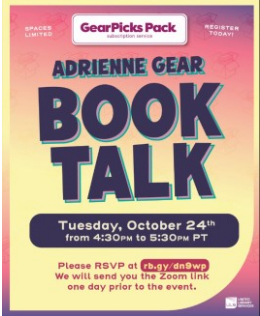
7



GearPicks Pack
subscription service

UNITED LIBRARY SERVICES

8



FREE Book Talk!

rb.gy/dn9wp

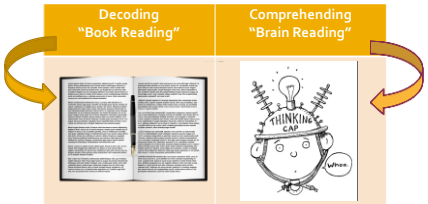
9

Let's talk about **READING**...



10

A proficient reader...



Decoding "Book Reading" ↔ Comprehending "Brain Reading"

11

Reading Skills

"Book Reading"	"Brain Reading"
Decoding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonological Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonics Sounding Out Self correcting Automatic recognition of familiar words 	Comprehension Thinking Metacognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Predictions Literal Re-tell Making Connections Asking Questions Visualizing Inferring Transformed Thinking
Fluency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pace Phrasing Punctuation Intonation 	

12

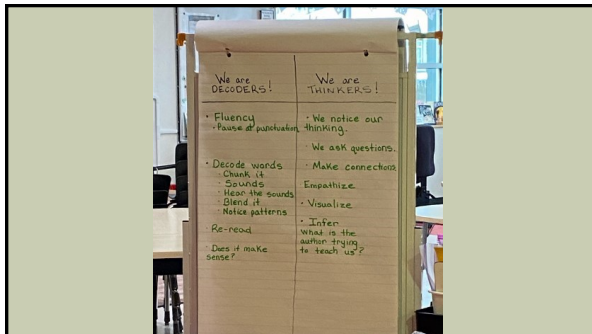


13

Class Reading Goals:

BOOK READING We can...	BRAIN READING We can...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decode words using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> letters and sound chunks and blends patterns Read fluently using... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pace punctuation intonation phrasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay attention to our thinking Make connections Visualize Ask questions Infer (what is the author trying to tell us?) Transform our thinking

14



15

Reading Skills

Decoding	Comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters, sounds Chunks, blends Phonological awareness Phonemic awareness Fluency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking Understanding Constructing meaning Meta-cognition (awareness of thinking)

16

Foundational Phonics Programs:

- Heggerty - phonological and phonemic awareness program
- Bridge to Reading - Heggerty phonics program
- UFLLI - University of Florida Literacy Institute (Ontario)
- Secret Stories - multi-sensory phonics program
- Jolly Phonics - phonics, spelling, grammar
- Really Great Reading - phonemics awareness, phonics, fluency
- McCracken Spelling Through Phonics - 30th edition (an oldie but a goodie!)
- www.ateachableteacher.com - Great website with recommended resources and games for phonemic and phonics skills
- 5 Shockingly Free Phonics Websites for Kids
- Decodable books <https://rolls.bubblup.com/abctutor/free-decodable-books>
- More decodables

17


BUT...

No matter how important code is, it is not the point of reading.

- P. David Pearson

18

Reading Skills



Decoding


- ▶ Letters, sounds
- ▶ Chunks, blends
- ▶ Phonological awareness
- ▶ Phonemic awareness
- ▶ Fluency

Comprehension

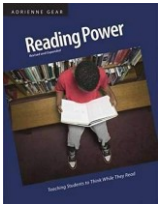
- ▶ Thinking
- ▶ Understanding
- ▶ Constructing meaning
- ▶ Meta-cognition (awareness of thinking)

19

What is Reading Power?



2006




2013

20

Thinking Strategies Used by Proficient Readers

(Based on the research of P. David Pearson, 1999%)

- ▶ A proficient reader, interacting with text, is able to ...
- ▶ Make Connections
- ▶ Ask Questions.
- ▶ Visualize.
- ▶ Draw inferences.
- ▶ Determine Importance.
- ▶ Analyze and Synthesize.
- ▶ Monitor Comprehension.



21

The Five Reading Powers

- ▶ Connect
- ▶ Question
- ▶ Visualize
- ▶ Infer
- ▶ Transform



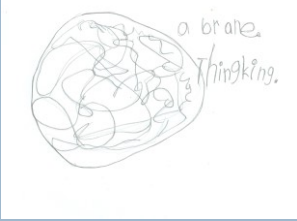

22

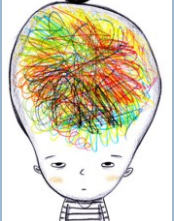
What is Meta Cognition?

- ▶ Awareness - "I'm aware of my thinking"
- ▶ Thinking - "I can think about my thinking"
- ▶ Articulating - "I can talk about my thinking"

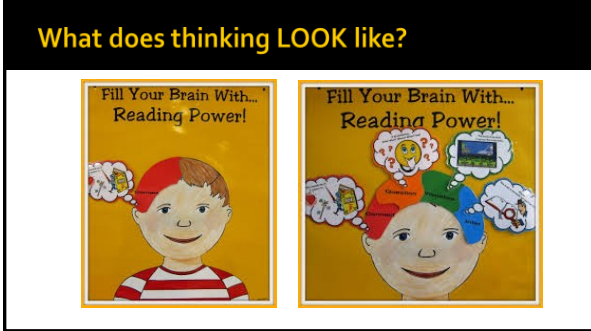
23

What does thinking look like?

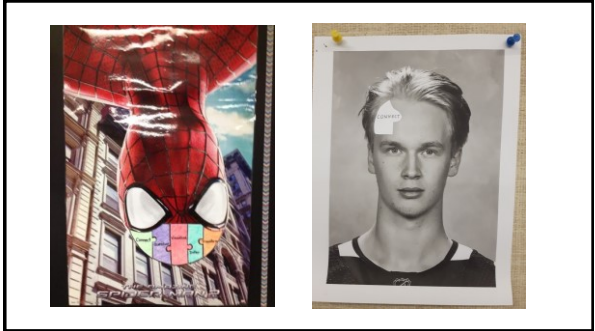




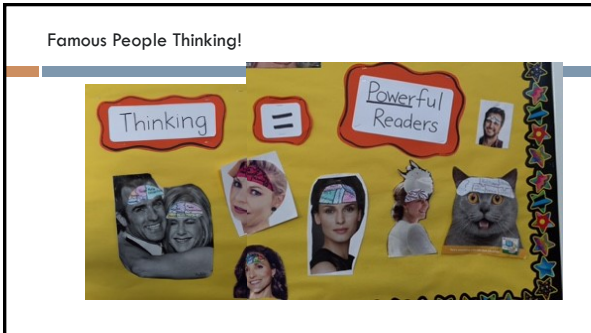
24



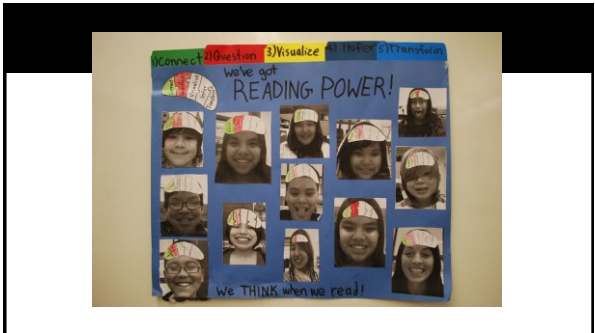
25



26



27



28

What does thinking SOUND like?

- Create a "common language" for thinking about and talking about reading
- Everyone on your staff uses the same language to talk about comprehension
- Common language in math: "add", "subtract", "multiply", "divide"

29

Essential Teacher Modelling

Show your thinking!
Read aloud – Think aloud
"This reminds me of..."
"I'm wondering about..."

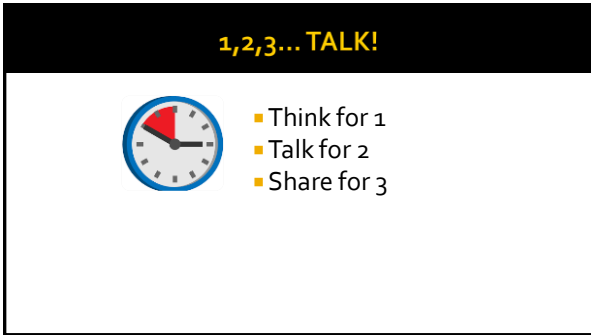
30



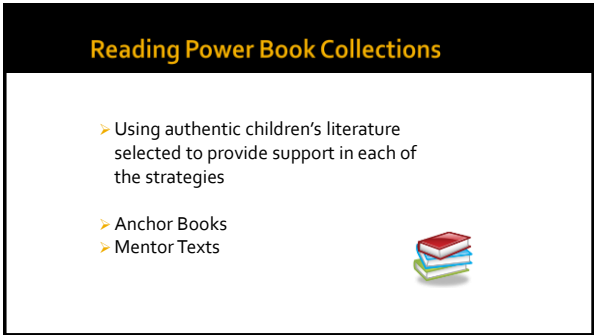
31



32



33



34



35



36

Reading Power – PHASE 1

ISOLATE

- SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER – Connect (F and NF)
- NOVEMBER, DECEMBER – Visualize (F)
- JANUARY, FEBRUARY – Nonfiction – ZI and DI
- MARCH, APRIL – Question/Infer (F and NF)
- MAY, JUNE – Transform (F and NF)

▫ Teach the concept first, then apply it to both books.
What does this look like when we read fiction?
What does it look like when we read nonfiction?

37

The Power to

CONNECT



“No story sits by itself. Sometimes stories meet at corners and sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones beneath a river.”

- Mitch Albom, Five People You Meet in Heaven

38

Making Connections



Name: _____ Date: April 6, 2023

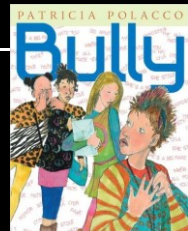
Story Title: David goes to school My Life: _____



In this story David was playing when the soccer ball rang against the fence.

This reminds me of when I was playing with my friends because when the soccer ball rang I was also playing soccer. Another boy said to me that we are still playing soccer.

39



Name: Julia

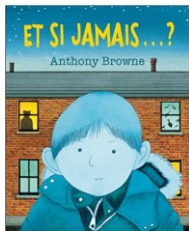
Making Connections

Author: Patricia Polacco


The story:	This reminds me of:
In this story, a girl named Julia is being bullied by a boy named David. She is being teased and called names. She is being teased and called names. She is being teased and called names.	I think the school was when I was in 3rd grade. I didn't know what to do. I was being teased and called names. I was being teased and called names. I was being teased and called names.
Julia is in it in her 3rd grade. She is being teased and called names. She is being teased and called names. She is being teased and called names.	I think the school was when I was in 3rd grade. I didn't know what to do. I was being teased and called names. I was being teased and called names. I was being teased and called names.

40

Worry Connections



Sometimes I Worry



One time my mom did not pick me up from school. What if a stranger picks me up from school? What if someone I knew took me?

Name: Michael

41


When all else fails...





42

The Power to
Visualize



When your head's full of pictures,
They have to come out.

- Incredible Ned, Bill Maynard, 1997

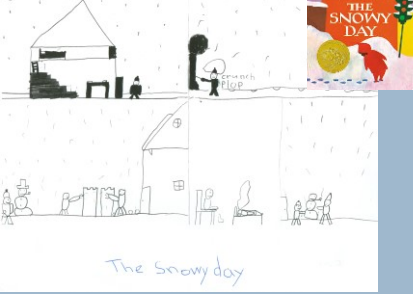
43

Cover the cover!

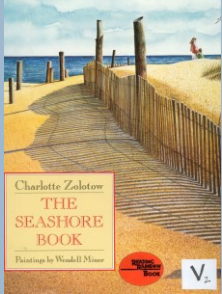





44



45

46


Reading Power – PHASE 2
INTEGRATE

Expand and integrate the metacognitive strategies and language of thinking that help students deepen their understanding of text into ALL areas of the curriculum.

- art
- gym
- music
- math
- social studies
- science

47

Using “Reading Power” in Art Class



What are you wondering about this painting?

What connection do you have to this picture?

What does it remind you of?

What are you wondering about the artist who painted it?

48

Thinking Power in Sports...




Visualizing the movement finally got me over the top after months of practice



The Importance of Visualization In Sports

49

Thinking Power in Music Class



What does this music make you think about?
 What connection are you making?
 What are you visualizing?
 What is the story of this piece of music?
 How does this music make you feel?

50


Thinking Power in Math

Word Problem	
12 people are watching the offers at the zoo. 7 people are watching the giraffes.	How many more people are watching the offers?

What are you visualizing? Can you draw a picture?
 What connections are you making?
 What are you wondering?

51

Thinking Power in Science...



What are you thinking might happen?
 What connections are you making?
 What are you wondering?
 What are you thinking now that you hadn't thought about before ?

52

Reading and Thinking Across Canada



53

What's New in Reading Comprehension Research?

- Constrained and Unconstrained Reading Skills
- Language comprehension
- Knowledge building

54

1. Constrained and Unconstrained Reading Skills

CODE (words)	COMPREHENSION (meaning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents "constrained skills" Mastery based - Once we learn them, we know them. Alphabet, letters, sounds, etc. Act as a bridge to take readers towards meaning Often used to assess reading proficiency and determine when a child "can read" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents "unconstrained skills" We continue (throughout our life, not just when we reach level 30!) to learn and grow into them. Vocabulary, background knowledge The development of these skills is ongoing, continually evolving – even as adults we use what we know to try to make sense of what we don't understand

(Paris, Scott, 2005; Fisher, Frey, Akahan, This is Balanced Literacy Grades K-6, 2020)

55

2. Language Comprehension

Language Comprehension	Reading Comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to derive meaning from spoken words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to derive meaning from print

Language comprehension is a key aspect of reading comprehension that is currently being overlooked in many classrooms. - Dr. Matthew Davies

56

Language comprehension impacts reading comprehension

*"Even the best phonics-based skills program will not transform a child into a strong reader if the child has **limited knowledge of the language, impoverished vocabulary, and little knowledge of key subjects.**" (p. 15).*

Dr. Matthew Davis, *Reading Instruction: Two Keys* (2006)

57

Language Comprehension

- Successful reading comprehension often depends on the **language of a text** because the greater a reader's "funds of knowledge", or background knowledge, about a topic is, the stronger their comprehension will be.
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds may struggle with reading comprehension, despite being able to decode accurately and read fluently. They are often believed to have poor reading comprehension ability when in fact, it is their **lack of language comprehension** (less overall knowledge and vocabulary) which is the root cause.

58

3. Knowledge

*"...Among the most important factors critical for literacy development is **knowledge**. Knowledge is necessary to comprehend what we read. Foundational skills are **literally meaningless unless readers can make sense of words and texts.** This sense-making requires knowledge that must be systematically built (not just activated!) **through instructional experiences and curricula that evoke curiosity and the desire to learn more.** In short, knowledge matters."*

Looking to Research for Literacy Success
ASCD – Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
The Knowledge Matters Campaign Scientific Advisory Committee

59

Background Knowledge vs Building Knowledge

Background Knowledge	Building Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge a child brings with them into the class (from home) "Funds of Knowledge" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge a child builds in class. Knowledge is not literal facts but facts PLUS thinking

60

Building Knowledge

The scientific research on reading and writing is clear: foundational skills including phonemic awareness, knowledge of sound-letter relationships, decoding and spelling skills, and fluency are necessary, but not sufficient for students to become fully literate.

Research shows that the importance of foundational skills is beyond dispute and should no longer be a source of discord. However, **building knowledge** of the natural and social world is also essential to developing strong readers who can not only decode words but also comprehend what they are reading.

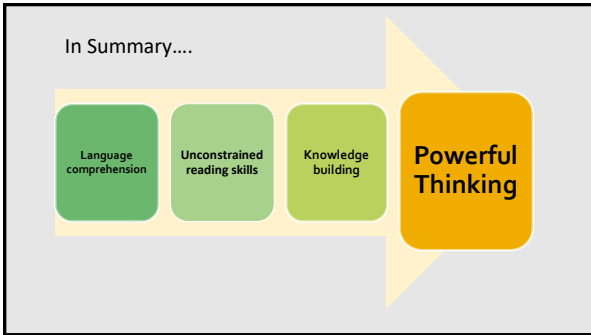
Looking to Research for Literacy Success
ASCD – Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
The Knowledge Matters Campaign Scientific Advisory Committee

61

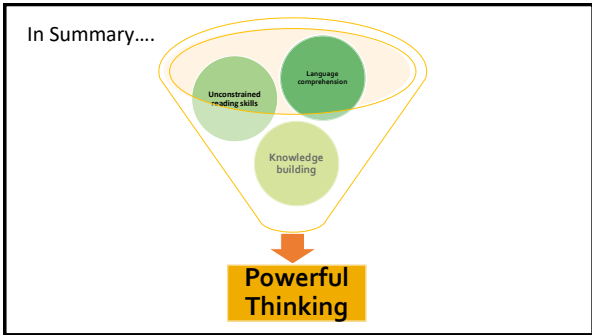
Don't delay! Build knowledge today!

Building knowledge need not—and should not—wait until students possess some level of foundational reading skills.

62



63



64

Teaching Reset...

- **Reading Power** lessons have, up to now, been primarily used during LITERACY BLOCKS and most often we rely on fiction anchor books.
- Why limit this "brain reading" instruction to just our LITERACY LESSONS?
- What if we brought more CONTENT-RICH texts into our CONTENT LESSONS?
- What if used "texts as tools" and merged "brain reading" practice into our CONTENT UNITS?

65

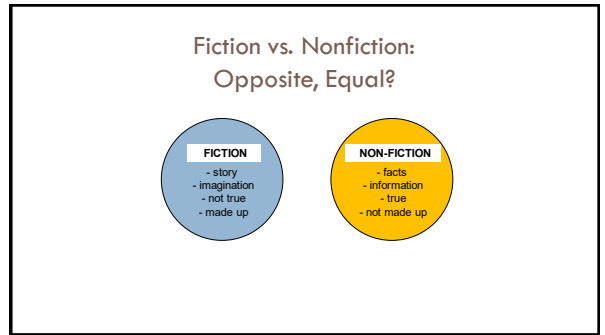
What does it look like? (Adrienne's favorite part!!!)

- **Nonfiction Texts as Tools** - Increase information/nonfiction texts in our classrooms to help students develop language and build knowledge.
- **Content-Rich, Interactive Read-Alouds** – Give content-rich read alouds a central role in your classroom
- **Talk Matters** – Lead and engage students in interactive discussions during and conversations that promote student talk and thinking
- **Literacy Rich Curriculums** – integrate literacy practices into your content classes (science and social studies)
- **TEACH!!!** - Explicit, targeted reading and writing instruction to help students construct meaning (comprehension), think more deeply about content, and write to explain their thinking

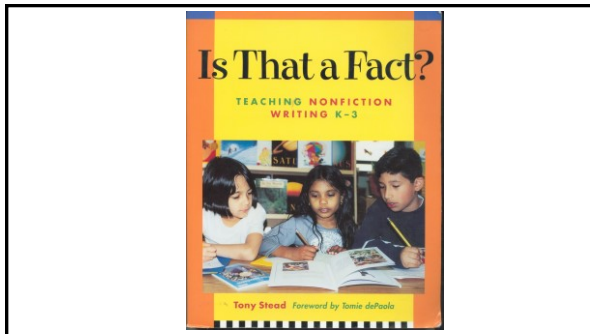
66



67



68



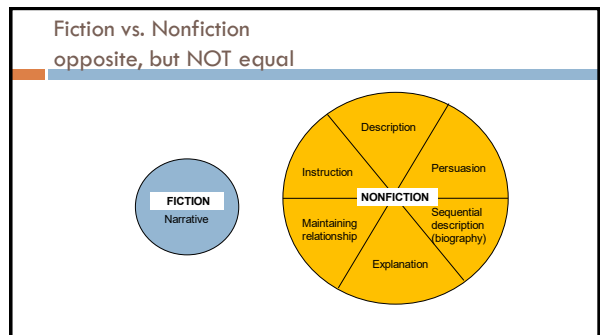
69



70

F	Narrative	stories, myths, legends, fables, fairy tales
NF	Description	reports on countries, animals, plants, insects, wanted poster, poetry, blogs, Facebook
NF	Instruction "How to"	recipes, directions, games, maps, rules, experiments, lists, letters, poetry
NF	Explanation "why or how something happens"	Scientific explanations, phenomenon, elaborations, illustrations, captions, oral traditions
NF	Persuasion "convince me to do something"	Advertisements, travel brochures, debates, catalogues, posters
NF	Biography	Non-fiction narrative, retelling about a person or past event
NF	Maintain relationship with others	Cards, letters, invitations, poetry interviews, questionnaires, emails

71



72

FLY GUY PRESENTS WEATHER
WHO WOULD WIN? KILLER WHALE VS GREAT WHITE SHARK
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS Volcanoes!

BRING IT ON!

- Adding more nonfiction books to your classroom library!
- More Nonfiction Read-Alouds!!!

73

FLY GUY Presents...

74

Who Would Win? Series
 Jerry Pallota

75

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

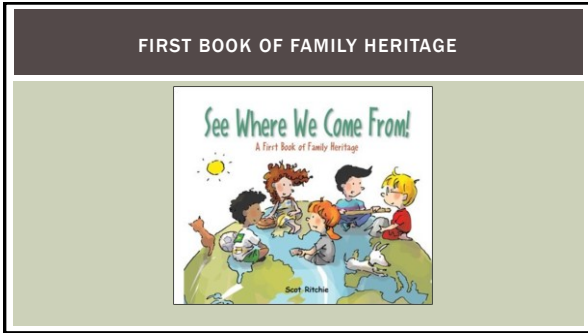
76

ELISE GRAVEL - DISGUSTING CREATURES

77

SCOTT RITCHIE

78



79



80



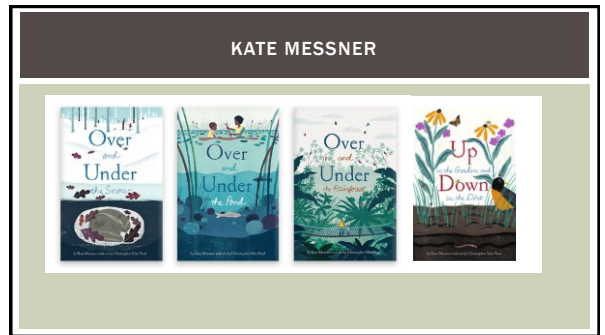
81



82



83



84



85



86



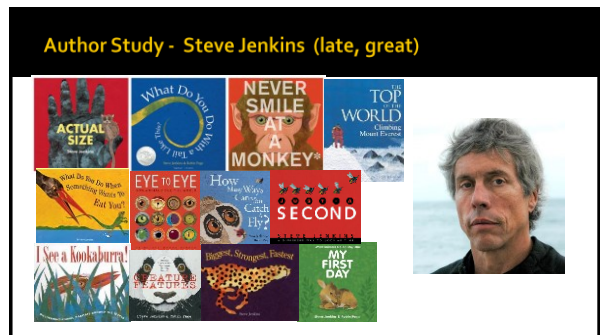
87



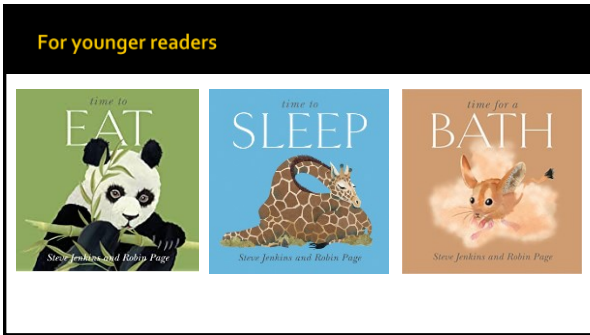
88



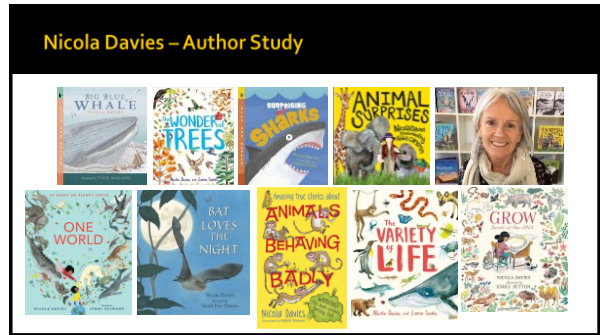
89



90



91



92



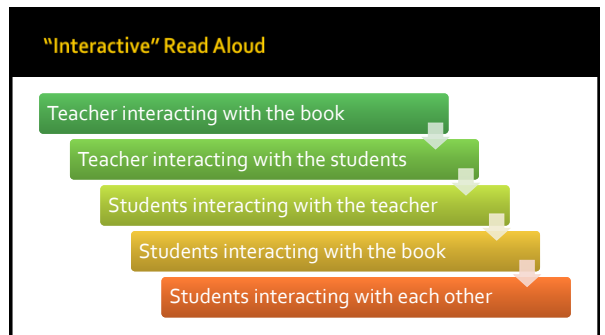
93



94




95



96


"Content-rich" interactive read-alouds support...

- Knowledge building
- "Brain reading" (thinking!)
- Oral language
- Vocabulary building
- Listening Comprehension
- Student interest and engagement



97

Content-Rich Texts AKA - "The Dinosaur Effect"




The "dinosaur effect" refers to the capacity for young children to capitalize on their passionate interests and retain astounding stores of knowledge.

Not only that, but large, multi-syllabic vocabulary they encounter connected to their topics seem to stick the instant they are exposed to them. With their huge bank of background knowledge, these children are motivated to use their emerging decoding skills and immerse themselves in high level texts about their passion.

But put that same child in a guided reading group and give them an isolated decodable or leveled text on a random topic for which interest and background knowledge is non-existence, the child demonstrates anything but proficiency in reading.

98

What does that tell us?



1. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT - When children are engaged in topics they are interested in, they are far more motivated to want to read, write, speak, and engage in learning.
2. EXPOSURE TO TEXT SETS - The impact that exposure to multiple related texts students read (or have read to them) has on deepening their engagement, knowledge, vocabulary and comprehension.

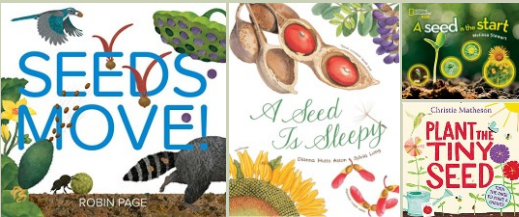
99

Literacy Rich Curriculums!

- Gather "text sets" of "content rich" books connected to your units of study (social studies, math, science)
- Use them (often!) for "interactive read-alouds" during content classes OR literacy blocks.
- Invite students to "Turn and TAT" (Talk About Thinking!)
- Model a variety of thinking strategies before, during, and after reading!
- Have a KNOWLEDGE BUILDING table for displaying books


100

SEEDS

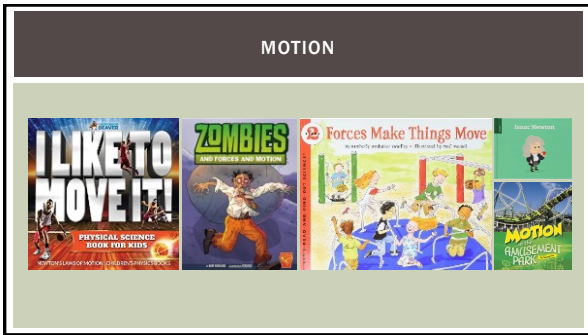


101

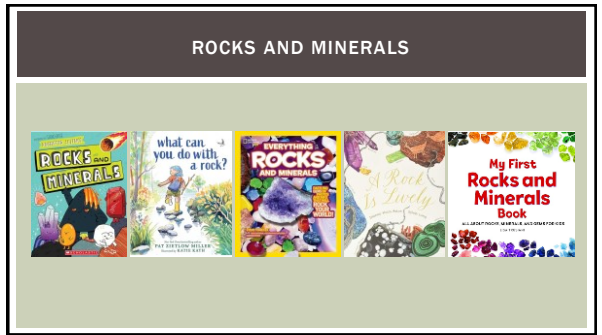
SIMPLE MACHINES



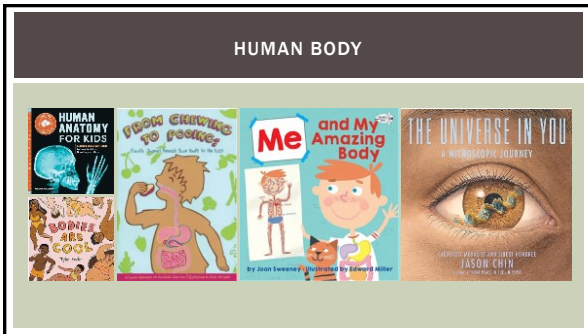
102



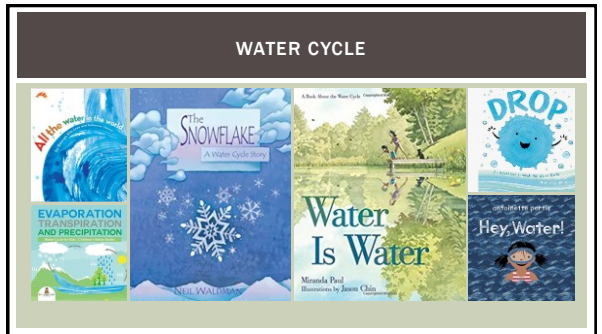
103



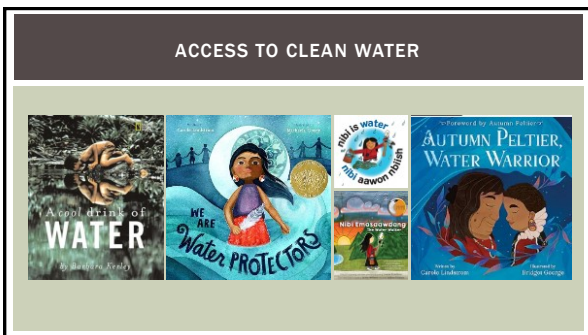
104



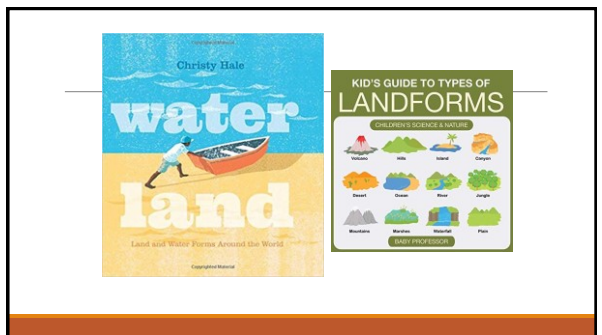
105



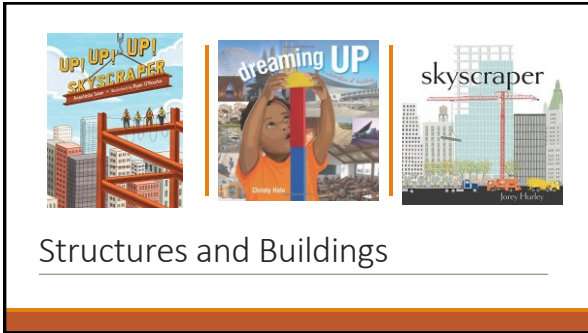
106



107

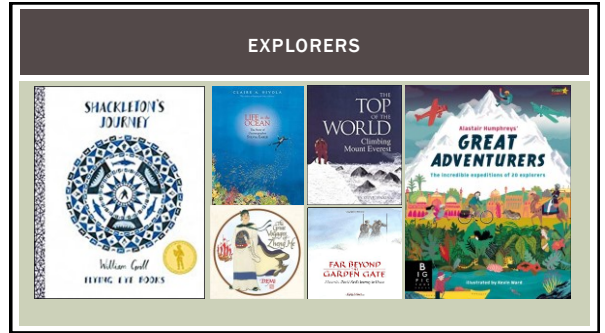


108

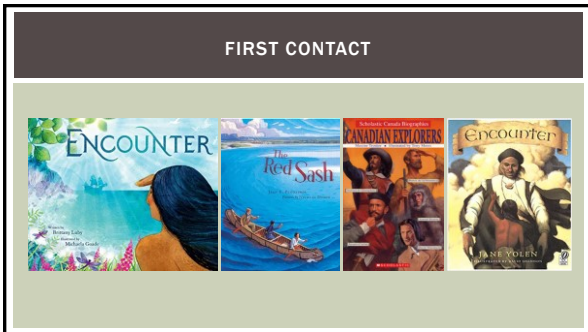


Structures and Buildings

109



110



111

Now what?

You are ...

- using more content-rich texts
- engaging students in more “content-rich, interactive read-alouds”
- encouraging students to “turn and talk” – share their thinking

112

All that's left to do is... DRUM ROLL PLEASE....

TEACH!!!

113

TEACH! Lessons to BUILD KNOWLEDGE and NUDGE THINKING before, during and after your read-aloud!

- One Word
- Knew New
- Fact React
- What? So What? Now What?

114

Lesson Idea:

One Word Activity



115

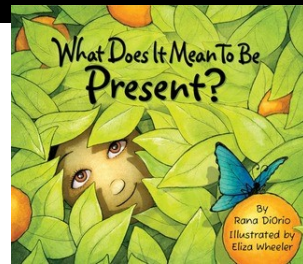
Transform - "One Word" activity

present

116



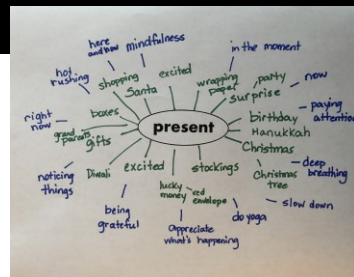
117



118

present

119



120



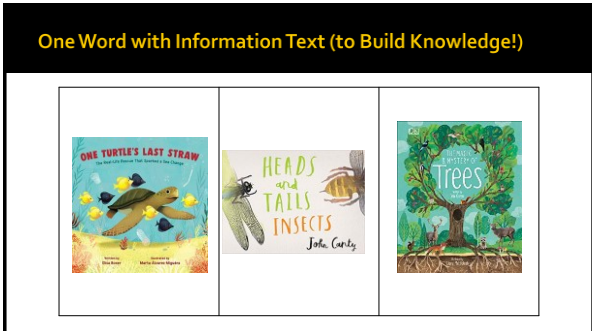
121



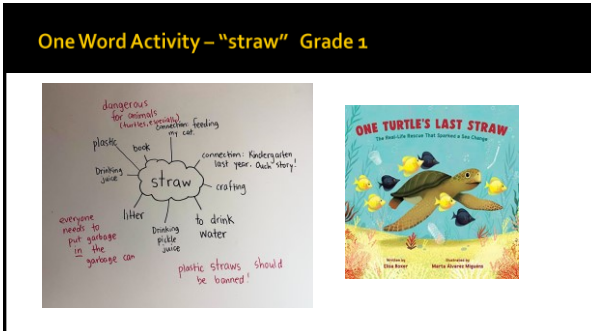
122



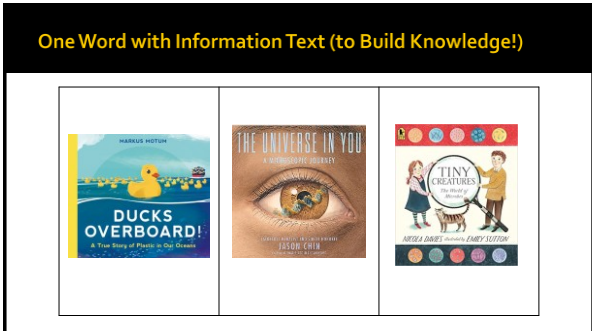
123



124



125



126

Lesson Idea:

Knew-New



127

The "Knew-New" Connection

Name: _____

Title: _____


Topic: _____

KNEW that already!	This is NEW to me!

128



Making Connections to Information

This reminds me of...



129

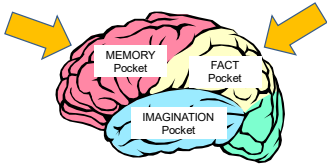
Making Connections to Nonfiction – Same or Different?

FICTION	NONFICTION
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characters • feelings • experiences • memories 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characters? • feelings? • experiences? • memories?

130



BRAIN POCKETS:
The storage place for our thinking

Where do your **CONNECTIONS** come from?

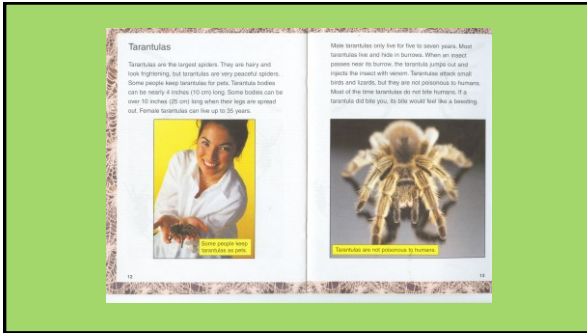


131

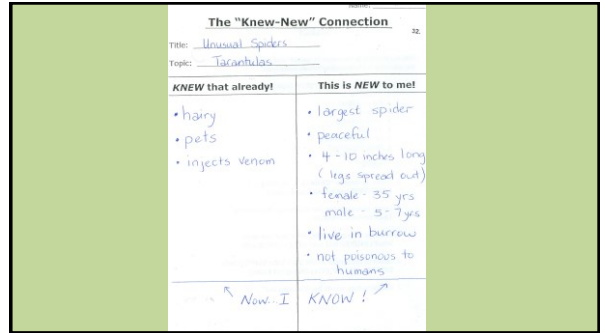
Making Connections

FICTION	NONFICTION
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characters • feelings • experiences • memories 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background knowledge • Things I already know about the topic • experiences

132



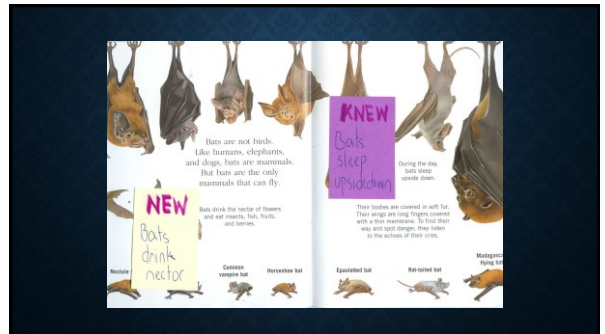
133



134



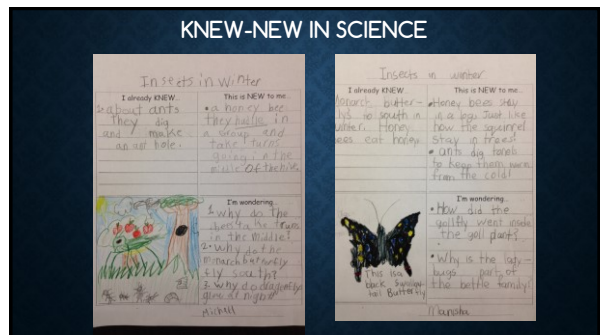
135



136



137



138

Lesson Idea:

Fact-React

139

Fact - React	
Fact	React

140

Fact - React	
Fact	React

141

142

FACT - REACT

Fact	React
1. WASPS CRAW their feet...	• I didn't know that WASPS CRAW their feet...
2. BEETLES WHO'S BEEN AND SIMONS SECOND	• I CAN'T SEE THAT IN MY MIND.
3. A BEE? WAS A BROTHER AND SHE THERE.	• I THINK IT'S FAIRER THAT BEE'S...
4. THERE ARE GOOD KINDS OF BEE'S!	• I WOULD LOVE WANT KINDS OF BEE'S. BUT NOT...
Name: _____	Etich Great thinking!


143

Fact	React
1. Octopus shut ink	I know that! (I'm smart!) Is it washable or permanent? Can you write with it? Does it smell? Does it hurt?
Cloven fish hide in poison plants.	Hey! That's NEMO! (Wow, that's pretty sneaky. Maybe I will hide in poison eye vs. Why doesn't Nemo get poisoned? Cool! That's gross! Why is it called a snake? Lizard-tail brakes and snakes are... How long do they live?!

144

Lesson Idea:

WHAT?
SO WHAT?
NOW WHAT?




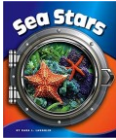
145

Levels of Understanding

<p>Literal Strategies required: Summary, Re-tell, recount, main idea,</p>	
<p>Interactive Strategies required: Connect, Question, Visualize, Infer</p>	<p>Reading Power Strategies!!!</p>
<p>Extended Strategies required: Transform, Synthesize, Re-think</p>	


146

What? - Exploring Facts

<p>WHAT? Here's what the text says so far....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starfish arms grow back if they get cut off. Process called "re-generation" 	
--	--

147

What? So What?

<p>WHAT? Here's what the text says so far....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starfish arms grow back if they get cut off. Process called "re-generation" 	<p>SO WHAT? Here's what I'm thinking....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long does it take for the arm to grow back? Does it only happen once for each leg and then they're out of luck? That reminds me of worms cuz when you cut them in half they grow again.
---	---

148




BRAIN STRETCH

STRETCH YOUR THINKING!

149

What? So What? Now What?

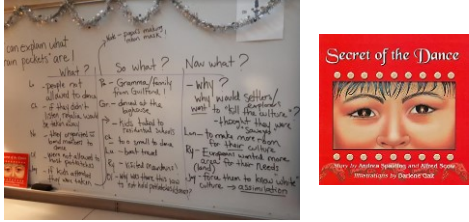
<p>WHAT? Here's what the text says so far....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starfish arms grow back if they get cut off. Process called "re-generation" 	<p>SO WHAT? Here's what I'm thinking....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long does it take for the arm to grow back? Does it only happen once for each leg and then they're out of luck? That reminds me of worms cuz when you cut them in half they grow again. 	<p>NOW WHAT? Here's what I'm thinking now that I hadn't thought of before....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too bad that doesn't happen to soldiers. If it did, I bet soldiers wouldn't be so scared to go to war.
---	---	---

150

*Don't judge the think
by the ink!*

**LEAN IN
LISTEN**

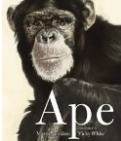
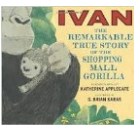

151



...The equity piece was a big one for me. I have a very diverse class. So to explore more ways of supporting them in communicating their understandings without the expectation of "written output" is so important for me. Your "What? So What? Now What?" format is "perfection". we tried this today after reading "Secret of the Dance," and I was so pleased to see how engaging it was for learners! Everyone had the opportunity to share their thinking, while I recorded their answers on the board!

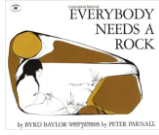
152

Different Levels of Thinking


Explore	Interact	Develop
		
Literal	Interactive	Extended
Main Idea Summary	Connect Visualize Question Infer	Transform Synthesize

153

Different Levels of Thinking

What?	So What?	Now What?
		
Literal	Interactive	Integrated
Main Idea Summary	Connect Question Infer	Transform Synthesize


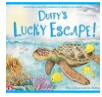

154



WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

155

Deepening Our Understanding of Oceans

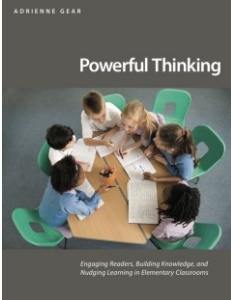
What?	So What?	Now What?
		
Explore	Interact	Develop
Gather facts Learn about the Oceans	What is happening to our oceans? What connections are you making? What are you wondering?	Call to action What can we do?

156

What will you try?

- **Nonfiction Texts as Tools** - Increase information/nonfiction texts in our classrooms to help students develop language and build knowledge.
- **Content-Rich, Interactive Read-Alouds** – Give content-rich read alouds a central role in your classroom
- **Talk Matters** – Lead and engage students in interactive discussions during and conversations that promote student talk and thinking
- **Literacy Rich Curriculums** – integrate literacy practices into your content classes (science and social studies)
- **TEACH!!!** - Explicit, targeted reading and writing instruction to help students construct meaning (comprehension), think more deeply about content, and write to explain their thinking

157




Powerful Thinking
Engaging Readers, Building Knowledge, and Nudging Learning in Elementary Classrooms


Coming Early Spring 2024!


Pembroke Publishers


158

CONTACT ADRIENNE

 adrienne@readingpowergear.com

 www.readingpowergear.com (blog link)

 www.facebook.com/readingpowergear.com

 [readingpowergear](#) #gearpicks #readingpower #powerfulunderstanding

159

Thank you!



160