



Teacher Tip of the Week

Teach students how to assess their reading

In a well-designed class, students typically engage in a great deal of reading. Hence, it is important that they learn to "figure out" the logic of what they are reading (the logically interconnected meanings.) good reading is a dialogue between the reader and the text. The writer has chosen words to convey his/her thoughts and experiences. The reader must translate from those words back into his/her own thoughts and experiences, and thereby capture the meaning of the author. This is a complex process. One effective way to teach students this process is by modeling it as follows:



C who reads the next two paragraphs to A and B. And so on.

As the students are reading in their groups of three, you are circulating around the room listening in and getting an idea of the level of proficiency of their critical reading. The more you use this process, the better students become at critical reading. When they become proficient at it, they begin to ask questions in their own minds as they read, clarifying as they read, questioning what they do not understand.

Reading in "Real" Life

Help your students see reading not as just another school subject, but as a valuable -- and enjoyable -- part of their daily lives.

Where in the World?

Give each student a U.S. or world map. (Depending on grade level.) Each time a student reads a book that relates in some way to a state or country, have the student color that state or country on the map. The relationship might be based on the following: (1) the author was born there; (2) the setting of the book is there; (3) the story began there; (4) the book tells about that state or country. Present an inexpensive atlas to students who color every state or country during the year.

Place the students in groups of three, each with a letter assigned (A,B, or C). You then read a paragraph or two out of the textbook aloud slowly, commenting on what you are reading as you are reading, explaining what is making immediate sense to you and what you need to figure out by further reading.

After modeling in this manner for a couple of paragraphs, you ask A to take over and read aloud to B and C, explaining to them, sentence by sentence, what he/she is able to figure out and what he/she is not. After A is finished with two paragraphs, then B and C comment on what they do and do not understand (in the paragraphs that A read). Then you read aloud to the whole class the two paragraphs that A read, commenting as you go. Then B takes over and reads the next two paragraphs to A and C. Then A and C add their thoughts. Then you read aloud what B read. Then you go on to



Ideas to Share

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE CLASSROOM



Always gets double prints when getting film developed. This way you can send the second print home with the kids or use it in a classroom book.



Helpful Website for Teachers

<http://www.thereadingnook.com/>



An online resource for parents and teachers. Children's

books have been carefully selected by reading experts and organized according to theme or concept and skill. Suggested reading lists are also available for babies and toddlers through fifth grade.

The New Teacher Support Program



Classroom Strategy: Conducting a Homework Lottery

One strategy used successfully by teachers at all grade levels for motivating students to complete homework assignments is the lottery. The idea is relatively simple and easy to implement, yet can encourage otherwise apathetic students to complete their work. All students who successfully complete their homework for the day put their names on small cards that are dropped in a jar or box. On Friday, a drawing is held, selecting one or more winners.

What the winners receive is quite secondary. Just the recognition of having their names drawn is rewarding for most students. Most will value a privilege, such as being first in line all week or using the tape recorder or computer. Some teachers become proficient at scrounging for freebies such as tickets, posters, coupons, and prizes. Students soon learn that the more times their names are in the jar, the greater are their chances of winning. Of course, you must ensure that

the only way to get their names in the box is to complete their homework. It may be wise to specify a criterion of correctness for work submitted if students begin handing in hurriedly completed assignments.

One prize valued by students is a coupon good for one night of no homework. Instead of handing in homework, the holder may redeem the coupon. If the student did the assignments necessary to win the coupon, one night of missed work will not likely be irreparable.



“THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUCCESSFUL PERSON AND OTHERS IS NOT A LACK OF STRENGTH, NOT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT RATHER A LACK IN WILL.”

—VINCE LOMBARDI

ELECTING A PRESIDENT WEBSITE:



<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/>

Select Smart: Comparing the Candidates. This site outlines positions for each candidate on the major issues and includes a presidential candidate selector, where your opinions lead you to the candidates that most closely resemble your views.

MEET THE PRINCIPALS: Phyllis Robinson

School: [Stoner Creek Elementary](#)
How long have you been a principal at this school? [Since 1991—16 years](#)
Colleges and universities attended: [Union University, Middle Tennessee State University, Cumberland University](#)—I have a [Masters Degree +45](#)
Special interests and hobbies: [playing with my grandchildren, scrapbooking, going to Disney-World](#)

Who or what inspires you each day as you do your job and why?

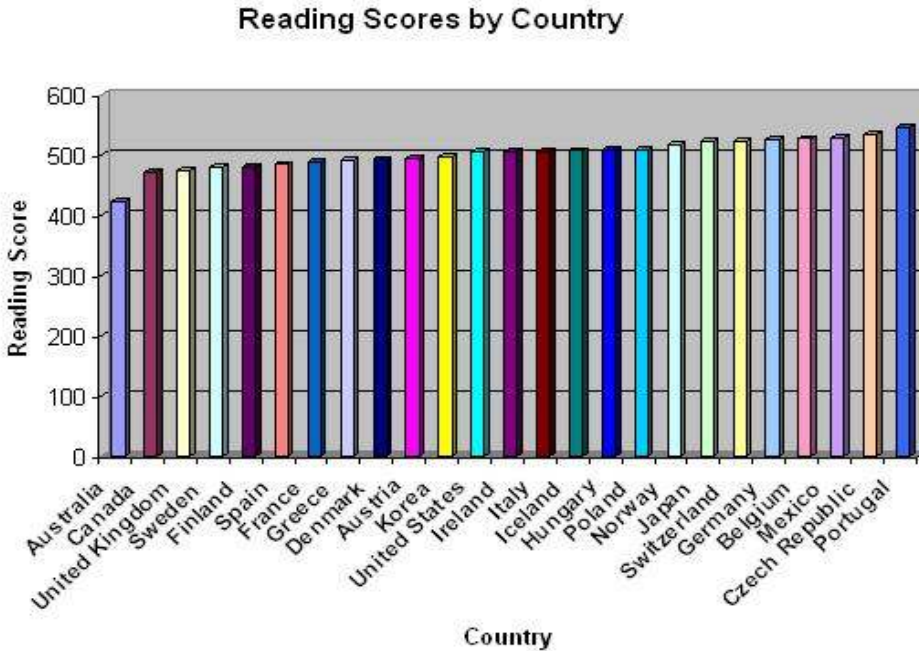
[The children inspire me because I know that receiving a positive educational experience and encouraging them to want to learn will make a difference in their lives. We are helping them obtain the tools for their future success.](#)

If you had not gone into education, what type of job would you have chosen: [I don't know. I always wanted to teach. Something with children.](#)

What is the favorite part of your job: [Going into the classroom to read and finding new programs or student incentives that makes a difference.](#)



Reading Scores by Country



Advice and Support from the Veterans



BARBARA HALLUMS

LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL/ MATH TEACHER

As a new teacher always ask for help and advice from your mentors. Realize you are not in this alone and everyone has the same goal - help the student be successful. Flexibility is the key in education.

Did You Know?

THERE ARE 2,700 LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

The "invention" of language is not known except for references in the Bible. It is not known what language Adam and Eve spoke. The first mention of different languages is the reference to the tower of Babel when different tongues were bestowed.

Today, there are more than 2,700 different languages spoken in the world, with more than 7,000 dialects. In Indonesia alone, 365 different languages are spoken. More than 1,000 different languages are spoken in Africa. The most difficult language to learn is Basque, which is spoken in north-western Spain and south-western France. It is not related to any other language in the world. Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world, followed by English. But as home language, Spanish is the second most spoken in the world.

New Teacher Support Group Participants



JESSICA DAVIS
RUTLAND ELEMENTARY
3RD GRADE

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

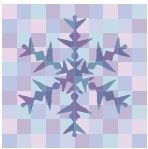
"Kids are my life—ever since I was a little girl I said, "I wanted to be a teacher when I grow up!" I think that it is a huge responsibility and honor to be able to partner with parents and help their child become life-long learners and succeed in life. It is my duty as a teacher to strive to meet every child's needs and learning style. Learning should not stop in the classroom, but carry into the home with help of the parents."—Jessica Davis



VERONICA MINSKY
WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
MATH TEACHER

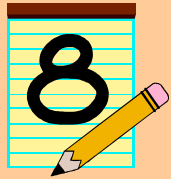
WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

"I enjoy helping people learn."—Veronica Minsky





WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



GOOD TEACHING: THE TOP TEN REQUIREMENTS

Good teaching is supported by strong and visionary leadership, and very tangible institutional support -- resources, personnel, and funds. Good teaching is continually reinforced by an overarching vision that transcends the entire organization -- from full-time teachers to part-time instructors -- and is reflected in what is said, but more importantly by what is done.

Time Management Tips for Teachers

FOUR WAYS TO FIND MORE TIME

1. Write a short assignment on the board before class for students to complete first thing when they arrive. This gives you some time to take care of other business while the class settles in.
2. Understand that you cannot do it all. Before you take on a new activity, consider whether it is best that you give up another one. Weight your priorities carefully.

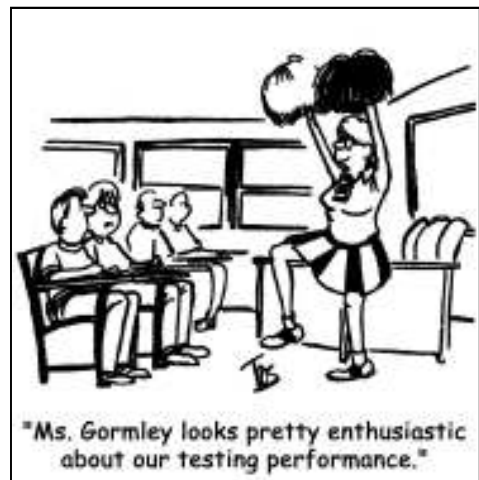


3. Make use of time spent waiting. Always take along something to read of a simple paper-work task to handle while waiting for a meeting or an event to start, a meal to be served, or a doctor or dentist appointment.

4. Beware of time lost "chatting" with colleagues. Put up a "Do Not Disturb" sign on your door after class so you can have precious, uninterrupted time to get things done. Ask office staff to take phone messages for you during this time.

Continued next week.....

Need a Laugh?



It is the policy of the Wilson County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.