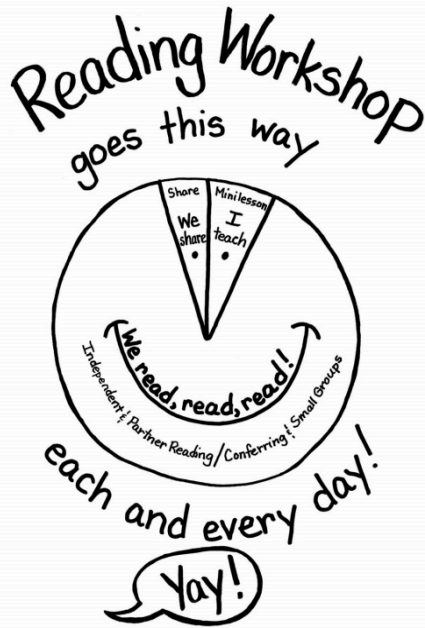


What is Reading and Writing Workshop?

A Workshop is an instructional model that focuses on the strengths and needs of each individual reader and writer. Teachers provide direct instruction in the processes, strategies, and skills of reading and writing. Students are given TIME and CHOICE of what to read and write, within the structures of what they are being taught. Students are given opportunities to share their learning with their classmates.



Components of Reading and Writing Workshop

The components of a workshop model are the same for both reading and writing.

Mini Lesson: The teacher teaches a whole class lesson on a reading or writing strategy. Mentor texts are read and studied to learn what good readers and writers do.

Independent Reading/Work Time:
READ! READ! READ! WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!
Students:

- Read and write in many different genres on topics of interest to them and at their independent level
- Practice what they were just taught in the mini lesson in their own reading and writing pieces
- Apply and demonstrate skills and strategies in their own books and writing pieces

Teachers:

- Confer with students about what they are reading and writing
- Provide instruction to a small group of students or individuals
- Model reading and writing processes and share reading and writing practices

Sharing Time: Students share how they applied the day's mini lesson to their own reading and writing. This may be done as a whole class, in a small group, or with partners.

What does the Research Say?

Six T's of Effective Literacy Instruction: Richard Allington, 2012

- **Time:** Students reading and writing instruction needs to be 120 mins of their school day.
- **Texts:** Students need enormous quantities of successful reading to become independent, proficient readers. They need to engage in reading experiences in which they perform with high levels of accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. These texts also involve student choice.
- **Teach:** Good teaching matters! It is important to develop teachers' abilities to deliver effective instruction.
- **Talk:** Teachers and students discuss ideas, concepts, theories, strategies, and responses with one another.
- **Tasks:** Students engage in meaningful, longer assignments with less emphasis on filling the day with multiple shorter writing tasks. These tasks also involve student choice.
- **Test:** Exemplary teachers evaluate student work. Informative assessment drives DAILY instruction.



How to Help Your Child at Home

- **Encourage your child to read and write.**
- **Be a good model of reading and writing.** Let your child see you reading and writing. Talk with him or her about how you select books or decide what to write in your daily life.
- **Read Aloud with your child.** Take turns reading from the same book.
- **Ask Questions.** Ask your child questions about what he/she is reading or writing. What's the story about? Where does the story take place? What are the characters' motivations for his/her actions?
- **Read and Read.** Be sure your child reads every night. This will increase fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and allows for more opportunities to practice the strategies taught at school.
- **Have your child read like the character.** Read as if he or she is the character. Read in a way that shows the character's feelings, thoughts and actions.
- **Children need to read books that make them feel strong as a reader.** Choose books in which your child does not have to spend time tackling unfamiliar words.
BIGGER, LONGER, HARDER books are not better!




References

- A Guide to the Reading Workshop* by Lucy Calkins
A Guide to the Writing Workshop by Lucy Calkins



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A Parent's Guide to Reading and Writing Workshop

