

# **ACCESSING GRADE ALIGNED ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS FOR STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX SUPPORT NEEDS**

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# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF ELA IN SEVERE DISABILITIES

Majority of literacy-based studies for students with severe disabilities focus on sight words (Browder, Wakeman, Spooner, & Algozzine, 2006; Chiang & Lin, 2007).

Recent research has led to new guidance for teaching children with developmental disabilities (Williamson, Carnahan & Jacobs, 2012).



# FORMER LITERACY MODELS

No academic instruction “trainable” thinking

Functional reading for the life span

- Age 6: name, foods, schedule words
- Age 16: name, foods, schedule words

# WHY WE DIDN'T KNOW IF STUDENTS WITH MODERATE/ SEVERE DISABILITIES COULD LEARN TO READ

Consistent lack of focus on reading for this population

- In content analyses of textbooks (Katims, 2000)
- In ethnographic studies of students' school experiences (Kliwer, 1998)

In the last 20 years while the “science of reading” has been developing, the focus in severe disabilities has been functional life skills

Discrepancy between what is recommended for early literacy practices and what happens for young children with significant disabilities

Have our students been limited by lack of opportunity?

# THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN READING

## Because...

- Students “potential” to make progress is unknown without the opportunity to learn
- Students who are not disabled are not required to master all life skills before getting to learn to read
- Academic instruction for students who are nondisabled does not end at the first sign of “no progress”
- Reading is a “pivotal skill” that can enhance adult outcomes; reading *is* functional
- Even if students do not become literate, the acquisition of early literacy skills can open opportunities to enjoy and benefit from a wide range of age and grade appropriate literature

# A MODEL OF LITERACY FOR STUDENTS WITH MSD: OUTCOMES

Increased Independence as a Reader

Lifelong Access to Literature

# A MODEL OF LITERACY FOR STUDENTS WITH MSD

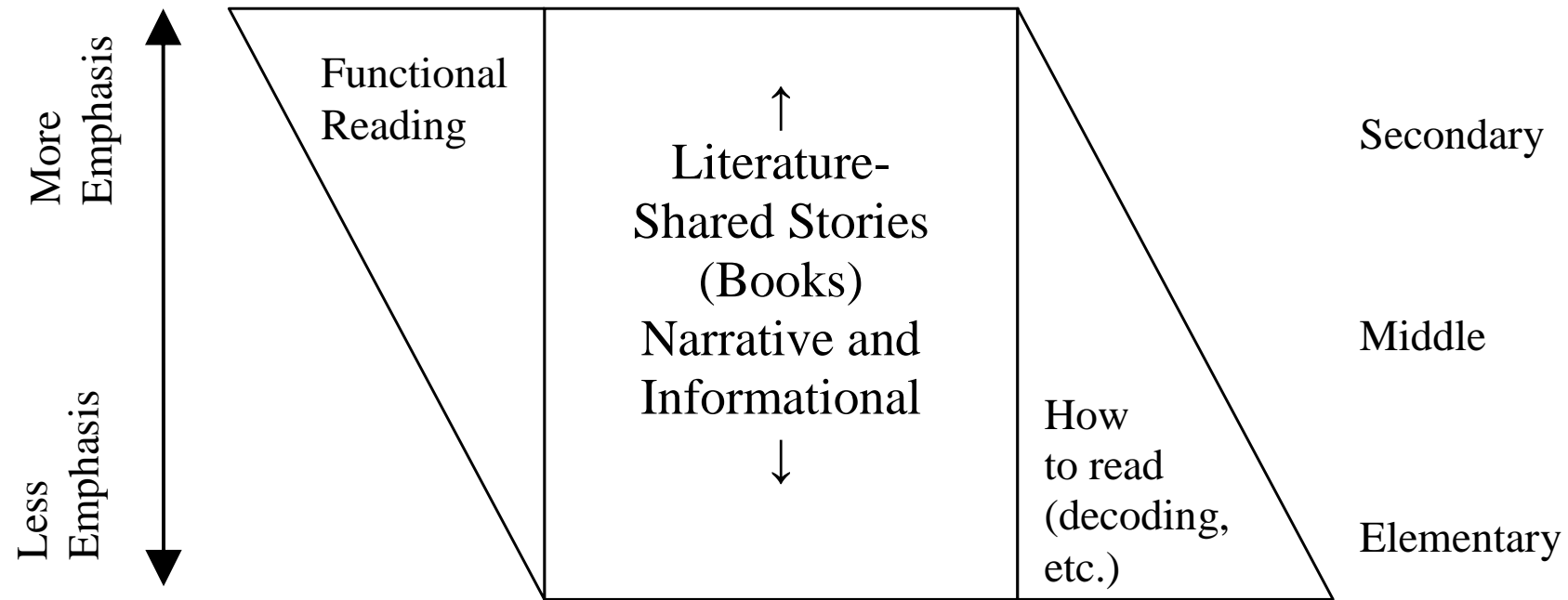
## Independence as a Reader

- Strong focus on learning to read in earlier grades
- Shift focus to functional reading as enter transition years (continue some focus on learning to read in middle and high school)

## Access to Literature

- Throughout grades, focus on skills to access literature of grade level (“grade appropriate” as well as “age appropriate” literature)
- Literacy in all content areas of general curriculum

# A MODEL OF LITERACY FOR STUDENTS WITH MSD





# OPTIONS FOR TEACHING ELA SKILLS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Time Delay is an Evidence-based practice**

- Browder, Ahlgrim-Dezell, Spooner, Mims, & Baker, 2009

**Has been applied to MS language arts vocabulary**

- McDonnell, Johnson, Polychronis, and Riesen, (2002)

**Teachers can learn to follow task analysis to present read aloud of MS novels**

- Browder, Trela, & Jimenez, 2007

**Has also been applied to MS biographies**

- Mims, Hudson, & Browder (2012)

**Students composed written opinions by using graphic organizers and response options**

- Trela (2008)

# EMERGING OPTIONS: USE READ ALOUD OF ADAPTED TEXT

## RESEARCH


Teachers can learn to follow task analysis  
to present read aloud of MS novels


- Browder, Trela, & Jimenez, 2007


Has also been applied to MS biographies



- Mims, Hudson, & Browder (2012)


EXAMPLE (HARRIET TUBMAN)  
CREATED BY MELISSA HUDSON


 She asked three of her brothers to go with her.


The brothers followed her because  Harriet knew the


 woods best. They made a lot of noise, crashing through

 the underbrush and  scaring themselves. She told them

 to be quiet. They complained it was too dark. She told

them with all the  stars shining bright, there was plenty

 of light.

 3. Why did the brothers follow Harriet?

# EMERGING OPTION

## WRITING

**Students composed written opinions by using graphic organizers and response options**

- Trela (2008)

## EXAMPLE

**I think students should wear uniforms**

**I think students should NOT wear uniforms**

- Because...
  - They save money
  - You do not have a choice what to wear
  - They are uniforms

# PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

Middle School Thematic Units linked to general education

VOCABULARY: Time delay

READ ALOUD: Literature- novel adapted as chapters, nonfiction, poem for unit

COMPREHENSION: Systematic instruction, Direct Instruction

WRITING (Persuasive and Narrative): Graphic Organizers

RESEARCH: KWHL chart

MIMS, P. J., LEE, A., BROWDER, D. M., ZAKAS, T., & FLYNN, S. (2012). THE EFFECTS OF A TREATMENT PACKAGE TO FACILITATE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS LEARNING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE DISABILITIES. *EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES*, 47, 414-425.

Developed with the alignment criteria in mind.

The development and successful implementation of this curriculum show that students with significant disabilities can make progress in academic content that meets the stringent alignment standards proposed by Flowers, Wakeman, Browder, and Karvonen (2009).

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PILOT STUDY: PARTICIPANTS

## Students

**Experimental group- 15 middle school students with moderate to severe disabilities or autism**

- large urban school district in the south east

**Control group – 15 middle school students with moderate to severe disabilities or autism**

rural school district in the south east

## Teachers

Teachers in the experimental group range from having 2-15 years of experience and three of the teachers have obtained masters degrees

- previous training in the use of the curriculum

Teachers in the control group range from 2 to 40 years experience and 1 of the teachers have obtained a masters degree and one is 6 credits away from her masters degree in special education

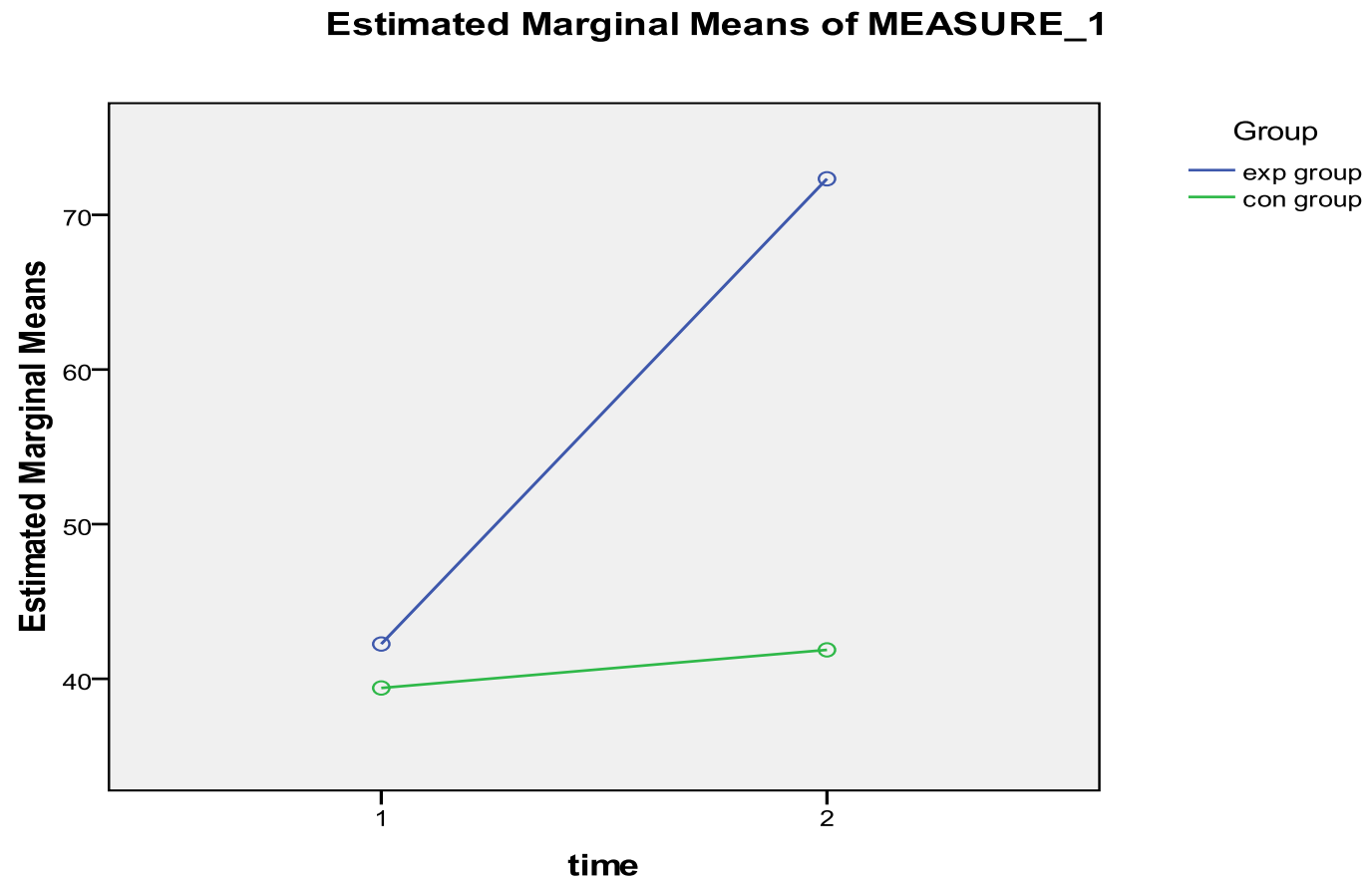
- received training on using a 10 step task analysis to teach story based lessons

# STUDY: PROCEDURES

Lessons were implemented for 5 days at a time (e.g., week 1 targeted only lesson 1)

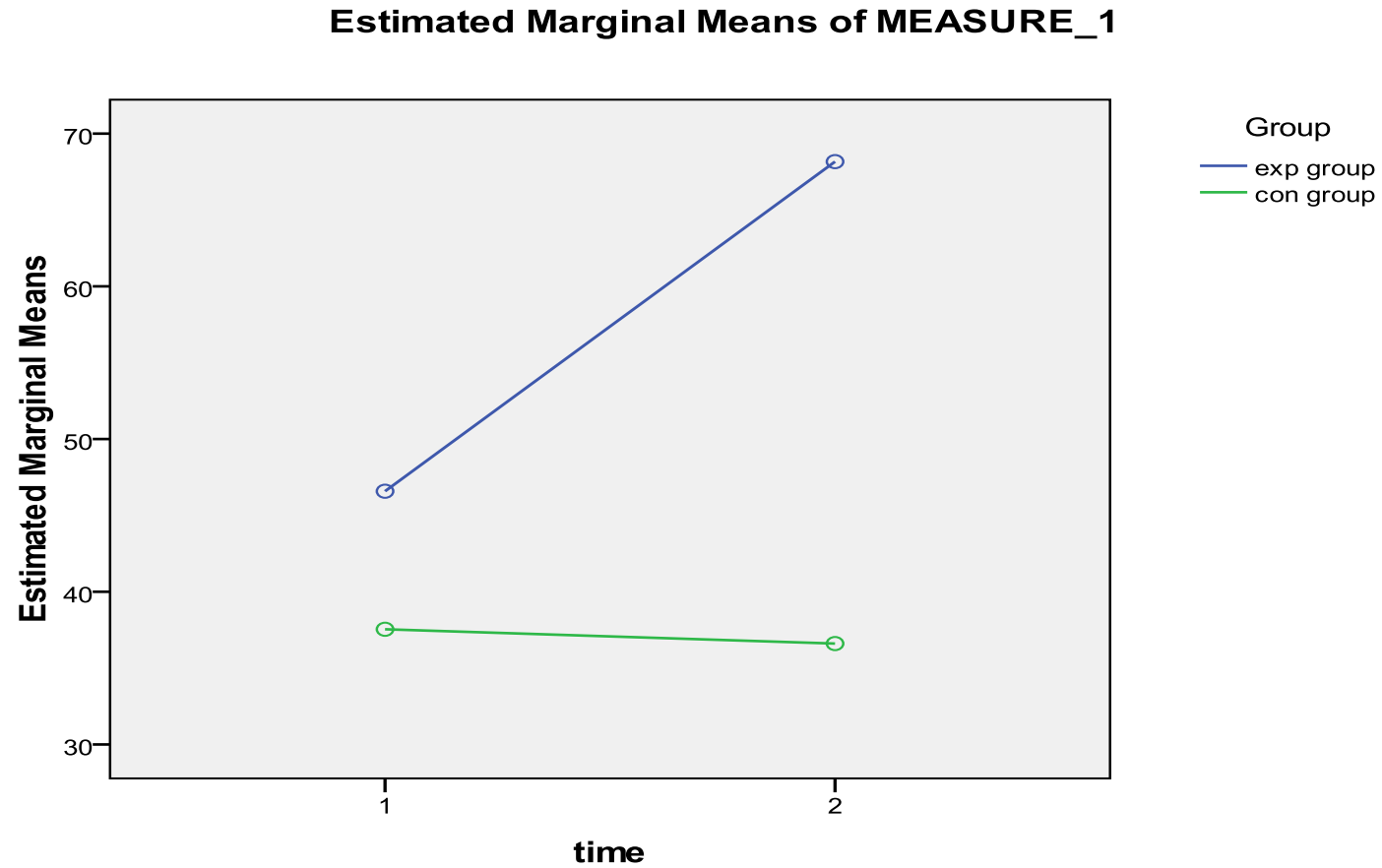
- Vocabulary review using CTD
- Reading of adapted book chapters, poems or plays with embedded comprehension questions or instruction after on key terms (e.g., simile, narrator)
  - Prompting consisted of the system of least prompts, model-lead-test, examples/nonexamples
- Writing -permanent product- using components of systematic instruction (e.g., prompts, prompt fading, wait time)
  - opinion
  - backing up opinion with facts
  - critiquing initial opinion
  - arguing final opinion
- Research- identifying possible research topics and identifying how to find out more info (KWHL)
  - Error correction and Reinforcement procedures provided throughout

# UNIT 4 – DIRECT ASSESSMENT





# UNIT 4- INDIRECT ASSESSMENT






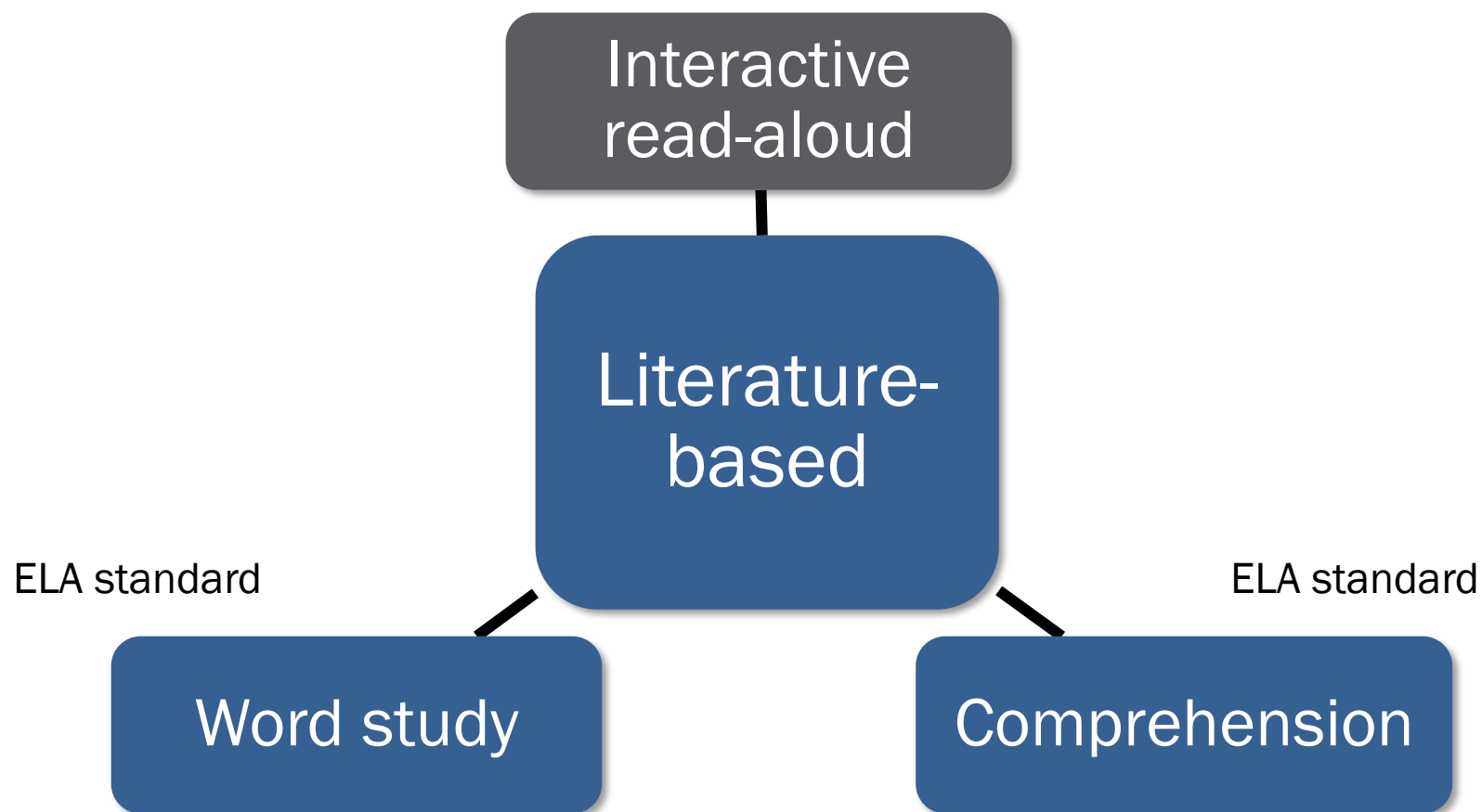
# PLANNING YOUR ELA LESSON

## Comprehensive Approach- Based on Theme

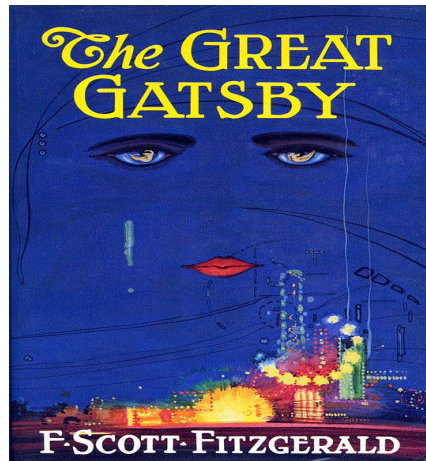
Use targeted and non-targeted grade level literature based on theme to focus on the grade aligned standards you are targeting (e.g., Vocabulary, Listening comprehension, Story grammar elements, Writing skills, Poetry, Play terminology)

- Fiction
  - Nonfiction
  - Informational Text
  - Poetry
- 

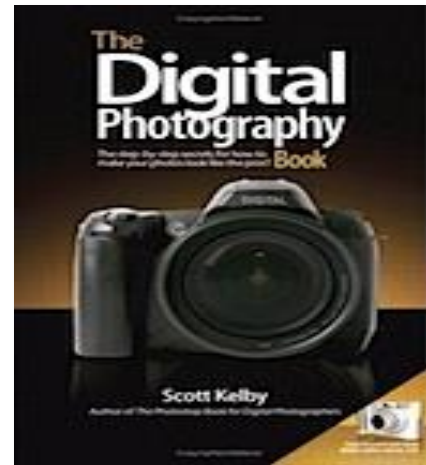
# EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



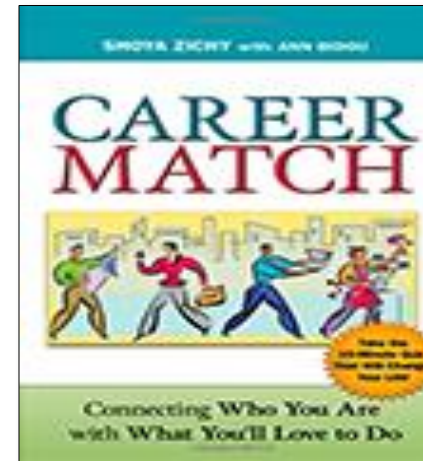
# CHOOSE THE TEXT



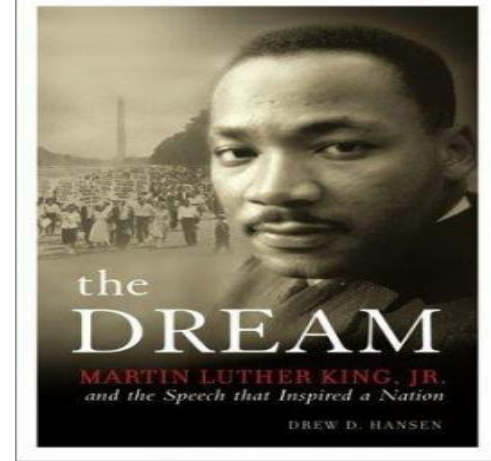
Literature from Grade  
Level English Language  
Arts



Text Related to Student  
Interests

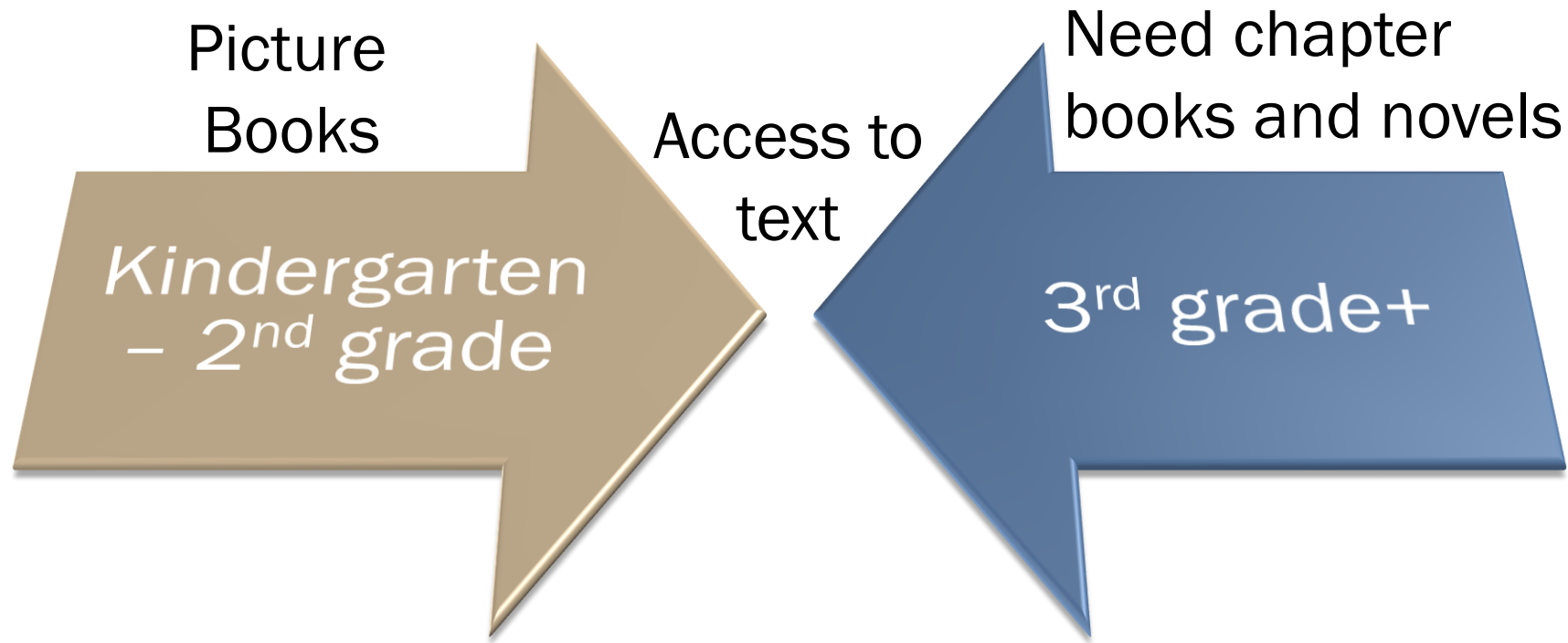


Text Related to Transition  
Goals



Literature from Content  
Areas  
e.g., Science,  
Social Studies

# TEXT SELECTION AND ACCESS

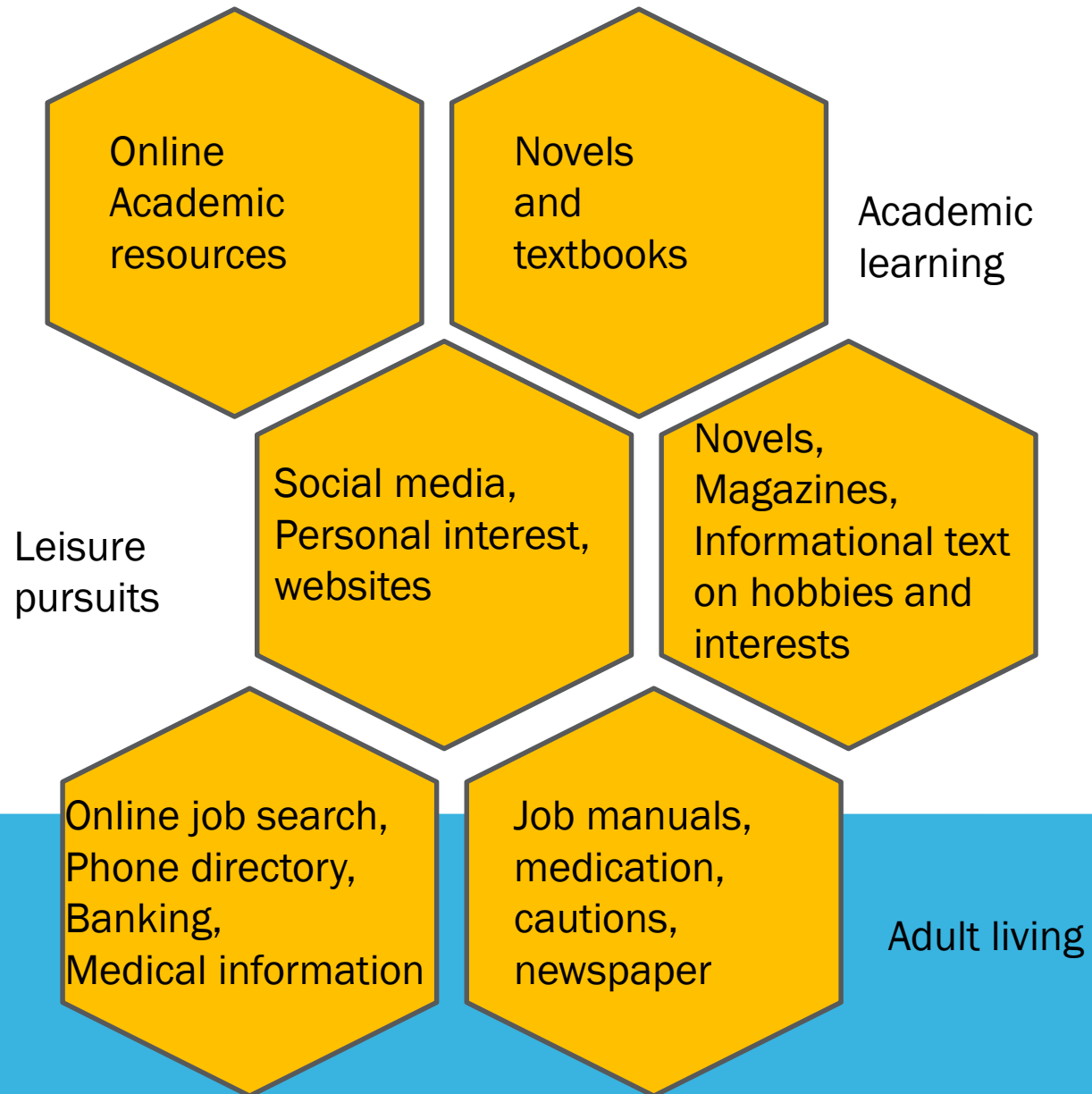


- Access to grade-level texts allows for all students to learn from a broad scope of Narrative and informational content that is aligned with the State Standard.
- Student interests, preferences, and goals can be taken into account.

# TEXT ACCESS:

## Options for Access

- Modified/ adapted text
- Read-alouds
- Text-to-speech technology



# Example- Themes and literature selected

Unit 1: Change	Unit 2: Values and decision making	Unit 3: Social justice	Unit 4: Global awareness
<b>Fiction-</b> <i>Holes</i>	<b>Fiction-</b> <i>Outsiders</i>	<b>Fiction-</b> <i>Number the Stars</i>	<b>Fiction-</b> <i>Dragon Wings</i>
<b>Nonfiction-</b> <i>We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success</i>	<b>Nonfiction-</b> <i>Neighbors</i>	<b>Nonfiction play-</b> <i>The Diary of Ann Frank</i>	<b>Nonfiction play-</b> <i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i>
<b>Poem-</b> <i>Still I Rise</i>	<b>Poem-</b> <i>Dreams</i>	<b>Poem-</b> <i>When we turn out the light</i>	<b>Poem-</b> <i>One Tribe</i>
<b>Research-</b> <i>Changes</i>	<b>Research-</b> <i>Gandhi</i>	<b>Research-</b> <i>Danish Resistance Movement</i>	<b>Research-</b> <i>Immigration</i>



## Story Based Lessons Task Analysis<sup>[1]</sup>

Teacher's job:		Student's job:	
1. Uses attention getter		1. Responds to attention getter	
2. Asks student to predict what story is about		2. Student makes a prediction (does not have to be accurate)	
3. Asks student to point to the title		3. Points to title	
4. Asks student to point to author		4. Points to author	
5. Gives student opportunity to open the book		5. Opens the book	
6. Reads story/ gives student opportunity to anticipate repeated story line		6. Anticipates repeated story line using their voice or assistive technology to read it	
7. Gives student opportunity to point to each word as read		7. Points to words as teacher points	
8. Gives student opportunity to identify key vocabulary word or picture in text		8. Correctly "reads"/ finds the key vocabulary word or picture in text	
9. Gives student opportunity to turn pages as read story		9. Turns one or more pages	
10. Asks one or more comprehension questions		10. Answers comprehension questions correctly	



# VIDEO

MS SBL- Island of Blue Dolphins

Watch video and raise number when you see the step of the SBL highlighted.

Discuss video



# PLANNING FOR INSTRUCTION


- ❑ Determine student's assigned grade level (based on chronological age).
- ❑ For special educators this may mean teaching across various grade levels
  - CCSS have vertical alignment of standards across grade level, which will support teacher planning.
- ❑ Supports for selecting a text:
  - Appendix B of CCSS in ELA recommends titles
  - CCSS online resources: <http://www.corestandards.org>
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: <http://www.smarterbalance.org>
  - PARCC: <http://www.parcconline.org>

## PLANNING FOR INSTRUCTION CONT'D...

- ❑ Determine sequence of standards to be taught
- ❑ Think across content standards to introduce more non-fiction texts.
  - Science: food chains
    - During literacy time teach key vocabulary, begin using read-alouds of informational text on this topic.
- ❑ Develop measureable objectives, and target alternative achievement expectations for the grade-level State Standards

# TEACHING COMPREHENSION

## Components of teaching comprehension:

- Teach students to generate questions
  - Ask questions across all levels of comprehension
  - Activate student's prior knowledge
  - During reading teach students to visualize and make connections
- 

# MAKING CONNECTIONS DURING READING

## Text-to-self connections

- Relate events to the readers' own life

## Text-to-text connections

- Relate a new text to the character, plot, setting, event or problem from a previous text.

## Text-to-world connections

- More advanced connections, requiring students to apply broader background knowledge or previous experiences.

# AWARENESS OF TEXT STRUCTURE

Text structure helps to organize ideas presented in a text.

With knowledge and understanding of text structure, learning and comprehension can be improved.

Two types of text structure:

- External: overall format features, and organizational aids (e.g. table of contents, appendixes, indexes)
- Internal: interrelationships among ideas in the text, as well as to the relationships among text elements

(e.g. story structure: plot, setting, characters, problems, solutions, themes)



# AWARENESS OF TEXT STRUCTURE CONT'D

**Informational texts: 5 possible structures**

**Description: provides information**

- Signal words: to begin with, most important, also, for example

**Sequence: orders in steps**

- Signal words: now, before, after, first, second, then, finally

**Comparison and contrast: explains similarities and differences**

- Signal words: however, on the other hand, either/or, while, similarity

**Cause and effect: links events**

- Signal words: because, since, therefore, as a result, consequently, if/then

**Problem and solution: describes and problem with possible solutions**

- Signal words: similar to cause and effect words
- 



# TEACHING COMPREHENSION TO STUDENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE DISABILITIES

Majority of literacy-based studies for students with severe disabilities focus on sight words (Browder, Wakeman, Spooner, & Algozzine, 2006; Chiang & Lin, 2007).

Recent research has led to new guidance for teaching children with developmental disabilities (Williamson, Carnahan & Jacobs, 2012).



# TEACHING COMPREHENSION TO STUDENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE DISABILITIES CONT'D

## Evidence-Based Practices:

Using Interactive read-aloud (story-based lessons): helps students make connections and create visual images with text.

## Task analysis (Browder, Trela & Jimenez, 2007)

- Steps for teaching story-based lessons
- Research supports the use of story-based lessons as evidence-based practice for teaching literacy (Hudson, & Test, 2011).

Time delay: used to teach vocabulary

Least Intrusive Prompting: to teach comprehension



# USING APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

During read-alouds, interject comprehension questions to develop beginning skills. As skills improve, ask questions after longer passages, or at the end of the text.

Encourage active listening by asking questions prior to reading

Text rereads

Use the least intrusive prompting strategy

Teach highlighting strategies

Teach the rules for wh- questions

Use think-aloud strategies

Have students generate their own questions



# USING PEER READERS

## Four components:

### 1. Peer tutor selection

- a) Grade aligned, interested, fluent readers

### 2. Peer tutor training

- a) Expectations, responsibilities, how to deliver

### 3. Peer-delivered instruction

- a) Guidance on how to help students with different needs


### 4. Adult monitoring

(Carter, Crusing & Kennedy, 2009)

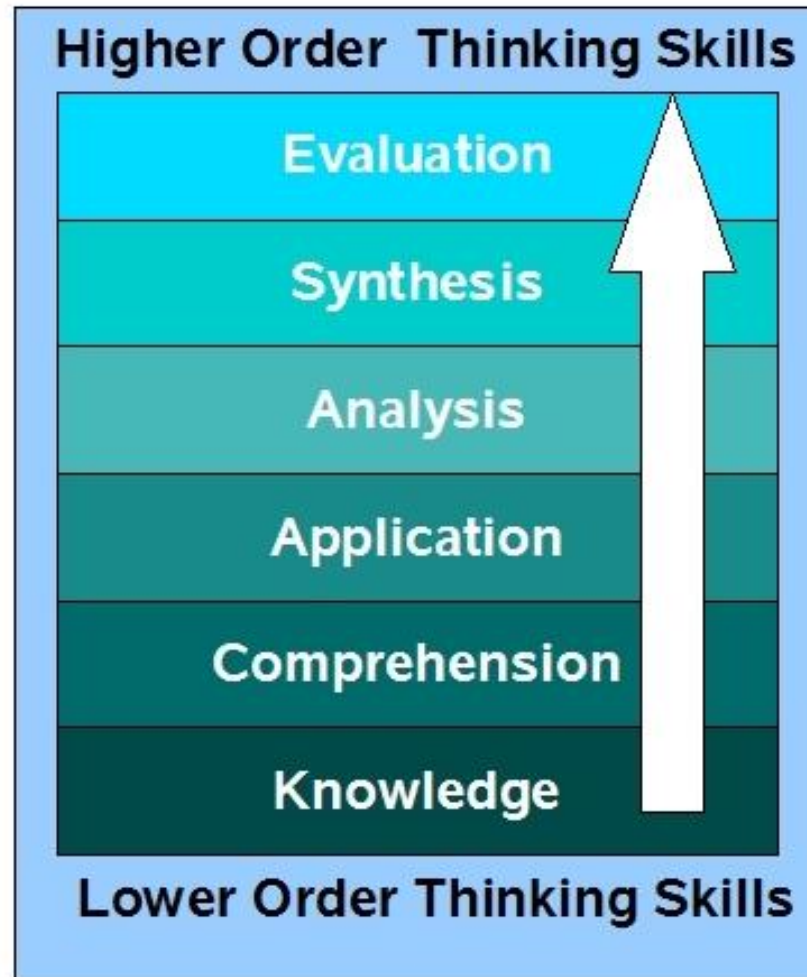
# TEACHING COMPREHENSION

**Effective teaching of comprehension requires understanding of levels of comprehension and awareness of text structure.**

**ELA standards focus on the following domains:**

- Reading literature
  - Reading informational texts
  - Foundational skills
  - Writing
  - Speaking and listening
  - Language
- 

# EXAMPLES OF COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



# DEVELOP COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF COMPLEXITY.

Some examples based on To Kill a Mockingbird:

## Knowledge

- How old was Miss Caroline?

## Comprehension

- Why did the class murmur when Miss Caroline said she was from Winston County?
- What happened first, second, last?

## Application

- Miss Caroline was 21. What will happen to you when you are 21?

## Analysis

- Why was Jem in a haze?

## Synthesis

What is the theme of this story?

## Evaluation

What is the author's tone in this passage? The author's purpose?

# PLANNING HOW STUDENTS WILL RESPOND

Use of speech or communication device to answer questions

Multiple choice-style questioning

Communication applications for tablets (e.g. GoTalk Now, Proloquo2Go)

Graphic organizers

What do you use???





# T-Chart

## KWHL Chart



What do  
you **Know**?



What do you  
**Want to know**?



How can  
you find out?



What did  
you **Learn**?



Main Characters

## Story Map

Settings



FIRST

NEXT

LAST



1-2-3



Problem

Solution



# RESPONSE BOARD OPTION

- Provides a visual aid
- Simplifies responding by offering options
- Only use for students who cannot compose answer using speech

# STRATEGIES



# TEACHING VOCAB

**When?**

**Where?**

**How?**

**Activity?**



# TIME DELAY TO TEACH VOCAB

1. Prompt is paired with the target stimulus
2. Process repeated for all vocabulary
3. Repetition of trials with vocabulary shuffled each time
4. Teacher delays introduction of prompt
5. Array is displayed, teacher gives command, and waits before showing the answer.

Time delay is effective when the student anticipates the correct response.

Time delay can be used across content areas





# Vocabulary Script

## Using the Time-Delay Procedure

*Note: "Show me" means any form of indication, including pointing to, pulling a card from a choice board, or eye gazing to a choice.*

### Vocabulary Cards

#### Round 1: 0-Second Delay

Round 1 is a warm-up round. Ss may need numerous trials at Round 1 before moving to Round 2.

**Step 1** Present the vocabulary cards to a S and review them. For Level 1 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 2; for Level 2 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 3; for Level 3 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 4.

**Step 2** In this first round, give the direction to find the target vocabulary. For example, say to one S, **Show me water**, and provide an immediate prompt (0-second time delay) by pointing to the vocabulary (water) while giving the direction.

**Step 3** Provide feedback. If the S points correctly, provide praise, **Yes, you pointed to water**. If the S does not point to the correct response, use a physical prompt to help the S locate the

correct response. Then give praise, **Very good! You pointed to water**.

**Step 4** Shuffle the cards and move on to the next word.

**Step 5** Repeat these steps for each S in the group.

**Step 5** Continue until each word has been presented 2 times.

*Note: There should be no errors on this round. Do 0-second time delay 2 or 3 times. When the S consistently responds, move on to a 5-second time delay.*

#### Round 2: 5-Second Delay

**Step 1** Present the vocabulary cards to a S. For Level 1 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 2; for Level 2 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 3; for Level 3 Ss, present vocabulary cards in sets of 4.

**Step 2** In this second round, give the direction to find the target vocabulary. For example, say to one S, **Show me water**, and then wait up to 5 seconds (5-second time delay) for the S to independently respond or begin to initiate a response. Tell the



S to wait if he or she is not sure, **If you are not sure, wait and I will show you.**

**Step 3** Provide feedback. If the S points correctly, provide praise, **Yes, you pointed to water.** If the S does not point to the correct response, use a physical prompt to help the S locate the correct response and say, for example, **This is water.** Then repeat the direction, **Find water.**

**Step 4** Shuffle the cards and move on to the next word.

**Step 5** Repeat these steps for each S in the group.

*Note: If a S starts to respond with unprompted correct responses, then praise only those responses and do not praise prompted correct responses.*

If a S begins to indicate an incorrect answer, attempt to block the response, then redirect the S to the correct answer. If a S indicates an incorrect response several times, revert back to 0-second time delay to help the S gain success.

## Vocabulary Comprehension

Present the vocabulary cards in sets of 2 (Level 1), 3 (Level 2), or 4 (Level 3). To check for comprehension of the vocabulary words, have Ss point to the vocabulary card while you give a definition.

### Round 1: 0-Second Delay

Point to the vocabulary card while saying the definition and ask the S to point to the same. For example, **Find the one that is a colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid. Yes, water.** Repeat for each S in the group. Complete this for a few rounds and then move to Round 2.

### Round 2: 5-Second Delay

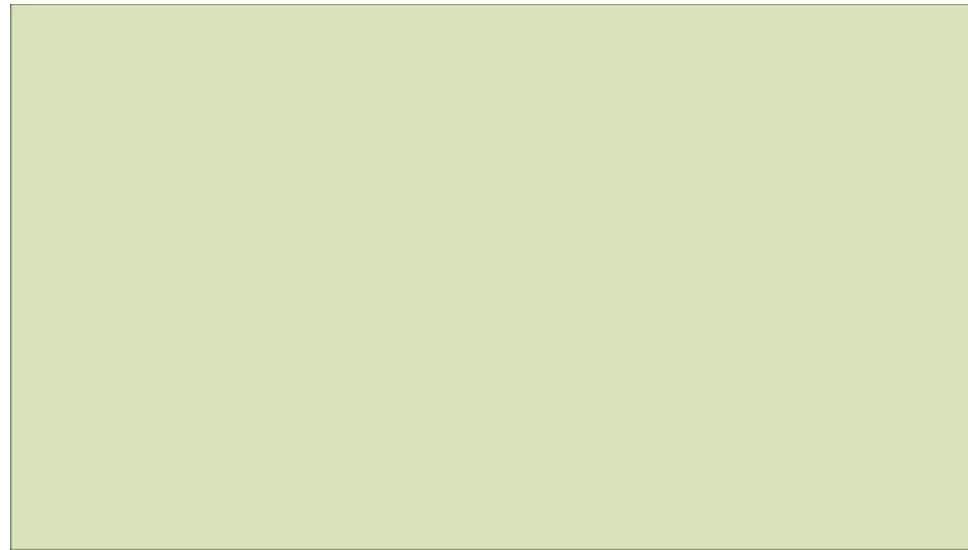
Ask a S to find the vocabulary card as you say the definition. For example, **Find the (object/picture/word) that is a colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid. Good, you found water. Water is a colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid.**

Reinforce correct responses or block and redirect for error correction. Shuffle the cards and move on to the next definition. Repeat for each S.

# CONSTANT TIME DELAY

## Time Delay

- With a group





# TEACHING COMPREHENSION- SYSTEM OF LEAST PROMPTS

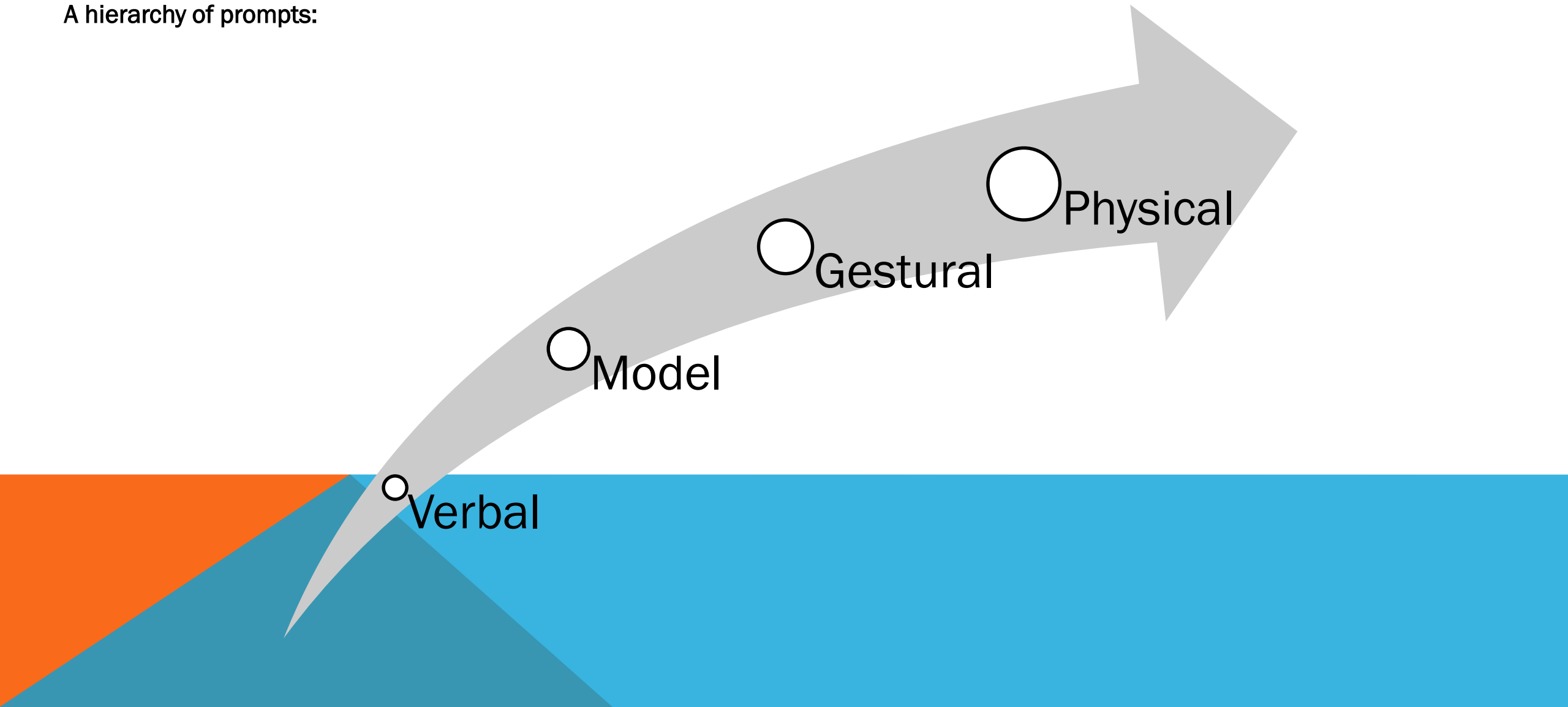
Who would never tell the boy about the Land of the Golden Mountain?

- Present response options
  - mother, grandmother, his teacher
- Student responds correctly: Praise
- Incorrect/no response
  - Verbal prompt- reread paragraph
  - Model prompt- reread sentence
  - Physical prompt- show answer in text
- Initially Reinforce even if prompted
- Fade reinforcement over time
- Video example (5)

<http://youtu.be/jQjKSouS1jc>

# SYSTEM OF LEAST INTRUSIVE PROMPTING

A hierarchy of prompts:



## Script for Literal Recall



If correct, praise. If no/incorrect response is provided prompt by providing a verbal prompt (e.g., “Let’s reread. Stanley wrote a letter to his family and went to his cot to go to bed. What did Stanley write to his family?”) and waiting 4 seconds.

If still no/incorrect response, provide a model prompt (e.g., “Look, it says Stanley wrote a letter to his family. Here is the answer, letter. What did Stanley write to his family? A horse, rock, or letter?”) and wait 4 seconds.

If still no/incorrect response, provide a physical prompt (e.g., “Stanley wrote a letter to his family” while providing hand over hand assistance to touch the picture/object of letter).

# GENERALIZATION ACROSS CONTENT: ELA

Teach the same skill (e.g., main idea; characters; setting) across texts (e.g., Macbeth, Call of the Wild, Great Expectations)

Ex: Teach a rule = Where is a place

Mims, Hudson, & Browder (2012)

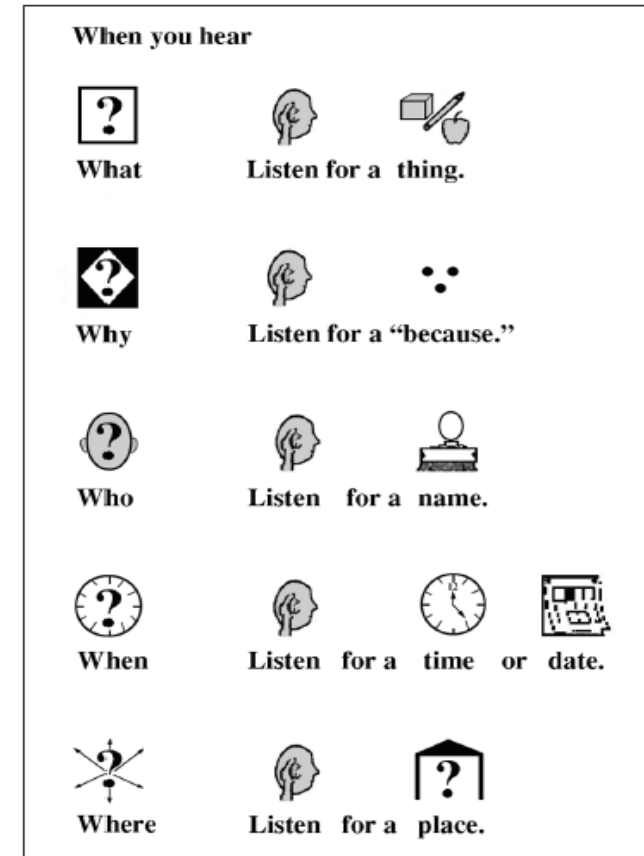



Figure 2. Rules for answering comprehension questions






# HOW TO USE FOR COMPREHENSION


## 4 prompt levels






Figure 1. Prompt Card

START

 The answer is on the page.

<b>Independent</b>  <b>THUMBS UP!</b> 5	<b>Reread paragraph</b>  4	<b>Reread sentence with answer</b>  3	<b>Tell answer and point to answer on page</b>  2	<b>Point to answer on response board</b>  1
---	--	--	--	--

 The answer is from your head.

<b>Independent</b>  <b>THUMBS UP!</b> 5	<b>Reread paragraph</b>  4	<b>Relate to student-</b> How do you feel when . . . ? Why would you . . . ?  3	<b>Model how you would relate-</b> I would [answer] when a . . . .  2	<b>Point to answer on response board</b>  1
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# ANSWERING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## Video clip from study

<http://mast.ecu.edu/modules/ps/lib/media/video06.html>



# MODEL LEAD TEST TO TEACH CONCEPTS



## Main Idea Script

### Using My Turn–Together–Your Turn Procedure

Today we are going to learn about main idea. When we read a story, it is important to know the main idea of what the author is saying. The main idea the most important information the author is trying to tell us.

**My turn first:** Listen. What is a main idea? The main idea is the most important information the author is trying to tell us.

**Let's say it together:** The main idea is the most important information the author is trying to tell us.

**Your turn:** What is a main idea?

**S:** The main idea is the most important information the author is trying to tell us.

Yes, the main idea is the most important information the author is trying to tell us.

Continue using the My Turn–Together–Your Turn procedure to correct errors and until each S says it independently.

For Ss who are nonverbal, use an AAC device preprogrammed with the words *main idea* and its definition. Have the S activate the device to define *main idea* during My Turn–Together–Your Turn. Some Ss may need several rounds of constant time delay to teach the concept of *main idea* and its definition.

# EXAMPLES AND NONEXAMPLES





# APPLYING RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES TO TEACH COMPREHENSION TO STUDENTS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES

Planning read-alouds

Selecting and adapting text

Writing comprehension questions

Planning how students will respond

Using appropriate instructional methods

Using peer readers

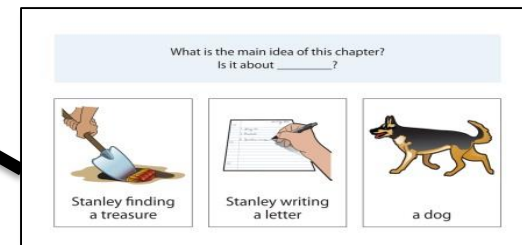
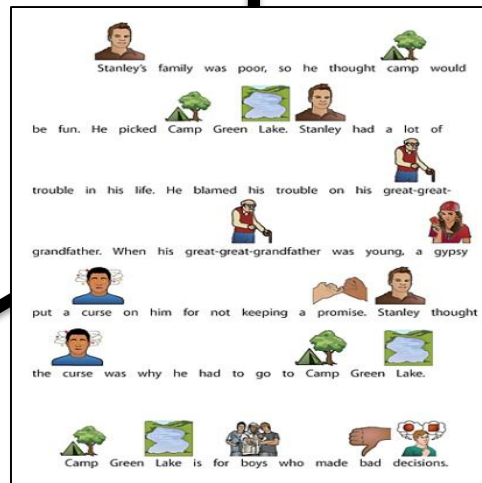
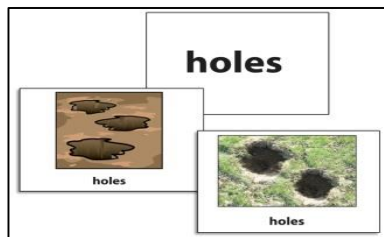
# PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Interactive  
Read-aloud

Literature-based

Comprehension

Word study



# STUDENT LED RESEARCH



Mahatma Gandhi was born in India in 1869. He was a



lawyer; he helped his country in their struggle for civil



rights. Civil rights are when all people in a country have



the same human rights and privileges.



Gandhi did not believe in fighting He decided to








use peaceful ways to solve problems.

# Research cont.

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>What I <u>K</u>now</b>	<b>What I <u>W</u>ant to Know</b>	<b><u>H</u>ow will I find information?</b>	<b>What I <u>L</u>earned</b>

# STUDENT LED RESEARCH-EXAMPLE OF NONFICTION TEXT- A *THOUSAND* PAPER CRANES

KWHL Organizer

<b>K</b> What do I KNOW?	   Sadako lived in Hiroshima, Japan. Sadako became sick with leukemia. Sadako made paper cranes when she was sick.
<b>W</b> What do I WANT to know?	 What is leukemia?
<b>H</b> HOW do I find out?	 I used the internet and watched a video on <b>Leukemia Education for Kids</b>
<b>L</b> What did I LEARN?	



# Writing

- Use the same response options as in text
- Students can
  - write their answers
  - Say their answer for someone else to write
  - Circle answers
  - Paste words, symbols, or photos
- Types of writing
  - Persuasive writing
  - Narrative writing



# PERSUASIVE WRITING

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< Book List Intervention Outsiders Ch 1 2 Pony-Boy-1

You need to write 5 sentences to create your paragraph.

Sentence 1: The introduction


Sentence 2: An opinion

Sentence 3: A supporting fact

Sentence 4: A second supporting fact

Sentence 5: The conclusion


4 of 94





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What will you write about?

 a character and setting

 a big idea

 an airplane

6 of 94

# I WRITE NOW STRATEGY


Author: Katherine Trela, Ph.D.  
Marist College






## I Write...NOW: A strategy to teach students to compose an opinion paragraph

Components		Explanation	Example
I	I think...	<u>Organize thoughts</u> Students identify their opinion on a given issue using the statement, "I Think..." Student's opinion statement is the topic sentence for their paragraph.	I think students should wear uniforms.
W	Why do you think ...?	<u>Generate ideas and translate into words:</u> Student and teacher think aloud to generate reasons (details) that support opinion (topic sentence). Student reviews opinion for each "if" statement, selects fact from response board that follows logically from opinion statement to make "then" sentence. Student uses "then" statement for each detail to support topic.	<i>If students wear uniforms, then they will wear the same style of clothes every day.</i>
r	respond with Reasons		<i>If students wear uniforms, then they only need to buy a few clothes for school.</i>
i	if ...		<i>If students wear uniforms, then their parents do not need to spend lots of money on school clothes.</i>
t	then...		
e	explain		
N	<i>Did you...</i> Name topic?	<u>Edit</u> Student reviews composition by answering each question: Name topic-is their an opinion statement at the beginning? Order steps-Are there transition words to order sentences? Wrap it up- Concluding transition words, Restate topic	I think that students should wear uniforms. First, they wear the same style of clothes every day. Second, they only need to buy a few clothes for school. Third, their parents do not need to spend a lot of money on clothes for school. This is why I think that students should wear uniforms.
O	Order Steps?		
W	Wrap it up and say topic again?		

**I**  I think

**W**  Why?

**r** reasons:

**i** if

**t** then:

**e** explain:



**N** Name your topic?



**O** Order your sentences



**W** Wrap it up and name topic again ?



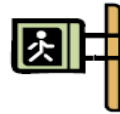
I think that we should take a field trip to the beach.



#### Appendix A Paragraph Graphic Organizer



TOPIC SENTENCE:



DETAILS:


CONCLUSION:

## VIDEO EXAMPLES

Holes (49:00)

<http://youtu.be/NyRIhHw2mbU>

The Diary of Anne Frank (3:29)

[http://youtu.be/\\_ACDJ-AmrZI](http://youtu.be/_ACDJ-AmrZI)

We have research!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF7TSQz7vEk>

Planning for your class?

What will be your first step?

Next step?

Plan for the year?

What do you see as a hurdle?

What do you think will be easy?

Strategies for making it doable

**QUESTIONS?**

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