

Lessons From Literacy

A Parent's Guide

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Reading Quote

When Benjamin Franklin was dining in Paris, one of the other diners posed the question: “What condition of man most deserves pity?”

Each guest proposed an example of a pitiable condition. When Franklin’s turn came, he offered: “A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read.”

Reference: Bartlett’s Book of Anecdotes



Boys and Girls as Readers

- Boys read less often than girls.
- Boys prefer nonfiction to fiction.
- Boys prefer a male protagonist in fiction.
- Girls prefer fiction.
- Girls connect better with characters in fiction.
- Girls engage with either male or female protagonists.

Reference: Reading, Writing, and Gender by Goldberg and Roswell



Children with Advanced Language

- Uses multisyllabic words unassumingly: descriptive
- Asks questions about words
- Uses similes, metaphors, or analogies; rich language
- Modifies language for less mature children
- Expresses similarities and differences

KOI by Bertie Kingore



Advanced Language, continued

- Displays verbal skills when influencing others or handling conflicts
- Uses the specific language of the discipline

KOI by Bertie Kingore



Helping Children Become Readers

- Talk with your children
- Read to your children
- Let your children see you read
- Ask older children to read to younger ones
- Go to the library together
- Give your children books about their special interests



Helping Your Children Become Readers, continued

- Keep books, magazines and newspapers around your home
- Plan outings for your children
- Say rhymes and poetry, or sing songs
- Tell stories about your family

Fundamental

Reference: Reading Is



Selecting Challenging Material

- Work with your child's teacher to determine your child's appropriate reading level
- Bring information about your child's reading level to the librarian at your public library and ask for suggestions
- Go to lexile.com for additional information about books that connect to your child's reading level
- Remember that interest can often outweigh reading level and allow your child to select other books of interest.



Factors That Influence Difficulty Or Ease For Reading

- Complexity of the Language
- Familiarity or unfamiliarity of the topic

Reference: Schools That Work - Allington and Cummingham



Finding Good Books

- Go to www.peggysharp.com and review her suggested lists
- The Florida Department of Education has a website www.justreadflorida.com and justreadfamilies.org. The phone number for this organization is 850-245-0503.
- The International Reading Association has suggestions on their website, www.reading.org
- www.literacymatters.com
- www.rif.org



Tips for Choosing Books

- Have children choose their own books.
- Find out your child's interests and assist him/her in selecting books.
- Encourage book swaps with friends and families.
- Allow children to read the same book many times.
- Use book lists generated from various literacy organizations.
- Look for books that you enjoy reading aloud.
- Try out different kinds of books to see what appeals to your children.
- Have fun and show your children the joy of reading.

Reference: Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)



Types of Books for Young Children

- ABC and counting books
- Wordless picture books
- Concept books
- Pattern books
- Information books
- Traditional rhymes and stories
- Picture books
- Poetry
- Easy-to-Read books



Reading Genres for Elementary- High School - Fiction

Traditional

- Folktales
- Fables
- Myths
- Legends
- Epics



Reading Genres - Fiction, continued

Fantasy

- Fantasy
- Science Fiction



Reading Genres - Fiction, continued

Realism

- Realistic Fiction
- Historical Fiction



Reading Genres - Nonfiction

- Informational
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Mathematics
 - Health
 - Language
 - Arts
 - Recreation

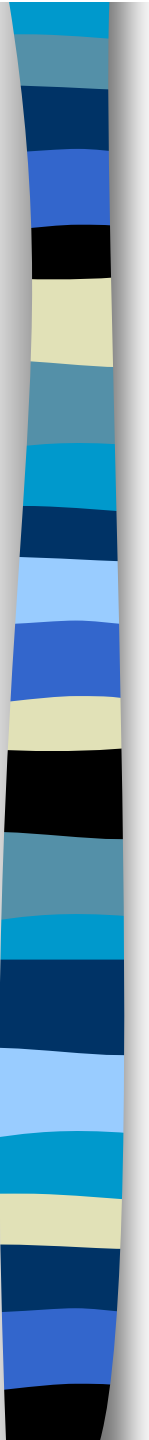


Reading Genres - Nonfiction

■ Biography

- Authentic biography
- Fictionalized biography
- Autobiography
- Memoir

Reading Outside the Book

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- Newspapers
 - Magazines
 - Cookbooks
 - Comic Books
 - Brochures
 - Song Lyrics
 - Instructions
 - Food and Product Labels
 - Catalogues
 - Backs of videos/DVDs

Fundamental

Reference: Reading Is



Three Questions

- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- What does it matter?

Reference: Deeper Reading - Kelly Gallagher



Metaphorical Graphic Organizer

- Pencil/Eraser

A pencil has two ends, one for writing and the other for erasing. Children make suggestions about what they would have added to what they have studied and what they would have taken away.

Reference: Deeper Reading - Kelly Gallagher



Building a Family Library

- Where is the best place to set up the library?
- How large should the library be?
- How should we display our collection?
- What kinds of reading materials should we include?

Reference: Reading Is Fundamental



Teach Your Kids New Words

- Check out websites for activities that build vocabulary.
- Comment on new words that come up on TV or the radio.
- Correct word errors with simple examples or corrections.
- Pick a word your child already knows and see if they can guess the word by reading them the definition.
- Write out pairs of opposites and get your kids to match them up.
- Pick a new word each day and teach it to your child in a variety of ways.
- Ask your child to use two challenging words in a sensible sentence.



Peggy Sharp's Top Picks of 2006

■ Grades K-2

- But Excuse Me That Is My Book - Lauren Child
- Chowder - Peter Brown
- Clementine - Sara Pennypacker
- Flotsam - David Wiesner
- Mama - Jeanette Winter
- Max's Words - Kate Banks
- A Million Dots - Andrew Clements
- My Father, the Dog - Elizabeth Bluemle
- The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School - Judy Sierra
- Toys Go Out - Emily Jenkins



Peggy Sharp's Top Picks of 2006

■ Grades 3-4

- Crossing Bok Chitto - Tim Tangle
- Eats, Shoots, & Leaves - Lynne Truss
- Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich - Adam Rex
- Jazz - Walter Dean Myers
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane - Kate DiCamillo
- Moses - Carole Boston Weatherford
- Now & Ben - Gene Barretta
- Porch Lies - Patricia McKissack



Peggy Sharp's Top Picks of 2006

■ Grades 5-8

- Black Duck - Janet Taylor Lisle
- Escape! - Sid Fleischman
- Fairest - Gail Carson Levine
- The Homework Machine - Dan Gutman
- The Legend of Bass Reeves - Gary Paulsen
- Oh Rats! - Albert Marrin
- Weedflower - Cynthia Kadohata



Reading Quote

Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body.

Joseph Addison