

Book Study

Prepared by the
Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Project

The Fluent Reader: Oral Reading Strategies for Building Word Recognition, Fluency, and Comprehension

Timothy Rasinski
(Scholastic Professional Press, 2003)

Book Description and Target Audience:

***The Fluent Reader* is an excellent resource that could be used by regular and special educators who are looking for practical ways to build word recognition, fluency and comprehension in students' reading. Tim Rasinski offers a research-based rationale for oral reading with many strategies including read aloud, repeated reading and performance reading. This teacher friendly book is full of strategies and activities to build reading fluency within a multi-tiered system of support.**

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Chapter 1: Overview of Oral Reading: A Brief History and Rationale

Overview

This chapter is a general overview of the history of oral reading in the United States, with more extensive thoughts in regards to its current use today. Knowing our past helps us understand our present and perhaps, chart the future of oral reading in an informed way.

Helpful Hints

It might be beneficial for the first day of the book study to read this chapter as a jigsaw activity breaking up the chapter individually or with partners. Then go back to the whole group and share main points of each section. Frame the discussion around the following questions: Based on what you learned in Chapter One, think of how reading fluency is currently being addressed in your school. How has oral reading changed over the past several years? What looks the same?

Discussion Questions

1. Do your students ever read in round robin fashion? Why? What did you think as you were reading the section on the drawbacks of round robin reading?
2. What are the benefits of oral reading? Which activities on pages 26-33 would work best in a core setting? Which would work best in a Tier-2 setting?

Chapter 2: Read Aloud: Modeling Reading and Motivating Readers

Overview

In this chapter, educators will learn about hooking your students through literature. Learning to think through all the important aspects of a good read aloud before ever picking up a book to read in class is addressed. Tips for preparing a read aloud, conducting a read aloud and responding to a read aloud are shared.

Helpful Hints

While reading this chapter, think of the major points educators must consider before, during and after reading an effective read aloud.

Discussion Questions

1. Tim Razinski starts this chapter by stating, “Some of my most vivid childhood memories are of being read to by a parent, grandparent, or teacher.” What read aloud memories do you have?
2. How do you incorporate poetry during read aloud? After this discussion, can you think of different ways to incorporate poetry?
3. What factors do you consider when choosing a read aloud for your classroom?
4. What are some effective ways for students to respond to the story being read aloud?

Chapter 3: Supported Reading: Providing a Scaffold for Your Developing and Struggling Readers

Overview

Chapter 3 gives very effective strategies for helping students' transition from modeled independence. A variety of strategies are used to provide "oral support reading".

Helpful Hint

While reading through this chapter, jot down or find example of text that could be used with students for each of the strategies listed in this chapter. Also be thinking ahead of how or with whom you could pair your struggling readers with for effective paired reading.

Discussion Questions

1. Rasinski states that, "Scaffolding happens in the gulf between modeling and working independently." (pg. 56-57) Compare this concept to a Tier-2 support.
2. With each variety of "oral support reading", discuss how these can be used for core instruction and in a Tier-2 setting. Compare the emphasis for each setting.
3. Practice the Neurological Impress Method (pg. 70) with a partner. How could this method increase students' fluency?
4. Select 5 of your most struggling readers. Share with group members how you would monitor the progress of these students using a method of supported reading.

Chapter 4: Repeated Reading: Implementing a Powerful Tool for Practicing Reading

Overview

In this chapter you will learn why time invested upfront in repeated reading will actually save time in remediation later. There is much to be gained from reading a text more than once. When repeated reading is done on a regular basis, students' word recognition, reading fluency, and comprehension improve significantly. Repeated reading is a powerful tool.

Helpful Hints

Practicing the piano, football or swimming is essential for improvement. Improving reading also takes practice. While reading this chapter, keep in mind your daily schedule and where you could plug in more repeated readings into your day.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe the effect of the theory of automaticity. How would you explain this theory to parents so they understand the importance of repeated reading?
2. Discuss the relationship between decoding and fluency.
3. In radio reading, students take turns reading as they do in round robin reading. Why is radio reading a better method?
4. How would practicing reading words in phrases be more beneficial than practicing high frequency words in isolation?
5. How could the repeated reading log be used as a progress-monitoring tool?
6. Which repeated reading activities would work best for your students in a Tier-2 setting? Why?

Chapter 5: Performance Reading: Turning Research on Repeated Reading into Engaging and Effective Instruction

Overview

In Chapter 5 you learn how to motivate your students by performance reading. This could be with student led read-aloud, reader's theatre and poetry. These strategies can be used with all students on the reading continuum.

Helpful Hints

It would be helpful for whoever is facilitating this chapter to be knowledgeable about different sources for scripts and poetry. Assign each person one website found on page 111 to explore before coming to the group. Don't forget the two Reader's Theater Scripts from *Great Speeches in American History* adapted by Timothy Rasinski found in the Appendix.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think repeated readings will be helpful for normally developing and advanced readers? Why?
2. Which of the student-led read alouds have you implemented in your classroom? What is another activity you would be willing to try?
3. Have each participant model a "Think Aloud" for their first read aloud for Reader's Theatre that gives a brief mini-lesson on at least one aspect of fluency.
4. Brainstorm ideas of when, where and how your students can perform their Reader's Theatre.
5. Of the activities listed in this chapter, discuss which would work best in a core, Tier-2 or Tier-3 setting.
6. What are the benefits of implementing Reader's Theatre into your classroom or Tier-2 instruction?

Chapter 6: Creating Synergy: Lessons That Integrate Oral Reading Activities

Overview

This chapter provides ideas for combining activities to make it work for your classroom setting whether you are a classroom teacher, reading teacher or providing Tier-2 support.

Helpful Hints

Have educators bring their daily/weekly schedule to brainstorm a plan to implement synergistic lessons. Use oral reading fluency data to determine Tier-2 groups and brainstorm activities for interventions.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss what the term “Synergy” means in respect to oral reading activities.
2. Discuss the steps in the oral recitation lesson. Where would this best fit in a multi-tiered system of support? Why?
3. How can teachers best deal with students who are painfully shy about performing in front of a group?
4. What are some successful ways discussed in this chapter to break the habit of word-by-word reading?
5. How could you begin a “Lucky Listener Club” for school and home?

Chapter 7: Oral Reading In and Across the Curriculum: Making Reading Fluency an Everyday Classroom Experience

Overview

Chapter 7 discusses how to combine effective fluency strategies throughout the day, during both reading instruction and other content areas.

Helpful Hints

It is now time to make a commitment to get started. Have each person in the group decide on 1-3 activities they will incorporate into their school day. Whichever oral reading strategy they choose, have them come prepared to lead that part of the chapter. Choose from the following: Teacher-Led Read Aloud, Poetry Reading, Fluency Development Lesson, Radio Reading, Oral Recitation Lesson, Paired Reading, choral Reading, Reading While Listening, Reader's Theater, Performance Reading of Speeches and Poems, Tape-Recorded Reading Material, Parent Read Aloud or Fast Start.

Discussion Questions

1. How can educators incorporate cross-curricular activities in a Tier-2 setting?
2. Share ideas of how you would incorporate repeated reading in science and social studies in your grade level.
3. Create a plan for educating parents and giving them tools to help their children with oral reading at home.

Chapter 8: Assessing Word Recognition and Fluency Through Oral Reading: Effective Ways to Check Students' Progress

Overview

Chapter 8 encompasses using oral reading to assess students' development in word recognition and fluency. It also addresses analyzing error patterns to help your focus of instruction whether it's whole group, Tier-2 or individual instruction.

Helpful Hints

Depending on the size of the group, tape record a student that has reading concerns or tape record students at different reading levels to practice assessing their reading. Also, while reading through this chapter, be ready to propose or defend the appropriate use of one-minute probes for reading accuracy.

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a student who seems to be stuck in the reading process. Describe their strengths and concerns. Use the problem solving process to identify what additional information may be needed to determine the cause of his/her difficulty.
2. In small groups, listen to one of the pre-recorded students. Use the Word Recognition Error Analysis Form on page 168 to record errors. After analyzing the errors, what would you recommend as a focus of instruction for this student. Would the focus change in a Tier-2 setting?
3. Use one of the fluency rubrics, (figure 8.7 or 8.8) to rate a reader's fluency.
4. After gathering data on oral reading fluency, how would you use this information to set groups and decide on a focus of instruction?