

Differentiating Texts to Create Rigor & Relevance for All Readers Grades 4-12



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If you'd like to receive lesson ideas for literacy skill development and other goodies, please fill out this information slip and return to me.

What We Will Do in this Session

- Text Complexity, the reason for differentiating.
- Samples of differentiating texts for your students and content area.
- Why it matters and why it raises achievement.

Importance of PRACTICE and CHOICE

Richard Allington's Work

- 1. Every child reads something he or she chooses.
- 2. Every child reads accurately.
- 3. Every child reads something he or she understands.
- 4. Every child writes about something personally meaningful.
- 5. Every child talks with peers about reading and writing.
- 6. Every child listens to a fluent adult read aloud.

Richard L. Allington and Rachael E. Gabriel. "Every Child, Every Day" *Educational Leadership*, March 2012, V 69, pages 10-15.

Text Complexity

What makes a text complex?
What are factors that can make a text challenging for students?



Quantitative Measures

Qualitative Dimensions

Reader and Task Considerations

QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

... and factors are those aspects that are difficult or impossible for a person to evaluate efficiently.

Examples include word length or frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are typically measured by computer software.

QUALITATIVE DIMENSIONS

Levels of Meaning (literary texts) or Purpose (informational texts)
Structure
Language Conventionality and Clarity
Knowledge Demands

READER AND TASK CONSIDERATIONS

Include motivation, knowledge, and experiences, while tasks to be considered take into account purpose, complexity, and questions.

Assessments made on reader and task considerations are best done by the teacher who understands the student's knowledge and experiences.

Differentiating Texts

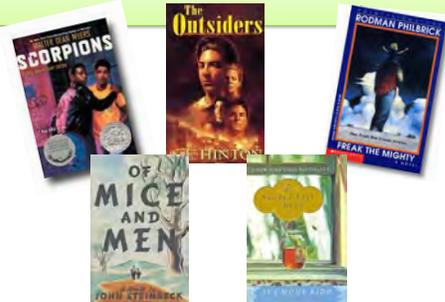
- ▶ Selecting and adapting texts to differentiate information to meet the needs of diverse readers.
- ▶ Making students better readers in your subject area.
- ▶ Using efficient and engaging activities that add to content learning.

Some Pointers

- Students **choose** their reading materials.
- Small Groups are formed, based on student **choice**.
- Grouping is by text **choices**, not by “ability” or other tracking.
- Groups meet on a regular schedule.



What Are the Limits of Friendship?



When is it right and just to challenge authority?







NewsinLevels.com

News in Levels World News for Students of English

HOME LEVEL 1 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 3 GRAMMAR LEARN PEOPLE BOOK S



Man Helps a Runner
02-05-2017 15:00
This news is from the London Marathon. A runner falls down. He is extremely tired. A man picks him up,...

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

Fortheteachers.org

Resources for Teachers

HOME DIFFERENTIATION INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES CURRICULUM LADDERS READING SKILLS FOR BIG KIDS (3+) LESSON IDEAS

Reading Skills Practice (Grades 3+)

Step 1: Choose Skill Step 2: Choose an Article Step 3: Assign Students

Step 1: Choose a Skill

Leveled Reading Articles Posters!

Each lesson can be used multiple times with the same students. Choose different reading materials.

Breaking News English
2,359 Free English Lessons in 7 Levels

BreakingNewsEnglish.com

Latest Lessons - May 2nd, 2017

A third of the food we produce is wasted
2nd May - "Easier"
The British government has said that a third of the food the world produces is wasted and that this is unacceptable.

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

Plastic-eating worm could remove the world's waste
30th April - "Harder"
A natural solution to the growing crisis of plastic waste in the environment may be at hand via a tiny caterpillar called a mealworm.

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

CommonLit.org

CHOOSE A LESSON

Browse our free collection of news articles, poems, short stories, and historical documents for grades 5-12.

SHARE WITH STUDENTS

Assign text-dependent questions to hold students accountable for high-level reading and writing.

TRACK PROGRESS

Analyze student performance and compare class reports on key reading and writing skills.

engaginglearners.com

ENGAGING LEARNERS

Your source for lessons adapted specifically for the Literacy & Learning Centers model.

(coming May 2017)

Let me know when Engaging Learners is live!

Name: _____
Email Address: _____

KATHERINE MCKNIGHT, PHD

This is Just the Beginning...

Please check any of the following you would be interested in learning more about:

- Argumentation in writing
- Skills-based grading and assessment
- Differentiating reading materials
- Implementing literacy and learning centers
- Upcoming conferences featuring Katie
- Bringing Katie to your school
- Receiving Katie's newsletter
- Books and materials by Katie

name: _____

email: _____

If you'd like to receive book lists, please fill out this information slip and return to me. Write "book list" on the slip so I can email it to you.

Where to Find Me!



KatherineMcKnight.com

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