

Caught in the Middle: Reading and Writing in the Transition Years

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Summary

The literacy experiences and challenges that students face in Years 6–9 can be frustrating for both teachers and students.

Caught in the Middle offers teachers a richly textured picture of the world of middle years students. It describes who middle students are, why fostering their voice is important, and how to create a classroom community of literacy partners. Technology, reading, writing, research, the arts, citizen involvement and assessment are some of the topics addressed.

Based on the author's extensive teaching experience, this timely book describes some memorable literacy events as well as powerful examples of various kinds texts, including opinion pieces, poetry, journal entries and writing in role. Contributions from remarkable middle years teachers are an important part of this highly readable book. These fascinating glimpses into real classrooms present these special teachers as they deal with a host of situation that are common in the middle years.

This practical book puts current teaching approaches into context and reflects the needs of the digital age. It explores the changing definitions of such terms as text and reading; the potential of social media; the role of schools in promoting citizenship and social justice; and the evolution of the school library.

The book argues that educators can teach the many aspects of the writing craft and shows teachers how to model important writing techniques that will engage readers and build comprehension. It offers a range of reading strategies that include how to interact with students journals and how to use questions to prompt response, discussion, self-assessment and more.

Caught in the Middle is a rich synthesis of insight, experience and reflection.

Other Resources

- *Whatever Happened to Language Arts? ...It's Alive and Well and Part of Successful Literacy Classrooms Everywhere* (PBP3066)
- *I've Got Something to Say! How Student Voices Inform Our Teaching* (PBP2946)