

Contents

Acknowledgments	vi
About the Author	vii
Introduction	1
Vignette	1
About the Book	3
The Acronym: Literacy Matters	3
Learn to Learn With Metacognitive Reflections	5
Use Mediated Journals Before the Lesson	6
Use Literacy Ranking During the Lesson	6
Return to Mediated Journals After the Lesson	8
Interact With Seven Strategies to Comprehend (Phantom Skill)	11
Schema Theory	12
Ask Questions	12
Important Themes	12
Make Inferences	13
Visualize	13
Summarize	15
Fix Up Strategies	15
Tap Into Prior Knowledge to Support Schema Theory	17
Use an Agree/Disagree Chart	19
The KWL Chart	21
People Search	21
Extend Reading to Encourage Flexible Reading	23
The Human Graph—An Interactive Experience	24
Use a Venn Diagram to Compare and Contrast Informational Text and Narrative Text	25
	26

R	Research the Principles of the Brain and Learning	29
	Sensory Memory to Storage (or Long-Term Memory)	30
	Chunking Information	32
	The Story of a Brain That Reads!	33
A	Analyze Words to Foster Fluency	35
	Decoding, Contextual Clues, and Structural Analysis	36
C	Collaborate With Cooperative Learning Groups to Engage Learners	39
	Establish Roles and Responsibilities	39
	Literature Circles	40
	Cooperative Tear Share	41
Y	You-Are-a-Reader Attitude Matters	43
	Data and Feedback Loops	44
	Student Portfolios	45
	Performance Learning	46
M	Mediate With Early Intervention Strategies	47
	Reciprocal Teaching	48
	One-to-One Tutoring	50
	Examining Student Work	51
A	Appeal to Parents/Guardians and Get Them Involved	53
	Parent Involvement	53
	Homework	55
	Read Aloud	56
T	Teach Vocabulary by Building Background Knowledge	57
	ABC Graffiti	58
	Word Collections	59
	Four-Fold Concept Development	62
T	Tune In to Technology to Impact Literacy	65
	Literacy Online	66
	Word/Numeracy Processing	67
	Graphic Arts	67

Enter Literacy With a Multiple Intelligences Approach	69
Multiple Intelligences Profile	71
Multiple Intelligences Grid	71
Sustained Silent Reading	73
Read Aloud, Read Along, Read Appropriately to Foster Flexible Readers	75
Read Aloud	76
Read Along	77
Read Appropriately	77
Strategize With Guided Reading Activities	79
Directed Reading and Thinking Activity (DRTA)	81
BET Strategy	81
Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review (SQ3R)	82
Bibliography	83
Index	87

ABOUT THE BOOK

Based on the premise that, while not all teachers are reading teachers, all are teachers of literacy, *Literacy Matters* addresses teachers working with students across all content areas and across all grade levels. The teaching and learning strategies support and advance literacy, within the context of the various subject areas. Using these stand-alone strategies with social studies content, or with the concepts of science, math, or literature, teachers explicitly incorporate the elements for reading, writing, speaking, and listening into their content-specific lessons.

The organization of the book is not meant to move sequentially from one chapter to the next, although it can be read and reviewed that way. Because each of the strategies work independently of the others, readers may peruse the table of contents or skim and scan the various sections of the book and dip in and out of the areas that seem most pertinent to their needs. Some may want to dive into the section on guided reading immediately, even though it appears at the end of the book, while others may prefer to start with the first strategy in the book, the learning to learn strategies that foster metacognitive reflection. As it is a small handbook of ideas, the system of offering optional approaches works quite easily, regardless of how one maneuvers through the various sections.

THE ACRONYM: LITERACY MATTERS

For those not trained in reading instruction, *Literacy Matters* offers over 45 strategies that encourage students in the development of their literacy skills. Each letter of *Literacy Matters* represents a set of instructional activities that unpack a literacy skill. The various sections are arranged in the following order:

L-I-T-E-R-A-C-Y M-A-T-T-E-R-S

Learn to learn with metacognitive reflections

Interact with seven strategies to comprehend

Tap into prior knowledge to support schema theory

Extend reading to encourage flexible reading

Research the principles of the brain and learning

Analyze words to foster fluency

Collaborate with cooperative learning groups to engage learners

You-are-a-reader attitude matters

Mediate with early intervention strategies

Appeal to parents/guardians and get them involved

Teach vocabulary by building background knowledge

Tune in to technology to impact literacy

Enter literacy with a multiple intelligences approach

Read aloud, read along, read appropriately to foster flexible readers

Strategize with guided reading activities

Literacy Matters defines each of these sets of strategies and offers best practices teachers can use to help improve student literacy while using their subject matter materials. *Literacy Matters* is a practical guide for enhancing literacy skills at any grade level and in any content area.

Enjoy!

—Robin Fogarty
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