

Why do I have to read this?

Literacy strategies to engage our most reluctant students

Cris Tovani

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Summary

'Why do I have to read this?' What teacher doesn't dread this question? It usually comes from our most disengaged students like the class clown or the student who struggles to read and write at grade level. When we don't know what else to try, it's easy to become frustrated. But take heart! Author Cris Tovani has spent her career figuring out how to entice challenging students back into the process of learning. In *Why do I have to read this?* she shares her best secrets, lessons learned from big fails and her most effective literacy and planning strategies that hook these hard-to-get learners.

You will meet many of Cris' students and you may even recognise a few of your own. You will laugh at her stories and take comfort in her easily adaptable strategies that help students remove their masks of disengagement. Inside readers will find:

- literacy strategies for all content areas
- reference charts packed with small bites of instructional shifts that coaches and teachers can use to quickly adjust instruction
- planning strategies that show teachers how to connect day-to-day instruction
- versatile thinksheets that are reproducible and adaptable to different grade levels, content areas and disciplines.

Above all, Cris gives teachers energy to get back into the classroom and face students who wear masks of disengagement. She reminds us of the importance of connecting students to compelling topics, rich text, useful targets and worthy tasks. She reminds us of the importance of tending to students' basic needs and helps us consider how to best structure instructional time. After reading this book, teachers will have new ways to connect with students in a deep, authentic way.

Other resources

- *Better reading now: 50 ready-to-use teaching strategies to engage students, deepen comprehension, and nurture a love of reading* (PBP4070)
- *Reading Power, revised and expanded edition: Teaching students to think while they read* (PBP9969)
- *Word by word: 101 ways to inspire and engage students by building vocabulary, improving spelling, and enriching reading, writing, and learning* (PBP9723)
- *Ban the book report: Promoting frequent and enthusiastic reading* (PBP2984)
- *Struggling readers: Why band-aids don't stick and worksheets don't work* (PBP6371)
- *Be that teacher! Breaking the cycle for struggling readers* (TCP6567)