

# SMALL GROUP READING FOR BEGINNERS

Making the Most of Your Time

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# LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT GUIDED READING SYSTEM

What do you like about your current system?  
What problems do you see? What would you like  
to change?

## HOW MIGHT GUIDED READING CHANGE IN THE UPPER GRADES?

- + Going beyond leveled readers
- + May be more focused on specific reading strategies
- + More time for independent reading and thinking
- + Teacher introduces the text, “front loads” instruction, students read on their own with purpose, discuss text or EQ at end
- + More text variety: short stories, nonfiction, chapter books, passages, articles, poetry, nontraditional text, etc.



## 5 KEYS OF READING INSTRUCTION

- + Match the individual reader
- + Teach toward independence
- + Teach strategies explicitly
- + Value time spent, volume and variety of reading
- + Follow predictable structures and routines

From Teaching Reading in Small Groups



## CREATING READING GROUPS

- + Leveled groups, using MClass levels or Lexile
- + Strategy groups
- + Independent reading plus conferencing



# GUIDED READING VS. STRATEGY GROUPS

<b>Guided Reading</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Strategy groups</b>
<p>Students practice in instructional-level texts.</p> <p>Students practice in text chosen by teacher.</p> <p>Structure often includes book introduction, reading with coaching, and teaching point(s) or discussion.</p>	<p>Small group of students works with the teacher.</p> <p>Combination of explicit and supported instruction used.</p> <p>Teachers coach</p> <p>Students respond</p>	<p>Students practice in independent-level texts.</p> <p>Students practice in self-selected or teacher-assigned texts.</p> <p>Structure includes connection, explicit teaching, active engagement, and a link to students' reading</p>

From Teaching Reading in Small Groups by Jennifer Serravallo



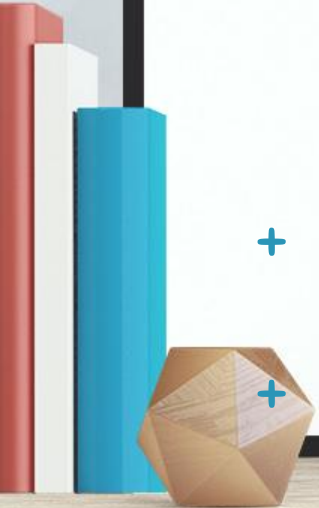
## GUIDED READING

- + More holistic approach
- + Combine phonics/word work, group and independent reading, comprehension and writing
- + Best for students who are below or just below grade level reading expectations
- + [Guided Reading Strategy Checklist](#)



## STRATEGY GROUPS

- + More focused on specific strategy and/or reading deficits
- + May focus on a particular standard (main idea, compare/contrast, etc.) or a particular reading skill (fluency, characterization, figurative language, etc.)
- + Work with students on multiple levels on the same skill
- + Great for targeted instruction at all levels





## INDEPENDENT READING PLUS CONFERENCING

- + Great choice for high level readers who need extra enrichment
- + Mini lesson or assignment given at the beginning of the week
- + Students work independently with their text, checking in with teacher during conferences



## ORGANIZING AND SCHEDULING READING GROUPS

- + Will look different based on types of groups and combinations
- + Think about which students need the most vs. which students can work independently
- + Flexible groups, changes based on growth and data



# RESOURCES AND TEXTS FOR GUIDED READING

ReadWorks

[www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org)

- + Fiction and nonfiction texts
- + Can search by Lexile, topic and reading strategy
- + Comprehension questions at all levels
- + Assign texts on Google Classroom



# NewsELA

[www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com)

- + Nonfiction texts at all levels
- + Search by standard, topic or use pre-made text sets
- + Rigorous, challenging texts
- + Comprehension questions at all levels
- + Texts can be assigned on Google Classroom



# Teaching Tolerance

[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

- + Texts based on the standards of Identity, Diversity, Justice and Action
- + Excellent connections to current events and social studies standards
- + Nonfiction articles plus poetry, short stories and fables and folktales from many cultures



## RESOURCES

- + [Teaching Reading in Small Groups](#)
- + [Schedule for Reading Rotations](#)
- + [Reading Block Organizer](#)
- + [Reading Block Organizer 2](#)

