

Reading & Literacy Strategies That Work!

Do you want to help your students improve their reading skills? Are you looking for strategies to get students more involved in reading lessons? Look no further!

Below you will find Reading & Literacy strategies for **Elementary**, **Middle**, and **High** School students that you can use all year!



Elementary School Reading & Literacy

Elementary school students tend to struggle with basic reading skills associated with phonics, decoding, and fluency. Below we've included some helpful tips, strategies, and resources to help your students improve their literacy skills all year!

If your students are struggling with:

Fluency and Phonics

- [Check out this awesome set of fluency strategies from Intervention Central](#)
- [Phonics Strategies](#)
- [Free Phonics Printables](#)

Decoding Problem Sounds

- Use "Word Walls" for difficult vocabulary
- Create strategy cards or anchor charts for the decoding process
- [Classroom Strategies for Improving Decoding Skills](#)

Comprehension

- 3-2-1 Activities - Students list 3 things they learned, 2 things they thought were interesting, and one question.
- Graphic Organizers or Think/Pair/Share
- [Check out these Comprehension Strategies from Reading Rockets](#)

Metacognition

- Before reading, preview the text, ask students to identify the purpose of the reading.
- During reading, students should learn to monitor their own understanding by writing down difficult words, adjusting reading speed, and checking in for understanding.
- After reading, use round robin activities, finger signs, or post-it questions to do a self-check for comprehension.

Helpful Reminders!

- **Allow Choice** - Give students options for what they read!
- **Make it Personal** - Encourage students to think about how the readings relate to their lives and interests outside of school.
- **Don't Over Correct** - Your goal is to create confident and independent readers, be careful not to correct every small error. Too many corrections can feel like harsh criticisms to young readers and damage their confidence in reading.
- **Give SPECIFIC Praise** - Say more than just "Great Job!", remember to tell students specifically *what* they've done well.

Middle School Reading & Literacy

Read about what one school district did to incorporate 5 reading strategies that improved comprehension into their middle school classes. They identified 5 strategies school-wide that worked and implemented the “Middle School High Five.”

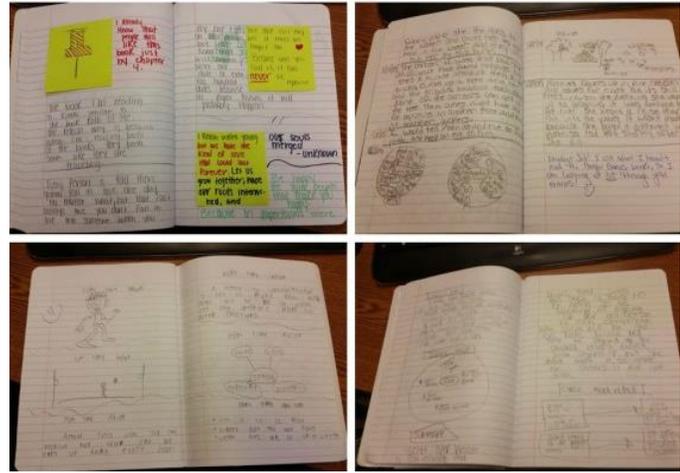
[Read about the “Middle School High Five”](#)

Have you ever tried a Reader’s Notebook?

“Our Reader’s Notebooks aren’t just for accountability after reading time, though. My students also keep track of words that they don’t know, quotes they love, grammar constructions that we have studied that they see in their own books, and more. They use them when they create projects and write papers.”

Using reader’s notebooks rather than logs or summary sheets has helped my students to make the jump from just rehashing what they read to actually thinking about it, analyzing it, and evaluating it. My students are reading and writing every single day, and best of all it’s about books and topics they have chosen and are invested in.”

[Check out the full article from TheEducatorsRoom.](#)



High School Reading & Literacy

Novels and readings in older dialects with higher level vocabulary words can be a daunting challenge for most high school students. Below are some ideas and strategies to engage your high school students in these complex and classic works of literature.

Literature Circles

Giving students a chance to discuss, question, clarify, and debate important concepts from the readings you assign can be a vital step in creating confident college level readers.

Check out the resources for literary circles [here!](#)



Click the video to the left to see one school’s journey with student advisory groups tied to the improvement of literacy!

Defend Your Position

This activity requires students in their respective discussion groups to spend 5-10 minutes discussing and defending their position on a topic or character from the reading. Other group members will question and discuss the student’s argument. After the allotted discussion time, students will switch and repeat the process.

An alternative to this activity would be the “**Question the Author**” activity outlined in the link below. For more information and ideas check out the resources section of [ReadWriteThink](#).

Help for Struggling Readers

Even at the middle & high school level we find students that struggle with reading and comprehension. Click [here](#) to check out strategies to help secondary students struggling with literacy.

More Resources & Inspiration:
[Question & Answers From the Experts](#)
[Help With Foundational Skills for 6-12](#)
[Helpful Apps & Websites](#)

