

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Webinar Series

Announcing our line for the Fall 2018 Webinar series...

- Essentials in Guided Reading
- High Leverage Strategies and Tools for Classroom Management
- Reading and Math Centers 101

For those of who haven't participated in these webinars before, you log into a program called Zoom. You do need audio to participate and video is optional. Below is a link to sign up:

[Fall Webinar Series Sign Up](#)

Can't attend one of the live webinars? No worries! I have recorded some of these webinars in the past. It is better to attend a live webinar, so you can ask questions, etc. but you can access the recorded webinars through this link:

<http://elementary.conceptschools.org/recorded-webinars/>

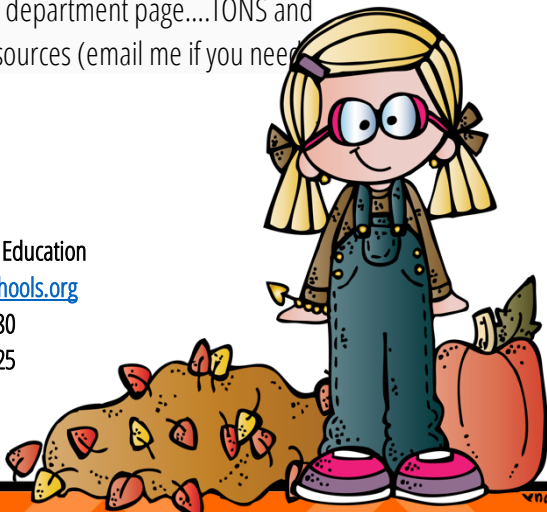
Visit Concept Schools' Website

Have you had a chance to browse the Concept Schools website? Hop on and browse through all the features and resources here:

www.conceptschools.org

Look for our K-2 department page....TONS and TONS of free resources (email me if you need password.)

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FREE?!?!? (or really, really cheap)

Tech for Anchor Texts

Textbooks and trade books are the usual go-tos for anchor texts. However, some awesome new sites and tools have emerged connecting "texts" through technology. Even better yet is that you can search for very specific content, skills, standards, etc. though easy to use embedded search engines. Through our interactive whiteboards, students can experience these texts while having tools to markup the texts.



EPIC!

<https://www.getepic.com/>

DONT WALK....RUN! If you haven't sign up yet, you are truly missing out. Epic is free for teachers to use and offers over 25,000 different books/text. Want students to hear the text again maybe in a center? Find books that also have a Read to Me option. There are so many possibilities for sharing these authentic ebooks with students.



Readworks

<https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps>

Readworks is known for great texts that can easily be printed out. How awesome is it that you can easily search passages based on content, subject, and even level? Pair Readworks with your interactive whiteboard to allow for highlighting and annotating the text.



Newsela

<https://newsela.com/>

Newsela makes it easy for an entire class to read the same content, but at a level that's just right for each student. Almost all of their content is for 3rd grade or above but many lower Lexile level passages could be used for anchor text.



Unite for Literacy

<https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

This resource is targeted toward emerging readers. It offers original, non-fiction picture books support beginning readers of all ages. Features include predictable, rhythmic language; images with clear, familiar subjects; and text that ranges from one word up to a few sentences per page.

Easy on That Anchor Text

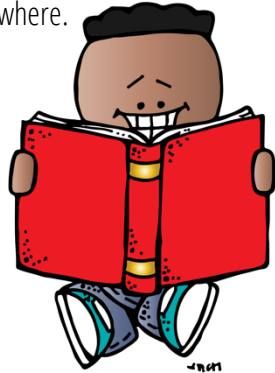
by Jennifer Sajovec

When the average person thinks about “Reading Class” they probably imagine students sitting in desks all opened to the story of the week in their reading textbooks. Sounds boring, right?!? Thank goodness we have moved beyond this old-school model and now recognize students NEED to experience literacy in many different ways, from read-alouds to guided reading. So how does the weekly “anchor text” fit into that mix? Read on!

SET THE PURPOSE

Common core issued in a new term.... complex text. The term grew out of the need to expose students to a wide spectrum of texts that elicit the practice of critical thinking skills (aka-thought provoking.) Gone are the days we use a basic grade-level phonics story to “teach” comprehension. Trust me; there’s VERY little substance to those stories beyond who, what and where.

Textbook companies quickly redesigned their products to offer an “anchor text” to meet the new complex text requirement of common core. We now have REAL stories!!!!



What Anchor Texts ARE and ARE NOT

TAKE NOTE! The new weekly stories should NEVER EVER NEVER EVER be taught for readability for all your students. In other words, the goal should NEVER be to have all your students able to “read” the anchor text on their own. Here are some rules of thumb to help you decide on your lesson focus.

Anchor texts are the perfect tool for:

- introducing new vocabulary
- working on comprehension strategies (by listening to the story)
- hearing fluent reading
- provide content knowledge (such as social studies, science, math, etc.)
- build general background
- provide opportunities for listening/speaking skills (through discussion about the anchor text, etc.)

The current anchor texts should NOT be used to teach the following:

- phonics and decoding
- word recall
- isolated vocabulary

Selecting the Right Text

A high-quality anchor text is worthy of multiple examinations which is why it’s “read” several times during the week. One of the best places to find an anchor text is in your reading textbooks as the publishers have (hopefully) done the legwork to vet texts so they match the complex text definition.

It is, however, okay to choose something else for a weekly anchor text BUT it must meet the standards outline by common core (and other similar state standards.)

Questions to Consider When Selecting a Quality Anchor Text:

1. Is your anchor text aligned to your standard?
2. What is the complexity of your anchor text?
3. What supplemental resources exist (or need to be developed) that will help your students access the text with increasing independence?
4. How will you assess your students’ understanding of the anchor text?

INSTRUCTION

Where Does It Fit in the Schedule?

Think of the Anchor Text as part of your Shared Reading time in your Balanced Literacy Block. With all the other parts to your block taking up a HUGE amount of time, Shared Reading should only be about 10-15 minutes long. Yes, you read that correctly.....Covering the anchor text each day should be 15 MINUTES MAX!!!!

What Do You DO with an Anchor Text

I try to keep things VERY simple when I think about using an anchor text in whole group instruction. I want all students to INTERACT with a text at their grade level.

Here’s a very BASIC way to think about the difference between and anchor text and leveled text.....

Anchor Text = Learning about Reading

Guided Reading Text = Learning to Read

HMH Journeys does offer a resource to help work through an anchor text with your students. Note that even on Day 3 of your anchor text where it says “independent reading”, Journeys is referencing a Just Right book and not the anchor text. Give it a quick look!

<http://downloads.hmlt.hmco.com/EdSchool/ThinkCentral/Locating%20Journeys%202014%20Unpacking%20Complex%20Texts.pdf>

