

Guided Reading in the Intermediate Grades



Guided reading is a practical way to match reading instruction to the levels and needs of individual students. Students need on-going literacy instruction after the primary years. As they move through the grades, the range of differences in reading ability in a class widens. The literacy demands increase. Students must learn to adjust their strategies as texts and tasks become more complex. Explicit instruction is essential to lift students to higher literacy levels.

What will the other students do while the teacher is working with guided reading groups? Here are some suggestions:

- Read independently
- Discuss texts read with others
- Engage in word work, including determining words from context, expanding vocabulary through dictionary use, exploring and expanding language structures and studying word origins
- Complete graphic organizers, maps, webs, charts, diagrams and other visuals over materials read
- Write in logs, journals, portfolios, and letters
- Make connections to their own experiences or to other texts they have read
- Participate in literature discussions or book groups

- Interpret illustrations and other visual aids within the text
- Represent ideas artistically through drawing, drama, rap or song
- Engage in research about topics related to the text or other content learnings

Teacher resources for **guided reading** at the intermediate level:

Guiding Readers and Writers Grades 3-6: Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy. Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell. Heinemann.

Teaching Reading in Middle School: A Strategic Approach to Teaching Reading That Improves Comprehension and Thinking. Laura Robb. Scholastic.

Developing Competent Readers and Writers in the Middle Grades. Martha Combs. Merrill

Final Statement

Guided reading when implemented with independent reading and focused study in narrative and expository text helps students expand their reading power!

