

Guided Collaborative Reading – a fundamental Literacy skill

Learning Objectives:

- Use visual clues to deduce plot and genre
- Extract key details from the blurb to form an expectation of a book
- Debate the success of the opening of a book

Why is collaborative learning successful?

Collaborative learning refers to an instruction method in which pupils at various performance levels work together in teams towards a number of goals. Pupils are responsible for one another's learning as well as their own. Thus, the success of one pupil helps other pupils to be successful.

Once the teacher has managed to lead a guided reading group, they will then be able to focus on a key objective: key theme, a character, a semantic field of vocabulary choices.



Guided Reading – a key Literacy skill

Learning Objectives:

- Use visual clues to deduce plot and genre
- Extract key details from the blurb to form an expectation of a book
- Debate the success of the opening of a book



Pre-Reading discussion point...

Look at the front cover of the book you have been given and consider the following points:

1. What is suggested about genre?
2. How does the cover provide an expectation of plot and / or character?
3. If you are not familiar with the book: how does the front cover create a level of interest (or not)?

Blurb

One member of the team needs to read the blurb of the book aloud to the rest of you. As they read, the rest of you should catch the five words or phrases that most stand out to you.

What do those five words or phrases tell you about the narrative of the book you are going to read? Do you all have the same ideas?

Sum up: in fifty words, write what your first impressions of the book are using specific references to the cover and the language of the blurb.

Guided Reading #1

Decide how you are going to organise your reading:

- One person reads all of the pages but that person changes each week?
- You read a page each until your reading time is up?
- One of you is the narrator and the others in the group read dialogue from characters?

Then... read the opening of the book (the first page or where there is a logical stop point within the first two pages).

Narrative hooks discussion:

- How has the writer opened their narrative?
- How does the opening parallel or contradict your expectations of plot / character?
- What are your first impressions of the story or one of the characters or places you have met?

Just before you start...

- Look at how the book is organised...

Chapter titles? Chapter numbers? A prologue? Diaries or letters?

- Who's perspective is the book told from?

First person? Main character? Observer's point of view?

Writer's choices...

How does the title of the first chapter or the structure of the whole book further influence your ideas about the way the narrative will unfold?



Evaluate your group

- You are going to need to form a cohesive working pattern with your peers for the next few weeks to work through the book and develop your own reading skills, communication skills and understand the way in which a writer crafts a narrative. How do you think your group worked today?

