



What is Small Group/Guided Reading?

Guided reading is a small-group instructional context in which a teacher supports each reader's development of systems of strategic actions for processing new texts at increasingly challenging levels of difficulty. During guided reading, students in a small-group setting individually read a text that you have selected at their instructional reading level. You provide teaching across the lesson to support students in building the in-the-head networks of strategic actions for processing increasingly challenging texts. Through guided reading, students learn how to engage in every facet of the reading process and apply that literacy power to all instructional contexts.

What does guided reading look like?

A small group of students who are at a similar point in their reading development are seated across from you at a small kidney-shaped table. Each student reads, softly or silently, the same text individually. You guide a discussion of the text meaning and make teaching points based on your observations of the students' reading strengths and needs.

Steps in the guided reading process:

1. Gather information about the readers to identify emphases.
2. Select and analyze texts to use.
3. Introduce the text.
4. Observe children as they read the text individually (support if needed).
5. Invite children to discuss the meaning of the text.
6. Make one or two teaching points.
7. Engage children in letter/word work activity.
8. Extend understanding through writing about reading (optional).
9. Reflect on the lesson and plan the following lesson

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