Blurring the Lines: Launching an Integrated Reading and Writing Workshop
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Literacy Workshop

What?
An integrated workshop where students are applying the strategies, skills, habits, and behaviors of literacy learners while engaged in the reciprocal processes of reading and writing.

When?
Literacy Workshop occurs based on the following:
- Students' needs
- Curricular expectations and integrated learning standards
- Optimal opportunities to blend reading and writing processes

Why?
- Illuminates the synergy among book experiences, life experiences, and the written word.
- Focuses on integrated big ideas—big-picture learning.
- Equips students with future-ready habits of mind.
- Streamlines planning.
- Increases time for shared demonstrations and independent learning.


Launching Lessons Based on Integrated BIG IDEAS
Strategies and Habits of Literate Citizens

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Common Thread</th>
<th>Writing</th>
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| What kinds of reading do I like to do? | **Interests**
What things, topics, and ideas interest me?
How do I learn more about and share my interests with the world? | What do I want to write about? | What do I know about myself as a writer? |
| What do I know about myself as a reader? | **Persistence**
What are the habits and behaviors of persistent people?
How do I apply these behaviors in school and in my life? | How do I keep writing even when it's challenging? | |

Literacy Workshop Mentor Texts
Through the magic of reading, a boy is transported to breathtaking locations around the world. Then, back in his neighborhood he takes time to wonder about commonplace occurrences in his everyday life. Finally, he uses what he has learned to write a story to share with the world.

**Mentor Texts for Interests**
A simple, uncluttered book that includes many different familiar activities that your students might have experienced. This book can spark a conversation about students' interests and lead to making a class experts chart.

A young girl is given a special book by her teacher and she hurries home to read it. When she finally sits down to read it, she is disappointed to find out that there are no words inside. Later, she discovers that the book is filled with the magical stories of her imagination.

A boy who hates to read finally finds his favorite book. As he carries it around with him, he unexpectedly loses it. When someone else picks it up, he has to decide whether he will reclaim it or let another reader enjoy the "good little book."

**Mentor Texts for Persistence**
A little girl has a "wonderful idea," she and her canine assistant are going to make "the most magnificent thing." Although she knows exactly what it is going to look like and how it is going to work, she is unable to get it just right. After many attempts, she gets frustrated and gives up. Then they take a walk to calm down, and she is able to regroup and create a near-perfect magnificent thing.

A celebration of American women who persevered and succeeded in their own unique ways against all odds. This book serves as a reminder to young women (and men) to find your own voice and stand up for what you believe in no matter what people tell you.

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| Build background knowledge for reading | **Ideas**
Where do ideas come from? | Cultivate ideas for writing/products |
| How do I better understand and author's ideas? | *What do I do with the ideas I have?* | How do I understand how my writing and reading are connected? |
| Uncover clues about characters. | **Character**
Who am I as a reader, writer, person? | Develop interesting characters. |
| Learn about yourself as a reader. | *What can I learn about my place in the world?* | Learn about yourself as a writer. |

**Launching Lessons Based on Integrated BIG IDEAS**

**Integrated Big Ideas**

**Reading**
- Build background knowledge for reading
- How do I better understand and author's ideas?

**Common Thread**
- Ideas
  - Where do ideas come from?
  - What do I do with the ideas I have?

**Writing**
- Cultivate ideas for writing/products
- How do I understand how my writing and reading are connected?

- Develop interesting characters.
- Learn about yourself as a writer.

**Mentor Texts for Ideas**


"For every story there is a beginning and an end, but what happens in between makes all the difference." So begins this one-of-a-kind book where the middle of each story is told solely with illustrations.

While he is writing, an author finds himself at a loss for ideas. Later, when he and his dog go for a walk around his neighborhood, he is surprised at all the ideas that are waiting for him.

**Mentor Texts for Character**

In his brightly-colored signature style, Todd Parr reminds readers to "be the best you can be!"

A celebration of diversity and of who we are, not only as individuals, but also as a collective "we" in the world.

Lizzie and her mom go to the park and meet an elderly man and his dog, Cecile. Unfortunately, Lizzie is afraid of dogs. The kind man helps Lizzie overcome her fears through small steps that eventually become something big.

Jabari has finished his swimming lessons, passed his swimming test and is ready to jump off the high dive, or is he? Something always seems to stop him—he has just eaten lunch, he can't decide which dive to do, or he needs to do some stretches. Finally, with a encouragement from his dad, he is ready to "take the plunge."

**Professional Resources**


