

The Impact of Reading on Student Achievement: Critical Elements Proven to Work

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A Literacy Crisis: Cause for Alarm

- Every school day, more than 3,000 students drop out of high school (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2003).
- Only 70% of high school students graduate on time with a regular diploma, and fewer than 60% of African-American and Latino students do so (Greene, 2002).
- More than 8 million students in grades 4 – 12 are struggling readers (U.S. DoE, 2003).

Reading Next
Alliance for Excellent Education
Carnegie, 2004

Effective teachers:

- understand the critical relationship between access to books and reading achievement.
- recognize that the availability of reading material is related to how much time students spend reading.
- understand that how much students read is related to how well they read.

Insights from Research on Reading Motivation

1. Engaged readers thrive in classrooms that are book-rich.

Gambrell, 1996; Teale & Gambrell, 2006

Students in classrooms with well-designed classroom libraries:

- interact more with books,
- spend more time reading,
- demonstrate more positive attitudes toward reading, and
- exhibit higher levels of reading achievement.

NAEP

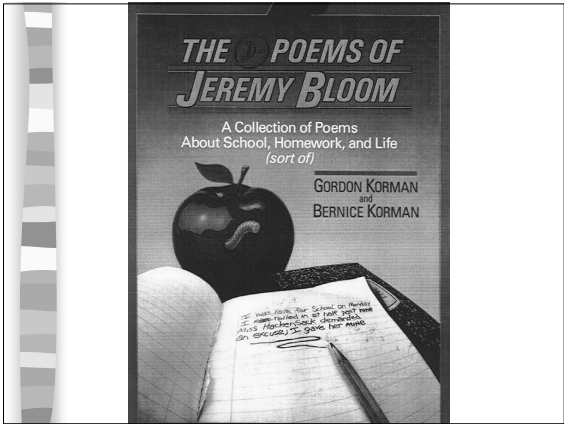
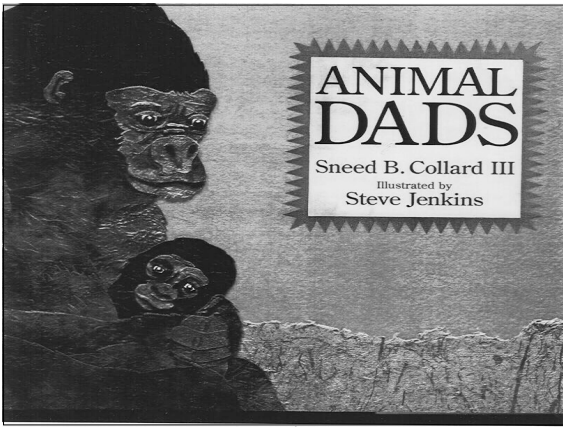
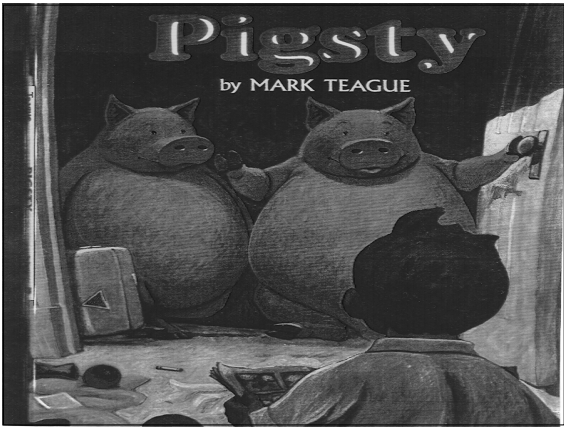
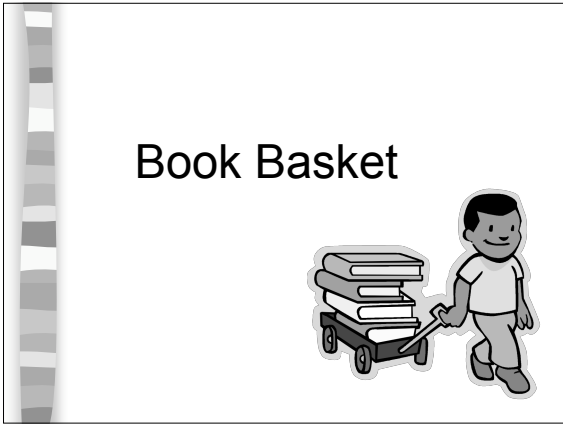
Sources of Spoken and Written Language

(Hayes & Ahrens, 1988)

- PRINTED TEXTS
- TELEVISION TEXTS
- ADULT SPEECH

Sources of Spoken and Written Language

	Rare Words Per 1000
PRINTED TEXTS	
Abstracts of scientific articles	128
Newspapers	68
Popular magazines	66
Adult books	53
Comic books	54
Children's books	31
Preschool books	16
TELEVISION TEXTS	
Popular prime-time adult shows	23
Popular prime-time children's shows	20
Cartoon shows	31
Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street	02
ADULT SPEECH	
Expert witness testimony	28
College graduates to friends, spouses	17



Access to an abundance of books within the classroom results in increased motivation and increased reading achievement.

Guthrie, Schafer, Von Secker, & Alban, 2000

TEACHER BOOK SHARING

- Book Basket
- 3-A-Day
- 3-A-Week



TEACHER BOOK SHARING K - grade 2

1 book a day = 200 books

PLUS Book Basket (12 - 15) = 500 books

**Total number of books
shared in one year = 700 books**

TEACHER BOOK SHARING Grades 3 - 6

1 book week = 40 books

PLUS Book Basket (12 - 15) = 500 books

**Total number of books
shared in one year = 540 books**

2. Engaged readers thrive when they are allowed to choose their own reading materials.

Gambrell, 1996

How to Get Recreational Reading to Increase Reading Achievement

Michael L. Kamil, Stanford University
National Reading Conference, November, 2007

- Large-scale, quasi-experimental study
- Coupled with instruction, RR has significant effects on fluency and comprehension.
- Instruction can leverage RR
- The teacher, instruction, and high quality literature are the critical variables in RR.

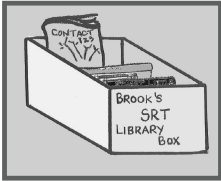
Monitored Sustained Self-Selected Reading

- Access to books
 - Teacher read-aloud
 - Teacher book sharing
-
- Choice / bounded choice
 - Transfer of strategies
 - Social interaction
 - Teacher-student conferences
 - Teacher recording keeping

The volume of independent, silent reading students do in school is significantly related to gains in reading achievement.

Cunningham & Stanovich, 1996

Monitored Self-Selected Reading



MSSR

1. NOW book
2. NEXT book
3. QUICK and EASY books

Literally hundreds of correlational studies find that the best readers read the most and that poor readers read the least. These correlational studies suggest that **the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.**

National Reading Panel, 2000

3. Engaged readers thrive on books and stories that are familiar.

Gambrell, 1996; Teale & Gambrell, 2006

The Importance of Informational Text

To do well on performance based assessments, students need to know and be able to use over twenty genres.

Poetry	Plays	Scripts
Historical fiction	Fiction	Mysteries
Science text	Lists	Speeches
Fairy tales	Folk tales	Forms
Fantasy	Legends	Letters
Autobiography	Biography	Menus
Myths	Dictionaries	Thesaurus
Brochures	Atlas	Notes
Newspapers	Application forms	Schedules
Procedural text	Nursery rhymes	Calendars
	Invitations	Recipes

4. Engaged readers thrive when there are many opportunities to socially interact with others about the books and stories they are reading.



Quick Share

Oscar Ybarra, et al.
University of Michigan
February 2007

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin


What fosters cognitive functioning?

Social Interaction - Mental Exercise - TV


Research with people ages 24 - 96


Conclusions:

- Ten minutes of talking per day improves intellectual performance, particularly working memory.
- Regardless of age, the more social interaction (talking) the higher the level of mental functioning.
- Simply talking to one another enhances mental functioning.



What students talk about is what they learn best and remember the longest.

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5. Engaged readers thrive in classrooms where books and reading are viewed as the best reward.



Wide reading is related to:

- Fluency
- Vocabulary development
- Refined language use
- Practical knowledge
- Cultural knowledge
- Reduced misinformation
- Reduced deleterious effects of aging

Cunningham & Stanovich, 1998

Educational leaders can support motivation to read.

Seven questions to guide discussion:

1. Is the classroom rich in reading materials?
2. Is self-selected reading teacher-guided?
3. Are students provided with opportunities to choose the books they read?
4. Are students supported in learning how to choose appropriate level books?
5. Do students have opportunities to talk about the books they read?
6. Is adequate time allotted during the school day for independent reading?
7. Is time devoted to teacher read-alouds?



Adapted from Malloy, Gambrell, & Williams, *Understanding and Implementing Reading First Initiatives: The Changing Role of Administrators*, IRA, 2006.

