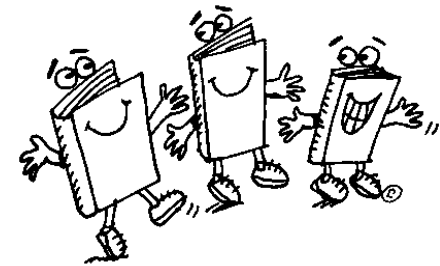


Engaging the Middle School Reader: **Strategies for Success**
AKA – Powerfully Literate: SSR – The
Kids' Favorite Day



OASCD Engage Summit, Convention Center, Salem, Oregon
November 18, 2015

Karen Johnson

Contact Information

I have editable versions of my handouts available to share.
Just email me at kjohnson1@ttsd.k12.or.us
(make sure you include the “1”)

You may also visit my website and look around.
Most of the forms I use with kids are available there.

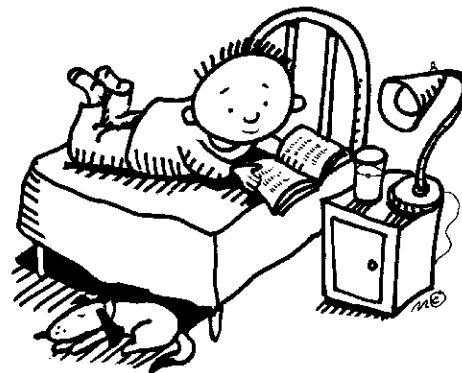
Search “Johnson Twality” to find me easily, or, here is a link:

<http://johnsontwality.weebly.com/>

Bottom Line

To be a better reader, you have to read.

That's what it boils down to. All the programs and reading strategies in the world don't matter if kids aren't reading.



What can you do in your classroom?

(Each point will be discussed further in the following slides)

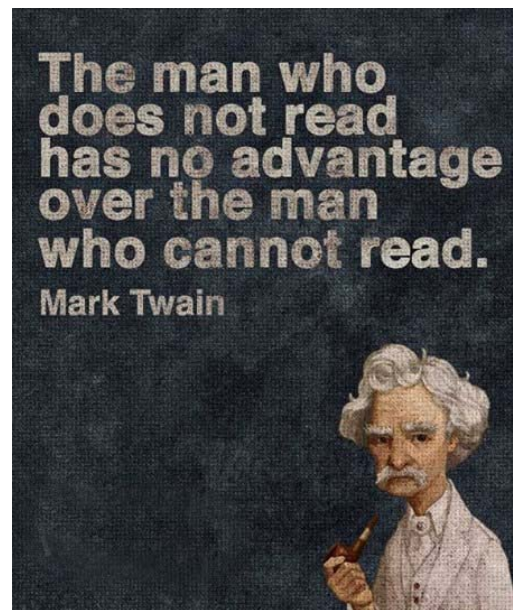
- #1 Value Reading & have high expectations
(500 – 1000 pages a quarter)

Class Motto – Become **Powerfully Literate!**

- Post quotes
- Fill your room with books
- Model enthusiasm

Post Quotations

(I have some lists of good ones I will share if you email me.)



"I cannot live without books."
thomas jefferson

"I have always been a reader; I have read at every stage of my life, and there has never been a time when reading was not my greatest joy. I still believe in stories. I still forget myself when I am in the middle of a good book. Books are for me, it must be said, the most important thing."
The Thirteenth Tale, Diane Setterfield

"The books transported her into new worlds and introduced her to amazing people who lived exciting lives."
Matilda, Roald Dahl

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."
Charlotte E. Jones

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."
New York Times, Anna Quindlen

"FILL YOUR HOUSE WITH STACKS OF BOOKS, IN ALL THE CRANNIES AND ALL THE NOOKS."
DR. SUSS

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few are to be chewed and digested."
Francis Bacon

"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."
Jorge I. Borges

"A house without books is like a room without windows."
Heinrich Mann

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."
Frederick Douglass

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
I Can Read With My Eyes Shut, Dr. Seuss

"Wear the old coat and buy the new book."
Austin Phelps

"I'M WONDERING WHAT TO READ NEXT."
MATILDA, ROALD DAHL

More Quotations

“I am part of everything that I have read.”

-Theodore Roosevelt

“A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.”

–Neil Gaiman

“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.”

–Joseph Brodsky

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

–Frederick Douglas

More Quotations

There is more
treasure in books
than in all the
pirate's loot on
Treasure Island.

- Walt Disney

The more that you
read, the more things
you will know.
The more that you
learn, the more places
you'll go. - Dr. Seuss

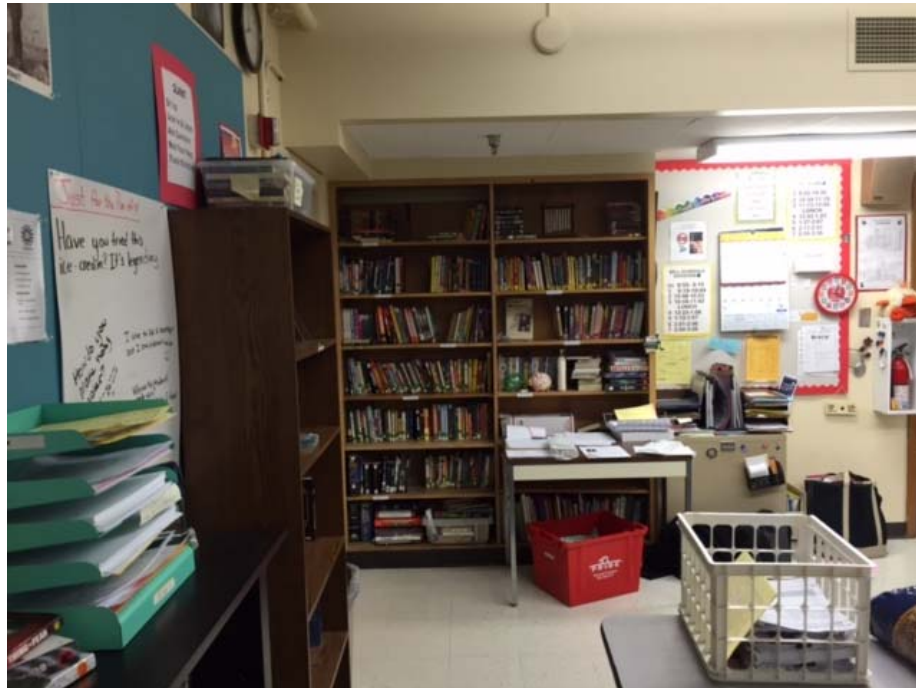
When I discovered libraries, it was like having
Christmas every day. - Jean Fritz

What can you do in your classroom?

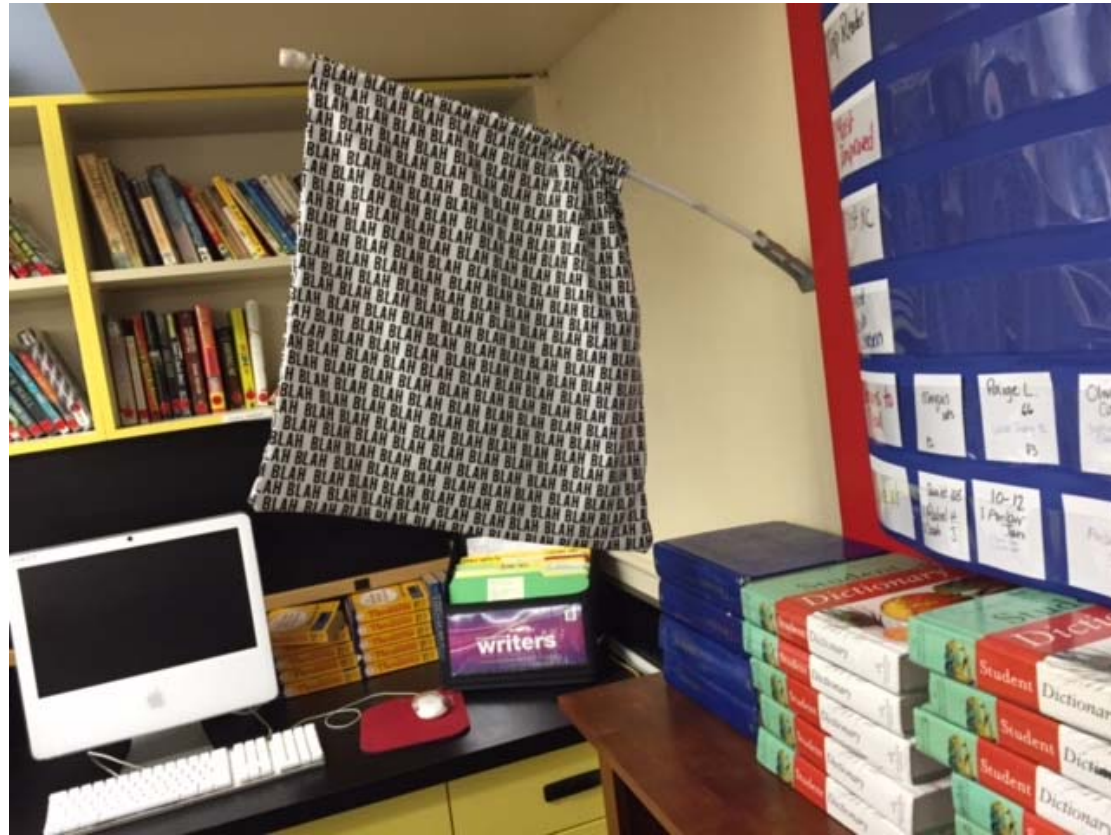
Fill your room with books – all sorts of books!



My room



My room



Fill Your Room With Books



Storing Books - My system: color coded stickers for genre. (Add-on stickers for “easy,” mature content, and funny)

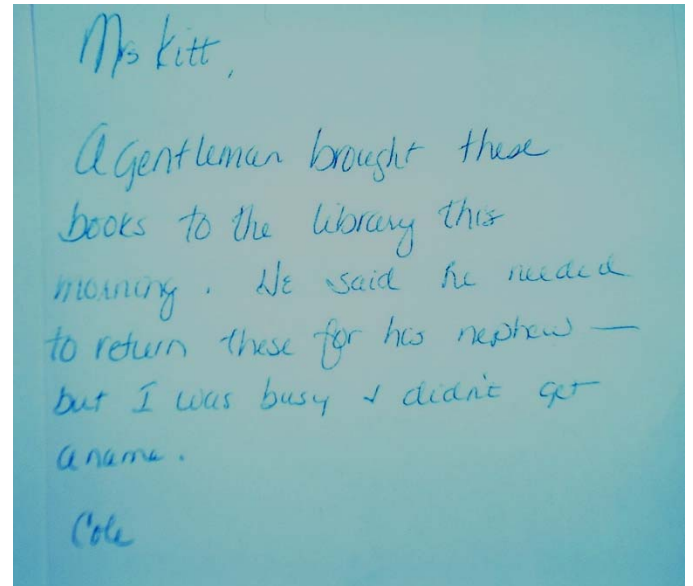
- **Realistic fiction**
- **Fantasy/sci-fi**
- **Chick lit**
- **Sports**
- **Guy interest**
- **Dystopian**
- **Multicultural**
- **Mystery/adventure**
- **War**
- **Fairy Tales retold**
- **Animal Interest**

Fill Your Room With Books

**How do I keep from
Losing books?**

I don't.

To keep from having a bad attitude about it, I consider it my favorite charity.



What else can you do in your classroom?

- **Talk about books**, have kids talk about books, ask...
- **Read aloud** – even just the beginning of a book to get kids hooked.
 - **Do book talks** and have kids do book talks.
 - **Time set aside** in class to read silently (**SSR**)
- Do SSR too!
- Order from Scholastic
- Prizes & celebrations



#1 – Be enthusiastic about reading

Keep a list of favorite books. And, students recommend books to incoming 8th-graders.

Keep a “dibs” list.

Have each student keep a list of books they’ve read (as well as a list of books they want to read.)

*Have students create a **Personal Reading List***

Dibs List

I keep this in the book check-out binder.

There is also a place in the back of the binder for recommendations and lists of read alike.

Before I reshelve a returned book, I check the DIBS.

BOOK DIBS LIST

Ms. Johnson's Class

Student Name	Title	Class period	Date Requested
Rachel Blackwell	Hate list	p. 2	4-26
Karley Zoeller	wish you were dead	p. 2	5-8
Reed Calgrove	The scorch Trials	p. 7	5-8
melina daniel	Gone	p. 1	5-13
Casey Bauer	The last thing I remember	p. 1	5-13
icela Garcia	id tell you I love you but then id have	p. 1	5-17
Allison mo	carter finally gets it ^{to kill you}	p. 5	5-21
Susmitha karki	blood on my hands	p. 5	5-21
Courtney pickering	13 reasons why		
Ellie Tone	Beauty queen	p. 6	5-23
Colby W	Jumping the rail	p. 1	5-24

Personal Reading List

Students keep this in their binder all year and add to it as they hear book talks or when their friends tell them about books.

We do it early in the school year when I have each student do a book talk on a favorite book.

*They fill out details and rank each one from 1 – 5
***** depending on how much they think they want to read it.*

Personal Reading List

(This will be handed in for a grade but returned to you for your use.)

For the Book Talk assignment, put everyone's book down, even if it's not one you want to read. The rest of the year, just add books you *want* to read.)
Notice that there are 3 lines for every book.

(* means don't bother, ***** means Definitely Read!)

1. Book Title: <u>HappyFace</u>		Genre: <u>Coming of Age</u>	Series? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Author: <u>Steven Emond</u>		# Stars → <u>★★★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Ms. Johnson</u>		# pages <u>300</u>	
2. Book Title: <u>The Raft</u>		Genre: <u>Mystery Survival</u>	Series? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Author: <u>S.A. Bodeen</u>		# Stars → <u>★★★★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Ms. Johnson</u>		# pages <u>231</u>	
3. Book Title: <u>The knife of never letting go.</u>		Genre: <u>Dystopen</u>	Series? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y N
Author: <u>Patrick Ness</u>		# Stars → <u>★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Ms. Johnson</u>		# pages <u>500</u>	
4. Book Title: <u>Girl Stolen</u>		Genre: <u>Mystery Hiller</u>	Series? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Author: <u>April Henry</u>		# Stars → <u>★★★★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Ms. Johnson</u>		# pages <u>213</u>	
5. Book Title: <u>The missing ... book I found</u>		Genre: <u>Scifi Mystery</u>	Series? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y N
Author: <u>Margaret Peterson Haddix</u>		# Stars → <u>★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Katie Morales</u>		# pages <u>314</u>	
6. Book Title: <u>Carter Finally Gets It</u>		Genre: <u>Coming of Age</u>	Series? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y N
Author: <u>Brent Crawford</u>		# Stars → <u>★★</u>	
Person Recommending: <u>Brandon Tea</u>		# pages <u>300</u>	

Value Reading

Assignment – Why Read?

Do this early in the year so they see that reading is relevant to their lives as well as valuable.

Independently, each student lists as many ideas as they can think of. (From 10 – 500 reasons)

Then the class shares and we make a comprehensive list.

Sports and music analogy about the value of practice.

*The biggest reason is to become **powerfully literate** – able to read, write, speak, think – to COMMUNICATE well.*

Assignment – Why Read?

So you won't be illiterate

HERMAN®

by Jim Unger



2-25

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“... and don't call me illiterate. My ma and pa have been married for thirty-eight years.”

Assignment – Why Read?

So you won't be bored (or boring)



Assignment – Why Read?

So you can read important signs



I'm Confused...



Why Read?

Five facts about reading:

rumpuntsantoso:

Fact 1: Reading can make you a better conversationalist.

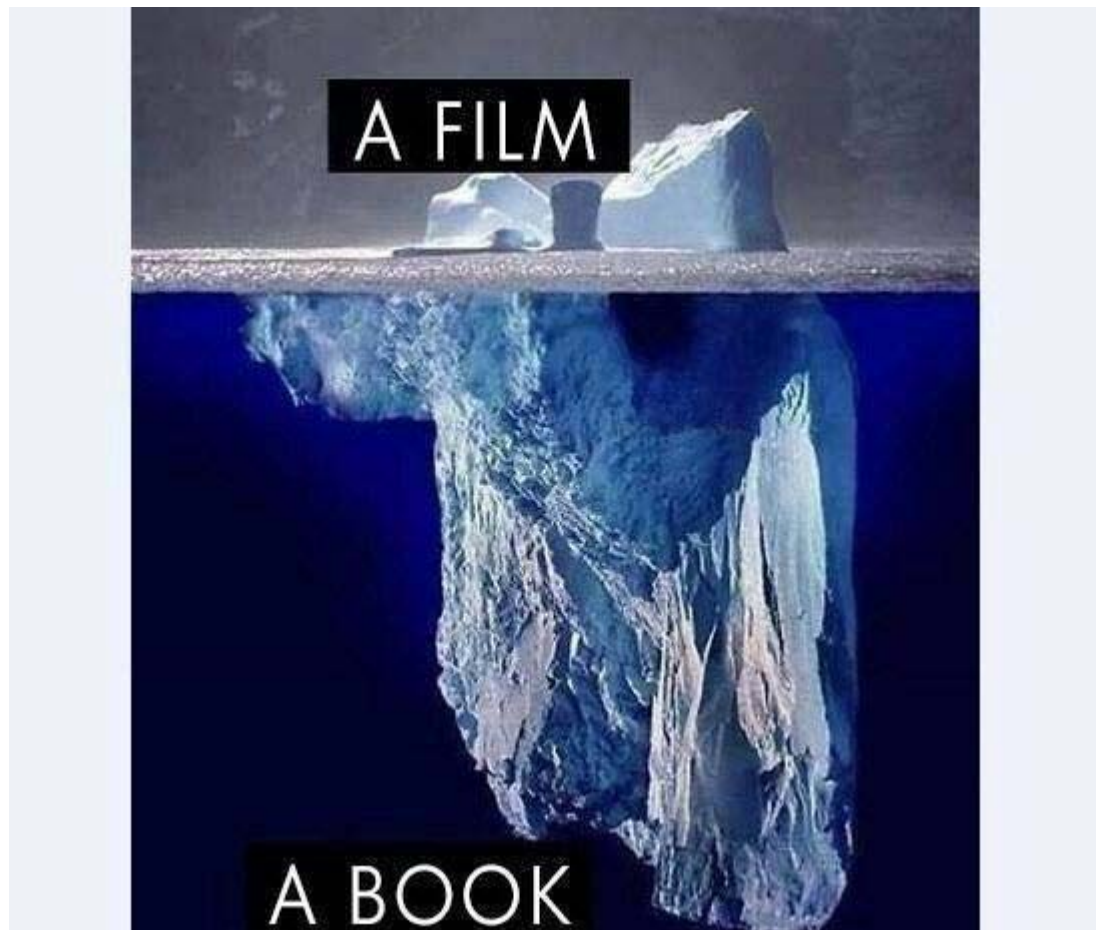
Fact 2: Neighbours will never complain that your book is too loud.

Fact 3: Knowledge by osmosis has not yet been perfected. You'd better read.

Fact 4: Books have stopped bullets - reading might save your life.

Fact 5: Dinosaurs didn't read. Look what happened to them.

Why Read? It's better than the movie.



Why Read?

Good readers often have more financially rewarding jobs. They are **2.5x** more likely to earn \$850 or more a week.⁷

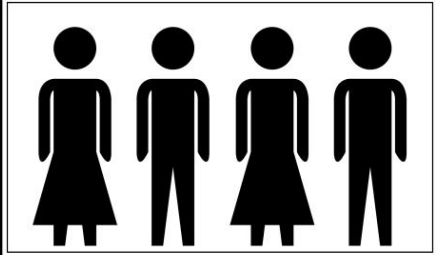
Children who read 3,000 words per day will be in the top 2% of standardized tests



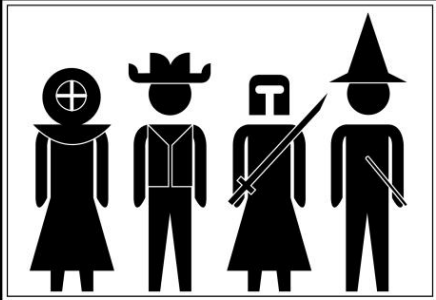
Children who read 20 words per day will be in the bottom 2% of standardized tests.⁹

Why Read?


These are your kids

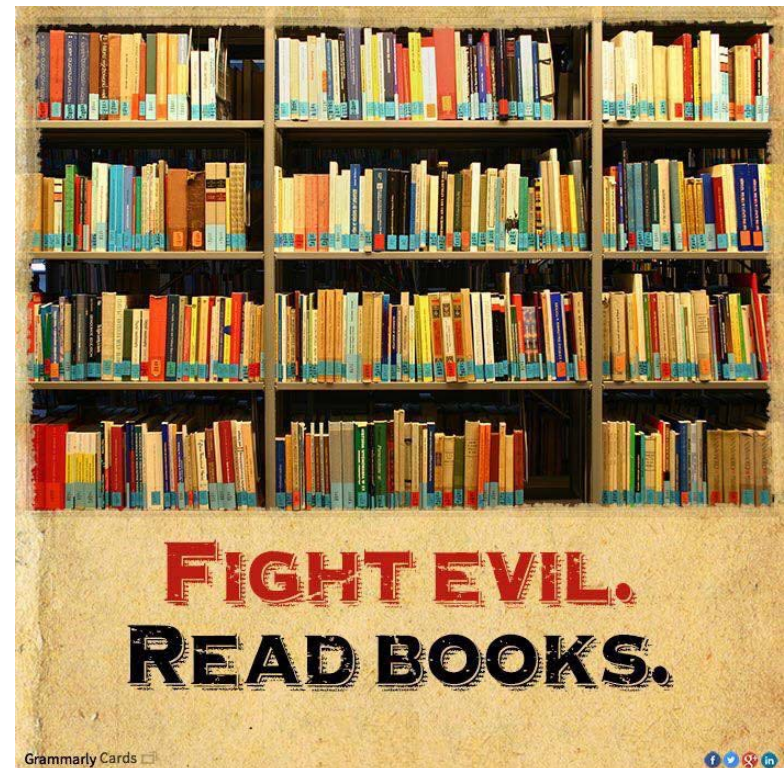


These are your kids



on books

 Burning Through Pages is a non-profit dedicated to the task of getting young people excited about reading. Our goal is to give free books to kids who want them and need them, and to have follow up discussions in an attempt to encourage literacy, reading comprehension, and to spark a life long passion for reading!
www.burningthroughpages.org



Grammarly Cards



Model Enthusiasm

What are you reading? (turn to your neighbor right now and ask)

Keep a simple journal yourself of books you've read – **Goodreads**

“Oh – that's such a good book!” “I haven't read that one yet, will you tell me about it when you finish?”

Bring in each book you finish and tell them about it.

Show them you can't wait to read (SSR) # of days until SSR on board.



Read Aloud

Even older kids like it

Allows “**Think aloud**” (demonstrate predicting, for instance)

Models how to read with prosody

Consider reading just a chapter to get them interested

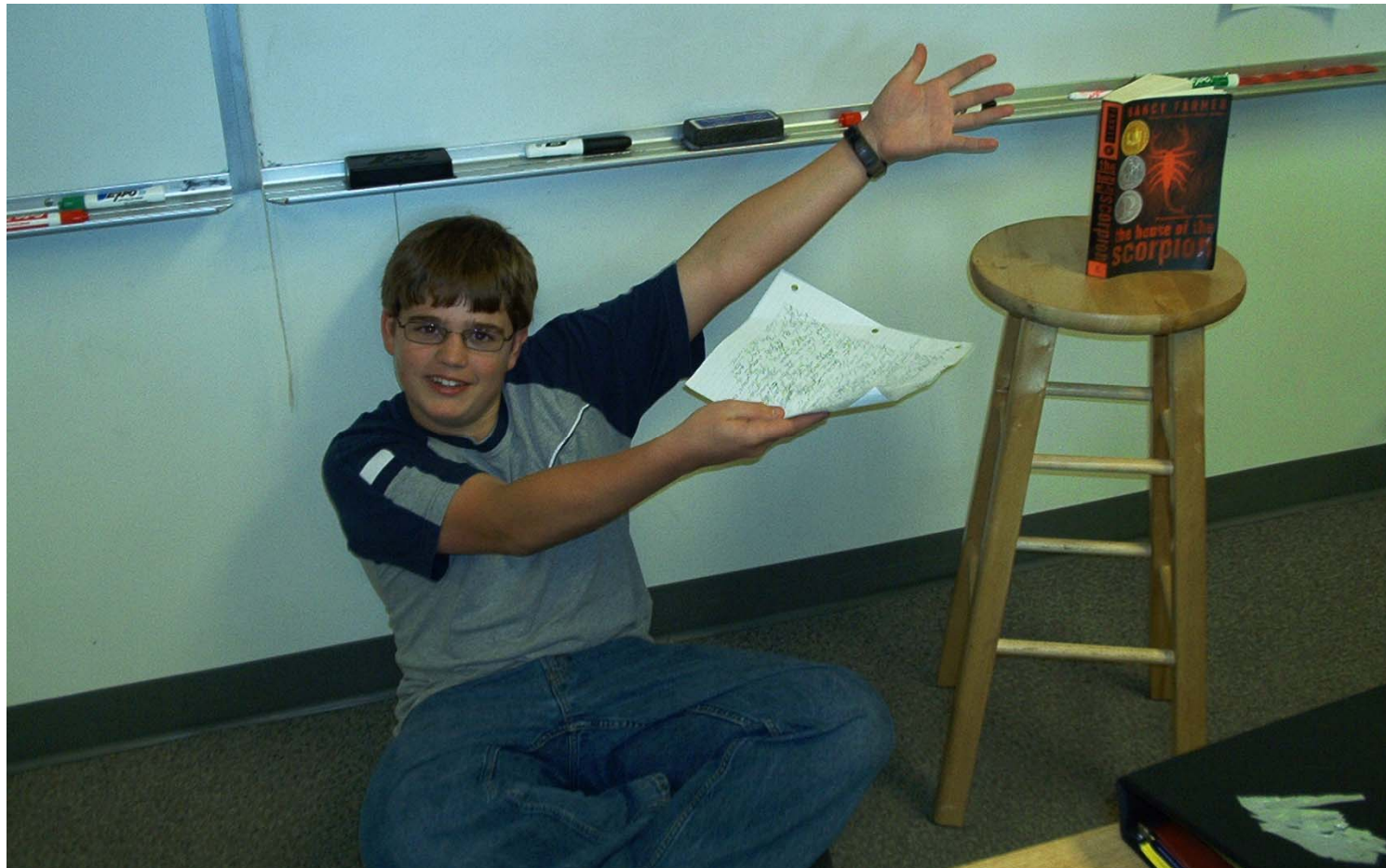
Read short stories occasionally (“Gift of the Magi,” “Tell-tale Heart”)

Poetry, newspaper articles, even picture books

Do Book Talks

- Invite Librarian to do them
- Have your kids do them!
- Do them yourself when you finish a book

Do Book Talks



Do Book Talks



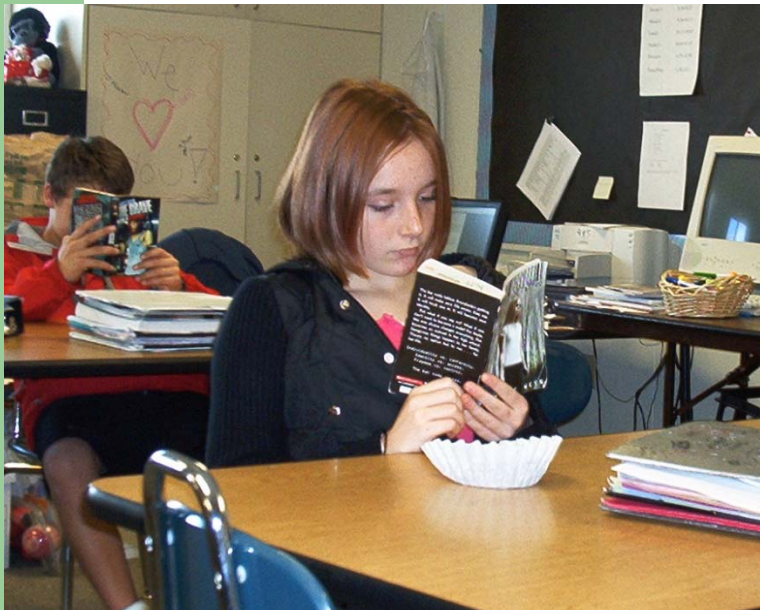


Set Time Aside in Class to Read

SSR every week, and do SSR too. Really!

- Reading log & Book Events Sheet (check it – it's important)
Forms in handout and my website
- Extra credit for 700 / 1000 pages
- Prize for top readers and most improved
- List over 1000 readers on the board (and a bookmark)

(Misconceptions...)



Other Ideas

- Allow **choice**
- Encourage students to **abandon a book** they don't like.
- Have them create a **personal reading list**.
- Teach them **how to find a good book**.
- A word about **mature content...**

More Ideas

Talk about how to choose a book

- Do a class brainstorm about how. Some kids – especially the non-readers - don't know how.
 - Browse? How effective? If just grab one, when time to read will likely be bored.
- By the cover (picture, text) Can be helpful – but doesn't always work
 - Genre – yes!
- Author – yes
 - Recommendation – yes!
- Consider length and if it's a series
 - Difficulty (5 finger rule)

Other Ideas

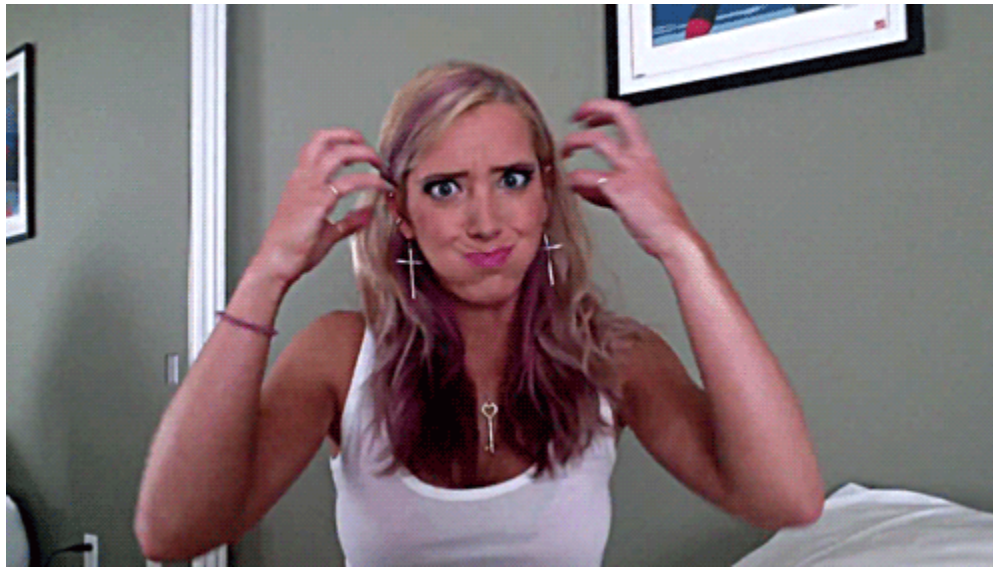
Value Words

- **Vocabulary** – kids generate list from books they read – add words to a “potential vocabulary” list
- **Extra credit for finding vocabulary words in their reading (form is in handout & on website)**
- **Reading, writing, and vocabulary all work together in my class**

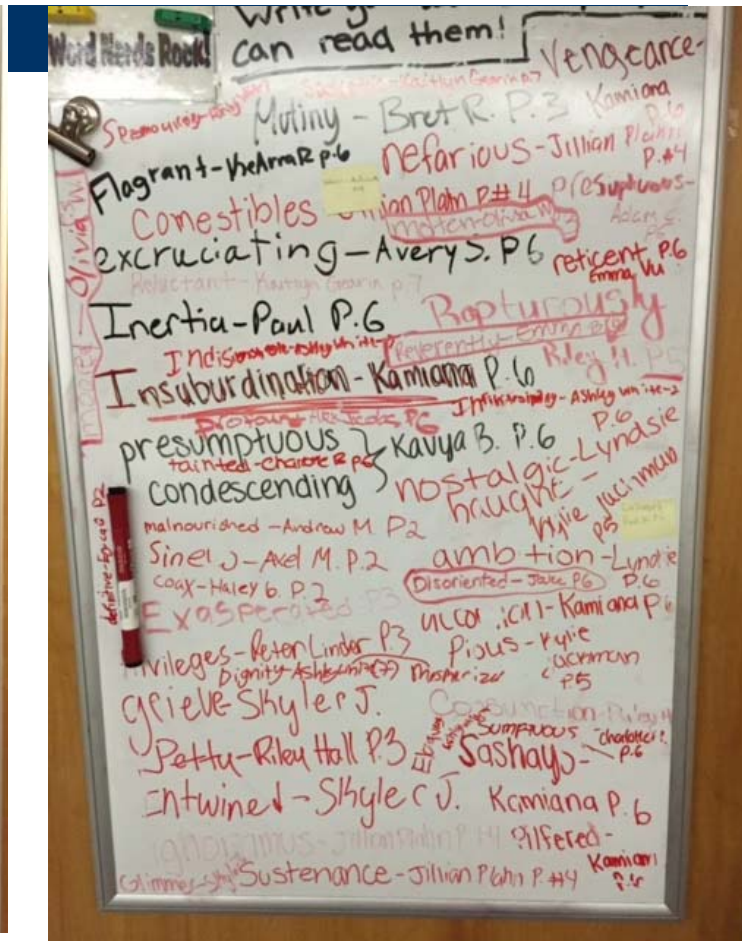
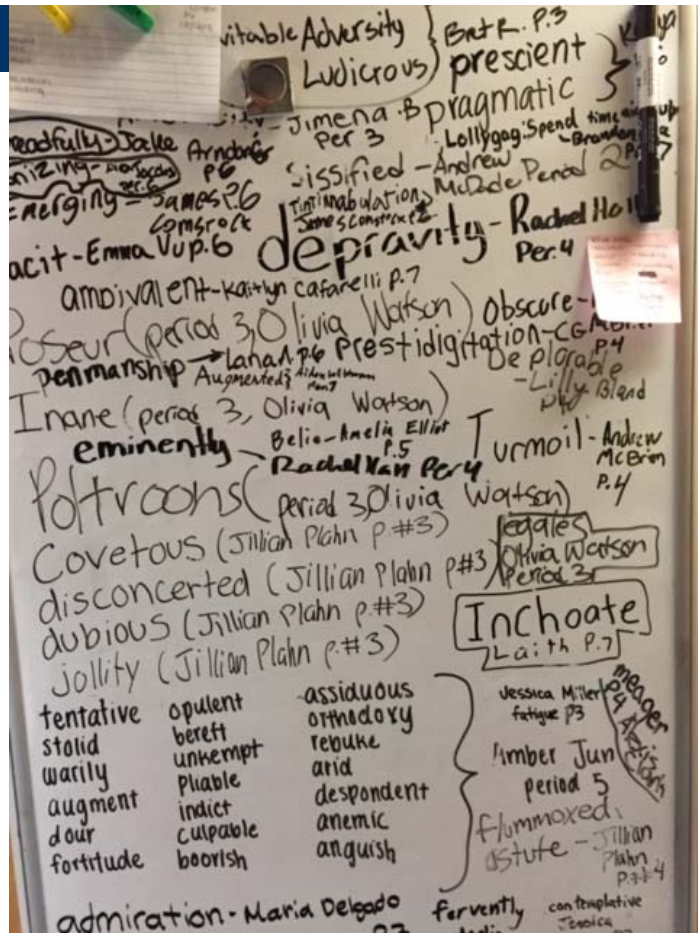
Value Words

- **Vocabulary is the single biggest predictor of high school and college success.**
- **How do you have the thoughts if you don't have the words?**

Mind Blown



Word Wall



What the kids tell me about why they read for me but didn't in 6th or 7th grade:

Choice - #1 that was important to kids. I allow choice and have many choices available.

#2 - SSR –consistently the favorite day of the week. No stress, and it's enjoyable. If no school Friday – oh man!

They read because I hold them accountable with goals and guidelines and regular checking for progress.

Some want the “A” But, after they actually read, they often “capture the good feeling” and enjoy it.

I model reading – I read a lot

Fail if don't read. And, **“Fake reading is harder in Ms. J's class.”**
(how they do it in other classes....)

Kid thoughts continued

They enjoying learning **vocabulary** (XC) and get excited when their word is picked and when they find vocab words in their own reading.

Personal reading list – how to pick out a book

Great selection - I have over 2000 books.

Being allowed to read when done with work is seen as a reward.

Appreciate my **personal recommendations** and they often come in before school to find a new book.

WHY read assignments – they appreciate understanding why it matters.

Important writing assignments tied to having read a book. (They see a connection between reading, writing, and vocabulary.)

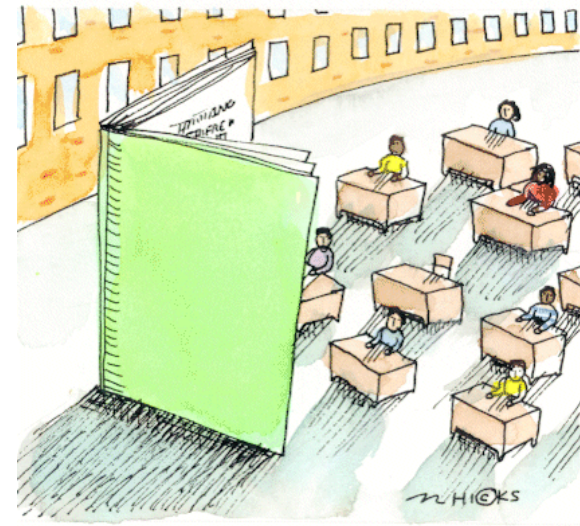
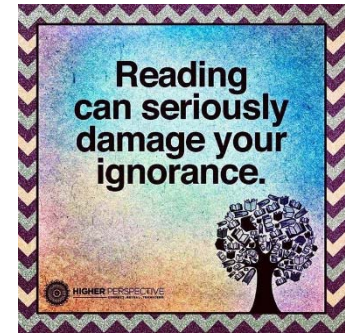
Book talks – having a good book makes all the difference.

And... They like the thought of becoming
Powerfully Literate

READING

**is my
SUPERPOWER**

Happy Reading



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