
Word Work



This is the time of day for teaching *phonics, spelling and vocabulary*.

Word work is designed to help students by teaching them to automatically recognize sight words and to look for patterns within words that will enable them to encode or decode words more accurately at the primary grades.

This transitions to increased emphasis on vocabulary and analyzing complex letter patterns at the upper elementary grades. Depending on the level of each student, word work can range anywhere from teaching students the Alphabetic Principle to having them analyze complex letter patterns. Students learn these skills through explicit instruction as a whole class or in a small, differentiated group using word sort activities to categorize patterns and sounds.

Helpful Resources



International Reading Association:

www.reading.org

ReadWriteThink:

www.readwritethink.org

Storyline Online:

www.storylineonline.net

Scholastic Book Wizard:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>

Resources used in the creation of this
brochure:

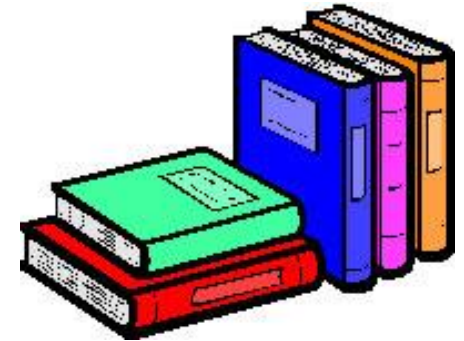
Guided Readers and Writers:
Teaching Comprehension, Genre,
and Content Literacy by Fountas
and Pinnell

Lucy Calkin's "Reading & Writing
Project."

Verona Public Schools

Elementary Literacy Framework

K-4



2014-2015

Balanced Literacy



It is the goal of the Verona School district to engage all students in a literacy program that fosters the necessary skills to become independent readers, writers, speakers, thinkers, and learners.

To further this goal, the Verona School district promotes a balanced literacy based framework. This framework is designed to help all students learn to read and write effectively in a differentiated workshop approach.

Specifically, a three block balanced literacy framework is employed that encompasses reading workshop, writing workshop and word work.

Literacy learning must be promoted and extended into the home and community. It is only when students are continuously stimulated beyond the classroom setting that they are able to become truly successful in their learning.

Reading Workshop



Reading Workshop is a “laboratory in which individual students are busily engaged in reading that reflects real life” (Fountas and Pinnell, 41).

Why Reading Workshop? (Fountas, 43-45) A reading workshop helps to:

- Build an effective reading process
- Increase the amount students read
- Increase ownership of and commitment to reading
- Broaden readers’ literacy experiences
- Develop responsibility of reading
- Encourage personal connections
- Teach collaboration

Writing Workshop



Writing Workshop affords students with opportunity to “develop writing strategies, learn about the writer’s craft, and use writing as a tool for learning and communication.” (Fountas, 51).

Why Writing Workshop? (Fountas, 50) A writing workshop helps students to:

- Conceptualize a message, story, or topic.
- Use language with clarity and voice to communicate meaning.
- Think about the reader (audience) while writing
- Organize a written text in a variety of ways
- Demonstrate a command of proper grammar and spelling.
- Rethink, revise and edit their writing.