

Using M.A.R.E. in the Reading, Writing Classroom

Make Every Reader Excited

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What Are Effective Instructional Practices in Literacy?

“Your goal in literacy teaching is to bring each child from where he is to as far as you can take him in a school year, with the clear goal of helping each student develop competencies of proficiency at the level. Proficient readers and writers not only think deeply and critically about texts but also develop a love of reading. The roots of lifelong literacy begin with a rich foundation in the elementary school.”

Ocean Literacy Definition

Ocean literacy is an understanding of the oceans influence on you and your influence on the ocean.

An ocean literate person understands:

- The essential principles and fundamental concepts,**
- Can communicate about the oceans in a meaningful way,**
- Is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the oceans and its resources.**

Seven Essential Principles

1. Earth has one big ocean with many features.
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.
3. The ocean is a major influence on the weather and climate.
4. The ocean makes Earth habitable.
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
6. The oceans and humans are inextricably linked.
7. The ocean is largely unexplored.

Essential Question:

How do we incorporate literacy and the essential principles and concepts of ocean sciences into a balanced literacy program?

As many teachers in the elementary classrooms will attest, there is never enough TIME to teach everything you need to each day. Time can be our ally or our enemy. There is no perfect schedule. Integrated teaching of science and literacy helps us to better manage our day and utilize the common interests of our students.

Literature

Poetry

Prose

Fiction

Nonfiction

Traditional
Folktales

Fantasy
Fantasy

Realism
Realistic
fiction

Informational
Science

Biography
Authentic biography

Fables

Science
Fiction

Historical
Fiction

Social Studies
Fictionalized
biography

Myths

Mathematics

Autobiography

Legends

Health

Memoir

Epics

Language

Arts

Recreation

Comprehensive Literacy Teaching

Whole Group Instruction
Interactive Read-Aloud/ Shared Reading



Whole Group
Reading Minilesson



Small Group
Guided
Reading



Small Group
Literature
Discussion



Independent
Reading



Writing

Text Features

Fiction

Characters

Setting

Problem or goal

Action

Resolution

Nonfiction

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Now Let's Put It All Together!

Interactive Read-alouds:

1. **An Octopus Is Amazing!** By Patricia Lauber
2. **Hello Ocean** by Pam Munoz Ryan
3. **What Lives in a Shell?** By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
4. **Where Does the Trail Lead?** By Burton Albert
5. **Sand** by Ellen J. Prager
6. **Legend of the Cape May Diamonds** by Trinka Hakes
Noble
7. **The Seashore Book** by Charlotte Zolotow

These books are used with the Second Grade study of the Sandy Beach.

Guided Reading Books

- 1. The Tide** by Nick Pollard
- 2. Gulls, Gulls, Gulls** by Gail Gibbons
- 3. Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea** by
Cynthia Rylant
- 4. I Wonder Why Whales Sing** by Caroline Harris
- 5. I Wonder Why the Sea Is Salty** Anita Ganeri

Big Books

- 1. Splash** by Robert Kaufman
- 2. Commotion in the Ocean** by Giles Andreae

Hello Ocean

Essential Question: How can I use my five senses to help describe the ocean and its animals?

- 1. Have the students review the five senses by making a chart.**
- 2. Read the story to the class.**
- 3. Discuss the ways the author described the ocean.**
- 4. Discuss the person telling the story and its repetition.**
- 5. Go back to the chart and fill in some ways the ocean was described using the senses.**
- 6. Minilesson on similes.**
- 7. Students will then draft their own senses poem using the book's format.**



An Octopus Is Amazing

Essential Question: In what ways are an octopus amazing?

- 1. Create a KWL chart about octopuses.**
- 2. Choral read the story with the class.**
- 3. Highlight new vocabulary.**
- 4. Go back to the chart and look at the Know part of the chart. Were there any misconceptions? Use post-its for the students to add something new they learned.**
- 5. Minilesson on fact and opinion.**
- 6. Have the students buddy read the story and pick out four interesting facts about an octopus. Then have them create four opinions.**
- 7. Art Project-students create an octopus. On four of the legs they write facts and on four legs they write their opinions.**