



McQuerry Title 1 Newsletter

Winter Edition 2018



Reading Strategies - What do they mean?

Reading strategies is a term used to describe actions that help readers translate print to meaning. While strategies that improve decoding and reading comprehension skills benefit all readers, they are essential for beginning and struggling readers, as well as English Language Learners.

The following strategies are ones that your child has been introduced to at school. Encourage your child to use these strategies at home to help them become a fluent reader.

- Look at the picture and think about what is happening.
- Get your mouth ready for the beginning of the word.
- Chunk the word to find parts you know.
- Does it look like a word you already know?
- What would make sense in the story?
- Read to the end of the sentence then go back to fix up the “tricky word”.
- REREAD! REREAD! REREAD!
- Discuss what the story is about with your child, including the characters, setting, problem, and solution.



Spelling vs. Word Work - What's the Big Deal?

At McQuerry, we use Words Their Way for learning to spell. This process begins with a primary spelling inventory which identifies what the student knows about words; the different sounds, spelling patterns, phonics rules, etc. The teacher then uses this inventory to help guide word work instruction for a student or small group of students.



Word work instruction is a hands-on approach to spelling that teaches word patterns. If students can understand word patterns this enables them to write and read many different words. For example, if a student knows the *-at* chunk. They can read or write *cat*, *catch*, and *catcher* easily.

These lessons on how words work are not the typical Monday to Friday lessons and students may not all be working on the same list of words based upon what they need as a learner. Sometimes students need more or less time on a particular pattern and this is why you won't always see a spelling “test” on Friday or a particular spelling list. The whole point is to be able to use the patterns being taught in reading and writing based upon a students instructional needs. The goal of these patterns is to move understanding to long term memory instead of just memorizing a list so the student will know how to spell it for a weekly “test”.





McQuerry Title 1 Newsletter

Winter Edition 2018



Types of Writing - What are the main "types" we teach?

Writing is a complex process and there are many "kinds" of writing.

To make it easier to understand, learn and teach at the elementary level we focus on 3 types of writing. These are opinion (persuasive), informational (facts) and narrative (stories).



- Narrative is writing that is a meaningful moment in the author's life. The author narrates a small moment that tells his or her story. This writing is usually an important memory of some sort that the writer has lived.
- Opinion writing is where the author writes what they believe about a subject and why they believe in the subject. The author feels strong enough to try to persuade their readers to agree with them.
- Informational writing is writing that tells the reader new information about a topic. Usually the author writes about a topic on which they are an expert. They have researched the topic and use their writing to teacher others.

These 3 types of writing are broad categories for many kinds of writing. They are a base for learning how to write in different genres and contexts.

BOOK PICKS

Mrs. Courtway- 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
by Clement Clarke Moore



Mrs. Wagner - Snowy Nap
by Jan Brett



Mrs. Smith - Bear Stays Up for Christmas
by Karma Wilson



TECHNOLOGY - Top 10 Christmas Sites

- Northpole.com
- Aletter4santa.com
- WhyChristmas.com
- PortableNorthPole.com
- NoradSanta.org
- The-North-Pole.com
- Christmas-cookies.com
- Northpoletimes.com
- AllChristmas.co.uk
- EmailSanta.com