

What Can **YÖÜ** Do To **Support** the Goal of Providing the **Best Reading Instruction** possible?

A Word from
Shana Frazin and Regina Hurh
Staff Developers
Reading and Writing Project
Teachers College, NY

Since October we have had the pleasure of working with the third, fourth and fifth grade teachers in the Hobart district. We share a common goal: providing the best reading instruction possible to our students. Both Shana and Regina have really enjoyed their time in the schools and believe that the students and teachers at Hobart are sincerely wonderful.

Partner Reading



- "Sometimes when we read, we sit back to back with a partner."
- "We sit back to back during independent reading – we have our own space."
- "I like "turn and talk" because you get to describe what your book is about to a partner."
- "During partner reading, you and your partner read the same book. You discuss your favorite parts and parts you don't like."

Reading workshop is about creating lifelong readers through explicit instruction, choice and independence. This explicit teaching occurs within a highly predictable structure including a mini-lesson, about ten minutes of thoughtfully-planned instruction, workshop time where readers read just-right books for about 30 minutes, and conferring when teachers meet one-on-one with readers or implement small group instruction. Workshop concludes with a teaching share, a time when the teacher highlights smart reading behaviors with the class. Reading workshop is also about choice. Readers choose just-right books that hold their interest, encourage fluent reading and comprehension. Teachers support choice by building classroom libraries that are vibrant, varied and plentiful, making reading appealing for all types of readers.

Above all else, reading workshop is about independence. Our ultimate goal is to foster readers who want to read. To this end, our focus is to teach the reader, not the book.

So whether at home or school, what can you do to support the goal of providing the best reading instruction possible? Read, read, and read some more! You are a role model and can encourage the joy of reading! Happy Reading!

Learn about how to help your child with reading comprehension on page 8 in the book review of *The 7 Keys to Comprehension*. In addition, learn how to keep reading skills sharp during those summer months with *Practice Makes Perfect* on page 9.



Reading chapter books during "Independent Reading"

- "It's quiet during reader's workshop. We get to experience more stories that have exciting parts, sad parts, mad parts."
- "A "break book" is a book you can read if you need a break from the book you're reading."
- "I like to read a lot. Independent reading time gives me time to read a lot of books."

- "I like reader's workshop because I read chapter books. There aren't any pictures, so I can make pictures inside my head. I can make up what I want the characters to look like."
- "Book shopping – when you book shop you look for a book at your lexile level. You look at the colored dot on the side of the book and that matches the lexile number. Look for your books in the basket and sign the card in the back of the book to check it out."
- "Reader's Workshop is a good time to learn how to read. It helps you understand words."