

Literacy Strategies: Improving Comprehension

The importance of knowing how to read can be summed up very simply: We must know how to read if we want to succeed in school and in life. "In American culture, those individuals who are at the top of the social structure are those who are most fully literate, and, conversely, those who lack literacy skills occupy the lowest rungs of the social ladder," writes Thomas Armstrong in his book *The Multiple Intelligences of Reading and Writing: Making the Words Come Alive* (2003, p. 5).

Armstrong (2003) points out that many educators, including the late Paulo Freire, "have argued persuasively that literacy represents a key tool for social change, and for the empowerment of oppressed peoples" (p. 5). If literacy is our culture's main gatekeeper, then helping struggling readers must be the chief concern of all educators.

This course will give teachers ideas for meeting the sometimes-daunting challenge of helping students overcome reading difficulties. It will introduce strategies that you can use to help struggling readers. The course also gives you an opportunity to synthesize what you learn and create a program that will aid you in helping struggling readers.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Explore instructional strategies that improve comprehension.
- Explore different models of sustained silent reading.
- Review three model reading programs

Course Syllabus

<p>Module 1</p>	<p>Reaching Reading Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading Abilities • Audio: Using Classroom Assessment to Improve Reading • Application: Identifying Reading Difficulties • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 2</p>	<p>Building Students' Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Rosie's Walk Lesson • Comprehension • Reciprocal Teaching • Video 1: Guided Reading • Video 2: Reciprocal Teaching • Application: Vocabulary Strategies • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 3</p>	<p>Reading to Learn: The Three-Stage Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Stage 1: Prereading • Stage 2: Guided Reading • Stage 3: Postreading • Video 1: Word Splash Strategy • Video 2: RAFT Strategy • Post-Module Reflection

<p>Module 4</p>	<p>Reading for Pleasure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • The Home Connection • Characteristics of a Quality Life • A Seven-Trait Approach: Narrative • Historically Popular Approaches • A Multifaceted Approach • Incorporating the Quality Traits • The Seven Characteristics • An Approach that Works • Video: Sustained Silent Reading • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 5</p>	<p>Implementing Sustained Silent Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Sustained Silent Reading Programs • Follow-Up • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 6</p>	<p>Three Model Reading Reform Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Model 1: 1,000 Days • Model 2: Better Assessment • Model 3: Seven Strategies • Keys to Successful Interventions • Post-Module Reflection

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