ELA CAI eBLAST
Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Coming Soon!

Did You Know?

#1. Assessment Builder Writing Prompt Enhancements
We have added mode-specific writing prompts and student annotated work to the Assessment Builder on SAS for grades 3-8 and Keystone Literature. These instructional resources will help support teachers in meeting the writing standards.

#2. TDA Close Reading Lessons (Thompson, J. (2019)
The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) close reading lessons are designed to be an example pathway for teaching comprehension and analysis of reading elements.

Professional Learning

NEW

Text Dependent Analysis Series:
Selecting Complex Texts for Text Dependent Analysis
Dr. Jeri Thompson (2019)

The purpose of this resource is to assist educators with selecting appropriately complex text for use with a TDA prompt. The text and prompt can be used as part of a close reading lesson or as a classroom-based text dependent analysis assessment. Either way, it is important for educators to recognize that not every text can be used for the purposes of a text dependent analysis prompt and response.

Dr. Thompson explores the following topics in this series document:

- Quantitative Measures
- Qualitative Measures
- Reader and Task
- Struggling Readers and Complex Text
- Text Complexity for Analysis Matters

TDA Center for Assessment pennsylvania

Selecting Complex Texts for Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)

Qualitative Fea...

Knowledge Demands: relatively low complexity
The subject matter deals with common experiences of adolesc... child. Students should have some experience with point of vie...

Meaning/Purpose: medium-high complexity
The most prevalent theme that can be drawn from this text is Rachel is dealing with a trial or hardship, she deals with the j... developed by illustrating that the child inside never leaves. T... focused primarily on the actions and words of a young girl, w...

Text Structure: relatively low complexity
The organization of the text is relatively explicit and generally s... situation but also Rachel's subtle thoughts about her birthday. perspective.

Language Features: medium-low complexity
Multiple-meaning words, similes, and repetition are included always straightforward.

Meeting the Challenges of Early Literacy Phonics Instruction

ILA listed the following key characteristics of effective phonics instruction:

- Readiness skills
- Scope and Sequence
- Blending
- Word Awareness
- Dictation
- High-Frequency Words
- Reading Connected Text

"The success of these key characteristics of phonics instruction rests both on the shoulders of highly trained teachers with a background in phonics routines and linguistics and in instructional materials that aid teachers in meeting a wide range of students' phonics needs. To best transfer students' growing phonics skills to writing, dictation (i.e., guided spelling with teacher think-alouds) is critical and begins in kindergarten. Although not a spelling test, this activity can accelerate students' spelling abilities and understanding of common English spelling patterns and assist students in using these phonics skills in writing. Used in combination with word building and structured and unstructured writing experiences in phonics instruction, students have increased opportunities to "try out" their developing skills to express ideas in written form."

Implications for instruction:

Birth-age 5
Spelling approximations provide young learners with essential learning opportunities. When children write letters to represent sounds, they are practicing and building phonics skills. This practice ultimately leads to increased fluency in writing, as it can lead to conventional spelling of high frequency words… modeled instruction and guided practice enhance this, and all other, learning.

Grades K-5
Provide students with systematic and explicit instruction in basic writing skills including handwriting, spelling, and grammar.

See the **PaSLP** for additional information.