

Creating Classroom Climates That Foster Motivation to Read

Linda B. Gambrell
Clemson University

A Literacy Crisis: Cause for Alarm

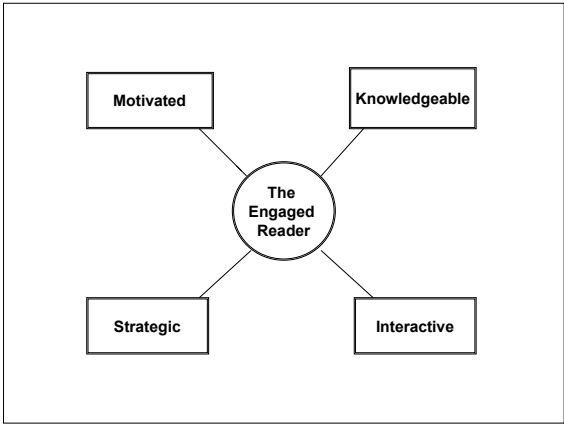
- Every school day, more than 3,000 students drop out of high school (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2003)
- Only 70% of high school students graduate on time with a regular diploma, and fewer than 60% of African-American and Latino students do so (Greene, 2002).
- More than 8 million students in grades 4 – 12 are struggling readers (U.S. DoE, 2003)
- High school students in the lowest 25% of their class are 20 times more likely to drop out than the highest-performing students (Carnevale, 2001).

Reading Next
Alliance for Excellent Education
Carnegie, 2004

Why do Readers Struggle?

- **The problem is not illiteracy, but comprehension.** The bulk of older struggling readers and writers can read, but cannot understand what they read.

Reading Next, Carnegie, 2004



Principles of Engagement

Engaged readers thrive...

- in classrooms that are book-rich.
- when they are allowed to choose their own materials.
- on books and stories that are familiar.
- when there are many opportunities to socially interact with others about the books and stories they read.
- in classrooms where books and reading are viewed as the best reward.

Engaged Readers

1. Engaged readers thrive in classrooms that are book-rich.

The Reading Teacher

I had a Teacher who read to me
Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea,
Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth,
"Treasures" stowed in the hold beneath.

I had a teacher who read me plays
Of ancient and gallant and golden days;
Stories of Robin Hood and Ivanhoe,
Which every child has a right to know.

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be -
I had a Teacher who read to me.

Adapted from Strickland Gillilan

Engaged Readers

2. Engaged readers thrive when they are allowed to choose their own reading materials.



Engaged Readers

3. Engaged readers thrive on books and stories that are familiar.

The Importance of Informational Text

To do well on the performance based assessments, students need to know and be able to use over twenty genres.

Poetry	Plays realistic fiction	Scripts mysteries
Historical fiction	Lists	speeches forms
Science text	Folk tales	Letters
Fairy tales	Legends	Menus
Fantasy	Biography	Thesaurus
Autobiography	Dictionaries	Notes
Myths	Atlas	Schedules
Brochures	Application forms	Calendars
Newspapers	Nursery rhymes	Recipes
Procedural text	Invitations	

Engaged Readers

4. Engaged readers thrive when there are many opportunities to socially interact with others about the books and stories they are reading.

QUICK SHARE

Reader Reaction Circle

- Share your book with the group.
- Tell what you liked best.
- Tell what you would like to hear more about.
- What questions would you like to ask about this book?

Ways to Share Narrative Text

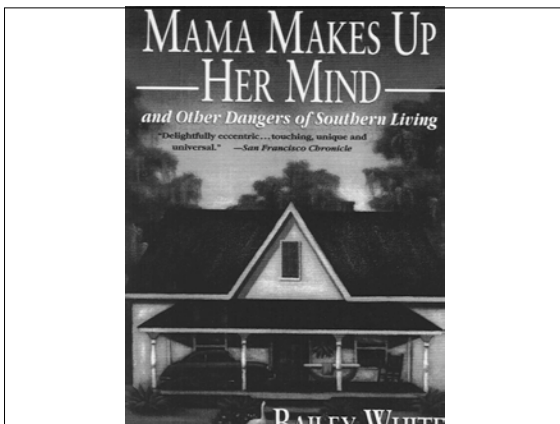
- Read a favorite part.
- Read a description of a favorite character.
- Read a part that describes an exciting/interesting event.
- Read a part that describes the setting.

Ways to Share Informational Text

- Read a favorite part.
- Read something new that you learned.
- Read something you found interesting.
- Read a good description.

Reader Reaction Circle

1. Share your book with the group (title and author)	2. Tell what you liked best
3. Tell what you would like to hear more about.	4. What questions would you like to ask about this book?



Engaged Readers

5. Engaged readers thrive in classrooms where books and reading are viewed as the best reward.

