

# Balanced Literacy

## Shared Reading

Teacher and students collaborate in a common exercise

Teacher-managed blend of modelling, student input, and discussion

Mentor text visible to all (screen, big book, multiple copies)

Choral reading, volunteers, student joining in repeated sections, students offering their thinking process and questions

## Modelled Reading

Teacher is in the spotlight; students are watching and listening

A Read aloud is simply as it states: teacher reading to the students for the purpose of modeling fluency or the love of a good book/enjoyment

A Think Aloud is a short demonstration of a thinking process:

- Clear Think Aloud statements describing the process of thinking in the midst of reading
- Targeted focus on a reading strategy

## Guided Reading

Fluid small group instruction with frequent teacher student interaction focused on targeted reading strategy

Feedback supplied in the midst of student reading

Level groups – all students reading at same or similar level, not necessarily the same book

Same book – all students reading the same text

Same strategy – all students working on the same reading strategy, but different books and different levels

Student is in the spotlight, teachers are conferring

Extended time for students to read

Level, interests, and goals according to text types, volume

Individual conference time with teacher – discuss goals, assess, deepen strategy use, respond to reading – discussions, booktalks, written, oral or visual

## Modelled Writing

Teacher is in the spotlight; students are watching and listening

A Write Aloud is a short demonstration of the thinking and decisions made in the midst of writing:

- How to find and refine an idea
- Convention use
- Author craft

The text being composed is visible to all

Perfection is not the goal

Teacher and students collaborate to compose a text

Control is shared back and forth

Pencil may or may not be shared

Teacher-managed blend of modelling, student input, and discussion

Composed text visible to all

Students add sentences, single words, conventions, suggestions, etc.

## Shared Writing

Fluid group instruction with frequent teacher student interaction focused on a specific skill

The group size may vary from large to small

Feedback supplied in the midst of student writing

Provides an opportunity for rehearsal with feedback from others

Writing can also be guided by scaffolds:

- Quickwrites based on structure or idea
- Patterned writing

Student is in the spotlight, teachers confer

Extended time for students to write

- Formal, full process
- Informal, non-published

Students are supported to choose topics and ideas that engage them

Students write in a variety of genres, and genres that engage them

Some curricula driven, others of their own choosing

Teacher provides feedback and conferences:

- Process
- Conventions
- Craft