

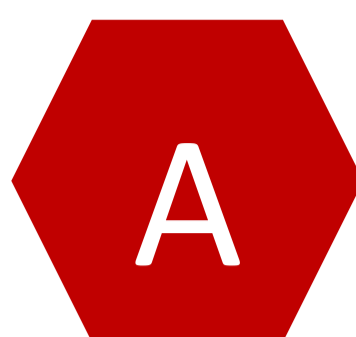
GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL



Read various genres with high interest, rich language, and layers of meaning



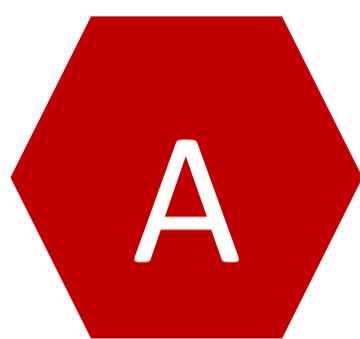
Engage students purposefully in making powerful connections



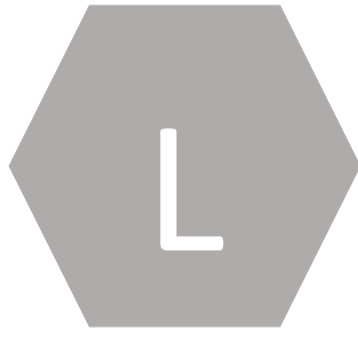
Adequate time needed to conduct interactive read-aloud sessions



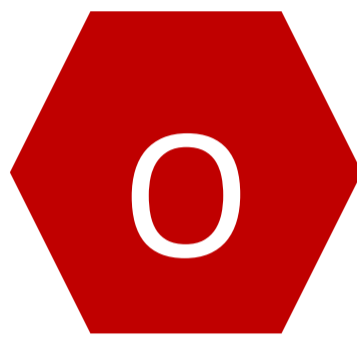
Demonstrate comprehension strategies and reading processes



Anticipate need to activate prior knowledge/build



Listen to and affirm student discussion contributions



Opportunities should be devised to explore text in personal and exciting ways



Use good judgement about amount of ongoing interaction



Decide how to best phrase questions and predicting

What should I think about when selecting a text for an interactive read-aloud?

- Texts you like
- Texts that are interesting and appealing to students (award winners included)
- Texts slightly more challenging than those children can read independently
- Texts that build on a topic currently being addressed in the curriculum
- Texts beyond fiction and nonfiction books—poetry and interesting/age-appropriate newspaper and magazine articles make for great read alouds too. Remember, non-fiction texts do not have to be read from cover to cover!
- Texts that present a new idea or a unique spin on an old idea
- Texts with an embedded second language
- Texts that are silly, quirky, or just plain fun to experience as a reader and listener
- Texts with no words! Illustrations are text too—in a wordless text, illustrations carry the full meaning

What are the research based benefits of an interactive read aloud?

- Gives experiences with language that requires students to make sense of ideas.
- Enhances imagination, creativity, memory, and curiosity.
- Grows background knowledge and understanding of universal concepts.
- Helps students make connections across cultures to real life situations.
- Increases students' listening skills and attention spans.
- Supports learning about conventions of texts.
- Permits students to hear what proficient reading sounds like.
- Introduces students to the pleasures of reading and texts of all kinds.
- Builds relationships and a positive classroom community.
- Promotes discussions about topics in critical and significant ways.
- Improves independent reading proficiency.
- Encourages children to focus on important text ideas and reflect on them.
- Increases students' interest in independent reading.