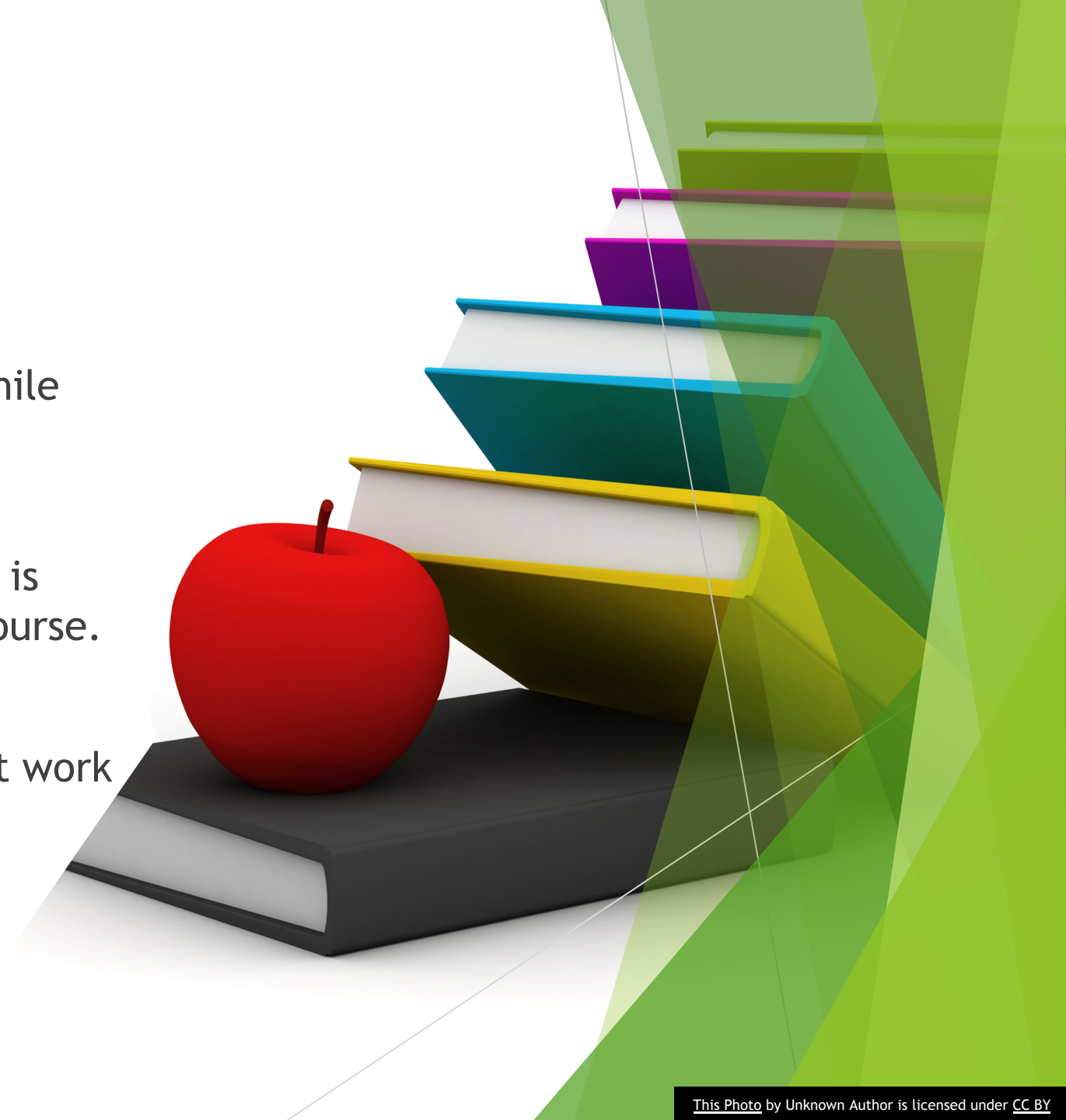


Reading in the Content Area

Christine Fandrich

What is it?

- ▶ Focus on reading strategies and skills while working on the content of the course.
- ▶ Continuation of reading instruction that is built into the curriculum of a content course.
- ▶ Helping students find the strategies that work best for them, so they are successful



Why is it important?

- ▶ Helps students build strategies to help with comprehension
- ▶ Continues building on reading skills to help students in future courses
- ▶ Builds confidence in students, showing them how to pick strategies that will work for them so that they are successful
- ▶ Prepares students for their future outside of school
- ▶ Dig into texts using different reading strategies to help students have a better understanding of what they are reading





Content Area Textbooks - History

- ▶ History has a few different texts that could be required:
 - ▶ World History
 - ▶ U.S. History
 - ▶ N.D. History
- ▶ Each text is focused on a specific type of history
- ▶ History texts seem to hit the main points of many historical events
- ▶ If teaching geography, you might see different types of geography books focused on certain regions, or one book that covers the world.

Text Difficulty Vs. Reading Skills in the Classroom



Reading skills will vary coming into the classroom each year



Some students may have a higher level of comprehension than others



Our job is to fill in those gaps for students



Use reading activities to help students with their comprehension



There may be vocabulary used in the text that students are not familiar with, we need to be sure the students understand the meaning of those words



If the textbook is weak in specific areas, we need to build up those weak spots to help students



Pay attention to the different levels of each student so that no student is left behind not comprehending the materials you present them

Supporting Literary Skills

Teach

Teach students reading strategies, this gives them the ability to find what works best for them

Use

Use reading activities in the classroom that will enhance student comprehension

Go over

Go over vocabulary thoroughly to ensure students are understanding those words, even allowing them to decide which words they are having a hard time with

Find

Find the reading skill level of your students and make sure to meet their needs, extra support if necessary

Allow

Allow your classroom to build on reading skills, both in instruction and classroom design, while working on the content area.

Reading Activities

Before Reading Activity

Knowledge Rating Scale:

- ▶ This is a checklist that allows students to rate their previous knowledge
- ▶ Can be tailored to fit your needs
- ▶ Allows students to tap into that previous knowledge before they begin reading
- ▶ Allows us as teachers to see what our students may already know and what they don't or any false information that may need to be corrected before moving on



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Knowledge Rating Scale Example

Reading Strategies 123

FIGURE S14.1 → Knowledge Rating Scale

Rate the following terms as follows:

1. I've never heard the term before.
2. I've heard the term, but I don't know what it means.
3. I understand the meaning of this term.
4. I can apply the meaning of this term to _____.

	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4

Source: From "Open to Suggestion: Content Area Strategies in Secondary Mathematics Classrooms," by S. J. Davis and R. Gerber, 1994, *Journal of Reading*, 38(1), 55-57. Copyright 1994 by the International Reading Association. Reprinted with permission.

During Reading Activity

Reading Guide:



- ▶ This is a document that the teacher creates to go along with a text. It can have short answer for data recall, or practical questions to put what they read into practice
- ▶ Helps students focus on important information in the text
- ▶ Requires a student to read the text, otherwise difficult to fill out the notes
- ▶ Gives students something to review when then are done reading

Reading Guide Example

1. What has the greatest impact on student achievement? **Collective efficacy**
2. What does that mean? **Collective efficacy is a shared belief among teachers that they can help students succeed.**
3. List the characteristics of a literacy-rich classroom in math, science, and social studies.
 - a. **Math - Language processes support students while they are learning new content.**
 - b. **Science – Reading, writing, and discussion are a daily occurrence**
 - c. **Social Science – Students’ interests are considered and students work in groups on different assignments.**
4. Content-area teachers should emphasize what? **Reading and writing practices that are specific to their disciplines.**
5. Reading apprenticeship classrooms focus on creating an environment where students become active and effective readers and learners by planning along what four dimensions? In your own words explain what these dimensions mean.
 - a. **Social – This is where students feel safe and supported, working together and sharing ideas with each other.**
 - b. **Personal – This focuses on the individual student improvement and responsibility.**
 - c. **Cognitive – This is practicing using reading strategies that they have been taught.**
 - d. **Knowledge building – building knowledge on content, topic, and text structures and styles.**
6. Research has found that students learn best in a pleasant and friendly climate where they:
 - a. **Feel accepted by teachers and peers**
 - b. **Feel a sense of safety and order because of clarity**
 - c. **Confident in their ability to complete tasks successfully**
 - d. **See value in learning activities**
7. In the table below, explain how you can incorporate a feeling of acceptance, safety, and order in your classroom.

Accepted	Safety	Order
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After Reading Activity

History Frames:

- ▶ This is an organized flowchart that has headings that can be customized to suit the text or content area. Students fill in information under these headings that they know from reading the text.
- ▶ Allows students to review while pulling out important information from the text
- ▶ Works well for history, as it serves as a quick review of important historical events; covering dates, important people, and the cause and effect



History Frames Example

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FIGURE S13.1 → History Frame

TITLE OF EVENT:

PROBLEM or GOAL:

PARTICIPANTS/KEY PLAYERS:

WHERE:

WHEN:

RESOLUTION or OUTCOME:

KEY EPISODES or EVENTS:

THEME/LESSONS:

Source: From "Story Mapping History Frame," by R. C. Jones, 2001. Retrieved from www.readingquest.org. Reprinted with permission.

