



A Comprehensive Language and Literacy Framework is an excerpt from *Guiding Readers and Writers (Grades 3-6): Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy* by Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell.

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# A Comprehensive **Language and Literacy** Framework

This three-block framework is a conceptual tool for organizing instruction. Below and throughout the book are guidelines for arranging schedules and integrating the curriculum components of the framework. The framework is flexible, allowing numerous variations in content, student groupings, daily time frames, and the level of teacher-directed instruction.

## THREE BLOCKS

## THE TEACHING / LEARNING STRUCTURE

## CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

### LANGUAGE AND WORD STUDY

30 – 60 minutes

**GOAL:** Students explore the intricacies of language across multiple genres including literature, informational texts, and poetry. They investigate the meaning and structure of words and the conventions and forms of written language.



- Interactive Read Aloud
- Modeled or Shared Reading/Writing
- Readers' Theatre/Process Drama
- Choral Reading
- Poetry Sharing/Response
- Current Events
- Interactive Edit
- Interactive Vocabulary
- Handwriting
- Test Reading and Writing
- Word Study

### READING WORKSHOP

60 minutes

**GOAL:** Students read a variety of self-selected and teacher-selected texts for extended periods. They construct meaning and make personal and textual connections as they learn from and about reading. Students learn effective comprehension strategies that they apply to fiction and nonfiction texts.



- Independent Reading** Individual students read silently and respond to a variety of texts of their own choosing, expanding the depth and breadth of their reading with continuous teacher support and guidance.
- Guided Reading** Using a teacher-chosen text as the basis for instruction, the teacher works with a small, temporary group of students to develop their processing strategies as they read a variety of increasingly challenging texts.
- Literature Study** A small, heterogeneous group of students discusses the literary elements and multiple dimensions of a text or set of related texts, while the teacher guides their in-depth analysis.

### WRITING WORKSHOP

60 minutes

**GOAL:** Students develop writing strategies and skills, learn about the writer's craft, and use writing as a tool for learning and communication. Writing for sustained periods, they explore different genres and formats for a range of purposes and for a variety of audiences.



- Independent Writing** Students work in their writers' notebooks or on drafting, revising, editing, or publishing writing projects with continuous teacher support and guidance.
- Guided Writing** The teacher instructs a small, temporary group of students on the craft and conventions of writing in a variety of genres.
- Investigations** Working individually, with a partner, or in groups, students pose original questions that form the basis of an in-depth research project that encompasses different content areas, draws on a wide range of print, media, and technological resources, and involves reading, writing, and visual communication.