

## **What is guided reading?**

Guided reading is an effective teaching technique that uses small group instruction. It is used in all K-5 classrooms at Allen elementary. This approach to teaching reading helps students learn how to read increasingly challenging texts at their own instructional level. Teachers work with a small group of students with similar reading skills, usually meeting at a round or kidney shape table. They focus on specific reading strategies to help them work on comprehension and fluency when reading.

Children are assessed to determine their reading levels using Fountas and Pinnell or Ann Arbor Benchmark assessment tools. The reading levels are an alphabetic system ranging from A to W. This helps the teacher know more about their accuracy, fluency and comprehension of books at that level, which helps the teacher plan for instruction that will improve their skills.

The small group approach allows for regular interactions among the readers, teacher, and the text. Teachers select the books that will help the readers with the skills they need to enhance. At the group the teacher introduces the book to the readers, providing problem solving strategies before they begin reading, and supports students while reading the book. Then, the group has a discussion following the reading. Guided reading groups meet on a rotating basis, typically from 2 to 4 times a week.