

Guided Reading For Grades K–2

Work in the primary classroom focuses on early literacy concepts as well as word and language patterns, allowing children to recognize vocabulary they know, which they will then use as context for interpreting and reading words they don't yet understand. They use meaning cues, structure or syntax cues, and visual information, or print cues provided in the text to process it successfully

In kindergarten, students participate in daily interactive read-aloud lessons and shared reading, as well as interactive writing and writers' workshop, to learn about how written language works. Word work is a regular part of the guided reading lesson in kindergarten as readers are learning much about print and how it works in books.

Texts used in first-grade guided reading lessons begin to expand to include different genres and forms. Teaching increases in complexity and challenge as the readers move through the levels. Readers are moving from “whisper reading” to silent reading. Word work at the end of the guided reading lesson continues as children expand their understandings of words and how they work — high frequency words continue to be a focus as well as discovering efficient ways to attack multi-syllable words they will encounter this year. Word structures like plurals, possessives, contractions, compounds also make up these one- to three-minute experiences.

In second grade, students work much more independently for longer periods of time and as such, the expectations begin to increase. Readers' workshop is about 60 minutes long, and readers continue to build their stamina by engaging in independent reading first during their literacy experiences each day. Texts are increasing in complexity and content. Short texts remain the staple of guided reading instruction, though a few chapter books are introduced to help build reading stamina. Illustrations, though still included at these levels of text, play less of a role in supporting the meaning of the text as the print takes on more of that role. Word work remains a regular part of the lesson if readers are still challenged by word solving.