

Two Popular Approaches to Balanced Literacy

I. “Four Blocks” Sample Schedule

Reading

Time	Component
15 minutes	Mini-Lesson/Shared Reading
45 minutes	Small Group Guided Reading/ Literacy Stations (15-20 minutes per group)
10 minutes	Read Aloud
20 minutes	Self-Selected Reading(Reader’s Workshop)/Teacher Conferences
15-20 minutes	Word Work

Language Arts

Time	Component
10-15 minutes	Mini-lesson/Shared Writing
20-30 minutes	Writer’s Workshop/Teacher Conferences
5-10 minutes	Share Time

Science & Social Studies *On Grade Level Text*

Time	Component
45 minutes	Whole Group Guided Reading (Choral Read, Echo Read, Partner Read etc.)
*During Literacy Centers	Guided Practice

II. “The Daily Five” Literacy Block Approach

1. **Read to Yourself-** “The best way to become a better reader is to practice each day with books students choose on their “just-right” reading level. It becomes habit.”
2. **Read to Someone-** “Reading to someone allows for more time to practice strategies, helping to work on fluency and expression, check for understanding, hear your own voice, and share in a learning community.”
3. **Work on Writing-** “Just like reading, the best way to become a better writer is to practice writing each day.”
4. **Listen to Reading-** Hearing good examples of fluent reading” helps students “learn more words, thus expand vocabulary and become better readers.”
5. **Word Work/Spelling-** “allows for more fluent writing” and is “an essential foundation for writers”

From pgs. 11-12 in the book: *The Daily Five* by Gail Boushey and Joan Moser

Read Aloud:	Mini-lessons:
<p>A read-aloud is an activity in which the teacher reads a book aloud to the whole group. The purpose of the read-aloud is to model appropriate reading behaviors and reading strategies. It is also a time to expose children to a variety of genres and literary styles. The teacher has an opportunity to show students the joys of reading and teach them how to think and discuss text. Teachers should have a set purpose for each read-aloud and should read with the proper fluency, rhythm, and intonation.</p> <p>Students do not have a copy of the book. Their job is to listen how the teacher models fluency or a strategy for reading.</p>	<p>A short and pointed lesson that is under 20 minutes. Look at this site http://non-sequitur.tripod.com/id13.html for the structure of a mini-lesson.</p> <p>Some mini-lessons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehension skills • word attack skills • reading strategies • fluency • literary styles/content of text • word work skills • grammar or mechanics • phonics
Literacy Centers/Stations:	Guided Reading:
<p>Literacy stations have two purposes: (1) to engage students while the teacher works with small reading groups, and (2) to reinforce literacy skills (vocabulary, reading, phonics, word study, mechanics). Students are grouped heterogeneously and rotate to 3 centers. They remain at each center for approximately 15 - 20 minutes. For more on literacy stations, please go to the Literacy Stations page.</p>	<p>Guided reading is when the teacher works with a small group of students that are on the same reading level. Each student usually has their own text and the teacher works with the students on skills depending on their needs, whether it is phonemic awareness, work attack skills, fluency, or reading comprehension. Guided reading is done during the literacy stations time. For more on guided reading, go to the Guided Reading page.</p>
Share Time:	Word Work:
<p>The class regroups to discuss what they learned or did in their groups, such as which strategies they employed for reading, or projects they worked on. Share time is VERY IMPORTANT and should not be skipped. It is a great way to assess what students have and have not learned.</p>	<p>OPTIONAL: Word Work, usually referred to as spelling or phonics, is the time when the teacher works with the whole class on phonics skills and spelling strategies. This is important in the primary grades because it helps children learn the decoding skills needed to read. Word work can take the place of share time or can be done after the 90 minute block.</p>

