



The Deep Read: Reading For Understanding SFIG Newsletter

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Northern Essex Community College

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The Mission of *The Deep Read* is to disseminate the research, findings and passion of the Reading for Understanding SFIG, and to help improve student reading campus-wide.

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Readers Make Good Leaders By Trish Schade, Assistant Professor, Developmental Reading

What is Reading Apprenticeship?

Reading Apprenticeship is a partnership of expertise between the teacher and students, drawing on what content area teachers know and do as skilled discipline-based readers and on learners' unique and often underestimated strengths. A Reading Apprenticeship classroom can be in any subject and has a focus on comprehension and meta-cognitive conversation, a climate of collaboration, and an emphasis on student independence

Who is using Reading Apprenticeship?

RA is being implemented in 20 California Community Colleges and 9 community colleges in Arkansas, Massachusetts (That's us!), Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

What are the Student Learning Outcomes of Reading Apprenticeship?

- More reading
- Increased engagement and confidence as readers
- Develop a range of strategies to support comprehension
- Higher levels of interaction between teachers and students
- Increased retention.

What Have Students Said About This Approach To Reading

"At first when I use to read, reading was hard for me. I don't mean hard like I couldn't read, but like I couldn't understand what the author was putting out. Reading was very difficult because when I'm tested on a question about it, I couldn't answer. Because I never read and visualized things until now. When I read, I'll do one sentence at a time and try to summarize it, or sometimes I would picture myself in the description of that sentence. I visualize a lot now. I realize that I am using a method

metacognition and since then I've been an improved reader whenever I visualize as I read." -Rashad

"I have learned that metacognition is when you think about what you read. Metacognition has changed the things that go on in my head because now I think about what I read more clearly. I predict, picture, question, make connections, identify and problems and check back if I don't understand something the first time I read it. When I used to read before, I just read to get it over with and be done, but now I really get into books and try to predict and make connections to help me summarize what I read." -Tiffany

"I have learned to slow down, think and understand. Before I was never able to do this because I just wanted to read and just get it over with. In this class I learned something new called 'metacognition'—a big word with a small meaning—slow down and think." - Fabian

Why do I think reading using these strategies is so important for students:

Good readers make good leaders. And good leaders are reflective and aware of their leadership style, their vision, the way they engage with others. This fits wonderfully with the metacognitive approach of Reading Apprenticeship. This kind of reflective, aware reading requires asking questions of the text. Good leaders also ask questions. It entails making connections with and visualizing the written word. Leadership also requires a connection with others and a vision of common goals. Reading Apprenticeship is a style of reading that engages the student personally in his/her reading and invites collaboration. Good leadership engages others, reaches goals by teamwork. Good readers summarize as they read. Good leaders get "the big idea". When there is confusion, a student who practices Reading Apprenticeship knows that 1) It's cool to be confused. 2) Sometimes we have to ask others for help 3) Often confusion is what leads to learning. I think student leaders need this same mind set.



Instructor Trish Schade

The Power of One: Theme Across the Curriculum Events

March 15: Peace Poetry Contest

Entries of original poems about peace by March 15th from public and private K-12 schools in MA and NH communities, including entries from NECC faculty and students. Submit to: peacepoetry@necc.mass.edu or Paul Saint-Amand at NECC Peace Poetry Contest, Spurk 317H.

April 1: Three Cups of Tea book discussion, Bentley Library, 12:30 – 2:00

Join students, faculty and staff for a tea and book discussion co-sponsored by Liberal Arts, the NECC Libraries, and the Women's Book Group

April 9: Essay contest: Win \$150 "How One Person I Know Made a Difference."

Submission deadline: April 9 at 4 p.m. Submission by email: svanwert@necc.mass.edu

Printed submission to: C210 submission box

April 26-May 7: Pennies for Peace

Co-sponsored by Liberal Arts and Amnesty International Club

Donate your pennies. In impoverished countries, a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy.

May 7: Peace Poetry Reading, 6-9pm in TC103

Join students and faculty for a reading of selected original poems about peace. Announcement of the winner of the Peace Poetry Contest.

Lyn says:

What is your favorite book?

This is a really tough question. Since I've read *The Stand* by Stephen King four times, I would have to say that is my favorite, but there are so many books I feel connected to, I have a difficult time making a choice.

Why did you choose that book? Do you remember where you were when you read it? When did you read it?

I chose *The Stand* by Stephen King because the writing was solid and realistic. I became attached to the characters and sometimes refer to a certain style person as the Walking Dude. I was introduced to the book by one of my roommates in the 80's and I stayed locked up in my room for days until I finished reading it. When I was done reading, I started reading it again. I've read it twice since then and will probably read it again soon.

What is your favorite place to read?

I like to read wrapped in a bathrobe, in bed. But chances are, if given a choice to socialize or read, I'll read. I'd rather read a cereal box than have a discussion. When I was a kid, I used to sneak books into church and read instead of the bible or hymn book. I also would stay up until 3:00 or 4:00a.m. with a flashlight under the covers and read biographies. My mother would hit the roof when she caught me.

Is there a certain type of book you like to read?

My taste in books varies. I recently read Bob Dylan's book *Chronicles, Volume 1* and laughed through the entire thing. His writing is similar to the way he composes songs and he is extremely funny. I also loved *True Compass* by Ted Kennedy. I love the written word, so if someone made an effort to write it, I'll read it. My friend Jessica Porter's book, *The Hip Chick's Guide to Macrobotics* is hilarious and cracks me up every time I open to any page. I love anything written by Dennis Lehane, Greg Isles or Sue Grafton and, of course, Stephen King. And of course, I love the Harry Potter series. After years of poking fun at the adults I knew who all raved about the books, I, too, am now a Harry Potter fanatic.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about reading?

Reading helped me survive a crazy family life growing up. I relate to the guy in the Twilight Zone program who survived a nuclear attack and was thrilled because he now had an opportunity to read without interruption. I get that way about reading. I just want everything to go away so I can just sit and read a good book without someone yammering in my ear, and no, that is not directed at my husband--in case he reads this.

Reading Side-by-Side:



Assistant Professor, Clare Thompson-Ostrander (left) and NECC student, Lyn Lutrzykowski (right)

Clare says:

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book of all time is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Why did you choose that book? Do you remember where you were when you read it? When did you read it?

This is my favorite book because it was the first book that made me think about larger ideas in life, ideas like prejudice and loyalty and justice. I remember that I was supposed to read it my freshman year of high school, but I did not read it! Instead, I listened to the English teacher tell us what was important about the book. I remember I liked hearing her talk about the book, but not enough to actually read it. I finally read the book a couple of years later when I was about 18 years old and out of high school. It was summer time, and I

could not put the book down. I loved reading about Calpurnia, Scout, Jem, and Boo Radley. I read it again when I was 25 years old. A good friend of mine and I worked at the same restaurant and we read the book together; it was wonderful to read this book with a good friend who loved it as much as I did. Two months ago, I had to put my dog down. I loved him very much, and his name was Boo Radley.

What is your favorite place to read?

My favorite place to read is on my couch at home, or at the beach.

Is there a certain type of book you like to read?

I love books that reveal how people tick. My favorite author of all time is Andre Dubus, Senior. He had a way of creating memorable characters that were mostly good, but would often make mistakes, and those mistakes are what make the stories evolve. Sometimes, I read authors simply because their use of language is like magic. Writers like Annie Proulx or Maya Angelou or Sandra Cisneros fill me with their use of words and images. It amazes me how they can make words do the things they make them do.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about reading?

I miss reading. But, when my life settles down, I'll get back to reading more regularly.

Quick & Dirty Tips:

Turn Your Students Into Active Readers



- **Start reading assignments in class**
- **Ask students to annotate as they read**
- **Require students to bring questions about the reading to class**
- **Discuss, discuss & discuss reading assignments in class**

HELP! Over 50% of NECC students surveyed do not consider themselves readers.

