

Organize for Success

Your goal in Guided Reading is to meet with different groups while the rest of your students are actively engaged in productive activities that advance their learning. In creating your initial groupings, consider the number of students in your class and the range of reading abilities. Create groupings of three to six students.

Allow 20 minutes for your guided reading sessions. You will want to meet with struggling readers every day. Five meetings over a two-week period is typical for advanced readers. You will also want to plan time for assessments and checking in with students in centers or reading independently.

For guided reading to be effective, the rest of the class must be engaged in other literacy activities that do not require direct teacher involvement.

How can you manage the classroom effectively?

- Involve your students in setting up “rules” for Guided Reading time.**
- Introduce the Learning Centers.**
- Establish routines.**
- Model each routine and procedure as it is introduced.**
- Assign student helpers.**
- Make sure students understand the requirements of each task.**

Scholastic Guided Reading will provide you with the tools necessary to help your students meet the goals set out in the Common Core State Standards.

Making the Most of Small-Group Instruction Time

You can provide instruction for groups of three to six students and closely monitor their work.

The careful instruction given during small-group work will complement the learning that takes place during independent reading and whole-class instruction.

-  **Provide carefully leveled books.** Allow students to access essential content-area informational text and literature across genres. Include various text types.
-  **Provide books at a level that challenges students.** Encourage students to apply the skills and strategies they have learned and respond to teacher-directed questions that prompt learning.
-  **Ask text-dependent questions.** These questions will help students develop the skills they need to progress through the levels, read more challenging texts, and meet grade-level expectations. (See prompts.)
-  **Set goals for instruction.** Use the Guided Reading teaching materials to plan ahead so that your instruction time can be focused and successful.
-  **Introduce the text.** Prereading strategies should enhance, but not interfere with, the students discovering the text on their own.
-  **Have students read independently.** Each student will read the entire text, or portions of the text, independently. You are there to help if a student cannot problem solve on his or her own.
-  **For some books, you may want to use the following prompts to encourage discussion at the end of a section or chapter.**
 - Retell or summarize what you have just read.
 - Use the text to help you predict what will happen.
 - Tell what you think was the author's theme or idea for writing.
-  **Encourage student participation in discussions.** All students should share thoughts and ideas. Invite students who tend to be shy or less likely to engage in discussion, to draw a picture or write a few sentences about what they've read. Then share their creations to prompt a group discussion.