

Achieve Your Goals By Improving Student Reading

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Goals for this talk:

- Understand students' reading problems
- Experience the psycholinguistic character of reading
- Learn about an explicit goal of academic critical literacy for students
- Develop a plan to use specific strategies this term

A riddle...

What does reading have to
do with elephants?





Reading is the elephant

- “Don’t, Won’t, CAN’T”-TOO big to ignore
- ACT 2006, 2015 results
- Citation Project, 2012
- Info literacy—50% pass rate
- NAEP— 38%

NAEP 2013

Percentage of students at or above the *Proficient* level in 2013 (all students)

Seniors in 13 pilot states=36% proficient.



Implications

- All show the same thing: don't, won't, can't.
- The size and nature of the problem should be clear.
- We are all in this together and must work on students' reading to meet our goals.

Psycholinguistic features of reading

- Reading is fast
- Reading is focused on meaning
- Reading is only incidentally visual



The Boat in the Basement

A man was building a boat in his basement. When he was done, he discovered that the the boat was too wide to go though the door, so he had to take the boat a part to get it out. He should of planned ahead.



The Telephone Pole

by Charles Baxter

Outside a man's window stood a a telephone poll, in which birds had dug seveeral holes. Because the brids had caused all this trouble, he decided that that the telephone poll had to be cut down. The man called telephone company, which sent a truck out.



"What is it?"

"A krait," he said.

"A krait! Oh, my God! Where'd it bite you? How long ago?"

...

"I haven't been bitten," he whispered. "Not yet. It's on my stomach. Lying there asleep."

...

"...Then out of the corner of my eye I saw this little krait sliding over my pyjamas. Small, about ten inches. ..."

...

As a matter of fact it wasn't a surprising thing for a krait to do. They hang around people's houses and they go for the warm places. ... The bite is quite deadly except sometimes when you catch it at once and they kill a fair number of people each year in Bengal...

...

I... fetched a small sharp knife from the kitchen. ...I was going to be ready to cut the bitten place and try to suck the venom out. ...

5 pages later

"It is not safe," he continued, "because a snake is cold-blooded and anesthetic does not work so well or so quick with such animals..."



The Marlup

A marlup was poving his kump. Parmily a narg horped some whev in his kump. “Why did vump horp whev in my frinkle kump?” the marlup jufd the narg. “Er’m muvvily trungy,” the narg gruppued. “Er heshed vump horped whev in your kump. Do vump pove your kump frinkle?” “Yes!”

- 1. What did the narg horp in the marlup’s kump?
- 2. What did the marlup juf the narg?
- 3. Was the narg trungy ?
- 4. How does the marlup pove his kump?

The nature of reading

- As we have said: READING is
- FAST
- Focused on MEANING
- Only incidentally visual

A definition...

Academic critical literacy is best defined as the psycholinguistic processes of getting meaning from or putting meaning into print and/or sound, images, and movement, on a page or screen, used for the purposes of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and application; these processes develop through formal schooling and beyond it, at home and at work, in childhood and across the lifespan and are essential to human functioning in a democratic society. (Horning, 2012)

And a goal...

- Academic critical literacy is a key goal
 - For students' success in college
 - For participation in democracy
 - For their future lives
 - For careers to come according to Tony Wagner, discussing the “global achievement gap” (2008) and the need to “create innovators” (2012).

Brief workshop-what to do

Monday

- Passage on handout
- Read quickly
- Pairs or groups
 - Analysis—3 key ideas
 - Synthesis—other sources, prior knowledge
 - Evaluation—authority, accuracy, currency, relevancy, appropriateness, bias
 - Use—how to apply or integrate—make a plan!

How could you use this in YOUR class?

Alternate: 25 word content sums-Doolittle

Strategies for all classes

- Intensive strategies
 - 1-understanding reading
 - 2-overt teaching of critical reading strategies
 - 3-modeling by reading aloud
 - 4-use reading guides for analysis, synthesis, evaluation, application
 - 5-25 word summaries

Summary:

Reading is THE elephant: too big to ignore!

- You understand the problem
- You know something more about reading
- You can state explicitly the goal you are trying to achieve: academic critical literacy
- You have strategies to build assignments that require critical reading and literacy in every course.
- Change don't, won't, can't to DO, CAN, WILL!

Thanks for your attention!

- Time for questions and evaluations.