



Actively Learn



Uncovering students' thinking and providing better feedback during Reader's Workshop

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Diane's Challenge: How can I uncover students' thinking and provide better feedback during Reader's Workshop?

Diane, a fifth grade teacher in California, often struggled to uncover what her students were thinking during Reader's Workshop. Although students frequently shared with partners during mini-lessons and recorded their thoughts on sticky notes when reading independently, Diane found it difficult to provide effective feedback and challenge her students to dig deeper into texts as they applied different strategies.

Intervention: Use Actively Learn during mini-lessons and independent reading

Mini-Lessons

After Diane models a target strategy, students access a shared text on Actively Learn and add notes or respond to questions related to the objective. As Diane reviews student responses in real-time, she provides immediate feedback and addresses misconceptions.

Independent Reading

Small groups of students read a common novel or text on Actively Learn. Diane includes questions and notes related to the lesson objective and mid-workshop teaching point within each group's text. She also encourages student discussion with shared notes.

Outcomes: How has this approach impacted Diane's instruction and students' learning?

- **Better Data → More Effective & Timely Feedback:** Data from Actively Learn (student responses, reading time, "I don't understand" flags) more clearly reveals students' understanding of a text and their ability to apply different strategies. Diane is better equipped to provide targeted feedback and have higher-level discussions with students.
- **Increased Engagement:** Because students are reading a common novel and sharing their annotations and question responses, they are more engaged during independent reading.
- **More Student Choice:** Students have more options when selecting books to read, because the features in Actively Learn's platform (translation, dictionary, scaffolding notes, etc.) support students in reading complex texts.
- **Growth in Writing Skills:** Diane says she has seen "incredible progress in [her] students' writing about reading." She provides scaffolds (sentence frames, guiding prompts, etc.) within questions and encourages students to revise responses based on her feedback.
- **No more deciphering sticky notes!!**

How to use Actively Learn in Reader's Workshop

1 Mini-Lessons

Model reading strategies for students by annotating digital texts that students can access in a whole-class lesson and on their own.



2 Independent Reading

Let students choose from thousands of nonfiction articles and books to read. Teachers can also pre-select options for students. Students reflect on their reading and share what they like with peers. A log is automatically created.



4 Closing / Share

When sharing out as a class, easily showcase student work in group assignments and show connections between individual work and the mini-lesson.



3 Small Group / Guided

Use group assignments to practice specific skills and strategies. Let students collaborate with in-text discussions. See student writing in real-time and provide direct feedback that students can act on.