

Tar Heel Shared Reader Content Activity
Module: Shared Reading
Text Selection 2

Big Idea:

Students need access to texts that are interesting, and age- and ability-respectful.

Guiding Statement:

1. I choose texts that are the right length to hold my students' attention.

Directions: Read through the following statements and think about and discuss why the length of the book is important to consider when choosing books for beginning readers.

1. Students need to be able to follow along with the text to figure out there's one written word for every spoken word.
2. Students can learn to anticipate what is being read.
3. Students need the opportunity to have as many page-by-page interactions as possible.
4. Students can learn to pay attention to the increasingly longer text as they learn that reading is interesting.

Discussion:

Shared reading is one part of a comprehensive literacy program. Students who will benefit from shorter texts are still:

- learning why we read
- building background knowledge
- learning how print works
- learning about the alphabet and phonological awareness
- developing a desire to read

Keep the experience short so that students don't think of it as "work" but rather as something to look forward to and enjoy.