

**Proficiency
Interpretations of &
Interventions for
Below-Basic
Adolescents on
NAEP:
*Do They Represent
and Address
Students' Strengths
and Needs?***

Elfrieda H. Hiebert
TextProject



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Today's Presentation

- **Current:**

How are we interpreting “Below Basic”?

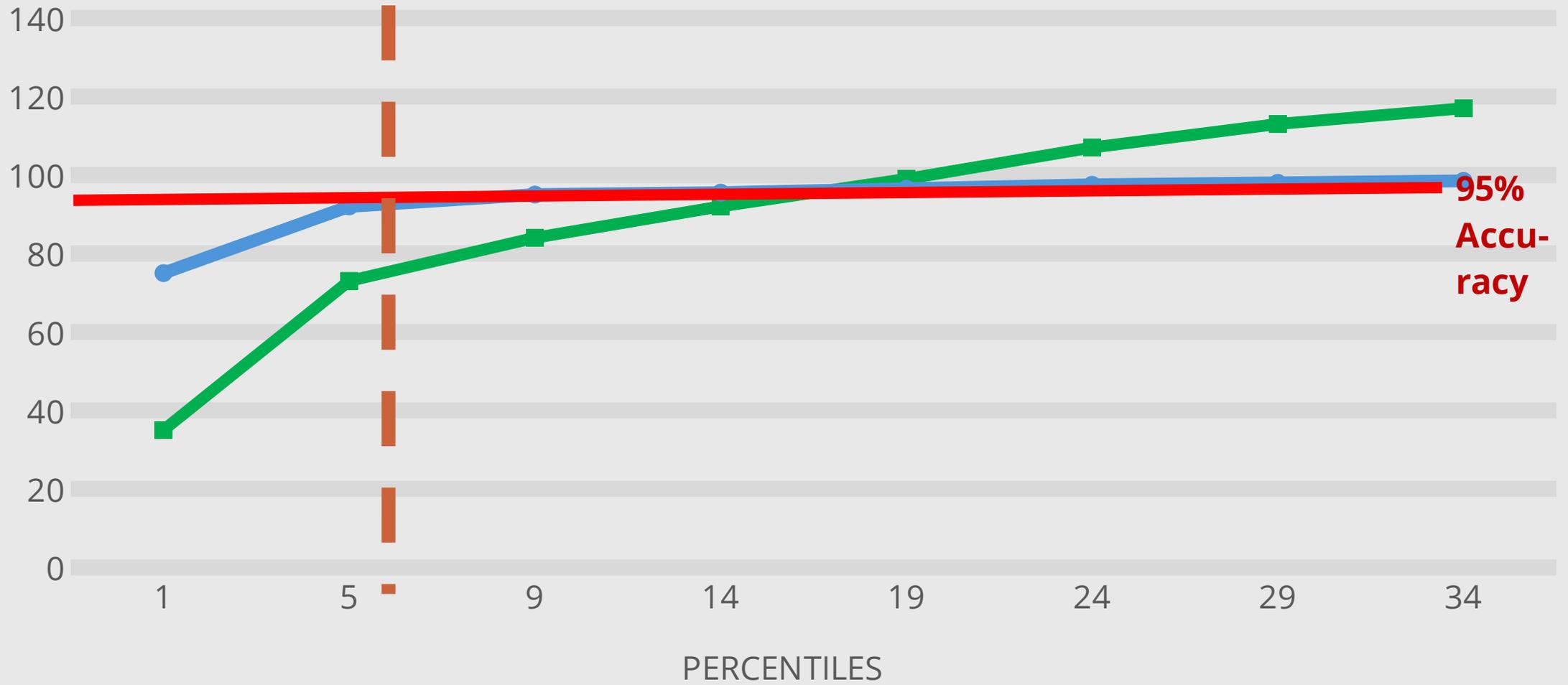
What instruction does that interpretation produce?

- **Alternative:**

What alternative interpretations are supported by evidence?

How does this evidence change what and how we teach?

Variation Within the “Below-Basic Group”



WCPM Accuracy

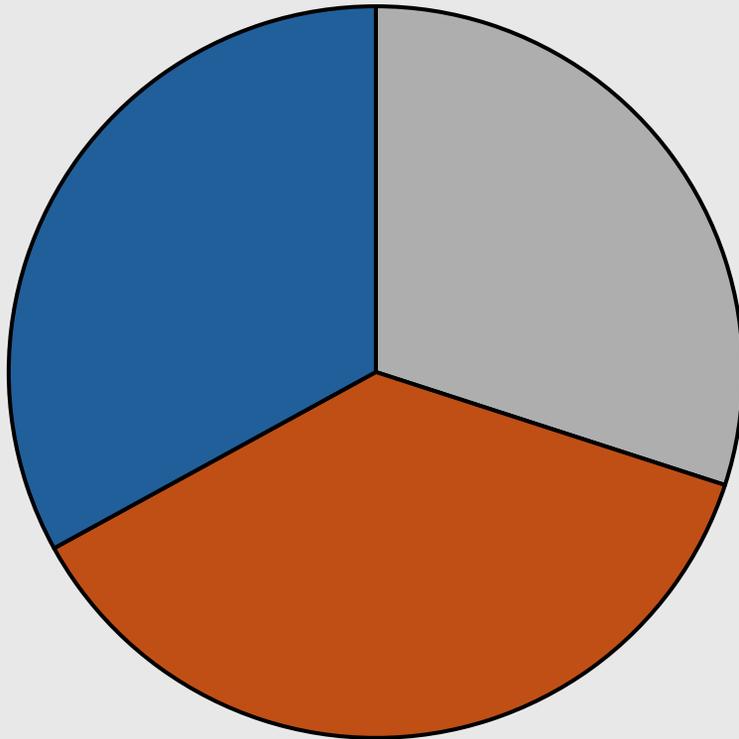


How are we interpreting “Below Basic”?



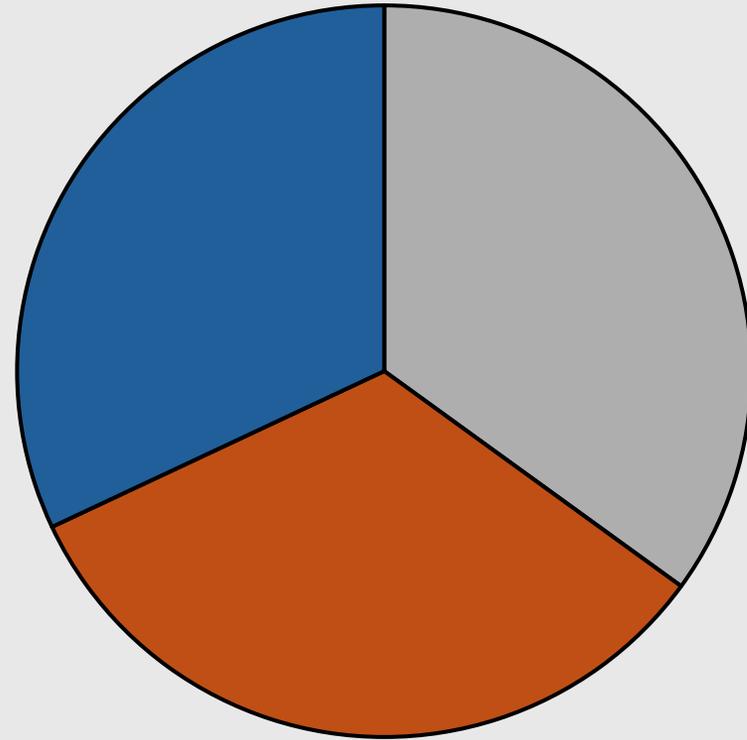
National Assessment of Educational Progress (2024)

8th Grade



Proficient Basic Below Basic

12th Grade



Proficient+ Basic Below Basic

The Surprising State of Middle School Literacy—And What School Leaders Can Do About It

Sixty-nine percent of eighth grade students are “non-proficient” readers. In this article, uncover the causes behind this adolescent literacy crisis. Discover practical literacy strategies for middle school reading improvement through evidence-based instruction and teacher training—plus, determine how to fund it.

The Shocking Statistics About Adolescent Literacy

Data from the most recent 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a widely respected and comprehensive assessment of student performance in the United States, revealed that 70% of eighth grade students are “non-proficient” readers. This leaves a meager 30% of eighth grade students at or above the NAEP proficient achievement level.

America’s Reading Crisis That No One Wants to Talk About

“There’s this focus on K-3, without a lot of resources dedicated to helping the kids in secondary school who fell through the cracks.”

LAUREN COFFEY JANUARY 23, 2026



‘These results are sobering’: US high school seniors’ reading and math scores plummet

Educators worry about absenteeism and smartphones as NAEP report shows scores at lowest levels in two decades

Why 65 Percent of Fourth Graders Can’t Really Read



KIDS LEARN TO READ THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY AT HOBART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN 1999. (DAVID BUTOW VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Emily Hanford reveals how America’s educators adopted a flawed system for teaching reading to kids—and, as a result, completely failed them.

By The Free Press

02.11.23 — Education

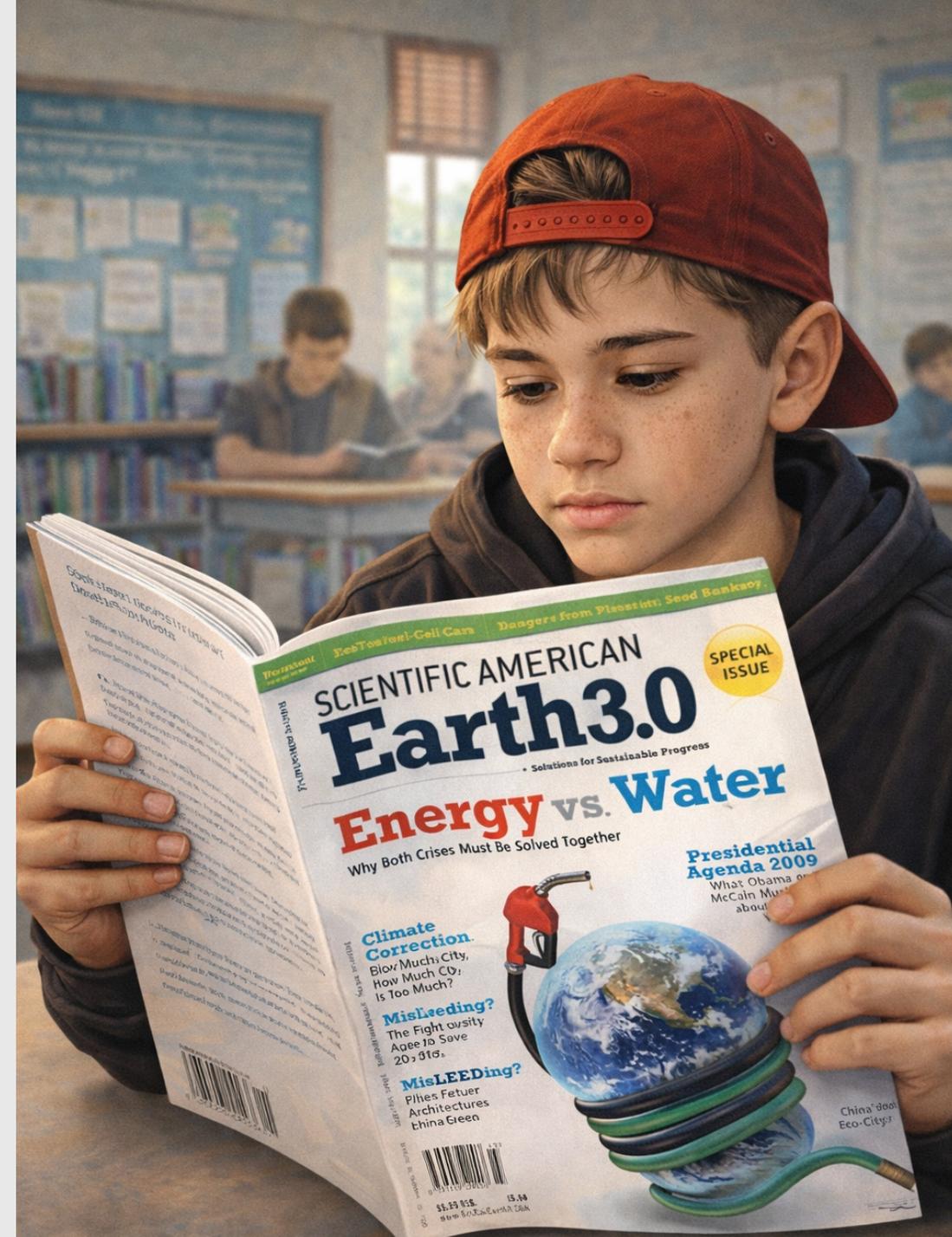
Education

These are deep investigations—from kindergarten to college—into school choice, the misalloc

FOLLOW TOPIC

Aspirational by Design

NAEP panel's mandate: to "establish a vision (in the form of guidelines and **aspirational** goals) reflecting current issues within the educational context" (Forzani et al., 2022, p. 161).



Independent Evaluations of NAEP

- "NAEP achievement-level results do not appear to be reasonable compared with other external information about students' achievement" (p. 7). (Pellegrino et al., 1999)
- The National Academies of Science, Engineering, & Medicine questioned validity of achievement levels and called for evidence linking NAEP performance to real-world outcomes (Koenig & Edley, 2017)



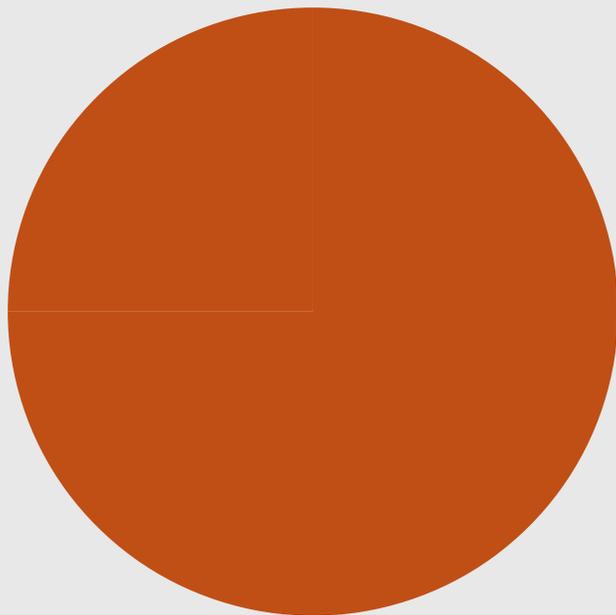
What instruction does this interpretation produce?



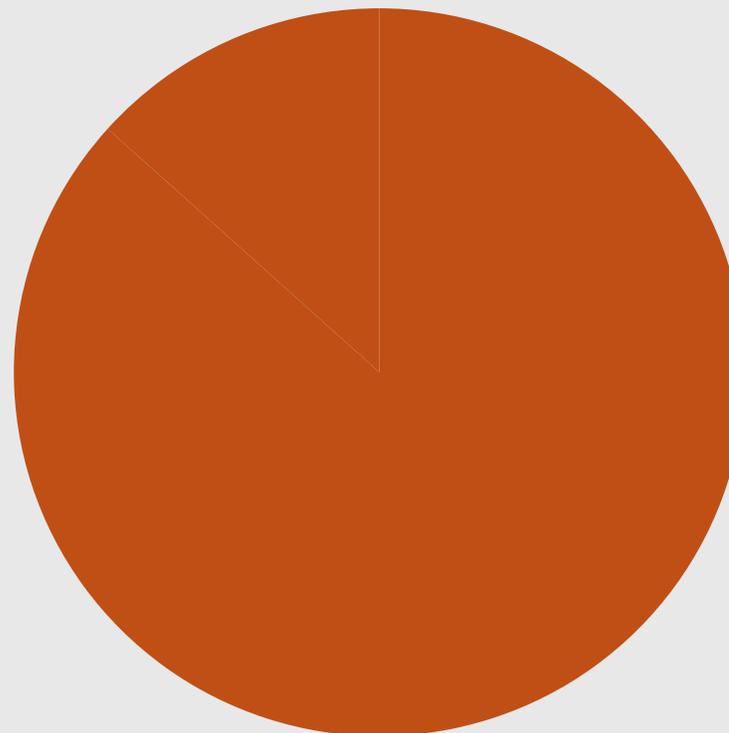
- **We devote more time to reading instruction.**

Portion of School Day

1970s to late 1980s



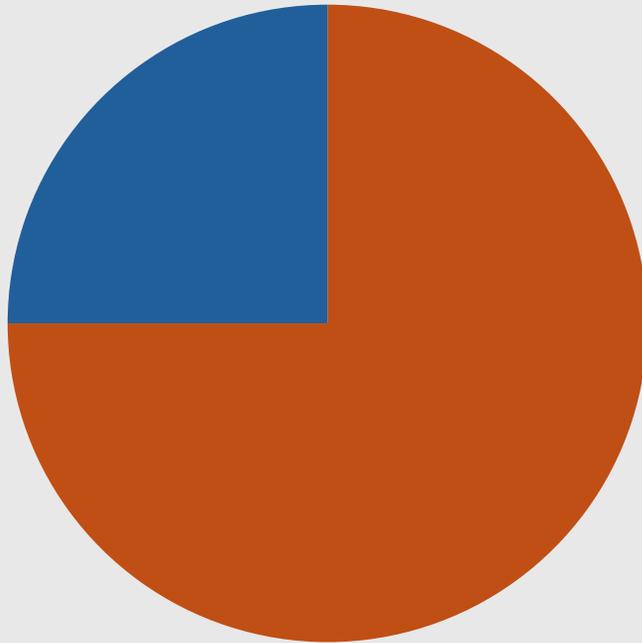
Late 1990s -



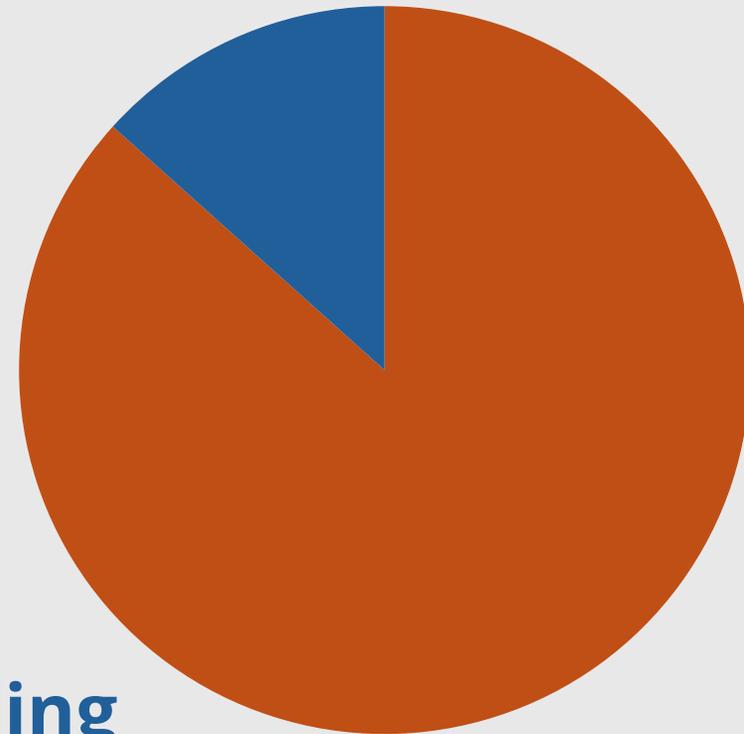
- **We give students less time to read.**

Portion of School Day

1970s to late 1980s

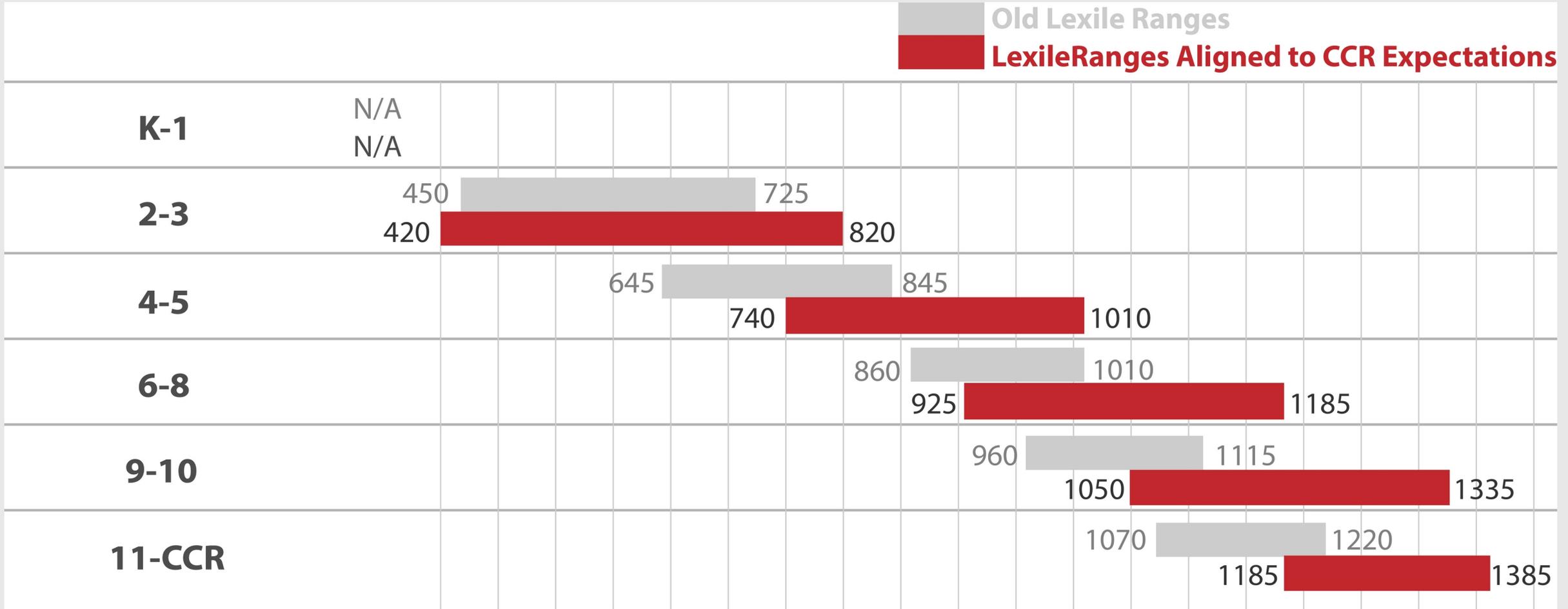


Late 1990s -



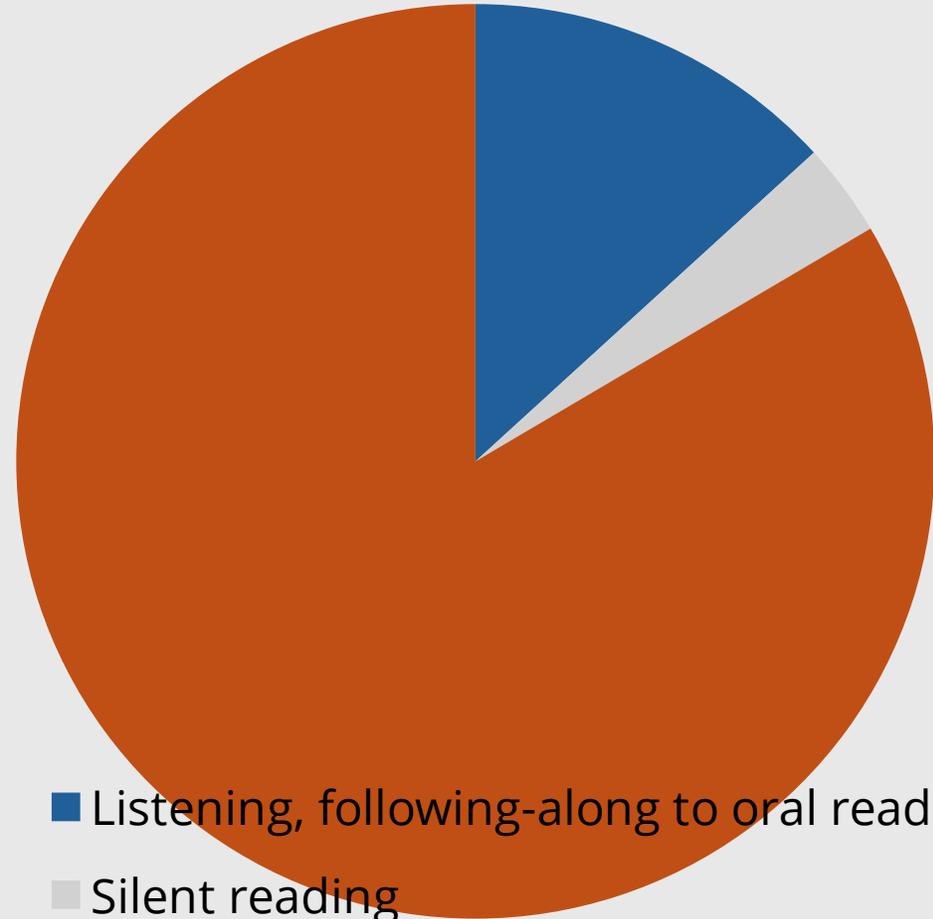
- **Student reading**
- **Instruction time**

• We raise already high bars.





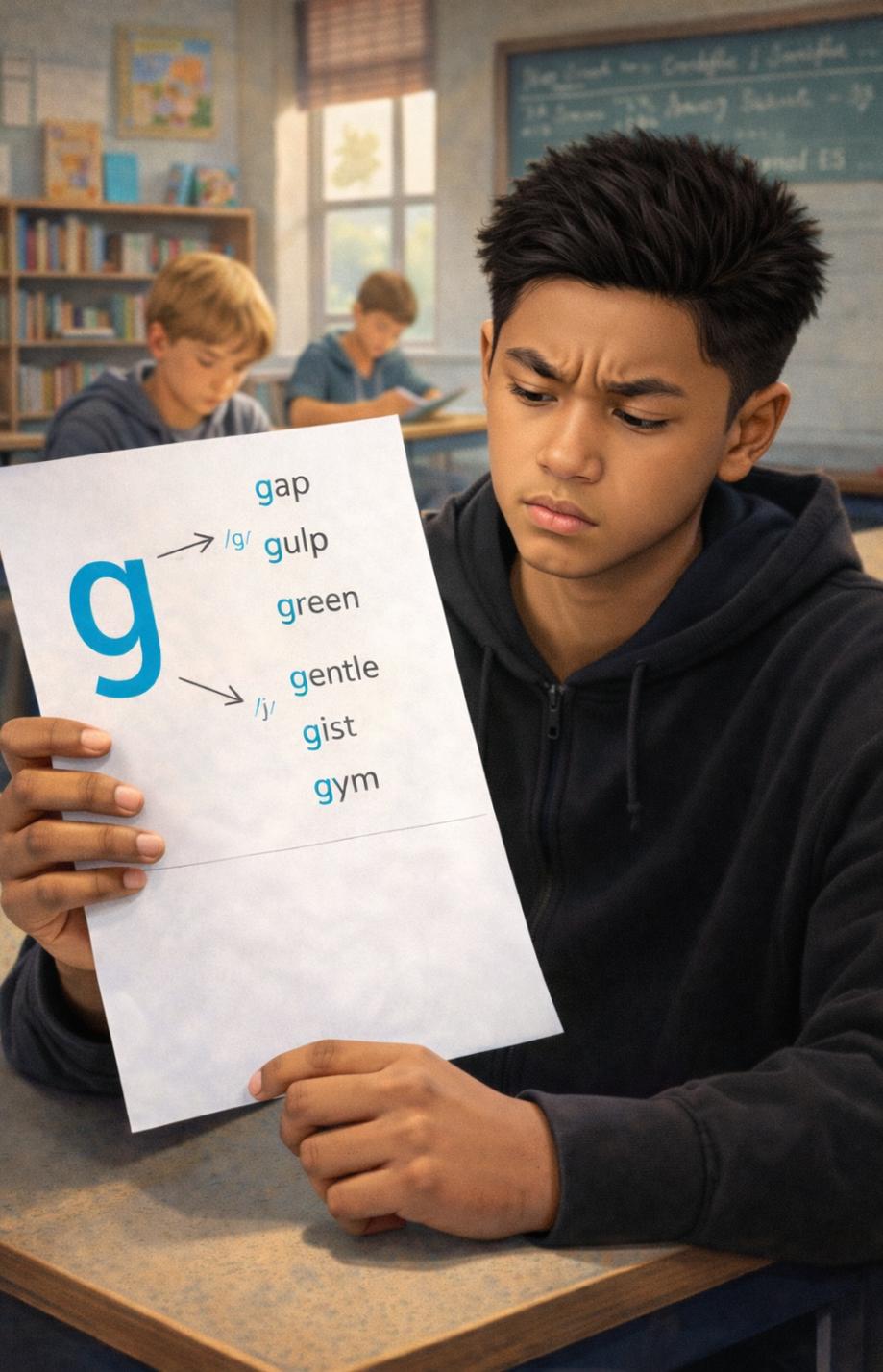
• We outsource reading.



■ Listening, following-along to oral reading

■ Silent reading

■ Rest of Class Session



- **We intervene with adolescents using beginning-reading models.**

[OBJ]

**Example 1:
Lesson in a
Commercial
Intervention for
Grade 6 to 12
Students**

hard g = /g/



game

goal

gust

grumpy

soft g = /j/



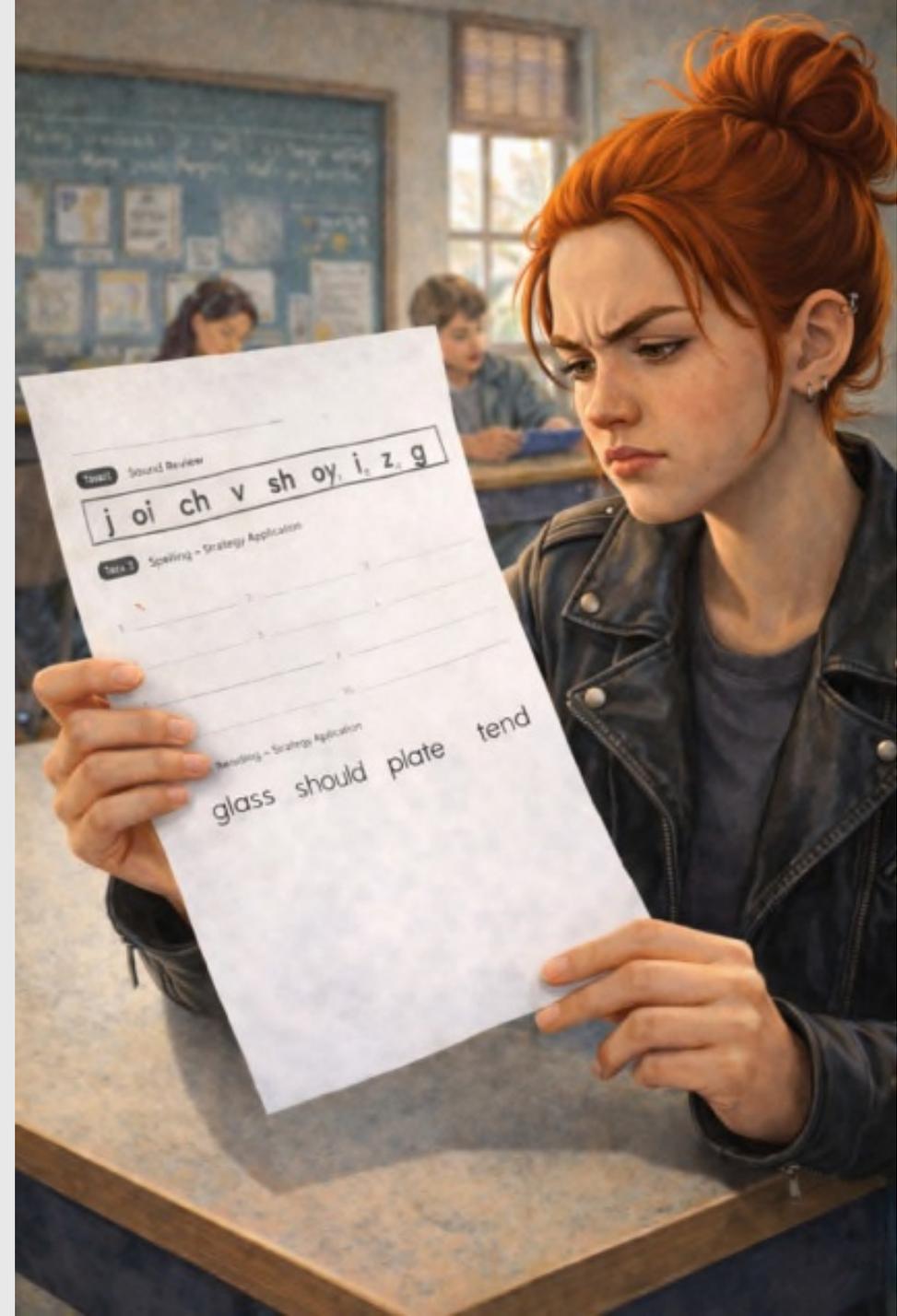
gem

hu**g**e

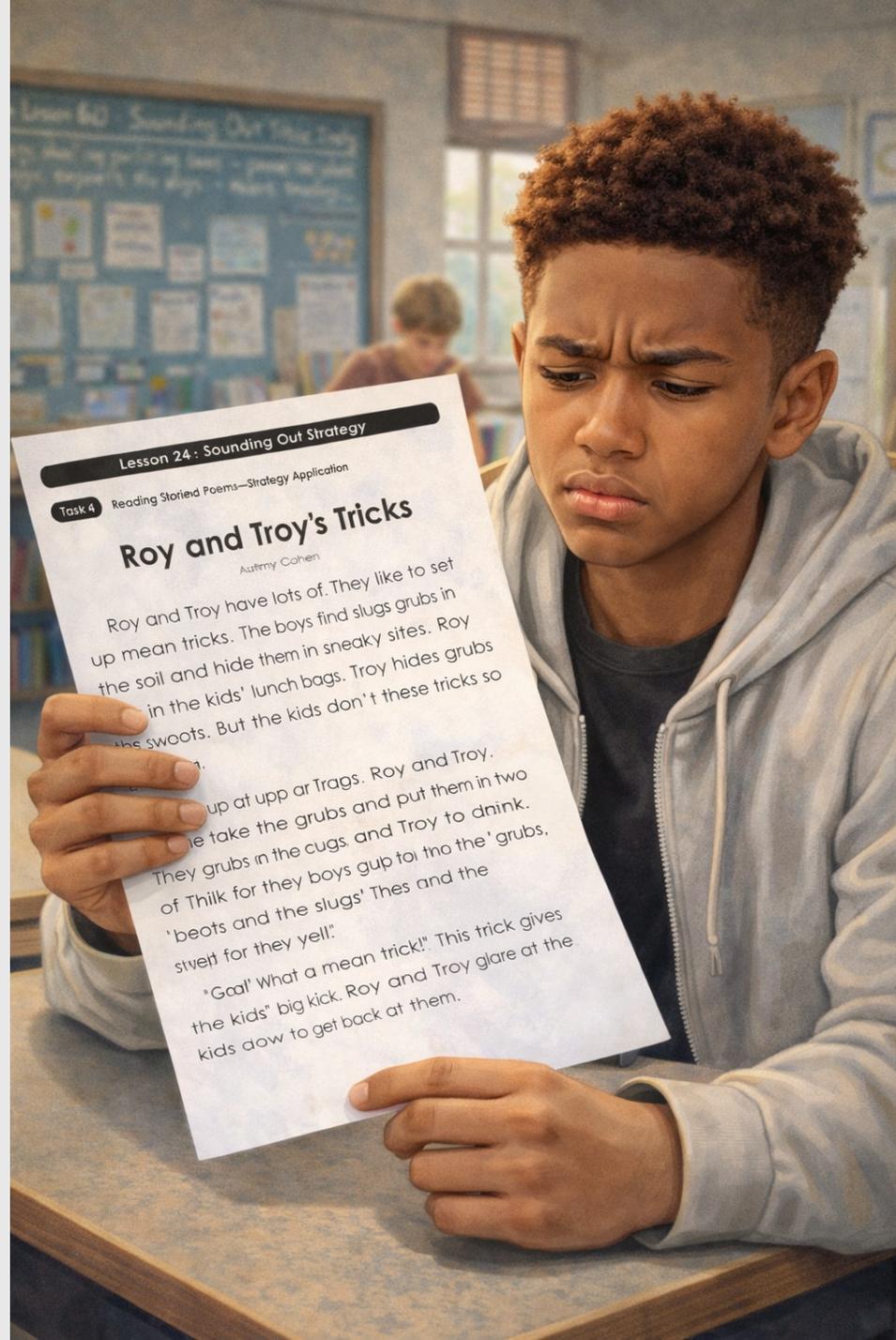
tra**g**ic

gymnast

Example 2: Adolescent Intervention from the Scientific Literature



Le coup d'éclat: A text in the 24th Lesson



Lesson 24: Sounding Out Strategy

Task 4 Reading Storyed Poems—Strategy Application

Roy and Troy's Tricks

Ashley Cohen

Roy and Troy have lots of. They like to set up mean tricks. The boys find slugs grubs in the soil and hide them in sneaky sites. Roy in the kids' lunch bags. Troy hides grubs the sweets. But the kids don't these tricks so

up at upp ar Trags. Roy and Troy. They take the grubs and put them in two of Think for they boys gup to tno the 'grubs. 'beats and the slugs' Thes and the stveit for they yell!

"Gaal' What a mean trick!" This trick gives the kids" big kick. Roy and Troy glare at the kids dow to get back at them.

- How are we interpreting “Below Basic”?
- What instruction does this interpretation produce?

Take-aways?





What alternative interpretations are supported by evidence?



Data Source 1: Analyses of NAEP Items

The Stone in the Road (NAEP Gr.8, 2024)

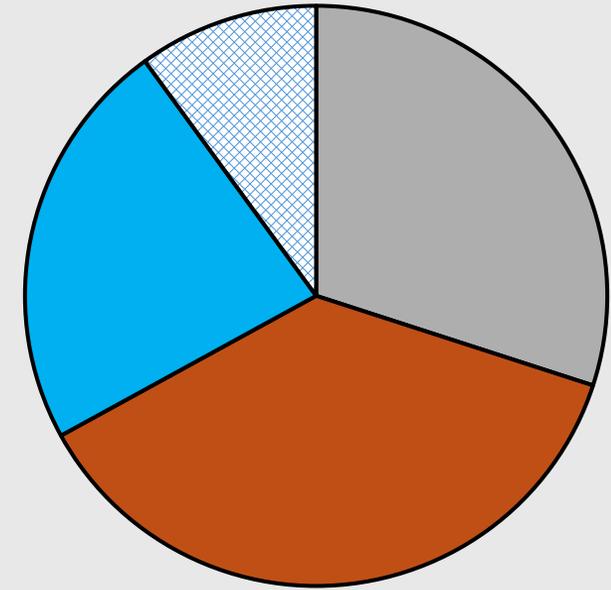
There is a story told of a king who lived long ago in a country across the sea. He was a very wise king and spared no effort to teach his people good habits. Often he did things which seemed to them strange and useless; but all that he did, he did to teach his people to be **industrious** and careful.

“Nothing good can come to a nation,” he said, “whose people complain and expect others to fix their problems for them. God gives the good things of life to those who take matters into their own hands.”

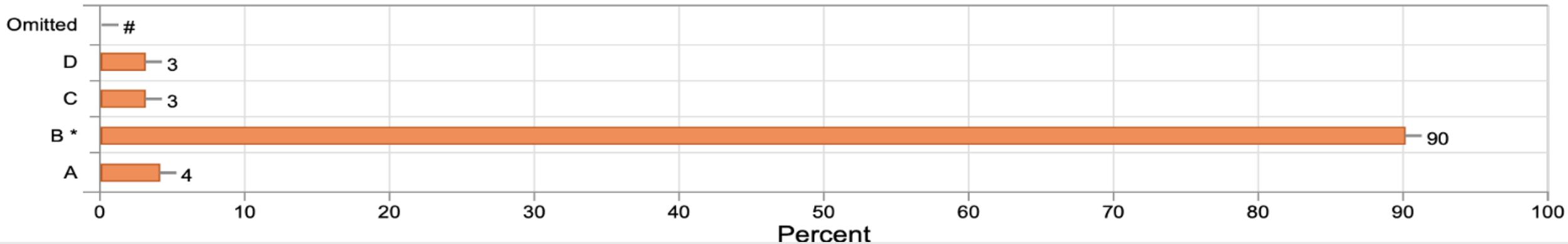
Why does the miller's daughter move the stone?

- A She wants to show she is wise.
- B She fears someone will get hurt.
- C She hopes to find a box of gold.
- D She wants to impress the king.

8th Grade



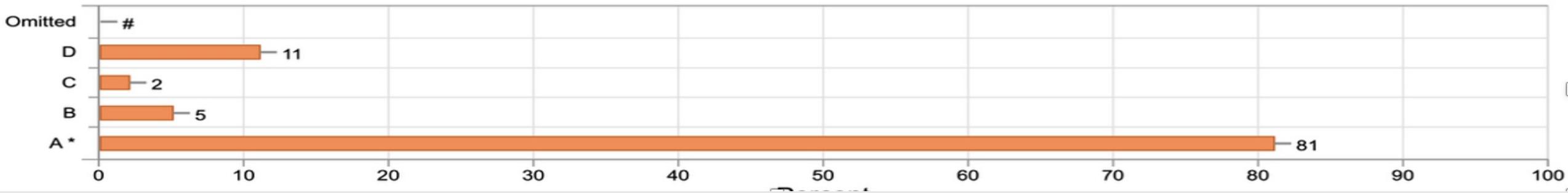
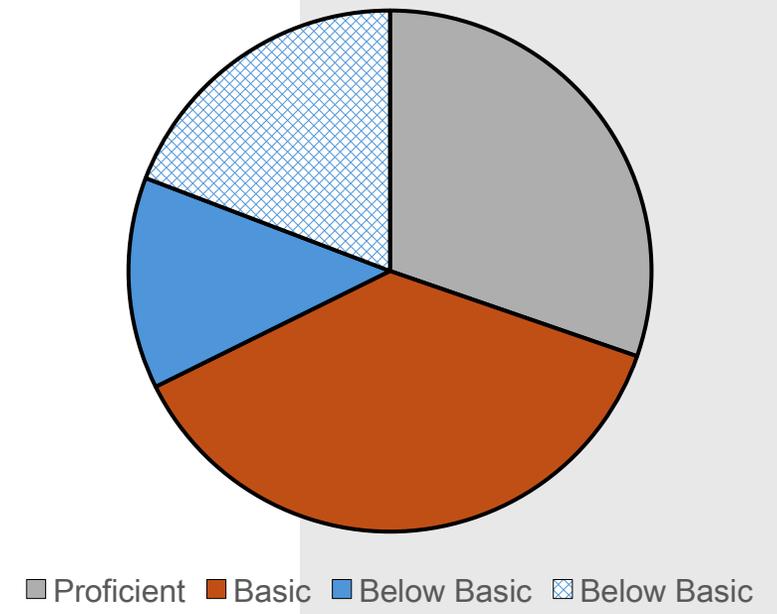
Proficient Basic Below Basic Below Basic-2



On page 1, the story says that the king taught his people to be **industrious**. This means that the king wanted his people to

- A be hard working
- B keep their country clean
- C get jobs in factories
- D be kind to others

8th Grade



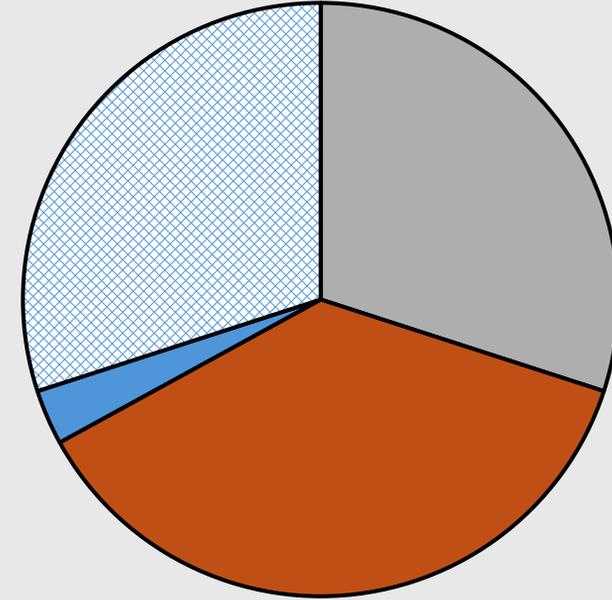
Growing Vertical (from *Scientific American*) (NAEP Gr. 8 2024)

Why not grow grains, vegetables and fruits right where the expanding crowds of consumers are: in the middle of a city, inside a tall glass building? Poultry and pork could be reared there, too. A vertical farm would drastically reduce the fossil fuel use and emissions associated with farm machinery and trucking as well as the spread of fertilizer and its runoff. Crops could grow and be harvested year-round instead of at the end of one season, multiplying annual yield by at least four times. Urban agriculture could also convert municipal wastewater into irrigation water, reducing a city's refuse problem.

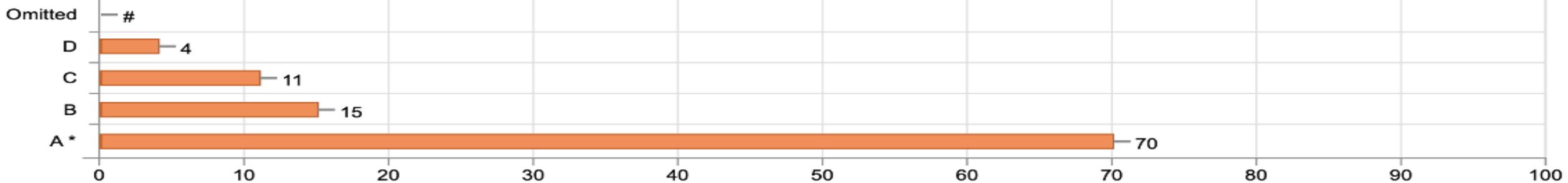
What is the main purpose of the article?

- A To present an argument for a new farming technique
- B To explain the debate about current farming practices
- C To describe a crisis in the farming industry
- D To summarize the career of a farming expert

8th Grade



■ Proficient ■ Basic ■ Below Basic ■ Below Basic

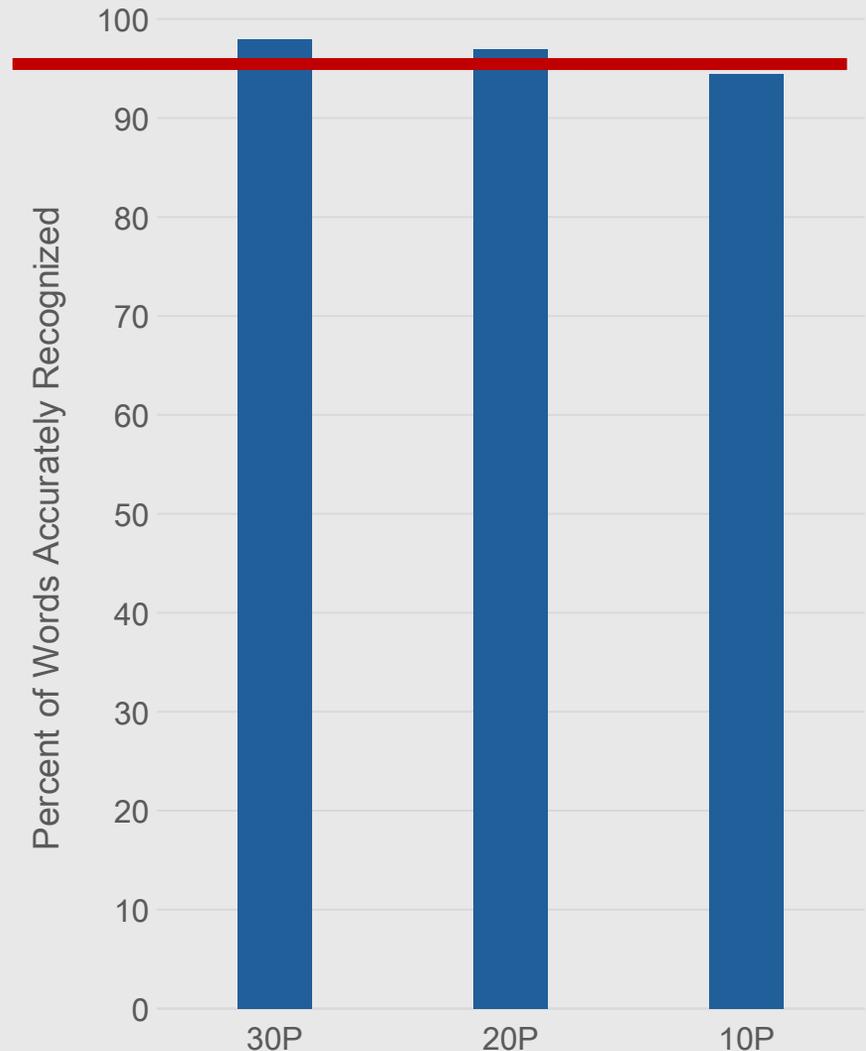


Data Source 2: Performances on DIBELS

Grade 8 Oral Reading Accuracy

Just a little over a century ago, the only way to enjoy music was to play it or listen to it in person. Then, with the discovery of radio waves and the invention of recording technology, people could enjoy music anytime. Today, digital recordings make enjoying music even easier and more portable than ever. However, the process of producing music has become more complex.

Prior to the sale of the first compact disc, or CD, music was sold and listened to on wax cylinders, phonographs, vinyl records, or cassette tapes. Although most of these technologies are thought to be obsolete, you can still buy music in these formats.



30th Percentile: 114 wcpm, 98% accuracy

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Prior to recording the music, musicians would thoroughly

20th Percentile: 101 wcpm; 97% accuracy

Just a little over a century ago, the only way to enjoy music was to play it or listen to it in person. Then, with the discovery of radio waves and the invention of recording technology, people could enjoy music anytime. Today, digital recordings make enjoying music even easier and more portable than ever. However, the process of producing music has become more complex.

Prior to the sale of the first compact disc, or CD, music was sold and listened to on wax **cylinders**, phonographs, **vinyl** records, or cassette tapes. Although most of these technologies are thought to be **obsolete**, you can still buy

10th Percentile: 85 wcpm, 94.5% accuracy

Just a little over a century ago, the only way to enjoy music was to play it or listen to it in person. Then, with the discovery of radio waves and the invention of recording technology, people could enjoy music anytime. Today, digital recordings make enjoying music even easier and more **portable** than ever. However, the process of producing music has become more complex.

Prior to the sale of the first compact disc, or CD, music was sold and listened to on wax **cylinders, phonographs, vinyl** records, or cassette tapes.

Known Words

Appearances per million	2 syllable	2-syllable with CVC 1 st syllable	3+ syllable (words with large morphological families)
100+	process, although		easier, producing, discovery
99 to 16	music	complex, listen	invention, enjoying, recording, technology,
15 to 1		cassette, compact	digital, phonographs

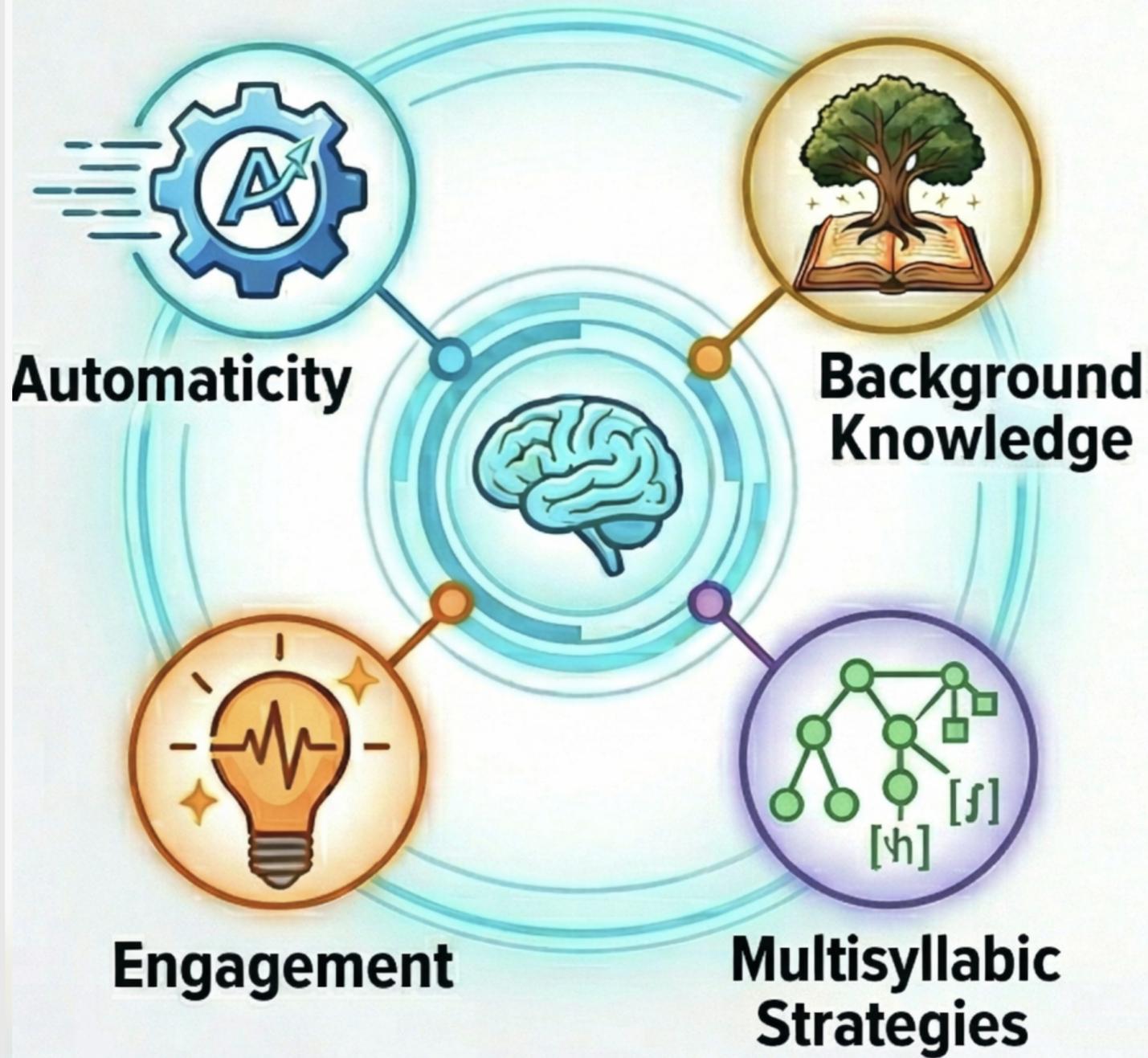
Challenging Words

Percentile	2 syllable (variant or open 1 st syllable)	3 syllable
30 th	vinyl	obsolete
20 th	vinyl	cylinders obsolete
10 th	prior vinyl	portable cylinders obsolete



How do these alternative interpretations change what & how we teach?







Automaticity

Distribution of Words in English

100%

90%

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%



Rare Words:
≈200,000+ Words

Low-Frequency:
≈3030 Word Families

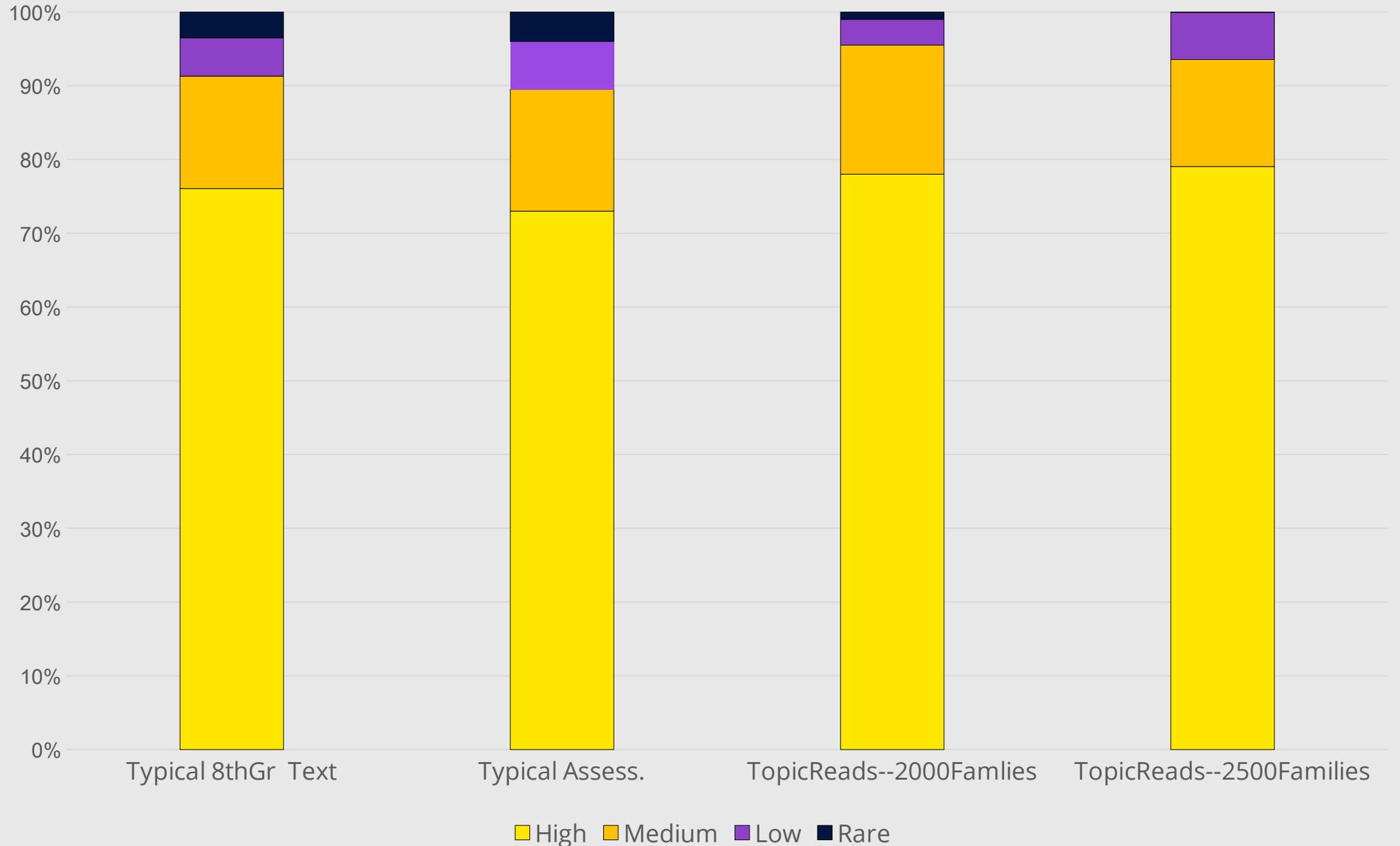
Medium-Frequency:
≈1850 Word Families

High-Frequency:
≈620 Word Families

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Rare

Frequency Zones based on Zeno, S.M., Ivens, S.H., Millard, R.T., & Duvvuri, R. (1995). *The educator's word frequency guide*. TASA.

Profiles of Eighth-Grade Texts



TextProject's Staircase of Automaticity



Bronze to Gold Steps

5,500 Most-Frequent
Word Families

Crimson to Purple Steps

•2,500 Most-Frequent Word Families

Light Green to Hot Pink Steps

- 300 Most Frequent Words
- Consistent Vowels in 1-syllable words
- 2-syllable words: CVC in 1st syllable

2,000 Most Frequent Morphological Families



RAY BRADBURY
FAHRENHEIT 451
THE MAJESTY OF
FIRE

This cover of Fahrenheit 451 shows books burning.

6 Level E-10, Science Fiction

Fahrenheit 451

Fahrenheit 451 is Ray Bradbury's most popular science fiction book. The story takes place in a future in which books and reading are against the law. When books are discovered, they're burned and their owners are arrested. The temperature at which books burn is 451 degrees Fahrenheit.

In this future, firefighters don't put out fires. Instead, they make fires and burn books. Guy Montag is a firefighter who questions the purpose of his job. Because he secretly reads books, Montag begins to understand how books can lead people to ask questions about things that are going on around them. He comes to realize that his government doesn't want people to think.

When Montag's reading is discovered, officers try to arrest him. However, Montag escapes and joins a group of people who are trying to save books by memorizing them. Later, they'll tell their memorized books to others so that books won't be forgotten.

Key Notes:
In Fahrenheit 451, what happens to people who read?



Ray Bradbury wrote the book Fahrenheit 451 as well as many other books and stories.

8 Level E-10, Science Fiction

Censorship

One of the main ideas in Fahrenheit 451 is that people have a right to read books, even if others don't like the ideas in them. When people are not allowed to read what others have written, it is called censorship. Sometimes some of the words are changed. At other times, a whole book is censored.

At times, Fahrenheit 451 itself was censored. In 1967, the book's publisher began to sell a version of the book in which words that might offend some readers were changed, or edited.

In 1970, Ray Bradbury discovered that only the edited version of Fahrenheit 451 was available. He was angry that the book in which he wrote about the danger of censorship was itself being censored. Because he wanted people to read his book as he has written it, Ray Bradbury ordered the publisher to sell Fahrenheit 451 only in its original, unedited version.

Key Notes:
What is censorship?



Science Fiction

LEVEL E-10 · Written by Elfrieda H. Hiebert



Science fiction stories sometimes include robots.

2 Level E-10, Science Fiction

What is Science Fiction?

Imagine a man facing a pack of hungry space aliens. Then, imagine a girl shrinking to the size of a flea. Finally, imagine people who try to read books, but firefighters take their books and then arrest them. Events like these occur in science fiction.

Science fiction stories are often strange tales that have roots in science. It is the science in science fiction that makes these stories seem like they could happen.

There are different kinds of science fiction. Travel stories might include trips into the past or the future, or into outer space. Alien stories might include creatures that invade Earth. Sometimes, however, the aliens are humans who land on other planets. Another kind of science fiction might include civilizations that seem perfect, but have hidden secrets. Science fiction writers create stories that amaze us and also make us think about our own world.

Key Notes:
What are science fiction stories about?



These people look at illustrations by Aldo Bossa from Ray Bradbury's books at an art exhibit.

4 Level E-10, Science Fiction

Ray Bradbury

Ray Bradbury is one of the greatest writers of science fiction, and he has won many honors for his work. Several things inspired Ray Bradbury to write science fiction:

As a child, Bradbury was interested in magic. When he was 11 years old, he saw a performance by Harry Blackstone, a famous magician. Bradbury even went up on stage to help Blackstone make a horse disappear. From that time, Bradbury loved magic.

Movies, adventure books, and comic strips also inspired Ray Bradbury. He especially likes horror films filled with mystery and with unusual and strange creatures. His favorite adventures took place on other worlds. In the daily newspaper, he read comic strips that had ray guns and rocket ships.

Bradbury creates magic through words. His stories take readers on trips through space and time. He tells tales of strange beings and surprising events that sometimes seem both scary and real.

Key Notes:
What does Ray Bradbury write about?

2500 most-frequent morphological families



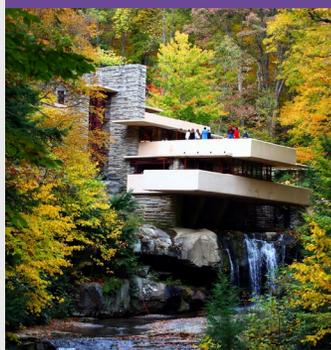
Pueblo Dwellings

Hundreds of years ago, several groups of American Indian developed a new style of architecture with buildings that were several stories high. Spanish people who came to the American Southwest named the people after pueblo, a Spanish word that means "town." This word refers to both American Indians and their dwellings. The Pueblo Indians represent different American Indian groups that built similar dwellings.

Pueblo dwellings had many rooms. Some were made of mud mixed with straw and water. This mixture was often made into a thick plaster that was dried in the sun. Logs helped support the roof, which was made of smaller pieces of wood side by side on top of the mud covering them with dirt. The pueblos often had many stories. Pueblo Indians used ladders to reach the different levels. If they were attacked, people pulled the ladders up. Today, pueblos can be seen in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

Key Notes:
What kind of dwellings did Pueblo Indians build?

Ladders connected rooms in pueblos.

What Is Architecture?

Every building was designed by someone. People who design buildings and other structures are called architects. Architects create office buildings, houses, schools, factories, hospitals, theaters, and other structures. The art and science of designing buildings is called architecture.

Architects think about a building carefully before construction begins. They envision how the building will look. Appearance is important because people like to live in attractive places. Architects also think about how the building will be used. An office must be a place where people can work comfortably. A school should be designed so that students can easily find their classrooms. In addition, architects envision how people will take care of the structure. A building should last a long time without needing expensive repairs.

In the United States, there are many kinds of architecture, from American Indian buildings that are hundreds of years old to modern homes and sports stadiums. These are just three examples of the architecture in our world.

Key Notes:
What do architects do?



Sports Stadiums

Architects also design new stadiums, or places where sports and other big events take place. Most stadiums are either outdoor or indoor stadiums. However, in 1989, a new kind of stadium, the SkyDome, opened in Canada.

The SkyDome is both an outdoor and an indoor stadium because it has a retractable roof. When the roof is open, it's an outdoor stadium. When the roof is closed, it's an indoor stadium. The SkyDome was also new in another way inside the stadium is a hotel with 340 rooms. In 2005, the SkyDome was renamed the Rogers Centre.

Today, stadiums with retractable roofs are common. They can be used all year, in any weather. Many are used for more than one sport.

Retractable roofs for huge stadiums were a challenge for architects, because stadium roofs weigh many tons and have no poles to support them. Each time architects meet such a challenge, it's a reminder of how amazing architecture can be.

Key Notes:
How are new sports stadiums different from older stadiums?



Modern Homes

When architects design homes, they often consult with the people who will live in them. They consult so they know what kind of house the people want. Architects also create unusual homes they think people might like. Two of these designs, A-frames and domes, have become popular.

A-frame houses are shaped like a big A. They are usually erected in the country and are often used as vacation homes. A-frame houses have a lot of room at the bottom, which might be one big open space. The top of the house has less room because the house comes to a point.

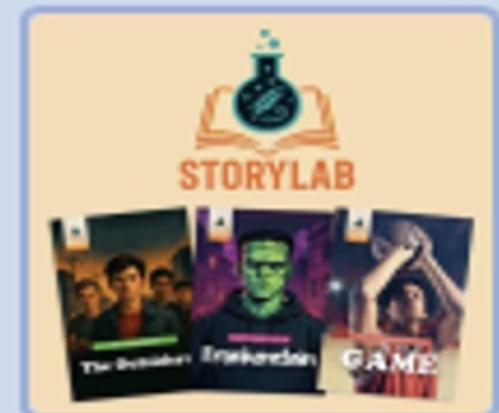
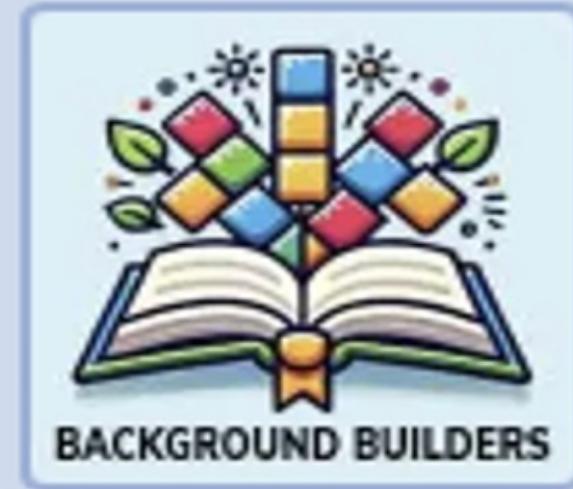
Another unusual home design is the dome. A modern dome house is built on a circular frame divided into many small sections. The frame is covered, and the finished house looks like half of a soccer ball. Dome houses are easy to build, do not require much space, and are not expensive. They are also most commonly erected in the country.

Key Notes:
What kinds of unusual modern homes have architects designed?

Open-Access Resources to Support Automaticity— Middle to High-School Students



**ROGUE
READERS**



Intervention

Jazz is a famous and beloved style of music that rose with the Harlem Renaissance. It was a very innovative form of music. However, it did rely on earlier music styles...One of the most famous characteristics of jazz music is improvisation.

Before text reading

Peel off strategy with 3 polysyllabic words in text

Reading 3 words in words & sentences

Active Control

There were five stink bugs that lived in a garden. Stink bugs are proud if they can make a big stink. The biggest stink bug in the garden was very proud. She said, "This is how to make a stink."

Before text reading, repeated reading of groups of words:

1. first proud garden blushed beat
2. birds hard cloud tears leaving our
3. grip/gripe tim/time site/sit cone/con
4. close choked powerful right stared
taking these whiff stinker low
flying risks you're skunks
noses why talked done nobody
said striped taken turn

Advantages of Intervention over Active Control:

- g = 0.47 advantage accuracy
- 2.79× likelihood of 98% accuracy
- Lowest-performing students benefited most
- Same Fluency

WORD STUDY: THE "ALIEN" CONNECTION

The Root: *Alius* (Latin) = **Other**

alien (a li en)

alienation (a li en a tion)

unalienable (un a li en a ble)

1. Literal Meaning: From "Other" Places

An **alien** (a li en) is someone or something that belongs to an "other" place.

• *Fill in the Blanks:* **alien** **aliens**

1. In science fiction, an _____ is often a creature that invades Earth from other planets.
2. In science fiction, _____ can also be humans who land on other planets.

2. Social Meaning: The "Ogre" Effect

Alienation (a li en a tion) is the feeling of being an "other" in a crowd. It happens when you are pushed to the edges of a group.

• Case Study

In the movie *Shrek*, the villagers judge Shrek before they even know him. They treat him like a monster, which leads to his deep feeling of alienation.



Pick the word: **alien** **alienated** **aliens** **alienation**

1. The villagers _____ Shrek because they were afraid of him.
2. Living alone in the swamp was a result of Shrek's _____ from society.

What is Science Fiction?

Imagine a man facing a pack of hungry space **aliens**. Then, imagine a girl shrinking to the size of a dime. Finally, imagine people who try to read books, but firefighters take their books and then arrest them. Events like these occur in science fiction.

Science fiction stories are often strange tales that have roots in science. It is the science in science fiction that makes these stories seem like they could happen.

There are different kinds of science fiction. Travel stories might include trips into the past or the future, or into outer space. **Alien** stories might include creatures that invade Earth. Sometimes, however, the **aliens** are humans who land on other planets. Another kinds of science fiction might include civilizations that seem perfect, but have hidden secrets. Science fiction writers create stories that amaze us and also make us think about our own world.

Key Notes:

What are science fiction stories about?



ARCHITECTURE (Building Design)

Part 1: Syllable Patterns: Mark the syllables (Number behind word tells how many syllables). Compare answers with your partner.

- **architecture** (4): the art and science of design.
- **architect** (3): the person who creates the plan.
- **architectural** (5): relating to structural design.

Part 2: Word Parts:

Root words: archi (chief/first)	Suffix: -ure (process/result)
• arch enemy (arch-en-e-my): your main or "chief" enemy.	• manufacture (man-u-fac-ture): the process of making something.
• archives (ar-chives): where the "first" or most important records are kept.	• failure (fail-ure): the result of failing.
• archbishop (arch-bish-op): the "chief" bishop in a region.	• creature (crea-ture): the result of creation.

Part 3: Story Challenge: Fill in the blanks using words from the sections above.
archives | architect | arch enemy | failure | creature

The lead _____ stood before the old stone vault. Inside the dusty _____, she found the original plans for the city's design. However, a dark _____ was lurking in the shadows of the basement. It was the work of her _____, a rival designer who wanted the project to end in _____. She had to protect the blueprints to make sure the new building would stand strong against any threat.



Part 4: Word Power Challenge (Suffix Focus): Fill in the blanks using words from Part 2 that feature the suffix **-ure**.

1. _____ The art and science of how a system or building is designed.
2. _____ The result of failing to complete a plan or task.
3. _____ The process of making or building something, often on a large scale.
4. _____ Something that is the result of being created.



What Is Architecture?

Every building was designed by someone. People who design buildings and other structures are called **architects**. Architects create office buildings, houses, schools, factories, **hospitals**, theaters, and other structures. The art and science of designing buildings is called **architecture**.

Architects think about a building carefully before construction begins. They envision how the building will look. Appearance is important because people like to live in attractive places. Architects also think about how the building will be used. An office must be a place where people can work comfortably. A school should be designed so that students can easily find their classrooms. In addition, architects envision how people will take care of the structure. A building should last a long time without needing expensive repairs.

In the United States, there are many kinds of architecture, from American Indian buildings that are hundreds of years old to modern homes and sports stadiums. These are just three examples of the architecture in our world.

Key Notes:

What do architects do?



**Background
Knowledge**



REAPING THE REWARDS

of the

READING FOR UNDERSTANDING INITIATIVE

NATIONAL ACADEMY of EDUCATION

Key Findings:

- **Background Knowledge is Key:** Students become better readers when they possess or are provided with prior knowledge on a topic.
- **Language Drives Comprehension:** Strong language development—both oral and written—is crucial for understanding text across all age spans.
- **Active Engagement:** Techniques like close reading lead to higher-level thinking and better retention.

Key Practices:

- **Coherent Text Sets:** Organize instruction around connected readings that build shared concepts across genres.
- **Retrieval Practice:** Use brief, cumulative recall to strengthen retention and integration.
- **Knowledge Over Isolated Strategy Instruction:** Prioritize sustained content learning rather than generic comprehension strategies.



Social Studies

[Immigration to the United States](#)



[Our North American Neighbors](#)



[Ancient Rome](#)

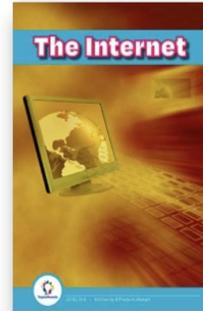


Literature and Language

[Mystery Writing](#)



[The Internet](#)

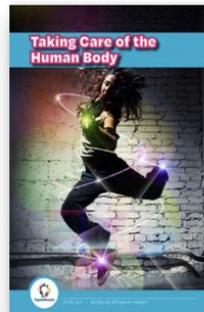


[Creating Ads](#)



Science

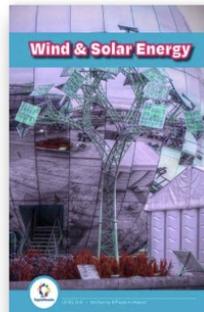
[Taking Care of the Human Body](#)



[Volcanoes](#)



[Wind and Solar Energy](#)

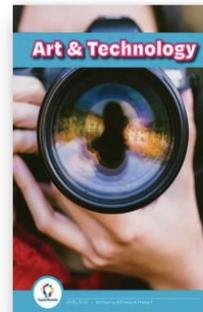


Arts and Culture

[The Origin of Sports](#)



[Art and Technology](#)



[Fashion](#)



Jack London The King of M



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Claim Jumping

Wolf Dogs: Lifeline of the Klondike

In the frozen wilderness of the Klondike, dog sleds were the best way to travel. The toughest dogs were wolf dogs—powerful, dangerous animals that were the size of a small pony. These wolf dogs weren't pets, but prospectors risked working with them because the dogs were unstoppable.

A team of six or more wolf dogs could haul a thousand pounds of supplies many miles a day across frozen rivers and mountain passes. They survived on scraps of meat and slept easily in freezing temperatures.

The person driving the sled, called a musher, had to guide these fierce animals with voice commands since there were no reins. The lead dog at the front had to know how to follow trails and respond to commands. A bad lead dog could cause the team to go off the trail and get stuck in deep snow, which meant death in the wilderness.

7



In the deadly Klondike winter, sled dogs were the difference between life and death. No GPS, no cell phones—just you and your dogs against the frozen wilderness.

Image: Sam Sherman | dreamstime.com

8



Stories of Words

Sports



By

1

Play Ball

You may think of baseball as a winter sport, but in fact, more than 200 countries play baseball. (There are more than 200 countries.) Like basketball, baseball is the expected conversation for players to have. The game can mean cooperation and teamwork.

2

Baseball is a popular pastime, but in fact, more than 200 countries play baseball. (There are more than 200 countries.) Like basketball, baseball is the expected conversation for players to have. The game can mean cooperation and teamwork.

Like basketball, baseball is the expected conversation for players to have. The game can mean cooperation and teamwork.



3

The popularity of baseball has increased over the years. It is one of the most popular sports in the world. The game has been played for over 1,000 years.



4

Have you ever played basketball with a friend? Thank James Naismith for inventing basketball. He was a physical education teacher at a school in Springfield, Massachusetts. He invented the game in 1891. The game was called "basket ball" at first. That's why we call it basketball today.

At first, the game was played in a gymnasium. The ball was thrown into a basket. The basket was made of wire and hung from the ceiling. In 1906, a net was added to the basket. Today, even though the game is called basketball, it is still played in a gymnasium.

5

TENNIS

The player crouches, then throws the ball high into the air. She smashes the ball to her opponent. The crowd holds its breath. Will her opponent hit it back?



One of the most important books of our time...
over 3 million copies in print!



Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451



🔥 How Hot is 451°F?

Temperature

What is happening?

212°F

Boiling Water: Hot enough to cook pasta or cause a burn.

350°F

Baking Cookies: A standard oven temperature for snacks.

451°F

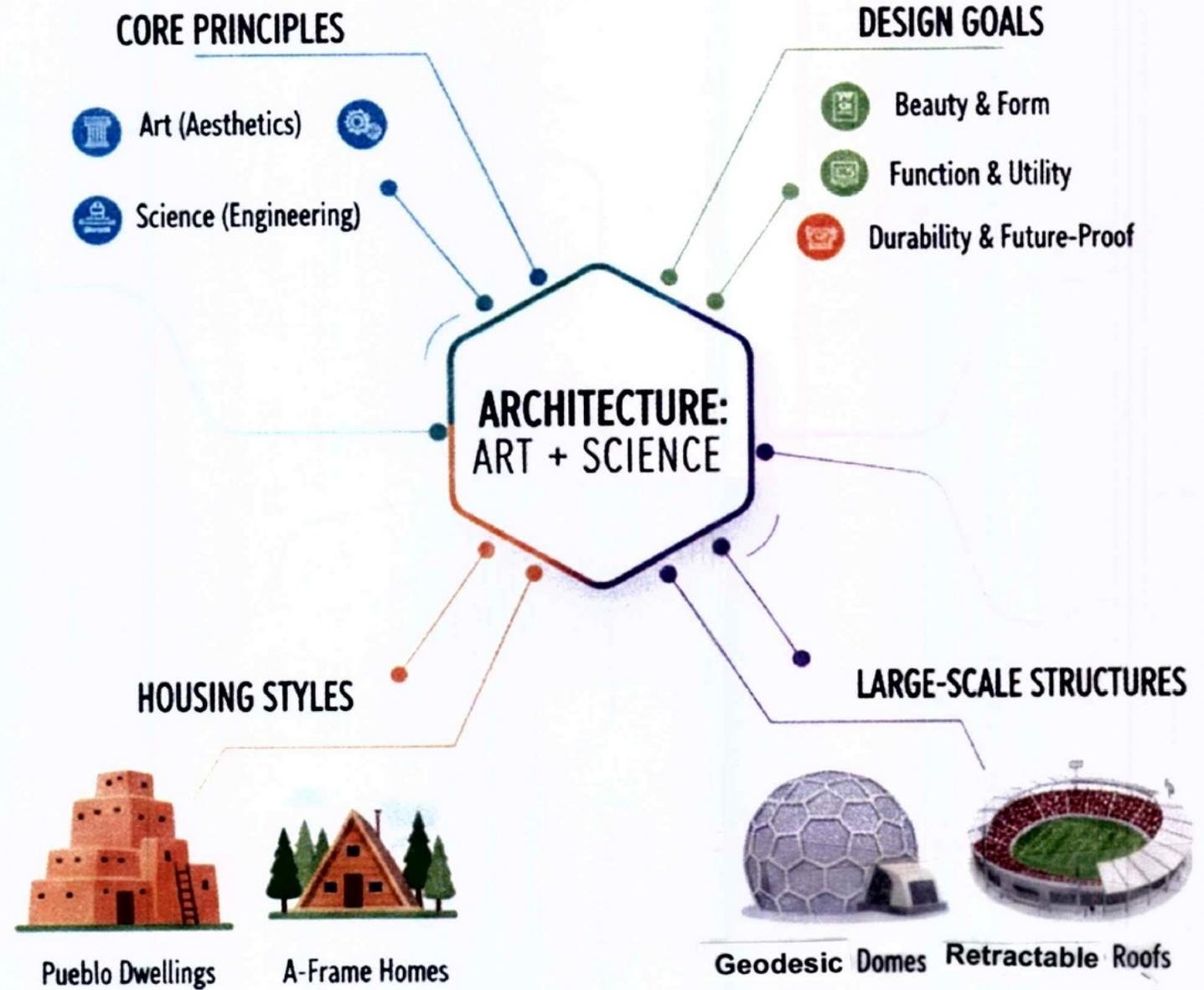
Book Burning: The heat needed to catch book paper on fire.

1,100°F

Candle Flame: The very tip of a small flame is much hotter.

- **The Scale:** Fahrenheit is the system used to measure heat in this story.
- **The Rule:** In the book, 451°F is the "magic number" the firemen use to destroy books.
- **The Reality:** While Bradbury used this number for his title, it is really a warning about how easy it is for ideas to be destroyed if we don't protect them.

Amazing Architecture





Engagement

10 to 25

The Science of
Motivating Young People



A Groundbreaking Approach
to Leading the Next Generation—
And Making Your Own Life Easier

DAVID YEAGER, PhD

Strategy	Description	Why it Works for Literacy
Asset-Based Framing	Identifying students' existing strengths as bridge to academic tasks	Adolescents work harder when their existing expertise is recognized, not dismissed.
"Wise Feedback"	Linking high standards with a belief in their ability	Difficulty is a challenge they are equipped to meet, not a sign of failure.
Transparency	Being explicit about how a specific strategy builds on what they already know.	It removes the "hidden curriculum" and treats them as partners in their learning.

We target what *actually* constrains students & begin with what they already know

BUILD OUT: The Word ORDER and Its Family

1 You Already Know This Word

order (*or·der*)

- Stories:** The soldiers stood in silent order as the king passed.
- Math:** Changing the order of the numbers can change the value.
- Science:** Cells divide in a specific order.

2 Build the Family

These words share the same root as **order**. They are about arranging, rank, or position.

Directions: Match each meaning from the Word Bank to the correct word. Write the letter beside each word.

The Word Family

- reorder* (*re·or·der*) _____
- disorder* (*dis·or·der*) _____
- ordinary* (*or·di·nar·y*) _____
- extraordinary* (*ex·tra·or·di·nar·y*) _____
- coordinate* (*co·or·di·nate*) _____
- subordinate* (*sub·or·di·nate*) _____
- orderly* (*or·der·ly*) _____
- insubordinate* (*in·sub·or·di·nate*) _____

Word Bank

- a. very unusual or amazing
- b. refusing to obey someone in charge
- c. under someone else
- d. out of order
- e. just normal
- f. put in a new order
- g. neat and in order
- h. work together

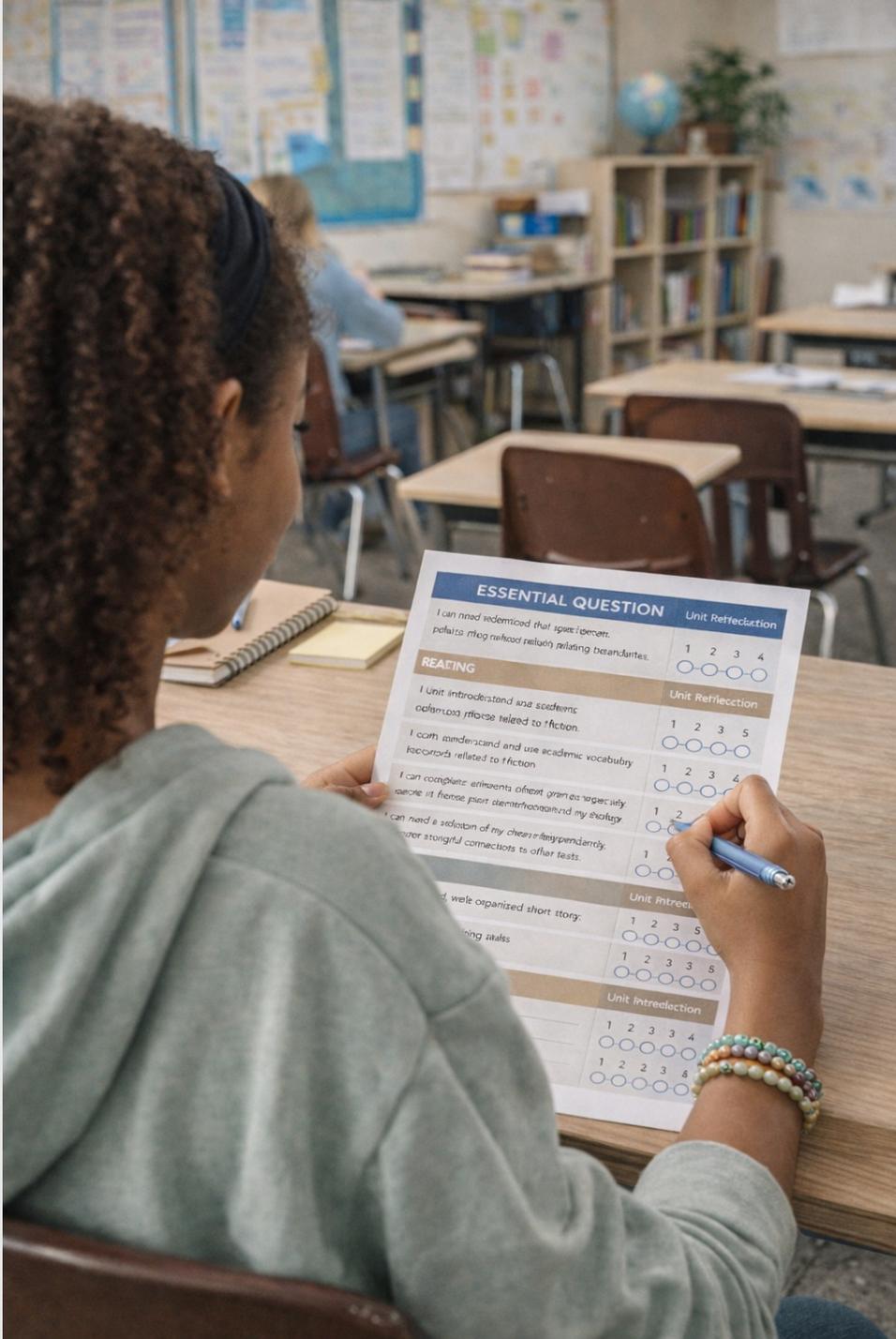
3 Use the Words

Word Bank:

coordinate ordinary disorder reorder orderly

On an _____ day, things go as usual. But today is different. You wake up. Everything is in _____. You need to _____ your plans. You must _____ your work and activities. When your schedule becomes more _____, you feel calmer.





Self-assessment: Students analyze what they can read, identify where breakdowns occur, and set growth targets.

Texts That Inspire

Heroes!

TextProject.org

Olga Custodio: Breaking Barriers in Aviation

Olga Custodio is a trailblazer in aviation who has inspired many with her incredible achievements. Born in Puerto Rico, Olga's childhood was filled with travel due to her father's military career. Graduating from high school at just 16, Olga attended the University of Puerto Rico. She wanted to join the military through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) but was turned away because the program didn't accept women at that time. Despite this setback, Olga didn't give up on her dream of flying.



After finishing college, one of her jobs was at Puerto Rico International Airlines. There she met and married Edwin Custodio. The couple moved to Panama, where Olga worked for the U.S. Department of Defense. It was here that she finally got her big break. She met with a recruiter from the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and applied to become a pilot.

She was accepted into the USAF's pilot school and became the first Latina to graduate as a fighter pilot. She also made history as the first female instructor of the T-38 Talon, which is a supersonic jet. Olga's career didn't stop there.

After leaving the Air Force, Olga flew for American Airlines and became one of the first Latina airline captains. When she retired, she had flown over 11,000 flight hours. Today, Olga uses her experience to inspire others, especially young people from underserved communities, to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

Heroes!

TextProject.org

Ini Archibong: Crafting the Future with Tradition and Technology

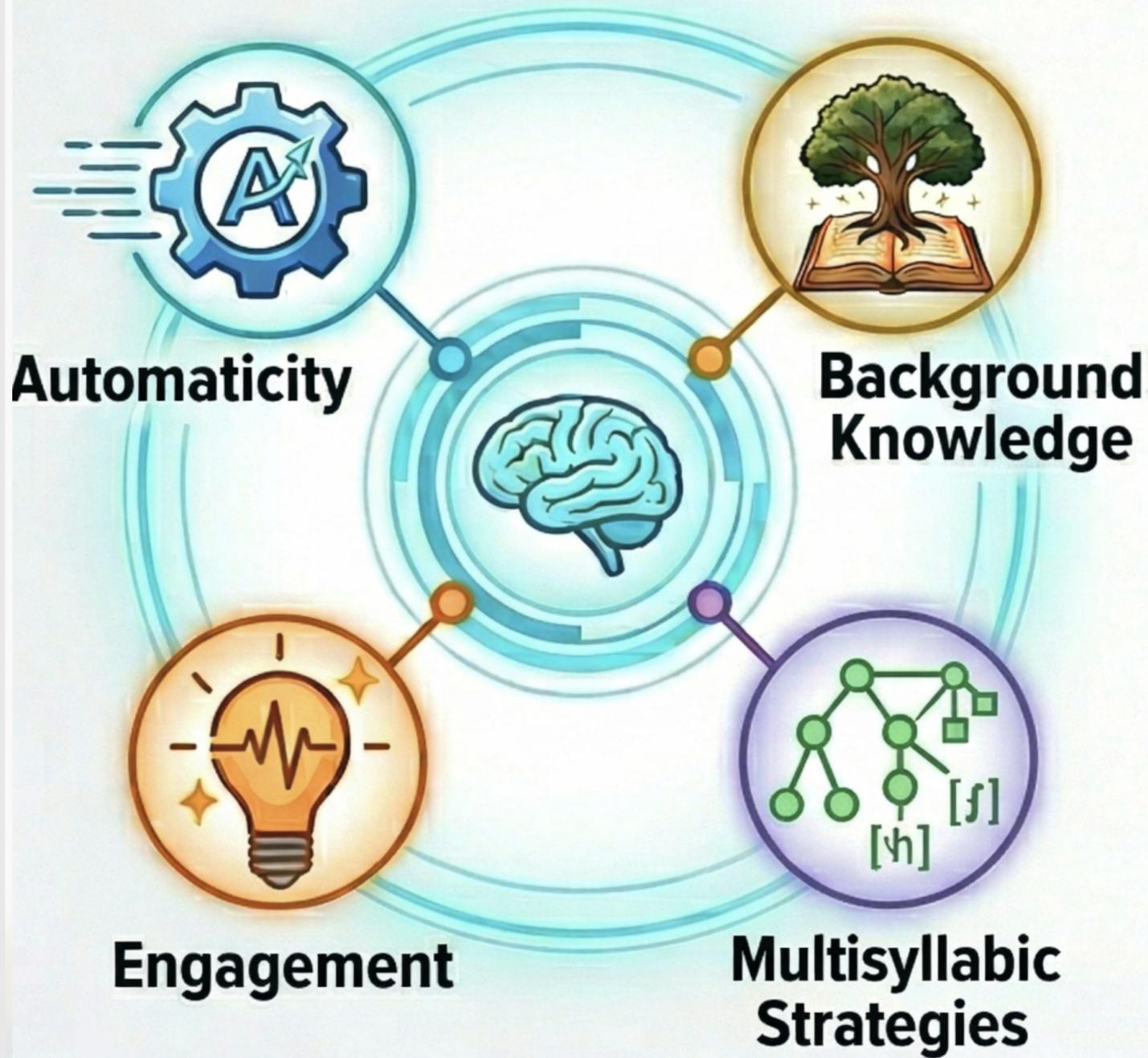
Ini Archibong is a talented designer who was born in Pasadena, California, to parents from Nigeria. His work spans various fields, including furniture design, fashion, and architecture. What sets Ini apart is his unique ability to blend traditional craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology. He draws inspiration from many sources—architecture, philosophy, and even global religions—to create designs that are not only stunning but also incredibly functional.



Ini's journey began with his Nigerian roots and a shift from studying business at USC to pursuing his true passion for design at ArtCenter College of Design. There, he excelled, earning a degree in Environmental Design before heading to Europe to further his studies.

His career is marked by impressive achievements. Ini has crafted stunning furniture collections like "The Secret Garden" and has collaborated with major design companies such as Hermès and Knoll. His designs have been showcased at some of the world's most prestigious museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

But Ini's contributions go beyond creating. He also writes essays and teaches design, sharing his knowledge and passion with others. Now living in Switzerland, Ini continues to push the boundaries of art and technology, inspiring people with his innovative approach and deep respect for materials and craftsmanship.



Open-Access Instructional Intervention



TextProject's Staircase of Automaticity



Bronze to Gold Steps

5,500 Most-Frequent
Word Families

Crimson to Purple Steps

•2,500 Most-Frequent Word Families

Light Green to Hot Pink Steps

- 300 Most Frequent Words
- Consistent Vowels in 1-syllable words
- 2-syllable words: CVC in 1st syllable

Assessments: Pre and Post

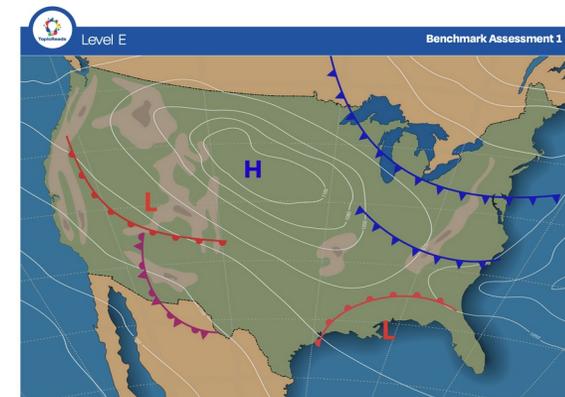


WEATHER FORECASTING

People always want to know about the weather. Forecasting, or predicting, the weather is important for people who go outside. It is also important for farmers and people who work outside. People who run airports need to know if planes can safely fly. People who run schools need to know if students can get to school.

Those who forecast the weather use a number of ways to do it. They check pictures taken by satellites above the Earth. The satellites tell about weather around the world. They check readings that tell the temperature of the air. They find out how hard the wind is blowing.

Weather forecasters put together all the information they gather. That helps them forecast what the weather will be like tomorrow or next week.



WEATHER MAPS

During a weather report, you may have seen a map of the United States with curved lines. These weather maps can help a meteorologist, or weather expert, explain the weather. The weather expert may point to the map to show what weather is coming.

The curved lines on the map show weather systems. The curve shows the direction that weather is heading. An H or L labels the curves. The H stands for a high-pressure area. It often means the weather will be calm.

An L stands for a low-pressure area. Low pressure means the weather is not settled. If a meteorologist points to an area labeled L, he or she might tell about rain, wind, or snow. Those low-pressure areas

Building Comprehension

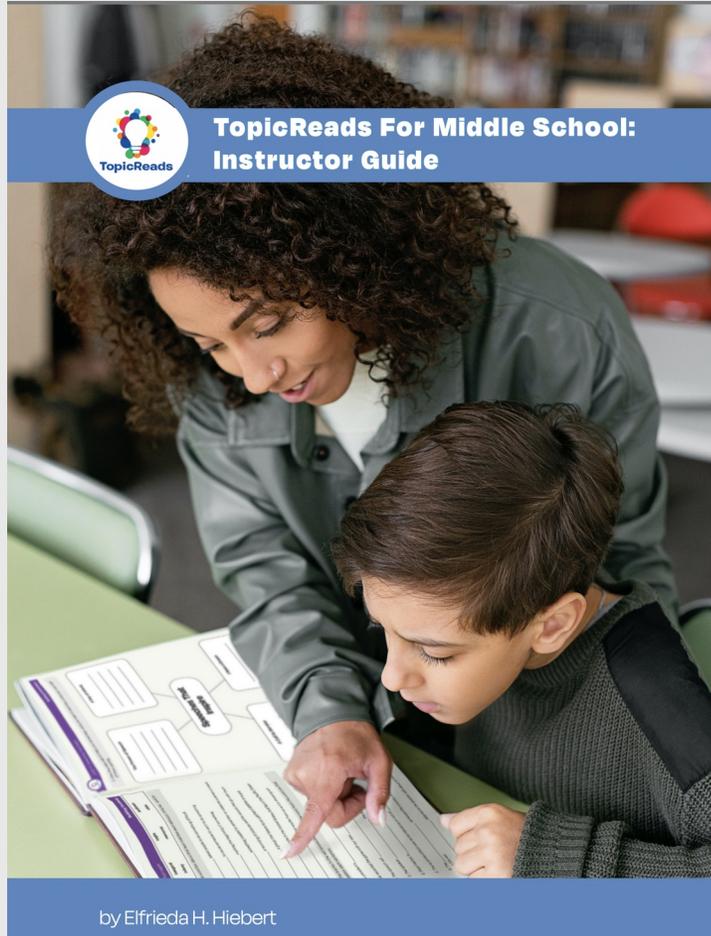
- How do satellites help forecast the weather?
 - Satellites know if planes can safely fly.
 - Satellites put together information to forecast the weather.
 - Satellites let weather experts travel to take readings.
 - Satellites take pictures that tell about weather.

2. How do satellites help forecast the weather?

Building Comprehension

- What do the curved lines on a weather map show?
 - temperature
 - thunderstorms
 - weather systems
 - winds
- What does an H on a weather map mean?

Teacher's Guide



Instructional Plan

FIRST READ

1. Say to students, "Before you read, think about what you already know about the topic. Also, look for two words that might be new and challenging. Underline these words."
2. Then, ask students to read the passage silently. They may take as much time as they need.
3. After they read, tell students to write on the graphic organizer a few words or phrases that will help them remember what is important about the topic. The graphic organizer is located at the beginning of each Review section in the Student Editions.

SECOND READ

1. Say to students, "Now I'm going to read aloud as you read along silently. Follow along with me."
2. Then, read the passage aloud at the target rate of one minute.
3. Ask students, "What is one thing the author wants you to remember?"

THIRD READ

1. Say to students, "On the third read, your goal is to read as much of the passage as you can in a minute."
2. Then, tell students to read silently as you time them for one minute. Tell them to circle the last word they read when you tell them to stop.
3. Ask students to write the number of words they have read at the bottom of the page. Then, ask them to review in their mind what is important to remember from the passage.
4. Assign the comprehension questions in the Review section to check that students have understood what they have read.

Texts Aligned with Curriculum (n = 288)

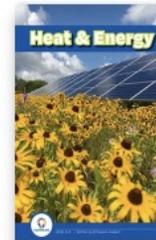


Level E

[Download all Level E TopicReads \(zip file\)](#)

Science

[Eating for Energy](#) [Earth's Moon](#) [Heat and Energy](#)



Literature and Language

[Science Fiction](#) [All About English](#) [Newspapers](#)



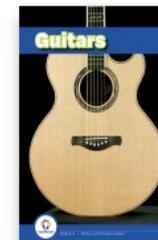
Social Studies

[Civil Rights Leaders](#) [Managing Money](#) [The American Civil War](#)



Arts and Culture

[Guitars](#) [People in Pictures](#) [Music in the Movies](#)





fiction	inspired	memorize	edited
alien	Fahrenheit	censored	strange

1. Choose the word from the word box above that best matches each definition. Write the word on the line below.

- A. _____ a scale for measuring temperature
- B. _____ readings with characters and events that were created by a writer
- C. _____ to learn something so that it can be repeated exactly
- D. _____ made someone want to do something
- E. _____ took out information so that others cannot read or see it
- F. _____ from another world
- G. _____ unusual, uncommon
- H. _____ to change words in something

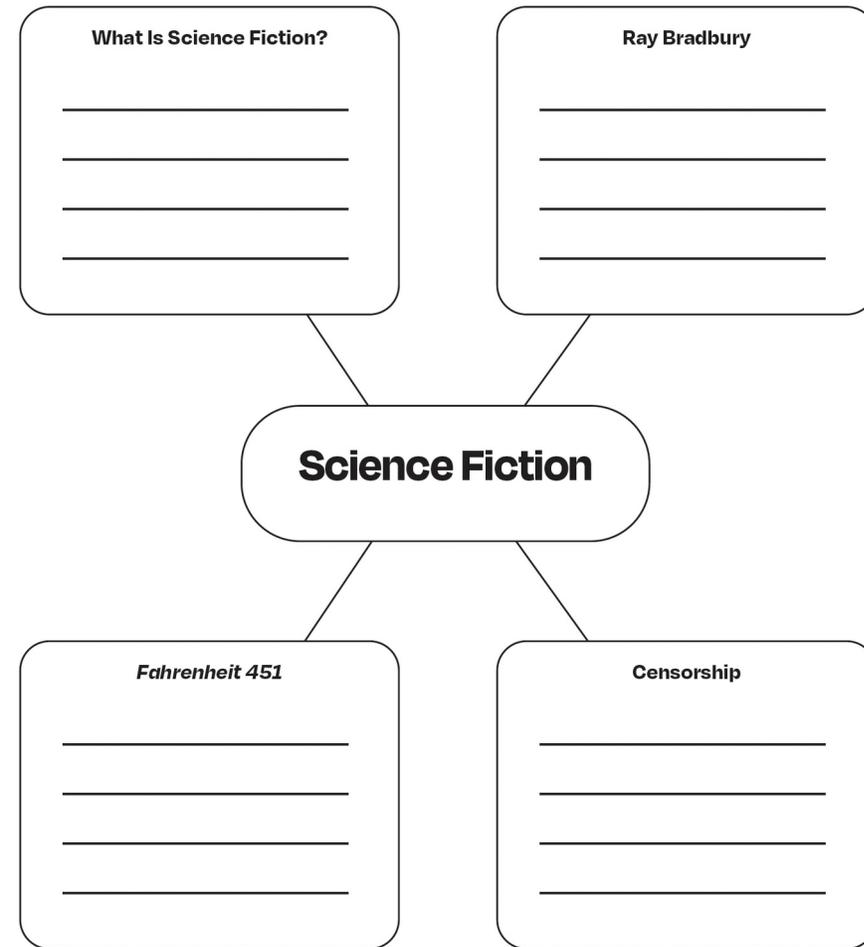
2. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below. Choose the word from the word box that completes each sentence.

- A. An _____ that looked like a giant ape landed on Earth.
- B. I read a book of _____ that had characters that sounded like my friends.
- C. The official _____ the book to keep some people's names secret.
- D. Water will boil at 212 degrees _____.
- E. I need to _____ the script before the first performance of the play.
- F. I _____ my paper to add more information about the topic.
- G. Your music was so exciting it _____ me to start singing again.
- H. The science fiction novel had a _____ character in it.

Study Sheets Including a Way to Save "Knowledge"



1. Use the idea web to help you remember what you read. In each box, write the main idea of that reading.



Evidence Published in Scientific Literature

Outcome Measure	Statistic (reported)	Cohen's d (approx.)	Hedges'g (approx.)	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	p-value
Reading Fluency (DIBELS ORF slope)	t(72) = 2.29	0.188	0.186	0.027	0.348	.022*
Vocabulary (IRAS slope)	t(73) = 2.20	0.085	0.084	0.009	0.160	.029*
Comprehension (Gates-MacGinitie)	F(1,1064) = 5.45	0.143	0.143	0.023	0.263	.020*

Trainin et al. (2016)

Outcome	d	SE(d)	95% CI
Vocabulary	.30	.183	[-.06, .66]
Word Comprehension	.28	.183	[-.08, .64]
Passage Comprehension	.50	.185	[.14, .86]

Vadasy & Sanders, 2008)

ANCOVA-adjusted effects (the primary results):

Measure	d	g	95% CI	Sig
GORT Accuracy	0.898	0.887	[0.354, 1.442]	p = .001
GORT Rate	0.557	0.550	[0.028, 1.086]	p = .036
GORT Comprehension	0.462	0.456	[-0.064, 0.988]	p = .080
TOWRE Sight Word	0.505	0.499	[-0.022, 1.032]	p = .180
TOWRE Decoding	0.505	0.499	[-0.022, 1.032]	p = .180
General Information	2.134	2.107	[1.483, 2.785]	p < .001

Huxley (2006)

- What alternative interpretations are supported by evidence?
- How does this evidence change what and how we teach?

Take-Aways





**Adolescents are wired for growth, status, and meaning.
When we lower the cognitive bar, they disengage.
When we show them why the work matters—and show them that
we believe they can do it—they rise. (Yeager, 2025)**



Building Better Readers

Free, evidence-based texts for supporting beginning and struggling readers.

[FREE TEXTS](#)

Sincerest thank you for
your time & commitment to
our students and their
future!



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