

7 Actions That Teachers Can Take Right Now:

Getting Ready For The New
Assessments

Elfrieda H. Hiebert

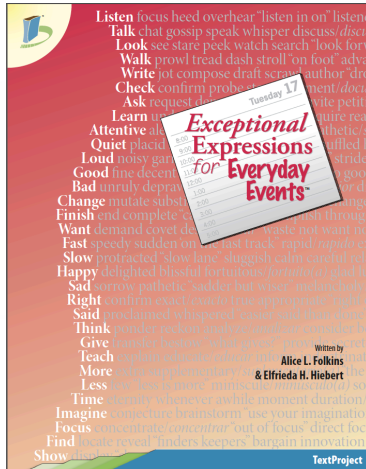
TextProject &

University of California, Santa Cruz

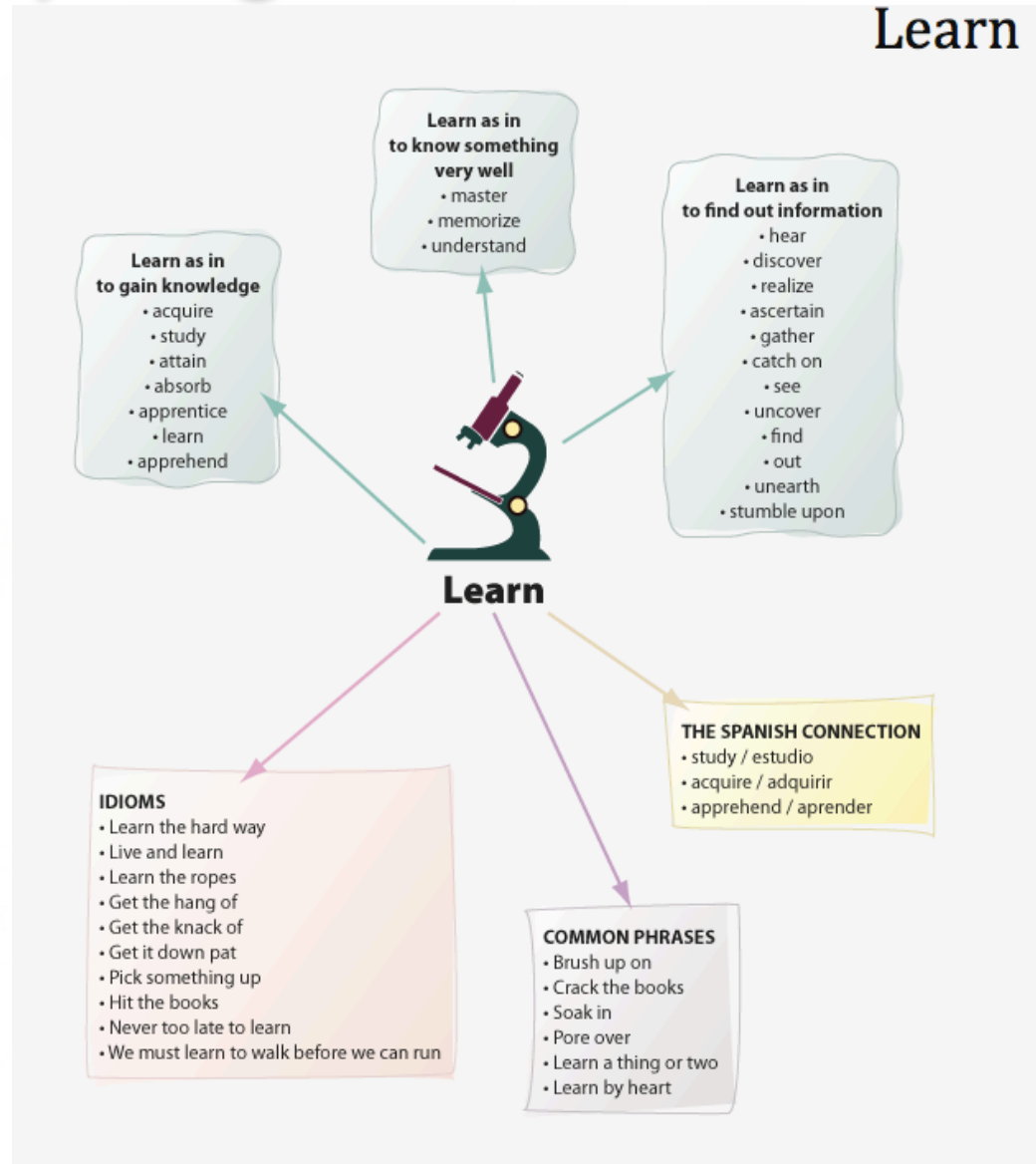
1. Give Students' Responsibility for Reading Texts

When 10-year old **Amelia** Mary **Earhart** saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed. "It was a thing of **rusty** wire and wood and looked not at all interesting," she said. It wasn't until **Earhart** attended a **stunt** flying **exhibition**, almost a decade later, that she became seriously interested in **aviation**.

2. Implement a Deliberate Vocabulary Program



Learn



3. Increase Reading Volume

(Un)Homework: Reading popular but thematically related books

	Genre/ Theme	Shared Text	
Third Grade	American Tall Tales	<i>American Tall Tales</i> (Mary Pope Osbourne)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Casey Jones: The story of a brave engineer</i> (G. Rounds)• <i>The Morning the Sun Refused to Rise: An original Paul Bunyan Tale</i> (G. Rounds)• <i>Baloney</i> (J. Scieszka)• <i>I was Born about 10,000 Years Ago: A tall tale</i> (S. Kellogg)• <i>John Henry: An American legend</i> (E.J. Keats)• <i>Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett</i> (S. Kellogg)• <i>Dona Flor: A tall tale about a giant woman with a great big heart</i> (P. Mora)• <i>Thunder Rose</i> (J. Nolan)
Second Grade	Discovering Nature	<i>The Raft</i> (Jim LaMarche)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Fireflies</i> (J. Brinckloe)• <i>Owl Moon</i> (J. Yolen)• <i>Come on, Rain!</i> (K. Hesse)• <i>When I Was Young In The Mountains</i> (C. Rylant)• <i>Night in the Country</i> (C. Rylant)• <i>Crab Moon</i> (R. Horowitz)• <i>The Seashore Book</i> (C. Zolotow)• <i>Whose Tracks are these?</i> (J. Nail)• <i>Over in the Forest</i> (M. Berkes)• <i>A Drop of Water</i> (W. Wick)• <i>Water Dance</i> (T. Locker)

4. Increase Students' Exposure to Magazine Articles

Bird Nests

volume 1
issue 1



Most birds build nests, but all nests are not alike. The most common bird nest is the kind made by robins. Robins build nests that look like cups. They make a frame of twigs and sticks and cover it with mud. When this is done, robins line their nest with fine moss, feathers, and hair they find on the ground.

Barn swallows build nests of mud.

They make them in barns, close to the roof where it is safe. Sometimes several swallows build nests near one another.

Some birds build their nests in unusual ways. All birds use their beaks to help make their nests, but Tailorbirds use their beak as a needle to sew leaves together. Tailorbirds use threads they gather from the cotton in cotton plants.

Some birds don't build nests at all. Some lay their eggs right on the ground or on a rocky cliff. Auks are birds that lay their eggs on rocky cliffs near the sea.

Auks' eggs are pointed at one end. This shape lets the eggs roll in a circle if another animal tries to move them or if the wind blows hard. Because the eggs can roll in a circle, they do not roll off the cliff.

King penguins also do not build nests. Instead, they tuck their eggs into the folds of skin on their lower belly. The eggs rest on their feet and stay warm in the cold arctic winds.

Some bird species also lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Cuckoos get other birds to keep their eggs safe and to feed their babies.

Most birds build a new nest each year. Some use the same nest for several years but clean the nest a little each year. Eagles build huge platform nests that they use for several years. However different they are, though, birds build nests that are just right for their families.



©2007 by Jonathan_W in Flickr. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/deed.en>



For more information about TextProject and FYI for Kids, visit textproject.org v.1.0 © 2013 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>).

Putting Two Words Together

volume 3
issue 2



©2010 by Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/deed.en>

A lot of sports that people play use balls. In basketball, players try to get a ball through a hoop. In baseball, players use a bat to hit a ball. In football, players throw a ball to get it close to the goal.

There are other words with “ball” that describe things that are round. But they are not balls with which you play a game. Meatballs are not used in any sport. But

they are great with spaghetti.

Eyeballs help in playing sports. But there isn’t a sport called eyeball where teams throw and catch eyeballs. You wouldn’t want to be in a game that uses fireballs. If you would ever see a fireball, you should get as far away as fast as you can. Then call 911 right away. You should also watch out if a cannonball is going to be fired. It is round but you don’t want to play with a cannonball. You especially do not want to catch a cannonball!

There are some words, though, that have ball in them but it has nothing to do with round. Ballpoint pens make

writing a lot easier. It’s easy to see how the “point” got into ballpoint pen. But why the ball? That part is in the name because of the tip of a pen is round. There are also rooms that are called ballrooms. People hold balls in ballrooms but they aren’t the round kind.

Other words with ball have nothing to do with round. In these words, the “ball” part of the word is not even said the same as ball in baseball or meatball. Ballerina is not ball with “erina.” Ballerinas are dancers and the word has nothing to do with ball. A ballot is used by people to vote but it is not round. You don’t even say “ball” when you say the word ballot.

Whenever you see ball as part of a word, look carefully. Usually, the word has something to do with games and sports. But remember eyeballs, fireballs, and cannonballs. These balls may be round but they aren’t used in sports! Ballerina and ballot show that some words with “ball” have nothing to do with being round.

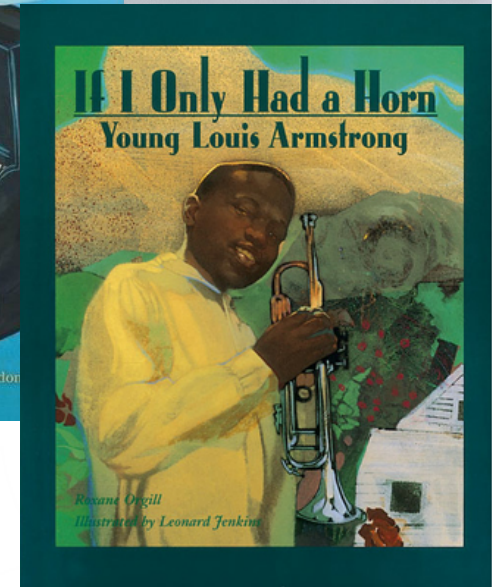
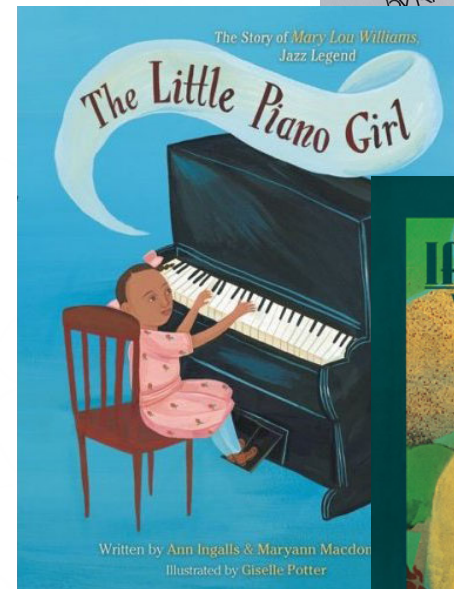
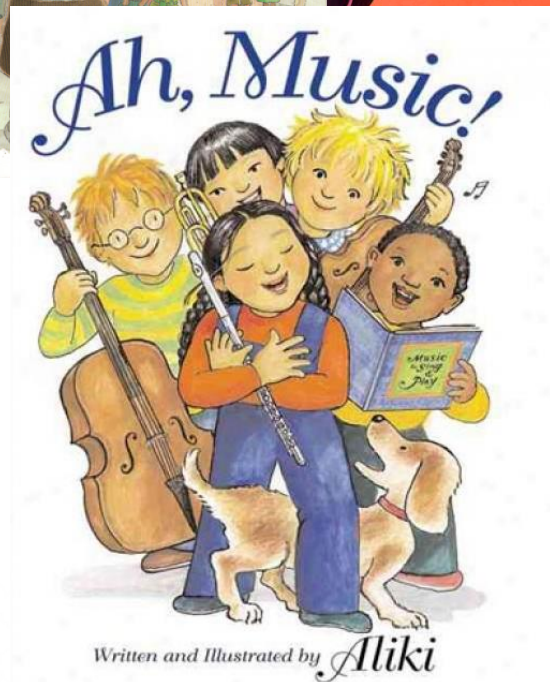
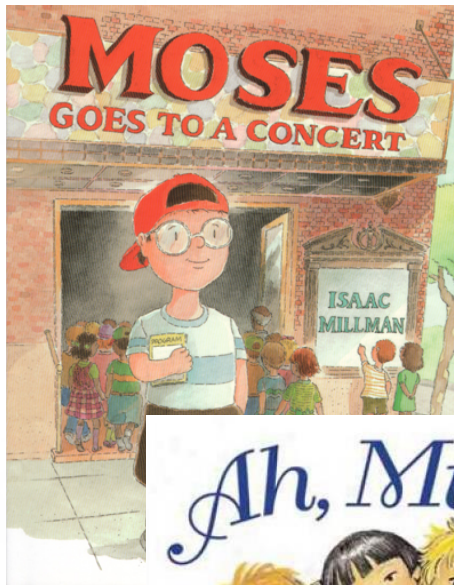


©2012 by Scott Moore. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/deed.en>



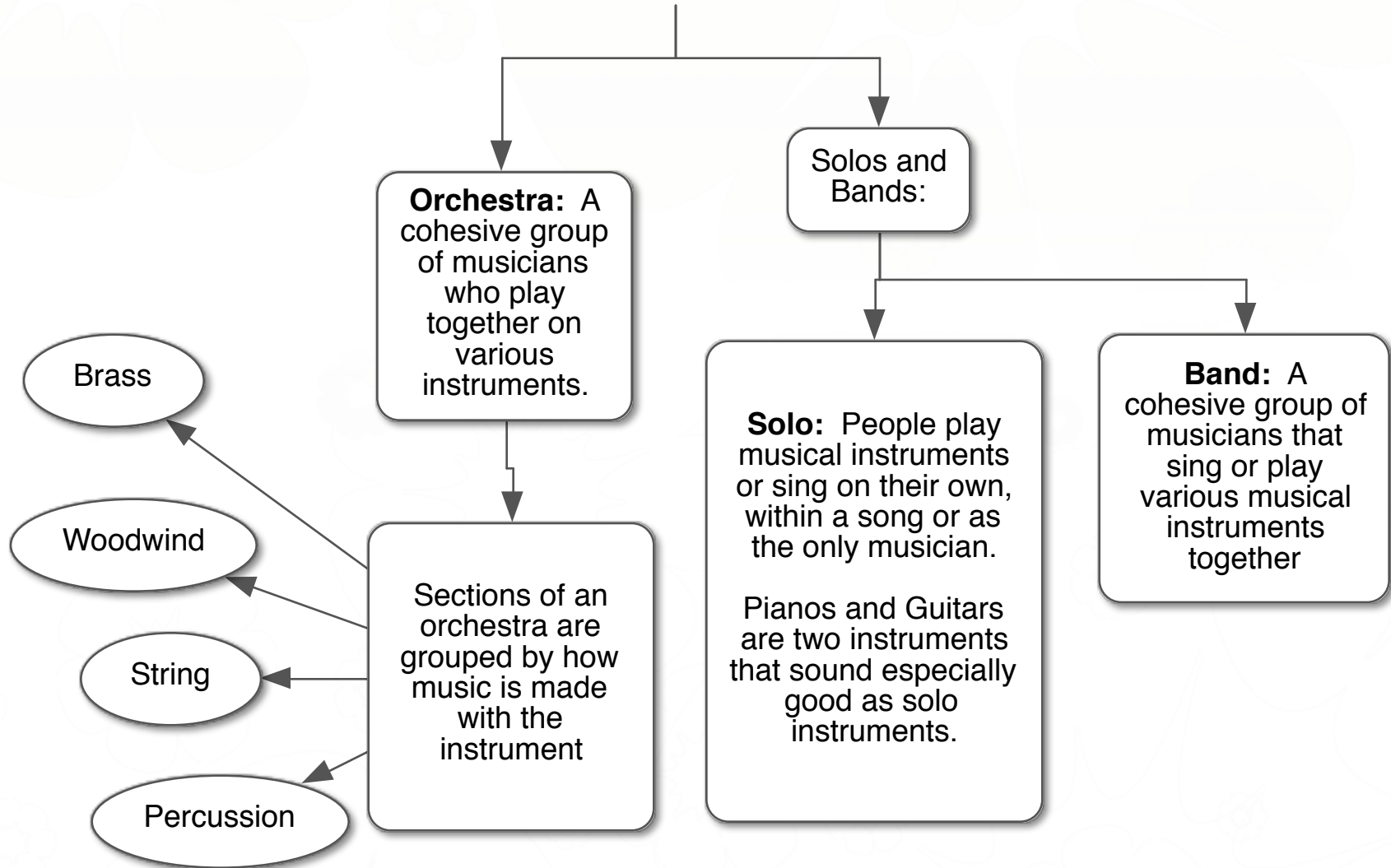
For more information about TextProject and FYI for Kids, visit textproject.org v.1.0 © 2013 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>).

5. Support Background Knowledge Through Planful Read-Alouds





Musical Instruments



6. Increase Students' Stamina by Reading Silently

Goal: Increase the amount of “deliberate reading” (reading of instructionally appropriate texts) in classrooms by 10% per trimester of the school year.

Step 1: Get baseline data:

- Establish the length of time that students are reading: 20 minutes daily
- Establish the length of the “average” silent reading event: 4 minutes

Step 2: Set the goal (explicitly with students in grades 3 and above; implicitly with students in grades 2 and below)

- Goal for trimester: 22 minutes reading a day, with the single event: 5 minutes

Step 3: Always keep a record of what you've learned from reading



Record of what I learned from reading:

- Fibonacci patterns (I read *Blockhead* and *Patterns of Nature*)
- Musicians (*John's Secret Dreams*; *Lives of the Musicians*)

7. Have “on our own” reading sessions

- <http://education.ky.gov/AA/items/Documents/K-PREP%20Sampler%202012%20RD%20gr4.pdf>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/common-core-sample-questions/ela-grade-4.pdf>

7 Actions That Teachers Can Take Right Now:

Getting Ready For The New Assessments

1. Give students' responsibility for reading texts
2. Implement a deliberate vocabulary program
3. Increase reading volume
4. Increase students' exposure to magazine articles
5. Support background knowledge through playful read-alouds
6. Increase students' stamina by reading silently
7. Have "on our own" reading sessions



www.textproject.org



TextProject

[Go](#)

TextProject aims to bring beginning and struggling readers to high levels of literacy through a variety of strategies and tools, particularly the texts used for reading instruction.

TextProject Topics



Common Core State Standards

[More topics](#)

FYI for Kids! New from TextProject

A collection of engaging magazine articles designed to enhance the Common Core classroom's reading repertoire. Take a look at topics offered in *FYI for Kids!*

Student Resources

TextProject provides free, downloadable sets of texts that fill specific needs:



Stop the summer slump



"Read to learn" while learning to read



Increase meaningful, text-based discussions



A magazine based reading program

Teacher Resources

TextProject helps teachers with evidence-based lessons and lists. Free downloads.



Use everyday words to teach new words



Use pictures to teach complex words

WORD LISTS

Be informed about vocabulary

Read-Aloud Favorites

Increase student knowledge through read-alouds

Professional Development Resources

TextProject provides resources for teacher education.

Keep up with the latest reading research



Learn core ideas about complex text

View the latest presentations



Answers to frequently asked reading research questions

[Home](#)[Student Resources](#)[Teacher Resources](#)[Professional Development Resources](#)[Research](#)[Frankly Freddy](#)[Library](#)[Events](#)[Topics](#)[Press](#)[About](#)

Subscribe now
View latest issue

