

Lesson 7: Book Exchange During Independent Reading Time

Supplies Needed:

- Individual student book bags or baskets

Procedure:

- Before this lesson, you should have already designated a certain limit of books that each student can have in his/her book bag at one time.
- During one of your independent reading conferences, ask a student to help you teach a lesson in front of the class. Tell the student it will involve sharing the books they have chosen for independent reading time and make sure he/she is comfortable with this. (You might even rehearse the lesson ahead of time with the student, having him/her separate books into piles before the mini-lesson.)
- Gather your students and invite your “co-teacher” to bring his/her book bag/basket to the front of the class.
- Ask the student to take the books out of the bag and separate them into three piles in front of everyone. Explain the three piles to the class or have actual signs made for the piles.
 - Books I have read many times.
 - Books I am not interested in keeping.
 - Books I want to keep.
- Ask the student to look carefully at the first pile – “books I have read many times” and think about whether or not they REALLY want to read those books again right now, or if it is going to help them grow as a reader to read them again. (Be careful with this...reading books for pure enjoyment is a strong reason for reading too!)
- Have the student divide this pile into the other two piles – “not interested in keeping” and “want to keep”. (This is also a good time for a quick reminder about Just Right books!)
- Refer to the books in the “Not Interested” pile and give students the procedure for returning these books. (We suggest that they be placed in a large basket for you to place back in the proper place in your

classroom at a later time. This ensures that your system of categorizing your books remains organized.)

- Have the students count the books he/she is returning so the student knows how many books he/she is allowed to borrow from your classroom library to fill his/her book bag/basket.
- Listed below are some ideas of times for students to exchange books from their independent reading book bags. Whatever you choose to fit your classroom management and organization plan, just be sure your students know when they will be allowed to do this and the procedure for how it will occur. (This may take an additional mini-lesson to follow up this lesson.) It should be at least once a week to ensure student engagement during independent reading time.
- Some possible ideas for exchange times:
 - Morning Centers – If part of your arrival procedure is for students to participate in morning centers, make sure one of these centers is ALWAYS to exchange books from independent book baggies. (Be careful with a five day rotation. Students who exchange books on Mondays or Fridays may get skipped a lot because of holidays and school breaks.)
 - Independent Reading Time – Set up a rotation for a group of students to spend the first ten to fifteen minutes of Readers' Workshop exchanging their books. Be sure to be VERY clear about your expectations for noise and teacher questions if this is your choice. You will be conducting student conferences and will not want interruptions.
 - Whole Class Exchange – Designate one time per week (either during your language arts block or another open time slot) for the whole class to exchange books. Be sure to have a plan in place for the large number of books that will be returned. Also, be sure to spend this time circulating the classroom as it can sometimes be a little more chaotic with all students moving around.
- Have students get their book bags and find their reading spot for independent reading time.

Notes: _____

