



ConnectedPD
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ONLINE: Tackling Tough Text

“This course provided information that can be used to help students improve their reading comprehension skills.”

– Bonnie R.

Reading and comprehension are essential skills required for academic growth and professional excellence in all fields. These skills are also vital for smooth functioning in daily life. Developing one’s students to be successful readers is an important goal for an educator.

Sometimes, students may find certain text tough to read and comprehend. This is true especially for nonfiction texts. Students may come across vocabulary, phrases and writing styles that they find difficult to read. As students progress to higher grades, they are exposed to reading material that is of a higher level of difficulty across all subjects. How can you help your students read and comprehend tough text, developing them into strong readers?



This course deals with practical strategies on tackling tough text, with a focus on the Reading Comprehension Checklist. This checklist, to be used with nonfiction texts, integrates research-based reading strategies and is found to be successful across all subject areas.

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

The course also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Each self-study PD course from Professional Learning Board includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher’s **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators



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Course Outline

LESSON 1

Comprehension

- Understanding the importance of building students' self-efficacy to ensure learning.
- Exploring the need for appropriate background knowledge and reading strategies for successful student comprehension.
- Examining strategies for teaching reading comprehension.
- The need to go beyond traditional teaching models toward participatory literary practices.
- The Reading Comprehension Checklist – the research behind it and the practical highlights of the checklist.

LESSON 2

The Checklist

- Exploring the roadmap to activate students' background knowledge.
- Understanding essential steps while working with the checklist, to ensure an internalization of the reading comprehension process.
- Examining the value of pre-reading in making stronger readers, and the four steps involved.

LESSON 3

Working with Questions

- Understanding how to *label* and *analyze* questions that accompany the text.

LESSON 4a

Time to Read

- Beginning the final part of the checklist; the actual *reading* of the text.
- The process of identifying and underlining five *key words* in the text.
- Exploring the recommended *sequence* of answering questions.
- The importance of emphasizing students' *self-confidence*.

LESSON 4b

Evaluating the Checklist

- Exploring the practical aspects and *benefits* of using the checklist in the classroom.
- Using the evaluation in the checklist to *identify* areas where students need more help.
- Understanding the need for *tough text* levels and the significance of the checklist.