

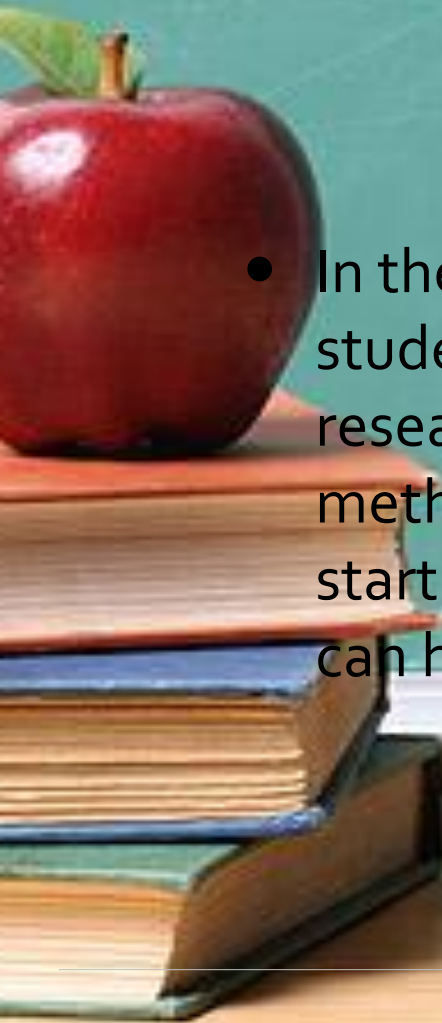
A stack of books and a red apple on a wooden desk in front of a green chalkboard. The books are stacked on the left side of the desk, with a red apple on top. The chalkboard is green and occupies the background. The text "Balanced Literacy" is written in white on the chalkboard.

# Balanced Literacy

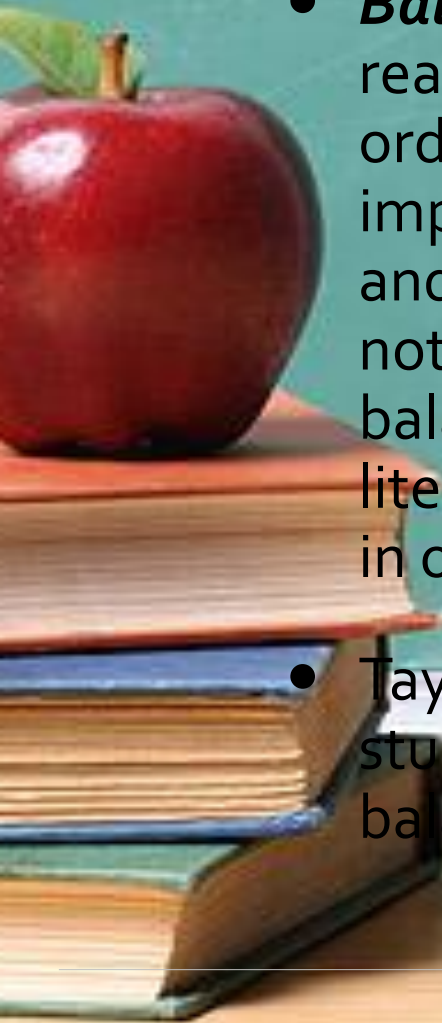
What is it?

# Where did we come from?

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- In the past, we have used the basal reader to instruct students in reading and writing. Due to the overwhelming research that condones balanced literacy as the best method of teaching reading and writing, it was decided to start this initiative. Research shows that balanced literacy can help develop a true love of reading.

# What is it?

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- A red apple with a green leaf is placed on top of a stack of several books. The books have various colored spines, including blue and green. The background is a light teal color.
- ***Balanced Literacy*** incorporates all reading approaches realizing that students need to use numerous devices in order to become proficient readers. It provides and improves the skills of reading, writing, thinking, speaking and listening for all students. A *Balanced Literacy* program not only balances the reading philosophies, it also balances reading and writing instruction. In a balanced literacy program, students read in order to write and write in order to read.
  - Taylor, Pressley, and Pearson (2000) found that 96% of students show academic gains in literature using the balanced literacy framework.

# Reader's Workshop

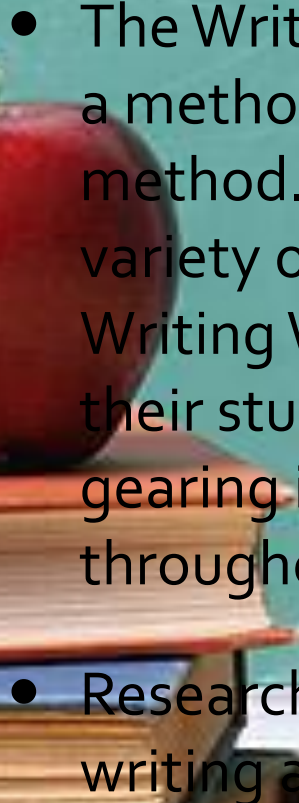
- The Reading Workshop is a teaching method in which the goal is to teach students strategies for reading and comprehension. The workshop model allows teachers to differentiate and meet the needs of all their students. Reading Workshop helps to foster a love of reading and gives students chances to practice reading strategies independently and with guidance (Kean University, 2005).



# Timeline

Time	Component
10-15 minutes	Mini-Lesson
5-10 minutes	Read-aloud
30-60 minutes	Independent reading and conferring
	Guided reading
	Response and Reflection
5 minutes	Sharing

# Writer's Workshop

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- A red apple with a green leaf sits on top of a stack of several books. The books have various colored spines, including blue, green, and brown. The entire scene is set on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is a solid teal color.
- The Writing Workshop, similar to the Reading Workshop, is a method of teaching writing using a workshop method. Students are given opportunities to write in a variety of genres and helps foster a love of writing. The Writing Workshop allows teachers to meet the needs of their students by differentiating their instruction and gearing instruction based on information gathered throughout the workshop.
  - Research indicates that this style of instruction increases writing ability in children at the rate of 92% (Landry, 2000)

# Timeline



Time	Component
5 minutes	Read-aloud
10-15 minutes	Mini-lessons
30-60 minutes	Independent writing and conferring
	Guided writing
5-10 minutes	Sharing

# Components of Balanced Literacy

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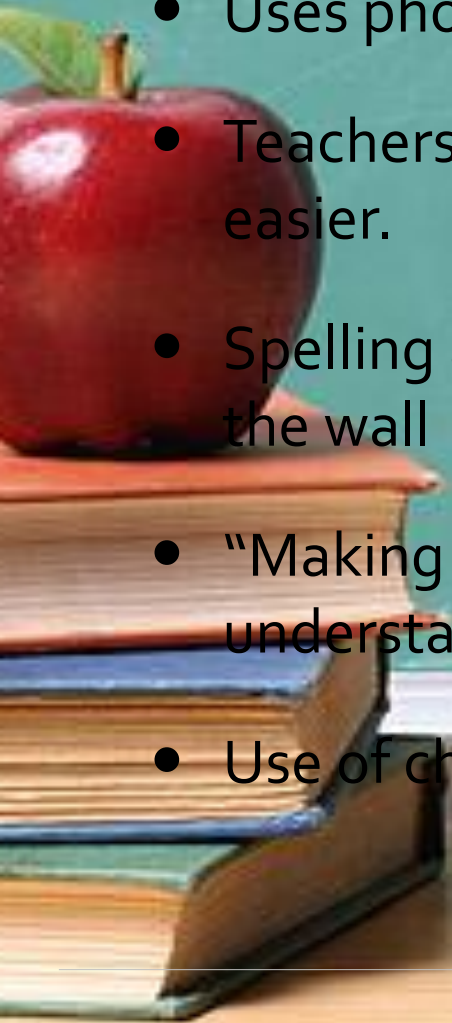
- Word Study
- Shared/Guided Reading
- Self Selected/Independent Reading
- Writing





# Word Study

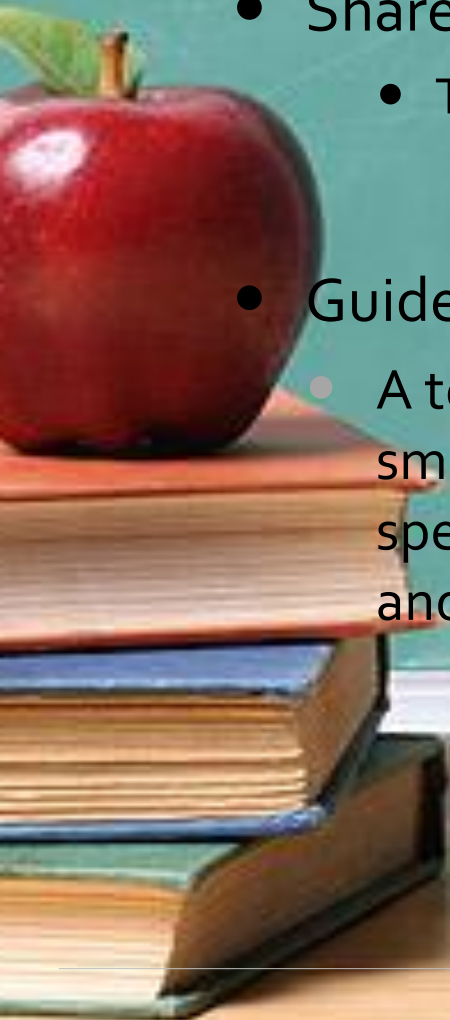
- Uses phonics to introduce decoding skills.
- Teachers introduce decoding strategies to make reading easier.
- Spelling activities and word games related to the words on the wall
- “Making Words” activities designed to develop an understanding of word patterns
- Use of charts, rhymes, songs and sound play.



# Shared/Guided Reading

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- Shared Reading:
  - Teacher reads and students follow along
- Guided Reading:
  - A teacher works with an individual student or convenes a small group of students to listen to them read and provide specific support that helps them use strategies to decode and comprehend text



# Self Selected Reading/Independent Reading

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- Teacher reads to the students daily
- A wide variety of materials at various levels for the children to read
- Opportunities to re-read favorite stories
- Book talks given by children to the class, a group or a friend
- Teacher conferencing with individual students about the books they have read
- Running record assessment.



# Writing

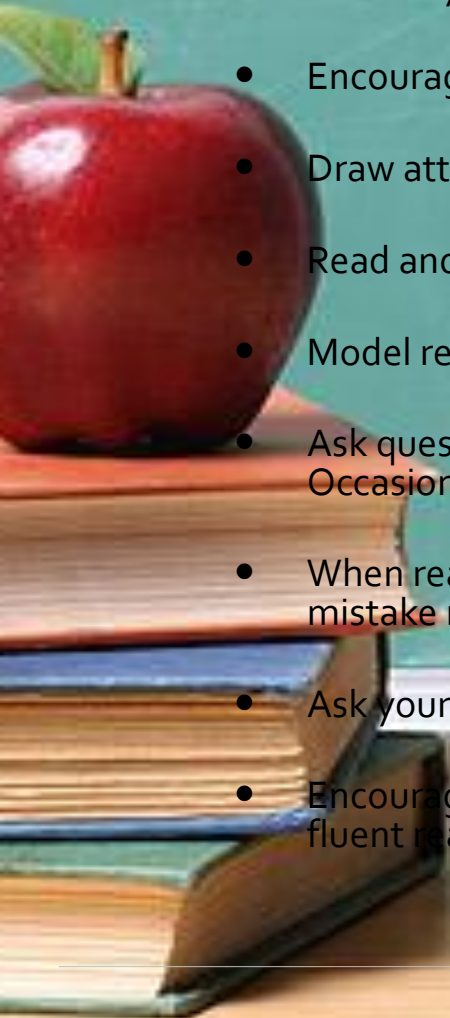
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- Teacher modeling of writing
- Time for daily writing
- A writing center
- Shared writing experiences
- Language experience charts
- Teacher and/or peer conferencing



# Home-School Connection/Elementary

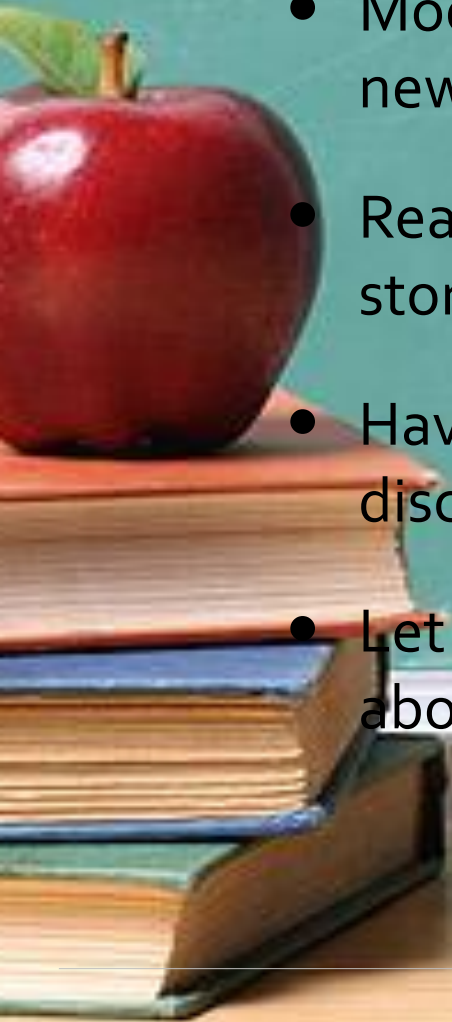
- Read to your child as often as you can.
- Encourage your child to join in and “read”. Point to the words as you read.
- Draw attention to print that is in the environment. (labels, signs, etc.)
- Read and write birthday cards, messages, grocery lists and letters together.
- Model reading at home, using newspapers, novels, manuals, etc.,
- Ask questions before, during and after reading. (eg. “What do you think will happen next?”) Occasionally ask some “why” questions about the story.
- When reading aloud, if your child makes a mistake, allow time for self-correction. If the mistake makes sense, ignore it.
- Ask your child what word would make sense when she/he becomes “stuck” on a word.
- Encourage your child to “have-a-go”, to use the pictures, to re-read, or to sound it out. More fluent readers can “read-on”, to get the overall meaning.



# Home School Connection/Middle

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- Model the love of reading at home- newspapers/novels/manuals/ professional journals
- Read a few chapters of your child's book and discuss the story with them.
- Have them read a few articles in the newspaper and discuss the current events with them.
- Let them write paragraphs about what they have read or about an event within their day.



# Resources

- Want to know the level of your books at home?
  - <http://www.leveledlibrary.com/>
  - Leveled book list
    - <http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/>
- What is balanced literacy?
  - <http://marcypaulson.suite101.com/what-is-balanced-literacy-a83718>
- Ebooks
  - [http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/book\\_details.asp?Category=Read%2DAlongs&isflash=1](http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/book_details.asp?Category=Read%2DAlongs&isflash=1)