

Guidelines for Selecting Texts for Interactive Read-Aloud

- Look for texts that you know your students will love (funny, exciting, connected to their experiences, able to extend their thinking.)
- Select texts appropriate to the age and interests of your students.
- Select texts that are of high quality (award winners, excellent authors, high-quality illustrations.)
- Plan selections so that you present a variety of cultures, help students see things from different perspectives.
- Choose texts that help students understand how people have responded to life's challenges.
- Consider books on the significant issues in the age group – peer pressure, friendship, families, honesty, racism, competition.
- Especially for younger readers, select texts that help them enjoy language – rhythm, rhyme, repetition.
- Select different versions of the same story to help students make comparisons.
- Evaluate texts to be sure the ideas and concepts can be understood by your students.
- Plan selections to appeal to both boys and girls.
- Mix and connect fiction and nonfiction.
- Repeat some texts that have been loved by former students.
- Vary genres so that students listen to many different kinds of texts – articles, poems, fiction, informational texts.
- Select informational texts even if they are long; you can read some interesting parts aloud and leave the book for students to peruse on their own.
- Choose texts that will expand your students' knowledge of others' lives and develop empathy.
- Choose texts that will help students reflect on their own lives.
- Select texts that you love and tell students about them.
- Select texts that build on one another in various ways (sequels, themes, authors, illustrators, topics, settings, structure).
- Link selections in ways that will help students learn something about how texts work.
- Select books that provide good foundations for minilessons in reading and writing.
- Consider the curriculum demands of your district; for example, link texts with social studies, science, or the core literature program.
- Select several texts that help listeners learn from an author's style or craft.
- Select texts that develop artistic appreciation.
- Select fiction and nonfiction texts on the same general topics.
- Consider "text-sets" that are connected in various ways – theme, structure, time period, issues, series, author, illustrator, and genre.