

Independent Reading Redefined

Impactful independent reading is based on four principles:

Time, Choice, Talk, and Teacher Support

Time

- * Long periods of time are needed for students to transfer previously taught skills and strategies into independence.

Choice

- * Students have the space to explore, construct, and expand their reader identities.

Talk

- * Talking aids the development of social comprehension as students learn to listen and express opinions with classmates.

Teacher Support

- * Simply giving students time to read is NOT the same as independent reading. It needs to be a conscious collaboration between teachers and students.

Principles of Independent Reading

Principle	Why?	How?
Time	Volume of reading is key in growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– prioritize independent reading by putting it into your plans first– celebrate where students already are in their stamina
Choice	Students are more motivated to read when they get to choose what they read	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– conduct class discussions about considerations when choosing books– advertise books and have students advertise books
Talk	Talk leads to improved comprehension and builds community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– include partner time in independent reading– conduct inquiries into purposeful talk
Teacher Support	Feedback is one of the most impactful tools we have for raising student achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– design a schedule that includes conferring and small group work– take notes and be prepared to teach