

Reading Workshop for Grades K-2

Independent Reading

Lucy Calkins often refers to the independent reading workshop as the heart of reading work because it's the time in the day when students have the opportunity to orchestrate all they know about reading in order to read their own just-right books.

Structure	Description/Purpose	Recommended Setting/Time
Mini-lesson	Mini-lesson teaching is a time for students to learn something new that will help them as readers. During this time the teacher directly instructs the whole class on a skill, strategy or habit that they need to learn and use during independent work. Mini-lessons are brief, explicit teaching opportunities that follow a certain structure.	Whole Group 10 - 20 minutes
Independent Student Work Time Independent Reading	During Work Time, students read individually (or occasionally with partners) from their "just right" book collections. These are books chosen from the classroom library or books that were previously read in a guided reading group. The teacher has reading conferences with individual readers providing direct instruction based on the needs of the reader.	Individual or Partner 20 - 40 minutes
Debrief / Share	Following Work Time, the students gather for a Debrief/Share Time. This time can be used in a variety of ways such as: a mini-lesson reinforcement or add on, reflections by students on what they have learned about themselves as readers, sharing of great literature, or a chance to discuss any management issues that may need to be addressed.	Whole Group, Small Group or Partners 5 - 10 minutes

See Sample Schedules in Managing the Literacy Classroom for Other Options

Adapted: Bennett, Calkins, Collins; Revised 7-21-10