



C. L. A. S. S.

Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students

Upcoming Events

**2008
Summer
Institute**

June 24-27

Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information:

502-648-1881

www.classworksforme.com

E-TOOLS

February 2008



Upcoming Events

**C.L.A.S.S.
Support Team**

SPRING SESSION

March 18, 2008

**Fishback Creek Public
Academy**

Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information:

765-483-3060

Jenny@joyofclass.org

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools!

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools for February. As we work to build a community of learners in our schools, it is important that we reach outside the walls of the building and include others who can influence and impact our students learning. One of the most important groups to reach out to are parents. We want to help them be well informed about what happens at school and provide them with resources and ideas of what they can do at home to compliment and practice what students need to learn.

In this edition of E-Tools we are providing a one page flyer that you can share with parents about the C.L.A.S.S. Literacy Links! As one of the major strategies for practicing literacy skills when reading, it is a perfect opportunity to give parents a glimpse into how teachers use the Literacy Links with students and how they can use them at home when the read with their child.

Agenda: February Issue

- Home to School Connections with C.L.A.S.S.
- Next Month: Reading Aloud to Students - Literacy Links Tips and Tricks





Literacy Links

Kindergarten
Edition

for Parents

The Literacy Links are a teaching strategy developed by C.L.A.S.S. (Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students). The C.L.A.S.S. Model provides a philosophy of teaching and learning, standard-based curriculum development, and research based teaching strategies based upon the constructs of brain-based learning. The Literacy Links are seven major components to teaching students reading. After reading any text (books, magazines, newspaper, websites, etc.), students are asked one question from each of the links. It provides for a quick practice and assessment of literacy skills. If you have questions or would like more suggestions for Literacy Link questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Phonics	Phonics is how language sounds. Students learn that letters represent certain sounds to determine words.	Look at the last sentence we read, can you think of a word that rhymes with ____? Can you find the capital letters in this story we read?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Look at the cover of this book, what do you think the story is about? How are the characters in this book the same (different)?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	What is the first sound (last sound) you hear when we read this word? What happened first (last) in the story?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Do you have any friends that remind you of the character in the book? Have you ever been to a place like in the story?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	Who were the characters in this book? What was the setting? What is something that happened in the book?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Have students echo read (you read the sentence and then have them read the sentence). Ask students to read common words.
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Stand up every time you find a word you know. Jump every time you see the word ____.



Literacy Links

1st Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Phonics	Phonics is how language sounds. Students learn that letters represent certain sounds to determine words.	Where do you see the word ____? Can you find a noun. Can you make a list of words that rhyme with ____.
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Look at the cover of the book. Can you predict what the setting might be? After reading a few pages, pick a character. What do you think the character is thinking? What might he do next.
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	How do sentences begin? How do they end? Can you put the words in this sentence in alphabetical order?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Have you ever done something like this before? Have you ever been to a place like that before? Does this remind you of another story?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	Who were the characters in the story? What was the setting? What was the plot? Ask questions that begin with: Who, What, When, Why, How.
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Read the story aloud together. Create different voices for each character.
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	When the character does an action (jump, run, hide, walk, swim, etc.) create an action to do every time you hear that word.



Literacy Links

2nd Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Phonics	Phonics is how language sounds. Students learn that letters represent certain sounds to determine words.	Can you sound out the word you don't know? What words means the same (synonym) as ____? What word means the opposite (antonym) as ____?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Can you predict what will happen next? What conclusions can you make based on what you read? Why do you think ____? Describe ____?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	How many sentences are questions? How many are statements? What kind of punctuation goes at the end of each kind of sentence?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Have you ever had something like that happen to you? How are you and the main character different (similar)?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	Restate the facts and details in your own words. What does the word _____ mean? How would you explain _____? Why do you think _____?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Have student use expression when they read. Have the student read a line and then you read a line.
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Clap every time you hear a noun. Snap every time you ever hear a verb.



Literacy Links

3rd Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Phonics	Phonics is how language sounds. Students learn that letters represent certain sounds to determine words.	What does this prefix mean? What does this suffix mean? Let's look up this word in the dictionary to figure out what it means.
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Can you imagine what this character looks like? Draw a picture. Predict what you think might happen in the story. Were you right?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Tell the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Can you change the order of the words in this sentence to make it a question?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Does this remind you of another story you've read or a TV show or a movie? Can you think of a friend that might be like the main character?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	What is the problem in the story? What is the solution? What would happen if _____? Tell me what you just read in your own words.
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Have the students read the happy parts of the story and the parent can read the sad parts. Echo read the story (parent reads first; student repeats).
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Read this story using an animal voice. Read it with a southern accent.



Literacy Links

4th Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Proper English	Proper English is using grammar correctly when reading and writing.	Choose a noun in the text and add an adjective. Choose a verb and add an adverb. Can you find a prepositional phrase in the text?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	What clues do you find here about what might happen next? Is this a fact or an opinion? What was the cause of _____ in the story?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Skim the text for information about _____. Can you put in order the events of the story? Can you change or add words to make it more interesting.
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	What do you already know about this topic? What does this remind you of? Who is the audience for this piece of writing?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	How do the illustrations add to this story or text? What information do they share? Why do you think the character acted that way?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Read with expression! Give the characters lots of emotion. How does that make the reader want to read more?
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Can you create a movement to help you remember what you read? Make-up a sound or movement to replace a magic word as you read.



Literacy Links

5th Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Proper English	Proper English is using grammar correctly when reading and writing.	Can you think of a synonym, antonym, or homograph for the word ____? Find a word that could be made into a contraction.
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Who do you think the author was writing this piece for? Predict what is fact and what is opinion from the text.
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Change words in the sentence. Do they make it more interesting? Take notes of the important parts of what you read.
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Explain the authors opinion shared in the writing. Do you agree? Disagree? Does the character in the story remind you of anyone you know?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	What helps you identify if this is a poem, fiction, or non-fiction? State 2 facts you found in the text.
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Read the text aloud. Read it again and pay attention to the volume, phrasing, and expression.
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Tell a joke using some of the words what you just read. Can you sing the poem? Can you create a rap based on what you read?



Literacy Links

6th Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Proper English	Proper English is using grammar correctly when reading and writing.	Can you find a simile in what you just read? What is another meaning for the word _____?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Predict the meaning of the word _____. Tell what it means by looking at the text around it. Retell the paragraph in your own words.
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Is the story told in first person or third person? Can you change the order of the words in the sentence, but keep the same meaning?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	What do you already know about this topic? What does the text remind you of?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	What is the main idea of the story, poem, or paragraph? Is this story believable or realistic?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Read together. Listen to volume, phrasing, and timing.
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Make up movements to help others understand the story.



Literacy Links

7th Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Proper English	Proper English is using grammar correctly when reading and writing.	Can you write a summary using complex, compound, and simple sentences?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Use the dictionary to look up unknown words. Once you have the definition, can you use the word in a new sentence?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Create a timeline of the piece you read. What happened first, second, etc.? Can you find the effect of each action of the character?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Can you find examples of persuasion, propaganda, or faulty reasoning in what your read?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	Locate a magazine or a public document at the library or off the Internet. How does reading it differ from reading a story?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Can you find examples of Greek or Latin root words in this paragraph?
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Can you find all the words that create feeling in what you read? What emotion did they create for you?



Literacy Links

8th Grade Edition

for Parents

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Literacy Links	Definition	Possible Questions to Ask
Proper English	Proper English is using grammar correctly when reading and writing.	Can you find examples of parallelism in the writing? If not, can you change a section of it and make it parallel?
Predict, Infer, Compare, Contrast, Imagine	Students discover the hidden meaning of language by predicting events, inferring what happened, comparing / contrasting, and using their imagination.	Compare a story told in first person with one in third person. How does the perspective change depending on the view of the writer?
Put in Order	Put in order is the link we use to focus on the mechanics of language -- Punctuation, capitalization, putting events and words in order.	Create a timeline of the plot of the writing. Create a timeline for any subplots. How do the main plot and subplots intertwine?
Connections	Connections are when children use their prior knowledge and experiences to figure out language, to understand the story, or to relate to the characters.	Based on what you read, what do you want to learn more about? Why?
Comprehension	Comprehension is understanding what you read.	How is informational text different than fictional text? What do you do differently to understand informational text?
Fluency	Fluency is reading smoothly and accurately with emotion and expression.	Practice reading the text. Each time working on expression and timing. How does your reading improve with each additional practice?
Fun	Fun gives us an opportunity to enjoy the fun in language - poetry, riddles, jokes, sensory words, metaphors, etc.	Where did some of the words in the writing come from? What events in history might have impacted the meaning of the word?