

I Suck at Reading: Rebuilding Confidence in the Disenchanted Reader

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LCC-12

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The Situation

- Mr. Stygles: What do you think of yourself as a reader?
- Angel: I suck at reading.
- Mr. Stygles: What makes you say that?
- Angel: My reading teacher told me when I was in fourth grade.
- Mr. Stygles: How did she tell you?
- Angel: She said I was in a special reading group because I didn't read very well.
- Mr. Stygles: Why don't you read very well?
- Angel: Because I am slow.
- Mr. Stygles: How do you know you are slow?
- Angel: Every time she makes me read aloud loud to her and she times me. I'm never fast enough, so I have to read in with a special teacher.
- Mr. Stygles: Do you think you're a bad reader?
- Angel: No.
- Mr. Stygles: What do you like to read?
- Angel: I don't know. My teachers pick a book for me that is on my level and I have to read it.



Worth 1000 Words?

Looking for direction?
Looking for an answer?
Looking for something to believe in?

Ralph Waldo Emerson

As long as all that's written is said against me, then I feel a certain assurance of success. If people are heaping flowery words of praise upon me, then I feel exposed to my enemies.

Our Lives & Reading Autobiographies

- Introductory Activity
- Scaffold to Reading Narrative
- Informal Reading Inventory
- Student Perspective
- Linking life experiences to the classroom.
- Understanding our biases in teaching.

Accomplishment	Result	“Lesson”	Redemption
Speaking	“mild retardation” in Kindergarten	I am not in control of my life	Self-motivated
Star Wars Paper Book	Smurfs Paper Book	Only one person can have something	
Made Baseball Team	Led league in HBP, rarely played	Other people deserve more attention to get better.	Cross Country Horse Racing
6 th Grade Graduation Speech	Dad wrote my speech; told me what to say	Others work is better than mine	100% Equine Nutrition Final Exam
NYS State Cross Country Championship	Disallowed from indoor track	Passing English more important	B.S. in History “non-fiction” English degree
Track Record in Elmira	Yelled at for two hour ride home	I don’t need to be a star, I’m just a student	Won with all horses Teaching
Literacy Specialist Degree	Coaching spots filled;	I’m just a teacher	Writing
National Board Certified Teacher	Poor Teacher Evaluation; Slander	You’re just too negative.	Sharing my story

Time Span	Favorite Book	Reading Moments	Major Life Events
Before School			No talking – 3 yrs. Dad overseas
Kindergarten	Dr. Suess Checking out Football team books	* Read Dr. Suess independently (@home) * Squirrel reading book in “Pac-man” reading group.	Sent to “pre-first” thought to be “retarded” “Failed” kindergarten
First Grade		Phonics Worksheets Lifting letters	Moved to Keesler AFB from USAF.
Second Grade	Ghostbusters Movie picture book	Book orders	Moved from Hyde Park, VT to Rome, NY. 3 weeks in second grade.
Third Grade	A True Book series	2 weeks in library	Skipped 2 nd grade 100 th percentile on Math Test
Fourth Grade	Choose Your Own Adventure books (birthday money on books) * Spanish Inquisition * French Revolution	NY History workbook History text book (Coronado research) Mystery (genre) book report	Police accusation Glasses
Fifth Grade	Sarah, Plain, and Tall (First book asked for from book order)	Encyclopedia Brown teacher recommendation (read the first one; “people thought I liked)	Moved across district Dad’s TDY

Donovan's Story

Before school I started to read Dr. Seuss books. I remember reading the Dr. Seuss book the dog race. I never got to read at my bedtime because my mom and dad worked alot and wouldn't read to me or my brother.

Now lets get started with kindergarten. I actually read at least 15 books. of course were also Dr. Seuss books. But when I was going to sleep my dad decided to tell us some stories with button and pumpkin. I read a Goosebumps book in 1 week. My favorite book in kindergarden was the foot book.

In first grade i had a teacher named_____. I probably only read like 5 books. But in that year my teacher realized that I was a good reader. I wrote more than read.

In second grade I started to read graphic novels. But otherwise I really didn't read much I wrote more.

In 3rd grade I actually read Mark Of Athena. I actually started to like reading in third grade.

I don't remember anything about 4th grade because the teacher didn't have any books.

Donovan's Story

Acknowledgement

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Implications

- His perception needs to be honored.
- Not a time for sympathy
- Contrast & Contradiction
- Reinforcement of values
- Found a preference
- Little mentoring (monitoring)
- Finds his first love
- No effective boundaries.
- First year teacher, no book budget
- 40 Books a year?

Greyson's Story

In kindergarden I read Green Egg And Ham by: Dr. Seuss. The whole class had it read to them and we really liked it. Dr. Suess came to the school and then we ate green eggs and ham. But I didn't like eggs so I just had the ham. Dr. Seuss read us green eggs and ham when we ate green eggs and ham.

In first grade I read nothing because my teacher didn't make us. She didn't have any books in her classroom. All we did was math math math, she read us books to the class but wouldn't let us read 1 of the subs let us read barley. All of our subs let us read.

In second grade it was such a bad experience I forgot my own teacher. We had to recommend books to our classmates and I really didn't have any books I liked so i couldn't recommend any books to my classmates. Also my teacher assigned us books so we had to read them and I don't like assigned books because I might not like them and take forever to read them.

In third grade I had Ms.____ and we had to do book for bikes thing. I did very bad and didn't get that many books done. There weren't many chapter books in her room. That was not that good of a school year.

In fourth grade I had such a bad school year I forgot who my teacher's name. It was such a bad school year because I went to south paris and did HORRIBLE with my grades my reading was the worst out of all of my grades. Writing was alright I think. Math was pretty bad too. But I'm pretty sure I didn't read much books and I had a hard time sitting still I had to walk around in the class a lot because the school didn't have a upstairs so I couldn't walk around that much if i did i would have gone to the lunch room.

In fifth grade I read Otis Doda and The One And Only Ivan because there the only book I admitted I liked to the class. Otis Doda made me think because I almost fin
finished it in 1 day but I didn't because I wanted to to give my brain a break.

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Documented History

- Reading is decoding, fluency based.
- Books chosen for students in book baskets.
- Pulled for Reading Recovery Services
- Failing school status for math

- Started reading series
- Started "independently" reading
- Repeated RR services through "intervention."
- Family moves

- First year teacher
- Parent Divorce
- Reading = Guided Reading

- Transferred
- Referred for Special Education
- Reading only by guided reading assignment
- Placed in intervention program with administrator

Erik Erickson

- Bernard Shaw's statement that those who can, do, while those who cannot, teach, still has frequent validity for both parents and children. The selection and training of teachers, then, is vital for the avoidance of dangers which can befall the individual at this state (school age & task identification; Industry vs. Inferiority) The development of the sense of inferiority, the feeling that one will never be "any good," is a danger which can be minimized by a teacher who knows how to emphasize what a child can do and why recognizes a psychiatric problem when (s)he sees one. (1968)

What is Shame?

Cultural Context

- Embarrassment
 - <https://www.facebook.com/PassengerShaming>
- Favoritism
 - <http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/ncaaf-dr-saturday/wall-street-journal-calls-penn-state-most-embarrassing-223435433--ncaaf.html>
- Judgement
 - <http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/double-fake-dodgers-fool-shin-soo-choo-not-081831913.html>
- Entertainment
 - <https://gma.yahoo.com/video/inside-disneys-frozen-phenomenon-secrets-133225974.html>

Psychological Context

- Gershin Kaufman:
- Jane Middleton-Moz:
- Daniel Nathanson:

Shame, In Reading?

- Test Scores?
- Reading Levels?
- CCSS?
- Reading Groups?
- Independent Reading?
- State Mandates?
- Teacher Collaboration?
- Pedagogy?
- Climate?
- School Community?
- Personal Experiences?

- Kelly Gallagher (2009):

I've witnessed this pattern in too many schools... to draw any conclusion other than a painful one: that the practices we, as educators, are employing to make students better readers are often killing them. Intentions are not the problem, our practices are the problem.

- Alice Miller (1985):

She was such a brilliant pedagogue, she succeeded perfectly in crushing true feelings and need in such an imperceptible way that neither I nor anyone realized what had happened.

Approaching Shamed Readers

Admit

Acknowledge

Absolve

Negativity

Experiences

Hesitations

Desires

Strengths

Weaknesses

Goals

Confidence

Autonomy

Varying Techniques

- <http://tenminutethought.blogspot.com/2014/07/5th-grade-summer-readers.html>
- <http://numberedpages.com/2014/10/02/overcoming-the-negativity/>

Reading Passports

<https://www.choiceliteracy.com/article=2078>

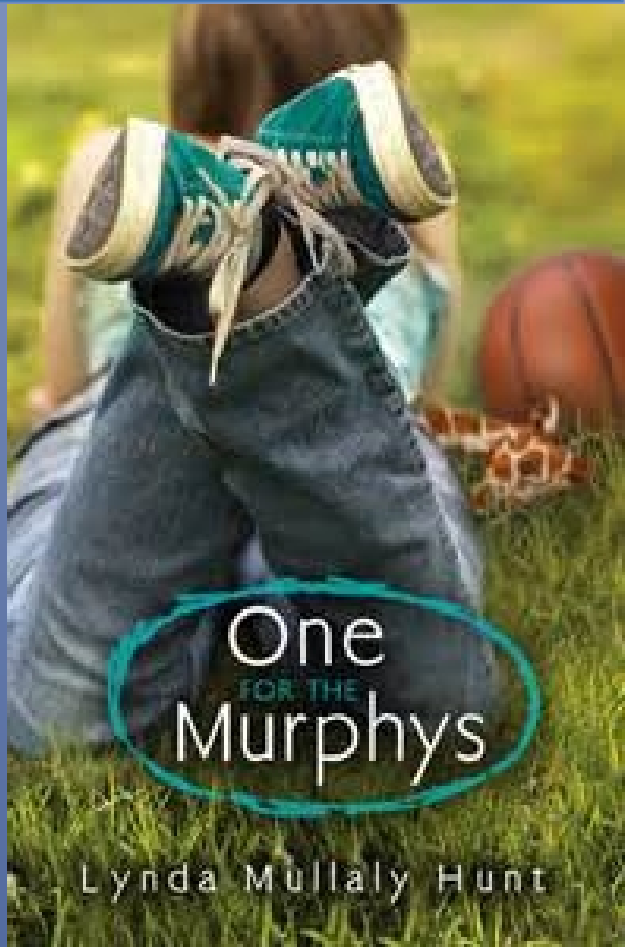
- Boundaries
- Goal Setting
- Independence
- Accountability
- Community
- Trends
- Habits

I'm Not Alone?

**WHOLE CLASS LESSON:
RECOGNIZING OURSELVES IN CHARACTERS**

One For the Murphys

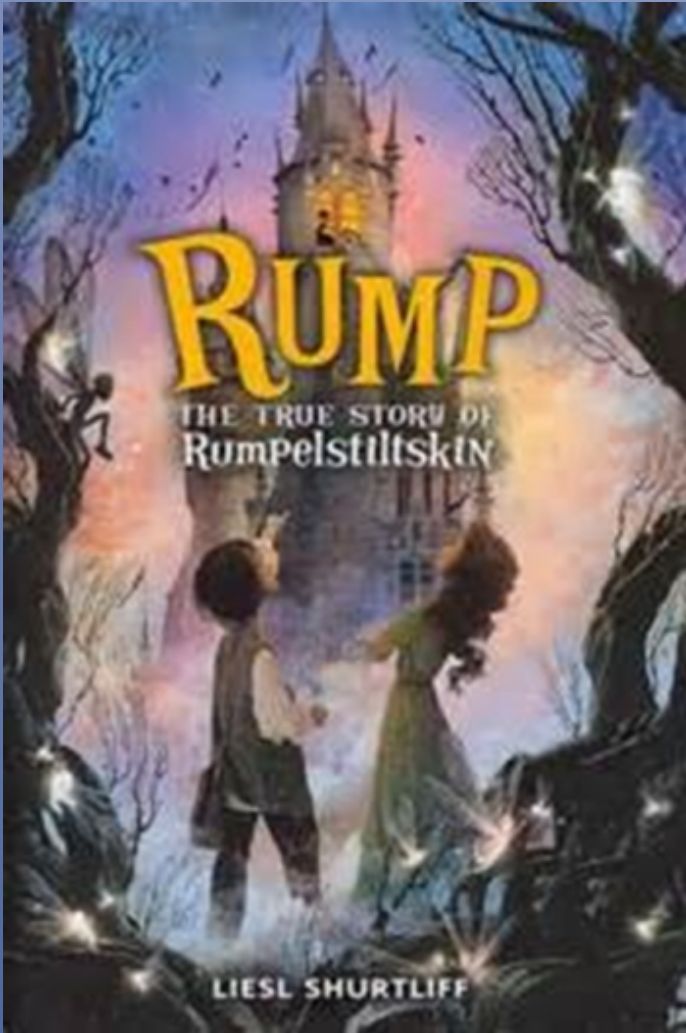
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt



- **Whole Class Lesson:**
- Recognizing Ourselves in characters; Connections (Harvey & Goudvais)
- Identifying Emotions (Oatley)
- Contrasts & Contridictions (Beers & Probst)
- Transactional Reading (Rosenblatt)
- Reading Response Notebooks
- Shared Reading Experience
- Determine Vulnerable Readers

Rump

by Liesl Shurtliff



• Text Based Questions

What's happening in the Story?

How does the character feel?

Can you relate to the character?

If you were the character, how would you feel?

If you were the character, how would you respond?

Shifting Paradigms

Locus of Control

- Common Text
- Shared Experiences
- Student Choice to Share
- Conferring by Choice
- Sharing “my” story

Self- Expression

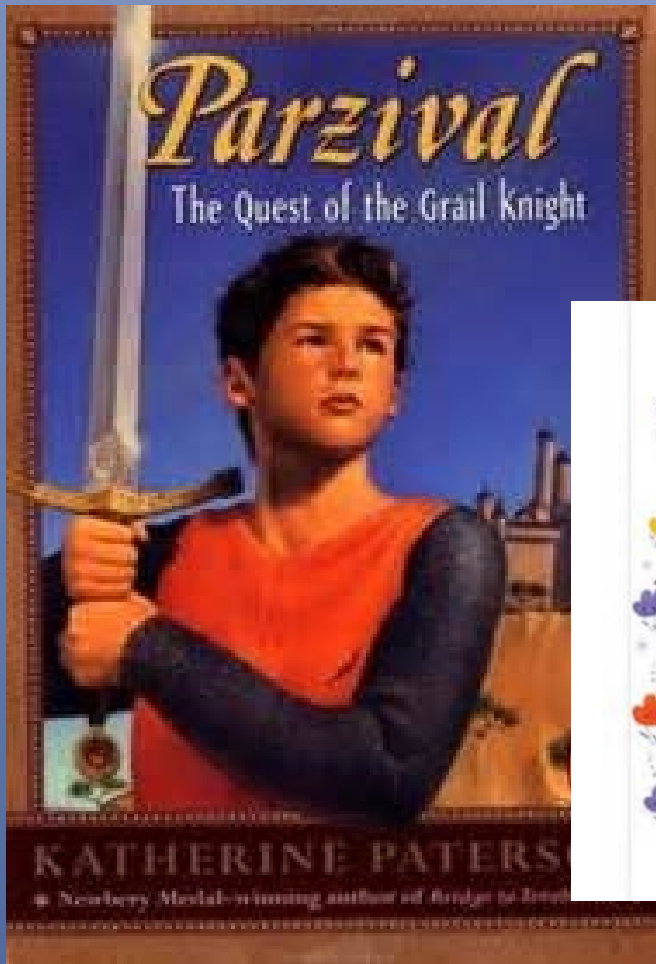
- Welcome Perspective
- Provide Space to Think
- Honor Emotions
- “Be with it.”
- Validate Thoughts
- No Right Answer

Written Responses

How Does Carley Feel About Herself?

If you were Albin, how would you feel?

Other Titles



I AM A READER!!!

You're Gonna Hear Me ROAR! Be TRULY BRAVE

Thank you for attending this sessions and showing the courage to discuss shame. It's not easy for us. Imagine how readers deal with this in silence?

We teach for kids first. They are the most important component of our classroom. They are our future.

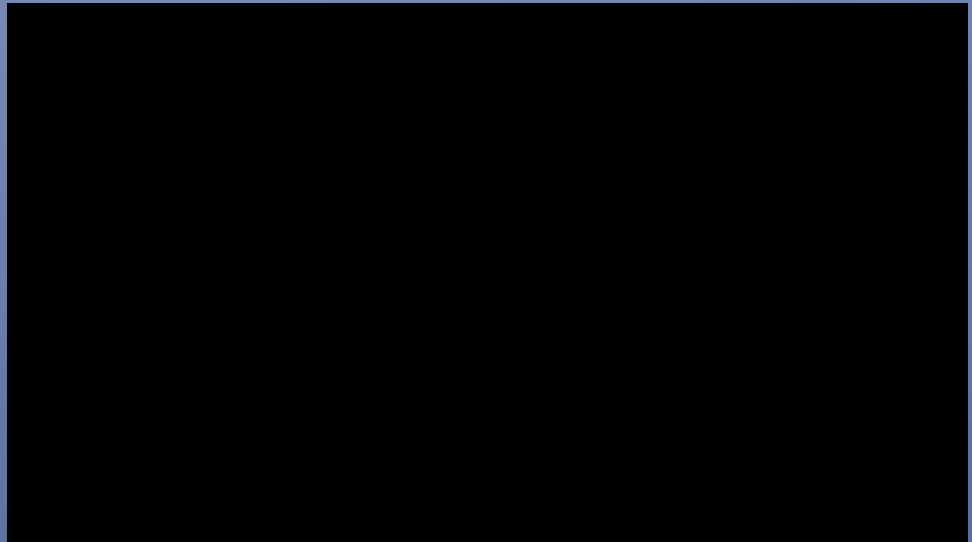
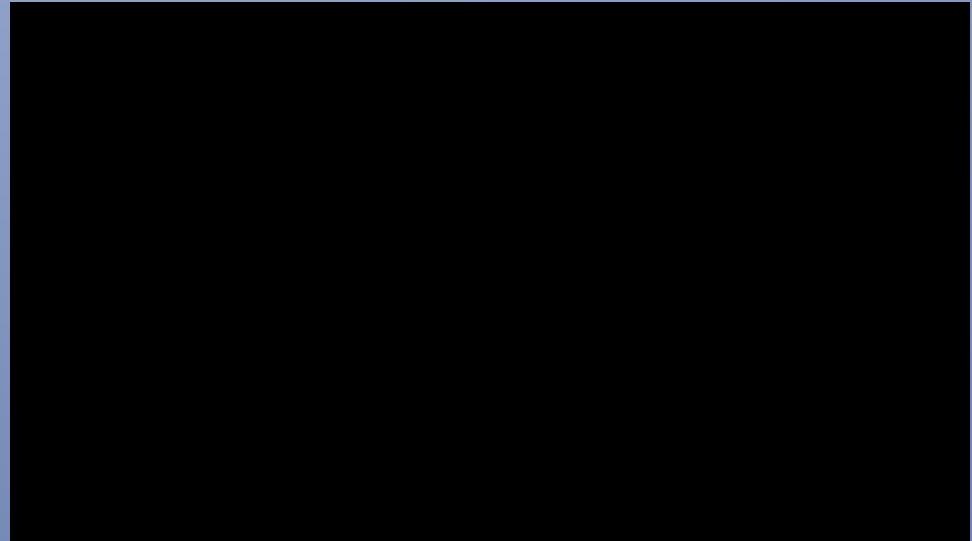
Readers deserve the promise of a future when they believe they can make a difference and they believe they can be themselves.

Reading must be a part of their future; not by force or test scores, but by acceptance and validation, because readers see their lives in books.

If they are knocked down, we must help stand them back up because we care.

Teach for the best people.

- Marcia Nye Boody



Appendix

In class tools:

Reading Response Notebook

“My” Notebook

Whole Class Novel

Archetypal Stories

Wide Selection Library

Handouts:

Reading Maturation Table

5th Grade Reading Passport

6th Grade Reading Passport

Articles & Blogs:

5 Compliments (Nerdy Book Club)

Librarians – A Celebration (Nerdy Book Club)

Losing Control (IRA Engage)

Light Fire in the Eyes of Students (IRA Engage)

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