

K-3 Essential 8, Providing Access to a Wide Range of Texts Sample Video

MAISA Literacy Essentials

<https://youtu.be/nRg0wXm2JJl>

Narrator: Abundant reading material and reading opportunities in the classroom support students' literacy learning. In this classroom, the teacher provides a wide range of texts and supports children in accessing these texts during school and at home.

Teacher Mary Catherine: This is a third-grade classroom. We have lots and lots of books that we want to put in children's hands. This is my second semester books. In the beginning of the year, I have a whole different set that's here when the kids are coming in right from second grade, and as they progress and their interests develop, I change 'em out each year for them. Books in a third-grade classroom are organized by subject areas, series, authors. The children are encouraged to try out all different kinds of genres in third grade. We also like to emphasize the various genres. Instead of just thinking about fiction or nonfiction, we encourage the students to try out different kinds of fiction and so in my library, you'll see historical fiction along with science fiction, with realistic fiction, we also have access digitally. The students enjoy reading books online. What I love about having that computer access is I set up an account and the students can read anywhere. They can read at home, they can read here at school, and they can go at their own pace. They can go as far as they want and try lots of different subject areas that I might not have had in my own teacher library for them. In third grade, we study geography and the students love to enjoy a good geography book. One that has been a favorite is Me On The Map that children like to see where they are in the world. Another unit that we study is biographies. The students in third grade love reading biographies and learning from other people's lives and what they do.

We also have books on subject areas. Animals are always a favorite. Right now, we have two complete tubs full of animal books. The students right now are busy completing a biome research, and one of their research points are animals that live in a particular biome. So, these are hot books right now. We also enjoy traditional literature and so that the children have been enjoying some Cinderella stories from around the world. I also like to highlight some historical fiction that might go along with some of the history that we're reading about in our social studies. In a third-grade classroom we also have books that are categorized by an author, and a few ones that are real popular right now are the A to Z mysteries. We've got the Humphrey Series. These are some of the favorite authors, Beverly Cleary, we heard someone read this morning for our sports lovers. We also group books based on subject area. We've got award winners, those books that win, our Newberry, our Caldecott, there's so many wonderful books and the kids get a chance to pick those.

We also encourage students to take out books and borrow from my library. So, these books have been purchased by me and donated from families and friends along the way. And I encourage the children to fall in love with a book that they want to read in class and take home and enjoy. And so we have just a quick way for them to check it out. They check it out at the end of the day. They bring it back the next day and they cross off their name so that the book is available for others to enjoy. It's been used a lot this year. We have students picking out books. This is a very active area. Aditi, I noticed you grabbed the mystery bucket. Okay. What made you choose the mystery bucket

Student: In the beginning of the year I enjoyed Encyclopedia Brown, and that was a mystery. And on the sign it says, ask yourself some questions. Is there a series that I'd like to read? What are some topics that

interest me and topics that interest me are mysteries. So, I pulled out the mystery bucket to see which mysteries I would like.

Teacher Mary Catherine: Okay, so good luck making your decision. I'm sure you'll find out a good book. We also have magazines available for students. And here I see Anna Claire picking out one of our magazines from Click, what did you pick?

Student: I picked Home Sweet Home.

Teacher Mary Catherine: Is it about animals?

Student: Yeah, I think, yeah, click's about animals and like how they survive and how they like us, I think.

Teacher Mary Catherine: What do you like about reading magazines?

Student: That there's lots of little parts in it because you don't have to read the whole magazine to understand that you can just read a part of the magazine.

Teacher Mary Catherine: Okay. So not all the books in a third-grade classroom are in the library for the students. There's some that I keep behind my desk for those opportunities when I'm reading to the children. I have them grouped by life skills in the beginning of the year. We really work on building a community of learners together. We also study health as one of our units, and so many of my books that I'll share with the children are about personal fitness, healthy lifestyle, healthy friendships. I also like to read to the children texts that go along with our math unit. One of my personal favorites is The Greedy Triangle. So, when we're studying geometry and lines, we had to read the Greedy Triangle and talk about that in our math unit. Not to mention science and lots and lots of social studies. Reading is something that will open up doors for children for the rest of their lives. It's very exciting to see students enjoy reading and when they are able to pick more complex texts and share those texts with their friends in book groups with me, with each other, they get excited. And one of my most happy moments is when the students start to bring books and to share with me and with each other.

Narrator: Learn more at literacyessentials.org.