A Suggested Planning Process for Focused and Effective Guided Comprehension Lessons with Leveled Groups or Book Clubs

Assessment

Have I confirmed with recent and reliable assessments that this group makes sense and that all members are ready for and need this type of instruction?

Possible References
- Rigby Benchmark Kit
- Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Kit
- Conferring Data

Understanding Text Complexity
Read student texts, asking yourself, “what cognitive work am I doing to fully comprehend this text?”

Other References
- Fountas and Pinnell Continuum of Literacy Learning or Guiding Readers and Writers

Text Selection

Now that I have a clear sense of what texts at this level demand of readers and what I need to teach this particular group, what texts will best support my teaching?

Possible References
- Rigby books
- Fountas and Pinnell, Leveled Book List K-8
- Scholastic Readers
- Scholastic web site: search by level feature

Text Complexities; Curriculum for this group

What will readers encounter at their current independent level that is new, challenging, or more complex?

Teacher Knowledge of Students

What do I know about these students specifically regarding their ability to engage deeply with characters, follow stories, take in information, etc.?

Prioritized and Sequenced Curriculum for This Group

How might I map out a series of lessons of increasing importance or complexity to deepen the group’s ability to read at this level?