

CREATING CLASSROOM COMMUNITY THROUGH LITERATURE

Webinar 2

THE INTERACTIVE READ ALOUD AN APPROACH TO TEACHING EMPATHY THROUGH LITERATURE

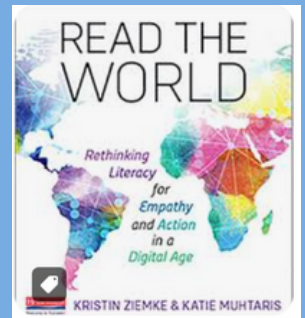


ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Once we diversify our libraries, how can we encourage students to interact with texts in a way that cultivates empathy for people different from themselves?

What is empathy?

The ability to understand and share the feeling of others.

Discussing empathy as a concept can feel distant to children--and even to adults, at times. Yet we've found that empathy can be grounded in day-to-day life when we consider it in conjunction with getting to know each other's stories. When we listen to others' stories with our whole selves--whether the stories are self-contained anecdotes or the unfolding of narratives of their lives and cultures--we are opening ourselves up to empathy. When we help our students stand in the shoes of those whose stories they hear, we are encouraging compassion.



**Kristin Ziemke &
Katie Muhtaris**
Read the World (2016)

Are you looking for more resources to plan an interactive read-aloud in your classroom? Click below:

[Lesson plan template](#)
[Lesson plan example](#)

The Interactive Read Aloud Model

Sacred time when teacher pulls students together to share a text

Teacher models thinking aloud a reading strategy and then students practice

Book Introduction
(Author, genre, summary, skill explanation)



Teacher Think Aloud #1
(Teacher models the strategy)

Student Practice # 1
(Student practices using turn-and-talk or stop-and-jot)



Teacher Think Aloud #2
Student Practice # 2



Discussion Questions
(Teacher facilitates discussion about book related to strategy)

15-20 minutes max

Read-alouds can be utilized during "awkward" schedule times such as before dismissal or after lunch.



Think Aloud Prompts to Encourage Empathy

- If you were in the character's shoes, what would you be **thinking** right now?
- If you were in the character's shoes, what would you be **wishing** for right now?
- If you were in the character's shoes, what would you be **worried** about right now?
- If you were in the character's shoes, what would you **say or do** right now?