

## 4 Sharing

Sharing in a Readers' Workshop involves

- talking about a book you are reading
- telling others about a reaction to a book
- telling others about an "Aha!" while reading
- sharing an obstacle or difficulty while reading and discussing how it was resolved
- expressing opinions in a respectful way
- reflecting on new learnings

### Is your child's book just right?

A "just right" book is a book that matches your child's reading ability. One way for your child to recognize a just right book is to apply the "five finger rule." This means that if your child has difficulty with five or more words on a page, then the book is too difficult to be read independently. In this situation, sharing the reading or reading the book aloud to your child would be more appropriate to help build your child's reading skills.

For your child to gain the most out of independent reading, practice is important to make sure that he or she is reading something that is not too easy and not too hard.

### How to help your child

- Encourage your child to talk about books he or she has enjoyed or disliked.
- Discuss favourite authors together.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit reading area.
- Make time to read with your child.
- Set aside a regular time every day for your child's reading.
- Show your child that you are reading for a variety of purposes.
- Show your child how he or she can read for different purposes.
- Make sure your child is exposed to a wide range of reading material.



This pamphlet is part of a series to inform parents about the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program for students in grades 3-6.

For more information, contact your child's teacher.

# Let's talk about ...



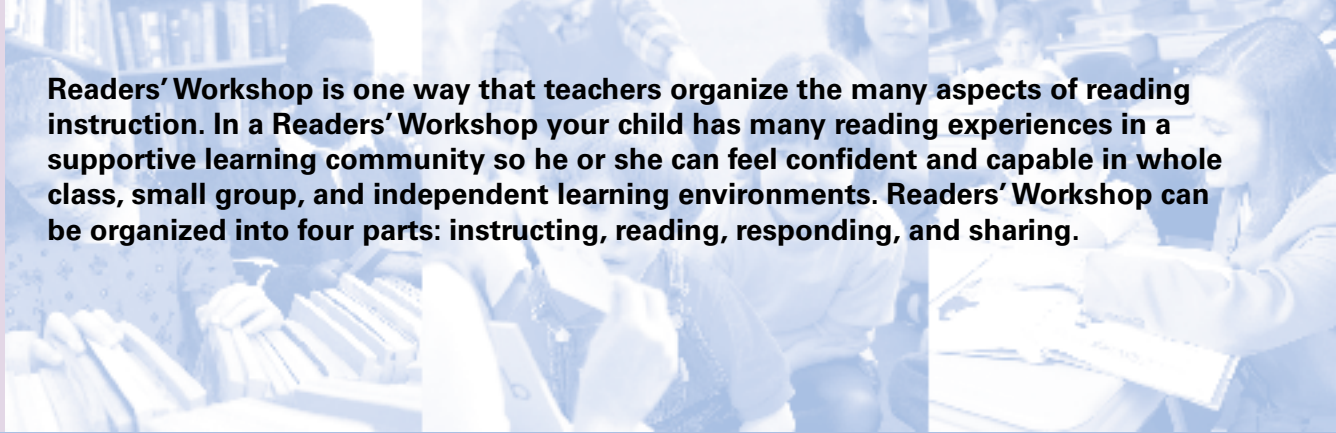
## Readers' Workshop Grades 3-6



The Atlantic Canada English language arts curriculum is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to become reflective, articulate, literate individuals who use language successfully for learning and communicating in personal and public contexts.

Let's talk about ...

# Readers' Workshop Grades 3–6



**Readers' Workshop is one way that teachers organize the many aspects of reading instruction. In a Readers' Workshop your child has many reading experiences in a supportive learning community so he or she can feel confident and capable in whole class, small group, and independent learning environments. Readers' Workshop can be organized into four parts: instructing, reading, responding, and sharing.**

## 1 Instructing

Instructing in a Readers' Workshop involves

- clearly teaching procedures, skills, and strategies
- demonstrating and modelling reading concepts
- regularly scheduled mini-lessons

### Mini-lessons include activities such as

- choosing suitable books
- showing ways of figuring out unfamiliar words
- showing story structure of beginning, middle, and end
- demonstrating how to talk about books

## 2 Reading

In a Readers' Workshop books may be read

- by the teacher (read-aloud)
- with the teacher (shared reading)
- with a partner (buddy reading)
- in small groups (literature circles and teacher-guided reading)
- by individual students (independent reading)

## 3 Responding

Responding in a Readers' Workshop involves

- talking about books
- listening to others' ideas
- giving personal or critical opinions
- writing thoughts and ideas about books read
- role playing
- singing, moving, and playing instruments to represent ideas in a book
- drawing or painting ideas

### Examples of discussion topics:

- describing something recently learned
- identifying the problem and its solution
- identifying character, setting, and plot
- "selling" a favourite book by explaining why others should read it
- talking about a favourite part of the story

let's talk about ...