

Janet Allen

Tools *for* Teaching Content Literacy



Reading and writing across content areas is emphasized in the standards and on high-stakes tests at the state and national level. As educators seek to incorporate content-area literacy into their teaching, they confront a maze of theories, instructional strategies, and acronyms like REAP, TAG, and RAFT. Teachers who do work their way through the myriad content reading and writing strategies are discovering not all activities are appropriate for content instruction: only those with a strong research base meet the high standards expected in classrooms today.

Janet Allen has developed the ideal support for teachers who want to improve their reading instruction across the curriculum. *Tools for Teaching Content Literacy* is a compact tabbed flipchart designed as a ready reference for content reading and writing instruction. Each of the thirty-three strategies includes:

- a brief description and purpose for each strategy;
- a research base that documents the origin and effectiveness of the strategy;
- graphic organizers to support the lesson;
- classroom vignettes from different grade levels and content areas to illustrate the strategy in use.

The perfect size to slip into a plan book, *Tools* highlights effective instructional strategies and innovative ideas to help you design lessons that meet your students' academic needs as well as content standards. The definitions, descriptions, and research sources also provide a quick reference when implementing state and national standards, designing assessments, writing grants, or evaluating resources for literacy instruction.



Janet Allen is an international consultant recognized for her comprehensive work in reading education. After teaching reading and English for nearly twenty years in Maine, Janet relocated to the University of Central Florida where she taught reading, writing and English education courses; directed the Central Florida Writing Project; and, assisted in the creation of the Orange County Literacy Project. She is now a full-time researcher, writer, and consultant in schools and districts involved in rethinking their approaches to literacy and learning.

Janet's Stenhouse books are *On the Same Page: Shared Reading Beyond the Primary Grades* (2002), *Yellow Brick Roads: Shared and Guided Paths to Independent Reading 4-12* (2000), *Words, Words, Words: Teaching Vocabulary in Grades 4-12* (1999), and *There's Room for Me Here: Literacy Workshop in the Middle School* with Kyle Gonzalez (1998). Stenhouse also published *Reimagining Reading* (2001), recordings of Janet's keynote addresses from her *It's Never Too Late* Literacy Institutes. Janet is also the author of *It's Never Too Late: Leading Adolescents to Lifelong Literacy* and editor of *Using Literature to Help Troubled Teenagers Cope with End-of-Life Issues*.



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Introduction

ASSESS AND BUILD CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

- **K-W-L, K-W-L Plus, B-K-W-L-Q**
- **Skimming and Scanning** (Comprehension)
List-Group-Label
- **Book Pass**
- **Text Structures and Supports**
- **Developing Questions for Reading: Concept Ladder**
- **Word Study: Developing Content Vocabulary**
- **Book in a Day**
Word Study: How to Learn Content Vocabulary Through Context
Admit Slip: Establishing a Purpose for Reading
Anticipating Content: Here and Now, Predict-O-Gram, Story Impressions
Anticipation Guide

SUPPORT AND MONITOR COMPREHENSION

- **Reciprocal Teaching** (Comprehension)
- **DR-TA (Directed Reading-Thinking Activity)**
- **REAP (Read, Encode, Annotate, Ponder)** (Main Idea, Summarizing)
Learning Logs
- **Compare/Contrast: Discovering Patterns**
Questions Game (Comprehension/Discussion)
TAG (Textbook Activity Guide)
ReQuest
- **Cornell Note-Taking**
- **QAR (Question-Answer Relationship)**
Academic Notebooks: Writing to Learn

EVALUATE, EXTEND, AND TRANSFER CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

- **RAFT Writing (Role, Audience, Format, Topic)**
- **Text Highlighting**
SPAWN (Special Powers, Problem Solving, Alternative Viewpoints, What If, Next) (Comprehension/Writing)
- **Test-Taking Strategies**
PORPE (Predict, Organize, Rehearse, Practice, Evaluate)
(Comprehension/Writing Essays)
- **Inquiry and Research: I-Charts**
- **GIST (Generating Interactions Between Schemata and Texts)**
(Comprehension)
- **Homework**
- **Exclusion Brainstorming**
Exit Slips

APPENDIX

- indicates that a blank form is included in the appendix

