

An Overview of Readers' and Writers' Workshop  
Created by Joan Wink, October 12, 2015

**Readers' and Writers' Workshops** each follow a similar structure. The format or structure can vary, but in what follows is a generic overview of the parts of the workshop which most teachers use.

**WHY:** to meet the diverse needs of students; to increase the literacy rate of all. Reading can be mysterious to emergent readers and can be elusive for those who are dominant in other languages.

**A Format follows:**

**FIRST:** The shared experience: a book, a photo/picture, a story, a dialogue from class, a lived-experience of the group. The teacher often asks questions of the students, and they dictate a story, which the teacher writes on a board, a chart paper, transparency. Teacher reads the story back to the students; they edit the story together. Teacher and students can re-read together with choral reading or echo reading. Students re-write the story (and add to it) to author their own book.

**SECOND:** Mini lesson. The teacher teaches a specific concept, whether it be a grammatical point or a comprehension strategy. 10 minutes

**THIRD:** Independent Reading. 20 minutes. During this independent reading time, the teacher is conferencing individually with students or maybe with a small group. The conference often is connected to the mini-lesson, but it can also relate specifically to a need of each particular student. Sometimes teachers will have a mid-point extension or re-focusing of the mini lesson. Students then return to independent reading for 10 or even 20 more minutes.

**FOURTH:** Partner Share. Independent reading is followed by partner share where by students talk together about their reading. Partner share can also evolve into book clubs in which small groups of students choose to read and discuss the same book.

**FIFTH:** Celebration of Literacy, a culmination of the literacy event. Often students author their own books, write plays, create dioramas, create other works-of-art based on the reading.

**More Resources on Readers' Workshop**

Rick's reading workshop: An Overview  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYdbX-kpYE0>  
5 minutes

**Nancie Atwell**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SRjib7V4rU>

A sample: Reading workshop on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rYSfkq05Ew>

A sample from Middle school

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHnwLXdte4M>

Modifications of her reading workshop

[http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1086&context=utk\\_gradthes](http://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1086&context=utk_gradthes)

Many of the districts, represented in our class this semester, follow the Calkins model.

**Lucy Calkins** Reading and Writing (1 of 7) Project Workshop

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLXsRdv\\_cXc&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLXsRdv_cXc&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3)

Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSQBqoabPhQ&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3&index=2>

Part 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvADFDvA4eE&index=3&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3>

Part 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RttWJyyAu8A&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3&index=4>

Part 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mR5QI-8mG-Y&index=5&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3>

Part 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq9gysiLX5g&index=6&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3>

Part 7

Book Club

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqCgEX5Wlr8&index=7&list=PLxGGAQHHCKW6gcPxc6iQfMdkNxxKZvEn3>

Structures of reading Workshops by Lucy Calkins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgN2WUMW6zM>

Keep it simple and predictable and why readers workshop. 5 to 6 minutes

A Look at The Readers Workshop: Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO4aNmOQWsY>

**Cris Tovani:** Talk To Me (conferencing with a “C” student)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXZT7WpMXQM>

4 minutes plus

**More Resources:**

**Maestra Teacher – Alicia’s blog**

<http://www.maestrateacher.com/>  
Scrool down to:  
Dat workshop model, 9.20.15

### **Joan Wink**

A list of resources can be found at *WinkWorld*, March 2012

<http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2012/news0312.pdf>

Garrett (my grandson) explains Writers' Workshop: Zoom in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INhbW2Ymk3I>

Same of a mini-lesson from Janet Towell

[http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2012/Read-Aloud\\_Towell-0312.pdf](http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2012/Read-Aloud_Towell-0312.pdf)

Lakota Language, TESOL 2013

<http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/TESOL2013-Lakota-Workshop.pdf>

Salem Witch Trails from Kerry Britton

<http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2013/Britton-0513.pdf>

Janet Towell shares her experiences with Reading/Writing Workshop at  
Teachers' College of Columbia University

[http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2011/Towell\\_Reading\\_Writing\\_Workshop-0811.pdf](http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2011/Towell_Reading_Writing_Workshop-0811.pdf)

Mary Borba's Approach

[http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2012/Essentials\\_Borba-0312.pdf](http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2012/Essentials_Borba-0312.pdf)