

WSRA Position Statement

Reading Design for Middle Level Schools

Characteristics of a Middle Level Reading Program:

The ultimate goal of reading instruction is to develop independent readers. Reading is a tool that spans disciplines, is integrated into all content areas, and addresses diversity. A reading program is not a reading class; it is a school's total commitment to literacy. Therefore, we believe that the essential characteristics of a middle level reading program include:

- Experiential student-centered activities which accommodate the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs of the young adolescent;
- Initiatives which foster positive attitudes toward reading and learning;
- Attention to cognitive development through higher order thinking processes;
- Integration of the reading and writing processes;
- Utilization of interdisciplinary approaches in all curricula;
- Explicit instruction in reading strategies applied to literature;
- Explicit instruction in reading strategies applied to content materials;
- Instruction in the use of research skills to access information from a variety of sources;
- Instruction in a variety of study strategies;
- Opportunities for self-selection of materials across curricular areas;
- Recreational reading initiatives;
- Opportunities to respond to reading through a variety of modes;
- Utilization of heterogeneous grouping patterns;
- Assessment of learning which matches instruction.

