



# Systems for Sticky Learning

*toward deeper engagement and  
reading comprehension*

Presented by Sarah Goodis-Orenstein  
Director of Instruction, Homestead School  
RISE Conference, November 2024

# Welcome! What brings you here?

## Session Goals

Session participants will be able to...

1. Problematize the notion of all teachers as literacy teachers
2. Define active learning and engagement
3. Bridge a science of reading frame with a culturally responsive teaching frame
4. Identify key school leadership practices to enhance students' opportunities for depth of knowledge and comprehension skills
5. Reflect and brainstorm on next steps for your school

# About me

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- Mom to 2 fabulous children, ages 5 and 9
- Currently Director of Instruction at an independent Montessori school in Glen Spey, NY
- Former Network Head of Literacy Instruction at a public charter network in Brooklyn, NY
- Certified Literacy Specialist / Interventionist



# Table of Contents

01

Lines of Inquiry

02

Pedagogical Frameworks

03

Process + Resources

04

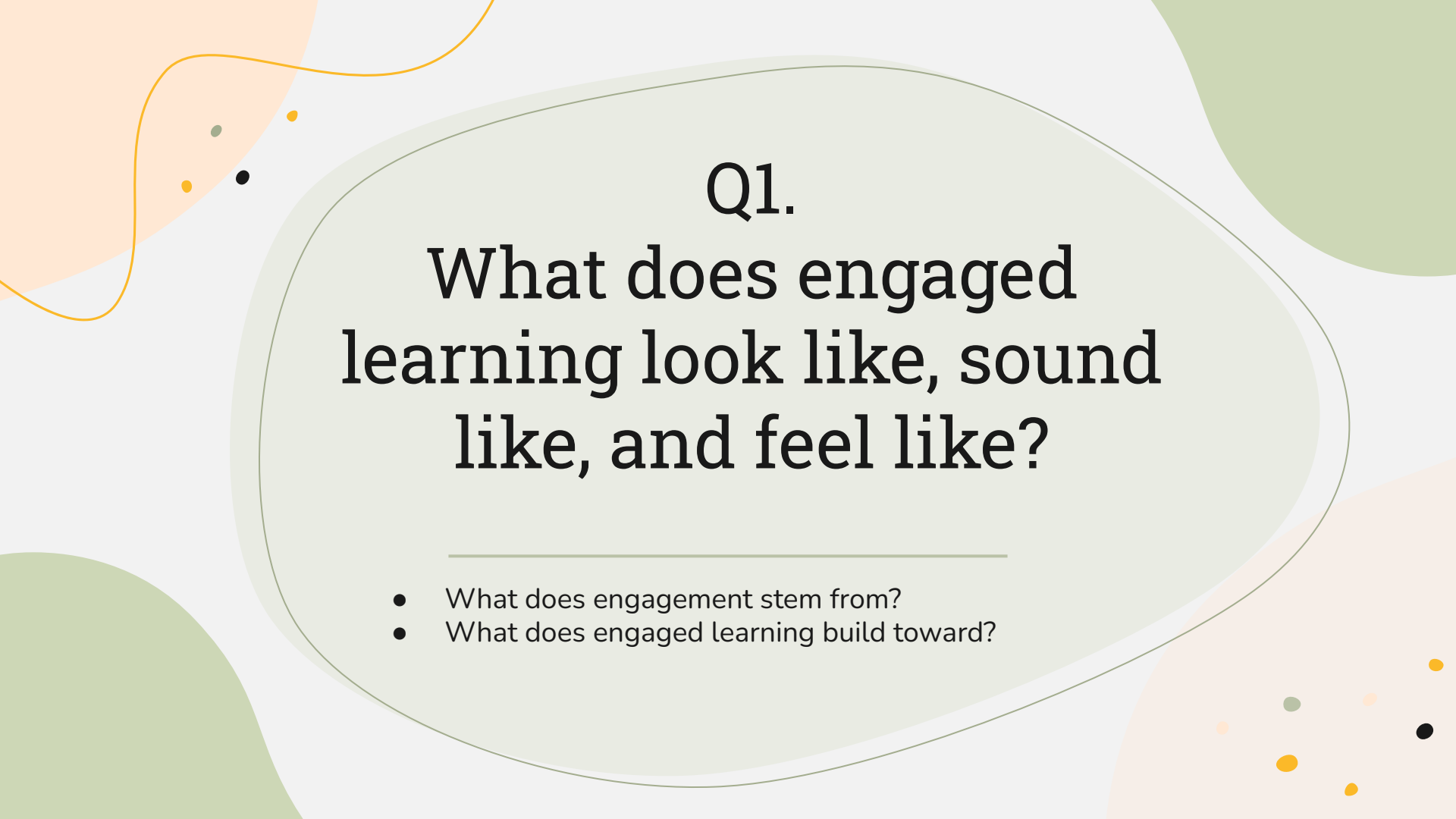
Rubber to Road



01

# Lines of Inquiry

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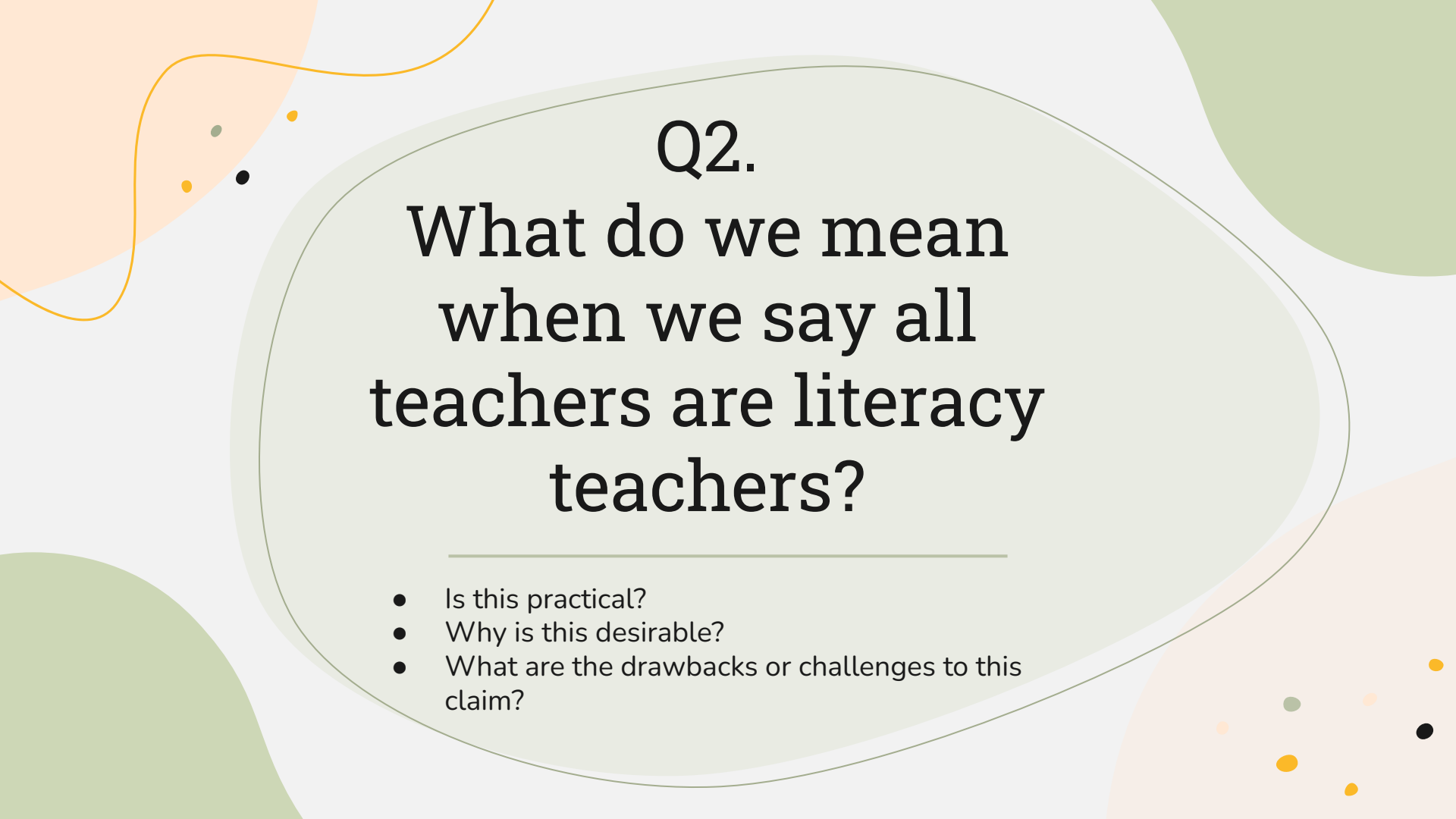


Q1.

# What does engaged learning look like, sound like, and feel like?

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- What does engagement stem from?
- What does engaged learning build toward?



## Q2.

# What do we mean when we say all teachers are literacy teachers?

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- Is this practical?
- Why is this desirable?
- What are the drawbacks or challenges to this claim?



02

## Pedagogical Frameworks

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## LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

Background Knowledge

Vocabulary

Language Structures

Verbal Reasoning

Literacy Knowledge

## WORD RECOGNITION

Phonological Awareness

Decoding

Sight Recognition

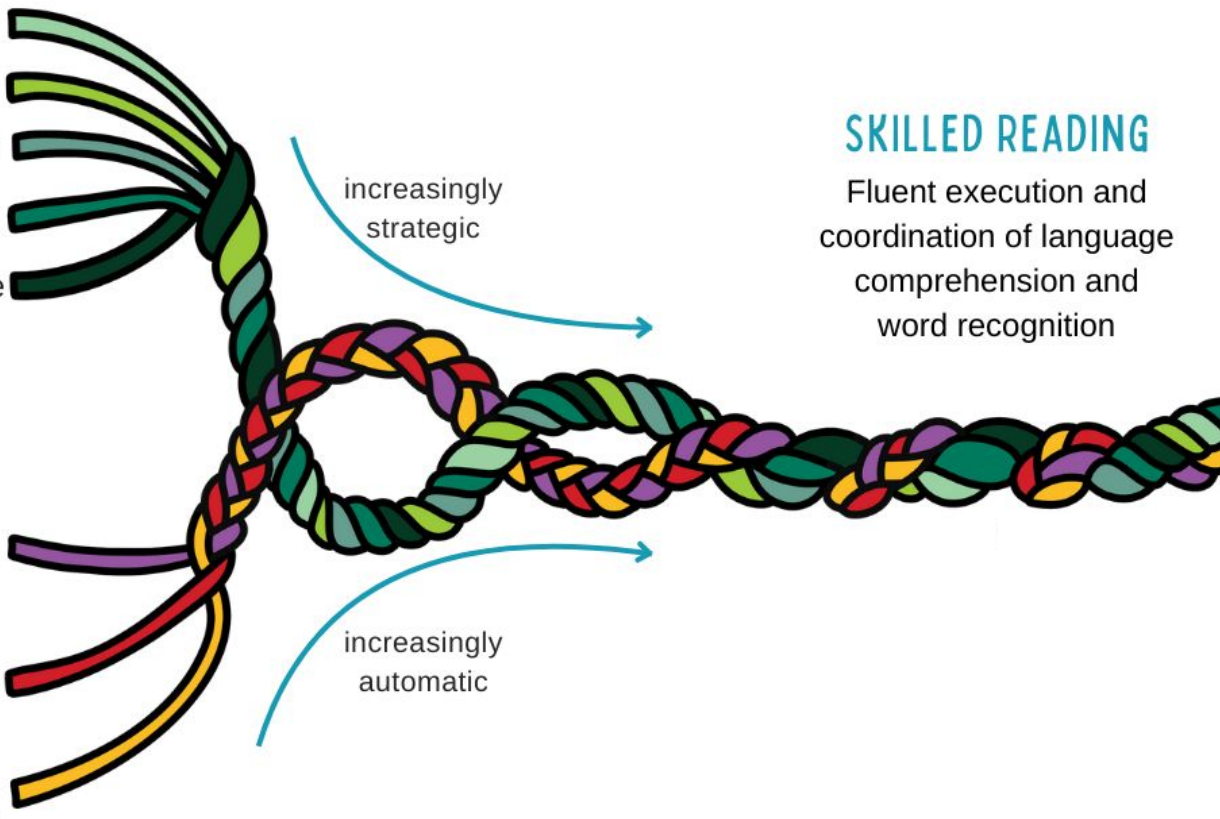
# SCARBOROUGH'S READING ROPE

## SKILLED READING

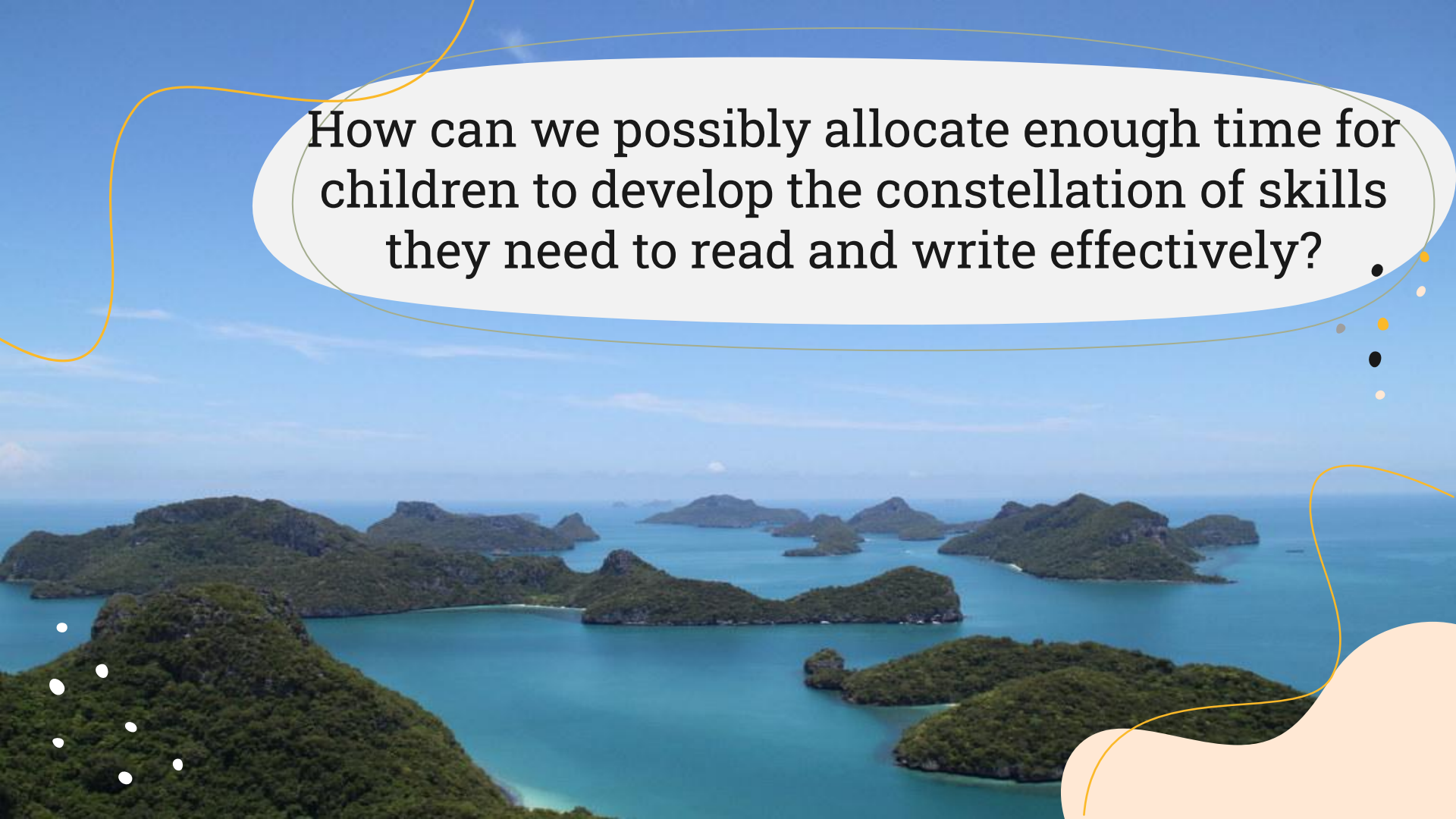
Fluent execution and coordination of language comprehension and word recognition

increasingly  
strategic

increasingly  
automatic



How can we possibly allocate enough time for children to develop the constellation of skills they need to read and write effectively?





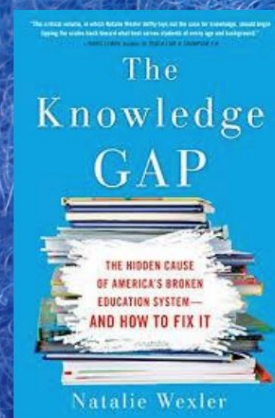


Integrated  
Curriculum

Systems  
Thinking



# Knowledge as Velcro



*Cognitive scientists have known for decades, the most important factor in reading comprehension is not generally applicable skills like finding the main idea — it's how much knowledge and vocabulary the reader has.*

*--Natalie Wexler, author of *The Knowledge Gap**

T&T: What's the through line between active engagement and knowledge-rich literacy instruction?

Joyette Jackson

# Culturally Responsive Teaching & THE BRAIN

Promoting Authentic Engagement and Learning  
Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students

Zorrell

**Figure 1.1**

Many culturally and linguistically diverse students are “dependent learners” who don’t get adequate support to facilitate their cognitive growth. Consequently, they are not able to activate their own neuroplasticity.

The Dependent Learner	The Independent Learner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is dependent on the teacher to carry most of the cognitive load of a task always</li><li>• Is unsure of how to tackle a new task</li><li>• Cannot complete a task without scaffolds</li><li>• Will sit passively and wait if stuck until teacher intervenes</li><li>• Doesn't retain information well or “doesn't get it”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relies on the teacher to carry some of the cognitive load temporarily</li><li>• Utilizes strategies and processes for tackling a new task</li><li>• Regularly attempts new tasks without scaffolds</li><li>• Has cognitive strategies for getting unstuck</li><li>• Has learned how to retrieve information from long-term memory</li></ul>

Dependent Learner Characteristics vs. Independent Learner

*All excerpts and charts are from chapter 1.*

03

## Process + Resources

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## Sunset Yards Elementary School Curriculum Map

[SYES Teaching & Learning Guiding Principles](#)

\*[Key Dates for 2022-2023](#)\*

\*[Lesson Counts by Grade + Subject](#)\*

### Essential Teacher Moves:

	Collaborative planning <sup>1</sup> leverages the full grade team's expertise, flexibly maximizes student learning <a href="#">time</a> , and results in deep, interdisciplinary learning.
	Pacing calendars account for buffer days, sufficient project work time, and with cognizance of each term's progress monitoring practices.
	Students' development of <a href="#">priority standard skills</a> is tracked in an ongoing way on everyday formative tasks and summative assessments.
	Curricular resources are intentionally adapted to meet all learners' needs ( <a href="#">accommodations</a> , modifications, UDL access).
	Lesson plans are linked to the respective module/unit planner, ensuring access default is comment-able to all Prospect Schools, AND within the <a href="#">WLP template</a> .

### Shortcuts by Grade

<a href="#">K</a>	<a href="#">1st</a>	<a href="#">2nd</a>
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### Relevant Instructional Resources

<a href="#">Network Elementary Literacy Program Guide</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">EL Module Unpacking Template</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">EL Lesson IPP Template</a> (p. 1)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Phonics Observation Tool</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Guided Reading Planning Checklist</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Priority Standards At-a-Glance Overviews</a>	<a href="#">The Writing Revolution "paper templates"</a>
<a href="#">Math Instructional Routines Bank</a>	<a href="#">SFUSD Math One-Pager</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">SFUSD Math Unit Unpacking Template</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Number Talks Resources</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">5 Practices Checklist</a></li> </ul>	Network Teaching & Learning Folders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Literacy</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Math</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Multilingual Learners</a></li> </ul> ** <a href="#">Network Curricular Change &amp; Adoption Protocol</a> **

<sup>1</sup> See Practice 2 of the [Instruction Partners Collaborative Planning rubric](#).

Curriculum Map Cover Page  
= one-stop shop



## 1st Grade

Subject	Term 1	Term 2
Social-Emotional Learning		
<b>STEP</b> Bottom Lines	<b>Independent STEP 4</b> Self-reliance: What can I do to help myself?	<b>Independent STEP 5</b> Endurance and interpretation
Phonics (CKLA Skills)	<b>Unit 1:</b> K in Review + Decodable Reader <b>Unit 2:</b> Five Vowel Sounds + Spellings <b>Unit 3:</b> Five More Vowel Sounds + Spellings	<b>Unit 4:</b> /r/ Controlled Vowel Sounds + S <b>Unit 5:</b> Alternative Spellings (Advance <b>Unit 6:</b> Common Spelling Alternatives Consonant Sounds
Reading Comprehension (EL)	<b>Module 1: Tools &amp; Work</b> Unit 1: Getting to Know the Tools Around Us Unit 2: Habits of Character	<b>Module 2: The Sun, Moon, and Stars</b> Unit 1: Stories of the Sun, Moon, and S Unit 2: Patterns of the Sun, Moon, and Unit 3: Narrative Poems about the Sun

Art	<b>Module 1: Building With Shapes</b> Unit 1: Geometric and Organic Shapes (Focus on Joan Miro)	<b>Module 2: The World Around Us</b> Unit 1: People: Focus on Colors of Us by Karen Katz	<b>Module 3: Animals in Art</b> Unit 1: Pottery with Animal Characteristics: Focus on Mesoamerican pottery
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	Unit 2: Collage: Focus on Howardena Pindell and Matisse (Connection to Math: Attributes of 2-Dimensional Shapes - students identify attributes that define a shape (# of sides, vertices, etc.) Unit 3: Our Community: Focus on Jacob Lawrence (Connection to Reading Comprehension: Tools, focus on depictions of tools and work in Lawrence's Paintings)	Unit 2: Landscapes and Cityscapes (focus on Richard Mayhew's "mindscape" and printmaking elements incorporated into the cityscapes of Romare Bearden) Unit 3: The Solar System: Focus on Vincent van Gogh and Vija Celmins (Connection to Reading Comprehension)	Unit 2: Animals in their Habitats: Focus on the Audubon Mural Project (Connection to Reading Comprehension, focus on Audubon Society and art as a means of advocacy for endangered and climate threatened birds.) Unit 3: Self-Portrait Collages: Focus on Frida Kahlo
Physical Education	<b>Module 1: Fitness Foundations</b> Unit 1: Exploring Movement with Supports Unit 2: Locomotor Movements Unit 3: Moving Without Moving (focus on non-locomotor movements and yoga)	<b>Module 2: Teamwork</b> Unit 1: Building Strength Unit 2: Cardio Fitness Unit 3: Cooperative Games	<b>Module 3: Making Connections</b> Unit 1: Animal Movements Unit 2: Mindfulness and Balance Unit 3: Exercising as a Community
Music	<b>Module 1: Rhythm, Theory &amp; Vocal Tunes</b> Unit 1: Movement & Introduction to Rhythm	<b>Module 2: Composition &amp; Percussion</b> Unit 1: Instruments	<b>Module 3: Performance &amp; Review</b>

1. What is the potential of a tool like this to facilitate curricular integration? Deeper learning? Literacy development?
2. Is literacy / ELA in one spot, or is it intermingled?



# Knowledge-Rich Curriculum

## ELA programs that excel in building knowledge

In our estimation, 10 English language arts curricula currently meet the criteria for knowledge-building detailed here.

While these curricula share common virtues and are all solidly grounded in what matters most for literacy, each has a unique and compelling identity. They present students with substantive, rich content and lack “fluff.” They support access for all students. They motivate and engage students through their content and design. They help all students achieve at high levels. As teachers get ever better at their craft by using them.

Learn what characterizes each curriculum – and gives all of these materials an advantage – over programs that are organized around strategies and skills.

AMPLIFY ELA (6-8)

ARC CORE (K-5)

BOOKWORMS (K-5)

CORE KNOWLEDGE LANGUAGE ARTS (6-8)

CORE KNOWLEDGE/AMPLIFY (K-5)

EL EDUCATION (K-8)

FISHTANK ELA (K-8)

LOUISIANA GUIDEBOOKS (3-8)

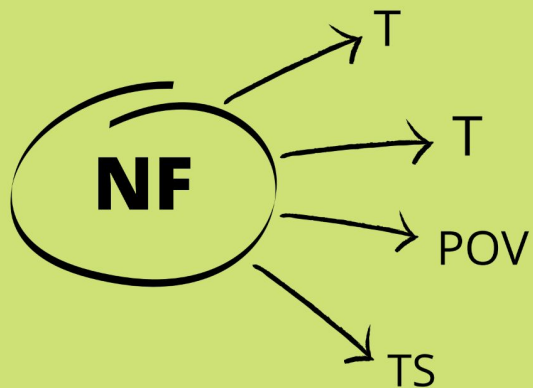
READING RECONSIDERED (5-8)

WIT & WISDOM (K-8)



T&T: Are we centering knowledge or skills?

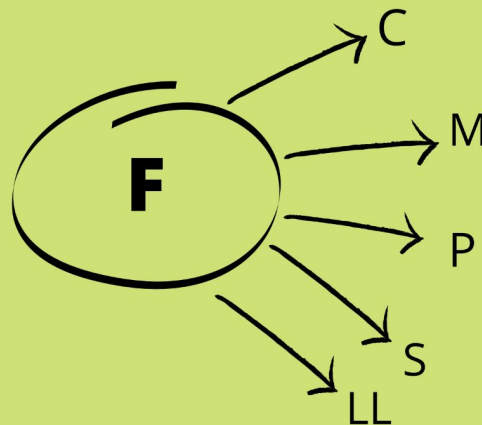
# Genre-Based Thinking Jobs



## Nonfiction Thinking Jobs

Whenever we encounter a new informational (nonfiction) text, we ask ourselves and annotate for:

- What is the author TEACHING me about this TOPIC?
- What is the author's POINT OF VIEW (perspective) about this topic?
- How did the author use TEXT STRUCTURE to teach about this topic?

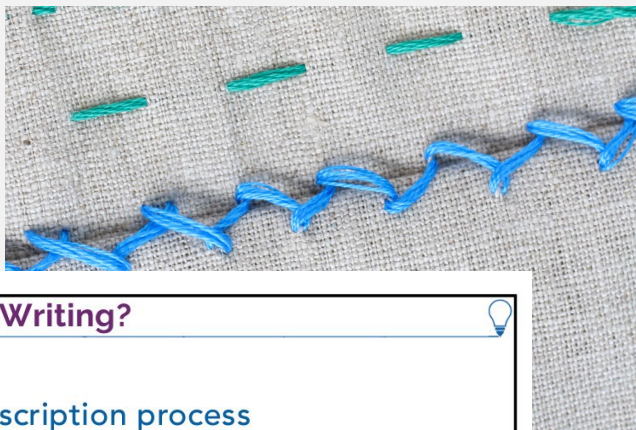
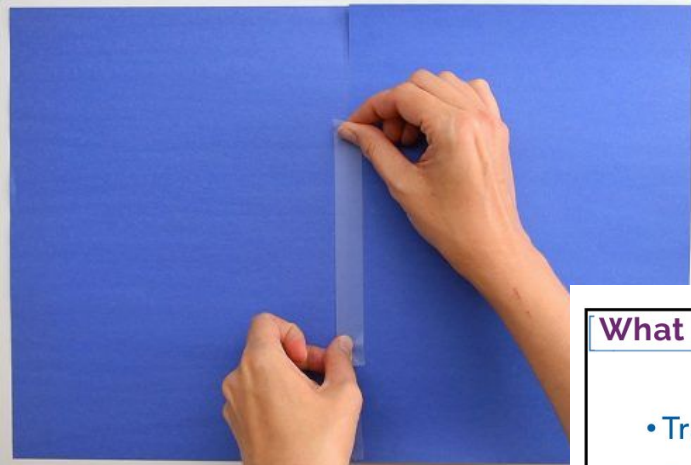


## Fiction Thinking Jobs

Whenever we encounter a new fiction text, we ask ourselves and annotate for:

- Who is the CHARACTER?
- What is their MOTIVATION?
- What is the PROBLEM?
- What is the SOLUTION?
- What is the LESSON LEARNED?

# What is the best analogy for writing?



## What is Writing?

- Transcription process
- Form of writing
- Demonstration of knowledge
- Learning tool

### **The Writing Revolution Skills**

*\*TWR activities are practiced orally in Kindergarten.*

1. Expand kernel sentences (when, where, why; then add who and what)
2. Expand complete sentence stems with basic conjunctions (because & but)
3. Identify and punctuate sentence types (statements & questions)
4. Produce statements and questions
5. Identify and convert fragments
6. Complete sentence stems beginning with after and before
7. Complete sentence stems beginning with if and when
8. Revise sentences to vary vocabulary

*Reinforce previously taught skills through recursive practice!*

# Common Criteria for Success or Rubrics

## 5th Grade Informational Writing Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Approaches expectations	Does not yet meet expectations
Focus	<input type="checkbox"/> I wrote a clear topic sentence that shows my excellent understanding of the prompt and the topic.	<input type="checkbox"/> I wrote a clear topic sentence that shows I understand the prompt.	<input type="checkbox"/> I wrote an unclear topic sentence for the prompt.	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not start my paragraph with a topic sentence, or it is off-topic.
Content <i>Development</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I included more than two strong, specific details that connect to and explain my topic.	<input type="checkbox"/> I included two specific details that connect to and explain my topic.	<input type="checkbox"/> I included one specific detail for two general	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not include any specific
Explanation <i>Development</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I deeply explained how all of my details support my topic sentence. <input type="checkbox"/> I gave some helpful background information about the details.	<input type="checkbox"/> I mostly explained how my details support my topic sentence.		
Voice & Style	<input type="checkbox"/> I used varied, logical, and accurate vocabulary. <input type="checkbox"/> I wrote several sentences of different lengths and styles (simple, compound, and complex). <input type="checkbox"/> I kept my opinion out of the piece.	<input type="checkbox"/> I used logical, accurate vocabulary. <input type="checkbox"/> I wrote sentences of different lengths (mostly simple and compound). <input type="checkbox"/> I mostly kept my opinion out of the piece.		
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> I skillfully used a range of transitions to link my sentences to each other and to the topic sentence.	<input type="checkbox"/> I used logical transitions to link my sentences to each other and to the topic sentence.		
Mechanics	<input type="checkbox"/> I always used accurate capital letters, end marks, quotation marks, apostrophes, and commas. <input type="checkbox"/> I spelled all keywords from the text and prompt correctly and had very few other spelling errors. <input type="checkbox"/> All of my sentences are complete. <input type="checkbox"/> My verbs agree in tense.	<input type="checkbox"/> I mostly used accurate capital letters, end marks, quotation marks, apostrophes, and commas. <input type="checkbox"/> I spelled most keywords from the text and prompt correctly and had very few other spelling errors. <input type="checkbox"/> Most of my sentences are complete. <input type="checkbox"/> Most of my verbs agree in tense.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some of my verbs agree in tense.	

## Academic Response Criteria for Success

- ☐ Address all parts of the prompt; stay on-topic
- ☐ Be logically organized with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence
- ☐ Use at least two pieces of evidence (quote; explain)
- ☐ Use content-specific vocabulary and precise word choices
- ☐ Use accurate capitalization and punctuation
- ☐ Apply spelling rules and strategies



# Exit Skills / Benchmarks / Priority Standards



## FIRST GRADE LITERACY PRIORITY STANDARDS

### LITERACY EXIT SKILLS <Vertical Alignment>

Bookmark  

TERM 1	TERM 2		Early Childhood - K	Lower EL - 3rd	Upper EL - 6th
<b>Reading: Foundational</b>					
<b>1RF2a/b/c:</b> Count, blend and segment single syllable words that include consonant blends. / Create new words by manipulating individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken one-syllable words. / Manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in single -syllable spoken words.  <b>1RF3c/d:</b> Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.	<b>1RF3b:</b> Decode long vowels in regularly spelled one-syllable words (e.g., final -e convention vowel teams). <b>1RF3f:</b> Distinguish between singular and plural nouns in present, future simple tense.	Reading <sup>2</sup> [LE + UE]  [On EC reports, Language = Reading + Writing]	<input type="checkbox"/> Can ask and answer questions about key details of a story <input type="checkbox"/> Retell familiar stories (oral and written) with support <input type="checkbox"/> Identify characters, settings, and major events in a story <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the relationship between text and illustrations <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates concepts of print (how to hold a book, directionality, 1:1 correspondence) <input type="checkbox"/> C-D / BR40-160L = proficient (green) across most EOY DIBELS components  <b>FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Phonemic sound recognition <input type="checkbox"/> Knows letter names and	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify main idea / supporting details <input type="checkbox"/> Identify basic story structures (main characters, setting, plot) <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to select texts for independent reading <input type="checkbox"/> Fluently reads (silently and orally) and understands grade-level text <input type="checkbox"/> T / 790-940L = proficient (green) across most EOY DIBELS components	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluently reads (silently and orally) and understands grade-level text <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate literal and inferential comprehension of grade-level text <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the elements of a story and find examples within a text <input type="checkbox"/> Synthesize a text, paraphrase and communicate it verbally with others <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and interpret how nonfiction text features help to create meaning in texts <input type="checkbox"/> Explain an author's purpose and basic craft moves or text structure decisions in writing a text
<b>1RF3g:</b> Read 80% of taught tricky words. <b>1RF4:</b> Read grade-level texts with sufficient accuracy and fluency					
<b>Reading: Literary &amp; Critical Thinking</b>					
<b>1R4:</b> Identify specific words that express feelings and senses. (RI&RL)	<b>1R2:</b> Identify a main topic or idea in a text and <u>retell</u> details. (RI&RL) <b>1R3:</b> Describe characters and major events in a story using information in a text. (RI&RL)				
<b>Writing</b>					

04

# Rubber to Road



# So, how?



## Team

Leadership Question:  
*Are people's doors (and  
minds) open or closed?*



## Time

Leadership Question:  
*Have we structured sacred  
time for collaboration?*



## Tools

Leadership Question:  
*What common learning  
structures and strategies do  
we have?*



# Moving Toward Systems Thinking

Looks like...

	Tuesday Meeting Cycle						
	<a href="#">Folder of Team Meeting Logs</a>						
Team	Tuesday Dates	A / B Week	Meeting Type	Key Tasks	EC Notes	LE Notes	UE Notes
	<a href="#">Summer In-Service Packet</a>						
	9/3		▼	N/A - classroom teams huddle			
	9/10	A	Building ▼	<a href="#">B2SN</a> ; in-service reflections; number sense screeners prep; UE overnight in September	phon awareness curr (EC)	Rainbow Tower bridge works	VCR workbooks
Time	9/17	B	Building ▼	launch conference prep; SignUp Genius form tweaks; photo day schedule			
	9/20	Inservice	All Staff ▼				
Tools	9/24	A	Building ▼	discuss number sense screener trends + October conferences overview --> class team prep time about student observations to share		Cosmic ed lessons (leads with Nisha)	

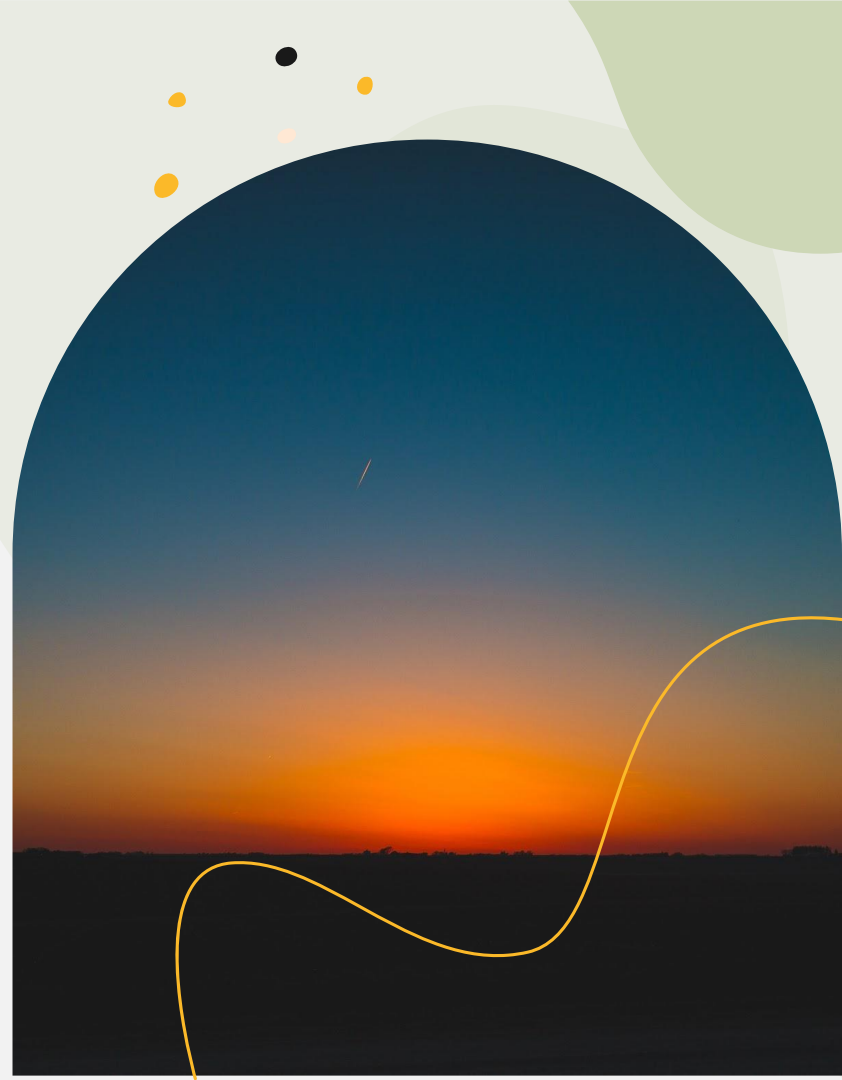


# Your Turn!

Choose a tool your team could use sooner rather than later, whether a transdisciplinary literacy strategy or a curricular planning tool.

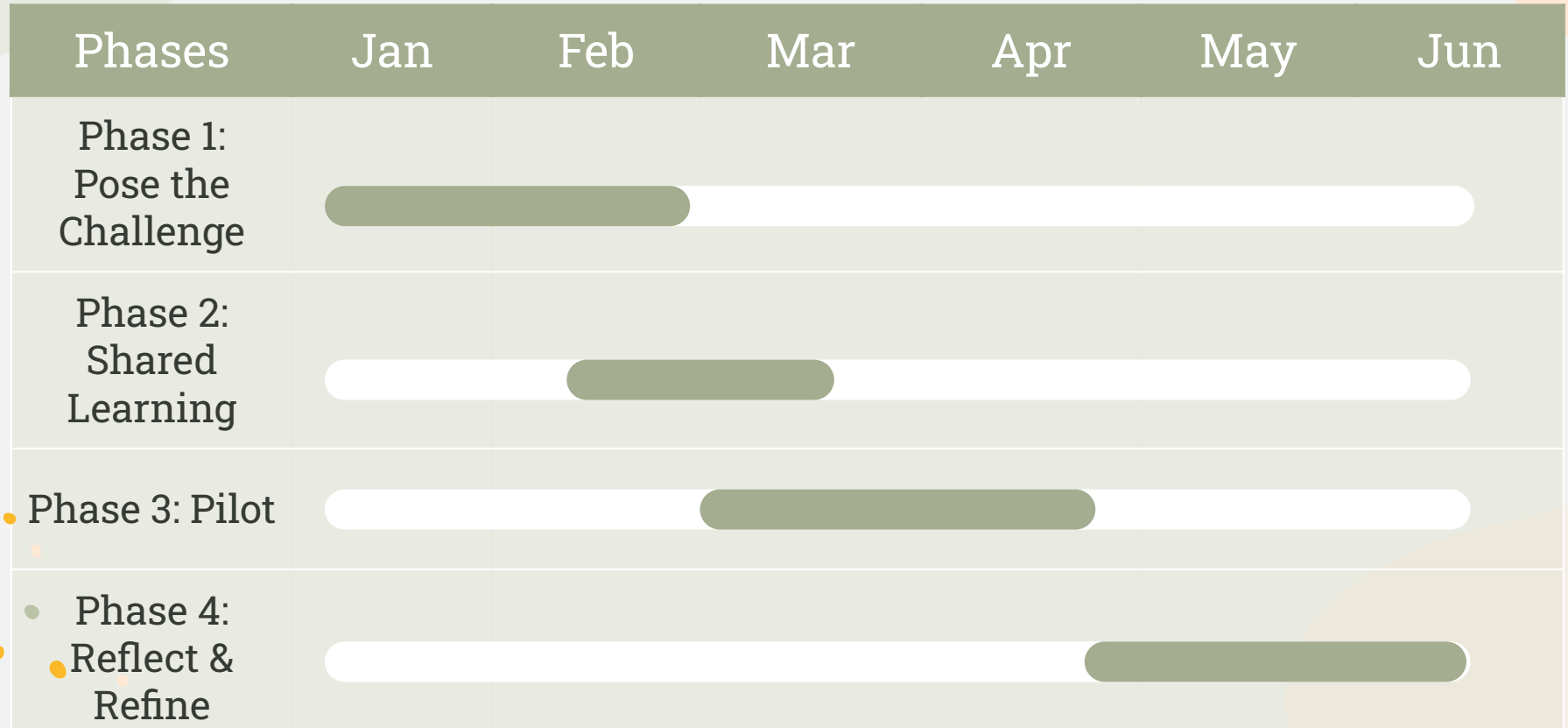
- What would you try? Why?
- When?
- Who can we anticipate will be early adopters? Who can we anticipate may need more support?

OR, reflect and brainstorm about a related epiphany you've had!



# A Tentative Spring Launch

Planting seeds for next year



# Thanks

Do you have any questions?

[sgoodis-orenstein@homesteadeducation.org](mailto:sgoodis-orenstein@homesteadeducation.org)

Please keep this slide for attribution

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# Alternative resources

Here's an assortment of alternative resources whose style fits the one of this template:

## Photos

- Medium shot woman looking in a mirror
- Facade of old building with columns of new york stock exchange
- Full shot women crossing street
- Road signs on pillar in street



# Premium icon pack



# Premium alternative resources

Here's an assortment of alternative resources whose style fits the one of this template:

- Hand drawn abstract organic shapes background

