Annotated Bibliography

7th Grade Language Arts

Amanda Carrizales (Lecklider)

Atwell, N. (1998). *In the Middle: New Understandings about Writing, Reading, and Learning.*

Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/ Cook Publishers.

This book examines how teachers teach and how learners learn in the context of reading and writing workshops for middle school students. It stresses the workshop approach to writing and English instruction, but it calls for a more activist approach by the teacher, encouraging more direction and suggestions to help students with their writing. This book includes mini-lessons, scripts, and examples for teaching them. This source will be beneficial to my project as it gives me new ideas on how to encourage students to become good writers. It also offers suggestions on how to provide feedback and encourage students how to be more creative writers.

Daniels, H. (2002). *Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Groups.* New York: Stenhouse Publishers.

This book focuses on using literature circles in the classroom. It encourages teachers to invite kids to talk freely and pick their own books in book clubs. It also encourages children to make personal and peculiar choices to find books that work best for them. It also provides examples of how literature circles can be used effectively in the classroom. This source will be useful in my instructional design because it provides strategies on how to set up literature circles and how to get students to have meaningful book discussions, which is often quite difficult.

How to Teach Creative Writing to Middle School Students

(<http://www.ehow.com/how_2180350_creative-writing-middle-school-students.html>)

It is often difficult to come up with creative writing assignments for middle school students. This site shows how to open up to artistic, polished writing with the use of careful planning and good classroom control. It begins with specific instructional steps on how to prepare your classroom and ends with specific steps on how to teach creative writing. This will be useful to my instructional design because I often struggle to get students to open up to the idea of creative writing. I plan to use several of these strategies in my unit.

Kinsella, K., & Vaughn S. (2007). *Prentice Hall Literature*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

This book provides a unit on short stories that I will be able to incorporate into my instructional design unit project. It has leveled selections for various learners and is correlated directly to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. This book includes various spelling, writing, and communication workshops. It also provides examples for further reading and extensions. I will use this for my design project to show examples of short stories and to make sure that I cover various standards.

Middle School English (<http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/tools/english-ms.html>)

This site provides several useful resources for teaching middle school language arts. It focuses on grammar, spelling, composition, and literature. This site provides various interactive sites for students to use. It will be useful to my instructional design as it provides a yearly writing program consisting of a paragraph a week. I plan to incorporate several of these prompts into my design. It is always challenging to come up with interesting prompts, and this is a perfect web page to guide teachers in the right direction.

Worthy, J. Moorman, M., & Turner, M. (1999). What Jonny Likes to Read Is Hard to Find in School. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 34(1), 12-27.

This journal discusses how research has shown that students who have access to materials of interest are more likely to read and thus improve their reading achievement scores. Interviews with teachers and librarians showed that the availability of the most popular materials was limited across schools and classrooms. The majority of student reading materials were purchased from stores or homes rather than schools or libraries. This source is valuable to my instructional design because it gives me various ideas on where to obtain reading materials for my students. It has also enlightened me on how to improve my reading scores and on creating a curriculum that is meaningful to students.