



Taking Books Beyond the Basic

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NPS Building: Grant Elementary School

Grade: 2nd Grade

Subject: Other: Reading, English Language Arts - All 2nd Grade Students (2 classrooms x about 25 students) - Including ELL, Special Education, and Title Students

Amount Requested: \$608.25

Project Summary: We want to continue enhancing reading instruction for our 2nd grade students by implementing additional material that takes student reading beyond the basics. With this project, students would have the opportunity to work in smaller groups to build their fluency skills by reading high-quality chapter books. At the completion of each story, students would get to complete an engaging, hands-on book report project that does not just assess their basic comprehension skills, but rather asks them to think about what they read at a more in-depth level. Ultimately, these two components work hand-in-hand to take our reading instruction beyond the basics!

Timetable and Plan: As second grade teachers, we both teach using differentiation within our classroom. We try to meet the needs of all of our students using various activities to target their individual learning needs.

When providing instruction to our approaching level students, we have found that we have various materials made accessible to us through curriculums and district programs. We are finding that we do not have as many materials available for students that are working at or above grade-level and are in need of enrichment, yet we are seeing a need for material that will excite, motivate, and challenge our students. Additionally, we want to meet these goals in a way that helps foster a deep love for reading.

This past year, we tried different book report projects with our reading students that are at and above grade-level. For one project, students reviewed their book and then covered a small kleenex box to show-off what they had learned. With this project students were excited and challenged above the classroom activities normally completed. The students applied language arts skills with this project identifying characters, problem and solution, setting, plot, and reflecting on their own opinions.

We saw the excitement among our students with this project, and would like to further develop this enrichment opportunity by purchasing additional teacher resources to implement these more consistently in our classrooms next year.

If this grant was made available to us in second grade, teachers would purchase reading materials that could be utilized by students in small groups, partners, or individually. With our plan, we would want to purchase a number of different multiple-copy book sets, at varying levels of difficulty, and a variety of generic book report projects that can be paired with any book. These materials would help get students excited about reading chapter books and engage them in higher-order thinking through hands-on comprehension activities. Work would begin in small groups, with students reading grade-level material. From there, as students gain confidence and their abilities improve, we can build up the challenge level by having students work in partners or individually or by reading material that is slightly above their current ability level.

Next year, this is a reading intervention that we would want to implement early on in the school year. Once fall assessments are completed and we have gotten a feel for our students, students will be divided into intervention groups. On and above level students will remain with us at this time and we want to begin taking their reading beyond the basics right away. Initially students will work in teacher-led groups where we will introduce the different materials, set expectations, and help students understand how to efficiently use their time to cover the material. Our instructional goal would be to continue the use of these materials in small group interventions throughout the remainder of the year or for students working above level to use these materials in a partner or individual setting for more of a challenge. By having a variety of texts and book report projects available, there will be a great deal of interest and motivation to read more, more, more, all while improving reading fluency and expanding comprehension skills.

We are always looking for ways to enhance our instruction in ways that are challenging for everyone! The success of this project will not only impact

Evaluation/Measureable Result: How will you know if they learned it? How will you respond if they don't learn it?

One of the best things about this project is that we will be checking in on our students reading comprehension skills on a consistent basis. After completing each book, students will be working to complete a book report project that covers a wide range of reading skills and strategies. With each completed project we will be able to see just how well our students understood and connected to the text. Additionally, we will be able to reflect on the amount of teacher support that was needed when completing the project. Based on the results of their completed project and our personal reflections, we will be able to determine how to move forward:

- The student struggled with the text and/or needed a large amount of teacher support, so a book at a lower level would be recommended to help boost their confidence and strengthen their skills.
- The student was successful, but more practice at the current level is needed, so a book at a similar level should be worked with.
- The student demonstrates a clear understanding of the text at the current level and is ready to either work with a more challenging text or complete an activity in a partner or individual setup.

With this project, helping meet students at their level and working to take them beyond their basic level would be easy because the materials would work with students at a wide range of different levels. From reteaching students who need the extra practice to challenging the students who simply need MORE, it will all be very feasible.

How will you respond if they already know it?

One big advantage about the materials that are being requested with this grant is that we will have a variety of levels available to us. Additionally, the book report sets we are looking to purchase are generic in form and can be utilized with any book title we choose. As students are able to improve their overall comprehension skills with books at one reading level, we will be able to start exposing them to books at the next reading level. We will also be able to challenge our students who are demonstrating a high level of understanding by having them work on the projects in a partner or independent set-up versus a small group that provides more support. The opportunities for taking student learning to the next level would be endless with the support of this project.

How will you share the information with colleagues/parents/community to cultivate growth within the district?

Our instructional goal is to challenge our at and above grade level students in our instructional reading groups. We want to motivate and excite students to want to read and develop the love of reading and become life-long readers.

With these book report opportunities, students would participate in book talks within the classroom, sharing their book read and presenting their project with students to encourage others to become interested in their book. Books and the completed book report projects could also be put on display in the Grant library to encourage other students to want to read!

Students could be involved in setting up a book fair in the gym. Student books read and book report projects would be on display in the gym. Students would prepare and present to other classrooms of students as they share and discuss their book. This would allow our second graders to go beyond reading the book, but getting the opportunity to share and present, practicing public speaking skills.

Second graders could also share their completed projects with the families and Grant School Community through Seesaw posts, features in the Grant newsletter, and displaying and sharing them at parent-teacher conferences.

Book report projects could also be shared within the community, by displaying our work at the Norfolk Public Library. Students would be encouraged to visit their display at the Public Library. A visit to the library may also open new levels of learning and encourage students to get their very own library card and begin to check out books on their own!

Our project idea of: "Taking Books Beyond the Basics" can open many books and offer many learning and enrichment opportunities to our second grade students!

Teacher Comments: Thank you for taking this grant into consideration -- we are very grateful for that!