

NEW! Middle Grades Institute

February 8 – 9:00 am-3:30 pm — Online Registration Required

The full-day Middle Grades Institute is designed to enhance learning for educators in Grades 5-8. Lunch is included.



Planning to Engage and Empower Readers and Writers

Penny Kittle *Author, teacher, & literacy advocate, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH*

Moving students beyond compliant reading and writing and into engaged reading and writing takes focused planning. How can we create a volume of practice that improves reading, writing, speaking and listening? Study a balance of opportunities for students to demonstrate independence and increased proficiency across a lesson, a unit, and a year.

Consider classroom structures that place volume, choice, modeling, and feedback at the center of our instruction and work with other educators to:

- consider the balance of independent reading, book clubs, and core texts over the course of a year
- consider the balance of writing discourses and opportunities for students to demonstrate agency and independence
- collect engaging seeds for writers' notebooks
- practice modeling revision moves that improve a text
- plan book clubs centered on essential questions and select books across a range of complexity
- invite students to generate thinking in response to their reading
- create opportunities for digital composition across the school year
- design practices to improve reading fluency, poetry performance, and TED-talk style presentations
- find sentences, passages, and whole texts that will mentor our students in specific writing craft and editing moves across genres
- design assessments that ask students to cite evidence of their learning

Penny Kittle believes that intentional teaching in a reading and writing workshop brings the greatest student investment and learning in a classroom. A teacher and K-12 literacy coach in public schools for 34 years, she currently teaches freshman composition at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She is the co-author of *180 Days: Two Teachers and the Quest to Engage and Empower Adolescents* with Kelly Gallagher, and the author of *Book Love* and *Write Beside Them*, winner of the James Britton Award. She also co-authored two books with her mentor, Don Graves, and co-edited (with Tom Newkirk) a collection of Graves' work, *Children Want to Write*. Penny is president of the Book Love Foundation and was given the Exemplary Leader Award from NCTE's Conference on English Leadership.

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