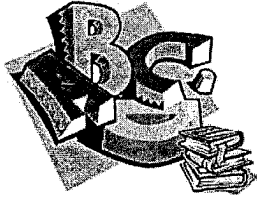


English Language Arts Five Things to Do Now



1. Increase the rigor of textual passages. Use texts that have subtleties in the story grammar (characterization, etc.) or conceptual information. Choose texts in which word choice matters and gleaning meaning from inference is necessary.

2. Utilize text sets that make use of multi-media and center on a similarity or a concept. (i.e. resistance or generosity; the environment; water; soil erosion) Require students to practice synthesizing information.

3. Encourage academic writing. Write to answer or explain something about the reading (Don't ask "What was your favorite part?") Do this several times a week.

4. Practice writing in response to a "cold read." A cold read is a passage students read by themselves with NO help from the teacher. Therefore, the student's skill set alone is being used to write a response to the prompt. An example of an appropriate prompt is "How did the setting add to the tone of the story?"

5. Teach grammar!