

Power Lesson Resources

About Power Lessons

Power lessons are an efficient and effective way to provide instruction.

Power lessons are:

- Short (10–15 minutes long)
- Focused on a single objective
- Easy to integrate with your curriculum and with books that students are reading on their own

Ideas for power lessons can come from a variety of sources, including:

- Assessment of students' needs based on results of Reading Practice Quizzes and Literacy Skills Quizzes
- State and district curricula and standards
- Basal readers
- Language-arts textbooks
- STAR Reading™ assessment results

Creating Your Own Power Lesson

A power lesson consists of five parts: the objective, reading materials that provide examples, the lesson itself, follow-up during your daily check-in with students as they read independently, and practice activities.

Objective

State the lesson's objective clearly and concisely. The most successful lessons are based on simple, focused objectives.

Materials

If a book that you are currently reading to your class contains a good example of the skill or concept to be taught, use that. Otherwise, choose a book that is familiar to all students or a short book or story that can be read aloud in one sitting.

Lesson

Begin the lesson with a “hook” that relates the skill you are teaching to students' lives. For example, if you are teaching summarizing, you might ask students

how they go about describing a movie or TV show they like to a friend.

Introduce the vocabulary or concept. Give an example from familiar, grade-appropriate literature.

Model the skill. Use a graphic organizer, “think-aloud,” or other teaching strategy that is appropriate and that has been successful with your students.

Give students a chance to try out the skill in a brief, guided practice session. For example, if you used a graphic organizer in your lesson, ask students to help you complete a similar one.

Sum up the lesson and direct students to apply the skill to their own reading or look for examples in the books they are reading independently.

Follow-Up During the Daily Check-In

Think of two or three questions that will help you determine whether a student has understood the lesson. For example:

If you are teaching word parts: “Can you show me an example of a root word with a prefix in your book?”

If you are teaching characterization: “What words or details does the author use to help you understand this character?”

If you are teaching context clues: “Did you run into any unfamiliar words? How did you figure them out?”

Added Practice

Identify activities you might use to give students additional practice with the skill, such as working together in collaborative groups; using art, music, or movement; or applying the skill in a writing assignment.

Suggested Skills for Power Lessons

Power lessons can be used to teach nearly every reading skill or comprehension strategy.

Comprehension Strategies

- Author's purpose
- Cause and effect
- Classifying and categorizing
- Compare and contrast
- Drawing conclusions
- Fact and opinion
- Headings and subheadings
- Main idea
- Making generalizations
- Point of view
- Predicting outcomes
- Previewing and setting a purpose
- Propaganda vs. persuasive arguments
- Self-correction strategies
- Sequence: first, next, last
- Similes and metaphors
- Summarizing
- Using illustrations
- Using prior knowledge

Author's Craft

- Dialogue
- Figurative language
- Flashbacks
- Foreshadowing
- Humor
- Imagery
- Irony
- Personification
- Persuasive language
- Similes and metaphors
- Sound devices

Story Elements

- Characterization
- Plot devices
- Setting
- Theme
- Tone and mood

Genre

- Biography and autobiography
- Drama
- Fiction and nonfiction
- Folk and fairy tales
- Historical fiction
- Informational article
- Mystery
- Myths and fables
- Poetry
- Realistic fiction
- Science fiction and fantasy

Vocabulary Strategies

- Connotation and denotation
- Context clues
- Environmental print
- Positional words
- Synonyms and antonyms

Phonics and Word Study

- Compound words
- Contractions
- Root words, prefixes, suffixes, and affixes
- Syllabication

Study Skills

- Alphabetical order
- Analogies
- Details in an illustration
- Dictionary skills
- Following directions
- Library skills
- Note taking and outlining
- Parts of a book
- Reference materials
- Using a bibliography
- Using a timeline
- Using charts and tables
- Using graphic elements
- Using maps

Sample Books for Power Lessons

Following are examples of books that can be used for power lessons. The number in parentheses is the ATOS™ book level.

Cause and Effect

- *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw (1.0)
- *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully (3.6)
- *Henry and the Paper Route* by Beverly Cleary (5.3)
- *Buffalo Hunt* by Russell Freedman (6.4)
- *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor (5.3)

Compare and Contrast

- *When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang (1.4)
- *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by David A. Adler (3.8)
- *Coyote and the Laughing Butterflies* by Harriet Peck Taylor (4.2)
- *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder (6.4)
- *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich (6.1)

Fact and Opinion

- *The Wonder of a Waterfall* by Allan Fowler (3.5)
- *Ellis Island* by Patricia Ryon Quiri (4.9)
- *Painters of the Caves* by Patricia Lauber (5.8)
- *Seeing Earth from Space* by Patricia Lauber (6.3)

Main Idea

- *Whales: The Gentle Giants* by Joyce Milton (2.8)
- *Hungry, Hungry Sharks* by Joanna Cole (2.8)
- *Will We Miss Them? Endangered Species* by Alexandra Wright (5.3)

Point of View

- *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka (3.0)
- *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech (5.2)
- *Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling (8.0)

Sequence

- *Toby, Where Are You?* by William Steig (0.8)
- *A Hat for Minerva Louise* by Janet Morgan Stoeke (1.0)
- *A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry (4.7)
- *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (5.3)

Characterization

- *Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner* by Amy Schwartz (2.8)
- *Junebug* by Alice Mead (3.5)
- *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)
- *The High King* by Lloyd Alexander (6.1)

Setting

- *Say Hola, Sarah* by Patricia Reilly Giff (2.5)
- *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)
- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman (6.4)
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London (8.0)

Tone and Mood

- *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-li Jiang (5.0)
- *Knots in My Yo-yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid* by Jerry Spinelli (6.0)
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (8.2)